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Twenty-Five
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Students Want Hughes Back

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Post Correspondent

The recent decision of Dallas School District administrators to transfer ecology instructor Wayne Hughes from the senior to the junior high school next year brought a large crowd of protesters to the board meeting last Monday night. Approximately 200 students, graduates, taxpayers and teachers turned out in support of Hughes.

Statements made by students, parents and teachers attested to the fact that Hughes not only teaches the ecology program but that "he" is the program.

Announcement that Hughes was to be transferred to the junior high came on the heels of the district's decision to close two elementary schools and cut several programs to avoid an increase in tax millage for the 1983-84 year. Cutbacks were alleged to be necessary in order to meet the increase in teachers' salaries included in the three-year agreement of the Dallas Education Association (DEA) passed in April by the vote of five members of the board.

Few taxpayers at the meeting were willing to accept the explanation given by Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Richard Shipe, and high school principal, Edgar Hughes, that the ecology instructor was not the only one to be evaluated and taken into consideration for transfer.

As one mother stated, "In today's society when ecology is a major issue throughout our country and in all parts of the world, it is beyond comprehension why the Dallas School District would transfer a dedicated, experienced ecologist such as Wayne Hughes from the

senior high school program where he has done so much to further its importance to our students. He is ecology, his dedication is transferred to the kids."

William Helgemo, science department chairman, stated that his concern is for the science program. He requested that the board give consideration to keeping Hughes in his present position.

In answer to Director Joseph O'Connell's query whether Hughes was the only person qualified to teach ecology, Helgemo replied that Hughes was the only one with the expertise and pizzazz to continue the program. He said his concern is that without Hughes the ecology course will die.

Asked what his recommendation would be, Helgemo suggested that one ninth grade section be moved to the senior high for biology and other science programs at the junior high be handled by a part-time teacher. Daniel Poorman, junior high principal, said he didn't believe that was feasible but that he would consider looking at two part time science teachers at the junior high, thus allowing Hughes to remain at senior high school.

Many students spoke favorably on Hughes' dedication and knowledge of ecology and how he had helped them. Kirsten Marquart, East Stroudsburg State College environmental science major, told the board that "Wayne Hughes is the ecology program" and that her college advisor thinks highly of Hughes. Eric Johnson, Wilkes College graduate, said that Hughes is the "driving force" of the ecology program.

One mother stated that five of her seven students had been in Hughes' ecology classes and had only the highest praise for him.

Fred Templin, instructor in phys-

ics at senior high, reminded the board that when the jointure was formed it was for the purpose of cutting administrative costs and adding more programs for the students. "Today the district seems to be going in the opposite direction," he said.

John Booth, Pa. Game Commission, stated that Hughes had to organize his own format for the ecology course and has done an excellent job of teaching a difficult subject.

Wayne Hughes initiated the ecology course in 1974 with 21 students. In 1975, 50 students signed for the course and each year since increasing numbers have registered for the course. This year, an additional 30 students signed up for the 1983-84 Advanced Ecology Class. Under Hughes' direction, ecology has been the largest drawing elective course in the high school.

Many students who were on the borderline of deciding whether or not to attend college decided to do so after taking ecology and have become straight academic students. Former Dallas graduates are now in marine biology, geology, environmental science, forestry, wild life management and agriculture as well as other ecology fields.

Hughes puts in a full day every school day. He has five classes each day and, since he teaches chemistry as well as ecology, he has two chemistry labs as well two days a week.

Marine ecology, soil ecology, water pollution, land pollution, survival, backpacking, plight of the bluebird, are only a few of the projects covered in the ecology classes.

The instructor recommended to take Hughes' place as ecology teacher is Jack Jones, former

Dallas High School football coach and a math teacher. Jones also will be given a biology course to teach in addition to his math classes.

There is no doubt that Jones has good rapport with the students but there is great doubt in the minds of many whether his physical health will allow him to undertake many of the strenuous projects carried out by Hughes. Survival courses, backpacking, trail hiking, stream wading and other outdoor projects of the course are strenuous and only for those in good physical condition. Without these projects there would be no interest on the part of the students is the opinion of other students, instructors and parents.

Director O'Donnell said that he personally would support every effort to keep the program viable including keeping Hughes as instructor. He received overwhelming applause from the audience. He recommended that the education committee comprised of Shawn Murphy, Russell Havey and O'Donnell explore all alternatives in detail and make a full recommendation to the board.

Director Pat Gregory stated she believed the entire board should vote on the decision at the June 30 general meeting. Dr. Shipe said he did not agree with that idea.

Following adjournment of the meeting, taxpayers lingering in the room voiced their opinion that since they elected the board members to represent them and make decisions they should be the ones to do so, not the superintendent nor his assistants. Some of them were not aware of how many administrators were employed by the district, who they were or where they resided. They questioned whether the district needed so many since there is reported to be a decline in enrollment.



JENNIFER LYN RENO

Jennifer Lyn Reno Is Contest Winner

Jennifer Lyn Reno, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Reno, RD 1, Box 218, Pole 114, Harveys Lake, was crowned the 1983 Little Miss Harveys Lake during ceremonies held Saturday night at the Harveys Lake Pub.

Jennifer, age 5, topped a list of 12 candidates for the title. She, along with runners-up Tiffany Carey and Shannon Avery, participated in the Harveys Lake Homecoming Festival Parade Sunday afternoon.

Crowned with a tiara from Bartikowsky Jewelers, Jennifer also received a girl's golf bracelet from Olin Jewelers, a Strawberry Shortcake item from Back Mountain Lumber and Coal, Hardware and Gift Store; two miniature doll house kits from Della Robbia, and a gift certificate for two cakes from Carvel Ice Cream Stores.

All participants received a necklace from Olin's Jewelers. The 1983 Little Miss Harveys Lake Contest was sponsored by The Dallas Post in conjunction with the Harveys Lake Homecoming Festival. Gloria Evans was contest chairman.



Blood Council Elects Officers

Shown here are the newly installed officers of the Back Mountain Blood Council. From left, Mary Ann Kelly, secretary; Dennie Garvey, co-chairman; Jeff Townend, co-chairman; and Paul Hodges, Red Cross Representative. (Rod Kaye Photo)

Eason Places First in Art Contest

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Post Correspondent

Michele Eason is a versatile young lady. A talented artist, horseback rider, tennis player, employee in her dad's business and business accounting student at Sweet Valley Christian Academy, Michele enjoys each of the above.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Eason of Idetown, she is a junior at Sweet Valley Christian Academy. She attended Lake-Lehman schools until she completed seventh grade, then transferred to Dallas Christian School for a year before registering at the Sweet Valley School.

Recently, Michele placed first in the state water color art competition at Camp of the Nations. She entered a painting she did while studying the past year under the direction of Sue Hand, Dallas.

In the first competition held at Sue Hand's studio, Michele's work received honorable mention. She decided to enter the state competition mentioned above and, as a result, won first place. Michele then entered the international competition at North Texas University, Denton, Texas, where her work took fifth place.

The water color is a painting of the American Flag draped over a stained glass window and included is a Bible. The young artist describes it as a patriotic and Christian painting but has no special title for the water color.

Michele first studied art when she was seven years old but after six months gave it up until this past year when she began studying with Sue Hand.

"She is terrific," said Michele. "I have learned a lot this year and I plan to continue studying with her even as an adult."

Much as she enjoys art, however, Michele's first love is her Arabian quarter horse, "Bonnie Bint", a dark chestnut, nearly black Arabian which she enters in various horse shows. The horse has won several times but was ridden by a friend of Michele's.

"She was well trained when I bought her," said Michele. "I ride her but I need to learn more about riding her in horse shows. I love to work with her and she is an important part of my life."

Tennis also is a favorite pastime of Michele's, but not competitive tennis. She says she enjoys playing just for the fun of the sport. "I don't want to play in competition, that makes it work not fun," said the junior miss.

A great deal of her leisure time outside of school is spent working with her father in his hardware store located in Dallas. Michele checks in shipments of merchandise, stocks the shelves, does inventories, takes care of customers and is an excellent public relations representative for her dad.

Following graduation from the Academy, Michele plans to attend college, preferably Penn State or Luzerne County Community College



MICHELE EASON

where she will study commercial art and business accounting.

Following completion of college, she plans to enter the business with her father and, when he retires, assume ownership. Until that time, Michele will continue in art, horsemanship and her other favorite activities probably adding several as the next year goes by.

Possible Charges in Boat Mishap

Police investigating a Harveys Lake boating accident that killed four people Saturday evening were scheduled to meet Tuesday morning in the Luzerne County Courthouse. At that time, evidence was to be presented and a decision made as to whether or not charges will be brought against Dennis John Bromavage, 24, of Pittston, operator of a 350-horsepower Mastercraft boat which collided with another motorboat.

Killed in the mishap were Mrs. Karen Pitcavage, 34, of RD 3 Wyoming, and her son, Thomas Jr., 7, and Mrs. Sharon Pallis, 39, of RD 3 Wyoming, and her son, Joseph, 6.

Authorities investigating the incident spent all day Sunday at the Harveys Lake Police Station interviewing witnesses and collecting other pertinent information.

Irate Taxpayers Protest Lake-Lehman Tax Increase

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Post Correspondent

Several hundred irate taxpayers attended the Lake-Lehman School Board meeting Tuesday, June 14, to protest the proposed tax increase announced by the board in May. The increase proposed by the board at that time was 18 mills over the present 98 mills paid by the district taxpayers.

Finance chairman Thomas Williams told the audience that board members had spent many hours at meetings and had succeeded in bringing the millage down from 116 to 106.5. He said the board is continuing to look for additional cuts wherever possible before the final budget is submitted for approval by the June 30 deadline.

Leonard Bolinski told the board that during the past seven years,

taxes have increased 100 percent and that the present board is continuing in the same footsteps. He told them that it is the taxpayers who suffer, not the directors.

The taxpayers questioned how many of the board members owned property and were paying taxes within the district but none of them answered with the exception of Dr. David Preston, superintendent, who said that he owns property in the district and pays taxes.

Stanley Magalski and John Reed, on behalf of the taxpayers, requested the resignation of Dr. Preston and Raymond Bowersox, business manager, but the board refused to take action on the request.

The vocal audience also protested the salaries paid to the six administrators of the district and two persons in the audience, one a candidate for director in the primary, asked Preston why he didn't take a

cut in his salary of \$43,200 if money was tight.

"In today's economic crisis I have to tighten my belt, why can't you?", asked the unsuccessful candidate.

Preston refused to answer either person and board president Allen Sorchik said that Preston was not obligated to answer the questioners. Sorchik was elected president to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Kenneth Williams. Williams recently announced his resignation because he did not believe his work was appreciated by the voters.

The board will continue working on the budget which will be adopted sometime between June 23 and June 30.

As reported earlier this month, Jay Zaleskas, senior high school assistant principal, was appointed principal to fill the position of the late James Nicholas. John Oliver was appointed assistant principal.

Township May Get Lights

By JANE C. BOLGER
Post Correspondent

The rush hour traffic on Route 309 will be greatly alleviated if Kingston Township receives final approval on their ECONS grant.

Plans call for an increase in traffic flow in the Carverton Road and Harris Hill Road areas by installing time based coordinated traffic control units.

Translated, this means that motorists won't be stopped by two red lights two minutes apart. The new traffic lights would be programmed to operate in a predominantly green light pattern for highway traffic southbound during morning peak hours with northbound traffic being given the advantage during the evening rush hour.

The new equipment would also activate left hand turn signals only if there were vehicles in the turn lanes. Traffic loops would also be installed as part of this project which is expected to be done at a cost of \$14,000.

The grant request from Kingston Township has won first place for all of Luzerne County in the Energy Conservation Congestion Reduction and Safety Program competition.

The cost effectiveness of the grant is rated very high, according to Kingston Township Manager Mark Kunkle who estimated that the project is likely to be funded in 1984 subject to winning final approval in this statewide competition for funds.



Shown above from left, are Sr. Therese Marie Marques, RSM, and Sr. Mary Ann Dillon, Provincial Administrator of the Sisters of Mercy.

Sr. Theresa Marques Receives \$7,000 Grant

Sr. Theresa Marie Marques, RSM, of Dallas, a Sister of Mercy from the Province of Scranton, has received a \$7,000 grant from MIVA, the Missionary Vehicle Association. MIVA was founded in 1927 and MIVA-America was established in 1972 to provide grants to American missionaries throughout the world to purchase vehicles as diverse as pickup trucks, motorcycles, automobiles and even an oxcart and a team of oxen.

The MIVA grant will be used for a

car that will be reliable transportation for Sr. Theresa and her colleagues in Georgetown, Guyana, South America. For 88 years, the Sisters of Mercy have provided a variety of services to the people there, including education, social work, agriculture and health care. They presently teach on all levels from nursery school through university, maintain the only Catholic hospital, an orphanage, as well as an interior mission among the Indians.