

APRIL

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, April 7, 1986

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. Even as we speak today, the Long Island region of New York is still in shock over the tragic death of a 10-year-old girl athlete. Her body was found hanging by a jump rope from the skylight of her bedroom in Great Neck, N.Y., on March 11. Nassau County police said the death was apparently a suicide, and the youngster was the youngest suicide that authorities could recall on Long Island.

It's not a very pleasant subject, suicide. But it is the second largest killer of young people between the ages of 15 and 24. And it's a subject that must be discussed if we are to understand it. Today we'll be talking with Gabrielle Carlson, ~~assistant~~ professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. I've heard, Dr. Carlson, that suicide has been called "the silent killer" because parents and adults often are unable to talk about suicide with young people.

INTERVIEW DR. CARLSON:

-- Statistics:

- \* boys' deaths compared to girls' (5-1)
- \* estimated 50-100 attempts for every death
- \* breakdown by age groups: below high school; high school; college age
- \* U.S. compared to other nations
- \* Adolescents as percentage of all U.S. deaths
- \* Increasing rate: Nassau from 15 to 17% in decade

-- Methods commonly used

= HANGING  
= SHOOTING

-- Most common reasons

-- What signs are discernible?

-- Quick look at where help is available

NINE 984'  
6,000 letters  
400,000 calls  
Deaths:  
1504/1494

Columbia:

400 cases

'84-'86

- young people 68%

80% male

14:00

13:15

--- MORE ---

We'll take a short break now, then return to talk with Dr. Carlson some more about the subject of childhood suicide. Please stay with us.

14:00

BREAK MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle, and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Dr. Gabrielle Carlson, a psychologist whose research has focussed on adolescent suicide. Dr. Carlson, we've noted that for every suicide there may be as many as 100 unsuccessful attempts. What about the youngsters who survive? What kind of lives do they make?

IS DEPRESSION IN AND THE REALITY OF SUICIDE

INTERVIEW DR. CARLSON:

- Note followup in Great Neck school by teachers, psychologists, school administrators
- Note communities where several suicides come at once
- Awareness training
- Hotlines
- Publications
- Films ("Silence of the Heart")
- State Council and National committee on Youth Suicide Prevention
- Summary: what depressed kids, suspicious parents/teachers should do

5th grade

~~29:00~~ 27:30

OUTRO

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