

Matthew Bast

Monday, May 5, 1986



Kevin Kardasz



Robert Pelyhes

Crash kills 3 students in Copley

Speeding vehicle hits tree, burns

By Mickey Porter
Beacon Journal staff writer

Three high school students, two from Copley and the other from Revere, were killed early Sunday in a fiery, single-car crash on Ridgewood Road in Copley Township.

Dead are neighbors Kevin Kardasz, 17, of the 400 block of Caledonia Avenue, Fairlawn, and Robert Pelyhes Jr., 17, of the 300 block of Caledonia Avenue, both juniors at Copley; and Matthew Bast, 18, of the 300 block of Harvest Drive, Bath, a senior at Revere.

According to an Ohio Highway Patrol spokeswoman, the vehicle, a Chevrolet Suburban driven by Kardasz, was traveling west on Ridgewood Road at a high speed into a curve at Wallwood Drive.



Matthew Bast

It struck an embankment, flew across the road and struck a large tree in the yard of a residence in the 4600 block of Ridgewood Road, the spokeswoman said. It then flipped and burned.

Matthew Bast Memorial Tree

The tree was planted in 1986 in the high school courtyard in memory of Matthew Bast. Matthew was killed in a fatal car crash on May 4, 1986—his senior year.

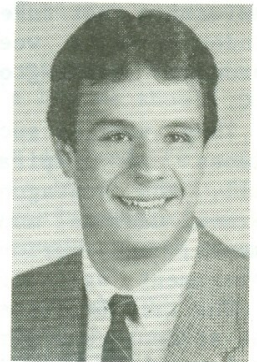
Senior killed in accident

Senior Matt Bast died Sunday, May 4. Services for Matt, who lived at 333 Harvest Drive, were held Wednesday, May 7 at St. Sebastian Church.

He was born on June 15, 1967 in Canton, and came to the Revere school

system from St. Hilary's in 1980. During his high school years, he participated in football, wrestling and cross country. He also worked at Montrose Click's.

He is survived by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bast and sister Michelle.



Matthew Bast
1967-1986

The spokeswoman said all three were thrown from the car, with Pelyhes trapped under the wreckage.

Both Copley students were pronounced dead at the scene at about 2:40 a.m., and Bast was pronounced dead at Akron General Medical Center at about 5:30 a.m.

For the Bast family, it was the second vehicular tragedy in two years. They lost an older son, Michael, also at age 18, in June 1984.

And for the Kardasz family, it was a bittersweet weekend. The victim's younger brother, Patrick, had made his first Communion at St. Hilary's Church Saturday. Kevin had served as an usher at the ceremony, a parish priest said.

According to Doug Jenney, the Summit County coroner's chief investigator who is assisting in the investigation, the three were spotted behind Copley High School by a Copley policeman in a cruiser at about 2:30 a.m.

The officer said he circled around the high school to surprise them when the vehicle shot past him at a high speed and went across two athletic fields. It sailed off the baseball field and onto the parking lot, a drop of 8 feet. It then continued out of the parking lot and onto Ridgewood Road, with the officer in pursuit.

Copley Police Chief Greg Maurer said the officer told him he was driving at "a pretty fair rate" and the other vehicle pulled away like he was standing still.

"So my man called off the chase," said Maurer. "He not only was afraid of

See CRASH, page A9