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Twenty Five Cents

## Women's group celebrate name change

Women Organized Against Rape (W.O.A.R.) will be renamed Victim's Resource Center: Comprehensive Services for Rape and Sexual Abuses, Sept. 10. The name will be different but the services provided to victims and the community will remain the same.

The agency, started in 1974, maintains an office on South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre. W.O.A.R. has become increasingly better known as the place to go for help in cases of rape or sexual abuse. Statistics show W.O.A.R. volunteers were contacted by 12 clients in 1975 and 121 clients in 1981. Clients call the agency's 24 hour hotline for reasons ranging from rape, sexual assault, incest and attempted assault to obscene and threatening phone calls. Often it is not the victim, who makes the contact, but a peer or family member. The agency, which receives support from the United Way, also has facilities for helping the victim's family through the trauma of sexual assault.

In 1981, clients included 78 actual victims, 34 peers or family members and nine requests for information and referral. Of the 78 victims, three were between the ages of 0 and 5, four between 6 and 12 and five from 13 to 14. The highest number of reported victims fell into the 20 to 25-year old bracket. There were 20 such clients helped last year.

Rape also affects men as shown by the fact that three direct clients were males. Only three black persons reported to the agency. In 82.5 percent of the reported cases, the rapist was a non-stranger. Only 11 of the 78 said they were abused by someone they did not know. Non-strangers include casual acquaintances, spouses, parents, brothers or sisters.

From another angle, however, the figures are far less impressive. In 19 of the cases, no police arrest has been made. In nine others, charges were dropped. Three are awaiting trial and on three others, no information is available.

To help educate the community about rape and sexual abuse, W.O.A.R. presented a total of 92 programs to civic, media, professional, religious and social groups, as well as in schools.

The purpose of W.O.A.R. is guiding rape victims through the ordeals which follow such acts. Non-judgmental support and option counseling are provided by trained volunteers. The office is run by two staff members and 18 active volunteers. Six backup volunteers are also available, including two males, used to help family members or male victims. Fourteen more work in other capacities.

A number of the agency's volunteers are Back Mountain residents. These include Kathie Flanagan Herstek, Trucksville, educational counselor; Estella Parker, Shavertown, member of the Board of Directors; Sally Parr, Shavertown, president of the Board of Directors; Dr. Johnyenne Supulski, Dallas, member of the

Board of Directors; and Marcia Wazeter, Trucksville, president of the volunteer organization and member of the Board of Directors.

All volunteers are not directly involved in rape counseling since W.O.A.R.'s activity in other areas requires various skills. The legal committee guides rape victims through the hearing process, keeping up with legislation regarding rape and its consequences.

The newsletter committee publishes a monthly agency newsletter and quarterly police newsletter. Speakers committee informs the community of the activities of W.O.A.R. and seriousness of the rape problem. Donations from speaking engagements help support the agency. The fundraising committee plans two fundraising projects per year to help finance volunteer expenses. Volunteers also put together special projects such as the "Mock Rape Trial," popular education program sponsored annually by the agency.



**HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES**—There is no activity quite so enchanting as floating silently through the skies. This year the fair offers you the chance to take part in this adventure when Scott Martin's Hot Air Balloon Ride comes to Dallas fairgrounds. The rides will be held Wednesday through Saturday. And while you're there, stop and register for prizes at The Dallas Post booth.

## Blood drive turn-out dangerously low



Empty shelves greet Red Cross volunteers and patients needing blood at the Regional Blood Center.

Shelves are almost empty at the Regional Red Cross Blood Center in Wilkes-Barre. This is the result of people of Northeastern Pennsylvania not coming out to donate at community blood drives as was the case at Trucksville last week.

When this shortage occurs, hospitals are forced to go to commercial blood banks and purchase blood at exorbitant rates and this purchase cost is not covered by Blue Cross; this cost is borne by the patient. It is up to the communities to provide blood at collections to prevent their friends and neighbors being put in this position.

The period around Labor Day is traditionally a "low" and the Back Mountain which has previously fielded such good collections was asked to host this collection. Despite the efforts of over 50 callers only 176 people turned out to donate. This was out of the more than 300 who said they would and three hundred more who said they would try. The regular teams from the Junior Women's Club, St. Paul's Church, Trucksville Church and the Gate of Heaven Church were this time joined by teams from Huntsville Church and Trinity Presby-

terian. Still more teams are needed "in order to spread the load" said Jeff Townsend.

Red Cross reports that this summer has been one of the most difficult on record. Despite the overall increase in donations it is becoming more and more difficult to keep up with the increasing demand. There has been a rise in the needs of patients of about 15 percent. With the cooperation of Red Cross Chapters and community groups such as the Back Mountain Blood Council, plans were made for this summer to meet the known rise in use of blood in our hospitals. It is discouraging for these groups of dedicated people, who work hard on behalf of their communities, to find that in many instances, those who promise to come do not.

Sandra Murray who works with volunteer callers said, "We know that a number of people will say yes even if they do not really intend coming, and that a number who say yes are unable to make it, but this cannot account for all those who did not show up. I think that so many do not realize the vital importance of a constant and adequate supply to the hospitals."



Joe Wong was visibly shaken by the fire which destroyed his Chinese-Polynesian Restaurant on Route 309 last week. He surveyed the damage with his attorney Ron Oley.

## Restaurant fire under investigation

A fire which totally destroyed the interior of Wong's Palace Restaurant on Route 309, last week, continues to be under investigation by the State Police Fire Marshal. Ron Ramage, investigator for the State Police said damage estimates to the building are in the vicinity of \$100,000. He confirmed it was definitely the work of arsonists.

The blaze occurred on Friday morning about 2:30. Dallas Fire Company responded on a call from Harveys Lake Police who noticed smoke pouring from the building as they drove by. By the time firemen arrived, the fire had burned itself out, leaving dense smoke to contend with. Investigators found at least 17

gasoline containers in the dining area of the establishment. These included 15 2 1/2 gallon plastic jugs and two trash barrels.

Because of the nature of the fire, it shot up quickly and was quickly downed by a lack of oxygen, the exterior of the building owned by John Banks of Dallas was not damaged.

The restaurant is owned by Joe Wong, 50, of Dallas. He opened the Chinese-Polynesian establishment just over a year ago. He does not know whether he will reopen. "I don't know what I'll do," he said. Wong ran the restaurant with his daughter, Liz.

## Post awards prizes

Come to the Luzerne County Fall Fair, Sept. 8 through Sept. 12 and visit the Dallas Post booth. Meet members of the Pennaprint Inc. staff, who will give you specific information about the Post, one of the papers published by Pennaprint.

While you're there, register for one of the prizes the Dallas Post will award Sunday, Sept. 12, at 8 p.m. The prizes have been made possible through the cooperation of area merchants.

Among the prizes to be awarded at the Dallas Post booth will be a television set from Katy's TV & Appliance; \$50 grocery order by Daring's Market; \$10 gift certificate, courtesy of the Jean Store; ice cream cakes from Carvel, San Souci Highway, Wilkes-Barre; 50 ft. hose and windup reel from Valentine's Toys & Hardware; \$10 gas certificate given by Spurlin's Exxon; and 2 gift certificates from Gino's Shoe Store.

Other prizes include dinner certificates from Picketts Charge;

potato chips from Middleswarth; cases of Pepsi-Cola courtesy of the distributor; luncheon certificates from White Horse Restaurant; and 12 certificates good for a whopper, french fries and beverage from Burger King.

There are no strings attached, nothing to purchase. Just stop at the Dallas Post booth at this year's Luzerne County Fall Fair and fill in a slip with your name and address. You don't have to be present to win. Names and addresses of all winners will be published in the next edition of the Dallas Post. See you at the Fair.

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### A Traffic Citation

## What can you do about it?

You're traveling on Route 309 in Shavertown, minding your own business and singing along with the radio. Suddenly you notice the flashing red light behind you and, after a moment's confusion, determine that the officer in the police car actually wants you. Instinctively you glance at the speedometer of your vehicle to see if you've exceeded the posted limit. Well, perhaps a few miles over 35. Police don't make a federal case of a few miles, when there are so many actual speeders on the highway, do they?

The officer writes a citation for speeding and informs you that you may request a hearing if you disagree. Otherwise, you may simply pay the fine and drive more carefully in the future.

You don't believe you were in violation of the law. It may be a speeding ticket, failure to stop at a stop sign, or any number of traffic offenses which are punishable by a fine. These are not crimes and do not make you a criminal, or less than honest citizen. They are, for the most part, the result of impatience, a lack of concentration or ignorance of specific traffic codes.

Still you say you are 'not guilty' of the offense and do not wish to pay the fine. What recourse do you have?

The wheels of justice have room for your defense. You can make your plea to the District Justice,

who receives the case, at a formal hearing. Approximately one in 25 persons who receives traffic citations actually does plead 'not guilty', said Shavertown District Justice, Earl Gregory. The number of those who win their case is not documented, but if you lose, an additional \$5 is tacked on to the original fine. "It only happens with traffic citations," said Gregory. "In no other circumstance is an additional fee tacked on for losing."

But you still have a chance, if you are firm in your belief that you were not in error. The burden of proof is on the State. All you need do is plead 'not guilty.' The officer must prove his case before the District Justice.

Police officers have, of course, a variety of means for proving the State's case. In the instance of a speeding violation, the officer reads his statement, indicating for what distance you were followed, and how much of that distance, you were timed. The legal minimum for timing at an illegal speed is .3 miles. Assuming the officer has certification that the cruiser's speedometer was calibrated within the last 60 days, he has proven your guilt.

You might also present certification of calibration within the last 60 days. But, when was the last time you thought to have your speedometer calibrated?

The officer knows his speedometer is accurate and you cannot

prove that yours is, so you must pay the fine plus \$5.

Suppose he claims you slid through a stop sign, and you reply "absolutely not true." How is he going to prove this one?

Dallas Township patrolman Doug LaMoreaux, who recently used the film from such surveillance as proof of guilt in a hearing, said he frequently offers to let a protesting driver see an 'instant replay' of his actions. The camera is equipped with a small screen for instant playbacks, or film can be viewed on a larger screen (providing detailed information such as the vehicle's registration and description of the driver).

There are gray areas in the issuance of traffic citations and police officers quickly learn how easy it is to lose a case. How long must a car remain stopped at an intersection? No one seems to know the answer to this one, and the traffic code does not specify. For this reason, LaMoreaux said, he gives at least three warnings to every citation he issues. He realizes the abuse must be fairly obvious or he could end up wasting his time, the driver's and the judge's.

Still, you cannot count on administrative slip-ups in your favor. They are said to be the exception rather than the rule. If you are unhappy with the verdict on the