

The Spotlight

March 2, 1978
Vol. XXIV, No. 8

20¢

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

THIS WEEK IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Fish hearing

Zinn on schools

Teacher's union

Sports, police news



Garden club brighteners

9 easy ways you can save money

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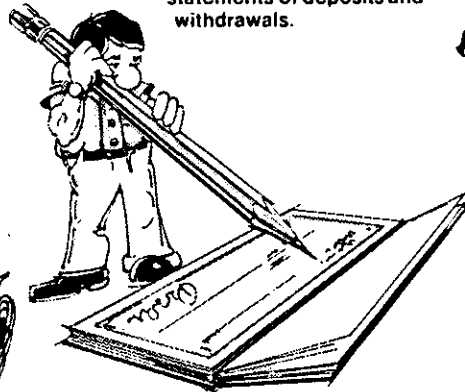
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you transfer funds from one account to the other. It's our Telephone Transfer Service... and it's free.

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You can arrange to have Social Security, pension, annuity, payroll and corporate dividend checks deposited directly to your interest-earning savings account or to your checking account.



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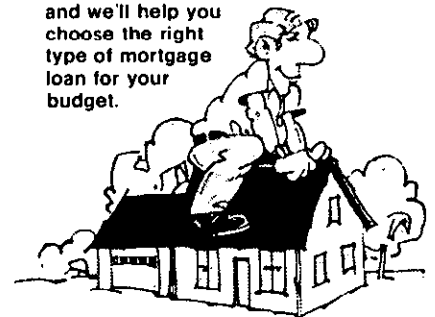
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Spotlight CALENDAR

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 Sportsman's Club, first Tuesday, 5 Rivers Environmental Center, Delmar, 7:30 p.m. Guests welcome.

Bethlehem Recycling, town garage, 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.

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

Bethlehem Memorial Auxiliary to Post 3185, VFW, third Monday, Post Rooms, 404 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

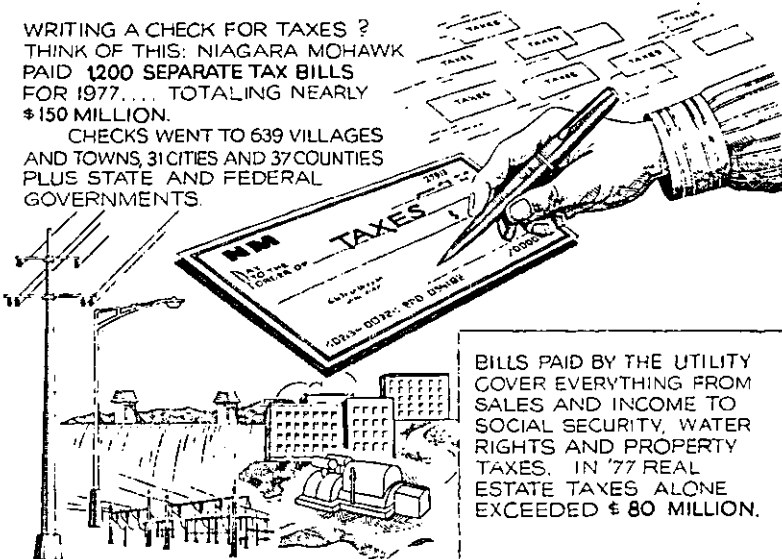
Albany Chapter, Railroad Evangelistic Assn., meets third Saturday of each month, First-Reformed Church of Bethlehem, 7:15 p.m.

Wedding
Photographs . . .
by Campbell
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Did You Know?

WRITING A CHECK FOR TAXES?
THINK OF THIS: NIAGARA MOHAWK
PAID 1200 SEPARATE TAX BILLS
FOR 1977. . . . TOTALING NEARLY
\$150 MILLION.

CHECKS WENT TO 639 VILLAGES
AND TOWNS, 31 CITIES AND 37 COUNTIES
PLUS STATE AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENTS.

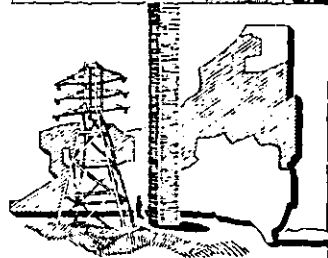


BILLS PAID BY THE UTILITY
COVER EVERYTHING FROM
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SOCIAL SECURITY, WATER
RIGHTS AND PROPERTY
TAXES. IN '77 REAL
ESTATE TAXES ALONE
EXCEEDED \$ 80 MILLION.

ONE COUNTY RECEIVED MORE THAN
\$ 20,000,000 FROM NIAGARA MOHAWK--
AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE COUNTY'S
LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVED MORE
PER SCHOOL PUPIL FROM THE UTILITY THAN
WAS RECEIVED FROM STATE AID.



VARIOUS LAWS ALSO MAKE
NIAGARA MOHAWK A TAX
COLLECTOR. \$ 50 MILLION
IN STATE AND LOCAL SALES
TAXES HAD TO BE ADDED
TO GROSS BILLS IN 1977.
THAT MONEY ALL GOES
TO GOVERNMENT.



TAXES ARE A BIG COST OF DOING BUSINESS.
NIAGARA MOHAWK'S TAX BILL MORE THAN
DOUBLED BETWEEN 1970-1977. EVEN SO,
DURING THAT SAME PERIOD ELECTRIC
RATES ROSE ONLY 62% WHICH IS PART OF
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LOWEST OF ANY PRIVATE N.Y.S. UTILITY.

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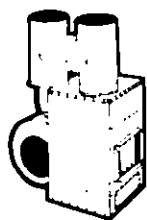
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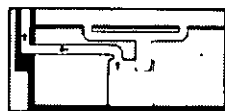
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JOHN GREER

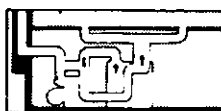
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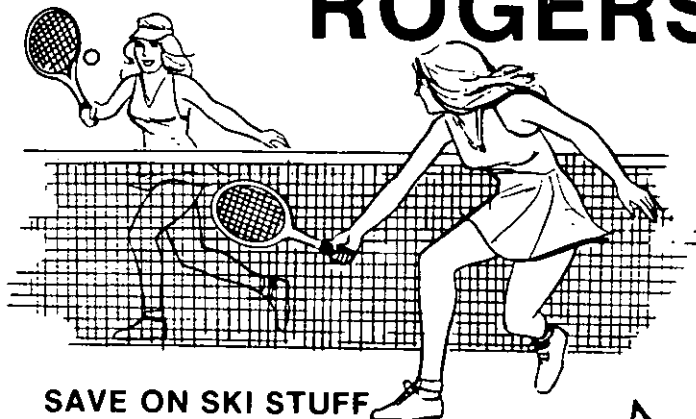
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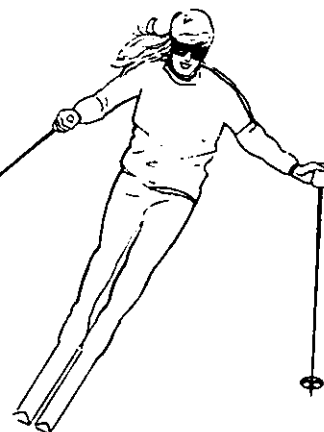
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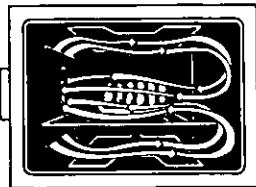


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THURSDAY, MARCH 2

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.

First Aid Basics. Jim Camahan, American Red Cross, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

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.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Bethlehem Grange Hall, Rt. 396, Becker's Corners, 4:30 p.m.

Furniture Finishing & Repair. Diane Ptak, Albany Country Cooperative Extension, Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

Bethlehem Tomboys girl's softball registration, Bethlehem Library, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. New players bring proof of age.

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.

"The King's Kids" of Christian Music Ministries, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, AELC, 421 Kenwood Ave., Delmar, 3 p.m. Free, refreshments.

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Safe-driving course. Room 19A, BCHS, 7:15 p.m. Learner's permit required. First of two sessions.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

BCHS parents of juniors program, BCHS cafeteria, 7:30 p.m.

Delmar Progress Club. "Access to Whole Foods," Nikki and David Goldbeck, Bethlehem Library, 1:30 p.m.

"A Growing WMHT in a Growing Community," New Scotland Historical Assn. Center in New Salem, 8 p.m.

Bethlehem Pop Warner Football Assn., Bank Community Room, Delmar, 8 p.m. Open to public.

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Troop 260 Boy Scouts board of directors, Delmar Reformed Church, 7:30 p.m.

Amblyopia Training Day, Tri-Village Welcome Wagon members, First United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Red Cross Bloodmobile, BCHS gym, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Antique Study, decorating tinware and reverse painting on glass, Delmar Progress Club, Bethlehem Library, 10 a.m.

Assemblyman Lane will be at his Delmar office for questions and discussions with constituents, 1 Becker Terr., Delmar, 3:30-6:30pm

Bible Study, "Mary, the Mother of Jesus," Rev. James Daley of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, hosted by the Clarksville Community Church, at Delmar Reformed Church. Coffee 9:30 a.m., Bible study, 10 - 11 a.m.

"Trees," Michael Grayson, Bethlehem Library, 1 p.m.

Glenmont Homemakers, energy-saving meals, Niagara Mohawk Golden Glow House, 126 State St., Albany, 7:30 p.m.

Public Hearing, Bethlehem town board, to consider a proposed extension of Water District No. 1, Lyndhurst Extension, Town Hall, 8 p.m.

Public Hearing, Bethlehem town board, to consider ordinance to conserve and protect water supply, Water District No. 1, Town Hall, 8:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Pancake supper, Boy Scout Troop 72, at Slingerlands Community

Methodist Church, serving 5 - 7 p.m., adults \$3, children \$1.50. Public welcome.

Delmar Fire Dept. Ladies' Auxiliary, officer nominations, Delmar Fire Hall, 8 p.m.

Elsmere Fire Co. Ladies' Auxiliary, Elsmere Firehouse, 8 p.m.

Exerdance Evening, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

QUILT, Donna Eberle teaching hand method of making Cathedral Windows, Bethlehem Library, 10 a.m. 2 p.m. Public welcome.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

4-H public presentation day for members under 13, Clarksville Elementary School, 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Dinner Dance, Town of New Scotland Republican Committee, Albany Country Club.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

"Summer Camp for Kids - A Program for Parents," choosing a summer camp, Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

"The Gospel Road," film starring Johnny Cash, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, AELC, Delmar, 11 a.m. Free.

Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by Bethlehem Junior Grange, Grange Hall, Rt. 396, Selkirk, 7 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, Blanchard American Legion Post, Elsmere, serving 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., adults \$2.50, children \$1.50, pre-schoolers free. Public welcome.

BETHLEHEM LION'S CLUB Pancake Breakfast

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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

"South Pacific," Guiderland Central High School Players, **March 9-11** at 8 p.m., **March 12** at 2 p.m. All seats reserved, \$3, phone 861-8591, pick up tickets by March 8.

"La Traviata," Capital Artists Opera Company, Proctor's Theater, Schenectady, **March 11**, tickets at Community Box Office, Colonie Center, or by mail, PO Box 381, Latham 12110. For prices and information call 235-7997.

MUSIC

Albany Symphony Orchestra, special Youth Awards concert, State University Performing Arts Center, **March 5**, 3:30 p.m. \$3, \$1.50.

Albany Symphony Orchestra, Beethoven Choral Fantasy with chorus, Palace Theater, Albany, **March 18**, 8:30 p.m.

Anne Turner, lyric coloratura soprano, recital, First Unitarian Society, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, **March 3**, 8:15 p.m. \$3, students \$1.50.

Monday Musical Club, Artists in Concert series, Albany Institute of History and Art, **March 13**, 8 p.m. \$2, students and seniors \$1.

Morris Brown College Choir, concert, Emanuel Baptist Church, 275 State St., Albany, **March 8**, 8:30 p.m.

ART

Illustrations by Robert Heindel, College of St. Rose Art Gallery, **March 5-24**, Sunday-Friday 2-5.

Photography exhibit, Jack and Mary Ann Lynch of Saratoga, at Rensselaer County Council for the Arts Center, 189 Second St., Troy, **March 5-24**, weekdays 9-5, Sundays 2-5. Not open March 19.

FILM

Cohoes Music Hall Classic Film Series, "Ulysses," **March 6**, 7:30 p.m. \$2. 237-7700.

"La Grande Illusion," 1937 classic, Auditorium One, Capital District Psychiatric Center, 75 New Scotland Ave., Albany, **March 5**, at 3:30 and 8:30, **March 8** at 8 p.m. \$1.75, students and seniors \$1.25. 436-7371.

LECTURE

Betty Friedan, women's movement leader, Skidmore College South Dining Hall, **March 9**, 7:30 p.m. Free to public.

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The Spotlight

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BETHLEHEM

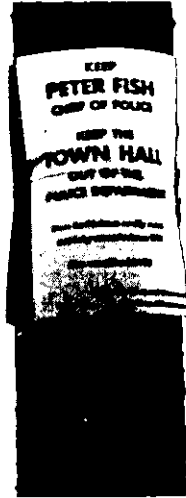
Hearing on Fish may be next week

Bethlehem town officials were expected to take action this week or early next week to set a date for a hearing on charges brought by the town against suspended Police Chief Peter Fish. Under Civil Service law, Fish must be returned to the payroll if charges have not been presented and a hearing held within 30 days of the suspension. Fish's suspension is due to end on March 10. The law also specifies that Fish must be served with formal charges at least eight days before the hearing.

A New York City lawyer retained by the town to prepare and prosecute the charges was in Delmar for four days last week to study the case, and was expected to continue his review this week. David A. Goldstein met briefly with local officials at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the town board last Wednesday, but declined to discuss the case with reporters.

The hearing officer will be Francis Bergan, former associate justice of the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals. The charges have not been made public, and the hearing will be conducted behind closed doors for the protection of the individual.

Meanwhile, friends of the suspended chief last week launched a drive to rally public support. A group led by William E. Johnson and Anthony Santiago, both of Elsmere, printed black-on-yellow handbills that were posted on utility poles and in store windows to support a campaign to collect signatures on a public petition. Johnson



said last week more than 400 persons had signed the petitions. He also submitted a letter to the Spotlight that appears in the Vox Pop column this week.

Johnson and Santiago denied any association with what appeared to be a telephone campaign in which Bethlehem citizens were called by name and asked for their opinion of the Fish situation. Town officials also denied any connection with the callers, who declined to identify themselves. The Albany Knickerbocker News headlined a news story "Bethlehem gets 'Fish-y' calls." Three days later the mystery was cleared: the calls were part of an opinion survey conducted by the Helderberg Sun, a weekly zoned edition of the Knickerbocker News.

Ski rack cleared

Gail Faithfully of Beacon told Bethlehem police that a pair of downhill skis valued at \$185 was removed from a ski rack on her car parked at 29 Euclid Ave., Elsmere, while she was visiting friends overnight on Feb. 11.

PLANNING BOARD

Tract developers eye Slingerlands

Bethlehem's planning board was prepared this week for a busy agenda involving proposed housing subdivisions in Slingerlands and Delmar.

The board was scheduled to receive a preliminary plan for a 26-lot subdivision off Caldwell Blvd., Slingerlands, on a 15-acre tract owned by Mrs. Jean Conway. The developers, Robert Mitchell and David Maurer of Internet Corp., Albany, are understood to have an option to purchase the tract. In the revised layout, land surveyors have shortened a proposed cul-de-sac and have reduced the number of lots. The plan calls for a new street off Caldwell Blvd., and all traffic would funnel into New Scotland Rd. via Caldwell because access to another dead-end street, South Helderberg Pkwy., is blocked by private property. The area is zoned Residential-Double A.

Also on this week's agenda was another appearance by Gerald Goldie principal in H. and G. Associates, on an apartment complex off Hudson Ave. in Delmar. The board had expressed concern over future traffic problems in connection with the developers' earlier plan for 10 four-unit apartment buildings on the six and a half acre tract. The property straddles a zoning line between Residential-A and a commercial zone off Rural Pl.

In other actions, the board last week extended for another 90 days the deadline for submission of final plans for the Apledoorn development on Van Dyke Rd., Delmar. Wolfe Krahmer, Slingerlands housing

developer, had previously been given preliminary approval for the proposed 35-lot single-family subdivision.

The board also informed Michael Gonczi, an Albany developer, that he would have to reapply for approval of a proposed three-lot subdivision on Beaver Dam Rd. at Grandview Terr., Selkirk. The proposal was approved by the board in 1967, but no work was started. When Gonczi applied for building permits last month, they were denied because the approval period had expired. Revised plans will be subject to a public hearing.

The board last week also approved preliminary plans for a four-lot subdivision on Beacon Rd., Glenmont. The Kilworth development, on a tract owned by D. Lee Miller and his wife, Sharyn, is adjacent to Bicentennial Woods and opposite Michaels Estates.

Stop that 'Stop'

A Glenmont family with a long heritage on farmland along Rt. 9W is protesting the state Dept. of Transportation's intention of installing a stop sign on 9W at Stoffels Lane. Mrs. Adeline Stoffels Frueh told Bethlehem Supervisor Tom Corrigan in a letter last week that she had notified the DOT that the road is a private road named for her father, Peter Stoffels, who died in 1953 at the age of 83, and that her family and that of her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Hart, account for the entire volume of traffic on the lane. The Fruehs operate an eight-unit motel on the property and raise corn and beef cattle on the farm acreage behind the motel.



Lawrence A. Zinn, Bethlehem superintendent of schools.

photos by Cheryl Marks

SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW:

Dialogue with Zinn: what price quality education?

Spotlight: Dr. Zinn, we have just been through a turbulent period in the school system, with many teachers on work-to-rule. Now that the teachers have a new three-year contract, do you feel we are back on the track in providing a quality education?

Zinn: It takes a while to get back on the track. Anything like what we've just been through has residual effects that last for some time. We've seen this year after year. Most of the teachers and board members are glad to see a three-year contract because it gives us some assurance of at least two years of relative peace.

Unfortunately, some of the hard feelings that are naturally generated do not go away. Too many people who participate in the process seem to find it difficult, at least, to put that process aside, and from the moral standpoint, get back to the normal operations that existed before the process started. I know I appreciated, and I'm sure the community does, the many teachers who continued to do a quality job despite union pressure. Filing improper practice charges is the kind of thing I hate to see occur because it regenerates ill feelings that were beginning to subside. All this is related to morale, and morale is very

definitely related to our product.

The product being a quality education.

Right. What is a quality program? It isn't perfect, because as superintendent I am looking for weaknesses, faults we must find in order to compare. I've worked in five districts and attended a sixth, which gives me some perspective on how to compare. In view of this we come out exceptionally well.

What do you consider are the particular strengths of the Bethlehem school district as compared to other suburban school systems?

I don't know the strengths and weaknesses of the others except by rumor, and I don't accept rumor as a valid measure. We've got, I know, a good pupil-teacher ratio, a very experienced and well-trained staff, we've got a supportive

I appreciated, and . . . the community does . . . the many teachers who continued to do a fine job despite union pressure.

community, a fine clientele -- students -- and a lot of good leadership in many areas. I wouldn't have any hesitancy about a valid comparison. In fact, it would be welcomed by all.

Many people feel we are approaching the limit of what a community can afford to support its public school system. How much of our school budget is financed through local property taxes? Can anything be done to ease the burden on local property owners?

The first part of your question -- 73 percent is locally financed. I presume we have the same feelings as to heating cost, gasoline prices, food prices and other items related to the cost of living. We afford what we want to afford most, and if schools are a high priority, then they will continue to get support, but under an extremely watchful eye. In the seven years I have been here, each year has been tighter than the year before. I really feel the state should pay more, rather than us paying 73 percent

How to encourage teacher strikes: dilute the Taylor Law

In the view of the New York State School Boards Assn., modification of the Taylor Law by the Legislature would motivate a rash of teacher strikes and escalate the tax burden of property owners.

Stanley L. Raub, a Delmar resident who is executive director of the association, said that "if the state Legislature modifies the Taylor Law to strengthen the hand of the teacher unions, we'll probably have 100 teacher strikes next year and the cost of education will needlessly skyrocket."

The union-dominated State Office of Employee Relations has proposed changes in the Taylor Law, which prohibits strikes by public employees. Said Dr. Raub: "The governor and the lawmakers are not genuinely interested in keeping down the costs of school

districts if they endorse changes in the Taylor Law which would virtually encourage teachers to go out on strike. One local school district recently experienced a budget defeat, and found teachers on strike a few months later. When parents in that school district called for a quick settlement, the president of the school board pointed out that the budget had been voted down earlier because residents of the district felt costs were too high. There was no way that costs could be contained by yielding to the salary demands of the striking teachers. This dilemma can be multiplied by 700 in school districts across the state if changes proposed by the State Office of Employee Relations are enacted. The cost of strike settlements must be borne by the local property

taxpayer, who is already overburdened by levies for local government operations. Under the present provisions of the Taylor Law, there is at least a small buffer for the property owner against zooming costs. If the school districts are forced into granting escalating wage increases as a result of a proliferation of strikes, the educational program must suffer. To come up with the necessary funds to cover a strike settlement, school districts will have to sacrifice portions of the educational program. Governor Carey says he is not contemplating any changes in the Taylor Law at this time. If there comes a time when he accepts the OER proposal, school districts across New York State will be in very serious financial difficulties."

locally. When I first came here (1971-72) the figure was 67 percent.

Local school boards are concerned about the increasing number and cost of state-mandated programs and requirements. What can our board members and citizens do about this?

The citizens of a community have to join some larger group to influence the Legislature to avoid mandates which are not accompanied by sufficient funds to pay for them. Citizens, parents and taxpayers somehow must organize to impact on legislation, be it mandates they don't want or unions that add to the cost of their systems. Unions are well organized and have a treasury for lobbying. The New York State School Boards Association represents only school boards, the PTA represents parents, but even here the PTA is fragmented by home-school organizations. It's the big pressure group with a lot of

money that makes the big impact.

The Bethlehem school district's per-pupil costs are very high. Why can't this be reduced, without harming the program?

Our enrollment is projected to decline 3 percent this year and next, which is 136 students K-12. It breaks down to about 10 students per grade level. We can't close down a class at each grade level because of the loss of 10 pupils. That's one reason

Citizens, parents and taxpayers somehow must organize to impact on legislation...

we can't cut staff in direct proportion to compensate for enrollment decline. However, we have been cutting back staff levels each year to reflect the enrollment decline, but the cost keeps increasing. The cost for staff increases more than 3 percent. The increased cost in staffing, which is the vast

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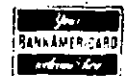
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majority of our budget, is at least equal to the percent of decline in enrollment, and will exceed that in the second and third year of the contract. As our unit shrinks, it increases the cost per pupil because of fixed costs -- debt service, building maintenance and operation. We get caught in that bind along with price escalation of supplies and services.

Plus the new mandates.

Yes, plus the mandates. One of the big mandates we've had is the reclassification and relocation of handicapped youngsters. When a child is classified as handicapped -- and the legislature has broadened the definition to include almost anything that makes a child atypical -- then the district must provide a special program, and we are given less than one quarter of the cost of meeting the requirements specified for that child.

Taxes in this community, both town and school, are higher than in many surrounding communities. Why should this be? From what you hear, is this discouraging people from moving here or is our school district still attracting new families to the area as it once did?

The community has demanded quality in the years past, and now with inflation and other influences, people are finding it more difficult. People still want to get into the district, and are willing to pay for it.

The tactics of the teachers' union during the recent negotiations were upsetting to many people in the community, especially parents. Is there any way this sort of thing can be prevented in the future?

As we mentioned before, yes, parents and other people would have to organize statewide to

One of these years the negotiations will become open to the public.

get preventive legislation passed. Until they do, there isn't going to be a lot they can do about it. I do think that one of these years the negotiations (on the teachers' contract) will become open to the public. The obvious consequences will be that the public will have full view of what goes on.

Who will institute this? Certainly not the teachers.

I think it will come from public demand. Whether it is discussed in open meeting or whether the demands and proposals in the negotiations are released to public at each phase, the end result will be the same.

Has our school board gotten much response from people in the community since it has invited "budget input" at its meetings? What are the people who attend board meetings saying?

We've gotten very little. What little we've had is from

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people with special interests they want the board to support, and all of them cost money. The people who come to board meetings are usually "special interest people" who want more in the program.

How much attention does our school board pay to all its constituencies -- not just pupils and parents, but all the taxpayers?

I don't think people -- or teachers -- realize how many letters and phone calls individual board members receive that say, "hold the line" or "curb expenditures." I've never had a board of education work so hard and analyze so carefully the budget development process to make sure the system is "running lean."

Is discipline a big problem in Bethlehem schools? Are children more difficult to deal with and to teach today than in the past?

There have been a number of surveys, all of which, on the whole, have given us positive input. At the same time each of

them also has given us expressions of concern and have identified problem areas. I think overall the parents are satisfied.

Liquidation of sorts

Bethlehem police are continuing an investigation into the theft of six 40-channel CB radios from the Big N store at Country Squire shopping plaza, Glenmont, after recovering one of the stolen radios. The item was identified by Salvadore Cacciola of Ravena, manager of the store which is liquidating its stock in a bankruptcy proceeding, as one of the stolen items, valued at \$149 each. The theft was not reported to police until Feb. 18, according to the report.

Mailboxes damaged

Vandals damaged six mailboxes of residents of Font Grove Rd., Slingerlands, the night of Feb. 11, according to reports made to Bethlehem police.

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TEACHERS

Union no-show delays hearing

State conciliators are shuffling calendars for a new hearing date in the Bethlehem Central teachers' union suit against the district's board of education after the union failed to show up at a pre-hearing conference.

Robert J. Miller, a staff member of the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), said the formal papers served on the board charging improper practice in the recent

teachers' union negotiations called for a hearing March 1 and a pre-hearing conference with representatives of both sides at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 16 at PERB headquarters on Wolf Rd., Colonie. Miller said that no representative of the union, the Bethlehem Central Teachers Assn. (BCTA), appeared in the hearing room, and that the union later said it had not received notice of the conference. Joseph Kelly, a consultant retained by the school board, represented the district.

Miller said the conference had been rescheduled for

Wednesday of this week at 9:30 a.m., and the hearing itself tentatively rescheduled for Friday, March 3, at 9:30 a.m. Miller, who is assistant director of PERB's public employment practices and representation unit, will serve as hearing officer if and when the hearing is held.

The BCTA served papers on the Bethlehem board Feb. 7 charging improper practice. The charge was based on a statement made by the school board's vice president, Bertold E. Weinberg of Elsmere, at the contract ratification session Jan. 4, in which Weinberg

explained his reasons for voting against ratification.

In the statement he criticized the tactics of the union's chief negotiator during the bargaining period. Weinberg and board member John H. Clyne, who also dissented, were outvoted by 5-2 as the board ratified a new contract with the union that gave Bethlehem teachers pay raises over a three-year period that ranged from 12 to 24 percent and averaged 17.4 percent. The Bethlehem district's payroll for teachers, administrators and non-instructional employees is approximately \$8 million. Negotiations that began last spring were suspended during the summer while the union's chief negotiator was on vacation, then resumed in September, at which time the union invoked work-to-rule for its members.

Held in burglary

A 16-year-old Elsmere youth has a date in police court tonight (Thursday) on charges of burglary third degree and petit larceny. Detectives Colin Clark and Richard LaChapelle arrested the youth after investigating a burglary at an Elsmere residence last Dec. 15.

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A Little League ballplayer waits for that familiar American call, "Batter up!" at Magee Park, where in season only the foul lines are white. Tri-Village Little League registration will be held on the next two Saturdays at Bethlehem Library and Clarksville School.

R.H. Davis

Volunteers sought by Little League

President Tom Dobert of Tri-Village Little League has issued a call for volunteer managers, coaches, field help, team sponsors and advertisers as the organization prepares for player registration this Saturday and a new season.

Eligible for the league's three divisions are boys and girls born between Aug. 1, 1965 and July 1, 1970. Howard Anderson is in charge of registration and will answer questions at the National Savings Bank, Delmar, 439-9988 days and 439-6513 evenings and weekends.

First-time registrants must have a birth certificate presented by a parent.

Children who want to join but fail to register by March 11 will be placed on a waiting list until there is a vacancy.

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ELSMERE
Checkout by-pass a no-no at Plaza

For business reasons, Delaware Plaza merchants observe a long-established axiom that customers who purchase items in their stores should pay for them before leaving the premises. When Joan Pape of South Bethlehem, assistant manager of Denby's Elsmere store, noticed two young girls walking out with a number of clothing and jewelry items that had not been paid for, she called Bethlehem police.

Minutes later two Albany sisters, aged 15 and 12, were taken into custody on Delaware Ave. by Officers Fred Holligan and Conrad Martin. The girls were carrying grocery bags containing the items stolen from Denby's and other merchandise taken from other Plaza stores, Woolworth's, the Grand Union and

the Paper Mill. Value of the items was computed at \$162, including \$107 from Denby's.

The girls were relieved of the loot and turned over to the Bethlehem police juvenile department for Family Court action. Their names were withheld because of their ages.

GLENMONT
Fireworks land 4 in town court

Office Ted Wilson was on patrol on Rt. 9W in Glenmont at 3:30 a.m. last Friday when he passed a northbound car showing one headlight. He swung the Bethlehem police cruiser around and stopped the car on Corning Hill.

While questioning the four occupants, Wilson and officer John R. Cox Jr. noticed fireworks between the bucket seats of the car. They arrested the four occupants on a charge of unlawful possession of fireworks, and ticketed the driver, Daniel G. McCarthy, 20, of Ravena, for driving while intoxicated.


During a routine search following the arrests, police found a pouch in the coat pocket of one of the passengers that allegedly contained two pipes with a residue of marijuana in each. Scott B. Monroe, 18, of Coeymans was cited with an additional charge of unlawful possession of marijuana. The four were to appear in Bethlehem justice court tonight (Thursday).

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On the cover:

Bethlehem Garden Club members at workshop — clockwise from upper left: Gert McCaffrey and Betty Montague work with live plants; Lois Dillon, Edith Miller and Miriam Oliver make "birds on a tree"; Mrs. Harold Willard and Roberta Watson work with shell mobiles, and Doris Arnold, Betty Dugan, Lucy Dean and Emma White pack bulbs in plastic cups.

photos by Cheryl Marks.

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**Garden clubbers
cheer shut-ins**

Bethlehem Garden Club members have been busy lately bringing new life and color to the rooms of nursing home residents.

A community workshop at the Delmar Reformed Church last month produced centerpieces, mobiles, decorative jars filled with berries and herbs, and a variety of other garden-based items appropriate to brightening rooms.

The items included live plants, shell mobiles, dried arrangements and a creative "birds on a tree" project involving milkweed pods painted blue, seeds for beaks and a crest painted with lipstick.

Slide show coming

"A Growing WMHT in a Growing Community" is the title of a slide program to be given by Mrs. Elaine Pasternack for the Town of New Scotland Historical Assn. at the Center in New Salem on March 7 at 8 p.m. The public is invited. A social hour will follow the presentation.

**Chamber planning
broader program**

The Bethlehem chamber of commerce will sponsor a series of breakfast seminars with guest speakers on topics important to local businessmen as part of a plan to broaden its community program.

Arthur J. Henahan of Elsmere is heading a volunteer committee to arrange the seminars, which are tentatively scheduled to start in late April or early May. The chamber also plans a membership drive in the spring.

More than 70 people at the chamber's annual Business-Education Day dinner last month heard Neal Moylan of Delmar, former state commerce commissioner, as guest speaker. Mrs. Mae Blackmore was chairman of the event, in which teachers visit local businesses and businessmen visit the classrooms.

**Advt. Local Boy Plucked
from River**

Yesterday the U.S. Coast Guard apprehended Ima Dreamer, 16½, of Delmar as he was crossing the Hudson River from Rensselaer to Albany.

He was standing in the bow of a rowboat, wearing a cape and colonial hat. Authorities believe this imitation of Washington crossing the Delaware was inspired by Rogers Sport and Ski Shop of East Greenbush crossing the Hudson to open a new store in Delaware Plaza.

Historian U.R. Whacko commented, "If we train our thoughts on the Delaware and Hudson analogy, we'll be on the right track." He was promptly fired.

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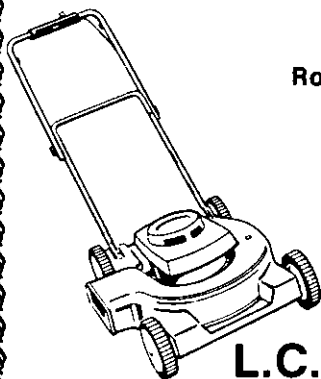
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Fined on gun charge

An Alabama truck driver found out the hard way that New York State law requires a permit for having a gun. Sam Parnell of Deer Park, Ala., was arrested by Officer Charles Rudolph of the Bethlehem police department 45 minutes after the Stone Ends motel in Glenmont had reported a maid had found a .38 caliber pistol in a room at the motel after Parnell had checked out. Parnell pleaded guilty to a charge of criminal possession of a weapon at his arraignment before Justice Roger M. Fritts in Bethlehem town court and was fined \$150. Police retained the gun pending legal procedures to return it to Alabama.

Little League Registration Saturday



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Nursing homes have a vital role to play in providing the elderly with skilled health services. But we must make sure they perform the medical functions for which they were designed, and that only the persons who need that care are confined there. Every American, unless he has no family or never expects to be old himself, has a vital stake in this tangled problem. And every taxpayer also, has an extensive financial involvement. Nearly nine billion tax dollars have been sunk into nursing-home care since the enactment of Medicaid in 1966. The outflow now runs \$5.2 million a day.

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Adult courses start Monday

Course registration for the Continuing Education Spring program at Voorheesville Central School which begins March 6 ends Friday, March 3.

Registration fees for most of the courses, which run 20 class hours, is \$14 for residents and \$17 for non-residents. The complete fee schedule is included in the course brochure which has been mailed to every resident in the school district.

Courses in the Spring program are: Fiction Writing for Publication, Men's Phys. Ed., Intermediate Typing and Office Practice, Quilting for Beginners, Advanced Self-Defense, Woodworking, Basic Automechanics, Tailoring Men's and Boy's Clothing, Women's Phys. Ed., Intermediate Guitar, Advanced First Aid and Emergency Care, Basic Techniques for Breadmaking, and swimming courses.

Other classes are: Chair Caning, Intermediate Sewing, Speed Reading, Drug Education, Belly Dancing, Yoga, Shorthand, Home Gardening, Beginner Sewing, Golf Fundamentals, Lamaze pre-natal care and tennis, as well as mini-courses in home insulation and heating, and in wallpapering.

Adults as well as students in grades 7-12 may take the courses. Most classes begin at 7 p.m. For more information, call 765-2372.

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Supervisor Tom Corrigan cuts a ribbon to officially open a new store at Delaware Plaza, Rogers Sport & Ski Shop, with an assist from Ken Schenkel, president of the Plaza Merchants Assn., center. Peter and Gina Rogers are at the far right. At left is Dave Devendorf, AMF/Head tennis sales manager. *J.W. Campbell*

Bartke's under new ownership

Brothers Keyvan and Kaveh Ghovanloo are now owners of Bartke's Restaurant in Ravena. Formerly of Teheran, Iran, the brothers lived with Delmar families when they first arrived in the U.S. in the early 1970's.

Keyvan was a star soccer player at BCHS and Kaveh graduated from Schenectady Junior College and the Junior College of Albany. Both are married: Keyvan wed the former Amy Robinson of Clarksville and lives in Delmar, and Kaveh wed the former Geraldine Frany of Albany and now resides there.

Both brothers have extensive experience working in restaurants and food service establishments in the area. They plan to offer regular luncheons, full-day service, later open hours, catering and a menu with an international flavor.

No more Wednesdays

Supervisor Tom Corrigan's experiment of keeping Bethlehem's town offices open to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays instead of the usual 4:30 closing hour is ending this week. Public response to the extended hours, Corrigan observed, "has been less than overwhelming." Department heads, he added,

BARTKE'S NEW MANAGEMENT GHOVANLOO RESTAURANT CORPORATION



The Ghovanloo Brothers



Keyvan



Kaveh

Keyvan and Kaveh Ghovanloo came to America from Teheran, Iran, in the early 1970's. Keyvan lived with a family in Delmar and graduated from Bethlehem Central Senior High School, where he starred in soccer. Kaveh lived in Delmar and in Albany and attended Schenectady Community College and Junior College of Albany. Both men are on their way to full naturalization and the brothers have brought their father and mother over to the U.S.A. Both have married: Keyvan wed the former Amy Robinson of Clarksville, in 1976, and they live in Delmar. Kaveh wed the former Geraldine Frany, of Albany, in 1975; they live in Albany.

The Ghovanloo (Go-von-loo) brothers have worked extensively in restaurants and food-service establishments in the Capital District. They fell in love with Bartke's Restaurant, formed their own restaurant management corporation in December, 1977, and purchased the well-known Ravena eating place from Andrew Mayone, in February of 1978. They will continue the fine traditions of this excellent restaurant and intend to offer new services: regular luncheons, full-day hospitality, later open hours, catering service and new menu items with an international flavor. They intend to emphasize the family-style approach to food service and to continue to provide fine meals at competitive prices. And, they intend to listen carefully to their customers' valued comments and suggestions on menu, service, amenities and atmosphere.

We welcome all Bartke's patrons, old and new, to our friendly tables.

Cordially yours,
Keyvan and Kaveh Ghovanloo

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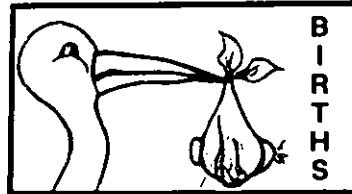
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will be available by appointment outside regular hours, and the town will continue to extend office hours in September to handle school tax bills and hunting licenses. Added Councilman William Johnston: "We gave it a good try."



St. Peter's Hospital

Girl, Shannon, to Mr. and Mrs. John B. Taylor, Wormer Rd., Voorheesville, Jan. 30.

Girl, Sandra Jean, to Mr. and Mrs. James Malphrus, Rt. 144, Selkirk, Jan. 28.

Boy, Christopher George, to Mr. and Mrs. Dana Fisk, Pantages Trailer Crt., Selkirk, Jan. 28.

Boy, Shawn Patrick, to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Corbett, Grove Rest Trailer Pk., Selkirk, Jan. 25.

Girl, Kristin, to Mr. and Mrs. John Conley, 99 Voorheesville Ave., Voorheesville, Jan. 25.

Girl, Deah Lyn, to Mr. and Mrs. David Burnham, 2 Spruce Ct., Voorheesville, Jan. 23.

Girl, Sara Jean, to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Osborn, Sr., South Bethlehem, Feb. 12.

Albany Medical Center

Boy, Tucker, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lange, 12 Winne Pl., Glenmont, Jan. 27.

Boy, Adam, to Mr. and Mrs. Loren Sharron, 32 Nathaniel Blvd., Delmar, Jan. 27.

Girl, Crystal, to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Moore, 93 Cherry Ave., Delmar, Feb. 4.

Girl, Cailin, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brennan, 6 Grovè St., Slingerlands, Feb. 10.

Boy, Anthony, to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hood, Maple Rd., Voorheesville.

BCHS students win music awards

Three Bethlehem Central High School students were among seven area finalists in the Albany League of Arts solo competition. The young musicians will play in a special Youth Awards Concert Sunday, March 5, at 3:30 p.m. at SUNYA's Performing Arts Center in Albany.

Andrea Blanchard, a Delmar student of Lois Fishman, will play "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra" by Samuel Barber. Chandell LaForest, Clarksville, coached by Linda McClusky, will play "Concerto in G" on the flute. Grace Shen of Delmar, a piano student of Findlay Cockrell, will play Greig's "Concerto in A minor".

Tickets for the concert are available from the Community Box Office, Colonic Center, and from SUNYA's Performing Arts Center box office.

Photography show

The Hudson-Mohawk Assn. of Camera Clubs will sponsor the Springfield International Color Slide Exhibition at the Loudonville School on Osborn Rd. Saturday at 8 p.m. Showing the work of 465 amateur photographers from all over the world, the exhibition is appearing for the second time in the Capital District. The sponsoring association is made up of four area camera clubs, including the Delmar Camera Club. Tickets are \$1 at the door.

Prayer Day Friday

"Community Spirit in Modern Living" is the theme of the World Day of Prayer celebration set for Friday, March 3.

The Delmar Reformed Church will hold a service at 1 p.m. with Mrs. Joyce de Velders speaking on the day's theme.

NECROLOGY

Mildred E. Westervelt

Mildred E. Westervelt, a 30-year resident of Clarksville and active in volunteer and civic work in the community, died Feb. 12, at the age of 60. She was the wife of Earl A. Westervelt.

Mrs. Westervelt, a native of Beaver Falls, Pa., lived in Olean for 25 years before moving to Clarksville. She was past president of the Clarksville PTA, served on various committees for the Bethlehem board of education, and was a member of the Delmar Progress Club and the Clarksville Community Church. She was a Red Cross volunteer worker for 25 years and for the last 15 years directed the Bethlehem area swimming programs.

Besides her husband, she leaves a daughter, Mrs. Barry (Janis) Shannon; a sister, Mrs. Jack Harter, and two brothers, Herman and Lee Palmer Brown. A service was held Feb. 15 at the Applebee Funeral Home, Delmar. Rev. Stephen Wing officiating. Burial will be in Onesquethaw Cemetery in the spring.

Dinner planned

A dinner dance and reception in honor of John J. Quickton of Glenmont will be held by the Bethlehem Lodge of Elks at the lodge in Cedar Hill, Selkirk, on March 4. Quickton,

who is vice president of the New York State Elks Association for the State Capital District, has been responsible for administration of state association programs, including youth activities and the Cerebral Palsy project. He is a past Exalted Ruler of Bethlehem lodge.

Youth nights planned

A boys' and girls' night for grades 1-5 will be sponsored by the Bethlehem Community Church, in Delmar, Friday and Feb. 19, March 3, 19 and 31 between 7-8:30 p.m.

Christian adventure movies, guests, music and surprise happenings will be part of the programs, which costs 75 cents.

For more information, call 439-4777.

Guidance given

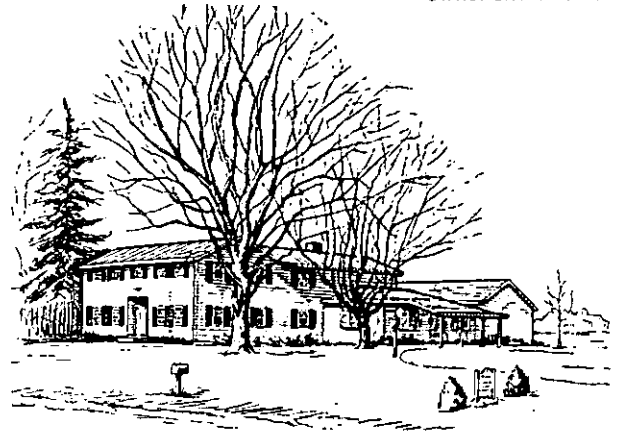
Nikki and David Goldbeck of Woodstock, authors of "The Supermarket Handbook," a guide to selecting and buying whole foods, will be speakers at Bethlehem Library March 7 at 1:30 p.m.

Theater party set

Temple B'nai Shalom, Albany, will host a theater party at the Cohoes Music Hall on Sunday, March 19 at 8 p.m., where Noel Coward's "Private Lives" will be seen. The performance will be followed by a reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets at \$6.95 may be reserved by calling 482-8079.

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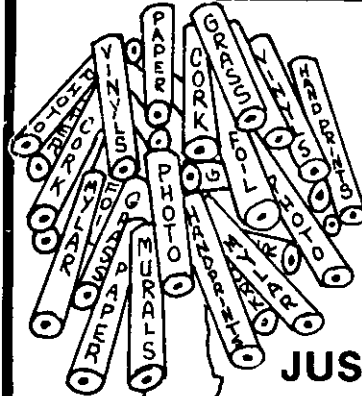


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Blackbird quint eyes semifinals

Voorheesville's finest basketball team in a dozen years had a date with a strong Rensselaer High School quintet Wednesday of this week at Mechanicville in a bid to make the semifinals of the Class C Sectional tournament.

The Blackbirds, now 14-5, were squeezed out of the Central Hudson Valley title by Maple Hill and Catskill, dropping the regular season finale to the Cats by a single point in the final second. Four nights later the Birds had an easy 79-66 win over Hoosick Valley at Voorheesville in the opening round of the Sectionals. After Wednesday, the tourney will be down to four teams. If the Blackbirds

win, they will play the Taconic Hills-Watervliet winner at Shenendehowa Saturday night.

Steve Smith bucketed 19 points against Hoosick Valley, but it was Marty McTague, a 6-4 junior backup center, who brought smiles to Coach Howard Smith. "He did a great job," said the coach. "Fifteen points, eight rebounds and a couple of blocked shots." But Rensselaer worried Smith. "They're quick, they can shoot, but we have the size. We'll have to make them play our game."

Voorheesville has never made the finals in basketball. The current team already has more wins than any other since Bud Tatro's 1965-66 edition went 16-4.

BC takes 6th in mat tourney

BCHS wrestlers took sixth place in the Suburban Council Varsity Invitational tournament held recently in Delmar. Sixteen teams, including teams outside the council, took part in the tournament.

Bryan Bourque, a junior at 177 pounds, was Bethlehem's highest finisher, taking second in his division. Mark Welch, 155 pounds and a senior, took third place in his weight class.

Fourth-place finishers were Scott Junco, junior, 145 pounds; Mike Cronin, senior, 138, and Brian Winne, senior, 132. Fifth-place finishers were senior Paul Clyne, 119, and freshman Jeff Herman, 112.

Sophomore Mark Dean, 126 pounds, took sixth place in his weight class. The tournament was won by Niskayuna.

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Saturday**

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Peter Tenbeau, left, Jack Shafer and Tony Fusco, along with Ed Taylor who missed the photo, led the Bethlehem Tennis Assn. foursome to the Southwood Team Tennis championship this winter. There were four teams in the league. This weekend the top junior boys in four age divisions will play an ETA-sanctioned Grand Prix tournament at Southwood, coming from New Jersey, Syracuse, Binghamton and other areas, including several ranked players.

Spotlight photo

BASKETBALL
Eagles shooting for Niskayuna

Bethlehem Central's bid for a share of the Suburban Council basketball championship fell short by a slender two minutes at Niskayuna, but the Sectionals could give the Eagles another shot at the league champions.

BC's late surge crushed Shenendehowa, nipped Shaker and trailed Niskayuna by three points with 1:26 left when the Eagles missed a 1-on-1 that would have closed the gap to one point. "Then they kept the ball and we had to foul to get it back, and that did it," said Coach Dale Walts after the 73-64 loss. BC ended up 13-5, two games off the pace.

Bethlehem had a Tuesday date at home with a weak Troy team in the Sectional opener. A victory would send the Eagles against the Saratoga-Scotia winner Friday at a site to be announced. Niskayuna is also in the eight-team Class A draw.

Negative hospitality

A Shaker High School cheerleader, Gina Campagna of Loudonville, told Bethlehem police that someone stole a \$46 down vest from a locker at Bethlehem Central High School during the Shaker-Bethlehem basketball game Feb. 17. Other clothes left in the locker were not disturbed, police said.

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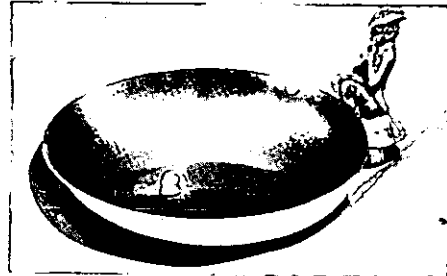
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Sectionals next for BC mermen

Bethlehem Central's undefeated swimming team heads for the Section 2 championship meet at the Albany High pool this weekend with a strong chance of taking the team title. The state championships at Cortland the following weekend will close out the season for the 15-0 Eagles.

For senior Ken Neff, one of the state's standout swimmers, the two meets offer a chance to win gold medals in Sectional and state competition. Two weeks ago Neff shaved a full second from the Delmar pool record for the 100-yard freestyle set in 1975 by Malcolm Cooper, now a member of the Harvard varsity. Neff fractured the old mark 49.7 seconds with a 48.7 clocking in the Eagles' 53-30 rout of visiting New Hartford. Cooper's 48-flat in the 1975 Sectionals still stands as the school record.

Neff got a fourth in the backstroke in the Eastern Interscholastic championships at Lawrenceville, N.J. last weekend. He was in second place with one lap to go when he missed his final turn and ended up at 55.1, but still was the highest finisher from New York State. In the event, swimmers from Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey finished 1-2-3.

Swimming against 50 high schools from a dozen states,



Ken Neff gets a lift from teammates after breaking the Bethlehem pool record in the 100-yard freestyle. *Jim Carroll*

Bethlehem finished 11th in the team standings. The medley relay team came in seventh.

Cash film planned

The Johnny Cash religious film, "The Gospel Road," will be shown at the Faith Evangelical Church, AELC, 421 Kenwood Ave., Delmar, March 12 at 11 a.m.

The timeless realities
of Christ's earthly ministry
unfold on the
motion picture screen.



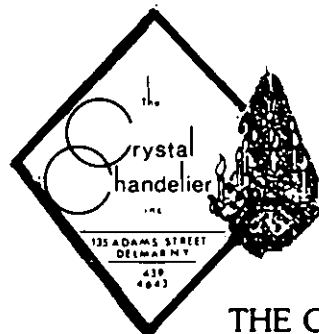
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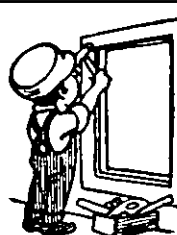
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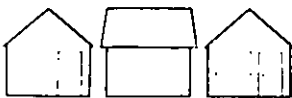
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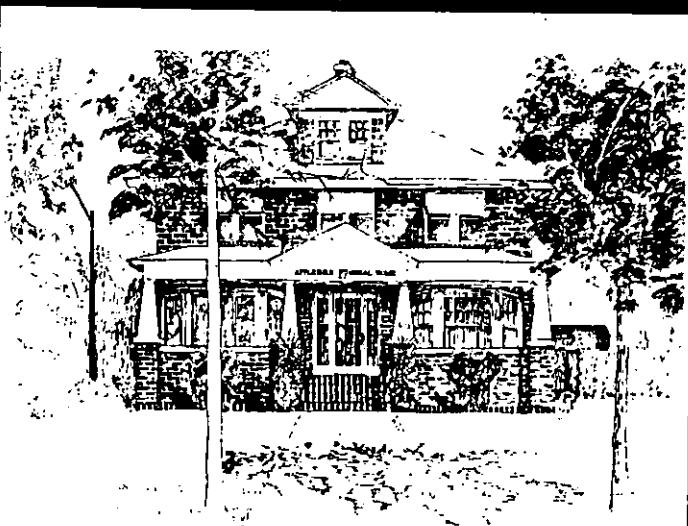
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Vox Pop

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.

Fish or foul?

Editor, The Spotlight:

Chief of Police Peter Fish has 26 years of experience in Bethlehem. He is a member of the New York State Police Chiefs and Northwest Police Chiefs associations. His professional education is St. Lawrence University, nine summer sessions, Hudson Valley Community College police science program, certificate in police administration and juvenile crime prevention, FBI Seminar of Community Disaster, Bomb Scares, Hostage Situations, Bank Robberies, Human Relations, etc. So much for his competence.

Area law enforcement firsts include home/vacation police property spot-check system, direct contact silent alarm system joining police with business and private homes, coordinated police, fire and ambulance emergency procedures, traffic control and radar system, continuous training programs for officers, juvenile crime bureau and one of the

finest youth programs in the area and possibly the state (in fact, it was so well received that the town of Colonic and others asked for and received these programs for their own youths.)

Have you heard of any crimes against the aged? Unsolved assaults? Bank robberies? Gas station hold-ups? Con games? Murders? Prostitution? There is none! The results of all this hard work was the Police Department of the Year Award presented a record three consecutive years to the Bethlehem Police Dept. by the State of New York.

The baker runs the bakery, the surgeon performs the surgery, the fireman puts out the fires, the police chief should and must run the police department. In my estimation and the estimation of others, Peter Fish has done more for the town of Bethlehem in his 16 years as chief of police than any other single individual. Bethlehem is a safe place to live because the police department is the backbone of the community which has strengthened itself in the 16 years that Peter Fish has held the position as chief.

In America, a person has a right to be confronted with timely charges. How can a person, suspended without pay, afford a proper defense when the accusers will not bring charges and the accusers are all earning a living and

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using tax-supported attorneys? For the welfare and protection of our town's people, there must be real charges and not just character assassination for the welfare and protection of our town's politicians! Will we have Fish or foul?

Those who agree and support these statements can voice their support by writing letters to:

William E. Johnson
47 Salisbury Rd.

Delmar

New Scotland's dogs

Editor, The Spotlight:

Since a petition was submitted to the town of New Scotland with over 300 names, the town board has been working on a leash law proposal. The proposed law drafted by Town Attorney Ryan is a good one and one that people can easily live with. It says in effect that dogs off their owner's property must be either on a leash or accompanied and under the control of their owner or a responsible person. This law does not ask you to leave your dog chained up in your yard. He may run about unfettered on your property or on another's private property with the consent of the property

owner. The purpose of this law is to protect the health, safety and well-being of persons and property.

The restrictions placed on dogs in the law such as - the owner shall not allow his dog to: uproot, dig and otherwise damage lawns and gardens; harass and intimidate persons; chase motor vehicles and bikes etc. are restrictions that any responsible dog owner would place on his dog himself. The law is aimed at the irresponsible dog owner as most laws are aimed at irresponsible and selfish people who care not for the health, safety and comfort of those around them, or even, in this case, for the health, safety and comfort of their dogs.

Dogs running at large have created harm and havoc and still we hear cries that a leash law would "inhibit the free spirit" of dogs. I can think of no freer spirit than that of a horse. Why aren't we imploring horse owners to permit their equines to run at large?

A lot of people want to own a dog but don't want to spend time with him or clean up after him. Anyone knows that if you let him, your dog will soil your neighbor's yard before he will soil his own. How nice for the dog owner who can have all the



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- March 8 Volleyball, Niskayuna home 3:45

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pleasures of owning a dog without being compelled to perform the chore of picking up dog stools. A friend of mine, who did not own a dog, spent two days last spring picking up her yard after a neighbor's dog had used it all winter. Just for the heck of it, she weighed the result and found she had 40 pounds. If only there was a market for it!

There is an elderly lady in our hamlet who is afraid to step out of her house because her neighbor's dog has repeatedly intimidated and even attacked her. Another family lost 75 chickens in one fell swoop to a couple of dogs on a killing spree. Several times last year children have been chased and some bitten by dogs and packs of dogs in the town of New Scotland. During my pregnancy last year I lost many night's sleep due to my neighbor's dog barking and howling at all hours of the night and early morning. They claimed they didn't hear it. And we have all seen what happens on rubbish removal day.

If you are a responsible dog owner who does right by his

dog and his neighbors, there is nothing to fear in this leash law - it will benefit you. It will benefit dogs too and aid in parasite and disease control. Perhaps we will see fewer of our dog's broken bodies lying in the road as well.

Yvonne Reis

New Salem

Editor, The Spotlight:

Christian Music Ministries, Inc. of Feura Bush greatly appreciates the excellent coverage you gave to our organization in your Jan. 26 issue of the Spotlight. The timely appearance of your feature just before the big Feb. 3 Christian Music Concert at the South Mall Convention Center was superb! We're confident that article played a role in encouraging some of the 2,100 people in attendance at that concert to come and share God's love through the "Ministry of Music."

Equally important to us is the obvious understanding and appreciation for the mission of Christian Music Ministries that you demonstrated in that feature. So, on behalf of the

Joyful Noise, Naphtali, Kings Kids, Linda and Bill Womer and the Board of Directors of CMM, thank you for the personal touch, Mr. Boynton.

Carol Budliger

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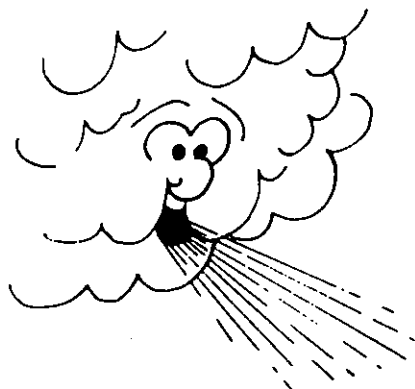
Burt Anthony

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Community Corner

The First Sign of Spring

When families begin thinking about fly balls, grounders, baserunning, bunts and home runs, Spring can't be far away. Registration for the 1978 season for Tri-Village Little League baseball and Bethlehem Tomboys softball starts Saturday at Bethlehem Library. Signups for both organizations will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the next two Saturdays. Girls may register also at the Clarksville School March 11 from 10 to 2, and at the Bethlehem Library Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The fees are \$15 for Little League, \$20 per family, and \$8 for the Tomboys, \$5 for each additional player in the family. It's by far the best bargain in town — and the best investment.

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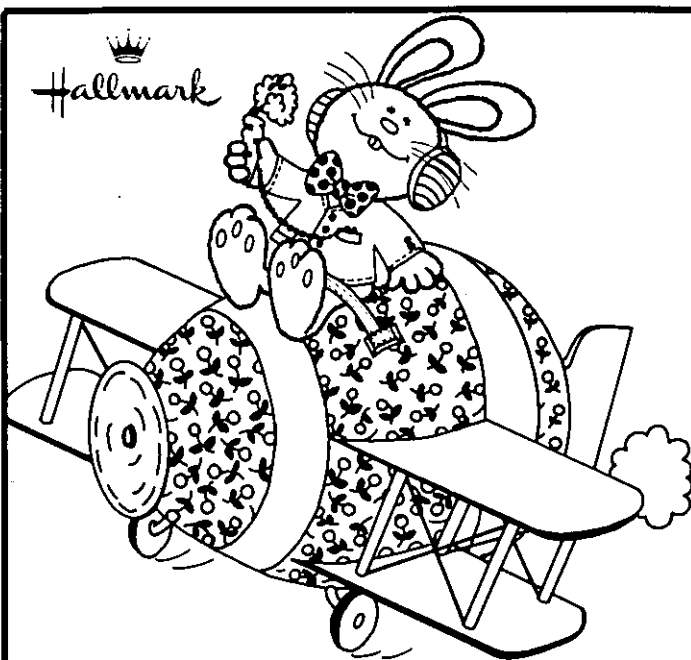
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Deadline for entries is Wednesday, March 22.

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