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## After Deadly Crash, Many Tears in Queens

By COREY KILGANNON

Friends and relatives of a girl who was run down by a car on Wednesday night remembered her yesterday as a bright, energetic student at St. Francis Prep in Queens, where she was a sophomore.

The accident occurred about 6:20 p.m., when the girl, Giulia Lewis, 15, and two friends were crossing 80th Avenue in Glen Oaks in eastern Queens, several blocks from the Nassau County border. A 1993 Toyota Camry heading east and making a left turn onto 260th Street struck Giulia, who was later pronounced dead at Long Island Jewish Medical Center.

After the accident, the driver, Ayal Lavi, emerged from the car wearing only his underwear. His lawyer, Meir Moza, called the girl's death "a tragic accident." Mr. Lavi was returning home from work, he said, and had stripped off his wet clothes to dry. No charges have been filed.

"He got off his train with no umbrella and he got to his car soaked," Mr. Moza said. "He had to drive home from Queens to Long Island, so he took off his pants and laid them on the seat next to him to dry. Who wants to drive wet?"

After the collision, Mr. Lavi "instinctively jumped out of his car," and realizing he was wearing only underwear, quickly went back in to pull on his pants, Mr. Moza said.

Dr. Warren J. Stanton, an internist whose office faces the intersection, said he heard "a boom and then screams" and ran out to find Giulia lying face up in the middle of 80th Avenue. "She had one foot in heaven by the time I got to her," Dr. Stanton said. "Blood was coming out of her mouth and ears. Her two friends were yelling at the driver, who had his hands on his head and was running back and forth yelling, 'Oh my God.'"

Dr. Stanton said: "The five minutes seemed like an eternity till the ambulance came. I have five girls of my own and this is the first time I ever felt completely helpless. It was a downpour and there was thunder and lighting. I held my lab coat over the girl and she was gasping very weakly.

"As she was being wheeled on a stretcher to the ambulance, I asked the fireman to shine a flashlight in her eyes. Her pupils were dilated and didn't react to the light. She had stopped breathing and had no pulse."

Around the neighborhood, it seemed as if a happy song had ended too soon. Yesterday afternoon, three women tied a bouquet of flowers over the yellow crime scene tape wrapped on a fire box on a corner of the intersection. At the Lewis house nearby, on 247th Street, in Bellerose, friends and relatives gathered to console Giulia's parents on the loss of their only child.

"Giulia was just a wonderful girl with a bright future," said Sharon Reyes, as her daughter Stephanie, 15, a classmate of Giulia, wept on the front porch.

Giulia, who spoke Italian when she was at home with her mother, Maria Lewis, an Italian immigrant, had recently won a contest for an essay written in Italian, Ms. Reyes said.

Hundreds of students attended a service yesterday at St. Francis Prep. Ms. Reyes said one friend read an essay by Giulia about how excited she was about attending school, making friends and succeeding.