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Corruption charges dropped

By JUDIE MATHERS
Staff Writer

As of Monday, James Rogowski, the Tunkhannock Area school teacher who had been suspended from his teaching position when charged with corruption of minors, had heard nothing from the school district regarding reinstatement.

District Magistrate Leonard Harvey dropped all charges against Rogowski at a preliminary hearing held Thursday, April 18.

After hearing the testimony of two youths who stated that Rogowski knew nothing of any alcohol being available to students who attended a party at his home, Harvey dismissed the eight counts of corruption of minors and stated, "I just couldn't see putting this man through anymore. We're dealing with the man's whole future and the kids both claimed Rogowski didn't know about the beer and spiked punch."

The charges had been filed against the teacher after an investigation of a complaint filed by the mother of a 17-year-old youth who alleged that her son returned home intoxicated following a party held at the Rogowski home. Apparently, the youth had, however, been drinking in Noxen before he arrived at the party.

"I haven't heard a word from the District since the hearing," Rogowski told The Dallas Post. "But then," he continued, "I was never questioned at all by the District at the time of my suspension. They simply handed me a letter which stated that I was being suspended due to some facts they had received concerning an alleged party. They said I would be contacted after a Board meeting, but, to the best of my knowledge, that meeting hasn't taken place."

"A while after I was suspended," he concluded, "Dr. Place, the District's Superintendent, called me and asked me to come in and answer some questions. I didn't go, on advice from my attorney because I had not been questioned at the time of my suspension, and that was the last I've heard from them. I've made no decision as yet about what I'll do concerning my back pay and the District's actions, but I'm very anxious to get back to teaching."

Eleven seeking positions

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Lake-Lehman taxpayers will elect members to fill five positions on the Lake-Lehman School Board in the May Primary. The positions to be filled are for four-year terms and one two-year term, with one four-year seat in Region II, and two four-year term positions in Region III.

Following is a brief summary of the candidates, who are seeking the board seats in each of the three regions.

REGION I - 4 year term (1)



BING WOLFE

NAME: Bing Wolfe
ADDRESS: RD 4, Dallas
AGE: 32
EDUCATION: Graduate of Lake-Lehman High School and Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus with an Electrical and Electronic Technology degree.

OCCUPATION: Electronic Technician, Commonwealth Telephone Co.
CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: Chairman, Board of Elders, Community Church of Dallas; Director, WGRN Radio Station, Sweet Valley; member, Murgas Amateur Radio Club.



A funny thing happened on the way to Grandma's

Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf come face to face in this scene from "Little Red Riding Hood" which is being presented as the 20th annual production of the annual Children's Theatre presented by the Misericordia Players. Erin Kriedler is Little Red Riding Hood while John Pike portrays the Big Bad Wolf. The play is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28, at Walsh Auditorium on the campus of College Misericordia. (Story, page 8)

SCHOOL BOARD EXPERIENCE: Two year term on Lake-Lehman School Board.

FAMILY: Wife, Ruth; children, Valerie, 7; Benjamin, 4.

"I am running again to try to continue what has been accomplished, to improve the educational program and because of my concern for the students, administration and teachers but keep cost of education in balance for the taxpayers. I hope, with the help of the other board members, we can keep taxes down for the coming year."



CHARLES W. GORDON, JR.

NAME: Charles W. Gordon, Jr.
ADDRESS: RD 2, Box 367A, Pikes Creek, Dallas

AGE: 48
EDUCATION: Graduate Lake-Noxen High School; B.S., Business Administration-accounting major-Pennsylvania State University.

OCCUPATION: Insurance Broker and owner of Gordon Insurance Agency.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: Past president and present board member Harveys Lake Lions Club; member, Irem Temple Masonic Shrine; member, Dallas Regional Board of United Penn Bank; president, Back Mountain Wrestling Club Elementary Program.

SCHOOL BOARD EXPERIENCE: None

FAMILY: Wife, former Dorothea "Pudgie" Nothoff, Lake-Lehman graduate; daughter, Teri, Lake-Lehman graduate and first year student at Luzerne Co. Community

College; son, Charlie, fifth grade student at Lake-Noxen Elementary School.

"Lake-Lehman School District has achieved an outstanding, well-rounded curriculum of education for our children. The teachers and administrators rank among the most qualified and dedicated people in their profession. I would like to see continued, the high standards of education and opportunities available to the students. The future holds many challenges for our educational system and sound business decisions will have to be made by the Board of Directors, according to the wishes of the taxpayers, to continue to provide quality education at reasonable costs. We owe it to our children to provide a clean, safe, moral atmosphere in which to develop their minds and bodies and to achieve their own level of excellence, and we owe it to ourselves to provide the necessary facilities in practical amounts a economically as possible."

REGION II - 4-year term (1); 2-year term (1)



ROBERT C. EMERY

NAME: Robert C. Emery
ADDRESS: RD 4, Box 206A, Dallas

EDUCATION: Graduate of a Philadelphia High School and attended Temple University.

OCCUPATION: Customer Service Account Representative, Honeywell

Information Systems.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: Former United States Air Force member; former member of Lehman Volunteer Fire Company.

SCHOOL BOARD EXPERIENCE: Actively attended and participated in the District's monthly school board meetings since June, 1984, attended the open portion of the school board work sessions.

FAMILY: Wife, Barbara; daughter, Diana, fourth grade student, Lehman-Jackson Elementary School.

"I believe we have a good educational system in this district. However, I think we as a community can make it better. Almost a year ago at a school board meeting at Lake-Noxen School I coined a phrase, 'Quality Education at the Lowest Cost'. I believe in this statement. I also believe we can control costs and still give our children a quality education."



WILLIAM GEORGE

NAME: William George
ADDRESS: RD 1, Sweet Valley

AGE: 52
EDUCATION: Newport Township High School graduate; also took numerous management classes

OCCUPATION: Management supervisor at Danville State Hospital, employed by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: Member of Sweet Valley Fire Co., 20 years; crew captain and also food chairman for Sweet Valley Fire Company Parade & Bazaar; charter member of American

(See ELEVEN, page 8)

Why isn't anything being done?

Vandalism goes on for 10 months

By JUDIE MATHERS
Staff Writer

ANALYSIS

For almost 10 months, Ed and Bernadine Weiss of Elizabeth Street in Dallas have been the victims of malicious vandalism. The couple describes their lifestyle as one of terror. Mrs. Weiss has been driven to total collapse on one occasion. Ed Weiss, who has been characterized by neighbors as a kind and gentle man, has openly admitted he does not go outside his home empty-handed. "I want you to know I go out and patrol the perimeter of my home well prepared to defend myself," Weiss said. "And I don't know what I will do if I come across whoever has been doing this!"

The Weisses have compiled what they call their "nightmare book." Each time an incident has occurred, they have photographed the resulting mess and or damage and placed the pictures chronologically in a scrapbook, along with the date and time. The collection does indeed present a pictorial nightmare.

"Why is this happening?" they ask. "Why us?" "And most important of all, why haven't the police done more to help us?"

According to the Weisses, six months ago they contacted the State Police. "At that time" Mr. Weiss reports, "the officer with whom I spoke told me to contact our Borough police and request 24-hour surveillance. I did contact Paul Labar, a close personal friend and Mayor of Dallas, and asked him to arrange for us to have that surveillance. Mr. Labar told me it was impossible; that the Borough could not afford that kind of expense."

When questioned about this, Labar responded, "Yes, Mr. Weiss did ask me to arrange for 24-hour surveillance. I can't remember whether or not I told him we couldn't afford it. I do know that at

the time we were short-handed and didn't have the manpower. Besides, in order for a surveillance of that kind, you need the permission of the Borough Council."

When asked if he approached the Council about the surveillance, Labar answered "No, I did not."

When Borough Police Chief Ed Lyons was asked about the surveillance, he said this was the first time he had heard anything about it. He further stated, "The only time the Weiss name has ever come up in a council meeting was when the Weisses and 20 of their friends and neighbors came to a meeting last February." That was the meeting when discussion of a crime watch began; however, Borough Solicitor John Morris advised against the crime watch.

Shortly after the media publicized the happenings, Mayor Labor spoke out on behalf of a neighborhood crime watch and announced that Officer Jack Fowler of the Borough Police was in the process of getting information on how to get a crime watch organized.

During an interview with Elmer Bradshaw, chairman of the Luzerne County Crime Watch Association, Bradshaw related the following: "After reading some articles in February about what was happening to the Weiss couple, I decided to get in touch with them. I did, and, in fact, spent several hours at their home explaining how a crime watch works and how to get one started. A few days later, I contacted Jack Fowler and gave him the same information. I also called Chief Lyons, but when I inquired about the problem, I was told the Borough has no problems."

(See VANDALS, page 8)

From the reporter's notebook

Last Friday night after 9 p.m. this reporter drove to the residence of Ed and Bernadine Weiss on Elizabeth Street in Dallas.

Upon approaching the home, two people were clearly visible standing in a next door neighbor's yard. As I parked my car in front of the Weisses, a third person walked around from the rear of the building. I quickly identified myself to the closest individual and asked if a crime watch program had started.

"No," responded the woman. "We're doing this on our own. We're just neighbors who are trying to help our friends."

The neighbors explained that, for the past few nights, they had patrolled the area outside of the Weiss home, standing outside until the Weisses returned home from work.

All three stated they didn't know why a crime watch had not been organized. One remarked that she herself had wondered why she hadn't been contacted about the date to start a crime watch. "I thought we would be, and frankly, am curious as to why it wasn't followed through." Another simply surmised, "We didn't think too much more about it since the council meeting because the solicitor advised against it." The third neighbor summed up their feelings: "We may not be able to catch the vandals, but perhaps we can be a deterrent for awhile anyway..."

— JUDIE MATHERS

Steps for starting a Crime Watch program

The slogan "Neighborhood Crime Watch" has become familiar to many of us. We've read about it or heard about it through the media and perhaps have even considered becoming involved. But how does one go about doing that? And how does a crime watch actually work?

In an attempt to answer these questions, The Dallas Post met with Elmer Bradshaw, Chairman of the Luzerne County Crime Watch Association.

"The first thing you have to do," explained Bradshaw, "is get people interested. People have to want a safer place in which to live. If you've got that, the steps to establish a successful neighborhood crime watch are fairly simple."

Following is the process as described by Bradshaw:

Interested people come together for a meeting during which the actual workings of the crime watch are explained. A vote is then taken to determine whether or not they want to proceed. If they do, one volunteer becomes the program coordinator. It is his or her responsibility to coordinate all activities. He maintains a list of all involved persons, maintains an adequate supply of materials used in the program, and serves as a liaison between neighborhood residents and their police department. The neighbors in essence become the eyes and ears of the police department. They work as a team to prevent and suppress crime.

A chairperson volunteers or is elected who maintains a map of the

neighborhood and its sub-divisions, maintains a list of subdivision captains, maintains a master file of neighborhood canvass forms, and is responsible for keeping an adequate supply of informational packets, decals, engravers, and other materials.

Depending on the size of the neighborhood, subdivisions are broken down into sectors, and sectors into blocks with one person in charge of each sector, then block, etc. If only a small section of a community participates, for example, block captains would report

(See STEPS, page 8)

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