



The Artful Dodger

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Sheriffs — Telling Our Parents And Promoting Educated Drivers

Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

This publication, with a nod to Charles Dickens's "Oliver Twist" is designed to provide information on the problem of Underage Drinking.

The nickname, "Artful Dodger", is still commonly used to refer to someone who is good at avoiding responsibility or the consequences of his/her actions.

Did You Know?

Graduated licensing has reduced crashes. Research indicates that graduated licensing programs have had positive effects on the crash experience of young drivers in the United States. In states that have adopted elements of graduated licensing, the safety benefits are evident. Almost all studies have found crash reductions from about 10 to 30 percent.

The Michigan Sheriffs' Association (MSA) expanded an innovative program on September 14th. The program – Sheriffs Telling Our Parents & Promoting Educated Drivers (STOPPED) – aims to increase parental involvement in order to reduce traffic crash injuries and deaths among teenagers and young adults.

"This creative partnership will save lives and we're excited to do our part," said Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, who is making STOPPED program information available to customers in several branch offices. "It gives parents a new tool to immediately address risky driving behavior

by their teens. But, just as important, it also lets our children know that we care. The Michigan Sheriffs' Association and AAA Michigan deserve our thanks for working with

families to prevent needless tragedies."

STOPPED will now be funded by a generous grant from AAA of Michigan and was brought to the state by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association. The program is being expanded to include the following 17 new counties of Allegan, Antrim, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Cass, Eaton, Gratiot, Huron, Kalkaska, Lenawee, Mason, Menominee, Roscommon, Saginaw, and St. Joseph in addition to the original seven counties of

STOPPED provides a window decal for every vehicle that will be driven by a person under 21 years of age. The decal provides a constant visual reminder for young people to act responsibly while they are on the road and out of sight of their parents.



Calhoun, Clinton, Ingham, Kalamazoo, St. Clair, Tuscola, and Van Buren.

"AAA Michigan is very pleased to have the opportunity to support an



initiative such as the STOPPED program." said Jack Peet, Manager of Community Safety Services for AAA Michigan.

In 2005 drivers in our target age group of 16-21 were only 9.3% of the licensed drivers in Michigan, but were responsible for 16.3% of the crashes in our state. "Inexperience, risk-taking behavior, and immaturity are all factors that increase the crash risk for young drivers," commented Michael Prince, OHSP Division Director.

"There is nothing more important to a parent than the protection of their children; sheriffs and all of law enforcement understand this and we are here to help you in any way we can," said MSA Executive Director Terrence L. Jungel at the launch of the pilot program in March of 2005.

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Highway Safety Planning and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Study Says Alcohol Can Shrink Key Brain Region

Heavy drinking can reduce the volume of the hippocampus, the part of the brain that's most involved in learning and memory, UPI reported Oct. 26.

Researcher Thomas P. Bereford and colleagues at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center used MRI scans to compare the brains of adult male alcoholics and non-alcoholics. They concluded that chronic heavy drinking resulted in tissue loss in the hippocampus. "Most scientists think that the hippocampus helps the brain manage learning, especially learning and remembering new things or things that happened recently," Bereford noted.

The research was published in the November 2006 issue of the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*.

Press Release from Join Together, dated October 27, 2006

MSA Launches STOPPED

(Continued from page 1)

STOPPED provides a window decal for every vehicle that will be driven by a person under 21 years of age. The decal provides a constant visual reminder for young people to act responsibly while they are on the road and out of sight of their parents.

Vehicles are registered in a centralized database, maintained by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association. If a registered vehicle driven by a person under 21 years of age is stopped for any reason, law enforcement officers will complete a notification card. A letter will then be sent home to the young person's parents indicating where they were, why they were stopped, how many people were in the car, and whether a citation was issued.

Enrollment in the program is free and voluntary. For more information or to enroll go to www.michigansheriff.com.

Press Release: MSA—August 31, 2006. Edited due to space.

DEA Says Misuse of Cough Syrup/Soft Drink Mix on Rise

Mixing cough syrup and soft drinks or power drinks has become a popular way to get high in some parts of the U.S., the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) says.

USA Today reported Oct. 19 that users mix prescription cough suppressants containing promethazine and codeine with soda or sports drinks, sometimes adding a Jolly Rancher candy and ice. The mix causes euphoria and impairs motor skills.

The trend got national attention when Terrance Kiel, a defensive back for the San Diego Chargers, was arrested last month for allegedly having cases of cough syrup shipped to his home in East Texas. The cough-medicine cocktails, known as "Lean," "Sizzurp," "Purple Drank," or other nicknames, are especially popular in the region.

A 2004 survey found that 8.3 percent of Texas secondary-school students reported using codeine-based cough syrups to get high. Officials from Texas to Florida report misuse of the prescription medication. The syrup often is obtained from online pharmacies.

The syrup sells for about \$12 a pint wholesale, but is sold for \$300 a pint to dealers who then sell it for \$40-85 per ounce to consumers (\$640-\$1,360 per pint).

Cough-syrup use has been popularized in rap songs, including mixes by Houston disc-jockey DJ Screw (who died of a cocaine overdose in 2000) and songs by Three 6 Mafia ("Sippin' on the Syrup").

Press Release from "Join Together," dated October 23, 2006.