

# PEOPLE



**EXCHANGING OPINIONS** - Aida Saval and Francesca Barba exchange opinions on the differences between Lake-Lehman and their native countries. (Post Photo-Charlot M. Denmon)

## Exchange students like America

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Lake-Lehman High School has several international students in classes this year; among them are Francesca Barba of Italy and Aida Saval of Panama.

A senior, Francesca is from Perugia, Italy and is a Rotary Exchange student. She is staying with the Larkins family in Chase.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Barba, Francesca has a brother Luca and a sister, Maria. This is the first time she has been to the United States and although she didn't arrive here until August 25, she already finds the area a wonderful place.

"In Italy we can't drive before we are 18 years of age and we have to go to school six days a week. We can choose the school we attend but we don't have extra-curricular sports like you do here," said Francesca.

"We don't have freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors like here. Over there we choose the school but we have to go five years in one career."

Francesca also notes differences in housing between the two countries. "Here most of the houses are in wood but in Italy families live in four, five and six in one building and the building is not made of wood," she said.

"We have pasta every day with meat or fish and we drink only water or wine, no soda or iced tea or other beverages. We have very few fast food places but we have one McDonald's. Most of our places are either Italian or French restaurants. Our recreation is sailing on the lake or artistic gymnastics,

and we have a lot of homework every day," Francesca explained.

Francesca said she had been to Miami, Orlando, Atlanta, New York and Washington. She said in Italy there are parks similar to Disney World but much smaller but they don't have many tall buildings.

"The boys here are very friendly but the girls not so much," said Francesca. "I would like to play golf while I'm here," she said. After she graduates with the class in June, she will tour the country with other Rotary Exchange students, then when she returns home she will have to attend school for another year. Francesca is the first Rotary Exchange student from Italy.

Aida Saval of Panama was in Canada for two months before she came to Lake-Lehman in August. A senior, Aida is a member of the YES Exchange Program. She is living with Mr. and Mrs. Brian Oeller at Harveys Lake.

"They have two small children whom I love. They are very nice people and I like the lake. I have two sisters, younger than I am. I live in the city of Panama and my father is a lawyer," she said.

"I was in Philadelphia and it was very nice. Lake-Lehman is very different, it was cold here. In Panama we keep our windows open because it is very hot. Here the houses are heated. The area here is big and the distances to travel to school is very long.

"Harveys Lake is very big, about like the lake at home. The school is different though. In Panama we go to school from 7 a.m. until noon. Here we go all day.

"In Panama we wear uniforms to school and our courses are se-

lected by our teachers. In Lake-Lehman I was able to select my subjects. We have some sports in Panama like football, soccer and wrestling," Aida said.

Aida likes the pasta and vegetables here and the fact that she can cook if she wants to. When in Panama she said she plays cards, monopoly, and Nintendo. She was a cheerleader, and played soccer, basketball and volleyball.

"At Lake-Lehman I am playing volleyball," she said. "The discipline in Panama is more strict than here because there are so many more students," she explained. "I am finished with school in Panama and when I return I will go to the university to study law.

"In Panama we have McDonald's, Burger King and Pizza Hut but we don't have as many fast food places as there are here," she said. "When at home I go to a friend's house, drive to the shops, to the movies or restaurants, and every Sunday I go to church.

Aida has adapted quickly to the American lifestyle.

"Here I go out with friends, to the mall, the movies or to the park with my family. My best friend here is Valerie Luke and we have learned to cope with the difference in language. I speak Spanish at home and in school I learned Greek."

Aida speaks four languages; French, Spanish, Greek and English. She likes many things in the United States but says she likes the people most. She also likes Wilkes-Barre and finds the city very clean. After she finishes school and returns home she hopes to be able to return to the area again.

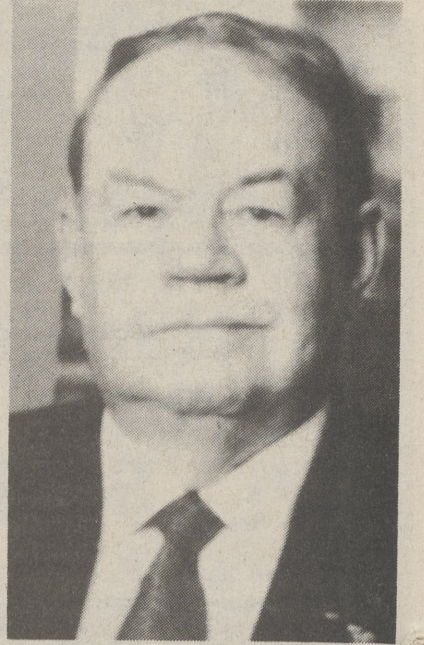
## Tough elected chairman of the board of Blue Cross

Gilbert D. Tough, has been elected Chairman of the Board of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He will also continue to serve as Chief Executive Officer. Tough is a native of Lehman, graduate of Wyoming Seminary and Wilkes University and graduate courses completed at the University of Michigan.

Tough serves as a member of the Audit Committee of the board of the National Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, (BCBSA) and will become a board member of BCBSA, Jan. 1, 1991. He is also a member of B.C.S./Financial, Chairman, District 4 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan CEOs in-

cluding Pennsylvania and Delaware and Chairman elect of the 1991 United Way of Wyoming Valley.

He has also served as a Lake-Lehman School Board Director and President of the Lake-Lehman Board and the Board of Trustees Lehman United Methodist Church. Tough is also a member of the Board of Governors, Irem Temple Shrine, A.A.O.N.M.S., and a Director of the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, Philadelphia Unit. He and his wife, the former Vera Whitesell, are the parents of two children, daughter Linda Pinedo of Lehman and son, Gary of Harrisburg.



GILBERT D. TOUGH

## Gorton will practice environmental law

The Philadelphia office of Buchanan Ingersoll Professional Corporation has added William T. Gorton, III as associate to build the firm's environmental and natural resources law practice. The announcement was made by managing director, William R. Newlin.

William T. Gorton, III was previously engaged in environmental consulting and engineering with

Challenge Engineering Consultants, Inc., of Lexington, Ky., and Skelly and Loy Engineers-Consultants, a Harrisburg-based firm, beginning in 1976.

His experience includes natural resource, waste, energy and environmental litigation and counseling; and drafting and analyzing environmental legislation. He also has extensive technical environ-

mental project management experience.

Gorton holds a B.S. degree from the Pennsylvania State University, and a J.D. degree, with distinction, from the University of Kentucky College of Law. He is a resident of Swarthmore, Pa.

Gorton was raised in Dallas and graduated from Dallas High School in 1971.



## Swingle honored as retiring Sunday School Superintendent

Mrs. Mary Lou Swingle was honored recently in a worship service at the Shavertown United Methodist Church for her eight years of faithful service as Church School Superintendent.

The occasion was the celebration of Christian Education Ministries of the church and the installation of Patricia Snyder as the new superintendent. Teachers of the various age-level classes were also recognized.

Pictured from left, Larry Schuler, Education Committee Chairperson; Patricia Snyder, new Church School Superintendent; Mary Lou Swingle, Pastor Harriet L. Santos; and Pastor James Wert. Absent from the photo was Nancy Tkatsch of the Education Committee.

## In the service

### SGT. DAVIS COMPLETES SPECIALIST COURSE

Sgt. Medea S. Davis has graduated from the information management specialist course at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Miss.

Course graduates learned administrative support and office management for functional staff elements. The course included typing, administrative communications, telephone etiquette; and management of publications, forms, and records.

She is the daughter of Velma G. Roggenkamp of Rural Route 2, Ballinger, Texas, and Bill J. Lutes of 39 N. Pioneer, Shavertown, Pa.

The sergeant is a 1983 graduate of Aledo High School, White Settlement, Texas.

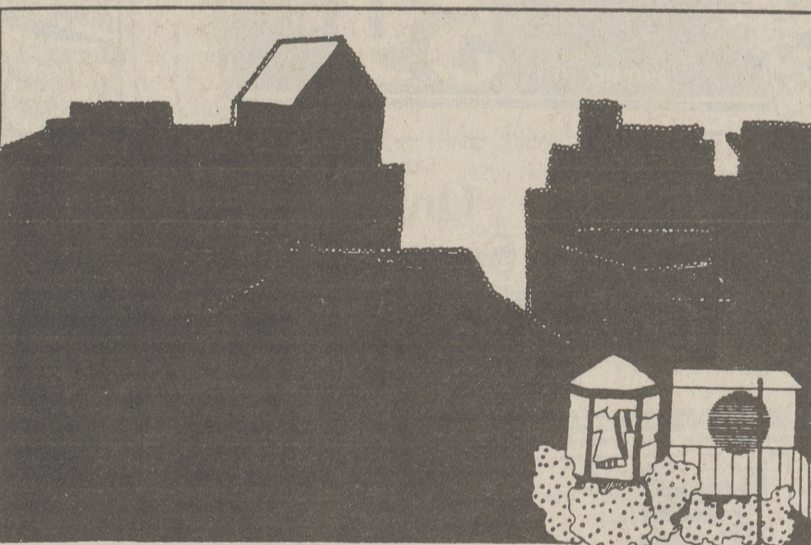
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