

**Bishop Borgess student**

# Disappearance stuns classmates

By Bill Casper  
staff writer

Students and staff members at Bishop Borgess High School are saddened, stunned and bewildered by the mysterious disappearance of one of their classmates, 16-year-old Christopher Jedra.

They cling to an ever-thinning thread of hope that he and his camping companion, Joseph Guerrero, 15, are alive. But, realistically, they fear the worst with each passing day the youths remain missing.

The two Detroit teens disappeared two weeks ago from a forest campsite near Alpena and near the Thunder Bay summer home of Jedra's parents, who said the boys had planned the camping trip for one year.

Jedra had camped and hunted in the area with his father Thaddeus, 58, frequently in the past.

The boys were last seen wearing cut-off shorts and T-shirts. Their boots and sleeping bags were found rolled up at their camp site, indicating they disappeared on the same day they were dropped off.

Christopher's dog, Rex, was tied to the tent with an empty dog food can lying on the ground nearby.

**POLICE THEORIZE** that the boys may either have been victims of foul play or drowned in an attempt to swim to an island in Lake Huron.

Three students, who go to know Jedra in a 10-student Borgess Polish language class, the teacher of that class and his high school counselor took time Tuesday to talk about Jedra.

Chris Kent, a 16-year-old Borgess junior, said he was shocked to hear of Jedra's disappearance.

"The news of his disappearance was so surprising because he is a smart kid who would not easily be taken in by a third party and become the victim of foul play as some fear," she said. "I don't suspect foul play, and I'm still hopeful that he is still around. I think they may have just gotten lost and they may still be alive."

Joe Gasiorek, a 16-year-old junior from Detroit, also met Jedra in the language class and became an after-school friend.

"(Jedra's disappearance) doesn't make sense," Gasiorek said. "He became involved in the Sea Cadets (through a Navy recruitment program) this summer, and he had learned some basic survival-training techniques. And he had gone on extended camping trips in the past so he had some experience as to how to handle himself in a wilderness-type situation."

"I KNOW he obeyed orders and if his parents had told him not to do something he wouldn't have done it. We would pal around after school, and I know he was into playing games like Dungeons and Dragons and

an espionage game called Top Secrets. He enjoyed outdoors activities like camping and hunting.

"He is a good student, has a great personality and is a caring person," said Gasiorek.

Tod Klukowski, a 16-year-old senior, also met Jedra in the Polish language class. "I still can't believe it," he said. "We were all like family in that class and it's hard watching the news reports about him because it's like listening about a brother. I don't believe they just wandered off and got lost and I fear a third party may be responsible for his disappearance."

"I want to believe he is alive, but the longer he is missing, the less hopeful I am. I always teased him about being short (in height), but he had a great sense of humor and he took it well. He was easy going and nothing seemed to upset him," Klukowski said.

Virginia Strzalka taught the Polish language class that Jedra completed last year as a sophomore.

"I WAS very severe with him in my class because I knew his parents were from Poland and that he spoke Polish at home," she said. "I gave him a few Bs, but he received mostly As and he's really an A student. Because our class was so small, we were a very tight-knit group."

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## New conductor leads symphony

"A charismatic conductor with a theatrical flair and daring ideas."

That's how a west coast newspaper described Yakov Kreizberg, the Livonia youth symphony's new conductor and music director.

Recently returned from the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute summer program, he replaces Donald Lewander who resigned this summer.

Kreizberg, 23, is currently completing his doctoral program at the University of Michigan. He is a younger brother of Semyon Bychkov, music director of the Grand Rapids Symphony and principal guest conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic.

The Livonia Youth Symphony Society attracts nearly 300 musicians from 40 communities through the southeast Michigan to three orchestras. It launched its 26th season last

week holding auditions for new members in the three orchestras.

The new music director began his musical studies at age 5 in the Soviet Union. At 15 he was studying privately with Maestro Ilya Musin of the Leningrad Conservatory.

He continued his studies in New York graduating with honors and receiving bachelors and masters degrees in orchestra conducting from Mannes College of Music. While at Mannes, Kreizberg founded and conducted the Mannes Chamber Orchestra, and served as assistant conductor of the Mannes Symphony Orchestra.

He received the Eugene Ormandy Scholarship Award for Outstanding Musicianship and was named a Leonard Bernstein conducting fellow at Tanglewood in Massachusetts, where he worked with Seiji Ozawa and Erich Leinsdorf.

As a fellow in the Intensive seven-week Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute, Kreizberg studied with Leonard Bernstein and Herbert Blomstedt among others and conducted a series of performances at the Hollywood Bowl. Kreizberg is the first person accept-

ed into the doctoral program in orchestra and opera conducting at the University of Michigan, where he presently serves as assistant conductor of the University Symphony Orchestra.

For more information about auditions and concert schedules or the society, call 937-2658 or 427-4069.



**Yakov Kreizberg** is new director of the Livonia Youth Symphony Society.

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