Crash victim mourned

Granddaughter loved little kids, Hills woman says

BY CHIBS MCCOSKY
STAFF WHITE.

On the day 20-year-old Devanie
Pacholek was buried, the moral
and legal issues surrounding her
death last Friday were insignificant, almost irrelevant.

As friends and family gathered
Monday at the Schrader-Howell
Funeral Home in Plymouth, the
focus was not drinking and driving, or Windsor's lower drinking
age, or even the ongoing eriminal
investigation of the head-on collision on the Ambassador Bridge
that killed Pacholek and a 20year-old Windsor resident.

The focus was on a loving and
beloved young woman whose passions were music, animals and
children. A woman whose life
ended before she could figure out
the exact shape and direction she
wanted it to go.

Always smiling
"We were going through photographs of Devanic, trying to decide which ones to display with the closed casket," said Dennis

Savage, Devanie's father.

"She is smiling in every one. And it's not like I had to wait to capture the moment. She was always smiling."

Pacholek grew up in Canton Township. Savage and her mother, Dianne, were divorced. She lived in Canton with her mother until she was 18, then moved in with her father. She graduated from Livonia Churchill High School.

She was a student at Schoolcraft Community College and worked for Plymouth veterinarian Kevin Roose.

"She really loved little kids," said Marilyn Pacholek of Farmington Hills, Devanie's grandmother. "She has a naw baby brother (Trey, six months) and a younger brother (Dane, 10) and a sister (Mallory, 8), that she snent a lot of time with. She talked shout wanting to work with kids."

Pacholek and three others were driving home from a lar in Windsor at about 1 am. Friday. The 1990 Ford Escort, driven by 20.

sor at about 1 a.m. Friday. The 1990 Ford Escort, driven by 20-

year-old Kristen Hughes of West-land, apparently crossed the cen-ter line on the Ambassador Bridge and crashed head-on into a 1979 Ford Mustang. Pacholek and Lisa Richardson, a passenger in the Mustang, wore killed. Hughes, 20-year-old Theo-dore Nankin and the driver of the Mustang, Dennis Haralson, 25, of Taylor, were critically injured. Larry Lantgios of Plymouth, the fourth passenger in Hughes' car, was treated and released.

Investigation continues

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Police were still investigating
the accident Monday. They auspect that alcohol was involved.
Although, according to Dennis
Savage, neither Pacholek nor
Lantgios were drunk.
"The boy (Lantgios) came to
my house and tried to explain evcrything to me," Savage said. "He
said he had his alcohol level tested and it came up to the equiva-

lent of one beer. He said nobody knew that Kristen was drunk. She did not appear drunk. We're wondering if maybe she just wasn't used to driving such a small car on that bridge."

As for Devanle, both Sawage and Marilyn Pacholels say she was an extremely light drinker.
"It's always been OK for her to drink if she wanted to." Sawage said. "It was always OK with us because she always used good judgment. On her graduation day she had a half of a wine cooler. A half, not a whole. She didn't list of drink. She went to Windsor to dance and to socialize."

Went to socialize

Went to socialize
Marilyn Pacholek said that she
took only \$5 with her to Windsor.
"She was too tight with the
money," she said. "There's just
no way she would spend a lot of
money to get drunk."
Savage said he wasn't all that

Interested in the investigation.
"Our understanding is that (Hughes) is in grave condition."
Savage said. "There are two sides to this." The rear two sides to this. The rear two sides to this the said of the said what's happening goally. The legalities are push greatly. The legalities are push greatly. The said was and her family. The said of the said

"It doesn't matter what age "But w limit they put on it," she said. "If heaven.

people want to drink, they will drink. It won't do any good to raise the drinking age."
Because music brought so much joy to Devanie, Dennis Savage took great care in selecting the music for the funeral.
"The perfect song would have been 'Tears in Heaven.'" he said, referring to a song Eric Clapton wrote about the death of his 6-year-old son. "But it would have been too gut-wrenching."
The song contains the line, "Will you be the same, if I saw you in heaven?"
"We are all going to miss Devanie very much," Savage said. "But we all will be seeing her in heaven."

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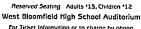
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