

L-L peer helpers sponsor anti-suicide program

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Some students at Lake-Lehman Senior High School are doing what they can to save their friends from tragedy.

Lake-Lehman Senior High School's Peer Helpers are students who attempt to help their fellow students with problems which quite often they would not discuss with families or teachers.

One of their current projects is sponsoring "LifePact," a program that encourages young people to make a contract with another person, promising to seek their if they feel like taking their own life.

Organized last year, the Peer Helper program proved to be successful and this school year, former and new members joined the program. They were discussing various projects they could do when a letter from Mercy Hospital was brought to their attention.

The Adolescent Center at the hospital expressed concern with the increasing number of suicides occurring within the adolescent population and explained that the center had become a major sponsor of 'LifePact', a half-hour special aired on WBRE-TV 28, Oct. 7. The film addressed the problem of teen suicide and offering a positive solution.

The Adolescent Center brought the video to a Peer Helper's meeting and after presenting it, representatives went

over the program and reviewed the study guide designed for use by the students.

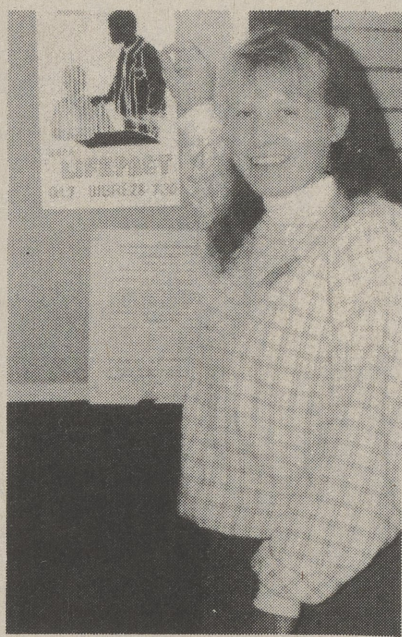
The representatives explained that LifePact has been created to urge adolescents to turn to others for help. Special LifePact cards were distributed to the Peer Helpers who in turn will distribute them to all students to sign. The agreement makes them promise to seek help before contemplating suicide.

The Lake-Lehman Peer Helpers were enthused with the program and became sponsors of LifePact for their school. Becky James was put in charge of the program. She placed posters in all of the district's schools with information about the October 7 program on WBRE-TV. Now the Peer Helpers are seeking permission to present the LifePact program to the entire student body, then introduce the Peer Helpers so all of the students will know who they are. The Peer Helpers will also accept cards from any of those who want to sign them.

The LifePact is a simple agreement made between the signer and a friend, teacher, peer helper, parent, or any adult the signer trusts.

It is strictly confidential between the signer and a peer helper that if he or she feels like they want to die, or if things get too bad and they can't make it another day, they will call their peer helper or the advisor if desired and talk about it first.

The Peer Helpers at Lake-Lehman hope to convince the fellow students that suicide is a



LIFEPACT CHAIRPERSON- Lake-Lehman peer helper Becky James is chairperson of the LifePact program the student peer helpers are working with. (Photo by C.M. Denmon)

permanent solution for a temporary problem. Peer Helpers want to make their friends realize that although it's hard to believe sometimes, the things that seem so difficult will really become easier to cope with if they have someone they can trust to discuss problems with.

Florence Finn, high school career counselor, is the advisor for the Peer Helpers. She is pleased with the way in which the group has accepted the challenge of LifePact.

"There's no doubt that it is

easier for students to talk to others in their own age group. They develop a certain rapport that enables them to help one another.

"Students who have a problem, or at least what they consider a problem, quite often believe suicide is the easy way out. They don't realize that; "Death is forever." Sometimes when they know someone who has committed suicide and are aware of the attention due to the tragedy, it becomes contagious. That is what our Peer Helpers hope will not happen if LifePact becomes a way to resolve teenagers problems.

Suicide is on the increase in today's society and according to statistics released by sponsors of LifePact, suicide is the second leading cause of death among teenagers. Accidents are number one, but many of these could be suicide in disguise. More than half of all teenagers have thought about suicide-mostly because they feel alone.

The most common reasons teenagers consider suicide include losing someone close, death of a family member, divorce of parents, a friend moving away, the loss of a pet, breaking up with boy or girl friend, loneliness, and family problems. Also, pressure and feelings of failure in the classroom, on the field, in the home or at work and peer pressure about drugs, alcohol or sex.

The Lake-Lehman Peer Helpers know but these problems can be resolved if the teenager will only talk to a friend he or she knows can be trusted.

Lake-Lehman contract talks take a breather

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

If no news is good news, the Lake-Lehman teacher contract negotiations are in no danger of collapsing.

A person close to both sides said this week that no meetings have been scheduled and probably will not be until all board members are back in town. The source said, however, that most of the items in the contract were ironed out and only the salary schedules for the teachers need to be approved by both sides before a new contract is possible.

Details of the contract cannot be released until a final agreement is reached by the board and the education association.

The negotiating teams of the Lake-Lehman School Board and the Lake-Lehman Education As-

sociation came to a tentative agreement at a meeting between the two, Wednesday, Oct. 11, according to an announcement made at that time.

A formal vote on the tentative agreement was to be held by both sides at a meeting scheduled for Friday, Oct. 13, but neither side voted on the contract because neither side had enough time to study a salary structure under the new contract. Following that meeting, no additional discussions had been scheduled between the two sides.

The school board, however, met Thursday, Oct. 19, at which time they voted 6-1 to reject the fact-finder's report. Absent from the meeting Thursday were board president Mark Elgaway and John Presper, two members of the board negotiating team. Edward Mark voted against rejecting the fact-finder's report.

Hearing on Lake hit-run boat accident set for tomorrow

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Two individuals charged with a hit-and-run boat accident on Harveys Lake which sent two women to the hospital during the Fourth of July weekend will face their preliminary hearing Thursday.

Gary A. Evans, 45, 324 E. Broad St., Nanticoke, and his girlfriend Adrienne Ratchford, 44, 72 Pulaslki St., Kingston were charged Friday, August 18 with recklessly operating a watercraft, recklessly endangering another person, and providing false statements. In addition, both were charged with summary offenses including failure to submit a required accident report and failure to render assistance to casualties.

The hearing will be held before District Justice Earl Gregory, Shavertown. The charges were filed by Harveys Lake police officer Ron Spock and Fish Commission enforcement officer Claude Neifert.

The charges were filed following almost two months of investigation stemming from a boat accident which occurred July 1 around 11:45 p.m. near Pole 140. Police allege that Evans and Ratchford were operating a 1955 Chris Craft outboard motor boat, owned by Evans, that slammed broadside into a boat carrying five people, including a 6-year-old boy. Two women aboard the boat, Nancy Begala, Harveys Lake, and Adelia Demoulee, Port Orchard, Washington, were treated at Nesbitt Hospital for shock and facial injuries. Evans' boat was allegedly operating without running lights.

According to police reports, Evans called the Harveys Lake Police Department on the morning following the accident to report his boat vandalized. In a statement submitted to police, Evans claimed that he tied his boat at Pole 142 around 9 p.m. July 1. Then, on July 2, he said he came down to show a friend his boat and discovered it underwater.

Police Report

DALLAS BOROUGH CAR STIKES POLE

James Preleska, 305 Anthracite Ave., Exeter, struck a Commonwealth Telephone pole damaging the base, cables and conduits with this 1989 Honda Civic. Police said he was traveling on Main Street, Oct. 21 and turned onto Huntsville Road and when he looked to the left to read a street sign his car left the road and struck the pole.

CAUGHT STEALING HUBCAPS FROM VETTE

Patrolman James J. Drury charged John Albert Bezdrecki of Wilkes-Barre with the theft, Oct. 14, when he was seen taking hub caps off a parked 1979 Corvette at Bryant Mobile Homes, Route 415, Dallas. The suspect had two caps in his vehicle and was in the process of removing the other two caps when he was apprehended. The items valued at \$140 were recovered. The Corvette was owned by David Bryant of Harveys Lake.

DALLAS TOWNSHIP ITEMS STOLEN FROM CAR AT HUGHIE O'S

Kimberly Wilkie, RD 5, Old Lake road, Dallas, reported to police that Oct. 19, she parked her car on Main Street, Fernbrook at 11:30 p.m., and went into Hughie-O's. When she went back to her car at

2 p.m., someone had taken items with a total value of more than \$2,500. Police are investigating the theft.

WINDSHIELD BROKEN

James McGovern, Skyview Drive, New Goss Manor, told police that he parked his car on the street in front of his home Oct. 22 at 2 a.m. and when he went to his car at noon someone had thrown a rock through the windshield of his car.

BEER TRUCK STOLEN

Dallas Township police recovered a beer truck, Oct. 22, on Williams Street, Dallas, that had been stolen from Kern Bros. distributor earlier.

VANDALS DRAW MISCHIEF CHARGES

On Oct. 22, Dallas Township police apprehended an adult and three juveniles for vandalism. They were stealing Halloween decorations, pumpkins and had smashed a lamp post. They were charged with criminal mischief, released in their parents custody and charges were filed with District Magistrate Earl Gregory.

TWO HURT IN ACCIDENT

Theresa McCoog, Dallas, and Ron Pietracinni, Shavertown, were taken to Nesbitt Hospital for treatment, Oct. 18, following a two-car accident near the intersection of Route 415 and Center Hill Road.

Dallas

(continued from page 1)

415 and 309, where there have been 12 accidents in less than two years.

Carroll said that PennDOT said that rumble strips will do the job to alert drivers of the intersection and agreed to put in the strips if the borough would put up a "Wig Wag" sign on a pole at a cost of approximately \$6500.

Carroll made the motion, seconded by Don Cooper, that they ask the state if they will maintain the strips when they wear down, and if they will, they agree to try the strips and the sign. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Harold Brobst and Russ Eyt were not at the Tuesday night meeting.

In other business the borough council:

- Requested the manager to set up a meeting with the American Red Cross and fire, ambulance and council representatives to discuss 'A statement of understanding' concerning disasters and the services that will be provided by the Red Cross.
- Hold the Library's request for a contribution until the budget is done.
- Reported a letter from DER has been received accepting the sewage proposal for the 13 single family residence project at Stonehedge.
- Distributed copies of the Back Mountain Citizens Council report.
- Requested Councilman Tim Carroll to look into the police safety systems for the Regency and Motorola Base radios council has requested.
- Approved a \$100 contribution to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- Requested the borough manager to file an application for the block grant.

There was no report given by the solicitor on the progress being made on the Gary Allabaugh problem. Allabaugh was borough manager for a brief time early this year. He and a quantity of the borough's money disappeared in the spring.

Council also approved a one-week leaf pickup which will be advertised in the media.

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