# The Spotlight February 16, 1978 Vol. XXIV, No. 7

Graphic newsweekly serving the towns of Bethlehem, New Scotland and nearby communities

# **Another slap by teachers' union:**

Charge filed vs. school board

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DETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBEARY

Chief Fish's future hinges on a hearing

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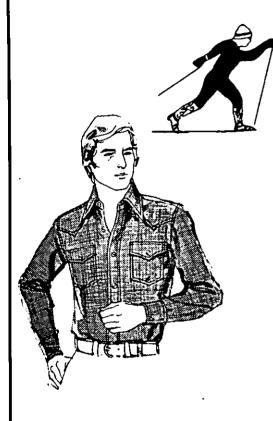


Press, TV focus on Bethlehem in Fish case

Spotlight Photo

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# Spotlight CALENDAR

Town of Bethlehem--Town Board second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Planning Board every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Board of Appeals first three Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., town hall, 393 Delaware Ave. Town offices are open 8:30 to 4:30 weekdays.

Town of New Scotland--Town Board meets first Wednesday at 8 p.m., Planning Board second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Recreation Commission third Tuesday at 7 p.m., Board of Appeals meets when necessary, usually Fridays at 7 p.m., town hall, Rt. 85.

League of Women Voters, Thursdays, Bethlehem Library, 9:15 a.m. Babysitting available. Information 439-5786.

Bethlehem Jaycees, first and third Wednesdays, Center Inn, 9W, Glenmont, 8 p.m.

Bethlehem Memorial Auxiliary to Post 3185, VFW, third Monday, Post Rooms, 404 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Bethlehem Sportsman's Club, first Tuesday, 5 Rivers Environmental Center, Delmar, 7:30 p.m. Guests welcome.

Bethlehem Recycling, town garag-, 114 Adams St., Papers should be tied, cans flattened, bottles cleaned with metal and styrofoam removed. Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

AARP, third Tuesday, Delmar First United Methodist Church, 12:30 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

Glenmont Homemakers, Glenmont Community Reformed Church, Glenmont, 8 p.m.

League of Women Voters, special unit meeting, "Local Planning and Zoning Program Update." Bethlehem Library, 9:15 a.m. For transportation and/or information call Doris Davis, 439-5786.

Town of Bethlehem Historical Assn., "Annual Musical Instruments," at Museum, Cedar Hill, 2 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Manhattan Clam Chowder Sale, Bethlehem Grange Hall, Rt. 396, Beckers Corners, 1 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Group discussions on social and ethical issues at the Community

United Methodist Church, Slingerlands, 11 a.m.

**Poetry reading.** Jeanne Finley, and a writing workshop, Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

Naphtall, an 8-member singing group, performs at the Slingerlands Community Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m. Free, refreshments.

Boys and girls night for grades 1-5 with Christian adventure movies, mystery guests, music and surprises, parents invited, Bethlehem Community Church, 7 p.m. donation 75 cents.

Bible Study, sponsored by Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, AELC, 421 Kenwood Ave., Delmar, Rev. Richard Gall on "The Resurrection," 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.



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#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

Pancake Supper, sponsored by Sigma Kappa Delta fraternity of Voorheesville, Neal's Diner, 39 Voorheesville Ave., 4-8 p.m. tickets at door or from fraternity members: adults, \$2.50; children under 12, \$1.50.

Bethlehem Women's Republican Club, Walter Marvin, vice president of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, guest speaker, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

Men's Club, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.

Story hour, Voorheesville Library, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

Film: "The Story of Martin Luther," Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., Delmar, 7:30 p.m. "Change of Pace" luncheon of AARP chapter, First United Methodist Church, Delmar, 12 noon, general meeting to follow program.

Birthday dinner, American Legion Post 1040 in the Post Rooms, cocktails 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:30.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic for residents of Town of Bethlehem; Bethlehem Community Center, 125 Adams St., Delmar, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m.

Compassionate Friends meeting, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 Bible study. Delmar Reformed Church, sponsored by Glenmont Community Church, featuring Reb. Warren Winterhoff, Bethlehem Lutheran Church; coffee, 9:30 a.m.; Bible study, 10 - 11 a.m.

Robin Hood multi-media children's program, Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Children's films: "Ali Baba," "Tocatta for Toy Trains," and "Ti Jean Goes Lumbering," Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

Story hour, Voorheesville Library, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Film tour of Walt Disney World in Florida and a Disney film on the birth of the world, Voorheesville Library, 4 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Puppet show, "The Serpent and the Dreams," refreshments, Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Pancake and Sausage Supper, Voorheesville's Scout Troop 73 at the American Legion Hall, Voorheesville, 5 - 7 p.m. Adults \$2.50, children \$1.50

Voorheesville H.S. Key Club annual spaghetti dinner, 4 - 8 p.m. at H.S. cafeteria. Adults \$3.25, students \$2.25, family \$10.

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Discussion of feminist movement and ERA, Community Methodist Church, Slingerlands, 11 a.m.

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Selkirk Fire District, Fire House No. 1, Selkirk, 7:30 p.m.

Story Hour for pre-schoolers at Bethlehem Library, 10:30 - 11 a.m. and 2 - 2:30 p.m.

Story Hour at Voorheesville Library, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

Story Hour for pre-schoolers at Bethlehem Library, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

# **Spotlight**

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in the story hour room, 11 - 11:30 a.m. at the Clarksville Elementary School.

Progress Club Drama Group presents "The Women" at Bethlehem Reformed Church, 8 p.m.

Delmar Camera Club meeting and workshop on making frames, also photo essay competition, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Elsmere, 7:30 p.m. Public invited.

Ecumenical Bible Study led by Rev. George Phelps of Delmar Presbyterian Church, host, St. Thomas the Apostle Church; at Delmar Reformed Church, Delmar, coffee 9:30 a.m., Bible study 10 - 11 a.m.

Kindergarten registration for Voorheesville Elementary School for children who were 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Public hearing, Bethlehem Board of Appeals, on application of Agway Petroleum Corp., Syracuse, to permit relocation of tanks 2, 3 and 4, and to permit construction of tanks 7 and 8 at premises, Port of Albany, Town of Bethlehem. Bethlehem Town Hall, 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 2

League of Women Voters, Bethlehem unit, local planning and zoning, Bethlehem Library, 9:30 a.m. Babysitting available at the library. For information and transportation, call Doris Davis, 439-5786.

Kindergarten registration, Voorheesville Elementary School, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Albany Southwest La Leche League, home of Mrs. Robert Poczik, 93 Fernbank Ave., Delmar, "Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties," 10 a.m. For information, 439-1774.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 3

World Day of Prayer service at Delmar Reformed Church at 1 p.m. Boys and Girls Night for grades 1-5,

Bethlehem Community Church, 7 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 4

Tri-Village Little League registration, Bethlehem Library, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. One child \$15, family \$20.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Poetry reading and writing workshop at Bethlehem Library, led by Joseph Burchac. 2 p.m.

Lecture on South Africa by Dr. Frank Pogue, professor and chairman of African/Afro-American studies at SUNYA, United Methodist Church, Slingerlands, 11 a.m.



## area arts

A capsule listing of cultural events easily accessible to Bethlehem-New Scotland residents, provided as a community service by the General Electric Co. plastics plant, Selkirk Phone numbers are for information and tickets.

#### THEATER

- "Anastasia," Albany Civic Theater, 235 Second Ave., Albany, Feb. 22-26, Mar. 1-5, 8:30 p.m. Theater box office 462-1297, Community Box Office, Colonie Center 438-7530.
- "The Good Woman of Setzuan," State University Theatre, State University Performing Arts Center, Feb. 21-25, 8 p.m. \$3.50, \$2.50. Reservations 457-5606.

#### MUSIC

- Albany Symphony Orchestra, Barber, Eigar and Tchaikowsky Symphony No. 6, Palace Theater, Albany, Feb. 18, 8:30 p.m.
- Mendelssohn's "Elijah," Capitol Hill Choral Society, soloists and concert accompaniment, Westminster Presbyterian Church, State St., Albany, Feb. 24, 8 p.m.
- Kinneret, creative performance of contemporary Israeli music, Albany Jewish Community Center, Feb. 18, 8:30 p.m. Tickets at the door.
- Complete performance of Stations of the Cross, directed by Dr. John Pagett of White Plains, guest recitalist, St. Peter's Church, State St., Albany, Feb. 19, 3 p.m. Offering received. Wine and cheese reception to follow.

#### FILM

"White Heat," James Cagney, Cohoes Music Hall Classic Film Series, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. 237-7700.



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# The Spotlight

Graphic newsweekly serving the towns of Bethlehem, New Scotland, Albany County, N.Y. 439-4949

BETHLEHEM

## Teachers' union again: leaders hit board with charge

The state's Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) has scheduled a hearing for 9:30 a.m. March 1 on a charge of improper practice filed by the Bethlehem teachers' union against the Bethlehem Central Board of Education.

According to papers served on the board last week, the board has 10 working days to file an answer to the charge. Harvey Milowe, director of PERB's public employment practices and representation unit, has called a pre-hearing conference with representatives of both sides at 1 p.m. today (Thursday) at PERB's headquarters, 50 Wolf Rd., Colonie.

A spokesman for the school board said Joseph Kelly of

Thealon Associates, a private consultant who served as negotiator for the board in bargaining sessions with the union in 1975 and 1977, had been retained to represent the board in this litigation. The union will be represented by Richard C. Lathrop of Ballston Lake, a member of the staff of the Albany-based New York Educators Assn., parent union

of the Bethlehem local. Lathrop is the "coordinator" assigned by the statewide union to the BCTA.

The formal charge, filed by William T. Cleveland Guilderland, a high school social studies teacher who is president of the Bethlehem Central Teachers Assn. (BCTA), is based on a public statement made by a board member that criticized the tactics of the union's chief negotiator during the bargaining period. The statement was made by Bertold E. Weinberg of Elsmere, vice president of the board, during the board's discussion prior to the contract ratification vote on Jan. 4. The statement, in which Weinberg explained the reasons for his negative vote on the contract resolution, did not identify the union's negotiator by name. The BCTA's chief negotiator is Gordon W. Molyneux of Delmar, also a

social studies teacher. In filing the charge, the BCTA attached a copy of Weinberg's prepared statement of Jan. 4, which the union charges "excoriated the BCTA's negotiating team; attacked the BCTA's method of voting on a proposed contract; impugned the character and behavior of the BCTA's chief negotiator: stated that the contract agreed to by the BCTA would result in teacher layoffs; accused the BCTA of antagonizing the community; exhorted the teachers to demand that BCTA's negotiators keep them informed; compared the BCTA's negotiations bulletin to a communist publication:

VIEWPOINT

## A 'grateful' union thanks the public

Second of two articles

Just when everyone thought that peace had returned to the Bethlehem school system with a new teachers' contract ending long months of union job-action demonstrations, along comes the teachers' union with a new show of contempt for citizens and parents of the community.

The union's latest exhibition of disrespect for the citizens who pay their salaries and bountiful benefits with public money and for the parents who pay high taxes for a quality school system for their children is detailed in the accompanying news story.

The formal charge was filed Feb. 2, just 29 days after a liberal school board had agreed to a generous pay increase, raising teachers' pay 12 to 24 percent and averaging 17.4 percent over three years.

The alleged "improper practice" is Bertold Weinberg's statement at the Jan. 4 ratification session detailed elsewhere on these pages and in our Jan. 12 and Jan. 19 issues. Weinberg spoke as a dissenting member of the school board. The sincere convictions he expressed represent the feelings of many people in the community who are fed up with the spoiled-brat tactics of a handful of militant unionists.

It is not an "improper practice" for teachers being paid \$15 to \$22 an hour to deny needed help to students trying to prepare for college admission tests or earn Regents scholarships. It is not an "improper practice" for socalled professionals to withhold marking test papers and returning them to their students, nor denying help to students on special projects outside class hours.

It is not "improper practice" for union leaders to apply social pressure to teachers who put their own professional pride ahead of union tactics, and who privately objected to union tactics that degrade the self-respect of teachers proud of their fine contribution to our school system.

But in the eyes of union leaders, it is "improper practice" for a non-paid member of the school board, serving his community with dedication, to speak his mind on a matter of grave public concern.

There are some ironies here.

The censure action comes at a time when a new school budget is being constructed. It also comes at a time when a newsletter instituted by the local union declares that its purpose is to "demonstrate that our concern about your child is serious, ongoing, real, and the first meaning of professional work."

The union has already adequately demonstrated its concern for our children during three months of blackjack tactics. Presumably the latest demonstration of gratitude and sincerity to the public is what is meant by "ongoing concern."

entreated the teachers to abandon their docility and to take control of their organization out of the hands of the BCTA's chief negotiator; and vilified a member of the BCTA's executive committee."

The union said that Weinberg's statement "interferes with, restrains and coerces" the BCTA's bargaining unit, and "constitutes interference with the administration of the BCTA." It also charges that the statement "discriminates against various officers" and "discourages membership" in the local union. The litigation, however, was filed against the school board, not Weinberg.

Ann Patton of Delmar, president of the school board, said she would not comment on

the charge prior to the hearing.

Under PERB procedures, if a settlement is not reached at the pre-hearing conference, the state-appointed hearing officer will make a determination based on testimony at the hearing. As of Monday, the state had not designated a hearing officer.

**BETHLEHEM** 

# Town consolidates vehicle facilities

When the town of Bethlehem built the spacious municipal for the highway department on Elm Ave. East, it was designed to handle the heavy trucks that comprise the bulk of the department's fleet of 33 vehicles. Last week the town board called for bids for a service lift to be installed in the garage as the first step in centralizing the maintenance of the town government's entire complement of motor vehicles, including light trucks and police patrol cars, in the Elm Ave. facility,

Supervisor Tom Corrigan said he is consolidating the town's motor vehicle maintenance in one center as a cost-saving measure and to streamline record keeping. In addition to the highway department fleet, the town has another 30-odd vehicles on the road, assigned to the water

department, sewer district, parks department and police. These vehicles currently are serviced by their respective departments, either in their own facilities or in local garages and service stations.

Corrigan said Bethlehem will adapt a preventive maintenance program similar to the procedures used by the Thruway Authority. He said the decision to consolidate the town's motor vehicle maintenance program stemmed from the monthly meetings of the town's department heads, a procedure Corrigan instituted when he became supervisor on Jan. 1.

#### Kindergarten registration

Parents of children who will enter kindergarten in Bethlehem schools next fall are asked to register their children at the schools they will attend during the week of April 3-7. Some of the schools will hold registration on only one day during that week, so parents may call their school in advance to find out specific dates.

Those who aren't sure which school attendance area they live in should visit the nearest elementary school to register their children. If the child should be assigned to another school, parents will be informed of this at the time.



Doris Fry, seated, Delmar artist, recently attended a week-long seminar on techniques in decorating and restoring objects of art conducted by Maryjane Clark, right, at her Norwell, Mass., studio. Mrs. Fry is a certified teacher of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration, Inc. Mrs. Clark is one of only five master teachers in the U.S. in her field.

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# ZONING Honda parking cut by board

Bethlehem board of appeals has granted a conditional variance to the owners of a Honda auto dealership who are planning to erect a showroom and service facility on Delaware Ave.. Elsmere, between Friendly Ice Cream and Pagano-Weber.

The board last week attached 11 conditions to the variance. Among the conditions was a maximum of five parking spaces in the front of the proposed building. The dealer had requested 15-17 spaces for the display of new cars, and later reduced the request to 13 spaces. In restricting the number to five, the board specified that the vehicles must be taken inside the building at the end of the business day.

The board also specified a change in the building's facade to a shingle effect, and imposed a 100-foot minimum from the

Delaware Ave. curbing. The permitted land use is for an auto agency, not a motorcycle facility, the board said.

#### Winner in contest

Bonnie Brandon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. David Brandon of Delmar, a student at Bethlehem Central, is the second-place winner in the Albany County Board of Realtors "dream house" contest. As one of four winners among 40 entries in the contest, she was presented with a savings bond at award ceremonies Feb. 4.

#### O'Hern featured

John O'Hern of Delmar is featured in the role of Prince Paul in the Albany Civic Theatre's upcoming production of "Anastasia." A 1976 graduate of St. Michael's College in Vermont, where he acted and directed a number of plays and was president of the college dramatic club.



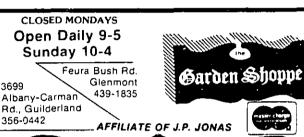
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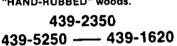
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BETHLEHEM

#### Next 'snow day' erodes vacation

Bethlehem schools will be closed next week for the annual winter vacation.

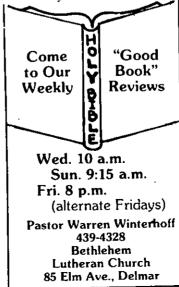
So far this year, all district schools have been closed on four days due to weather conditions. The State Education Dept. requires a minimum of 180 school days each year, and the Bethlehem school calendar will fulfill that obligation if there are no more snow days. Any more emergency closings will mean that the days missed will have to be made up during the spring vacation period scheduled for April 24-28, starting at the end of that week.

#### Camera Club meets

A workshop on making frames will be the highlight of the monthly meeting of the Delmar Camera Club at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Elsmere, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Also scheduled is a showing of black and white prints and a photo essay competition. The public is invited.

#### Women voters meet

The Bethlehem unit of the League of Women Voters will hold its monthly meeting at the Bethlehem Library March 2 at 9:15 a.m. Local planning and zoning will be the subject. Babysitting will be available at the library.



#### Musical show at Job Corps

"America's Spirit" will be presented by the Hyde School of Bath, Me., on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the New York Job Corps Center. The Hyde School is a private, secondary school focusing on leadership development. "America's Spirit" began in 1976 as a bicentennial musical celebration, and continues to be a show dealing with periods of history when Americans have acted on their consciences.

The "America's Spirit" production has been recognized by the New York Times and Washington Post, having appeared on the Today Show, David Susskind, and Phil Donahue shows.

#### Bird course for youth

A bird identification course including how, when and where to find birds will be offered by the Albany County Audubon Society starting Feb. 28 at the Bethlehem Central Middle School, Delmar. The course will include three field trips. For information and fees call the Bethlehem Central Continuing Education office at 439-4921.

#### Scouts plan supper

Voorheesville's Scout Troop 73 will hold its annual pancake and sausage supper on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Voorheesville. The event is the troop's only fund-raising activity and finances most of the year's scouting program. Tickets are \$2.50 at the door. children \$1.50.

#### **FIRE CALLS**

Feb. 4 — Slingerlands, Kenwood Ave., chimney fire, no damage.

Feb. 4 Slingerlands, Andover Rd., chimney fire, no

Feb. 7 — Elsmere, Montrose Dr., basement heater, no damage.

Feb. 9 — Selkirk No. 3, Rt. 396, South Bethlehem, no fire on arrival.

**ELSMERE** 

# 2 boys charged in theft wave

Police detectives investigating a series of bicycle thefts and a house burglary in Elsmere last fall have charged two Elsmere youths, aged 17 and 16, with possession of stolen property.

Dets. Richard LaChappelle and Colin Clark of the Bethlehem police department arrested the youths last Tuesday. They were arraigned before Town Justice Roger M. Fritts and released in custody of their parents. Their names were withheld pending possible status as youthful offenders.

Police said all the stolen items were recovered, including the loot from the burglarized house and three bicycles taken within a three-day period last October. One of the bicycles was stolen from a residence on Groesbeck Pl. on Oct. 28, the other two from the Elsmere elementary school on Oct. 25 and Oct. 28, police said. The investigation is continuing.

#### Cash drawers looted

Michael O'Shea, proprietor of the Getty service station at Delmar Four Corners, told police \$45 in eash was missing from a drawer in his office desk overnight last Wednesday. There was no sign of forced entry, and \$7 in change was undisturbed, police said.

Police also are investigating the theft of \$35-40 in eash from a drawer in the entertainment room of the North Bethlehem fire house on Schoolhouse Rd. the same night. Police said there was no indication of a break-in at the fire house, but reported the eash drawer had been pried open with a knife that was found on the counter. The investigation is continuing.

#### Hello RUSTY JONES Goodbye rusty cars.

Call me about the best auto rustproofing guarantee in town.

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# Elsmere widow is found dead

Mrs. Margaret Dinkle Murphy, a widow who lived alone at 58 Burhans Pl., was found face down on the floor of an upstairs bedroom last Thursday by police officers summoned by a neighbor. Mrs. Murphy was dead on arrival at Albany Medical Center. Albany County Coroner Dietz said death was caused by heart failure.

Officers Keith Becker and Fred Holligan of the Bethlehem police department, responded to a report by Mrs. Lee Hurley, who lives next door, that she had not seen Mrs. Murphy since the preceding afternoon and that several telephone calls had been unanswered. They found the doors and windows locked, and obtained permission from a daughter to gain entry by breaking a window.

Mrs. Murphy's funeral was held Saturday at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Delmar. She was the wife of the late Vincent P. Murphy. She leaves a daughter, Mrs. Mary Hammond of Poestenkill, and four grandchildren.

#### No Spotlight Feb. 23

There will be no issue of the Spotlight next Thursday, Feb. 23. The reason is simple: our editorial and production staff works 49 weeks a year, including a full day each Sunday, to meet Monday's printing deadline. We need a rest once in a while, so we take next weekend, the Fourth of July weekend and Labor Day. We hope you understand, and we'll be back, hopefully refreshed. in your mailbox March 2.

The Spotlight office at 414 Kenwood Ave., Delmar, will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. all next week except Monday, Feb. 20, a national holiday.

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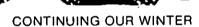
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Sporlight Photo

Henry MacMillan couldn't resist last Friday's sunshine, so he created Snoopy atop his doghouse in a snowbank at 17 Douglas Rd., Delmar. The first-time sculptor used a shovel, ice-cutter, axe, hatchet and kitchen knife for his debut in snow sculpture. A day later his next-door neighbor chased away a teenager trying to bombard the snoozing Snoopy with snowballs.



#### MODERN PHARMACY

Michael Krugman

Passengers in planes stacked up over a congested airport may sometimes find the experience nerve-grinding. But for ground personnel, who must quide these planes and face the possibility of causing a calamity each working day, stress is unremitting and the effects on the digestive system are horrendous. Studies show that ulcers are distressingly commonplace among air-traffic controllers. By contrast studies also show that alcoholics whose digestive tracts are subject to constant assault have fewer ulcers.

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#### Methodist women elect

New officers of the Slingerlands United Methodist Women are Mrs. Frederick Stolz, president, Mrs. Jack Leonard, vice-president, Mrs. Harold Labrum, secretary, Mrs. William Zimmerman, treasurer, and Mrs. Ralph Mosher Chairman of Devotions.

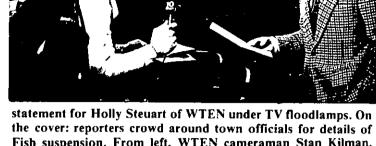
#### Overtime 'borrowing'

James S. Benton 3rd agreed to lend his friend. Charles Spradley, a car belonging to Benton's mother for a few hours on Spradley's promise to return it that evening. That was Thursday. When Spradley, who is about 30, hadn't shown up by Saturday, Benton, who lives at 403 Wellington Rd., Delmar, asked Bethlehem police for help.

A police check with Spradley's roommate at 427 Kenwood Ave. indicated he might have gone to visit a girlfriend in Frankfort, near Utica. Bethlehem police broadcast a teletype description, and on Tuesday Herkimer police picked up Spradley and the car. Both are now back in Delmar, and Spradley has a date in Bethlehem justice court on a charge of unauthorized used of a motor vehicle.



Albany reporters Peggy Stephens of the Knickerbocker News, left, and Harry Haggerty, Times Union, quiz Town Attorney Bernard Kaplowitz, far right, following town board meeting. Supervisor Tom Corrigan is in foreground. Standing at right is Councilman Edward Mocker. Right photo, Corrigan makes



Fish suspension. From left, WTEN cameraman Stan Kilman, Steuart, Stephens and Haggerty.

Spotlight Photos

BETHLEHEM

#### Fish suspension attracts media

For three days last week, Bethlehem town officials and their controversial chief of police had prominent coverage by Albany area newspapers, television and radio. The formal procedure, appearing as a routine item on the typed agenda of last Wednesday's regular town board meeting. took little more than a minute just prior to an advertised public hearing on a zoning proposal, but it was the area's top story on Channel 10's Action News three hours later got bold headlines in the Albany Times Union and Knickerbocker News the next day, and commanded "live" coverage on the news of all three TV stations Thursday night.

Supervisor Tom Corrigan made the first public disclosure by reading the text of a prepared resolution suspending Chief of Police Peter Fish for 30 days without pay on unspecified charges that "may constitute misconduct and/or



incompetency in office." Under such a procedure, a formal hearing must be held within 30 days of the suspension, and Fish must be served with the formal charges in writing no later than eight days before the hearing date.

The legal procedure requires that the hearing be held by either the town board or a hearing officer specified by the board. Town Attorney Bernard Kaplowitz said this week that the board will retain an attorney to conduct the

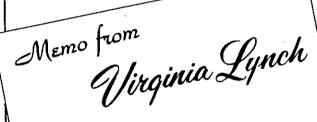
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hearing, and will retain a second attorney to prosecute the charges. As of early this week, the hearing officer and



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prosecuting attorney had not been appointed and no date had been set for the hearing, which will be behind closed doors.

The next legal step would be a report by the hearing officer to the town board on his findings. If cleared of the charges, his future would hinge on the board's options: discharge, demotion or suspension without pay, pending an appeal, if any.

Corrigan told reporters at the town board session that Fish had been notified of the impending action at 5 p.m. that day. The chief did not attend the meeting.

The resolution was moved by Councilman Edward Mocker, seconded by Councilman John Geurtze and approved by unanimous voice vote. Town officials would not specify the charges, and one official commented: "The charges may never be made public."

A highly placed source admitted that the town board had held three closed-door meetings last spring and summer in an investigation of Fish's driver's license and his driving record. The board, at that time headed by Supervisor Harry H. Sheaffer, officially censured Fish at the final

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meeting, and entered the action on his record, the source said.

Last April, following a verbal outburst by an Albany attorney at a town board meeting, the attorney gave newsmen photo copies of Fish's driver's license and license application. The photocopies showed that Fish had applied for an original license, not a renewal, in 1975, and had made the application in the name of "Peter J. Fisch, 118 Adams St." The address is that of police headquarters. None of the reporters, representing the Knickerbocker News, Times Union and Spotlight, used the story at that time. The photo copies are still on file at the Spotlight and presumably at Capital Newspapers.

At the time, Fish told the Spotlight he had neglected to renew his license a year and half prior to the 1975 application. Asked about the spelling of his name, the chief said it was spelled "Fisch" on his birth certificate. Last week Peggy Stephens, a reporter for the Knickerbocker News, wrote that Fish said there was "no reason" for listing his name as Fisch.

A town official said last week the license and driving record "would have low priority" in matters to be brought before the hearing officer.

In television appearances and newspaper interviews last week. Fish said the suspension was "political" and accused Mocker of instituting the suspension. Fish and Mocker have been feuding privately and publicly for some time. Last spring, after Mocker had been nominated for a council seat by the Republican committee, Fish indicated in a Spotlight interview that he was considering running for supervisor in November as an independent, implying that a three-cornered contest would jeopardize Republican chances of winning the election.

In statements last week, Fish said he could open "a can of worms" that would embarrass local politicians.

In his 23 years with the police department, Fish has frequently been a controversial

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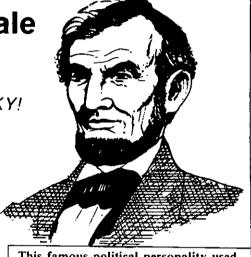
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figure. He served as a patrolman from 1951 to 1955, when he was discharged by the late Supervisor John Oliver, whose daughter, Mrs. Ruth O. Bickel, currently serves on the town board. Fish was rehired Jan. 1, 1959, by Supervisor Bertram E. Kohinke, and has been chief since 1962. A year ago the town board appointed Ralph A. Tipple of Elsmere, a retired state police captain, as commissioner of public safety, a new position reporting to the town board. Under the reorganization. Fish reported to Tipple instead of to the supervisor. The move angered Fish, who declared that Tipple was a "figurehead" appointed as a "buffer between the politicians and the police.'

No Spotlight Feb. 23

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**GLENMONT** 

# Youth, 17, caught with store haul

At first glancë it was a strange scene: a man walking across the parking area in the rear of the Big N store in Glenmont with a golf bag and a rolled-up rug, after dark, and on a bitter February night. For two Bethlehem police officers on routine patrol it was par for the course to inquire what fairway or green he was playing, whereupon Officer James J. Corbett recognized him. A check of his car by Corbett and Officer Gerald DeMeur revealed a hand saw, a 20-piece set of dishes and another rug, this one containing 188 gold and 27 silver key blanks.

When Salvatore Cacciola, manager of the store, identified the items as having been stolen from the store, the two officers arrested the suspect, a 17-year-old Glenmont resident, on a charge of criminal possession, third degree. He was arraigned in Bethlehem justice court and released in custody of his parents pending a hearing

Feb. 16.

#### Stop sign coming

The State Dept. of Transportation has notified Bethlehem town officials that a stop sign will be installed on Stoffels Dr. and Rt. 9W, just north of Wemple Rd., in Glenmont.



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Dave Corbin, right, in doorway of "doubled" Courtside shop.

#### **BUSINESS**

#### Courtside plays a 'doubles' game

In a little less than two years since opening a Delmar store, Courtside Tennis Shop's business has expanded to such a level that it has doubled the size of its shop at Delaware and Elsmere Aves. Dave and Lvnn Corbin of Voorheesville and their partners have increased their floor space from 1,000 square feet to 2,000 square feet by taking over the shop next door formerly occupied by Lena's Children's Shop.

Since opening in April, 1976, Courtside has added running shoes and other equipment to the basic tennis line, and last year served as a ski shop by providing a Delmar outlet for Sno-Fun of West Sand Lake. The shop's ski sales to date are now about 20 percent over last year's final totals, says Corbin, and the expansion will permit a larger ski inventory, including downhill and cross-country. "We hope to get into cross country rentals next year, skis, boots and poles," added Corbin.

Corbin, a Penn State graduate who earned a law degree at New York University,



credits his partners and employees with the shop's success. Denny and Josie Sperry and Inderjit and Nitty Singh are partners, and Barbara Schantz of Delmar. tremendous help with customers." He said Matt Reich, Matt Goodman and David Potter, well known local tennis players, have been willing to "string racquets at any time, including Sundays."

Courtside is increasing its inventory in running shoes and adding racquets and balls for racquetball, a relatively new indoor sport, this week for the first time.

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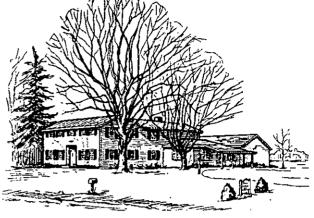
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- Feb. 16 Wrestling, Schalmont home 6
- Feb. 17 Basketball, Shaker home 8:30
- Feb. 17 Girls B'kball, Shenendehowa away 7
- Feb. 17 Volleyball, Shenendehowa away 3:45
- Feb. 17,18Wrestling, S.C.J.V. Tournament at Colonie
- Feb. 18 Indoor Track at Wash. Ave. Armory 9 a.m. (S.C. Championship)
- Feb. 21 Basketball, Niskayuna away 8
- Feb. 21 Wrestling, Voorheesville home 2
- Feb. 21 Girls B'kball, Mohonasen home 6:30
- Feb. 24 Girls B'kball, Shaker away 7
- Feb. 24,25Wrestling, Class A Sectionals at B.Hills

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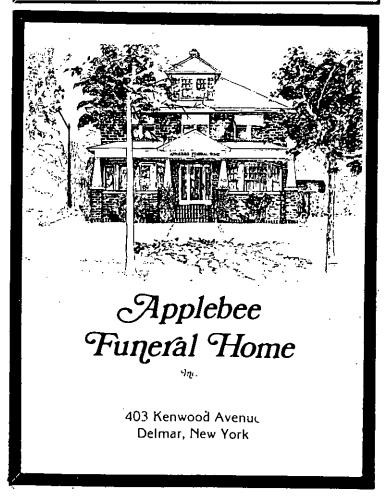


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# Blackbirds could tie for crown

Don't be surprised if the Central Hudson Valley basketball race winds up in a four-way deadlock Friday night. In a sport where the home team normally has a substantial advantage, visiting teams rarely win, hence the prospects for the mass stalemate as Voorheesville entertains Catskill while Maple Hill travels to Waterford. The two visiting teams are tied for the lead, the two home teams one game behind, and the Sectionals for all four start next Friday.

Voorheesville created the unusual situation by knocking off Maple Hill, 59-57, in an overtime cliffhanger last Friday at New Salem. "They're an excellent team," Coach Howie said of Maple Hill, hoping Waterford can do the same. "We had them by 12 in the fourth quarter, then had some turnovers, and they tied us 51-all in regulation." In the fifth period the Blackbirds never trailed, with John Harding netting four straight penalty throws without touching the rim.

Coach Smith made two strategic moves that paid off. He started his tallest lineup, moving Steve Smith to the backcourt with Pete Foster and switching 6-2 Craig Gleason from guard to the front line with Jack Carmody and Dave Condon.

Then he called for a man-toman defense, assigning



Jack Carmody

Gleason to Mark Manion, Maple Hill's high-scoring 6-5 center, and putting Foster on Rick Bamberger, the visitors' top scorer.

"That was the key," the coach said later. "Gleason held Manion to 15 points and kept him off the boards. Foster did a great job on Bamberger, who had only 10 points, scored 14 himself and had five assists."

It was a big win for the Blackbirds. Carmody led the scorers with 22 after hitting for 27 in the 82-40 rout of Coxsackie-Athens earlier in the week.

Regardless of Friday's outcome, Voorheesville has a No. 3 in the Class C Sectionals, and plays Hoosick Valley at home on the 24th. The Blackbirds will have to do without Tim Lewis, who broke his hand in gym class last week and is out for the season.

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# Eagles still alive, but need 3 wins

An unexpected reverse at Mohonasen has reduced Bethlehem Central's chance for the Suburban Council basketball championship to a "must" situation. The Eagles must win all three of their remaining games, two of them on the road, and all against teams with a shot at the title.

As of last weekend, the Council standings looked like the hold of a banana boat, with four teams bunched: Niskayuna and Shenendehowa tied for first at 12-3. Bethlehem and Shaker one game behind at 11-4. The schedule gives Bethlehem direct shots at the three others instead of having to depend on other teams to derail the leaders. BC was scheduled to go to Shenendehowa Tuesday and come home for Shaker Friday, then finish at Niskayuna next Tuesday. A loss at Shenendehowa would eliminate the Eagles.

Mark Platel, who did not suit up for Mohonasen, may be healthy enough for spot duty but it's not certain.

At Rotterdam Friday Bethlehem didn't shoot well, only 42 percent. "We were missing good shots inside,"said Coach Dale Walts. "We trailed the whole second half, but got up to 62-59 with 3:30 to go, and they ran off six foul shots in a row." Bethlehem was charged with 17 fouls, 10 in the second half, while Mohonasen was charged with nine for the game, three in the second half.

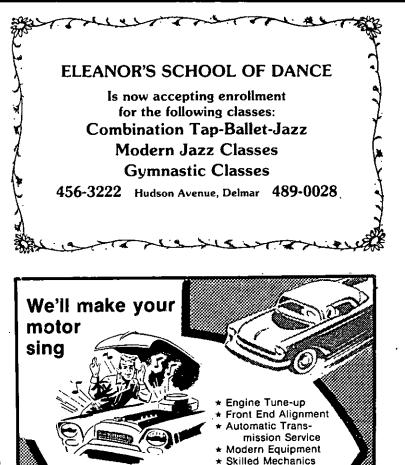
#### Monitoring hearing

Bethlehem town board has assigned Public Safety Commissioner Ralph A. Tipple to attend a legislative hearing next Thursday on a proposal to legalize casino gambling in New York State. Tipple will attend as an observer, and will not testify, a spokesman said.

#### **Explore opportunities**

Cynthia V. Craig of Glenmont has been working with Albany radio stations WMHT and WQBK as part of a St. Lawrence University inter-term program in English. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Craig of Glenmont.

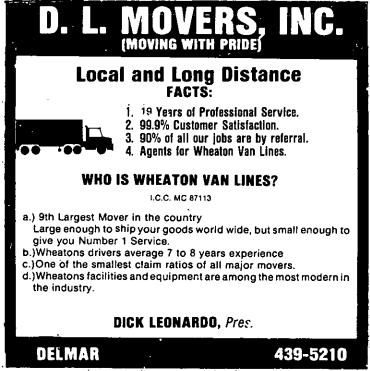
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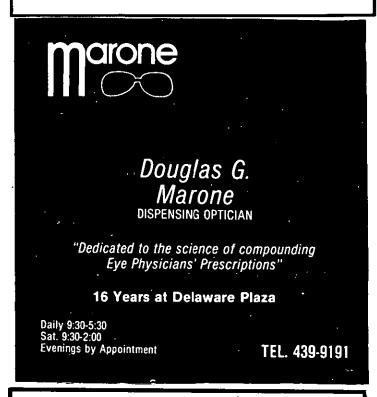


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SWIMMING:

#### **BC** shocks Rome in tank thriller

With only the final event remaining, the 400-yard freestyle relay, Bethlehem Central's varsity swimming team needed a first place and a third place from its two quartets to pull off a shocking upset at Rome Free Academy. RFA was ranked fifth in New York State, and had won seven of the 10 events leading up to the finale.

When the four relay teams lined up, two from each school in the six-lane pool, BC was trailing by two points. Moments later the results were in, Bethlehem first by an arm's length, and third by a fraction of a second. The results sent the Eagles into a delirium of joy and gave Coach Jack Whipple his most memorable victory in seven years of coaching.

"It was definitely one of the most exciting meets I've ever seen as a coach," said Whipple. "I've never seen any bunch of

kids so happy."

With only four firsts in the meet, the Eagles won it on depth of talent. The big factors, in addition to the dramatic relay finale, were a surprisingly strong showing in the breaststroke and a near-sweep in diving. The form charts called for a 1-2-3 sweep by Rome in the breaststroke, but freshman Bob Holland and sophomore Dave Propp gave BC valuable points with a second and third finish. Sophomore Paul Hines won the diving, with Mark Stillitto and Mark McNeally giving Bethlehem a 1-2-4.

Heroes in the relay thriller were Eric Hall, Mike FitzPatrick, Bill Reagan and Paul Lierheimer on the winning team, and Tim FitzPatrick, Drew Hyde, Sam Neff and Steve Lazare on the team that took third and clinched the victory.

BC's Ken Neff, one of the state's outstanding scholastic swimmers, broke two pool records in the Friday meet. He set a new 200-yard individual medley mark with 2:06.2, and swam the backstroke in 55.5 seconds, shattering a Rome record that had stood since 1968.

#### Picked clean

Andrew F. Malatesta of Rensselaer put a sizeable washload in a machine at the So-White Laundromat on Delaware Ave., Elsmere about 8 p.m. last Thursday. When he returned an hour later the machine was empty. Malatesta told Bethlehem police his washout consisted of 4-5 pairs of jeans, 7-8 towels, 6-7 shirts and several pairs of underwear. Police said a witness furnished a description of a suspect.

#### Pancake breakfast

The Ladies Auxiliary of the North Bethlehem Fire Dept. will have a pancake breakfast Sunday, Feb. 26, at the firehouse on Schoolhouse Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### **CLAM CHOWDER SALE** Bethlehem Grange

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#### Girls' softball registration set

One way to help beat the winter doldrums is to focus on the joys of spring — and one of those joys for many local girls is the chance to play softball. The Bethlehem Tomboy Softball League invites all girls between the ages of 9 and 18 who live in the town of Bethlehem or the Bethlehem school district to sign up next month for the 1978 season.

Registration will be held at the Bethlehem Library on Saturday, March 4, and Saturday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Wednesday, March 15, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Girls may also register at the Clarksville School on March II between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The fee is \$8 per player, \$5 for each additional child in one family, and for this each girl gets a shirt, a cap, a team assignment and lots of fun playing ball under the guidance of managers, coaches, team mothers and other interested adults.

There are three age divisions for local Tomboys: the minor league is for 9 to 11-year-olds, the intermediate league for 12 to 14, and the major league for girls 15 to 18. Some discretion



Bethlehem Central winners in recent area-wide competition sponsored by the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) posed recently for a Spotlight photographer. From left, front, Val Adams, Beth Bennett, Diane Miller, Darlene Hendrickson; rear, Diana Keezer, Candy Weber, Patty VanDecar, Kristin Bove, Claudia Musgrove, Tracy Burkins and Elaine Miller

as to league placement will be allowed in accordance to when birthdays fall and player preference. Girls registering for the first time are asked to bring a birth certificate or other proof of age.

The playing season starts with practice sessions in late April, and games are scheduled from early June through the end of July. Most games are

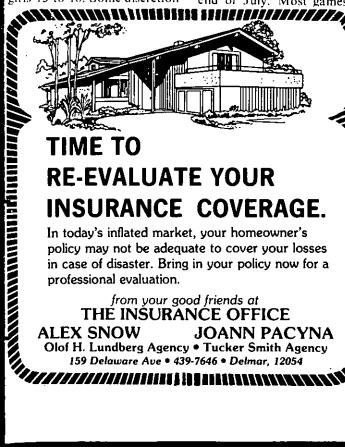
played at 6 p.m. on weekdays at the Elm Ave. Park.

Many local businesses sponsor teams, and others support the program by advertising in the Tomboys brochure which contains the team rosters and game schedules.

The Bethlehem Tombovs have been around for seven

years now, and hundreds of girls have enjoyed this opportunity for friendly athletic competition. It's a sure bet those who have played before will be at the head of the registration lines, but newcomers at all age levels are urged to join the fun.

No Spotlight Feb. 23



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# Delmar's 'biddie' mites mighty

They play five-minute "running" quarters, they are fifth and sixth graders, but they are mighty mites in CYO "biddie" basketball the entire width and length of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese. Delmar's St. Thomas CYO team has won 26 straight games, 16 last season en route to the Diocesan championship and they are 8-0 this year. They have three more games before the tournament involving teams from as far away as Saratoga and Gloversville.

St. Thomas coaches, George Piazza and Tom Foy, are in the sixth (and last) year, coaching 20 boys on the team and using the former Mater Christi Seminary on New Scotland Rd. as their home court. There are about 14 teams in three divisions in the Albany league, many more in Troy, Schenectady and beyond.

Pete Gillespie, an II-yearold sixth grader who is tall and strong, is Delmar's top scorer. The other starters are Danny Piazza, Mike Mooney, Bobby Hooper and Billy Leonard, "We've got pretty good depth, too," says Coach Piazza.

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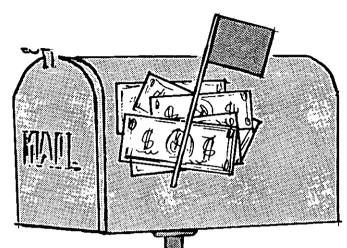
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#### SERVICEMEN The NEWS

Navy Ensign Charles R. Bernstein, son of Theodore Bernstein, 77 Coventry Court, Voorheesville, Has completed the Navy's Communications Officer Afloat course. During the nine-week course at the Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, R.I., Ensign Bernstein gained a fundamental knowledge of at-sea communication operations and procedures. A 1977 gradute of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, with a bachelor of science degree, Ensign Bernstein joined the Navy in May, 1977.

Coast Guard Ensign James B. Brewster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Y. Brewster Jr., of 1719 New Scotland Rd., Slingerlands, is participating in



icebreaking operations in the Great Lakes. He is serving as a combat information center officer of the Coast Guard cutter Northwind, homeported in Baltimore. While deployed, his cutter will work to open channels for shipping in the Great Lakes, in addition to escorting coal and ore carriers and oil tankers into various Great Lakes ports. He is a 1977 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn.

Pvt. Joseph E. Akelewicz. whose wife, Debbie, lives in Guilderland Center, recently completed a multichannel communications equipment operator course at the U.S. Army Signal School, Ft. Gordon, Ga. His father, Adam R. Akelewicz, lives on Voorheesville Ave., Voorhees-

Marine Pfc. Kevin P. Therrien, son of Louis G. Therrien of Glenmont has reported for duty with the 2d Marine-Division, Marine Corps Base. Camp Lejeune, N.C.

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Sister Catherine Daly, left, and Carol Ann Desch, learner's advisor librarian, look over some materials used in the new free career counseling service offered by the Bethlehem Library.

#### Career advice service offered

If you are searching for a new career direction, if you want to return to school and finish that degree, or if you want to upgrade your job-related skills, the Bethlehem Library can help you. Sister Catherine Daly of Educational Options for Adults, Inc. in Albany is now available at the library every Monday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. This new federally funded service provides free professional educational and career counseling for adults.

Anyone interested in continuing their education or



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#### Elected by Fair

Walter Miller of Slingerlands has been named to the board of directors of the Altamont Fair for 1978. Among those appointed associate directors were Conrad Hartman of Slingerlands, Paul Winne of Feura Bush and Clara Marsh, Mrs. Jerry Miles, John H. O'Connell and William Springer of Voorheesville

#### Clam chowder sale

A Manhattan clam chowder sale will be held every Friday from Feb. 17 to March 24 by the Bethlehem Grange at the Grange Hall, Beckers Corners at 1 p.m. Take-out and served chowder will be available. Customers should bring containers for take-outs. Cochairpersons of the sale are Helen Raynor and Viola Hazelton.

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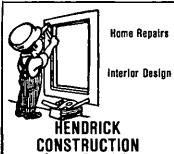
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# Vox Pop

Vox Pop is open to all readers for letters in good taste on matters of public interest. Letters over 300 words are subject to abridging by the editor. All letters must be signed but names will be withheld on request.

#### Mental health drive

Editor, The Spotlight:

The Albany County Chapter of the Mental Health Assn. is once more overwhelmed by the generosity exhibited by area brganizations and individuals who assisted with the Annual Holiday Gift Project. Through he kindness of these citizens we were able to distribute gifts o the Hudson River and Capital District Psychiatric Centers, as well as to the City

Hostel and the Halfway Houses. Over 500 Albany County people remain in the Psychiatric Centers, many without contact from home. and we have been able to show these people that we care.

I would like to thank those readers who gave of themselves this past holiday season, thus proving that the greatest gift one can receive is to give of themselves. And I would like to thank the media for the assistance offered to association in getting the information about this project our to the public, thus stimulating the great interest and understanding that was shown. You have all shared in making our Eighth Annual Holiday Gift Project the success that is was. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

> Cheryl Rainer Executive director



## TERRACE LOUNGE

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# Community

#### Thanks for Libraries

Our communities are fortunate to have good libraries. In Bethlehem there are special events by the dozen, including the Robin Hood multi-media program next Wednesday, a puppet show for kids on Friday, and career advisement by Sister Daly twice a week, just to name a few.

In Voorheesville there are all kinds of publications to help you with your tax forms and to help you save on taxes. There are many other collections of publications on special topics.

And both libraries have regular programs for all ages. Check the Spotlight calendar each week and visit your library regularly.

Community Corner, a public service column of important community events, is sponsored by



163 Delaware Avenue, Delmar (Opposite Delaware Shopping Plaza) 439-9941

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