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Shrinks Say Teens Need W Discipline

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Daily News Staff Writer



irst Twins Jenna and Barbara Bush need some tough love from dad, psychologists said yesterday.

With his underage daughters in trouble for trying to buy alcohol at a Texas restaurant, shrinks said, President Bush should take notice of the red flags popping up in their lives.

"There are danger signs all over the place here," said Manhattan clinical psychologist Judy Kuriansky. "Their father needs to jump in real fast and do something."

The 19-year-old Bush daughters' latest run-in with the law came two weeks after Jenna Bush, a freshman at the University of Texas, was busted for drinking beer in a bar.

Her alleged attempt to buy drinks in a restaurant using a borrowed ID not only risked arrest, but clearly embarrassed her father, a former party guy once tagged for drunken driving.

"That means that Jenna's urge to drink is stronger than the consequences she faces for drinking," said Robert Butterworth, a Los Angeles child psychologist.

He said the President's wild years could give him leverage when scolding his daughters.

"Actually, it should be easier for him because he knows what it's like. It's not like the kids can say, 'Hey, Dad, you don't know what it's like.'"

Twin Barbara, a freshman at Yale University, also embarrassed her folks in March by giving Secret Service agents the slip during a high-speed road race while traveling to a professional wrestling match in New York.

While shrinks interpreted Barbara's antics as college high jinks, they said Jenna's recurring dalliance with alcohol is a cry for help.

"There's deeper issues here that have not been resolved, that would cause



her to fly in the face of what the consequences are," said Kuriansky.

She said Jenna's troubles "may be a way of subliminally saying, 'Pay attention to me.'" Jenna also appears to be using her legal woes as a power play "to send a message to her father that, 'I can embarrass you if you don't pay attention to me,'" Kuriansky said.

Psychologist Joyce Brothers also noted that both daughters might feel entitled to do whatever they please because their father is President.

"When you have been favored all your life, you begin to think that you are entitled to get away with things," said Brothers.

She said it might be time time to call in 75 -year-old grandma Barbara Bush to scare the twins straight.

"Grandmas have enormous clout with kids," said Brothers. "I think the former First Lady can talk some sense into both girls. If I were the judge, I'd put them in the custody of the grandma. She's very strong and very stern."

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