

Phone crash ko's 'Homework Hotline'

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

March didn't begin auspiciously for Lake-Noxen principal Robert Kunkle when the school's 13-year-old telephone system abruptly conked out last week, just as the school was starting up an experimental "Homework Hotline."

"The old system had been slowly deteriorating for some time," Kunkle said. "But when the office's main phone gave up the ghost, the entire system went down."

At one point Monday and Tuesday, March 1 and 2, Kunkle had to string a telephone wire across the ceiling from his office to the secretary's desk to have any service at all.

Service was still sporadic; Kunkle joked about two tin cans and a string being more efficient.

In the middle of all the confusion, March 1 was the beginning of an experimental district-wide "Homework Hotline" program, which allowed students to find out the day's homework assignments.

Set up through Commonwealth Telephone Company, the hotline operates like voice mail, with each teacher assigned a specific code number. Using a touch-tone phone, students can access the teacher whom they need and hear a recording of the day's lessons and assignments.

Of course, there's a safeguard built into the system to prevent pranksters from getting into a teacher's voice mail program and

cancelling all homework for the day.

After its month-long trial run, the teachers will evaluate the hotline and decide if they want to continue using it.

Meanwhile, back at Lake-Noxen, Kunkle, secretary Mrs. Komsisky and the faculty gamely struggled with the improvised setup until a new touch-tone system, featuring call-forwarding to the main office and other conveniences, could be installed.

Luckily the school board authorized Kunkle to replace the school's phone system immediately at its March 2 committee-of-the-whole meeting.

"Now that we have to do is figure out how it works," Kunkle joked.



Back Mountain Citizens' Council

The Back Mountain Citizens Council board of directors will meet on the campus of Penn State Wilkes-Barre, March 12 at 8 a.m. to plan a series of programs for coming months, relating to conservation, land trust, transportation in the Back Mountain and a quality of life study. The BMCC at its recent annual meeting re-elected Will Conyngham as president, Ray Boyle, as vice-president, and Dr. Tom Winter as treasurer.

Shown here are some of the board members: front row, from left, Ray Boyle, Ben Phillips, Dr. Winter. Standing, Phyllis Belk, Murray Miller, Mary Reddy, Rob Lewis, Irene Thomas, Larry Law, Al Babetski and Ed Schechter.

Persons who want to be involved with the organization, which is dedicated to planned development and conservation causes, may contact Conyngham at the Dairy Store on Hillside Road. Recent projects included the development of the first detailed map of the Back Mountain, a forum on land trust and a home beautification contest.

Library sponsors essay contest for all ages

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, in conjunction with the 10 other libraries of the Luzerne County Library System, is holding an Essay Contest on how "Libraries Change Lives".

In 100 words or less, tell us how a library or librarian helped change your life or made a difference for you. All ages are invited to participate. Essays will be judged at the Back Mountain Memorial Library and awards

given to entries from the following categories: funniest, most dramatic, most money saved, and most unusual. The winners will then be judged on the county level.

These testimonials will be used to support the case for library funding with legislators and policy makers to tell others how the library can help them. All entries will be forwarded to the American Library Association. The Association

will select three people who submit outstanding stories from all received to be awarded a trip for two to the 1993 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference where they will be honored at the opening General Session.

For more information and/or entry form, call 675-1182 or stop by the library.

Help support your library with your essays!



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Brave business persons

The Back Mountain Business & Professional Association held a mixer at Gager Associates last Thursday evening. Originally scheduled in December, the event was cancelled because of snow. As luck would have it, the weather last week wasn't any better, but several hardy members made it out anyway. From left, enjoying the hors d'oeuvres and conversation, Carol Eyet, Dennis Oliver, Liz Lloyd and Dr. Bruce Goeringer.

Thresholds training set March 13-14

The training weekend for Thresholds' volunteers will be held on Saturday, March 13 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Parish House of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church on Main Street, in Dallas.

Thresholds teaches decision making and problem solving skills to inmates at the State Correctional Institution in Dallas on a one to one basis over a period of 10 weeks. The course is endorsed by the administration of the Dallas Correctional Institution as well as by the Bureau of Corrections.

There is a great need for new volunteers to give as many men as possible a chance to complete the course and point them to a new life upon their release from prison.

For further information, call Ingrid Prater at 823-9548 or leave a message at 675-1723.

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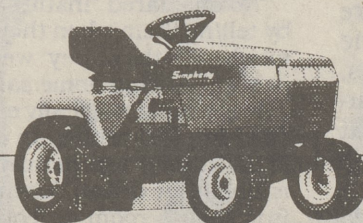
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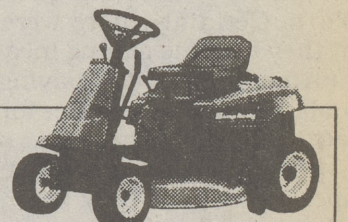
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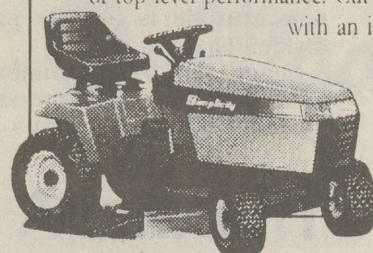


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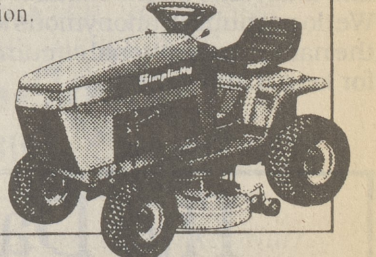
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