

# Driver on suicide watch



ANDREW THEODORAKIS

Queens man Ayal Lavi accidentally hit and killed Giulia Lewis, 15, (I.) Wednesday with his Toyota Camry (above). His wife pleaded for forgiveness yesterday, saying, "We're not monsters."

"When I read one of the articles, one of her friends called him 'a sicko' — I just burst into tears."

DRIVER'S WIFE

By RUTH BASHINSKY  
and TRACY CONNOR  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

The driver who mowed down Queens teen Giulia Lewis is under suicide watch in a psychiatric ward — and his wife is begging the victim's family for forgiveness.

"We're not monsters," Ayal Lavi's wife told the Daily News at her home in New Hyde Park, L.I., last night. "We're not bad people."

Lavi, 42, was at the wheel of his Toyota Camry on Wednesday night when he smashed into a group of Queens high schoolers crossing rain-soaked 80th Ave. in Floral Park.

Fifteen-year-old Giulia was hurled into the air and killed — and her friends are outraged that Lavi didn't even get a traffic ticket.

The father of two already had a checkered driving record.

He was cited last year for speeding 53 mph in a 30 mph zone, and he likes to take his 1980 Corvette Stingray out for high-octane spins around the block, neighbors said.

But his wife, who asked that her name not be printed, is shaken by public demands that he be charged.

Sitting in her home, where the Camry is parked with its broken windshield, along with the Corvette with its "80-Sting" vanity plates, she pleaded for people not to judge her husband.

"When I read one of the articles, one of her friends called him 'a sicko' — I just burst into tears," she said.

"Of course, I understand where they are coming from. If I were in their shoes, I would think the guy is a maniac and let him go to hell."

Lavi was so devastated by his

## Wife begs family of dead girl to forgive

role in the accident that his family fear he might hurt himself.

After he returned home from the accident Wednesday night, he refused to be comforted, his wife said. He spent an hour with a rabbi and then walked around the house, muttering to himself.

A doctor was called, and Lavi was taken to Long Island Jewish Medical Center for psychiatric evaluation the next morning.

"He's suicidal," said his lawyer, Meir Moza. "He's completely destroyed, mentally and physically. This tragedy destroyed his life. He'll never be the same."

Lavi has two children, ages 4 and 8, and his wife said her heart breaks for Giulia's parents.

"As a parent, there are no words I could say that would take away their pain," she said.

"I am so terribly sorry about it, and I do want them to know. I hope they will find it in their hearts to forgive anything that happened."

Giulia's family was in seclusion yesterday, preparing for the St. Francis Prep sophomore's funeral this weekend.

A wake and a religious service will be held tomorrow afternoon at Thomas Dalton Funeral Home in New Hyde Park, with burial to follow on Monday.



Yesterday's Daily News

# Nab ex-beau as she's stabbed, pal killed

By JONATHAN LEMIRE  
and BRIAN HARMON  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

A fashion student was stabbed and her new beau plunged five stories to his death after the woman's jealous ex-boyfriend turned up at her upper West Side home, cops said.

Jenae Aragosa, 19, was fighting for her life at St. Luke's Hospital after the 3:50 a.m. attack in room 502 at the Morningside Inn, a single-room-occupancy hotel at 235 W. 107th St.

She remained in critical condition, but her father, Patrick Aragosa, said doctors were optimistic she would survive.

The dean's-list sophomore at Fashion

Institute of Technology was relaxing and puffing marijuana with Christopher Mariconi, 23, of Yonkers when Trevor Frederick, 25, of East Hampton arrived, sources said.

Aragosa buzzed Frederick in, and he walked up to her room, they said.

"They had a conversation and it just went bad," a source at the inn said. "The new boyfriend met the old boyfriend, and it got out of hand."

Cops said Frederick dragged Aragosa to a bedroom and stabbed her in the back of the neck. Frederick then fled but was nabbed by police a block away. He was brought back and was identified by Aragosa. Charges against him are pending.

Meanwhile, cops found Mariconi's body sprawled in an alley directly below Aragosa's window.

"It's unclear at this point whether [he] was pushed, panicked and jumped or simply slipped and fell," a police source said.

The hotel source said Aragosa broke up with Frederick about two weeks ago but they remained in contact. Still, the source said, he nearly dialed 911 about two weeks ago when he thought an argument between the two "sounded like it may get physical."

"[Frederick's] demeanor seemed more and more angry," the source said.

Aragosa and Mariconi had been dating less than a week, the source said. It is unclear how they met.

Patrick Aragosa, who with his wife, Susan, raced to Manhattan from their home in upstate Scotia to be at their daughter's bedside, said he did not know either suitor.

Patrick Aragosa, 47, the controller for the City of Rotterdam, was more focused on his daughter's condition.

"This is your worst nightmare," he said outside the hospital emergency room after visiting with his daughter. "I held her hand and tried to comfort her."

"You try to bring your kids up the right way, but when they get old enough to make their own decisions, you can't really do much about who they choose to be friends with," he added.

With Carrie Melago