

## Vo-Tech

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the shop areas are filled to capacity. Stahl said that the center is committed to having its students apply what is learned in the classroom to what is taught in the individual shops and areas. He added that Vo-Tech is continually phasing out obsolete programs and adding current programs like health technology and audio/visual communications.

"We are also doing things to update current programs; for instance, plumbing will be added to our HVAC track," Stahl said. "There is currently a move toward improving the quality of academics for all students in vocational education, and to move away from the general track," Stahl said.

What the board needs to address is the negative perception of a vocational education, Nagy said. Board member Richard Coslett said that the community sees the center as a second chance for students in the school system.

"West Side Tech is often viewed as a last resort for students who have exhausted all of the options which the district has to offer," Superintendent Gerald Wycallis said.

Society does not value a technical education and that needs to be addressed in the district's long range plan, Nagy said. She added that the job market has a high demand for students with a technical education.

Stahl has a unique perspective

because he has a vocational education and is a former auto mechanics instructor. He said that the misconception has to do with the American dream.

"Most of the misconceptions come from the view that an individual finishes high school, then goes onto college, gets a four-year degree and then there is a high paying job after graduation," Stahl said.

"As a guidance counselor, I don't hear parents saying that a son or daughter be a mechanic or a brick layer," Shevock said.

Shevock said that 75 percent of seniors from Dallas go on to attend a four-year university or receive an associate degree. VoTech offers good programs for students who do not plan on attending college, Shevock said.

"Society places a high value on career goals and there are a negative connotations about students who are not pursuing these goals. People do not realize that the shop areas present real opportunities for students in the district," Shevock said.

According to Stahl, a small percentage of careers require a four-year degree, and an understanding of a vocational education is useful in doing away with the negative perception of vocational education.

"The old line of thinking must go, there are real job opportunities for our graduates in the fields which they train," Stahl said.

## Lake-Lehman S.A.D.D helps younger classmates

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

"They really care about us and don't want us to get into drugs or alcohol."

That was the message that the students at Lehman-Jackson School heard from their friends, Peer Helpers and S.A.D.D. members from Lake-Lehman High School.

Forty-eight senior high students fanned out into every classroom in the building, sharing their experiences with saying "No" to substance abuse with their young friends.

"The first graders were very interested and had lots of questions. I had a lot of fun answering them," said senior Reagan Bombick as she tied a red ribbon onto Kristin Lipski's hand. "They asked me about everything from whether it's okay for Dad to drink coffee while he's driving to why our ribbons are red."

Why a red ribbon? Red ribbons

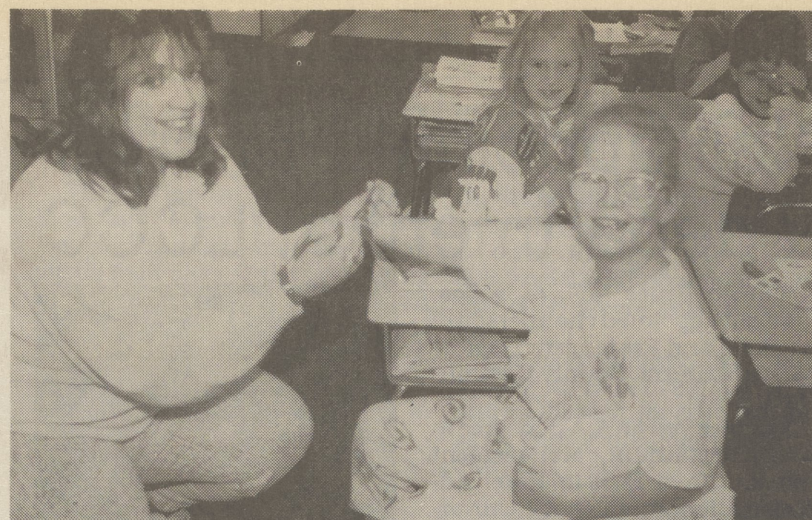
are the official color of the campaign against driving and drinking by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) and Students Against Drunk Driving (S.A.D.D.)

After chatting with her "big friends" from the high school, one first-grader announced that she was going to teach her Mom a lesson.

"The high school students don't realize the power they have to influence younger kids with these messages," said Pam McDonald, a drug and alcohol education/prevention specialist who works at Lake-Lehman. "The younger ones really look up to them."

Older students also serve as positive role models by sharing how they put up with insults and peer pressure or having the courage to take a stand against substance abuse, McDonald said. "Simply telling the younger kids that they care is often an extremely important message," she added.

Younger children learn that it's okay to say "No," that they'll still



**SAYING "NO" TO DRUGS AND ALCOHOL** - Lake-Lehman High School senior Jennifer Edwards ties a red ribbon on second-grader Kristin Lipski's wrist. High School Peer Helpers and S.A.D.D. members visited Lehman-Jackson Elementary School to discuss avoiding drugs and alcohol with the students Wednesday, October 21. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

have friends even if they stay away from substance abuse.

"It feels really great to talk with the elementary kids and be part of their lives," said Jennifer Edwards.

"They suggested that if we have problems, we find a friend we can trust and talk things over," said sixth-grader Charlie Schweikert.

Nicole Levi added, "They don't want us to ruin our lives with drugs. They want us to have healthy minds and bodies."

And the first-graders evidently understood the message. When asked by a reporter what they would say to drugs or alcohol, the entire class shouted, "NO!"

## Harveys Lake group will begin student program

By BILL HARPER  
Post Staff

Students at Harveys Lake and Lake-Noxen Elementary schools will soon get a chance to learn about the history of the area when the local historical society begins new programs in early spring.

"Many of the events which have occurred in Luzerne County are in one way or another tied to Harveys Lake," According to Sandra Serhan-Perez, president of the Harveys Lake Historical Society.

Serhan-Perez said that she is currently putting together a workbook to help teach students about the history of Harveys Lake. In addition, she is looking toward putting a permanent Harveys Lake historical display at Lake-Noxen Elementary School.

"All of these efforts are being done in order to revive the historical society and teach our local heritage to the kids at the schools," Serhan-Perez said.

The original Harveys Lake

Historical Society began in 1976 when then mayor William Conley asked Serhan-Perez to do historical research for the community's Bicentennial celebration. Harveys Lake was a national historical community during that year, Serhan-Perez said.

As she revives the historical society, Serhan-Perez sees the schools as a perfect vehicle for teaching Harveys Lake history to the community.

The historical program will give the students an opportunity to learn about the local legends of the lake. One such story is that of Benjamin Harvey and the Indians in the mid 1800's.

According to Serhan-Perez, Harvey was captured by Indians in the area. After the braves threw tomahawks, and did not kill him, Harvey was released because the Indians thought that he was blessed with good fortune.

"The braves thought that he was a god," Serhan-Perez said.

## Dallas

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the discussion at the job site, in which the borough officials indicated that they were satisfied with the work.

"We encountered many unforeseen problems once we got underground, which required more work than was in the original contract," said Drew Fitch of R.N. Fitch and Sons.

"The purpose of our September 28 meeting at the job site was to go over any problems that might exist. We were under the impression that

everything was all right. I was not aware that any problems existed. I feel that the issue of paving is between the water company and Dallas Borough," Fitch said.

In other business, council expressed its satisfaction with the demolition job completed on the vacant former Hearstone Pub building with the help of a state grant. Cooper commended *The Dallas Post* and the late Charlotte "Tootie" Denmon, the staff reporter who first brought the potential

hazard to the public's attention.

The council also unanimously adopted the borough's new zoning ordinance and map.

Borough manager Milt Lutsey reported that he has received many calls about the time/temperature sign which hung on the front of the former United Penn Bank, which was removed when Mellon Bank purchased United Penn. Lutsey has contacted Mellon Bank officials and learned that the sign is in storage. He plans to ask them to

put the sign back up.

Jay Pope reported that the fundraisers for the recreation building raised \$4,000. Council passed a resolution to allow the recreation committee to apply for a \$4,000 federal matching grant to rehabilitate the Kenneth Young Memorial Park on Burndale Ave., at no cost to the borough.

Council opened 11 bids for the Druid Hills storm sewer project and will vote on them after reviewing them.

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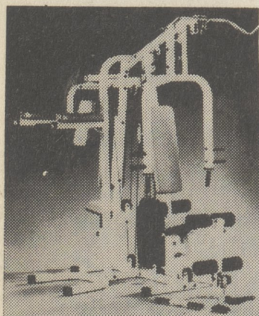
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