

HS Students Seek Missing Pair

DAILY NEWS

By JESSE BRODEY

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St. Valentine's Day was a time for serious business for students at John Dewey High School in Brooklyn yesterday. They were selling heart-shaped boxes of candy, cakes, greeting cards, jelly and carmel apples, heart-decorated T-shirts and other Valentine items.

Their goal was to raise \$1,000 to finance an intensive search for two fellow students missing since the Watkins Glen rock festival last July.

Mitchell Weiser, 16, and Bonnie Bickwit, 15, Dewey classmates, left with backpacks and sleeping bags to join the 600,000 rock fans at Watkins Glen, and haven't been heard from since.

Efforts by Watkins Glen police and their parents to find the couple have been fruitless. Concern for them reached a climax this month when it became evident that stories of their hiding in the East Village could not be substantiated, according to John Monas, a junior at the school.

Still Have Hope

The school Student Organization decided there might be some hope left and organized the Have-a-Heart Committee," with Monas as chairman to run the fund drive.

This week the students opened a "Have-a-Heart Shop" in the school building to sell Valentine items for the fund. By yesterday afternoon the fund had climbed to over \$525, with more donations coming in from parents and teachers and from PS 128, the elementary school Weiser had previously attended.

Because of its success, the shop will be kept open today and all next week, said Thomas Heinegg, faculty adviser for the committee.

"Mitchell and Bonnie were very popular at school," Monas said. "The turnout has been fantastic, not only among those who knew them personally, but



Bonnie Bickwit



Mitchell Weiser

among other students who just feel bad that two students from their school are missing."

Monas said students had various theories as to what might have happened. Some felt that Mitchell and Bonnie were held somewhere against their will. A few believed they had met "foul play." Some said they might have wanted to run off together and not return home.

"But for most students, it's just a big mystery that they

can't figure out," Monas said. "Both liked their families and their friends. They wouldn't run off like this. And it's most unlikely they became involved in dope. They weren't that kind."

Monas said the \$1,000 would go to an organization called TRACERS that the students had heard about through a television program. TRACERS has been successful in finding 60% of the missing people it sought, Monas said.

Description Given

Mitchell, 5-7 and 145 pounds, had long brown hair parted in the middle and tied back, and brown eyes. He was wearing blue jeans, a ~~blue~~ T-shirt and ~~blue~~ boots when last seen.

Bonnie was 4-11, about 90 pounds and had dark brown wavy hair and brown eyes. She was wearing jeans and a T-shirt.

Heightening the mystery was a report by their parents that both had left behind uncashed paychecks from their summer jobs, which indicated they had expected to be back soon.



John Monas (left) and Susan Altschuler, chairman of committee, slice valentine cake sold during fund drive.

News photo by Charles Fratlin