

# Local teen takes action against racism, hatred

By MICHAEL TWICHELL  
Post Correspondent

**HARVEYS LAKE** - Samantha Schrader, 18, of Harveys Lake and a senior at Lake-Lehman High School, has a bone to pick.

"I am just sick and tired of blatant racism and hate everywhere in this area. Nobody is doing anything about it," she said. So she decided to do something on her own.

About four years ago, Samantha, with the help of like-minded friends, began forming a group which promotes tolerance and diversity, Youth for Equality. "I felt that there needed to be more activities for young people interested in doing something about intolerance, racism, hate, homophobia, sexism, and other forms of oppression," she said.

Youth for Equality is supported by the Peace Center, a Wilkes-Barre based organization dedicated to finding solutions to problems related to race, religion and sexual orientation.

Samantha says that her friends and even herself have been targets for various tormentors. "I have a few homosexual friends, and I'm also real close with some girlfriends, so some ignorant people decided I was a lesbian,

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Samantha Schrader  
Lake-Lehman senior

among other things," she said.

One issue which Samantha takes particular offense at is youth oppression. "Older people look at someone who dresses 'punk' style or stands out otherwise, and immediately assume that they have nothing worthwhile to offer or are dangerous or something," she said.

According to Samantha, the chief concerns of the group are, "to raise awareness about these problems, provide support for victims of hate or oppression, and to gain recognition that these are serious issues in this area."

One major obstacle has been that not many people will admit to their prejudices. "A lot of people still deny that they have racist or hate-minded views," she said.

After a slight down period, due primarily to, according to Samantha, "Lack of interest had



SAMANTHA SCHRADER

only the same people showing up all the time," the group is trying to organize weekly or bi-weekly meetings, with the next one planned for April 1.

Other activities under consideration are concerts, street theater, poetry readings, discussion forums, public speakers, and a possible bus trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.

The group is also planning to print more issues of its magazine, *Mosaic*, which features short stories, original art, poetry and informational articles.

As for Samantha, her future includes continuing her education at Lasalle University, where she has been accepted as a creative writing major, and continued involvement with Youth for Equality. "As a future leader, I want to address these issues now, in preparation. I hope there are other young people in the area wanting the same, and I want to let them know there is something they can do."

For more information on Youth for Equality or group meetings, contact The Peace Center at 823-9977, or Samantha Schrader at 639-1167

# Neighbors gripe about Wendy's

By ANN POEPPERLING  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS BOROUGH** - The new Wendy's Restaurant drew two complaints at the March 19 meeting of the borough council.

Rita Ancas, 45 Mill St., voiced problems she says she is having with the facility, which borders her property. Ancas claimed that Wendy's is "using Mill St. as an exit," which is not permitted. She said the restaurant has installed only temporary barriers between the street and its parking lot, which are moved to allow cars to exit.

Ancas also said she is losing part of her fence and land due to erosion from an area where Wendy's ended its landscaping. And, she complained that Wendy's lights are "shining on our house and windows and keeping us up at night," adding that she has just secured new tenants in the 47 Mill St. side of their duplex, and feels "they're going to have problems, too."

Another Mill St. resident, Joe Stec, agreed that Wendy's uses the street as an exit and said he is concerned about the safety of children who play in the area.

Borough solicitor Ted Krohn offered to speak with the Ancas after the meeting, to learn more about their complaints.

Wendy's manager Steve Kepic, contacted March 25, denied that Mill St. is used as an exit. "Cars exiting is a fabrication," he said, suggesting Ancas and Stec might have seen a snow plow, or an employee moving a car across Mill St. to a secondary parking area.

Kepic said he is looking into putting shields on the lights to divert their glare. "I'm trying to work with them," he said, but pointed out that nothing in the zoning code that keeps him from

having the lights on.

The council passed a motion to enter into a maintenance agreement for a new traffic light at the intersection of Orloski's and the Dallas Shopping Center on Route 309.

"The traffic light is being paid for by Orloski's and Humford Equities (owner of the shopping center) at no cost to the borough or any other municipal agency," said council member William Pfeiffer. He said the cost to the borough will be about \$600 per year for electricity and about \$1,200 per year for other maintenance such as light bulbs.

"Because the developers are paying for the light, we will pick up the maintenance agreement," explained council president Patricia Pfeiffer.

During the public comment session, Jake Konigus said that West Center Hill Rd. is being "torn up" from large trucks hauling gravel to a construction area at the end of the road. According to the zoning report, a construction permit was issued to Melanie Maslow Lumia, 475 W. Center Hill Rd., to construct a pool and pool house for a cost of \$150,000.

Borough manager Milton Lutsey verified that he has received other complaints regarding heavy trucks on the road, but said there isn't a weight limit posted. But Lutsey said he has discussed the problem with Krohn, and said, "We're going to send a letter to these people and see what can be done."

In other business, the council awarded a contract to Danella Environmental Technologies for spring cleanup. The bid is broken down into the following: Trash removal at \$9.69 per yard; white goods at \$110 per 30 cu. yd. container; and tires at \$200 per container plus \$100 per ton disposal fee. Other bids were received from Waste Management Inc., and Waste Reduction and Recycling Enterprises.

The borough spent \$14,000 for spring cleanup last year, and \$16,000 in 1994.

The council accepted a payment of \$8,530.32 from Tele-Media for the 1995 cable television franchise fee. And Lutsey reported that reports have been sent to the proper authorities regarding the January storms. "We're ready for them to come and inspect the damage," he said.

## State park features guest speakers

Frances Slocum State Park is beginning a new season of environmental education and historical interpretation.

Frances Slocum State Park offers numerous personalized programs for any organized groups. A variety of hikes and activities are offered at the park to groups of all ages. The naturalist will also conduct a guest talk on a number of topics.

All programs are free, but you must pre-register. Programs can be conducted Sunday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during April, May and June. To sign up a club, group or organization, please contact the park at the 696-3525 and ask for the park naturalist Jerry Kozlansky.

If you are a person with a disability and you wish to participate in any of the programs please contact Jerry Kozlansky at 696-3525. Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service 1-800-654-5984 (TDD).



## Trouble - right here in River City!

Cast members of Lake-Lehman High School's production of *The Music Man*, rehearsing a dance scene are, front row: Phillip Pineno and Joanna Oliver; second row: Corella Tamagnini, Erica Hodick, Virginia Heacock and Shasta Souder; third row: Preston Hoyt, Chavon Croman, Amanda Weber, Kim Gaylord, Stephanie Pineno and Sarah Roberts. Directed by drama teacher Jean Lipski and music teacher John Pineno, the play will be presented March 28-31 at 7:30 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children and are available at the door or from any cast member.

## Women's Network to host Women's Conference June 1

The Wyoming Valley Women's Network planning committee is pleased to announce this year's 12th Annual Luzerne County Women's Conference, "The Future is NOW", to be held June 1 at Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman. Sixty Workshops will be presented on topics pertaining to business, family, health & spirit, self discovery, the arts and the world.

Hundreds of women are expected to attend this year's conference from the 18 counties of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The cost of this conference will be \$30, \$25 for seniors 65 or over.

Nominations for the Annual Pathfinder Award for outstanding women of Luzerne County are being accepted now until April 16. The Pathfinder Award recognizes

women of Luzerne County who have opened doors for other women through their ideas and accomplishments.

All nominations for the Pathfinder Award must include the name and address of the nominee, as well as information on her background, including details which would qualify her for selection as a Pathfinder Award Recipient.

Nominations should be sent to the Wyoming Valley Women's Network, Box 2686, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703.

The all volunteer planning committee welcomes new volunteers. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. at the B'Nai B'rith Temple of Wilkes-Barre, 408 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston.

## Rogowicz named to Luzerne Cty. Women's Commission

Trucksville resident Karen C. Rogowicz was one of five women recently appointed to the Luzerne County Commission for Women.

Rogowicz, is assistant director of public relations and marketing at King's College. Prior to that she was assistant director of public relations and publications at Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School, Kingston, and was a promotion director at WBRE-TV.

Other appointees were West Pittston resident, Attorney Nancy Alexanderian; Plains resident, Mary Lou Bravin; Lattimer resident, Cheryl Cerullo Bubrowski, RN, MS and Forty Fort resident, Gina Zaonolini Morrison.



KAREN ROGOWICZ

## Candidates must obtain sign permits

Jackson Township zoning officer John Krupa reminds all political candidates who plan to post political signs within the township's corporate limits to first secure a political poster permit from the zoning office with a deposit of \$30. The deposit will be refunded if all signs are removed within 30 days after the advertised event. All political signs must be removed by May 23.

Applications may be made by mail with a check or in person during posted working hours.

## Firefighters still need aluminum drink cans

The Shavertown Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank everyone in the community who has been donating their aluminum beverage cans during our Aluminum Drive. The fire company is still far from the goal and in need of your help. Please, remember to drop off aluminum cans in our drop off box. It's a great way to help without affecting your budget. We're here for you when you need us.

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