

Heroin

(continued from page 1)

ner Joseph Shaver said the cause of death will not be determined until routine toxicological screenings and studies of blood, tissue and body fluids are completed, which could take several weeks.

Nearly a month ago, Back Mountain resident Michael Bohlin, 17, died in Wilkes-Barre of a heroin overdose.

Heroin has made a comeback as the drug of choice in the area over the past five years, Balavage said. When he became a sergeant 8 1/2 years ago, he saw an average of one heroin overdose case per dozen. Now he sees about half a dozen.

Drugs seem to follow spiraling cycles of popularity. Marijuana, heroin and prescription drugs ("uppers"), which were once very popular, gave way to LSD, which was replaced by cocaine and crack. Then the spiral swung back to more potent strains of marijuana, which have in turn been again replaced by heroin.

Heroin has also become cheaper and stronger, according to Mike, a counselor at Choices at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital.

Mike declined to give his last name because Choices treats many patients from the Back

Mountain, whom he feels might be deterred from seeking treatment if Mike's last name were published.

"A bag of the drub which formerly sold for \$50 now costs \$10 in Philadelphia," he said. "The price and the fact that it's more potent attracts potential users and gets them hooked faster."

He has seen a dramatic increase in heroin-related admissions to Choices in the past 12-18 months. While half of the program's patients were addicted to hard drugs and heroin and the other half to alcohol last year, nearly 70 percent of Choices' admissions are now addicted to alcohol combined with another drug, especially heroin.

The age of the typical user has also changed drastically.

"Until last year the average age of our abusers was around 29 years old," Mike said. "Now most of them are between 17 and 21 years old."

Dealers are now targeting upper-middle class kids, who have more money available to them, he added.

"The typical abuser is no longer the junkie on the street corner," Mike said. "We're also seeing more

parents refer their children to us - they don't know what else to do with them."

A decade or two ago, teens typically went through several phases on their way to becoming addicts, he said. Starting with alcohol, they "graduated" to marijuana, then cocaine, heroin or crack. Now they're skipping the alcohol and marijuana altogether and starting with heroin.

Heroin is extremely physically and psychologically addictive, Mike said.

"The problem isn't getting clean," he said. "It's staying clean - the stuff seems to have a greater attraction than some other substances."

At least one area school district has applied for a grant to expand its drug avoidance education program.

According to assistant superintendent of curriculum Dr. Gilbert Griffiths of Dallas, the district wants to expand the Drug Avoidance Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program, already in place in the fifth grade, to lower grades in the elementary school.

Dallas already has a drug education program in all grades and last semester sent its middle school teachers for additional training.

"We recognized that heroin use is increasing in the community," he said. "The school and the police are monitoring certain areas of the community where drug sales

"Until last year the average age of our abusers was around 29 years old. Now most of them are between 17 and 21 years old."

Mike
Drug abuse counselor

are known to take place."

Referring to the death of Michael Bohlin, he added, "It's always bad when you lose one of your students."

Dallas Township police chief Carl Miers and Dallas Borough police chief Jack Fowler said heroin use affects all ages and has had a sort of ripple effect on crime in the area.

"In more than 75 percent of the burglary and theft cases which we've solved, the defendants have admitted to us that they had hard-core drug problems," Miers said. "Three years ago we'd hear of maybe one heroin case. In the past six months alone my department has investigated and arrested four suspects who admitted they were heroin addicts."

The state police have issued an alert to all departments that "bad" heroin is coming from New York and Philadelphia, the two main sources for addicts in the area.

Dallas school

(continued from page 1)

subject to dismissal for dereliction of duty if the board votes for it. All professional certificates will be reviewed once a year.

"If the new policy required the teachers to pay their own fines, we would be required to negotiate it with the teachers' association," said solicitor Ben Jones. "Otherwise the association could file a grievance against us."

The board also approved a bid by Mid-Valley Contractors to repair the roof supports at the Dallas Elementary School at a total cost of \$46,000. As long as the back half of the roof is finished by the start of school, the contractor may finish the rest of the job

during Christmas vacation. The contractor may also work evenings or around the clock to finish the job.

Because the state considered the roof repairs to be an emergency situation, it allowed the district to obtain price quotations from three contractors instead of advertising for bids, as is usually required.

In other personnel matters, the board approved a list of bus drivers, aides, department chairmen, teachers' salaries, substitute professional and non-professional employees and part-time professional and clerical employees.

Statue

(continued from page 1)

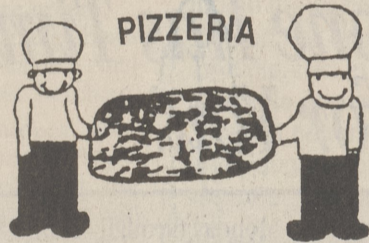
before," he added. "I knew I could do it. It was a challenge - I like to take on challenges because they keep things interesting."

A 1984 graduate of Dallas High School, Jones graduated with an associate's degree in construction

technology from Williamsport Community College in 1986. He started his own business right after graduation and named it Siberian Specialties, for his Siberian husky dogs, four years ago.

PIZZA PERFECT

Sicilian Style



16 Carverton Road, Trucksville

Call Ahead **696-2100**

**Eat in or Take Out
Try Our Wings!**

Mon.: 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Fri.: 11:00 am - 12:00 Midnight
Sat.: 12:30 pm - 12:00 Midnight • Sun.: 2:00 pm - 11:00 pm

People interested in the Back Mountain read



The Dallas Post

a real hometown paper you can feel good about
675-5211

APPLEWOOD GOLF COURSE

454 Mt. Zion Rd., Harding

(Location: Rte. 92 N. to Oberdorfer Rd. to top of hill, Make right on Mt. Zion Rd. 1/2 mi. on right)

Monday - Ladies Day Special \$12 (Greens fees and cart, 18 holes)
Wednesday - Senior Day Special \$12

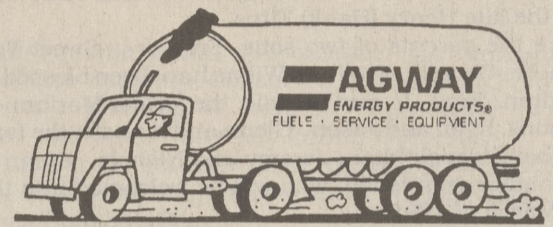
Offer good only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Golf Special Mon., Aug. 19-Fri., Aug. 30

Proper Golf Attire is required

Call for more Info - 388-2500



CURE FOR THE COMMON COLD



654-2798 1-800-865-FUEL

SNEAKER KING + = YOU

NIKE

(MAYBE GOING BACK-TO-SCHOOL'S NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL!)

THE LARGEST SELECTION & LATEST STYLES!

NO MATTER WHAT SIZE OR WIDTH YOU NEED, SNEAKER KING'S GOT IT!

- Men's
- Women's
- Children's

JUST IN TIME FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL:

A Full Line of Nike Hats, Tees, Shorts, Fleece, Backpacks & Accessories

Now in Our 50th Year!

SNEAKER KING

The Right Stuff...The Right Price

COUNTRY CLUB SHOPPING CENTER DALLAS & 7 OTHER LOCATIONS!