

Soviet

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Russian High School students," Jason said.

"I'll never get to go again and I want to see what the people are like and how, if they do, differ from us," said senior Ed Kelly. "I also want to visit Lenin's Tomb and the summer palace."

Melissa Larkins is looking forward to the air travel and is excited about meeting the Russian people. "The places I'm most interested in seeing are St. Basil's Cathedral and Lenin's Tomb," Larkins said.

"It's a great new experience," said Chris Thomas. "I'll get a first-hand look at the architecture and museums. I also want to see the new McDonald's. I never flew over the ocean, but it will be at night so I won't see the water."

"I'm looking forward to meeting the students and hearing how similar or different they are from us."

Barbara Campbell is most interested in the Hermitage Museum and Petrodvorets. "I flew once to Florida; I can't wait to go to Russia. I'm looking forward to meeting the students but I'm afraid I'm going to get confused in exchanging our American currency for the Russian rubels."

None of the students appear to have second thoughts and in fact are excited about going and are very certain about their priorities.



THEY'LL BE IN THE USSR - Five of the 30 Lake-Lehman students going on the Russian trip in April were available to tell us what they want to see most in Russia. The students were, above, first row from left, Melissa Larkins, Barbara Campbell, faculty member John Comitz; second row, Chris Thomas, Jason Toluba and Ed Kelly. (Photo by C.M. Denmon)

Back Mountain man acquitted in arson trial

By RICH JOHNSON Staff Writer

It didn't take long for a jury to come back with a verdict of "not guilty" in the trial of a back mountain man accused of setting fire to a barn in 1988.

The jury of seven men and five women took only two hours to deliberate last week's decision in the case of 31-year-old John Tibus.

When the verdict was read, Tibus showed no emotion, but his family broke down and wept with joy over the decision.

"I just want to thank the jury for finding my son not guilty," said Emma Tibus, the defendant's mother. "I also want to thank Mr. (Jonathan) Blum for all he did and our friends who supported us through the whole thing."

Blum, Tibus' defense attorney, was also pleased with the verdict. "The jury heard the evidence and came back with the verdict," said Blum. "The proof for the prosecution was relatively weak, which is

shown by the verdict," he added.

During the trial the prosecution said that Tibus, a former Kingston Township fireman, had confessed to setting a fire at a neighbor's barn, and 14 other fires in the Back Mountain. However, under cross-examination by Blum, it was shown that the alleged confession came only after Tibus was told by the interrogators that Jesus Christ and the spirit of his dead father were in the interrogation room and would want him to do the right thing.

Tibus was acquitted on two counts of arson-endangering property, and one count each of arson-endangering persons, criminal mischief, criminal attempt, and reckless burning.

After the verdict, area law-enforcement officers are left with at least 24 Back Mountain arson fires and no acknowledged suspect. The fires occurred from May 1987 through August 1988 and officials are wondering where to go next for a conviction in connection to the fires.

Poster

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nently implanted tube known as a B. oviac catheter. Periodic MRI scans showed slow but steady shrinking of the tumor. But chemotherapy also invariably presents side-effects, and Kenny had them: gastroenteritis, pneumonia, anemia, diarrhea, high blood pressure.

Relief and joy were tangible when in January 1988, the radiologist's report came through: no evidence of abnormality.

In October 1988 it was Frankie's turn. A cold, a cough, loss of appetite: what parent hasn't known them in a child? But Frankie's persisted. One day he vomited. Next day he was too short of breath to have energy enough to stand. A chest X-ray at Geisinger Wyoming Valley showed a fluid-filled left lung. Frankie was referred to Geisinger

Medical Center for further evaluation.

"Tests revealed that the fluid in his chest contained malignant cells, says pediatric oncologist Jeffrey Lobel, M.D., "indicating the presence of a tumor." Analysis of the cells brought the dreaded diagnosis: lymphoblastic lymphoma—a form of cancer associated with over-activity of the lymphoid tissue.

It was another emergency. "Progression of the tumor would further obstruct Frankie's breathing and permeate other areas of his body," said Lobel. Now Frankie had to undergo hospitalizations, radiation therapy, chemotherapy treatment and its side effects.

Frankie's response to treatment was encouraging. Three weeks into therapy, and up to the present, the radiologist's

reports have been joyously positive: the lungs are clear. He still comes to the medical center twice monthly for overnight chemotherapy infusion. But he'll be finished in April.

Shah and Lobel stress the importance of chemotherapy in treating both illnesses. Relief is quick in coming and much less traumatic for the child. "For Kenny it made all the difference," says Shah. "Averting the need for major surgery and radiation treatment that would give him both immediate and long-term problems."

Lobel adds that for Frankie surgery really wasn't an option. "Our years of participation in a national study on childhood cancers convinced us that for Frankie's disease, chemotherapy was the best method of treatment."

What caused Kenny's neuroblastoma, present in his body even before he was born? Why did Frankie get lymphoma?

Twenty years ago these children would not have been so lucky. That's why they are 1990 miracle children.

The 1990 Children's Miracle Network Telethon will broadcast nationally June 2 and 3, starting at 9 p.m. In northeastern Pennsylvania WNEP-TV 16 will broadcast the telethon live from Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, adding to the national segments regional stories of seriously ill children treated at the children's hospital center during the past year. All contributions pledged through WNEP go to the purchase of equipment and services for children treated at the children's hospital center of Geisinger Medical Center.

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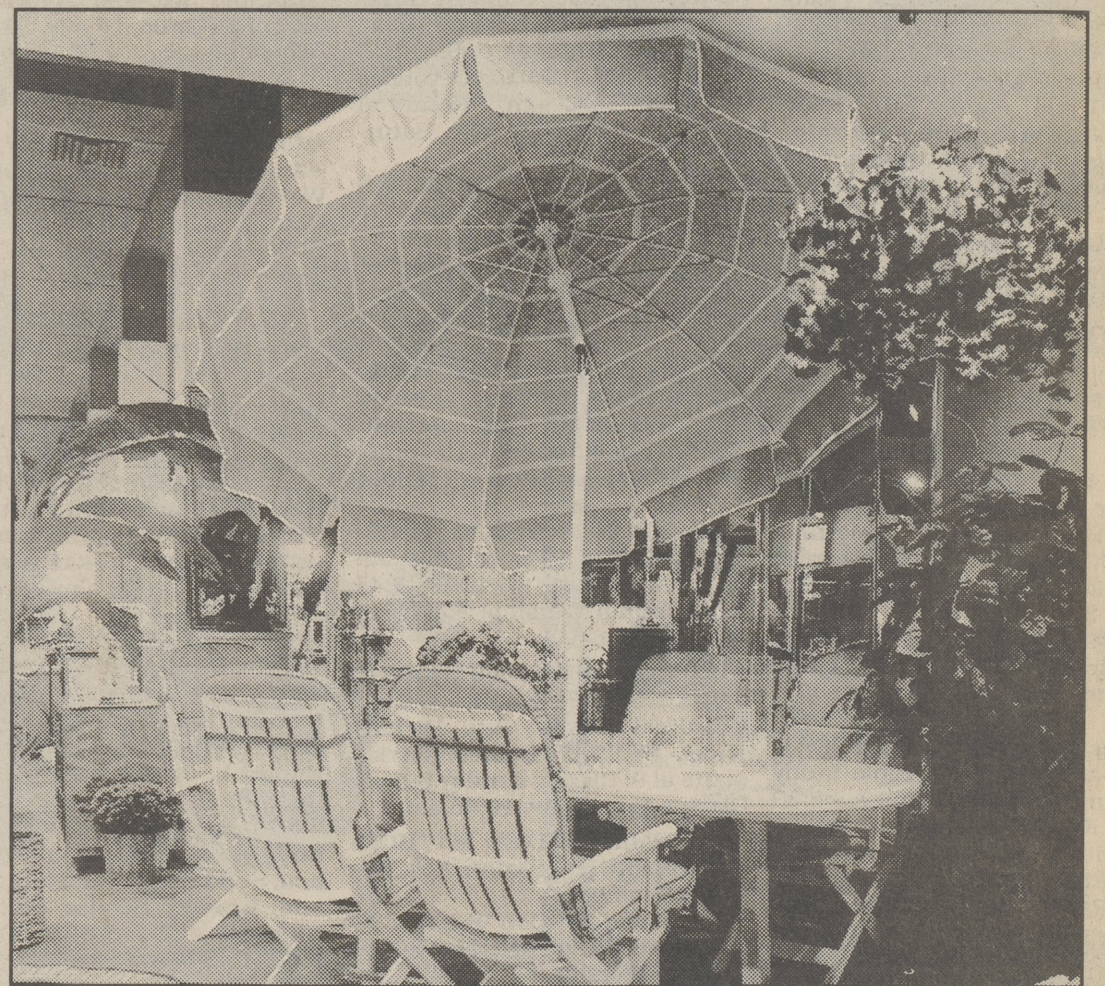
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