

Dionysians
to present Les Miz

○ See Page 3

'Master Class'
at NYSTI

○ Family entertainment

Empire Education

○ Supplement inside

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March 26, 2003

Police chief to retire

By SUSAN GRAVES

After 12 years at the helm of the Bethlehem Police Department, Chief Richard LaChappelle has announced that he will retire next month.

LaChappelle, 58, who has spent his entire career in law enforcement, said he feels it's time to step down.

"In March, I had 35 years, and when I started, I thought 35 years was time to retire," he said.

He said he has no immediate plans but that he wants to spend time with his four grandchildren.

"My daughter has triplets, plus one, and my son has one on the way," said LaChappelle.

Born in Albany, LaChappelle moved to Bethlehem when he was about 5 years old. He graduated from Bethlehem Central High School and later attended Albany College of Pharmacy from 1962 to '66. 1968, LaChappelle began his career in Bethlehem as a patrol officer. He said he originally intended to work for the Drug Enforcement Agency, formerly the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, but that at the time the agency wanted personnel with police experience.

He found his niche in Bethlehem, however, and held numerous positions



Richard LaChappelle

with the department, serving as a narcotics officer, detective inspector, patrol sergeant and detective supervisor before becoming chief in 1991.

"I have been so fortunate to have had experience in different types of services that the Police Department provides," LaChappelle said, "It probably helped make me a better chief."

LaChappelle said the role of police in the community has changed dramatically during his career.

Today, "Public service is probably a better title than law enforcement," for the force, he said. That means, he added, that police are involved more and more in helping people solve problems.

A good example of that is the School Resource Officer (SRO) program which is now integrated in all Bethlehem schools, including the high school, middle school and the five elementary schools.

Bethlehem's SRO program has become a model for others in the state and the nation, LaChappelle said. He said the program flourished, after some initial misgivings, because of the trust between the community and the police. Many teenagers who may have been at-risk at some point have turned to the school SROs for guidance.

LaChappelle credits the Bethlehem Community Partnership as the catalyst that brought the police, the schools and the community closer together.

"All of these different groups who worked together with a common goal to make the community a safer place," helped forge new relationships with the police, he said.

But others give LaChappelle credit for

□ CHIEF/page 20

Parents, kids chide Loomis for canceling Boston trip

By RONALD E. CAMPBELL

Lab School parents and students expressed their discontent with school Superintendent Les Loomis' decision to cancel a four-day trip to Boston at the March 19 Bethlehem school board meeting.

According to district communications specialist Jessica Scheckton, administrators had cancelled trips abroad prior to last week, and decided last week to cancel field trips to major cities in this country as well. The Lab School trip was not the only one cancelled.

About 100 Lab School parents and students attended the school board meeting. They were particularly upset by news that the \$460 per student fee for the trip

□ TRIP/page 32

Chamber salutes Highway Dept.

By KRISTEN OLBY

Several Bethlehem citizens will soon be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the quality of life in the community by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce.

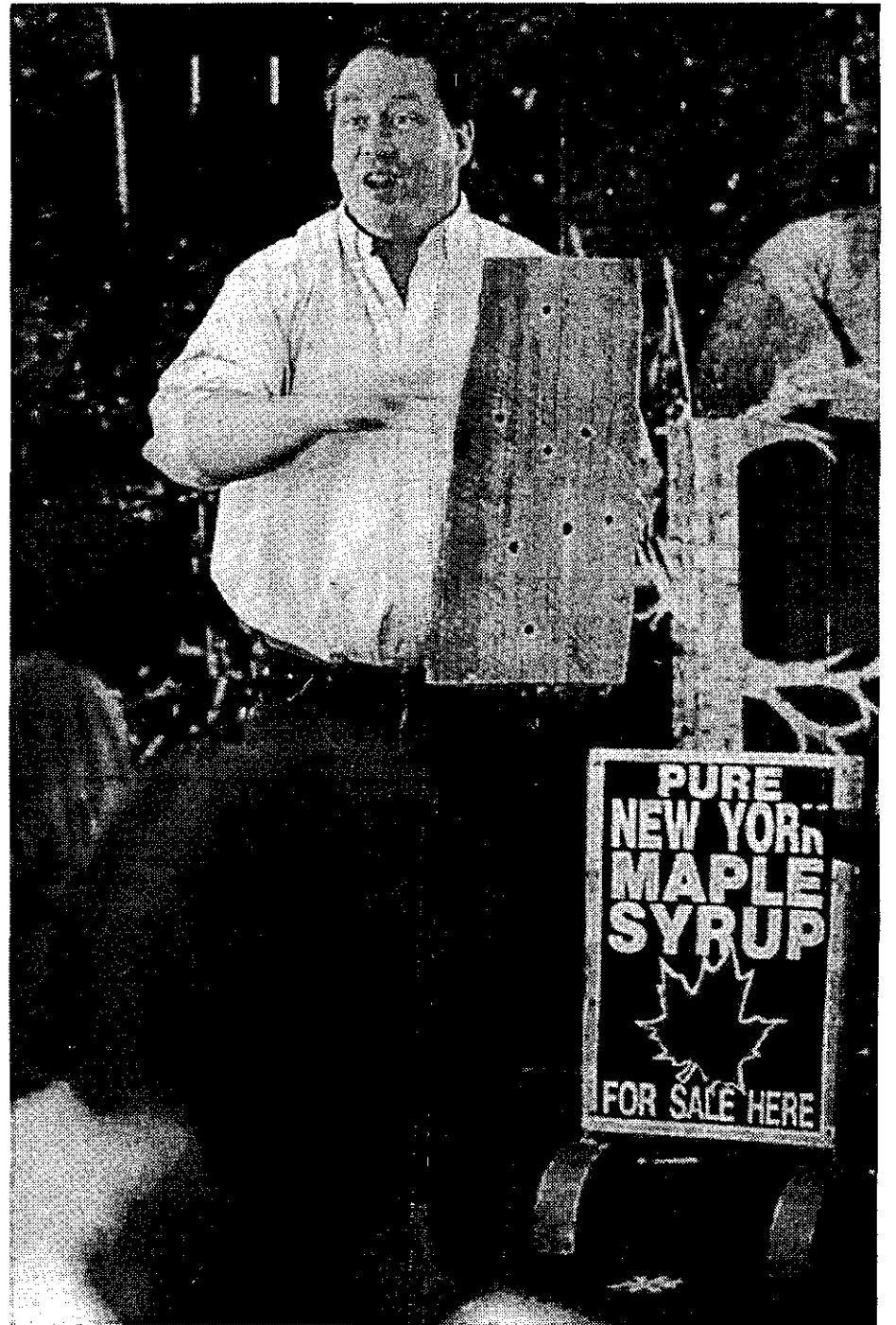
In a twist, Bethlehem's Citizen of the Year award will go to not one, but a group of 60.

The Bethlehem Highway Department has been named Citizen of the Year for making extraordinary contributions to the town.

"These folks work tirelessly, days, weekends and holidays keeping our streets clear and safe," wrote the anonymous person who nominated the department.

The 60-member department is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of more than 160 miles of streets and highways and 32 miles of sidewalks. Highway workers clear snow,

How sweet it is



Kevin Crosier gives a demonstration on maple syrup at the Thacher Nature Center last Saturday.

Jim Franco



Chris McCarroll will receive the Business Person of the Year award.

pave streets, maintain roughly 200 town vehicles and equipment and provide seasonal yard waste pickups.

"This past winter was especially harsh, but the highway department never let up, never complained," wrote the nominator.

Highway Superintendent Gregg Sagendorph was surprised to learn the department beat out half a dozen other nominees.

"Shocked and honored are just a few of the emotions we felt when we heard we were nominated and had won," said Sagendorph.

Bethlehem's Business Person of the Year Award recognizes a business leader

□ CHAMBER/page 32



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Police arrest five on DWI charges

Bethlehem police recently arrested five individuals for driving while intoxicated (DWI).

Matthew Taormina, 21, of East Henry Hollow Road in Earlton was stopped on March 15 at 1:37 a.m. for leaving the scene of an accident at the intersection of the Slingerlands bypass and New Scotland Road and for crossing the yellow line. Police said

Taormina failed field sobriety tests and charged him with DWI, possession of marijuana and leaving the scene of an accident.

Jason Glassbrenner, 19, of Scott Road in Selkirk was stopped on March 18 at 1:24 a.m. for speeding on Elm Avenue in Delmar. Police said Glassbrenner failed field sobriety tests and arrested him for DWI.

Cheyenne Brooks, 27, of Warwick Avenue in Albany was stopped for speeding on March 18 at 12:02 a.m. on Route 9W in Glenmont. Police said Brooks failed field sobriety tests and arrested her for DWI.

Thomas Kulzer, 66, of Mountain Street in Albany was stopped March 19 at 6:13 p.m. for making an improper right turn and crossing the yellow line on Elm Avenue.

Police said Kulzer failed field sobriety tests and arrested him for DWI.

Sheri Hayes, 36, of Kenmar Road in Menands was stopped March 23 at 12:08 a.m. for crossing the yellow line on Route 9W. Police said Hayes failed field sobriety tests and arrested her for DWI.

RCS teacher enters guilty plea, resigns

By KRISTEN OLBY

A Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk elementary school teacher has pleaded guilty in court to charges he fondled a 9-year-old boy.

David Selover, 49, pleaded guilty before state Supreme Court Justice Thomas McNamara on March 20 to first-degree sexual abuse, a violent felony. Selover will be sentenced May 15 and faces six years in prison.

Selover, who lives in Albany, admitted having the boy over to his home last fall, where he engaged in sexual contact with the child as they watched gay pornographic movies, according to Assistant District Attorney

Peter Torncello.

Selover has been a teacher with the R-C-S school district for 27 years, teaching at both Pieter B. Coeymans and A. W. Becker schools. He resigned from his second-grade teaching position at A.W. Becker Elementary on March 17.

He has no prior convictions and remains free on \$20,000 bail pending sentencing.

Circle of Friends slates open house

Circle of Friends preschool in Delmar will hold an open house on Wednesday, April 2, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Parents are invited to bring preschoolers (who will be 3 by Dec. 1) to explore a variety of hands-on learning activities and join in a sing along.

The school is at 2 Bethlehem Court, across from Delaware Plaza. For information, call 478-0722.

Cemetery group sets meeting

Jerusalem Cemetery Association will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m. in Jerusalem Reformed Church hall on Route 32 in Feura Bush.

The meeting is open to lot owners and their families. For information, call the association at 767-3512 or 767-3115.

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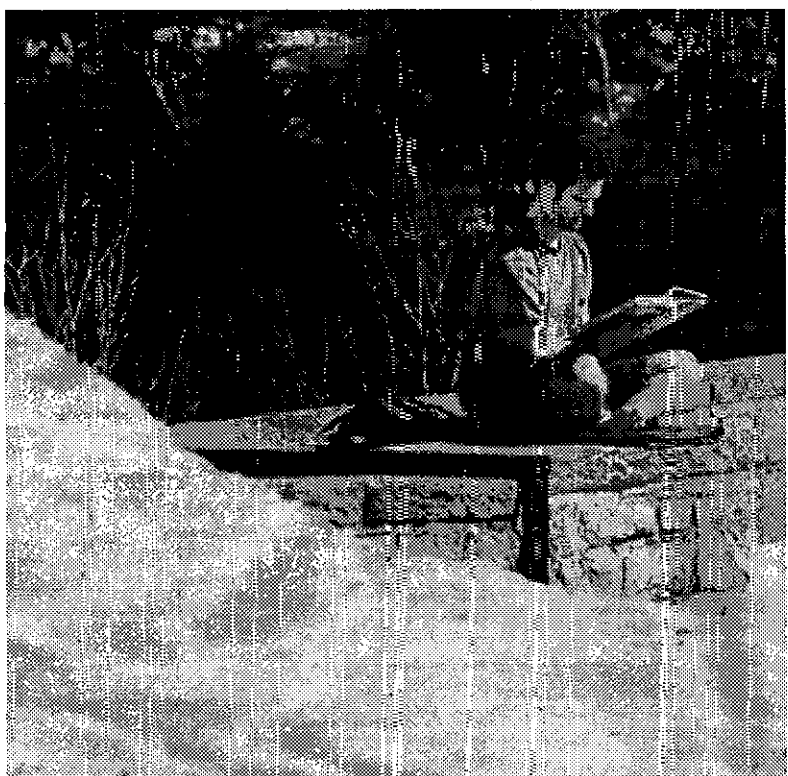
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Sun spot



David Weiner finds a sunny spot near a snow bank in Thacher Park last Saturday.

Jim Franco

Peace activists speak at forum on war in Iraq

By KRISTEN OLBY

Marion Kuritz of Bethlehem hasn't walked a picket line since fighting for women's rights in the 1960s, but the start of the U.S.-led war against Iraq may prompt her to protest once again — this time for peace.

Kuritz was one of about 100 people who came to First United Methodist Church in Delmar on Sunday to attend a forum on Iraq.

"My view on the war is that there shouldn't be one," said Kuritz, who was brought to tears at the thought of her 18-year-old grandson having to head to battle should there be a draft.

Amy Ludik of Bethlehem attended the forum with her husband and teenage son after taking part in a neighborhood peace rally.

"I just think the war is not a good idea for a lot of different reasons, and I wanted my son to come because I think that young people need to hear different views," said Ludik.

The forum — organized by the church — included three speakers opposed to war with Iraq. Many in the audience wore peace-themed pins and shared the Web site addresses of anti-war organizations. No one in the audience spoke in favor of the war.

"We need to make it clear to

the government that the majority of the people are against this war," said Dr. Andrew Coats of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Peace activist Manna Jo Greene gave a description of life in war-torn Iraq under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, through slides taken during a trip to the country last month. Greene spent a week in Baghdad as part of a 45-member Iraq Peace Team.

She said she went "to bring the message of peace and friendship to the people of Iraq and also the prayer for a peaceful solution to the crisis."

"Most people were in the middle. Most people were welcoming to Americans and said 'The governments are crazy, the leaders have all gone mad,' but they did not have a resentment towards the American people," said Greene.

Many at the forum prompted anti-war enthusiasts to keep their voices heard through vigils, marches and letters to lawmakers.

"I really think our actions and protests against the war did have some effect," said Helen Desfosses, professor of political science at the University at Albany and president of the Albany Common Council.

"We didn't war it off, but we did get the Bush administration to pay a lot more attention to the United Nations than it might otherwise have paid," said Desfosses, who has been outspoken against the war.

She urged audience members to become involved in the rebuilding of Iraq through international relief organizations such as the Red Cross.

Calls for peace were echoed by many at the forum followed by demands for support of U.S. troops fighting in Iraq.

V'ville Dionysians present Les Miz

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY

Redemption. It's a powerful thing, and when the Voorheesville Dionysians' 70-member cast took to the stage recently to rehearse the final number in "Les Misérables," it was easy to believe that any of us can overcome whatever difficulties life has handed us.

"There's a timelessness to this story," said John Lopez, director of the musical based on the Victor Hugo novel.

Lopez also teaches art and drama at Clayton A. Bouton High School, and has acted and sung throughout the area for years.

"It's the story of human nature, with its faults and foibles — and great potential," he said, adding that the story hits home with the adolescent performers.

"The society of Hugo's time said that if you didn't belong to a certain class, you weren't worth it," Lopez said.

"Teenagers hear all the time that they dress wrong, they look wrong, things like that," he added. "When they're part of a show like this, they see what these characters have gone through and that they still become better people. Everyone has the potential to become better than they are."

The Voorheesville Dionysians will be performing the school edition of "Les Mis," which only recently became available. With no spoken lines, Lopez said it's more of an opera than a play.

"She's a tough girl," said Megan Finn, who plays Eponine. "She goes out of her way to help Marius, and her character reinforces the show's theme of being able to overcome things."

"Marius is a good character to play," said Terry Devine. "There's a lot of emotion."

Ryan Wineinger plays Javert, obsessed with catching Jean Valjean.

"He's inexorable," Wineinger said. "It's hard to play the character without dialogue. I have to show confusion and betrayal while singing, and I play a lot off



Fantine, played by Stacey Veeder, and Jean Valjean, played by Brendon Schlappi, rehearse for Les Misérables.

the other characters."

Brendon Schlappi plays Valjean, who he said was a very dynamic character.

"He's trying to redeem himself, which is the whole point of the Victor Hugo novel," Schlappi said. "People can rise above what they're born into."

The Voorheesville Dionysians is a regular acting company that sketches out its season a year in advance. Last November, the group went to New York to see the Broadway production of "Les Misérables."

"We haven't been able to stop talking about it," Finn said.

With a new performing arts center that opened in January, the Dionysians will be performing in a space that, while not as large as a Broadway stage, offers an enormous amount of room and state-of-the-art technology.

"We have a 44-foot proscenium and a 20-foot revolve," Lopez said of the new facility. The revolve is the part of the set that can turn to show different scenes.

"We've got a Strand 300 light board and a 32-channel sound system. We'll be using 24 body mikes," he added.

The 15-person stage crew will be working with a counterweight system as they make set changes. The new burgundy seats in the arts center can accommodate 750

people.

"This is a great addition to our school," high school Principal Mark Diefendorf said of the new performing arts center. "We have a burgeoning music and drama department, can host regional events and can use the space for assemblies that accommodate both the middle and high school."

Lopez said that he gave the architects, Collins & Scoville, a lot of feedback about how the new performance space should be. He said he chose "Les Misérables" to showcase both the technology of the performing arts center and the students' ability.

"During my first season, 10 years ago, there were 15 kids in the Dionysians," Lopez said. "Now there are 100. The kids' commitment to their craft is remarkable."

A 15-piece orchestra will provide instrumentation for the show.

"Les Misérables" will be performed at the Clayton A. Bouton High School on New Salem Road in Voorheesville this Thursday, March 27, through Sunday, March 30. Performances will be at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and at 2:15 on Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for adults, and \$6 for students and seniors. Advance tickets are available at the high school.

BC board recognizes Police Dept.

By RONALD E. CAMPBELL

The main purpose of the March 19 Bethlehem school board meeting was to provide a forum on the proposed budget and clarify issues for district residents.

But before moving to budget matters, board President Warren Stoker presented a plaque of appreciation from the board to the Bethlehem Police Department for its participation in the design and ongoing operation in the district's School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

Bethlehem Supervisor Sheila Fuller, police Chief Richard LaChappelle and SROs Vincent Rinaldi, Bruce Oliver and Charles Radliff all attended. Rinaldi serves at the high school, Oliver at the middle school and Radliff at the elementary schools.

Each of the resource officers

also regularly teaches DARE classes. The School Resource Officer program was initiated in January 1996.

"(It) has been so successful in helping to make our schools a safe environment, it has become a model for other districts both locally, state and nationwide," said school Superintendent Les Loomis.

Loomis also used the occasion to acknowledge Sheila Fuller for the "wonderful years (she) has given the community as town supervisor, school board member and president."

Fuller recently announced she will retire at the end of her current term.

State Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Bethlehem, and Pat Casale, R-Schaghticoke, were present to comment on the state budget. Both indicated the budget was further along than usual because very early in the process, state leadership was able to agree on revenue figures for the pending budget.

"We have to raise corporate taxes. There are 70 Toys R Us stores in the state, for example, but the way they are legally configured they pay no state taxes. We have the Indian reservation that sells things like cigarettes tax free, and we need to close those loopholes," said Breslin.

"School taxes are already too high, and in the last few years, the fat has already been cut out of school budgets. The state has an obligation not to put budget problems on the backs of children. We need to raise taxes in other areas that are broad based," said Casale.

Both legislators felt confident that some aid would be restored, and said budget approval could come as early as May 1.

Loomis then gave a Power Point presentation on the proposed budget, which highlighted the problems the district faces as a result of proposed cuts in state aid and increasing expenses, over which it has no control.

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Spring brings hope of better times to come

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

Can that really be spring, whispering its warm secret across the black-tipped snow banks melting across our driveways, running into the sewers and last summer's parched water supply?

Is that really a robin resting on the dead maple branch at the back of the yard? There's a pileated woodpecker that makes a racket in its hunt for insects on a neighbor's tree — are the creepy crawlies stirring as the sap begins to rise underneath the bark? And who would have ever thought that a rake would be a beautiful instrument to wield?

It's a pleasure to use simply because it's not a snow shovel. A snow shovel causes lower back pain and can bring on a heart

COMMENTARY:

*Mom's
the
Word*



attack. A rake is an instrument that can bring great joy — it might cause blisters and a twinge in the shoulder, but in the spring, it has the power to unleash new life. With a few cautious swipes, it can pierce and remove moldy, damp leaves and reveal the tender green shoots that will be daffodils, hyacinth, tulips and irises.

Most beautiful of all are the green-and-white striped leaves that will be our first flowers — the crocuses that will bud yellow,

purple and white, not deterred by the heavy, damp snowfalls that will be spring's farewell song to winter. We need these signs of hope and rejuvenation in the face of war.

As darker images come into our living rooms on our televisions, as newspaper pictures of war land on our front porches before we're even awake, as the cheery "You've Got Mail" yields to images of soldiers in the desert, it's reassuring to look outside and see tangible signs of life returning to the formerly frozen earth. It provides a place for us to work with our hands and to believe in the possibility of good times yet to come. It's always bizarre when life-altering events happen, that some things continue as before.

It was interesting last week to see who talked about the war and who didn't. It's been coming for so long that some of us didn't mention it when it finally started. People with opposing viewpoints mentioned it — still trying to convince the other of their opinion.

At the local luncheonette on Thursday morning, it was quieter

than usual and the waitress speculated that everyone was home watching CNN. At church, there were many prayers for our leaders, the Iraqi people, and a quick resolution to the war — and an admonition to not leave the TV on all the time.

We are blessed to be at enough of a distance here that the need to follow our routine superseded the need to follow unfolding events across the world.

"We'll probably talk about the

felt like a normal day," he said.

I wouldn't be a kid again for anything, but how easy it looks sometimes. We're all doing our jobs right if life feels mostly normal for our grade-school kids. There are still fractions to learn, words that seem to always get misspelled, no matter how many times they're on the spelling list and projects that get left to the last minute.

It's the grown-ups who get to worry, who have to assess the safety of travel, and maybe make unpopular decisions because the uncertainty and danger are too great to chance anything happening to our most precious com-

We are blessed to be at enough of a distance here that the need to follow our routine superseded the need to follow unfolding events across the world.

war at school today," Cormac said on Thursday morning, looking a little worried.

At the end of the day, his look was one of relief and some confusion, as he, like all kids, tried to figure this out.

"I thought I'd be scared, but it

modity.

Of course, we don't want to let the terrorists win by staying home, but we don't want to let them win by placing our kids in harm's way, either. It's hard to worry full time, though, and while we keep an ear out for the radio or channel surf in a free moment, life always claims our attention again.

In our family, the wars that come with adolescence and late March demand much of our attention. We are called on to explain yet again why homework is important, that school may seem boring now, but it's a critical step toward having options in the future.

We have to hold our tongues until we can figure out the question that's more a motivator than a criticism, when we're dying to roll our eyes and ask why, if school is so boring, isn't the numerical average higher? We are called upon again to explain the value of chores, a reasonable bedtime and going to church on Sunday.

Then we must face the slew of questions to come from our elder, a burgeoning atheist. If God exists, why is there war? If God exists, why is there poverty? If God exists, why won't he answer my greatest prayer and leave me alone to read science fiction all day?

Sigh. It's hard to explain God to a child who wants total control over his universe. Fortunately, there's a glimpse of hope when Cormac first refuses to do a small chore, then sighs, "Some people are in a war. I guess it's petty to say no."

Phew — a few more years till he's a teenager. So we look for good things where we can. The days that brighten earlier, darken later and warm up while they're here, are a sign of promise.

The goldfinches at the bird feeder look mottled as their dull winter feathers yield to the vivid yellow of their summer plumage, and a tiny bud of hope dares to loosen in my heart. Fallen tree branches and piles of leaves begin to appear at the curbs, giving the grass enough light and air to think about turning green again some day.

If the earth can become verdant again, we can believe that the war in Iraq can end. As I rake the leaves and cut back last year's dead flower stalks to reveal tiny green shoots, the awakening earth offers hope for better times to come.

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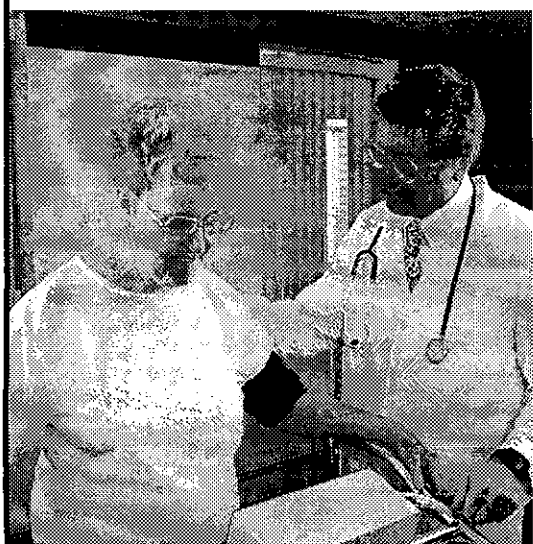
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Delmar woman celebrates 100th

By KRISTEN OLBY

A longtime Bethlehem resident celebrated her 100th birthday on March 22 surrounded by family and friends. Madalyn Schmitz has spent the last 50 years living in Bethlehem and currently resides at Good Samaritan Lutheran Nursing Home in Delmar. On Saturday, family traveled in from as far away as Ohio for Schmitz's centennial celebration.

"It's unbelievable to be truthful," said daughter Joan Stowers of her mother's 100th birthday.

Born in Albany on March 23, 1903, Schmitz moved to Bethlehem in 1953 with her husband Norbert, who worked for a local railroad company. In her late teenage years, Schmitz was employed as a telephone operator and later became a homemaker and the proud mother of two girls, Joan and Madelyn.

The secret of Schmitz' longevity doesn't involve an



Madalyn Schmitz celebrates her 100th birthday with her daughter, Joan Stowers.

exercise regime or strict diet. It's actually much simpler than that.

"She's always loved music, and she's always happy when I leave a radio going in her room. She just keeps the time tapping her foot," said Stowers.

Schmitz celebrated with a cake and party enjoyed by many of her family members, including several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nominating petitions available at offices

Nominating petitions for seats on the Bethlehem board of education are available at the office of the district clerk, 90 Adams Place, Delmar.

The terms for the seats currently held by Lynne Lenhardt and James Lytle will expire June 30.

Each term of office is for three years beginning on July 1.

Each petition must contain a minimum of 75 valid signatures and must be filed with the district clerk by 5 p.m. April 21, which is 30 days prior to the school district's budget vote on May 20.

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St. Thomas names honor roll students

St. Thomas School recently announced its second quarter honor roll.

Students on the honor roll are:

Grade six: Michael Amico, Matthew Bernstein, Andrew Butler, Christine Cary, Michael Costello, Tressa Frese, Alex Gould, Ellie Grady, Michael Jones, Michael Knight, Alivia Richter, Matthew Saltis, Thomas Sica, Scott Strohecker, Peter Tryon and Cory Williams.

Grade seven: Hannah Ackerman, Paul Amodeo, Brianna Bissell, Emily Buehler, Kate Capozzola, Bethany Deer, Anna Downey, CJ Greenfield, Raeanne Janicke, Danielle Knabe, Anthony Lasnik, Linda Maggiore, Samantha Monroe, Stephen Schubmehl, Jordan Sherman, Kevin Shreffler, Tyler Shreffler, Maggie Smith, Colleen Spath, Thomas Traver, Charlie Tryon, Daniel Wiegand and Christina Zullo.

Grade eight: Theresa Amodeo, Christine Catalano, Terry Daley, Kelly Fallon, Jaylin Frese, Alicia Gould, Martha Grady, Jackie Moreau, Kristina Sabarre, Casey Sherman, Sam Stanton, Tom Tryon, Hillary Van Dyke-Restifo and Meghann Walsh.

Church to host Lenten prayer vigil

Delmar Reformed Church invites the community to join in a walk throughout Lent with the use of a prayer Labyrinth or a weekly prayer vigil.

Prayer Vigils are held in the sanctuary on Wednesdays from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. Individual prayer guides will be available.

The Labyrinth will be available in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday noon to Thursday noon until April 17.

The pathway is painted on canvas, which is spread out on the floor with space for more than one person at a time to use it. Participants are welcome to walk the path at their own pace, stopping as often as they like along the way. It may be used for 10 minutes, half an hour or more.

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Matters of Opinion

Hail to the chief

Bethlehem Police Chief Dick LaChappelle announced this week that he will retire next month after a career in law enforcement that spanned 35 years.

LaChappelle took over as chief 12 years ago and since then has forged programs that have had and will continue to have an impact on the community. The School Resource Officer program developed under his guidance has, in fact, become a model for many other police agencies throughout the state.

Another accomplishment of note is that he has maintained professional high standards for the force, which he says is better educated and better attuned to the community's needs and problems.

He is confident that whoever replaces him will find the transition a smooth one. But that will likely be so because of what LaChappelle has done to solidify the department and move it forward. He has promoted capable people throughout his tenure and has hired new members who will continue to maintain high standards.

We agree with former town supervisor Ken Ringler and school Superintendent Les Loomis that LaChappelle has been a "visionary" chief, and we thank him for his years of dedicated service to a community he clearly loves.

Editorials

Tough act to follow

Bravo to the Dionysians, the student drama club at Clayton A. Bouton High School in Voorheesville, for storming the barricades of the Broadway mega-musical "Les Misérables." Judging by some of the photos we've seen of the production that opens this weekend, it looks like it will be a rousing spectacle.

"Les Misérables" is a stirring, inspirational staging of the Victor Hugo novel about redemption, courage and indomitability, set against the backdrop of a failed 19th-century revolution in the streets of Paris.

Its themes — putting one's life on the line for a matter of principle, and character conquering all — resonate poignantly with our own times, and its scale and sweep would be a daunting challenge for many a professional company — to say nothing of its huge, pop-operatic score.

It's courageous for a group of young thespians to tackle such a mega-show — and the Voorheesville troupe is the first theater company in the area at any level to take "Les Miz" on. We hope the community will "join in their crusade."

Shelter adapts with new programs

By MARGUERITE PEARSON

The writer is director of communications and outreach for the Animal Protective Foundation in Glenville.

The role of the Animal Protective Foundation has changed dramatically since it opened its doors in 1931. Then, its primary job was to shelter unwanted animals and provide them with opportunity for a permanent and loving home. While surrender and adoption services are still a big part of what we do, today's Animal Protective Foundation has evolved to become increasingly responsive to the community's emerging needs. Quality animal care programs, humane education, and safety are among today's areas of focus.

For incoming pets, care means a thorough check-up by our veterinary staff, including vaccinations, testing for various diseases, treatment for parasites and spay or neuter surgery. Our goal is to ensure a healthy start for the animals that we adopt out.

The Pet Pal Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic is an extension of our in-shelter services to pet owners. For Schenectady County residents with financial need, spay/neuter surgery, rabies vaccination and disease testing are provided for \$10 or \$20 per pet, depending on their level of

Point of View

qualification. Our in-shelter and Pet Pal spay/neuter programs have resulted in 10,000 surgeries since 1996. Given the exponential breeding potential of unaltered cats and dogs, we can confidently say that our commitment to spay/neuter has resulted in the prevention of hundreds of thousands of unwanted animals.

However, even as the pet overpopulation problem shows signs of improvement, other trends bring new challenges. For example, breed diversity in the shelter has narrowed dramatically. Our shelter was once filled with pure breeds and mixes of many types. Today more than three-quarters of our incoming



The Animal Protective Foundation's humane education programs teach responsibility, safety and kindness.

dogs are pit bulls, German shepherds and Rottweilers, or mixes thereof. The No. 1 breed entering the shelter is the pit bull, comprising more than one-third of the total. These breed types represent those of preference and surplus in portions of our community.

The Animal Protective Foundation, like so many shelters, is encountering more dangerous dogs in the community and in the shelter. This brings a new dimension to our role as suppliers of family pets. Sadly, these animals are often the byproducts of crime, used for status or protection, then discarded. It is not uncommon to receive a dog with scars or other indications of fighting or abuse. And while an animal's initial presentation may be quite friendly, a closer look can, and unfortunately often does, reveal a dangerous demeanor.

Over the past decade, the need for reliable methods of behavioral assessment has emerged. These are also designed to elicit helpful information that can then be shared with adopters to ensure a compatible placement. Very basic, yet important, one-on-one interactions outside of the kennel environment allow an animal's personality to show. When adopting from any humane organization, adopters should be given a high level of assurance that the animal they bring home will be safe and trustworthy, regardless of breed. A behavioral assessment helps provide that assurance.

A cornerstone of the Animal Protective Foundation's mission is the enhancement of human/animal relationships. Bonds with animals can be among the strongest and most special friendships of our lives. One of the saddest situations we can encounter is a person who has been bitten or attacked and left with a memory too painful to allow them to ever experience that bond. While we may not be able to undo that damage, we want to prevent others from experiencing the same. This is one area where humane education becomes so important.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) coined the acronym "BARK," which stands for Be Aware Responsible and Kind. These words perfectly sum up how our relationships with all animals should be. The Animal Protective Foundation has adopted the BARK Dog Bite Prevention Program as a main component of its humane education efforts. Although geared toward children, the program provides valuable information for people of all ages on how to be aware of what an animal is feeling, based on his body language.

Kindness and respect are ideals of humane education and these concepts also have a connection to the issue of safety. When children are aware of how animals are reacting to them, learn what it means to be a responsible animal caretaker, and understand how to treat animals with kindness, they are better equipped to make safer judgments.

We believe that children need to learn the lessons of the BARK program, and we have partnered with several caring businesses to provide that opportunity. In celebration of Be Kind to Animals Week, May 5 to 12, the Animal Protective Foundation will sponsor a poster and essay contest. Through the generous support of Spotlight Newspapers, State Farm Insurance agent Karen Burne and Time Warner Cable, elementary schools that participate will receive copies of the BARK program video and workbook for their school libraries.

Kids in grades one through six are invited to submit posters or essays that demonstrate what being kind to animals means to them. Prizes will be awarded in three age groups and all winners will be invited, along with their families and teachers, to a special awards reception. Contest deadline is April 29. For details log on to www.animalprotective.org or call 374-3944, ext. 113 to receive an information packet. Call for information about the Animal Protective Foundation or any of its programs.

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Matters of Opinion

Powell did not deserve to be undermined

Editor, The Spotlight:

There is obviously no convincing some people that Saddam Hussein is a great enemy of the free world, and his day of reckoning has come.

But I was offended by Paul Tick's recent letter to *The Spotlight* undermining Colin Powell's credibility with distortions and innuendo. Apparently, having a man of honor and integrity driving home the case for disarming Iraq is disarming the rational thoughts of those who prefer peace at all costs.

Otherwise, I'm sure the writer would recall that covert arms sales to Iran were approved by President Reagan and thus were legal. General Powell had no part in the illegal scheme that diverted monies from the arms sale to the Nicaraguan contras.

You can only set the record straight with facts, not wishes. By passing 1441, the United Nations put the world on notice that it was finally going to enforce Iraq's disarmament. Failure to do so now is appeasement, plain and simple.

And the "harsh" sanctions that are plaguing Iraq are still in place because Saddam cares more about his mega-maniacal ambitions than the welfare of his own people.

For those open to the truth, Secretary of State Powell made a convincing case against trusting that Saddam ever had any intention of peaceful disarming or keeping faith with the gutless international community he plays like a violin.

Terrorists and other evil-doers are watching now as the "should we or shouldn't we back up our words with actions" debate plays out on the world stage.

Civilized nations choose to live in peace, but some nations don't live by those rules. The terrorists who attacked us on Sept. 11 hate America because it stands for freedom, dignity and human rights.

We must defeat their defenders in the war on terror. If we don't stand up for our principles, they will smell our fear and shed our blood.

As Americans, we have a right to make a better world for our kids. That is why I will support this war if it is needed to secure our home front.

To discuss the cost and debate other demands on our society, like better schools and health care, in the context of a threat of this magnitude is to put the cart before the horse.

Vanya Perez
Delmar

Kudos to town highway employees

Editor, The Spotlight:

As one of the worst winters on record draws to a close (I hope), I wish to thank all the town of Bethlehem employees who worked so hard and sacrificed so much of their personal lives to clear and maintain our roadways.

Most of us are very aware of the plowing and salting, but I continue to be just as impressed, or more so, by the attention paid to clearing storm drains. This

work is done, mostly by hand, so the melt-off and coming spring rains flow away freely.

I am as irritated as anyone (more, probably) by the same negatives I hear: the late pickup (and dropping) of fall leaves; the end of the driveway piled up with very heavy snow, repeatedly; and especially the plowing up of the turf at the roadside edge of the lawn. These things were unavoidable, considering the season

we've had. Overall, tax money well spent and a job well done.

Kudos to all involved.

Also, thank you to my neighbors and other citizens throughout town for clearing the way through the snow banks to the fire hydrants. A community effort at its best, at least in my neighborhood.

Joseph J. Hart
Delmar

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The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, style and length.

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Watch out for pedestrians

Matters of Opinion

SuperValu is a big plus for community Ellers family says thanks for scholarship support

Editor, The Spotlight:

SuperValu is one word that means a lot to our community. Elaine and Jaret Nichols are the two people behind that famous logo. We are so glad that you are here.

In addition to offering the much needed services of a local grocery store, this particular store does so much more for the school and community.

On behalf of the Voorheesville

Friends of Music, we say thank you to SuperValu, Elaine and Jaret. Our current campaign to fund a grand piano for the new 800-seat Performing Arts Center at Clayton A. Bouton High School and Voorheesville Middle School has been aided by SuperValu's awarding us the Wes Jacobson Memorial Coffee Fund this year.

This is in addition to their selling the piano placards that adorned their windows recently.

These generous contributions are immensely appreciated and have been significant as we strive toward achieving our goal.

The music department has 475 students who are involved in chorus and/or band, in addition to the many students involved in general music classes.

The students, their families, our faculty, the Friends of Music, and the community members who support music in our school, we again say thank you.

Deb Baron

co-president, Voorheesville Friends of Music

Lydia Tobler

district music coordinator

Editor, The Spotlight:

Once again, we wish to express our gratitude and thanks to all who participated in, helped with and attended the Feb. 24 FLY 92/BCMS Faculty "Slamfest" basketball game to benefit the Russell Ellers Fund which was held at the high school. This year, more than \$1,700 was raised for Russell's scholarship fund.

Many individuals were involved in making this event such a success, and we wish we could thank each individually. To those of you, please accept this letter as a very special thank you.

Thanks also to FLY 92, the BCMS faculty and staff, to the referees and Ray Parafinczyk, announcer Frank Leavitt, to those who sold tickets at the door and worked at the concession stands and to Dave Ksanznak and Michael Tebbano, Kristin Burns, Linda Zwicklbauer, Genya Shimkin, Abby Stambach and the custodial staff for their cooperation and assistance.

As in previous years, the community and the school district were there on Russell's behalf to support the fund. We are so grateful for your continued generosity which allows our district's students to benefit from the proceeds of the fund.

Dawne and Lance Ellers
Glenmont



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Matters of Opinion

BC parent thinks trip cancellation timing was off

Editor, The Spotlight:

One day last week my daughter called me at work. She was distraught because her long-awaited school trip to Boston had been canceled, a mere 24 hours prior to departing.

She pleaded with me to attend the school board meeting scheduled later that evening. She said that Dr. Les Loomis (school superintendent) had counseled the Lab School students not to attend. The decision was made, and they would only be perceived

as whiny, and this would not bode well with the board or the community.

That morning, Dr. Loomis also issued a proclamation that it would not be in the teachers' best interest to attend the meeting either. This was overheard by many students and those teachers present, but this was denied by Dr. Loomis at the meeting.

Dr. Loomis only had our students' best interest at heart when he made the decision to cancel the trip. My regret is that

he didn't act sooner. There is no reasonable explanation as to why he waited so long.

The inevitability of the war has been widely reported for months. In fact daily for the last few weeks. Knowing full well, the status of world affairs, why didn't Dr. Loomis intercede a month ago. Then, the prospect of postponing or canceling would have been much more readily understood.

Our students spoke articulately, with passion and respect. They are entitled to their feelings, and I believe it was the correct forum to vent those feelings. The board, with the exception of Mr. Svenson (Richard), was critical of the students and their complaints, preferring to side with Dr. Loomis.

Those present were cognizant of the difficulty of balancing the trip against everyone's welfare. Again, we questioned the timing.

Now with no feasible explanation as to the return of the trip money, it adds to everyone's frustration, especially knowing that this very situation could have been avoided entirely if the superintendent had acted earlier.

Had there been a viable threat, if our children and educators were in harm's way, no one would question this decision. But to act on the possibility versus the actuality is premature and immature. Let's face it, we've been at the same level of risk since 9/11.

Furthermore, our major cities look like fortresses now, and I think they are probably safer than our own state capital. I noted the comment from one of the parents at the meeting, that children in Jerusalem and Belfast live with real terrorism every day. Life does and must go on.

In closing, I'd like to take the opportunity to commend the teachers of the Lab School. It is not an easy job teaching. I think it's a more a calling.

The students at the meeting made everyone proud. It's a shame teachers were not encouraged to attend. They could have witnessed themselves the young men and women who will graduate in June. I, for one, was very proud.

Anne Rose
Glenmont

We ask all to pray for peace

Editor, The Spotlight:

When did peace become an inflammatory word? Why are calls for peace considered offensive?

This weekend, someone removed a sign from my front lawn which read 'Pray for Peace.'

Just a few weeks ago a friend was arrested for wearing a T-shirt that called for "Peace on Earth." What is there about peace that provokes anger?

I understand there are many views about the legitimacy and appropriateness of the war in Iraq. But surely one thing that should unite all of us is a desire for peaceful resolution.

My husband and I have placed a new sign on the lawn. Sadly, we wired it to our fence, hoping to prevent another theft. We hope those who pass by will take a moment to pray that the war in Iraq ends with peace, and that our service men and women come home safely.

Mara Elliott
Delmar

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Breslins honor Fuller

Editor, The Spotlight:

We would like to take this opportunity to salute Sheila Fuller for her many contributions and accomplishments as supervisor of the town of Bethlehem for the past 10 years.

Sheila's personal touch and keen sense of humor have helped her to create town offices that are open and accessible to residents.

She has forged new links throughout the public and private sectors creating an environment that fosters business development and broadening our tax base, while improving the quality of life for our growing community.

She has led us through many serious situations, most notable the landslide along the Normanskill that closed a main artery into our small town, helping to secure funding for businesses suffocated by the disaster.

The breadth of Sheila's involvement in this community has been immense for nearly a quarter of a century. Her initial PTA involvement ripened into more than a decade of service on the school board including eight years as president.

We thank you, Sheila, for making the positive difference in all of our lives. We are all richer for your presence and your efforts. We wish you and Jim the best as all of our children and grandchildren reap the benefits of many years of dedicated service.

Michael G. Breslin
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Undercurrents of the Capital District

A great notion

By LYNN ROTHENBERG

A picturesque drive along Route 85 into the Helderberg Mountains, away from the traffic and turmoil, leads to the historic and quaint village of Rensselaerville. And tucked away at the end of a long hilly right-hand turn, sits the Rensselaerville Institute, perched on 100 bucolic acres.

Founded in 1963 by Everett Clinchy and Lee Elmore, the center was originally named The Institute on Man and Science, a place where scientists and humanists gathered to discuss the relationship between human behavior and technology.

Harold Williams, the warm and affable president of the Rensselaerville Institute, relaxed comfortably in his office, which is decorated with family photographs, art, and posters, as he recently recounted the institute's beginnings.

"Clinchy had been founding president

of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and was interested in dialogue as a way to bring people together," Williams said. "Everett provided the contacts and the vision."

Elmore had produced Broadway plays but was a key ingredient, because his wife was Katherine Huyck Elmore, a member of the Huyck family who owned the property, which was deeded to the institute.

Williams said the original premise of the center was to bring people together for conferences, and the philosophy then was "discussions were a good thing to do and even a way to solve problems." He said he came to the institute in 1969

because he wanted to bring a more action-oriented approach to solving problems, not just discuss them. The board was supportive of Williams's philosophy.

Community change was one of the first areas in which the institute focused its efforts. Williams explained they were guided by the tenets of Lewis Mumford, a 20th-century social philosopher and urban planner, as the institute developed an approach to work with small towns rather than large urban areas. Mumford's central underlying philosophy was local involvement with a global vision.

Williams said that during the 1980s, community development was focused on the process that included meetings and building trust: "It took a long time to do anything; you couldn't move without consensus."

That was when the institute developed what Williams called an outcome approach.

"Let's drive these community renewable

projects by result," he said. "Let's move heaven and earth to make that happen. Have as few meetings as you can, bring people aboard," Williams said, likening it to a barn-raising.

He cited the first major project in the early 70s as an example. The institute bought the town of Stump Creek, Pa., a mining company town, for \$125,000.

It had 100 homes and 100 outhouses.

"We bought the town, about 50 habitable households in all," he recalled. "We worked out a program where we would support them, put a water line in, and fix up the homes they had always rented."

Guided by Mumford's philosophy, the planners became interdependent with the people of Stump Creek. Williams described interdependence as, "You can't leave town quickly if your advice turns sour."

The townspeople and the institute were locked together in the deal, he said. "We couldn't get our money back until they fixed the place up and bought their houses from us. And they couldn't leave."

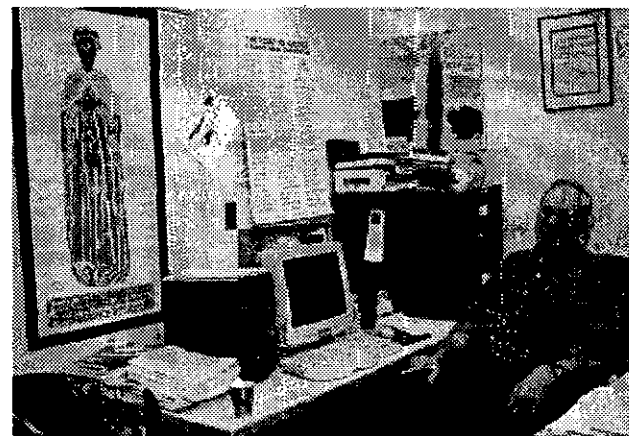
Five years later, Stump Creek had a successful outcome. The institute put in a waste water treatment facility, a water line, and fixed up the homes, all with the help of the residents, who then bought their homes back.

A program called STEP - small town environment program - allows the institute to continue self-help renewal projects. It helps residents install their own water and wastewater systems instead of hiring a contractor to do it for them.

The outcome philosophy has been successful and has garnered national and

international interest. Williams's book, *Outcome Funding*, sold 800 copies in 1991. Last year, 800 sold in one day. He said interest in funding for outcomes has been adopted by governments and foundations more than ever.

That same kinetic philosophy is applied to the institute's School Turnaround program, which offers intervention in schools facing failure or decline.

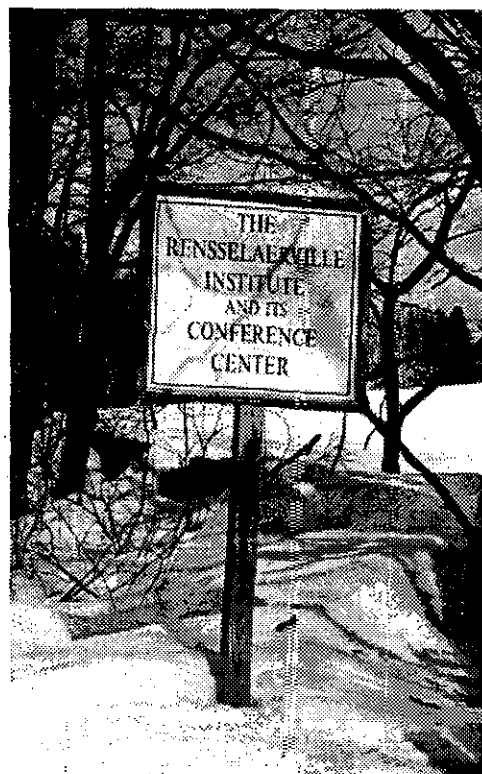


Hal Williams, president of the Institute in his office

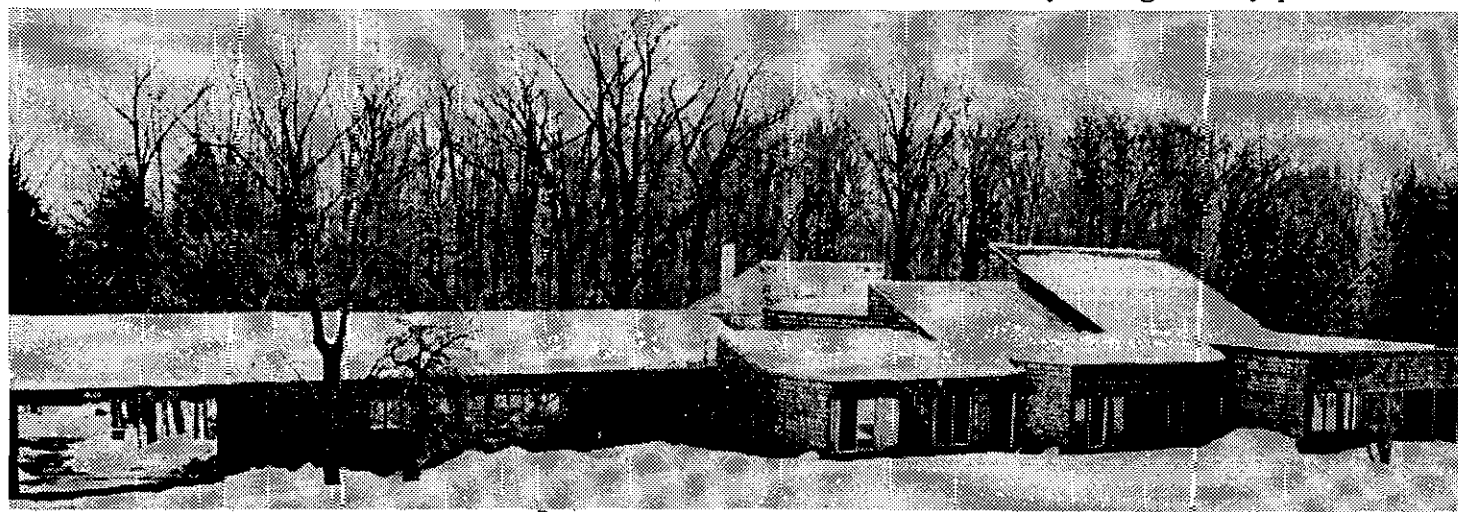
Describing the institute as "mildly contrarian," Williams contrasts its philosophy and modus operandi to mainstream.

"The mainstream says that community development is a process, and we say, 'No, it's a set of results for people in need.' They say, 'Gentle approaches are the right way to help education.' We say, 'That's crap. Kids are in first grade once. We need to hit failing schools hard and turn them around in short order. By that strong intervention approach you can save a lot of kids who can't wait five years.'"

Asked if he enjoys his work with the institute, Williams enthusiastically and unequivocally responded, "Oh yes, absolutely. It's wonderful. The institute has always managed to stay quite fresh."



A sign for the Institute welcomes visitors at the beginning of the road to the center above. The conference center, right, houses the offices and is rented by various groups during the year.



Sports

Finalists



The St. Thomas CYO Biddy boys basketball team of Delmar reached the finals of the regional tournament before losing to Schenectady County champion St. Clement's. The team is front row, from left: Andrew Butler, Denis Hurley, Brett Bukowski, Chris Maggione, Matt Bernstein, Paolo Audino and Gene O'Hanlon; and back row: coach Bob Marsh, Peter Tryon, Christian Tiberia, Mike Jones, head coach Bob Jones, Eric Stanton, Robert Nolan and coach Bob Nolan.

Dolphins lead the way at championship meet

The Delmar Dolphin Swim Team had several winners at the Developmental Championships March 1 and 2 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The eight-and-under girls were led by Tara O'Donnell, who took first place in the 25-yard butterfly and second in the 25 breaststroke, 25 freestyle and 25 backstroke. Taryn Lesser was first in the 50 back, and Katie Betts placed seventh in the 50 free and eighth in the 50 back.

The eight-and-under boys were led by Matthew Futia, who took first in the 25 breast and 50 back, second in the 25 free and 100 free, fourth in the 25 back and sixth in the 25 fly. Zachary Jenkins finished fourth in the 25 breast and seventh in the 25 back.

Evan Ginsburg, Daniel Robeson, Jacqueline Libby, Dawn Miranda, Samantha Ebersold, Emily Ginsburg, Alyssa Giordano and Katie Nickles also competed in the eight-and-under division for the Dolphins.

In the 9-10 girls division, Melanie Melewski placed second in the 50 free, third in the 100 back and 200 individual medley, fourth in the 100 IM, fifth in the 50 fly and sixth in the 100 free. Lilly Powell was sixth in the 200 IM, and Audrey Keathly

finished seventh in the 50 free and eighth in the 50 back.

Luke Peleggi finished third in the 100 free and fourth in the 50 back in the 9-10 boys division. Matthew Weber was second in the 100 back and seventh in the 100 free, while Eric Segerstrom finished seventh in the 50 back.

The 9-10 age division also saw Ryan Cheu, Tori Grant, Nicole Betts, Jolie Siegel, Lianna Nunziato, Gina DiNapoli and Kristen Pierce swim personal best times.

In the 11-12 girls group, Marian Kennedy took second place in the 50 back, fourth in the 50 fly and fifth in the 100 free. Ellie Grady was sixth in the 50 free and seventh in the 100 fly. Jenna Melewski finished fifth in the 50 free and eighth in the 50 back, 100 free and 100 back.

In the 11-12 boys division, Kevin Burns won the 100 fly and 100 breast. Ryan Long finished first in the 50 breast and 50 free, second in the 100 back and 100 breast and seventh in the 50 back.

Jacob Van Etten was first in the 100 IM, third in the 50 free, fifth in the 50 fly and eighth in the 50 breast. Alex Walsh placed second in the 50 breast and seventh in the 100 free, and Elias Quinn was sixth in the 50 free.



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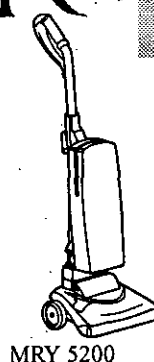
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Sam Stouffer, Sam Stern, Elizabeth Sciaolino, Ariel Ricard, Stephanie Clement, Marie Kalet and Robin Tobin also competed in the 11-12 age group for the Dolphins.

Hana Segerstrom finished second in the 13-14 girls 200 free, while Rachel Garbo finished third in the 100 free, sixth in the 100 fly and 200 free and eighth in the 200 fly. Sarah Story was third in the 100 back, and Martha Grady was sixth in the 100 breast. Emily Keneston posted personal bests in her events.

Paul Cafiero led the 13-14 boys with a first-place finish in the 100 breast, a second-place finish in the 200 breast, a fourth-place finish in the 100 back and a fifth-place finish in the 200 IM.

The 15-and-over age group was

led by Ann DeLucco, who was first in the 100 back, third in the 100 fly, fifth in the 500 free, sixth in the 200 IM and eighth in the 50 free.

Michelle Sargent placed sixth in the 100 back and seventh in the 200 IM. Lauren Grady also competed in this age group for the Dolphins.

Dolphins offer swim clinic

The Dolphins are offering a two-week clinic March 31 through April 10.

The program will be held Mondays through Thursdays and focuses on the skills necessary to be a competitive swimmer. The clinic is open to children ages 7-12 who can swim a strong 25-yard crawl stroke.

The sessions will be held at Bethlehem Central High School, Bethlehem Central Middle School and Albany Academy. The registration fee is \$40.

For information, call Doug Gross at 664-0801 or e-mail dolfinscoach@juno.com.

US Lacrosse slates travel team tryouts

The Adirondack chapter of US Lacrosse is holding tryouts for its under-13, under-15 and under-17 boys and girls travel teams over multiple days in April and May.

The under-13 and under-15 teams will compete from May until mid-August. The under-17 teams begin play in June.

For information, call Rich Gross at 434-4456.

Digester, Keyes earn honors

Two Delmar residents were among 52 student athletes at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute named to the Upstate Collegiate Athletic Association Winter All-Academic team.

Matt Digester, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, was selected in men's swimming and diving, while Jennifer Keyes, a sophomore communications major, was chosen in women's swimming and diving.

RPI had the most All-Academic team selections of any UCAA school. St. Lawrence and Vassar tied for second with 38, followed by Hamilton (22), University of Rochester (18), Clarkson (15), Union College (15), Skidmore College (8) and Hobart/William Smith (5).

Student-athletes must have at least sophomore standings with a minimum grade point average of 3.20. Winter sports include men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming and men's and women's indoor track.

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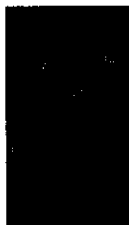
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 April 8 — at Lansingburgh
 April 9 — Albany Academy
 April 11 — Voorheesville
 April 14 — at Schalmont
 April 16 — Mechanicville
 April 17 — Cohoes
 April 21 — at Cobleskill
 April 26 — at Johnstown
 April 30 — Lansingburgh
 May 2 — Watervliet
 May 5 — at Albany Academy
 May 7 — at Voorheesville
 May 9 — Schalmont
 May 12 — at Mechanicville

May 14 — at Cohoes
 May 16 — Cobleskill, 4:15 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS

April 7 — at Albany Academy
 April 9 — at Cohoes
 April 11 — at Watervliet
 April 15 — Waterford
 April 17 — at Voorheesville
 April 29 — Schalmont
 May 1 — Cobleskill

BOYS TRACK

April 2 — Cohoes
 April 8 — at Albany Academy
 April 10 — Waterford, Voorheesville and Cobleskill
 April 12 — CBA Invitational
 April 15 — Schalmont

April 19 — Albany Academy Invitational

April 22 — Colonial Council Relays at Cohoes

April 29 — Watervliet and Mechanicville

May 3 — Colonie Relays

May 6 — Albany County Meet at Guilderland

May 13 — Colonial Council Championships

May 19 — RCS Invitational

GIRLS TRACK

April 2 — Cohoes

April 8 — at Albany Academy

April 10 — Waterford, Voorheesville and Cobleskill

April 12 — CBA Invitational

April 15 — Schalmont

April 19 — Albany Academy Invitational

April 22 — Colonial Council Relays at Cohoes

April 29 — Burnt Hills Invitational

May 1 — Watervliet and Mechanicville

May 3 — Colonie Relays

May 6 — Albany County Meet at Guilderland

May 13 — Colonial Council Championships

May 19 — RCS Invitational

SOFTBALL

April 2 — at Voorheesville

April 7 — Mechanicville

April 9 — at Lansingburgh

April 11 — at Holy Names

April 12 — at Herkimer

April 14 — at Schalmont

April 16 — Watervliet

April 17 — Cobleskill

April 25 — at Albany

April 28 — at Cohoes

April 30 — Voorheesville

May 3 — at Mechanicville

May 5 — Lansingburgh

May 7 — Holy Names

May 9 — Schalmont

May 12 — at Watervliet

May 14 — at Cobleskill

May 15 — Cohoes

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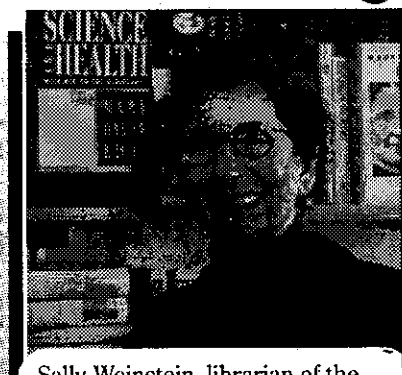
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Share your thoughts on renewal project

A second public hearing to discuss the library's proposed facilities renewal project, and upcoming referendum was held at the library on Monday, March 24.

The project grew out of a deferred maintenance report generated by the library board that addressed concerns for this 30-year-old facility in the areas of capital repairs and improvements, Americans With Disabilities Act mandates, safety and technology.

A five-year bond for \$1,495,285, added to \$100,000 from the library's capital account, would pay for the project.

The bond will be up for a vote on May 20 along with the



proposed library budget.

Updated information about the project and a comments form are available at the reference desk and on the library's Web site, www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org. Your voice is important; please share your thoughts.

Upcoming events

Two events co-sponsored by Bethlehem Senior Projects are coming up on our adult program calendar.

This Friday, March 28, at 2

p.m., Ann Chapman will talk about enhancing health and well-being in "Increasing Health and Joy." Chapman is a state certified social worker and retired Siena college professor with over 20 years experience as a health enhancement educator and counselor.

Next Friday, April 4, at 2 p.m., "First Ladies of our Second Century" examines the lives of presidents' wives from Ida McKinley through Hillary Clinton who have ties to New York state.

Slides, prints and artifacts enhance the presentation, brought to us by the Scotia-Glenville Traveling Museum.

Louise Grieco

S'lands art sale slated

The fourth annual Slingerlands Community Art Display and Sale will feature paintings from well-known area artists.

Set for Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13, at Slingerlands United Community Methodist Church, 1499 New Scotland Road, paintings from the Bethlehem Art Association and the Village Artists will be available for sale.

A portion of the sales will be a donation to the church.

Cakes, cookies, breads and other baked goods, homemade by church members, will also be for sale.

Artists whose work will be on display include Jean Eaton of Voorheesville, who focuses on oil

paintings of local birds; Ray Decker of Slingerlands, who concentrates on floral compositions in both oil and watercolor; and Bob Lynk of Delmar, who paints animals and scenic vistas.

Also featured will be Joan Mullen of Delmar, Carol Schlageter of Elsmere and Barbara Wooster of Delmar.

Art display hours are 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Sunday sale hours follow 10 a.m. church services, to which the public is invited.

Admission is free.

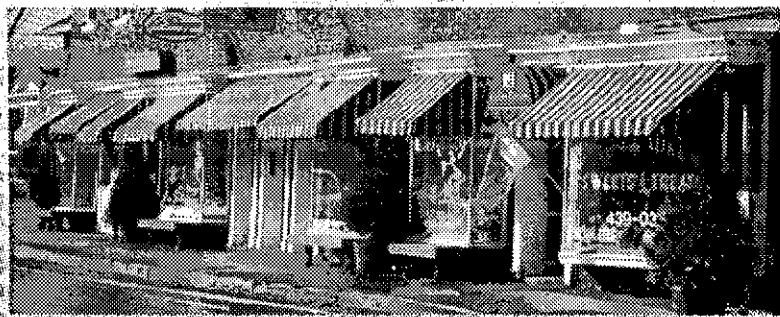
For information, call 439-6472 or the church office at 439-1766.

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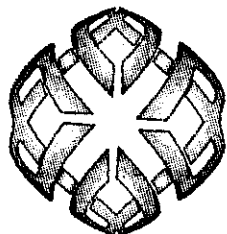
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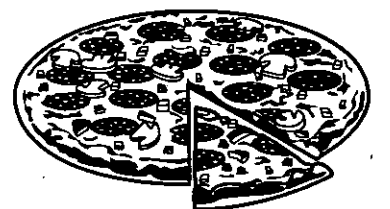
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Albany Pro Musica to perform spring concert

Entertainment and education are both on tap during a busy week at the library.

The Harbinger of Spring classical music concert featuring Albany Pro Musica will be

Voorheesville Public Library



performed on Sunday, March 30, at 2 p.m.

Come early and learn about the Library Friends at a short Friends of the Library annual meeting, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and music lovers of all ages are

welcome.

Storyteller Lois Foight Hodges will enchant the whole family on Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m. when the library participates in the Riverway Storytelling Festival.

Riverway is a weekend-long celebration of storytelling taking place at schools, libraries and performing arts venues throughout the Capital District.

It is time for readers in grades four to six to sign up for the April 8 book discussion of *Holes* by Louis Sachar. This National Book Award Winner and 1999 Newbery Medal book is about to become a major motion picture.

Stanley Yelnats (a palindrome)

has landed at Camp Green Lake (it isn't a camp and there is no lake) through the usual Yelnats family bad luck, and Stanley is stuck digging holes with an odd assortment of society's underdogs.

Copies of the book will be available up at the reference desk. Participation by parents is optional.

Hey, teens, how about joining Joyce Laiosa to brainstorm activities for the summer, discuss ideas for library programs and find opportunities for these ideas that will engage you and your friends?

Teen advisory boards all over

the country are helping librarians plan activities, and we would like to have one here at the library. The first meeting will be on Friday, April 11, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Anyone in grade six and higher is welcome to be a part of this group.

Also happening this week:

A program for parents of high schoolers called "Approaching the College Search: A Guide for Parents" will be presented beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 31, under the direction of Sally M. Ten Eyck, CEP.

Call the reference desk to sign up at 765-2791.

The Every Other Thursday Night Poets meet on March 27 at 7 p.m. No sign-up is necessary.

Adult book discussion meets on Wednesday, April 2, at 7 p.m.

Just a reminder that petitions are available for an upcoming seat on the library board of trustees. For information, call the library or visit the Web site at www.voorheesvillelibrary.org.

Barbara Vink

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Events Calendar

Thursday, March 27, 7:45 a.m.
Business For Breakfast
Topic — How the Town of Bethlehem IDA stimulates economic development.
Brian Hannafin, Economic Development Coordinator

Wednesday, April 30, 7:45 a.m.
Business For Breakfast
Topic — the State of the School System
Les Loomis, Bethlehem Central School Superintendent

Thursday, April 10, 6:00 p.m.
Annual Award Dinner

Saturday, May 3, 6-11 p.m.
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Vol. 3, No. 1
Spring 2003

Empire Education



A Guide to Higher Education and Learning

Why aren't more
women interested
in technology?

see page 3

What are they worth?

***State struggles with
education spending***

**Also: Charter Schools - Good or bad?
Students struggle through Challenger loss
State ups teacher recruiting**

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Tightening belts put schools at risk: Gov. George Pataki's proposed \$1.2 million education funding cut has teachers, school administrators, and education organizations across the state crying foul. But Pataki maintains the state can't continue to fund education as it has in the past. What does this mean for school districts and students in New York? See a special focus on the proposed budget cuts on pages 12 and 13.

From the editor

The time for tough choices

The term crossroads is overused as it relates to moments of change, but few would dispute that New York, and its public education system in particular, is at a crossroads.

For the better part of a decade, New York has spent freely on education. Hundreds of schools have been built or rehabilitated. New programs, like universal pre-kindergarten, have provided additional educational opportunities. During this period of free spending, the state also has asked more of its schools. With state Education Department Commissioner Richard Mills leading the way, the state eliminated local diplomas and increased the emphasis on the Regents testing system. Mandates in academic standards, school safety and special education have reduced local districts' financial flexibility even during this period of unprecedented spending.

Now, with these mandates in place, districts are wondering how they will make ends meet when the gravy train comes screeching to a halt next fall. With the release of Gov. George Pataki's executive budget in January, the message is clear: New York will not continue to fund public education as it has in the past.

While Sept. 11 has been overused as a scapegoat for this crisis, there is little doubt that that catastrophe, coupled with recession and increases in other necessary expenses, has created the state's most dismal financial outlook since the depression. The governor is correct when he says the

time has come to tighten our belts, reduce spending and alter the way our state does business. The question is how.

Education in New York and other states is founded on the premise of local control. School boards in every district across the state are charged with choosing what is taught, how it is taught and when it is taught. But particularly in the last five years, that local control has been challenged, and in many cases eliminated, by increasing state mandates. In its attempts to have every student meet these state standards, the state has asked every district to do more. Now it is asking districts to do more with less.

If the state is going to clip its funding to public education, that reduction must be married to more flexibility in the way school districts spend their money.

By any measure, New York spends a lot on public education. At more than \$11,400 per student, New York spends more per pupil on education than any state in the nation. But gouging out a huge chunk of that support, while asking districts to continually do more, is not fair to students, districts or local taxpayers.

So if it is a time for tough choices, let's make them. But in doing so, let's put some control for the education of our children back in the hands of the people most qualified for the task - the administrators, school board members and teachers of our local school districts.

SUNY tuition should be increased

For the past seven years, tuitions at SUNY four-year and two-year colleges and universities have remained level despite the ever-increasing costs of higher education, leading to record enrollments. The burden for this system is placed squarely on the shoulders of the state's taxpayers, many of whom send their children to the independent colleges and universities with whom the SUNY system competes.

Our SUNY system is strong - stronger than it has ever been before. But our state is no longer in a financial position to artificially support higher ed as it has in the past.

Despite being dramatically underpriced, tuition at SUNY schools has not been increased because it would be politically unpopular. SUNY tuitions, at \$3,400 per year at four-year schools and \$2,500 at two-year colleges, are the third lowest of the 11 state university systems in the Northeast, even though the SUNY system has grown into one of the greatest academic resources in the world.

New York should increase tuition at SUNY schools and scale tuition costs so the system remains affordable to those who need the most aid. Artificially supporting an underpriced system is no longer an option.

David Tyler, Editor
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ProLiteracy Worldwide,
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organization, calls
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See page 14

Also:
Teachers seek national
accreditationpage 16
Charter Schools:
Pro and Conpage 9

Gender gap leaves women out of sciences

Women make up just 20 percent of students in college computer courses

by Dorothy Long

If computer science is the wave of the future, women in this country could be in danger of being left behind.

Programs are in place to lessen the gender gap and attract women to computer science programs, but efforts must begin early and take on some of society's most cherished gender stereotypes.

In college computer science programs, women make up just 20 percent of students, and the number goes down at schools with advanced doctoral programs in computer science.

"It is one of the toughest places for women," said R.J. Burt, associate director for minority affairs at Cornell University. "We have some remarkable women students, but they have to have a tough skin."

While that may sound melodramatic and the numbers look extreme, professor Shobha Bhatia of Syracuse University's department of civil and environmental engineering said it fits in with women's enrollment and experiences in all the sciences.

Girls are discouraged from careers in science in subtle and not-so-subtle ways, she said. Quoting Dr. Rita Colwell, she said there is a "valley of death in education" that girls enter as they move into a middle-school environment.

Girls have the self-esteem and skill to pursue the sciences in elementary school, but when they reach middle school, things



Wells College students don't struggle against gender bias in the classroom.

begin to change. Girls' talents and abilities are suddenly perceived differently than those of their male counterparts, Bhatia said. Girls are expected to seek and give help to others rather than pursue solutions to abstract problems. And girls' self confidence in academic as well as social areas is beginning to erode at the middle school age.

"Parents believe boys are most skilled at math and science. They allow their girls to drop out of science courses that they encourage sons to pursue," Bhatia said.

Teachers, too, can inadvertently influ-

ence their female students. "They more frequently call on boys and encourage boys to participate in demonstrations and girls get the message they are not good enough," Bhatia said.

Studies show a direct relationship between self-confidence and interest, she said. So by high school, young women show even less interest in the sciences.

Dan Jenkins, associate director of undergraduate programs and alumni relations in the department of computer science at Cornell University, said the field of computer science is definitely lopsided when it comes to gender. The issues are similar to all math and pure science fields, but the impact seems to be even greater with computers, he said.

There are a lot of theories why, he said.

"Males are exposed earlier, they play more games and have a natural feeling of dominance in equipment. There is more interest at a younger age. Teachers and parents tend to encourage males more just because people identify computing with men," Jenkins said.

He traces the beginning of the gap back even farther than middle school.

"Competitiveness plays a role," he said. "Even in kindergarten or preschool, if there are one or two computers in the room boys will try to dominate them." Girls, he said, will find something else to do.

Women seem to be more interested in human issues, Jenkins said. Computing

seems more abstract to them. "Men are willing just to solve a problem just to get the answer. Women are more interested in helping people."

And the self-confidence and image issues Bhatia discussed are evident with women in college computer science classes.

"Many women don't understand what the field is. They may associate it just with machines and programming," Jenkins said. "Many are intimidated. Studies show women — the average students — tend to think they are doing worse than they are. Men tend to think they are doing better or just don't care about their placement in the class."

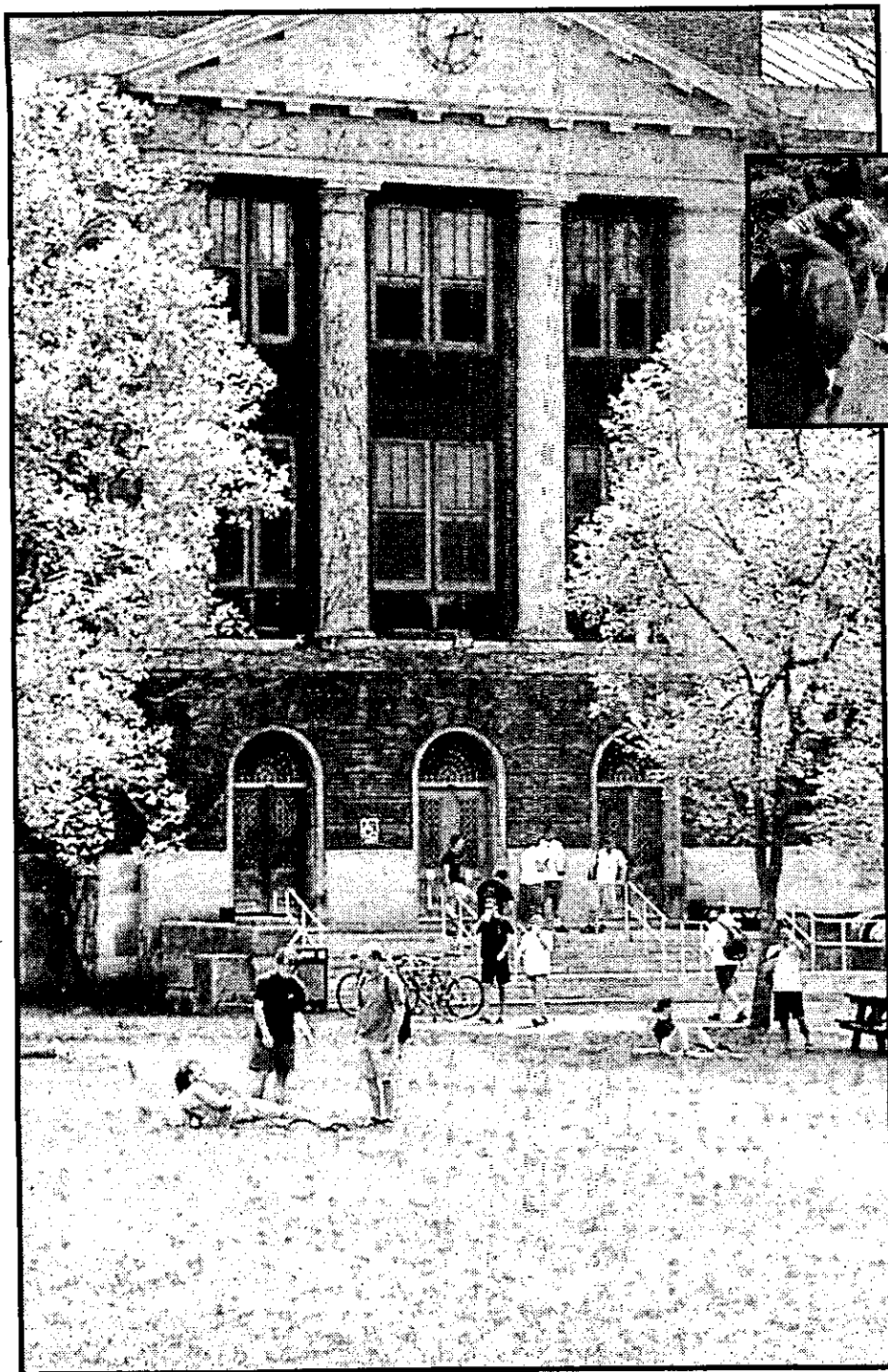
When the male competitiveness is taken out of the equation, women show more interest, as shown by the popularity of computer science at Wells College, with its all-female student body.

Niamh O'Leary, an associate professor of environmental studies at Wells College, said women students are easily able to combine the visual artistic quality of map making with quantitative and computer skills in a course she teaches in global information systems.

The long-standing gender gap in computer sciences makes it essential for women to enter the workplace with computer skills and to be comfortable and confident with computers, she said.

"I see nothing but eagerness for women to pursue courses and careers in

continued on page 19



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SUNY ESF charged with homeland security task

The Reservoir Ranger will protect water supplies from bioterrorism

by Kelly Mantoan

The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry was recently awarded \$300,000 in matching funds from Gov. George Pataki to develop a new technology to safeguard public water supplies from bioterrorism or contamination.

SUNY ESF has partnered with Central New York innovators O'Brien & Gere Engineers, Inc. and Illumination Technologies, Inc. to form Source Sentinel LLC. The complete Source

"ESF is always working on applied problems. There is very little we work on that there isn't an end use in site. In this case, the end use is more visible. I'm happy to say [my developments] are going to help."

Dr. Gregg Boyer,
SUNY ESF professor

Sentinel Security system is designed to detect waterborne toxins or pathological agents, inform and alarm when a potential hazard has entered the water and help health, government and scientific officials respond to the attack. SUNY ESF is developing the technologies to detect while other partners are working on the alarm and response technologies.

SUNY ESF professor Dr. Gregg Boyer has worked on detecting waterborne toxins, like red tides, since 1972. His work is only part of SUNY ESF's Center for Algal Toxin Research, one of only two national facilities possessing analysis capabilities for a large number of algal toxins.

"I've been developing rapid analytical technology to detect agents in food and water so it was not a far switch for me to join this partnership," Boyer said.

Boyer's work is also used to help fisherman check the shellfish they catch for bacteria. However, with the country's growing fears of a bioterrorism attack, Boyer's work has moved into the public arena.

"ESF is always working on applied problems," Boyer said. "There is very little we work on that there isn't an end use in site. In this case, the end use is more visible. I'm happy to say [my developments] are going to help."

Source Sentinel's detection phase relies on a robotic monitoring buoy, the

Reservoir Ranger 1000. The buoy can detect a foreign agent in less than five minutes from introduction with a sensitivity of five parts per billion. It senses water pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, chemical toxins, biological agents, biotoxins and radio nuclides.

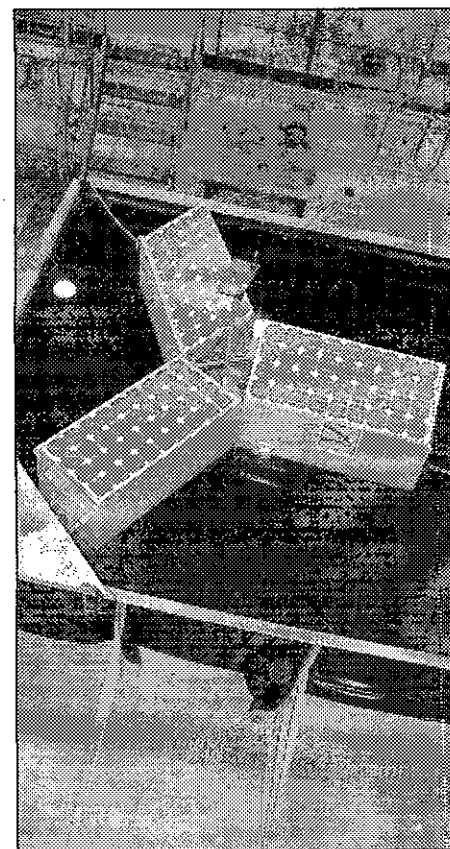
It was SUNY ESF President Cornelius Murphy that came up with the idea to form the partnership and apply the college's technology to the war on terror after Sept. 11.

"I got the right people talking to one another and created a limited liability corporation that will take their technology and turn it into a product we can distribute," Murphy said. "Governor Pataki's award clears the way for major technological innovation in the field of anti-chemical and biological agent detection for protection of municipal water supplies."

Murphy said there are more than 4,000 unprotected water reservoirs and 15,000 water treatment facilities in the United States alone where putting up a fence or stationing guards 24 hours a day isn't a possibility.

"Smart management systems are the way to go," he said.

The funding is provided through the state's Security Through Advanced Research and Technology (START) program. The START program helps colleges and universities secure federal and other high-technology research funding for the growing national homeland secu-



SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry is a major player in the effort to protect our drinking water from bioterrorism.

city industry. The program provides matching grants to leverage resources from federal or private sources. The recent award is in addition to the approximately \$725,000 secured by Rep. James Walsh for the new initiative.

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Terror war hits classrooms

Teachers don't shy away from world conflicts

by Daniel Lovell

When Gerry Martin was a schoolboy, the threat of nuclear war cast a shadow over every school day. Martin, like millions of other children his age, learned to "duck and cover," and practiced for the day when the world's first intercontinental nuclear missiles were fired.

Today, Martin teaches 11th grade American history at Auburn High School in Upstate New York, and his students are dealing with another threat: the possibility of terrorist attacks on American soil. Through the government and the media, they are bombarded with warnings, and the federal Office of Homeland Security's terror alert system constantly reports how afraid Americans should be.

Martin doesn't teach his students to dive under desks. He tries to avoid encouraging the fear so many students have felt since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. Students of the 21st century have to worry about meeting an all-Regents curriculum.

"I try to put them in the context of my period growing up, which was the nuclear age," Martin said. "I tell them to keep focused on their schoolwork. You have curriculum to cover."

That curriculum has grown to include the Sept. 11 attacks and the military conflict with Iraq. According to a poll of more than 1,000 teachers conducted by New York State United Teachers, history teachers statewide adapted their lesson plans

immediately following Sept. 11, 2001. Martin uses current events as discussion topics, and sees his classroom as a safe haven where students can express their opinions without fear of propaganda from authority figures or ridicule from their peers for their personal views.

"I try to have it discussed in an objective manner," he said. "I won't take a position. I want kids to walk into the classroom and be able to make their own positions."

A different era

Though Homeland Security constantly warns of pending terrorist threats, today's climate - and the way students are reacting - is markedly different from the Cold War era. Martin and his classmates faced a general fear - a near certainty that nuclear holocaust was weeks, days or hours away.

"I remember thinking I wanted it to happen around Thanksgiving, so we'd be together as a family when the dark day came," Martin said.

In some ways, today's threats can be more frightening, Martin said, because conflicts aren't between nations. There's no leader to compromise with, and no land mass to target. "You thought before when it was between nations that it was more manageable," he said.

Martin's students are learning to take positions on important issues. Many of them aren't afraid of pending conflict (they say their small city of Auburn isn't a likely terrorist target) and they feel safe in tak-

ing positions that sometimes run contrary to popular opinion.

Cara Shambo, a 16-year-old junior, said she sees the constant terror warnings as the government's way of gaining support for a war against Iraq. She doesn't ignore the warnings altogether, though.

"In the back of your mind at least you get a little afraid," she said. "It's only human." She's against the war with Iraq, and thinks that's a growing sentiment among young people.

Forever changed

NYSUT President Thomas Hobart said the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks have changed what's taught in New York's classrooms forever. The date itself will be added to history books as one of the most important in American history, much like the bombing of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

But there's more to it. Teachers have been careful to step up efforts to teach students about the dangers of discrimination.

"It's clear now that teachers used their skills to help children understand the dangers of terrorism and to see that all stereotyping - and especially the stereotyping of all Muslims as terrorists - is wrong and against what America stands for."

Since the terror attacks, 81 percent of New York social studies teachers helped students to reflect on the heroism of Americans that day. Some 63 percent held discussions about the Middle East and



Brittney Jerred

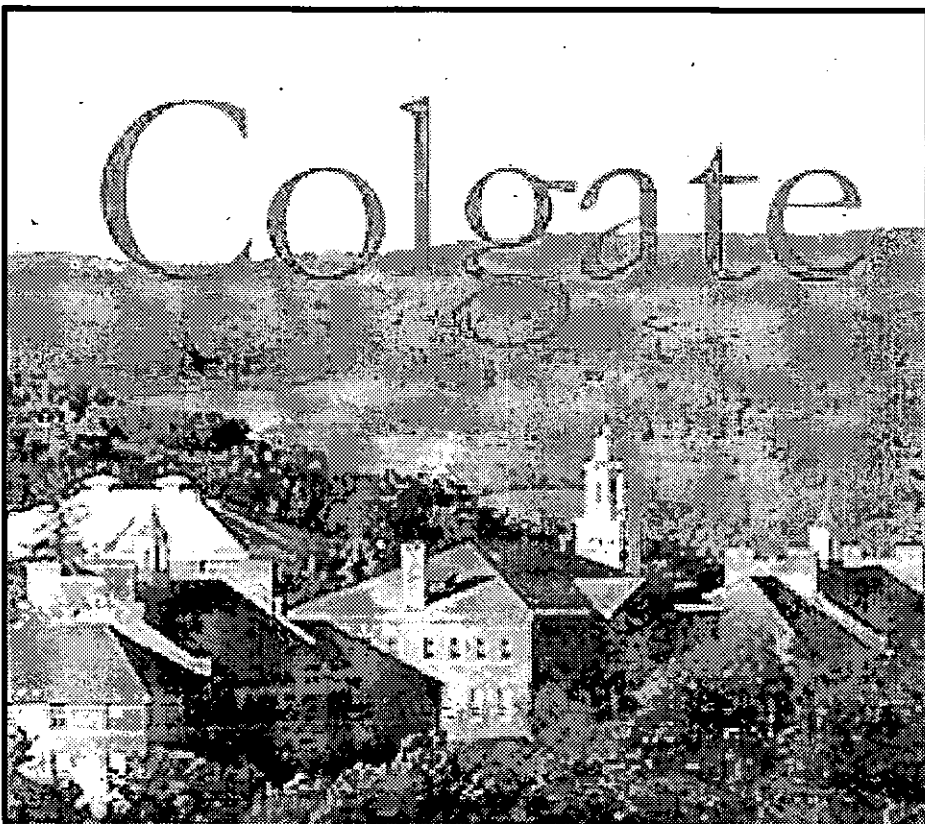
Gerry Martin engages students in discussions about current events, including the war on terror.

Afghanistan and 65 percent engaged students in discussions about the dangers of stereotyping, the NYSUT poll found.

According to the poll, 78 percent of teachers found their students were recovering from the shock of the attacks, but were still stressed. That's not surprising, considering the number of security measures taken in schools across the country. Many have police officers, metal detectors and other measures to ensure students' safety.

And students don't necessarily see the importance of such measures. Jake Buschman, a 16-year-old student, said he doesn't worry about future violence hitting his hometown.

"I don't think it's that big of a deal because I heard Rudy Giuliani say there's more of a chance we'd die in our sleep than die in a terrorist attack," he said.



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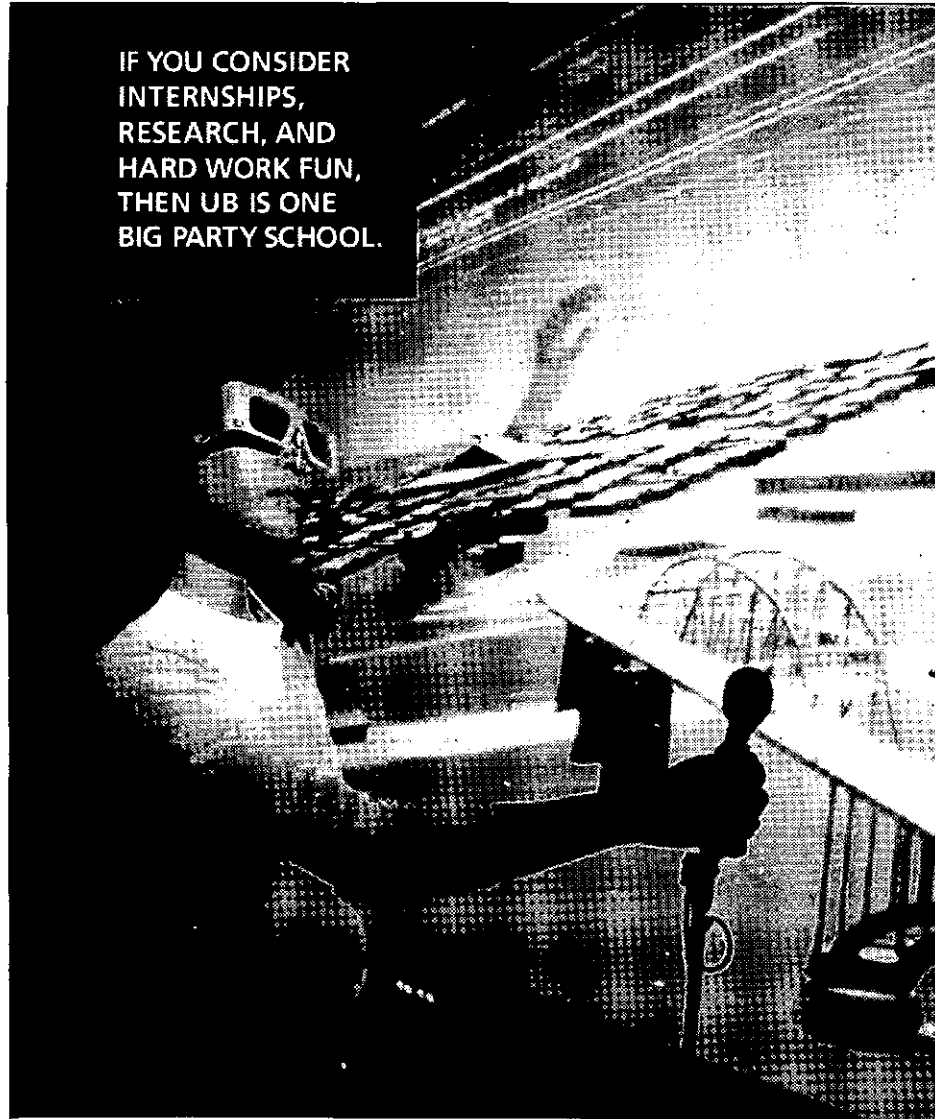
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IGNITING IDEAS™

Project teaches science, loss and determination

by Brittney Jerred

After three years, the insect delivery was finally made: On Jan. 16, science teachers and students at Fowler High School watched Columbia's launch in Florida, knowing their ant project was with astronauts they were proud to know. They thought it was just a matter of weeks before they'd know how ants tunneled in space.

Instead, a group of three instructors and four students became part of a tragedy that shook America's roots and were sucked into a frenzied whirlwind of loss, sadness and swarms of press.

But they emerged more determined about their work.

On Feb. 1, space shuttle Columbia exploded. Seven astronauts perished. With the shuttle's tragic descent, 80 science projects were also lost. Among them was a weightless ant project students at Fowler High School in Syracuse had chosen to take part in. It was the kind of project no



From left are Sean O'Keefe, Fowler High School students Brad Miller, Rachel Poppe, Abby Golash, Fowler teachers Erika Gannon, Shelia Gerber, Charlotte Archabald and Congressman Jim Walsh.

one knew would take so long to finish nor end so sadly. But the experience also

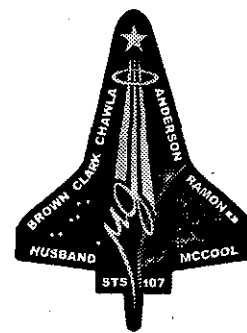
taught them a lesson they didn't expect and it has inspired them not to let their

friends to die in vain.

Spacehab, a company that makes space parts and shuttles, selected Fowler High School as America's student representatives to study how ants behave without gravity.

Schools in five other countries, including Japan, China and Australia, launched spiders, silkworms, fish and bees into orbit. During the expedition, NASA's astronauts e-mailed footage of ants tunneling through agarose, a nutrient-enriched gel, while sandwiched between two panes of Plexiglas.

During their research, students consulted Syracuse University, talked extensively with Spacehab scientists and participated in conference calls with top-level scientists. They discovered that harvester ants - the red ones that bite - had the greatest potential to survive the trip. They traveled to Colorado to place the ants in a space simulator that tested and proved their the-



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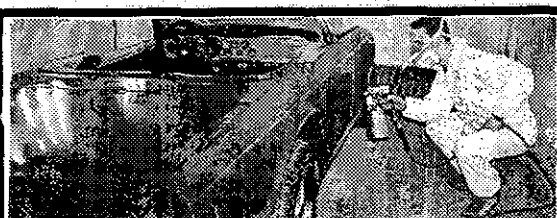


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ory last April.

"These kids learned patience and determination. They made presentations in front of highly technical people. They worked with scientists and students from five different countries," said Charlotte Archabald, a chemistry teacher at Fowler who oversaw the extracurricular project.

The shuttle blastoff was delayed for nearly two years. The core group of students who endured the 19 delays watched other classmates graduate or quit the project. They learned to be patient.

They also learned, again, that tragedy is a part of life.

"You don't expect anything like this to happen. It's really hard to accept. If anything, we feel more thankful for what we have and who we have," Archabald said.

Liban Mohamed, 15, didn't expect to be so starkly reminded of his father's death the day Columbia was supposed to land. His father was killed in Somalia during the country's civil war when Liban was 9.

"Tragedy is a part of life and you have to accept it," Mohamed said. He forged his way into the project last year. The tragedy reminded him why he came to America and the opportunities his family had in mind for him when they came here two years ago.

Though he didn't expect to be on CNN or the Today Show talking about how this event shaped him, he's thankful to be a part of it. He knows his father would be proud.

"These students have learned how to be very good speakers with adults," said Archabald. The Monday after the shuttle crashed, students talked with 20 reporters for six hours. They became an example for other kids and it brought the disaster clos-

er to home.

"We felt very much a part of the mission I think because we were made to be," Archabald said. "It definitely makes you want to keep going. The astronauts were totally dedicated. They went in knowing that something could happen. It's a dangerous exploration."

Memorial planned

The Columbia tragedy also sealed Fowler's place with NASA. Three technology students designed a memorial for Columbia's astronauts. More than 15 representatives of NASA attended a press conference March 7 at Fowler announcing the memorial that will feature seven trees for seven astronauts.

Congressman Jim Walsh paired Fowler with Spacehab in 2000. Walsh thought Fowler was a good candidate because the school had hosted two NASA astronauts in the past. He knew Spacehab needed an American representative.

"One problem our country has is there are not enough young people coming into science and engineering," Walsh said. With NASA's aging workforce, jobs are opening up. NASA's education outreach has been around as long as NASA. Speakers visit schools to help introduce kids to NASA's long list of scientific accomplishments and ongoing research. Space travel is risky business, but in Walsh's mind, the benefits outweigh the risks, he says.

Carl Korn, spokesman for New York State United Teachers, which represents 900 teacher unions throughout the state, said these types of projects are excellent teaching tools. The high-profile nature of this project in particular gets both teachers



Rachel Poppe inserts ants into the container that she and three other students at Fowler High School helped devise which boarded Columbia.

and students excited.

"These projects help to encourage students, to spark their interest in learning, to enrich them," Korn said.

With the tragedy comes a greater responsibility to the astronauts' interests and to science.

Rachel Poppe, 17, will graduate this year and plans to attend college and study communications. She talked with Illan Ramon, a Columbia astronaut, about the ant project days before the launch. She taught him how to release the ants from a small holding area into the gel and gave him instructions on what to do once they were out.

"We really felt like they were close to us because they knew so much about our project. We can't imagine what their families are going through," Poppe said. She also

learned that, unfortunately, it took a tragedy for the masses to recognize their hard work and dedication.

The students plan to compile the data for two reports due this semester and get their findings to Spacehab. Thanks to the video the astronauts sent, they know the ants tunneled in space.

"You do learn from this. You learn that whatever caused this tragedy that science goes on and you know that they didn't die in vain," said Archabald.

For more information on NASA's educational outreach, visit <http://edspace.nasa.gov> or www.nasa.gov. For information on the memorial for the astronauts, call Fowler High School at (315) 435-4376. Donations are being accepted.



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Generations of Excellence

Charter schools:

A positive choice or a way to bankrupt public education?

by Brittney Jerred

The way New York defines education changed in 1998. That was the year charter schools became legal - the first publicly funded alternatives to public education.

Charter schools spur debate no matter where they land. Opponents view them as a drain on school districts that unnecessarily compete for dollars and resources. Proponents say charter schools provide an educational alternative and force public schools to improve through competition.

One thing is certain: they're changing the structure of education.

Opponents say charter schools put an extra burden on school districts and are lobbying lawmakers for a moratorium on new charters.

Among the supporters of a moratorium is the New York State School Boards Association. David Ernst, spokesman for NYSSBA, said charter schools are hurting kids.

"As evidence accumulates, they are not performing well or no better than public schools," Ernst said. "They're not working to improve student performance or bring innovation."

New Covenant Charter School in Albany was one of the first to receive a charter. The school was held up as a model for others to follow. But since its first year, it has changed management companies and school administrators and standardized test scores have been consistently lower than Albany School District's.

Experts attribute it to the segment of the population charter schools are attracting and the schools' infancy. Generally, they serve students who have trouble passing in the public school system and seek alternatives. It takes time to get situated, so the state gives the schools a chance to get on their feet. If things aren't going well and a downward trend persists, the Charter Schools Unit of the state Education Department issues a letter telling them they need to improve. If conditions don't change, they revoke their charter. Charters are good for five years.

This year, three schools are up for renewal.

Running a charter school is no small task, said Jeffrey Perez, director of public affairs for the Charter Schools Institute for the SUNY Board of Trustees. Often, they attract the students who are most at risk of failure, yet the schools are held to the same standard as all other schools.

Paul Hayford, an associate in educational research at the Charter Schools Unit at the state Education Department, reviews charter school applications and helps audit charter schools throughout the state. Most who apply are well-intended and want to give kids an alternative to traditional learning.

Applying is a long process that takes months of research, writing and interviewing. Once approved, a charter school must prove that it is educationally sound, otherwise it loses its charter. Several have

applied for charters and been denied. Others have gone into debt and had their charters revoked.

Since 1998, 56 schools have received charters and 38 are in business today.

Despite the uphill climb new charter schools have ahead of them, a charter school's presence is unnerving to school districts, especially this year, when the Governor has proposed a \$1.4 billion cut to education.

Chairman of the Assembly Education committee Steven Sanders, D-Manhattan, says there is a lot of talk in Albany about a moratorium that would put a hold on creating new charter schools for up to three years.

"When you spend as you deem fit, there are dramatic results and that affects the children,"

Jack Coyle

Buffalo School Board President

For better or for worse, charter schools are draining school districts, Sanders said, which is exacerbated by the budget situation.

"There is a budget crisis in school districts," said Sanders, who helped write the charter school legislation. He and others

in Albany realize they need to do something to help.

School districts oppose charter schools because they not only help create debt but they create extra work. In 2001, the state Board of Regents surveyed every school district in the state, asking how charter schools affect budgets, staff and instruction. Not one district reported charter schools as having a positive effect on their system.

A major complaint was the way the system is structured. Dollars for each student attending a charter school have to be channeled from the district to the charter school. That makes extra paper work, which means more staff hours and resources.

Superintendents reported the decrease in enrollment was not enough to condense services, staff or utility bills.

One of two scenarios usually occurs: districts lose students but cannot justify a staff layoff; or districts lose both students and staff.

The superintendent at Albany estimated he spends 10 hours each week minding transportation, legal and financial issues related to the charter schools, and then assigns staff and lawyers to address issues as they arise. The extra responsibility doesn't come with perks, as they see it.

Larger cities had the most to complain about.

The Buffalo city school board knew first hand how charter schools can affect a district, so last fall the board backed a charter school plan. It was the first school board in the state to do so.

School Board President Jack Coyle said school districts typically have little say about charter schools, but the board reasoned that if it came under its jurisdiction, unlike the three others already in its boundaries, the district could work with the charter school and provide services.

The school will enroll 405 kindergarten through eighth graders this fall, pending state Education Department approval this month. All signs point to a new school



Max Barnhart and Zachery Bliss are members of the chess club at Tapestry Charter School in Buffalo. The school is a conversion school, meaning it has its own charter and mission, but is not completely separate from the Buffalo city school district.



Arielle Bala is a kindergarten student in Tapestry Charter School teacher Gina Pecoraro's K-1 dance class. Hannah Raiken-Schulman is the dance teacher.

called Enterprise. Funding will be based on the number of students enrolled and money will be funneled from the Buffalo school district to the school. Enterprise will target kids whose families fall at or below poverty level and encourage community service. By targeting low-income families, it can secure more federal funding for the free lunch program.

Coyle is in favor of charter schools. He sees them as an asset to education because they can help fill in where school districts fall short. Principals have more flexibility, can spend money as they deem fit and serve a section of the population that's struggling, whereas school districts have to take everyone and changes in curriculum often take years to accomplish.

"When you spend as you deem fit, there are dramatic results and that affects the children," Coyle said.

Former Buffalo Principal Gary Stillman wanted the plan together. He and his team pulled to create a school that used the district as its ally.

Enterprise will use Buffalo city schools' curriculum and the district will provide bus service for the 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. school day.

Enterprise is what the state Education Department is calling a "conversion school," meaning it spawned from the district and is an example of what is to come.

New York is sanctioned to have 100 charter schools. Up to 50 can be approved by the SUNY board of trustees and 50 can be approved by the Board of Regents. But the law also states that school districts can create their own charter schools. There is no limit to these types of charters, as long as they meet state requirements and are approved by the state Education Department.

Peter Murphy, vice president of the New York Charter Schools Resource Center, visits charter schools around the state. His nonprofit organization has worked with Stillman on Enterprise. He's holding the school up as an example for others to follow.

"The school board had the wisdom and the foresight to make this happen. It's a real tribute to them," Murphy said.

For information, visit www.emsc.nysed.gov/rscs/charter/charterschools.html

www.newyorkcharters.org

www.nycsrc.org

PRO: Charter schools: CON:

Public charter schools give parents a choice

by Bill Phillips

President

New York Charter Schools Association

In December 1998, Gov. Pataki signed the New York Charter Schools Act, creating true public school choice for children. It's clear that parents were hungry for that choice.

Today, the parents of over 11,000 of New York's children are choosing public charter schools. Another 2,000 children are on waiting lists.

Even before they open, new charter schools have more requests to enroll than available spaces. In Rochester, at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School, three children seek to enroll for every open space. Similarly, The Ark Community Charter School in Troy has eight children vying for every open space.

Charter schools are genuinely public because all children may attend them, tuition free, regardless of the district in which they live. The International Charter School of Schenectady attracts students from seven different school districts.

Created by the legislature to improve student learning and achievement, especially for children most at risk of academic failure, public charter schools have the independence to develop new academic options. They are attracting talented, eager teachers who enjoy working where the focus is on student achievement instead of compliance with myriad rules and regula-

tions. In return for this freedom, public charter schools are held strictly accountable for their students' academic progress.

We are beginning to see evidence that New York's charter schools are fulfilling their promise. In the heart of the South Bronx, the Bronx Preparatory Charter School saw student math scores jump 46 points the first year, and at the Carl C. Icahn Charter School, kindergartners' standardized test scores in English increased 13 points during their first year at the school. Icahn's second graders gained 14 points in math.

While 34 percent of fourth grade students in the Buffalo City Schools showed mastery on the state English Language Arts exam, fully 64 percent of students at South Buffalo Charter School achieved mastery on the same test, an 8 percentage point improvement over the previous year.

Promising test scores and educational gains aren't the only marks of charter school success. Through their service on governing boards of public charter schools, an additional 300 citizens of New York state-civic leaders, teachers, community leaders, parents-are involved with, and accountable for, the educational success of our children.

Despite signs of success, some continue to oppose giving parents a voice and choice in the public school to which they entrust their children, arguing charter schools are too expensive. The fact is,

continued on page 19

Charter schools not living up to promises

by Walter Dunn

Second Vice President

New York State United Teachers

Great hope and promise accompanied the signing of the state's charter school law more than four years ago.

Supporters touted these new types of schools as laboratories of innovation - places where new teaching methods and other reforms would spark impressive gains in student achievement. Soaring test scores and satisfied parents would create pressure for public schools to either improve, or lose students to the new competition.

Today, New York is still waiting for charter schools to live up to that promise. And, there is a good reason for that.

Charter schools are no panacea. Although they are structured differently - and are free from some regulations - charter schools face many of the same challenging hurdles that public schools are working to overcome.

Too many of New York's children live in poverty; come from single-parent households, do not speak English as a first language; and do not have access to a quality early childhood education. These students have the farthest to go to reach the higher academic standards set by the Regents. It is why test scores among children in charter schools, almost without exception, have mirrored the performance of children in the struggling public schools they left in the

first place.

There have been no charter school miracles because experimenting with new kinds of school structures is not the best way to raise student achievement. The truth is, we already know the best way.

High academic standards - in combination with small classes, strict discipline, highly skilled teachers and extra help for those children who need it - are reforms that work, and little else can work without them. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves, and ensure that every public school - but particularly those that are struggling - has the funding to put these reforms into place.

Instead, public education is being hit with a double whammy.

The proposed executive budget hacks \$1.24 billion from public education, and is already forcing school districts to ax essential programs, lay off teachers and staff, and raise property taxes to make up for record cuts in state aid. Yet, despite this horrendous fiscal crisis, school districts must also send big checks out the door to fund charter schools in their communities.

Most people don't realize that public schools must pay the cost of students who attend charter schools - usually more than \$7,000 per child. Because districts' fixed costs don't fall much even when fairly substantial numbers of children leave, the opening of a charter school often leaves a

continued on page 19



Regional colleges and universities play an increasingly important role in local economic development. Wells College, a nationally recognized liberal arts college for women, located in the village of Aurora on Cayuga Lake, has done so for over 130 years. Named by The Princeton Review as one of the top 10 colleges in the nation for town-gown relations, Wells continues to build partnerships with neighbors and businesses in our local community for prosperity now and in the years ahead.

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Artist's rendering of the new Aurora Inn, scheduled to reopen in Spring 2003

Baby boomlet causes record college enrollment

by Dorothy Long

State and private colleges alike are seeing record enrollment. While some speculate the sluggish economy has students, especially at the graduate level, preferring to stay in the classroom and out of the sluggish job market and administrators attributing the flood of applications they received to the merits of their programs, there may be a simpler explanation.

"The numbers of students graduating from high schools every year are up," said Susan Nesbitt Perez, director of outreach programs for the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities.

The "baby boomlet" is expected to level off, she said. But for now the trend is continuing. "Students are eager to go to college and are looking in great numbers," she said.

Those great numbers keep the bar high in New York colleges. The State University of New York system not only hit a 10-year high in overall enrollment, the SAT and high school grade point averages for incoming classes are also on the rise.

Fall 2002 enrollment in the SUNY system was at 402,111, a 3.5 increase over 2001 and the third highest overall enrollment in the system's history.

Full-time enrollment at SUNY set an all-time record of 269,324 this fall with a 6.1 percent increase over 2001. Graduate programs saw a 3.3 percent increase to 42,784.

"These outstanding enrollment levels

are further proof that SUNY is moving to the front ranks of public higher education in the United States," SUNY Chancellor Robert King said. "Increasing numbers of students and their families are choosing SUNY. The reasons are clear. We provide rigorous academic programs taught by world-class faculty on wonderful campuses at an affordable price."

But the increase is not just in the num-

University of New York."

Egan attributed the increase to the Centers of Excellence program and a \$2.4 billion plan to revitalize the system.

But, for all its growth and improvement, SUNY isn't taking students out of other colleges, where enrollment increased by nearly 7,000 across the board in private four-year institutions.

"These outstanding enrollment levels are further proof that SUNY is moving to the front ranks of public higher education in the United States. Increasing numbers of students and their families are choosing SUNY. The reasons are clear. We provide rigorous academic programs taught by world-class faculty on wonderful campuses at an affordable price."

SUNY Chancellor Robert King

ber of students. SUNY reports the mean SAT scores at university centers at Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo and Stony Brook reached an all-time high of 1177 and in the university colleges the mean SAT scores was 1078, well above the national average of 1020.

SUNY saw 3.1 percent more applicants in the top 10 percent of their high school classes and 16 percent more with high school grade averages at 90 percent or more.

Thomas Egan, chairman of the SUNY board of trustees, said "The best and the brightest students are choosing the State

Syracuse University saw tremendous increases in its population. The undergraduate head count was up 10 percent, masters and doctorate populations rose 25 percent and law school enrollment shot up 40 percent.

David Smith, vice president of enrollment management, said the employment market may have played a role in the increase in applications. "In a tight economic situation, people look for the best value."

While the private university may not be the cheapest education, it is a good price for what you get, he said. "We believe Syracuse is seen as a very good place to

prepare yourself. This is not a new phenomenon. People look at what we do and are expressing interest."

Like the SUNY system, the private university is seeing the competition raise the bar on student test scores and grade averages, Smith said. "The quality of people applying has gone up. Syracuse is a University on its way up - improving the quality of the facilities and it improves the quality of students."

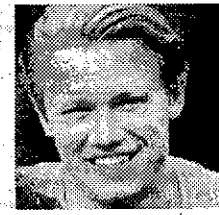
The trend has hit the Ivy League as well. According to Jason Locke, director of recruitment and marketing and undergraduate admissions at Cornell University. But while applications were at one of the highest levels in recent years, they dropped somewhat in 2002 after the fall of 2001 when the university saw the highest number of applications ever.

The drop, according to Locke, could be because students shied away from the Ivy League when they saw the competition was so high last year. The drop was driven by lower applications in computer science programs.

Colleges in New York can look forward to the trend continuing, according to figures released by the state Education Department. Their demographics offer a simple answer to the question of why college applicants have risen in recent years. The number of graduating high school students has taken a sharp rise since 1996, when 160,487 students graduated to this spring when 178,224 will graduate. And it is just the beginning of an upward trend that is expected to reach a graduating class of 199,064 in 2008.

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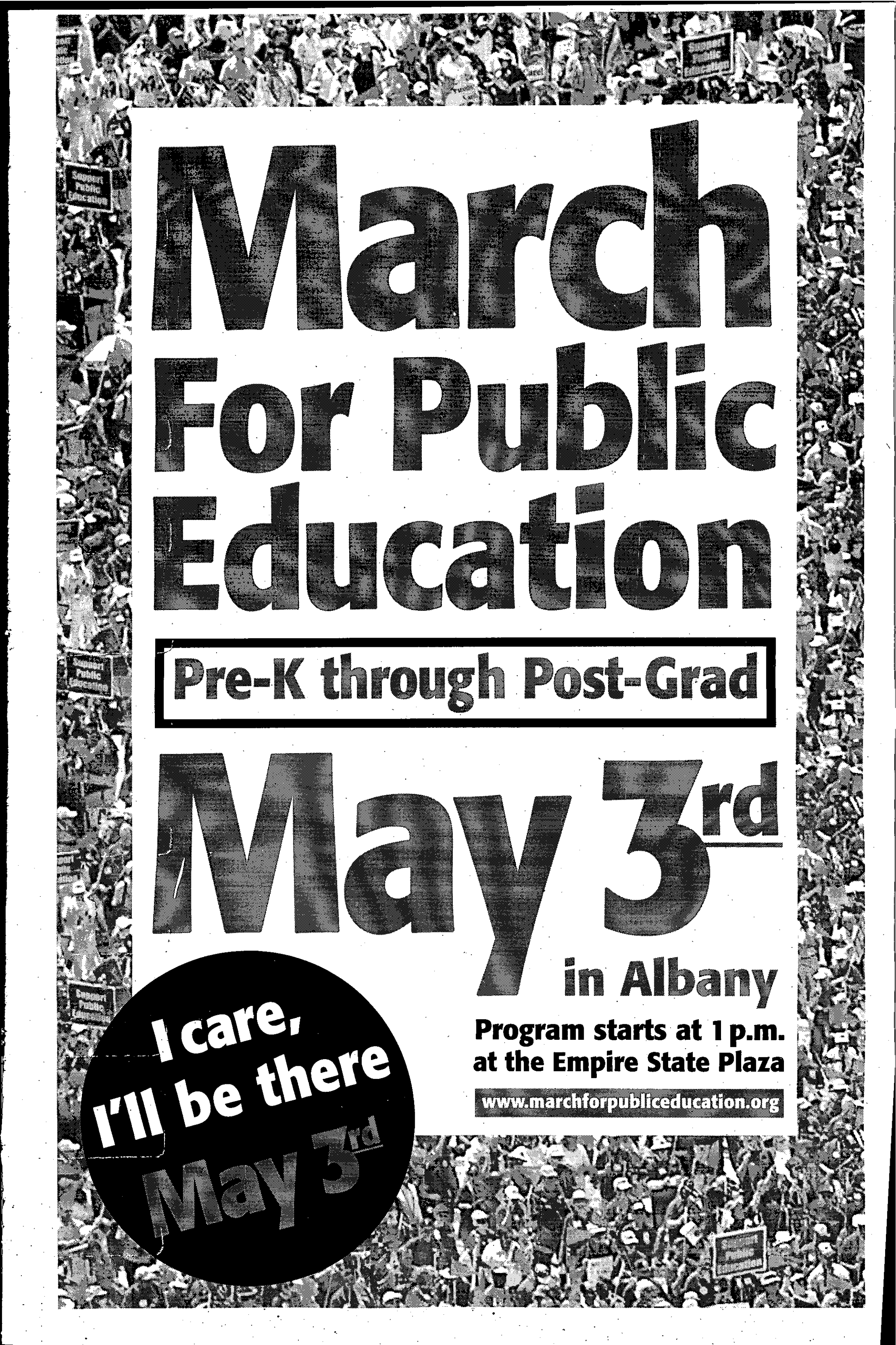
But the Executive Budget cuts TAP grants by a third, slices HEOP funding in half, and eliminates the STEP/C-STEP mentoring programs.

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May 3rd

What's on the table?

The executive budget proposal

In the weeks to come, legislators in Albany will debate Gov. George Pataki's executive budget proposal, particularly as it relates to education funding. The following is a summary of the governor's controversial education spending plan.

On K-12 spending:

In the period directly preceding Sept. 11, New York provided three consecutive years of record breaking school aid increases, with schools receiving nearly \$2.7 billion in additional aid between 1998-99 and 2000-01. These additional state funds, coupled with local taxpayer support, raised New York's school spending to the highest in the nation - more than \$11,400 per pupil in 2001-02 compared to the national average of nearly \$7,900.

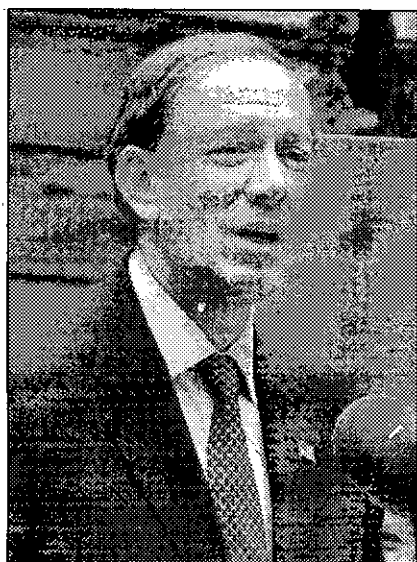
Even in the face of fiscal difficulties following Sept. 11, the state provided schools with an aid increase of \$411 million for the 2002-03 school year. Unfortunately, the financial consequences of Sept. 11, coupled with the national economic downturn, has deeply undermined the state's ability to sustain its current level of investment in education. While working to avoid mid-year cuts in aid, the 2003-04 executive budget does proposed reduced funding for the school year beginning July 1, 2003. Operating aid will be reduced by \$407 million (4 percent) which, when combined with reductions in discretionary grants, declines in expense-based programs and other targeted reforms and savings, results in an overall reduction of \$1.24 billion in school aid.

Consistent with the priority attached to providing school districts with flexible operating aid, the overall reduction in operating aid has been held to 4 percent. Furthermore, school districts are protected from overall aid reductions of more than 5 percent of their total operating budget.

To minimize the reduction required in operating aid, state aid for various discretionary grant programs - including universal pre-kindergarten and class size reduction - has been proposed for elimination. However, school will have the flexibility to continue these programs with local funds if they so choose.

The proposed overall school aid reduction also includes an expense-based decline of \$144 million in Building Aid and an enrollment-based decline of \$15 million in Growth Aid - neither of which represent aid losses for school districts. These aid declines, coupled with the reduction in discretionary grant programs, generate savings of \$607 million - or nearly one-half of the proposed overall school aid reduction of \$1.24 billion. The school aid proposal also includes recommended reforms in BOCES, school construction aid and special education.

Although it was not possible to spare our schools from the funding reductions required of virtually all state programs, our schools will benefit from overall spending levels that will continue to



place New York among the top states in the nation. New York remains well above other major states such as California, Texas and Florida. Furthermore, even with the proposed 2003-04 reduction, since 1994-95 state support for schools has grown at a rate nearly one and a half times that of inflation.

On higher education:

The aftermath of Sept. 11, coupled with the national economic downturn, has affected the state's ability to sustain its current level of investment in its public universities. As a result, taxpayers support for SUNY state-operated campuses and programs will decline by \$183.5 million or 15 percent, and taxpayers support for CUNY senior colleges will be reduced by \$81.7 million or 12 percent. Resulting 2003-04 general fund support levels for SUNY and CUNY state-supported campuses and programs are \$1.03 billion and \$581.4 million, respectively.

Taxpayer support for SUNY and CUNY community colleges will also be reduced through a base aid decrease of \$345 per student or 15 percent. Although this base aid reduction may necessitate tuition increases at the community colleges, the impact of any such increases will be mitigated for needy students as a result of state financial aid provided through TAP.

To meet current fiscal challenges, the state must carefully consider the appropriate balance of taxpayer and student support for New York's public universities. Current tuition rates of \$3,400 for the State University of New York and \$3,200 for the City University of New York have remained unchanged for seven years - the longest period in state history. This cost is comparable to, or below that of, other public universities in the Northeast. Moreover, even with a rise in tuition, students attending SUNY and CUNY will receive a quality education at a competitive and affordable cost.

In recognition of the powers of the boards of trustees at SUNY and CUNY to manage their resources in a manner that is responsive to student needs and university policies, the 2003-04 executive budget does not prescribe to a tuition increase. Rather, it permits the universities' discretion in managing reductions in state taxpayer support for their operations through a mix of spending reductions and a tuition increase.

Will the state g

Governor's budget proposal c

by Daniel Lovell

In offering up his executive budget proposal in late January, Gov. George Pataki warned that the time had come for difficult decisions. He warned it was a budget that did its best to counteract an \$11.5 billion shortfall over two years. The coming year, he said, will be about tightening belts and cutting waste.

Instead, the proposal itself has sparked outrage, fear and planned protests from educators across the state. The proposal, some say, will gut the state's education system and undermine schools' ability to meet state-imposed standards.

Pataki's budget includes a \$1.2 billion cut in school aid - the largest single program cut in the budget. In testimony Feb. 25 before the state Senate Finance Committee and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, Antonia Cortese, first vice president of New York State United Teachers, said Pataki's plan would zero out funding for comprehensive operating aid, academic support aid, public excess cost aid, gifted and talented programs and summer school. Board of Cooperative Education Services aid would be reduced 25 percent. Cortese said another critical cut is in the Early Grade Class Size Reduction Program, which will lose \$140 million. That cut will eliminate 2,500 teaching jobs, she said. About \$71 million earmarked for placing students with special education needs in private schools would be cut as well, said NYSUT Executive Vice President Alan Lubin.

The proposal was shocking enough to spark a coalition of parents, students and education organizations to plan a May 3 march in Albany to protest the cuts.

Hitting hard

In New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said he'll be forced to cut 1,900 elementary school teachers if Pataki's plan is adopted. Rochester and Buffalo city schools are considering

drastic measures, such as instituting four-day school weeks.

In order to maintain current services and programs, local school taxes will have to be raised an average of 15 percent statewide. In some areas, the hit will be worse: 50 percent in Allegany County, 38 percent in Chenango County, 46 percent in Lewis County and 31 percent in Washington County, according to NYSUT.

Facing a \$20 million shortfall, the Syracuse City School District may be forced to cut 210 teaching positions. Other proposals are to increase class size, eliminate pre-kindergarten and cut transportation.

According to a survey conducted by the New York State School Boards Association, more than 86 percent of all school districts in the state are planning to cut programs to make up for the budget gap.

These cuts, according to NYSUT and NYSSBA, show Pataki has put business development ahead of New York children's education.

It's the economy...

Pataki would agree with his critics, to an extent. He's set economic growth as the top priority in the coming year. Budget cuts, he explained in his Jan. 29 budget address, are meant to keep state taxes low, which in turn, he says, will keep money in New Yorkers' pockets and help stimulate the economy and create jobs.

"None of us want to make cuts to our most precious programs and projects, many of which I have personally championed," Pataki said in a prepared statement. "But we know there is only one way to lift New York out of this fiscal crisis - by creating private sector jobs that are the foundation of for public sector resources. After all, we've spent eight years making the right decisions so we could make record investments in these programs. Making these tough choices will require courage, leadership and honesty."

State University of New York

Robert King,
Chancellor

"The governor's budget reflects the very challenging fiscal times we face here in New York and across the nation. I am confident that his proposal, if enacted by the Legislature, will enable our state university system to remain strong, affordable and accessible.

While we all recognize that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the national recession have imposed significant budget constraints for everyone, we are committed to keeping SUNY one of the top university systems in the nation and we will fulfill that objective in the coming year."

www.suny.edu

Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities

Abraham Lackman,
President

cicu

"In particular, this Executive Budget closes the door to higher education for thousands of New Yorkers enrolled at independent colleges and universities. The devastating cuts in the state's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and opportunity programs proposed in the Budget mean students will lose essential sources of assistance for meeting current college expenses.

For the low- and middle-income families who count on state support as they pursue the American dream of a college education, the Executive Budget effectively pulls away the ladder to a better and more productive life."

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Cut our schools?

Cuts \$1.2 billion from education



Joel Currier

public education? Gov. George Pataki's executive budget includes a controversial \$1.2 billion cut from public education. The plan has school districts and institutions of higher education wailing that the cuts will make ends meet.

State's fiscal crisis is foundering economic growth has been slipping since Sept. 11, 2001 terror attack. New York 100,000

ounding taxes now New York's fiscal state.

clamoring over the cuts. The Business and Economic Development Corp. of New York State, for example, has lost sympathy for a system it says is too costly and bloated.

Not that the cuts may be good for school districts, but they are enjoying a joy ride compared to the rest of the state, spokesman Matthew



David Garrett

\$137,664 apiece? At \$11,472 per student per year, New York spends more on public education than any state in the nation. The national average is \$7,899. At New York's current rate of spending, it will spend more than \$1.2 million for every eight students who graduate from high school in 12 years.

New York's education system has received increases of \$3.7 billion over the past five years. That 34 percent increase is more than twice the rate of inflation.

"New data from the Census Bureau show that New York school districts spend more per pupil than all other states," McGuire said. "We spent almost \$11,000 per pupil in 2001, which was almost \$4,000 higher than the national average."

The high spending doesn't necessarily equal high rates of success. McGuire said standardized test scores and graduation rates show New York is nowhere near leading the nation in educating its youth. He said it's time for districts and the state to look into cost-saving measures and to stop relying on increasing aid.

"We know for a fact that some of the best performing school districts in New York state are also not among the richest," McGuire said. "No one would dispute that money helps, but there is ample evidence that many fine schools in New York have found creative and enterprising ways to teach their students without the benefit of community wealth and the highest per pupil spending."

Up for a fight

Pataki's budget will face tough opposition in Albany. Assembly Democrats such as William Magnarelli of Syracuse are already mobilizing to restore funding to the education system.

"We feel very strongly that the governor has made wrong choices," he said. "These are difficult times, and the Assembly is looking to restore as much of the funding to education as we possibly can."

Specifically, Magnarelli said full funding must be restored to kindergarten, pre-kindergarten, classroom-size reduction programs, technology upgrades, building improvements and teacher training.

"I've been fighting for that for four years in the Assembly, and it's a battle I'd thought we won," he said.

Magnarelli said studies have shown that solid education helps dissuade crime in later years, and that the state can't assume that it'll save money in the long run by pulling 8 percent of its funding to schools.

"God forbid, but you never know what's going to happen," he said. "We are going to continue to fight, and furiously fight, to put back those things we've been fighting for for years."

SUNY's case for a tuition increase

by Robert King

Chancellor of the State University of New York

To enable SUNY to fulfill its vital mission and to maintain gains in quality made over the recent years, it is imperative that, at a minimum, the overall level of funding for our operating budget, as recommended by the governor, be preserved in the final state budget. Therefore we are seeking a tuition increase.

In determining the new level of tuition we compared SUNY with peer institutions and neighboring states. Even with an increase, SUNY tuition remains below many other institutions, while offering a superb education, better, we would argue, than our peers.

We know there is concern about the impact of a tuition increase, but here are some key facts:

SUNY has not increased tuition since 1995. If tuition had increased by the average growth in tuition nationally, it would now be \$5,400. The cost of tuition and fees at SUNY is well below the level of public universities in the Northeast, while the quality of a SUNY education equals or surpasses that of our peers.

We strongly support the Governor's proposal, which enables SUNY to develop a comprehensive, long-term tuition policy. As part of our overall tuition strategy we are looking at linking tuition with a cost of living index. This provides predictable increases and allows for improved financial planning.

A huge hit for higher ed

by Abraham Lackman

Executive Director of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities

By any measure the executive budget for state fiscal year 2003-04 is bad news for education. While overall general fund spending falls approximately 3 percent, reductions to K-16 programs total approximately 9 percent or \$1.5 billion. The Executive Budget contains \$1.2 billion in cuts to elementary and secondary education and \$300 million in cuts to higher education programs.

Specifically, the executive budget makes these proposals for programs important to the independent sector:

- The budget cuts the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) by one-third. The maximum award remains at \$5,000. Under the proposal, students would receive two-thirds of their awards up-front. They would need to borrow the remaining third, receiving repayment from the state only if they graduate.

- Funding for Direct Institutional ("Bundy") Aid falls to \$25.6 million, a 42 percent cut, with the elimination of payments for master's and doctoral degrees. This \$18.7 million cut is particularly surprising given the executive budget's emphasis on high-technology economic development through initiatives such as the Centers of Excellence.

- Support for the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) is cut in half to \$11 million with the elimination of the financial aid component.

- In addition, the executive budget eliminates the Science and Technology Entry Program and its collegiate sister (STEP/C-STEP) (\$10 million). Again, this proposal is contrary to the Governor's emphasis on a knowledge-based economy.

Alliance for Quality Education

Regina Eaton
Executive Director



"Schools that have been designated as in 'need of improvement' due to low test scores under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) already receive \$2000 less to educate each child this school year, and now under the governor's budget they will be left even further behind."

Almost 40 years after the Supreme Court threw out unequal school systems based on race, Gov. Pataki is perpetuating and worsening an unequal system in which children in districts with struggling schools — generally districts with more low income children — receive less public money for their education than children in other districts.

The governor's budget cuts will create hundreds of schools that are under-funded, under-staffed and under-performing."

www.aqe.org

New York State School Boards Association

Timothy G. Kremer
Executive Director



"Raising student achievement is a cooperative undertaking. The schoolhouse is being held accountable. The statehouse needs to be held accountable as well."

An investment in education is every bit as much of an investment in economic growth as tax breaks for business.

Public education in New York is in the midst of an unprecedented drive to raise student achievement. This budget would undermine that progress."

www.nyssba.org

New York State United Teachers

Tom Hobart
President



"Public education cannot be cut. The proposed education budget must be rejected. Every NYSUT member — whether you work in higher ed, K-12, or health care or are retired — should come to Albany, and bring your friends and your neighbors."

We must convince the Legislature to reject the executive budget proposal. The unthinkable and irresponsible \$1.78 billion cut to education and the continued neglect of our public schools, colleges and universities cannot stand.

If we fail, the devastating effect on all our efforts to raise standards and improve achievement will be felt for years to come. If we fail, New York's future will fail with us."

www.nysut.org

Syracuse home to world's largest adult literacy organization

Laubach, Literacy Volunteers joined forces in 2002



One of Syracuse's best kept secrets is the fact that it is home to the world's largest and oldest adult literacy organization.

ProLiteracy Worldwide was formed by the August 2002 merger of Laubach Literacy International, founded in 1955 by world literacy pioneer Dr. Frank C. Laubach, and Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc., founded by Syracuse resident Ruth Colvin in 1962. The two founding organizations share a 20-year history of collaboration. They signed on as founding members of the National Coalition for Literacy; they launched a joint national volunteer literacy campaign in 1988; from 1990-95 Coors funded a joint training project; and from 1997-2002 they partnered on a joint learning disabilities training and dissemination project funded by the National Institute for Literacy.

"Our goal is to make ProLiteracy Worldwide an advocate and leader in the adult literacy field," Robert Wedgeworth, president of ProLiteracy Worldwide, said. "Ensuring that we provide the best possible literacy services to adult students here and abroad is at the heart of that mission."

ProLiteracy is represented in 47 developing countries as well as in the U.S., and serves more than 350,000 adult new learners around the world each year. Its purpose is to sponsor educational programs and services to empower adults and their families by assisting them to acquire the literacy practices and skills they need to function more effectively in their daily lives and participate in the transformation of



ProLiteracy Worldwide President Bob Wedgeworth, Dr. Bob Laubach, Ruth Colvin, Onondaga County Deputy Executive Ed Kochian and ProLiteracy Worldwide Senior Vice President Marsha Tait at a celebration of the merger of Laubach Literacy and Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc.

their societies.

"A merger of this scale and scope is unprecedented in the literacy field," Marsha Tait, senior vice president for programs and services, said. "Until now, literacy advocates have not spoken with one voice on behalf of adult learners either internationally or domestically."

More than just reading and writing, literacy includes an individual's ability to speak and understand English, use math to solve problems, and use computer technology. In the United States, one in four adults function at the lowest literacy skill level. According to the National Adult Literacy

Survey, conducted by NIFL in 1992 (the most recent statistics available), 24 percent of adults in Syracuse and 16 percent of adults in Onondaga County function at the lowest level of literacy skill.

A local not for profit organization with an international reach, ProLiteracy uses a unique methodology to provide training, technical assistance, and targeted local grants to support communities in the creation of tailored programs that combine literacy with economic self-reliance, health, education, peace, human rights, and environmental sustainability projects. With 87 current partnerships in 47 countries, by

2004 ProLiteracy will extend its reach to 100 partnerships in 50 countries.

Most recently, ProLiteracy launched a six-nation literacy and AIDS initiative in Africa by teaming up with international funders, national government ministries, community-based organizations, and church networks.

ProLiteracy America, the U.S. division of ProLiteracy Worldwide, has approximately 1,200 affiliate programs serving 218,000 adults in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. ProLiteracy America offers the only accreditation system for volunteer literacy programs, which ensures that adults who enter ProLiteracy-affiliated programs receive quality services.

In Syracuse, ProLiteracy has four affiliate programs: The Learning Place, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse, the Refugee Resettlement Program, and the Rescue Mission Alliance. The number of adults seeking literacy instruction greatly exceeds the number of volunteer tutors available. For information on how to contact these programs, and others around the nation, visit the Find A Program section at www.proliteracy.org or call 422-9121.

Other ProLiteracy programs include the National Book Scholarship Fund (NBSF) and Women in Literacy (WIL).

Mergers often bring bad news to communities, but ProLiteracy Worldwide has not only kept all of its 121 employees, 108 of whom are local, but plans to hire new employees as its programs expand.



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Teachers' union leader faces challenging anniversary

by Dev Tobin

Thomas Hobart finds little to celebrate this year, primarily because of an executive budget that, for the first time since he started as president of New York State United Teachers 30 years ago, proposes to cut state aid to public schools.

Hobart recalled that former Gov. Mario Cuomo cut school aid in the middle of the year in 1991, during the last fiscal crisis, but did not propose that as part of his budget. The late Nelson Rockefeller proposed a 10 percent cut in education aid in his 1969 executive budget, but that didn't get through the Legislature, he said.

Gov. George Pataki's proposed 10 percent aid cut, to help close a \$10-billion-plus deficit caused by dramatically lower state tax revenues, has become one of Hobart's greatest challenges as a union leader.

"We're talking about the future of this state," Hobart said. "If we're going to have a standard of living for our children and grandchildren like we have, it's going to take a higher level of education than was in place when I went to elementary school and high school" in the 1950s.

Hobart argued that the proposed cuts will negatively affect the quality of education and cause substantial local property tax hikes.

"Most state programs in the budget are to be funded at a basic level, then there's another category of favorite programs for the governor and the Legislature, and we're going to push pretty hard to make sure that that category contains a lot of education money," Hobart said. "We try to hammer home the fact that education is an investment that, if not made, will cost you more



Now in his 30th year at the helm of NYSUT, Tom Hobart is fighting to limit cuts to education spending money in the future.

Of course, education will also cost more now, but the burden will fall more heavily than ever on property taxpayers, Hobart said.

"Local taxation is going to go up by 15 to 20 percent, according to the School Boards Association," Hobart said. "When the governor talks about job-killing taxes, he also has community killing taxes."

Hobart said NYSUT supports a temporary income tax surcharge on high-income taxpayers.

"This is a great state to live in, some people make a lot of money here," he said. "A temporary surcharge could produce \$3 billion and could go a long way to help solving the problem."

On the expense side, Hobart said there are not many places that school districts can cut their budgets without causing negative impacts in the classroom.

He suggested that school districts try to refinance their debt and noted that an early retirement incentive may also help.

But Hobart explained that early retirements are not a panacea.

He noted that with all the early retirement incentives offered in recent years, "An awful lot of experienced teachers have already left, so the pool that's eligible will be a lot smaller."

At the same time the state is cutting education funding, the state is also mandating that high school graduates pass Regents tests. Even in relatively good suburban districts, many students are not earning diplomas in four years. Hobart pointed out that, under state law, people are guaranteed a free public education until age 21 or graduation, whichever comes first.

"Four years of high school is not going to work for everybody, but there is time to get most of those kids through the Regents, by

slowing down, not watering down, the courses," he said. "There's nothing wrong with taking math for two years."

But it will cost more money, he noted.

Hobart said NYSUT supported the higher standards.

"It was crucial that the Regents make the change," he said. "With local diplomas, many kids were being listed as graduates, but really hadn't mastered the subject areas they should have in order to be able to say, 'I have a New York state diploma.' Now we have a standard."

Hobart also said the federal government should provide more education aid, especially in the area of special education, which is mandated by federal law.

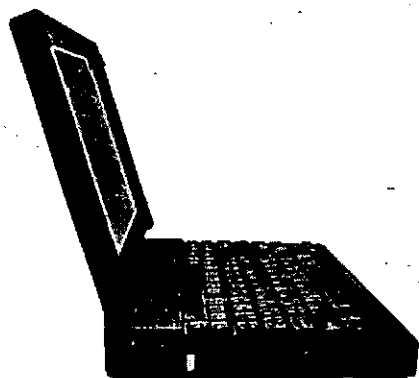
"Spending on the regular education component in the state has been flat, except for inflation, for 10 years," he said. "All of the spending increase has come from special ed, which is supposed to be funded 40 percent by the federal government."

Hobart noted that federal special education aid has never been higher than 17 percent, even as those costs have exploded.

Hobart was a teacher and local union leader in Buffalo before assuming the reins at NYSUT in 1973.

NYSUT has about 500,000 members in 900 locals. It has 16 offices around the state, including a new headquarters in Latham, outside of Albany, and employs 300 people. It was ranked as the fourth-highest spending lobby group in the state in 2001, with just over \$1 million in lobbying expenditures.

Hobart and his wife Dorothy live in Amherst, a suburb of Buffalo.



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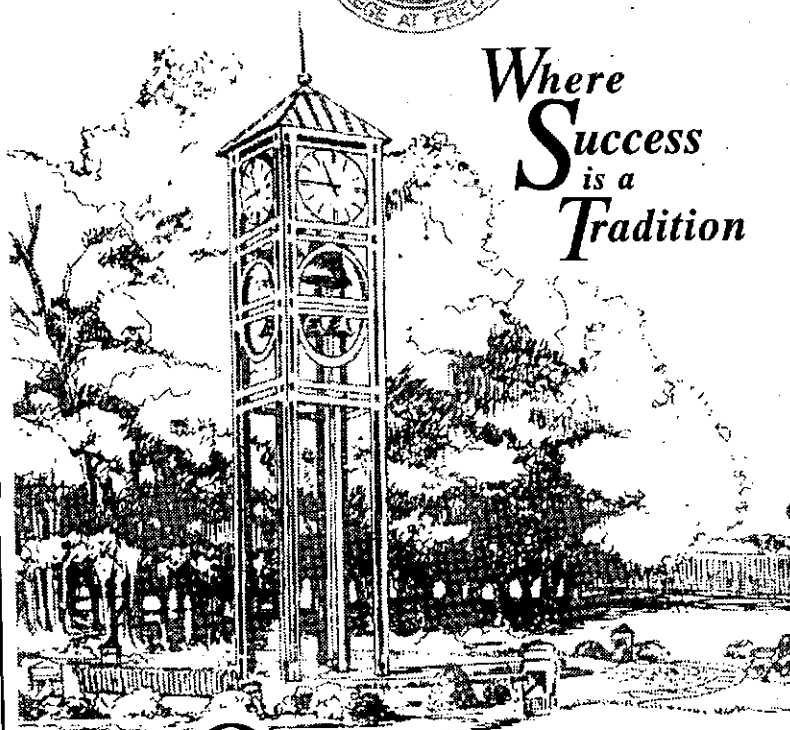
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New York teachers aim higher

Many seek National Board Certification

by Kelly Mantoan

Most employers reward hard-working employees through raises and promotions.

Exceptional teachers may receive pay increases over the years, but unless they want to leave the classroom for administrative jobs, there is no corporate ladder to climb.

That all changed in 1987, when the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was founded. Its mission was to identify what makes an excellent teacher, provide a way to certify teachers who meet the highest standards of excellence and find ways to incorporate the expertise of those teachers into the American education system.

"I felt it was the furthest I could go professionally without going into administration," said Colleen Kires, a sixth grade teacher at Nate Perry Elementary School, Liverpool, and 2002 certificate recipient. "It fit my needs. [Becoming certified] makes you think about what you do as a teacher and how you can improve. It seemed like a challenge."

The board took five years to create its standards and in November 1993, the first 30 certificates were awarded.

Today, more than 23,000 teachers are nationally certified.

Teachers must compile portfolios, journals, videos and student samples for submission. Then they must pass an exam. A panel of judges determines if the teacher's work meets the board's rigorous standards as outlined in its five core principals. Teachers must be committed to students and learning, must know their subject and how to teach students that subject, show responsibility for managing and monitoring student learning, think systematically about and learn from their experiences and show they are members of learning communities. Less than 50 percent will actually receive national certification on the first try.

A 2001 report on the impact of National Board Certification on teachers stated 91 percent of nationally board certified teachers said the process positively impacted their teaching. Sixty-one percent saw positive changes in their students while 80 percent felt National Board Certification was better than any other professional development.

Kires, a 13-year veteran of the classroom, said the most difficult part for her wasn't the academic requirements, but scheduling the estimated 200 to 400 hours of certification work around her family.

"To find a balance and do the work up to my expectations, that was really hard," she said.

Regular meetings with a support group

made all the difference in Kires's opinion.

"If a teacher is planning on becoming certified, they should look for a support group or mentor they can bounce ideas off, be in the same boat with, and laugh and cry with," she said. "There are times when you say you can't do it anymore, I was there, but I was helped through those tough times by the people I was working with."

In the end, Kires not only received national recognition but insight into how she teaches.

"It's a great way to reflect on what you do and ask yourself questions such as, 'What can I do to improve the way I reach students as individuals?'" Kires said.

James Brown, sixth grade math and science teacher at Sams Creek Middle School in Albany, said even a teacher who doesn't receive national certification will benefit from the process. Brown became an NBCT in 2000.

"I'd tell anyone considering it to go for it," he said. "It's very demanding but very rewarding. The process really forced me to reach out to those around me, from colleagues to administrators, to get the work done."

"We're working to raise awareness of the national board certification process," said Carl Korn, media relations director for New York State United Teachers, which represents 95 percent of teachers across the state.

"We're behind states that are smaller than New York not because we have a shortage of great teachers but because other states offer a stipend to those who become nationally certified," he said.

In 2002, 104 New York teachers became nationally board certified, bringing the state's total to 289. In North Carolina, where NBCT are offered a 12 percent pay raise each year if they become certified, there are 5,125 NBCT. Forty school districts in New York offer incentives while the remaining 675 do not.

Antonia Cortese, a former board member of the NBPTS and first vice president of NYSUT, credited New York lawmakers and the governor for supporting a state grant program that, along with some federal money, pays the candidates' \$2,300 application fee and other expenses. In addition, the Teachers of Tomorrow program allows school districts to seek state stipends for board-certified teachers who agree to teach in a low-performing school or who mentor new teachers.

For more information on the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and the national board certification program, visit NBPTS's website at www.nbpts.org. Information is also available at NYSUT's website at www.nysut.org.

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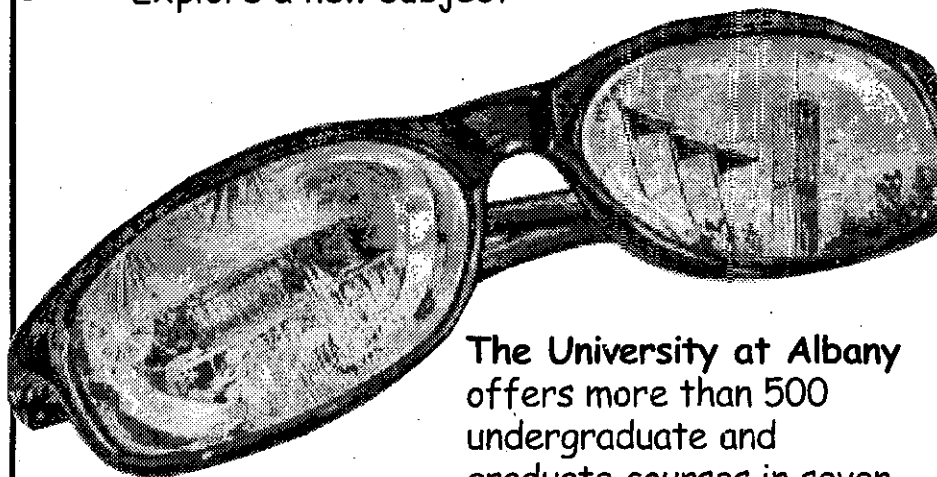
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Want to be a superintendent? Learn how to juggle

A day with Les Loomis, superintendent of Bethlehem schools

by Katherine McCarthy

Five streets meet in front of the white stucco building that house the Bethlehem Central School District's main office. Inside, administrators and their support staff toil to keep this suburban, 5,000-student school system outside Albany running. The large meeting room in the building is quiet in the early afternoon; from the offices beyond there's the hum of conversation and ringing telephones.

A small hallway and two steps up lead to Superintendent Leslie G. Loomis's office. Windows let in the late winter sun; a large goldfish bowl full of stones sits on a bookshelf, and a copy of "The Little Engine That Could" is perched over the rest of the room.

There is a sense of quiet and authority in the room, made stronger when Loomis enters holding his appointment book.

The quiet, it quickly becomes clear, is just a temporary break. In the course of two days, Loomis will meet with other administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students from the district. There are also the many e-mails and phone calls to be returned. Perhaps Loomis's 16 years as the top dog have given him the ability to calmly handle a range of matters without getting flustered.

"Here's a message from John Piechnik, the temporary principal at Glenmont Elementary," Loomis said. "The Clarksville Elementary principal wants to talk about her organizational plan. The middle school principal's in touch about staffing there, and the fact that we're cutting Connections, a new program we started this year. The high school principal will be announcing the arrest of the people responsible for the bomb threat at the high school last week. There's a message from the president of the teachers' union, since we're working to make budget cuts designed to not affect people, but programs."

There are messages about the transportation budget, a lobbying effort in Albany, the district budget, efforts to increase the town's tax base, and a reminder from the town's chamber of commerce president that Loomis is slated to speak at the State of the Schools breakfast. There are evaluation conferences of probationary administrators to be scheduled, a phone call to make to a high school in Saratoga to see how that district makes a large school feel more intimate, a committee meeting to set up to discuss the next year's school calendar, and a message about the No Child Left Behind tests.

At 2 p.m., a committee arrives to work on the selection process to replace the long-time principal at Elmsere Elementary School. Loomis, Assistant Superintendent John McGuire, a subject supervisor and another elementary school principal make up the administrative part of the group; four teachers, one member of the school's support staff and two parents represent the rest of the committee. The committee has winnowed down the pool of 37 applicants to a final five to be interviewed. The entire



Bethlehem Central School District Superintendent Les Loomis.

"By being in the district for a long time, I've developed a surer sense of when to step out with my leadership, and when to go slow. One thing that I'm aware of is that I don't have all the right answers."

Bethlehem Central School District Superintendent Les Loomis

group reworks the list of interview questions most recently used to hire another elementary school's principal. Two days are set to interview the candidates and the finalists. Within two weeks, a new principal will be selected.

The committee works easily and well together, combining a list of questions that range from administrative experience to most recently read books. In two hours, the only interruption is from a red rotary-dial phone behind Loomis' desk. Loomis' son, who left school early with a headache, wants some soothing and the location of the curly fries in the freezer.

When the group leaves, Loomis works briefly with his secretary, Cindy Bradley.

"The key to getting things done is to do all the follow-up steps immediately," he said. "John McGuire and I were clear on what we'll do next for this process, and Cindy's ready to follow up. The thing that ensures quality work is having good people around you. Cindy made up all the folders for the committee without my asking her."

Bethlehem, where kids consistently score well on standardized tests and the high school was named one of the nation's top 100 by Newsweek, is made up of involved, intelligent people who want their voices heard.

"When I first came to this district, what I heard was that people wanted more openness and more information," Loomis said. "This means that sometimes I have to let go. By being in the district for a long time, I've developed a surer sense of when to step out with my leadership, and when to go slow. One thing that I'm aware of is that I don't have all the right answers. There are people in this district with won-

derful thoughts and answers."

Sometimes, district residents directly criticize Loomis, which he tries to keep in perspective.

"I'm aware of the quality of the community, and I know a lot of the people," he said. "For the most part, people are courteous, and feel strongly about their children. Together, we work through things. I can't always give people a yes, but I listen and I'm fair."

The roles of school superintendent and community member haven't always meshed easily.

"The role of superintendent is isolating," Loomis said. "I'm the top person in the district, and my relationships are dif-

ferent. The superintendent's not so much a person as a personage, and when most people meet me outside of the school setting, they hold in mind that I'm the superintendent."

One thing he has not encountered is hostility when he's with his family. Betsy Loomis heads up the service coordinators at Wildwood School, a school for neurologically impaired students in Schenectady. The Loomises have three children, 19-year-old Kate, 14-year-old Mark, and 13-year-old Jeff.

"People respect my time with my family," Loomis said.

As day fades into evening, Loomis packs up to go to the gym, keeping the resolution he made a couple of years ago to stay in shape. From there, it's home to cook dinner, and by 7 p.m., he's back in the district office, where the meeting room is filled with 23 of the 24 members of the enrollment and facilities planning committee, and nearly 20 audience members.

The committee has been working for months to address crowding in the schools. Although demographics predict declining enrollments in coming years, Bethlehem has a number of housing developments on the books, and recent announcements that Sematech and other micro-chip companies will move into the Capital District will likely mean more students.

The facilities and planning committee, working with architects, will present a plan to the school board for additions to the schools — and possibly a new school building — by June. Loomis hopes the board will present a \$60 million bond issue to the community by October.

Loomis acknowledged that it is a difficult time to ask voters to spend more money, but sees keeping an eye on the future as one of his most critical jobs.

The facilities meeting ends at 9:30 p.m., and by 8 a.m. the next day, Loomis is back on the job. The first item on his agenda is a meeting with the presidents' council, which is made up of leaders of school

continued on page 18



Bethlehem Central School District Superintendent Les Loomis confers with B.C. Middle School PTA president Helen Smith following a presidents' council meeting.

Les Loomis

continued from page 17

groups like PTAs, the music association, sports groups, and a community youth outreach group.

Much of the presidents' council agenda is a reiteration of Loomis' past few days. He updates the council on the Elsmere principal hiring process; the facilities committee meeting; the high school bomb scare; and planned spring communications to the district. But at the top of their agenda is the budget for the coming year, which the school board will present to voters on May 20.

Gov. George Pataki's potential cuts to state education mean Bethlehem could lose

\$875,000. Loomis is optimistic that between legislators stopping the cuts and assessment rates, \$400,000 of this will be made up. Still, he foresees two lean years at a time when state mandates aren't being cut, and costs beyond district control — health insurance, retirement systems — are on the rise.

At this early point in budget figuring, Loomis explained to the presidents' council, the tax rate to district residents would see an 8.1 percent increase — larger than in past years, and one he doesn't think would be approved. His goal is to see the increase go below 7 percent.

Discussion among the council members ranges from outrage at the governor to questions about the pay rate for substitute

teachers to how to get out the vote on the budget.

"The presidents' council existed before I came," Loomis said, "but we've expanded it to include parent support groups beyond PTAs. This helps me by giving me a two-way conversation on major issues, and keeps things headed in the right direction. These leaders are connected to their constituencies, and advocate for parents and children."

While so many meetings take up a lot of his time, and often require him to convey the same information repeatedly, Loomis sees it as an essential part of his job.

"The meetings have evolved with the job," Loomis said, "but now they are part of the community's culture. It's well worth

my time and energy to communicate clearly to both the staff and the general population. These people are professionals, they care most about their children, and they pay attention. I have faith in their judgment, and I know they'll stand by us in difficult times. This is the fair and right thing to do."

Always challenging, Loomis said, is working with the different constituencies in the district, keeping the goal of constantly improving the quality of education in mind. The best part comes when the reason he went into education is validated.

"That's when I recognize that I'm making a difference, and someone has a kind word, or a word of approval," he said.

Loomis started his career by teaching in the Peace Corps after graduating cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a bachelor of arts in American Civilization from Williams College in 1967. From there, he taught social studies in Rochester, first at East High School, then Brighton High School. Then he was assistant principal at Ridgefield High School in Connecticut; principal at Fayetteville-Manlius High School in Manlius; and assistant superintendent in the Andover, Mass., public schools.

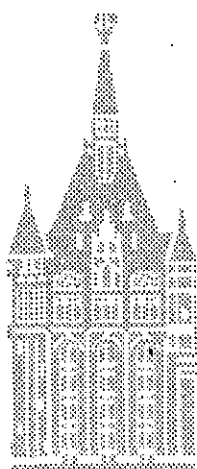
In 1987, he came to Bethlehem as superintendent. Loomis has two post-graduate degrees, a doctor of education and master in business administration, both from Harvard. Loomis serves on the executive committee of the New York State Council of School Superintendents, and is the dean of that organization's Superintendents' Academy.

His annual salary is \$139,828.

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SUNY prof wins prestigious Presidential Award

SUNY professor Dr. R. David Bynum is one of 10 from across the nation to earn one of the 2002 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering, the White House announced March 14. The awards are administered by the National Science Foundation and include a \$10,000 grant. The award identifies professors who have demonstrated a commitment to mentoring students in the areas of science, math and engineering.

Of the 10 awards, two were given to New York professors. Bynum teaches at SUNY Stony Brook and Dr. Steven G. Greenbaum, another award winner, teaches at Hunter College of the City University of New York.

"I applaud SUNY Stony Brook and Professor Bynum," said SUNY Chancellor Robert L. King. "The award recognizes Professor Bynum's surpassing excellence in bringing science, to students who generally do not participate in these areas of study. I congratulate him for his accomplishments with the Long Island Group Advancing Science Education and thank him for bringing honor to the State University of New York."

Other award winners hailed from Stanford University, Rice University and a host of other prestigious colleges and universities.

Charter schools, pro

continued from page 9

however, charter schools across the state receive on average approximately 30 percent fewer public dollars than the district school next door. While districts get funding to build schools, charter schools must build and maintain their own facilities.

The good news is that having to compete for students is beginning to inspire fresh thinking about how to improve public schools in New York. On Martin Luther King's birthday, the mayor of New York City announced his dream of having many more charter schools. In Buffalo, the district itself has sponsored a charter school that plans to open in September. And with the federal No Child Left Behind Act now requiring that parents be given meaningful chances to move from failing to successful schools, more districts are sure to follow Buffalo and New York City's lead.

Instead of arguing about money and control, charter school opponents should remember these schools are thriving for a simple reason: Parents are eagerly, actively (and sometimes desperately) leaving school districts for the public charter school across the street.

Rather than try to choke off the successful and growing charter school initiative, why not rise to the challenge and fix the problems that made parents leave other public schools in the first place?

Charter schools, con

continued from page 9

giant shortfall in school budgets. For example, when a charter school opened in Albany, the city school district got socked with a \$4 million bill.

Making matters worse, roughly half of New York's charter schools are being run by private companies seeking to make a profit off the children they serve. When the best interests of students collides with the best interests of shareholders, you don't have to wonder which side wins out.

New York is facing an unprecedented budget crisis. It's wrong to expect school districts to pay for charter schools before they fund the essential programs that their students need. Until the state's economy rebounds - and the state budget crisis is over - the Legislature should seriously consider a moratorium on the approval of any new charter schools. They are a luxury we cannot afford during this current fiscal crisis.

We must remember that the vast majority of children continue to be educated in traditional public schools. Over the past seven years, New York's public education system has raised academic standards and improved student achievement. More students are taking - and passing Regents' exams and earning Regents' diplomas. Public education is clearly on the upswing.

That is where we should be focusing all of our efforts.

Walter Dunn, a resident of Clifton Park, is second vice president of the 480,000-member New York State United Teachers. He has followed New York's charter schools program for NYSUT, the state's largest union.

Gender gap

continued from page 3

computer sciences. The women certainly get into it here. We have a whole degree program that is quite popular," she said.

But waiting until college to foster interest away from male competitive attitudes is not the answer for most women.

Programs have to be developed or expanded to reach young girls, Bhatia said. She endorses after-school programs for children to instill confidence and familiarity with science and computing. "I think we need more programs like that. Boys need it also but there has to be programs only girls participate in."

Mentoring programs in schools and universities are a great benefit to women in science programs too, she said.

Cornell has an extensive mentoring program for women in computer sciences, Jenkins said. The university received a two-year \$200,000 grant from the General Electric Foundation to support a Women in Math and Science program.

"We are using this money to bolster a number of programs that are of interest to our women students," Jenkins said. Academic Excellence workshops provide additional course materials for students who want more background.

Special courses are aimed at women's interests, such as an alternative game design course that emphasizes problem solving rather than the traditional kind of game involving violence and destruction and a non-programming introduction to computer science focusing on artificial intelligence and information science rather than coding.

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Learning to attract teachers

Programs designed to make process easier

by Elizabeth LeSuer

Thinking about becoming a teacher? New York state hopes you are.

Teaching professions can be some of the most rewarding, but it can also seem daunting to obtain the necessary credentials. The state Education Department is working to make the process easier, as it prepares for an expected shortage of teachers in the next few years.

According to the state Education Department, the anticipated teaching vacancies for Upstate New York exist in career and technical education, English, languages other than English, mathematics, the arts and social studies. In addition, vacancies exist in student support service areas such as school counseling, school social work and psychology, as well as school library and media services. Not a very encouraging outlook, despite the fact that New York ranks second among the states with an average teacher salary of \$51,000. It also compares favorably with other states in beginning teacher salaries at \$31,910, with California just above it at \$32,190.

So why the shortage?

New York State United Teachers First Vice President Antonia Cortese said 61 percent of teachers surveyed don't feel they're being paid fairly for what they do.

"We should not be embarrassed to



Janey Hurd - Young teachers like Cazenovia Middle School teacher Mark Tugaw are harder and harder to find, particularly in areas like math and science.

demand a decent middle-class lifestyle for our members," said Randi Weingarten, president of NYSUT's affiliate in New York City schools. "People perceive that teaching is philanthropy or missionary work - and it's not."

To guarantee every child a qualified teacher, and with 100,000 additional teachers needed over the next five years, Cortese urges raising teacher pay, strengthening teacher recognition and mentoring and moving with urgency to

combat student disruptions in the classroom.

"Salaries for teachers have not kept pace with what other professionals with master's degrees and similar levels of experience are earning," Cortese said.

According to a pamphlet issued by the state Education Department, New York state has more than three million students in more than 4,000 schools. Richard P. Mills, commissioner of education, said the department is working to recruit teachers

across the state.

"I think my responsibility and that of everyone teaching is to send that message," Mills said of recruitment. "Remember the teacher who made a difference in your life? You could make that difference in countless lives. New York's children need men and women of character, intelligence and energy to teach them. It's a hard job but a wonderful one. For example, teaching a child how to read. Who wouldn't want to do that?"

Mills said in addition to people who go to college to become teachers, professionals looking for a career change make great teachers. The alternative certification program is designed for people in mid-career who want to become teachers. According to the state Education Department, alternative programs are designed to get qualified candidates into the classroom quickly. After a short preservice program (usually about two months), candidates can be employed as a teacher, with support from a mentor, and take additional time to complete the education requirements.

"I'm convinced people want to teach - I meet them everyday," Mills said. "We just won't give up."

Recruiting new teachers

While increasing salaries and benefits

continued on page 21

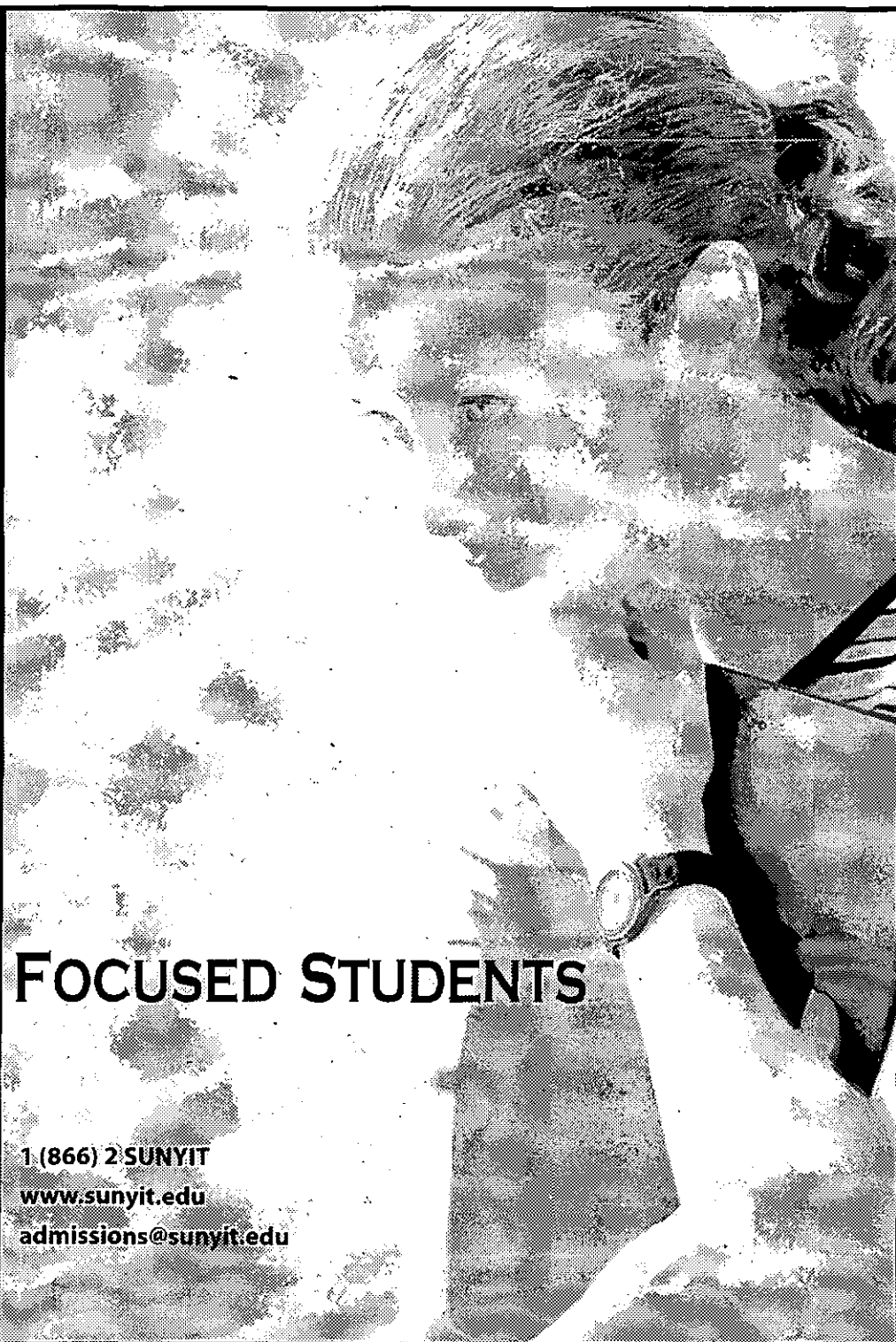
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Teacher shortage

continued from page 20

may help to keep teachers in their positions, recruiting new teachers is also important. A NYSUT poll of senior teachers reveals that nearly three-quarters are likely to retire in the next five years. In order to facilitate the certification process, the state Department of Education has set up a detailed Web site where prospective teachers, from recent graduates to professionals looking for a career change, can get the information needed to gain certification. Also, the No Child Left Behind Act requires educators in core academic areas to be "highly qualified," meaning they must be licensed by the state, hold a bachelor's degree and demonstrate competence in their subject area.

On a local level, Jeffrey Gordon, assistant superintendent for the Jamesville-Dewitt School District, is in charge of recruitment for the district. He said finding teachers for middle and high school levels is hard.

"It's much more difficult than it used to be," Gordon said. "There are fewer programs for certification for the seven through 12th levels than for elementary levels."

Gordon said Central New York colleges and universities have great elementary education programs, but only have a handful of secondary education programs. English, math, science and foreign language teachers are hard to find, he said.

"It's much more difficult than it used to be to get certification," Gordon said.

According to Gordon, last year there were three high school math positions open at JD due to retirements, and there were

fewer than 20 applicants for each position. There were more than 200 candidates for each open elementary position.

So, how does the district recruit teachers?

In addition to advertising, JD has a Web site that lists positions available, information on the district and programs and has applications available. The Web site, www.teachatjd.org, is useful because people out of the area can get information on the district as well as those locally.

"It's been very successful," Gordon said. "We've increased our pool of candidates that way."

Becoming a teacher

According to the state Department of Education, specific requirements vary depending on the level of teaching the applicant is applying for (elementary, mathematics, art, etc.), but most new teachers must meet the following general requirements for provisional/initial certification:

- a bachelor's degree
- a college major or its equivalent in the subject area of the teaching certificate being sought
- completion of courses on "how to teach" (education courses/pedagogy). These courses can be completed as part of, or after a bachelor's degree program.
- student teaching
- pass two examinations demonstrating knowledge in: 1) teaching skills and 2) the liberal arts and sciences
- approved training in identifying and reporting suspected child abuse and in

preventing school violence either as part of a degree program or in separate two-hour modules

- law enforcement/fingerprint clearance

There are three options to satisfy the education requirements: completion of a registered college teacher education program; evaluation of college courses; and enrollment in an alternative program for a transitional certificate.

A real-life example

Beth Fournier, a senior at Le Moyne College, has wanted to be a teacher since she was in high school.

"A lot of kids were disrespectful to teachers, but they always put up with it and kept going," Fournier said. "I admired my teachers."

After researching education programs at several other universities, Fournier decided to attend Le Moyne.

"They just had a great reputation for their education programs," Fournier said.

Fournier did her student teaching at two local schools: Onondaga Road Elementary School in a second grade classroom, and Blessed Sacrament Elementary School in a sixth grade classroom. Each placement lasted seven weeks, as mandated by state law.

"When I started, I was dead-set against teaching any class over third grade," Fournier said. "But I ended up having a great time at both placements. I have decided to stay at the elementary level because as kids get older, they become more disrespectful, and I just have such a great time with the younger kids."

While her classes were focused,

Fournier said student teaching was really useful.

"The classes tell you how to handle certain situations, but it's not until you're out there that you really know how to implement those tools," Fournier said.

Fournier said the process for certification is tedious, and that she feels some of it isn't as focused as it could be.

"The Liberal Arts and Sciences Test doesn't gauge ability to teach," Fournier said. "It asked questions like 'interpret this painting.' I would have preferred it to give me situations and ask me how I'd handle them in an actual class."

Fingerprinting and notarizing of applications were also roadblocks.

"It was hard to find a place to get the fingerprinting done," Fournier said. "I ended up getting it done at Le Moyne Security. But some places charge you to get it done. Also, for the provisional certificate, the application has to be notarized - it was a lot of paperwork."

Despite the red tape required, Fournier said she's happy with her choice to become a teacher.

"I feel like I'm well-prepared," Fournier said. "I can't wait to get out there and be in my own classroom."

Applications, information, answers to frequently asked questions and links to other sources are available on the state Education Department's Office of Teaching Initiatives Web site at www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert. Requests can also be made via mail to Office of Teaching Initiatives, New York State Education Department, 5N Education Building, Albany, NY 12234; by e-mail to tcert@mail.nysed.gov; or by calling (518) 474-3901.

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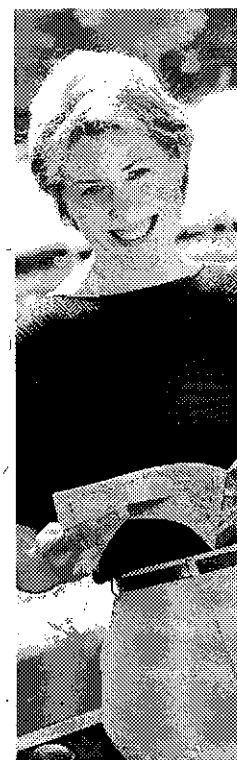
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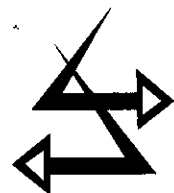
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Website Directory

National Association of College Admission Counselors

www.nacac.com

College counseling on the Net. Provides many links to excellent sites.

Chronicle of Higher Education

<http://chronicle.com>

Provided by The Chronicle of Higher Education, the weekly news journal for college and university administrators (including admissions directors). The site provides an inside view of major issues relating to colleges and universities as well as summaries of latest articles and research.

College Board Online

<http://www.collegeboard.org>

College Board Online helps students and parents make the transition from school to college. It includes college board tests, programs, and online registration, a test Question of the Day, a searchable database of colleges, financial aid information including a financial aid calculator.

College and University Home Pages

<http://www.mit.edu.8001/people/edemello/univ.html>

Courtesy of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, this site includes links to home pages of more than 2,500 colleges and universities worldwide.

CollegeNET

<http://collegenet.com>

CollegeNET lets students search for institutions by geography, tuition, enrollment and college major. Databases for four-year colleges/community, technical, and junior colleges; lists of colleges by category; links financial aid information.

Peterson's Education Center

www.petersons.com

Peterson's Education Center includes information about educational programs at all levels and provides searchable databases of colleges and academic programs. All college/university sites provide basic information and many provide extensive descriptive material, online view books, and applications.

ETS Net

<http://www.ets.org>

You may think you're in an underground magazine site, because its format looks a bit like a ransom note. Don't be fooled. ETS is the Educational Testing Service, the very people who prepare the SAT. The site offers a virtual store where you can buy books and software to study for the tests, and an online magazine by and for high school students.

The Princeton Review

<http://www.review.com>

An informative site providing general information on college admissions process and financial aid. A database of the company's test prep courses is also available. The best part is the archived excerpts from the book "The Best 309 Colleges."

University Links

<http://www.ulinks.com>

A Web site soaked with information on college admissions, essays, campus life and costs. You can also get in touch with the U.S. Dept. of Education and Office of Postsecondary Education using this site. It also lists the college rankings by U.S. News & World Report.

College View

www.collegeview.com

This site offers a college search engine and database of college information.

U.S. News & World Report

www.usnews.com

U.S. News & World Report annually ranks colleges and provides an excellent comparison of colleges.

NCAA guide

www.ncaa.org/eligibility/cbsa/

For students planning to compete athletically in college, check this NCAA guide for college-bound student athletes. It includes notes on academic eligibility and core course requirements, plus graduation rates for athletes and academic support services available at colleges.

Embark's College Matchmaker

www.embark.com

Takes students through an 11-step survey to round up the schools that fit their needs.

Campus Tours

www.campustours.com

This site does a good job of directing potential students to hundreds of schools' interactive tours. These include a mix of campus maps, streaming videos, live Webcam's slide shows and 360-degree panoramic views.

Security on Campus Inc.

www.campusafety.org/STATS/

Covering nearly 1,500 campuses, the page lists materials from FBI crime reports on crime rates in surrounding neighborhoods and towns. The site also links directly to scores of campus police department Web sites.

E-College Planner

www.ecollegeplanner.com

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Petition to Governor Pataki and Members of the New York State Legislature

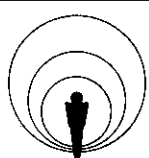
I oppose \$1.24 billion in cuts to education that will lead to teacher lay-offs, bigger classes, elimination of pre-kindergarten and higher school property taxes.

I urge you to restore the cuts and provide enough funding for school districts to maintain current educational programs without massive property tax hikes.

There is an alternative to cuts in education; I support a fair state tax system that puts a nominal surcharge on incomes of more than \$100,000 and closes loopholes that allow big corporations to avoid paying New York taxes. This provides more than enough funds to restore the cuts in education proposed by Governor Pataki; and to provide additional funding needed to maintain current educational programs.

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Dionysians to perform Les Miserables at high school

The Voorheesville Dionysians will present "Les Miserables" at the new Performing Arts Center at Clayton A. Bouton Junior/Senior High School March 27 to 30.

Show times are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:15 p.m. and Sunday at 2:15 p.m.

The cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and senior citizens.

St. Matthew's men to dish up breakfast

St. Matthew's Men's Association, along with the Youth Ministry, will be serving breakfast Sunday, March 30, from 7:30 a.m. until noon in the church social hall on Mountainview Street.

Proceeds will benefit the Mary Grotto. Breakfast costs \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Takeouts will be available.

Fire company to serve fish fry dinners

New Salem Volunteer Fire Department will serve its annual fish fry dinners Fridays through April 18 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the firehouse on Route 85A in New

NEWS NOTES

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Salem.

Dinners will include a fish fry, clam roll, french fries, baked potato, coleslaw and a beverage.

New England clam chowder and dessert will also be available for \$1.50

Eat-in dining is offered, or

takeouts can be ordered by calling 765-2244.

The cost is \$6.50 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for children under 12.

School board to conduct regular meeting

The next regular school board meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, at 7:30 in the commons area at the high school.

Garden club to meet

The next regular meeting of the Helderview Garden Club will be on Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m.

at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center.

Senior citizens to meet

New Scotland Senior Citizens' next meeting is on Wednesday, April 2, at 12:30 p.m. at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center in New Salem.

The group will install new officers.

Schools closed March 28 for conference day

Schools in the district will be closed on Friday, March 28, for a superintendent's conference day.

Library to host program on wood frogs

The Friends of Thacher Nature Center is sponsoring a program Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. on the natural history and habitat of wood frogs in Albany County.

The presentation by George Rapp will be held at the Voorheesville Public Library. It is open to the public.

For information, call 872-0800.



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All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054. Letters can be faxed to 439-0609.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC

Notice of Formation of 42 HOWARD STREET, LLC a domestic Limited Liability Company. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York on 1/28/03. NY office location is Albany County. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him to c/o Alfred and Regina McCormick, 600 Broadway, Albany, New York 12207. The Purpose of LLC is real property management. LCD30002824 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)
The name of the LLC is 49 RAILROAD AVENUE ASSOCIATES, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on February 5, 2003. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 9 Washington Avenue Square, Albany, New York 12205. LCD30002822 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF HOLLYFIELD FARMS, LLC
Under Section 203 of the Limited Liability Company Law
The undersigned, for the purpose of organizing a limited liability company in the State of New York, does hereby certify:
FIRST: The name of limited liability company is HOLLYFIELD FARMS, LLC
SECOND: The county within this state in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located is ALBANY COUNTY
THIRD: The Secretary of State is designated as an agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address within or without this state to which the secretary of state shall mail copy of any process against the limited liability company upon him is HOLLYFIELD FARMS, LLC C/O MICHAEL PARMELEE 109 SUSSEX COURT VOORHEESVILLE, NY 12186
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this certificate has been subscribed this 2/21/2003 by the undersigned

LEGAL NOTICE

who affirms that the statements made herein are true under the penalties of perjury.

S/MICHAEL PARMELEE
MICHAEL PARMELEE/
ORGANIZER
109 SUSSEX COURT
VOORHEESVILLE, NY 12186
LCD-2851
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)
The name of the LLC is AT-VENTURES, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on February 13, 2003. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 21 Grey Ledge Drive, Loudonville, New York 12211. LCD30002829 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Broadwing Logistics LLC.
Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 2/3/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/18/02. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: 1122 Capital of Texas Highway South, Austin, TX 78746. Art. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Suite 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD30002816 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF A FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)
The name of the LLC is COLUMBIA 90 ASSOCIATES, II, LLC The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on February 11, 2003. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 302 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York 12203. LCD30002821 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: CONCORD RENTALS, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/27/02. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 156 Sparrowbush Road, Latham, New York, 12110. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD30002765 (A) (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

DELAWARE PLAZA WINE AND LIQUOR COMPANY, LLC
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Articles of Organization for Delaware Plaza Wine & Liquor Company, LLC were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 3, 2003. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC, Delaware Plaza Wine & Liquor company, LLC, 180 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054. Purpose: for any lawful purpose. LD 30002833 (B) (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF G3 PROPERTIES, LLC
(PURSUANT TO SECTION 203 OF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Articles of Organization of G3 PROPERTIES, LLC (the "Company") were filed with the Secretary of State of New York on February 4, 2003. The Company is being formed to engage in the ownership, management, leasing, purchasing, selling, development and mortgage of property and any necessary or incidental to such purpose and any other lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the LLC.

The office of the Company is to be located in the County of Albany, State of New York. The Secretary of State has been designated as the agent of the Company upon whom process against the Company may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company served upon such Secretary of State is 50 State Street, 6th Floor, Albany, New York 12207. LD30002820 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

BETHLEHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Board of Education of the Bethlehem Central School District hereby invites the submission of sealed bids in accordance with Section 103 of the General Municipal Law for the following:
ARTS AND CRAFTS SUPPLIES
MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS
PRINTING OF HIGHLIGHTS
PHYSICAL EDUCATION & ATHLETIC SUPPLIES
SCIENCE SUPPLIES
TECHNOLOGY (INDUSTRIAL ARTS) SUPPLIES
Sealed bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, April 15, 2003, at the office of the Business Administrator at Bethlehem Central School District, 90 Adams Place, Delmar, New York, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the same office.
The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Any bids submitted will be binding for 90 days subsequent to the date of the bid opening.
Board of Education
STEVEN O'SHEA
District Clerk

DATE: 3/20/03
LD-2929
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Centrix Financial LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 3/10/2003. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Colorado (CO) on 6/30/1998. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. CO address of LLC: 6782 South Potomac St., Englewood, CO 80112. Arts. of Org. filed with CO Secy. of State, 1560 Broadway, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80202. Purpose: any lawful activity LD-2927 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)
The name of LLC is THE COLONIAL INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC. The articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on March 19, 2003. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 7 Airport Park Boulevard, Latham, New York 12110. LCD-2925 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Qualification of Cornerstone Apartment Venture I, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State N.Y. (SSNY) on 3/07/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 1/9/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: One Financial Plaza, Suite 1700, Hartford, CT 06103. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Suite 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-2923 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of limited liability company ("LLC"). Name of LLC: Helderberg Roof Consultants, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on March 19, 2002. Office location: Albany County, SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon it to 2706 New Scotland Road, Voorheesville, New York 12186. Purpose: to engage in any activity for which LLCs may be organized under the LLC Law. LD-2843 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Benchmark Assisted Living LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 2/19/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 6/16/1997. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: 35 Walnut St., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. LD-2828 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of R S & REBATH, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 2/13/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 130 Wilton Rd., Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-2827 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Formation of CARES, LLC Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 2/05/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, P.O. Box 10263, Albany, NY 12201. Purpose: any lawful activity. LD-2819 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION NOTICE
1. The name of the Limited Liability Company is DCM ENTERPRISES, LLC (hereinafter referred to as the "Company").
2. The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State on January 13, 2003.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the office of the Company is to be located is Albany County.
4. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process against the Company may be served. The Post Office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail process is 421 Second Avenue, Watervliet, New York 12189.
5. The purpose of the business of the Company is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the Limited Liability Company Law of the State of New York. LD-2917 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION NOTICE
1. The name of the Limited Liability Company is CHANGE TAC, LLC (hereinafter referred to as the "Company").
2. The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State on December 12, 2002.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the office of the Company is to be located is Albany County.
4. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process against the Company may be served. The Post Office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail process is 4 Arbor Court, Albany, New York 12211.
5. The purpose of the business of the Company is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the Limited Liability Company Law of the State of New York. LD-2916 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION NOTICE

1. The name of the Limited Liability Company is INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, LLC (hereinafter referred to as the "Company").

2. The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State on August 13, 2001.

3. The County within New York in which the office of the Company is to be located is Albany County.

4. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process against the Company may be served. The Post Office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail process is 2622 Seventh Avenue, Watervliet, New York 12189.

5. The purpose of the business of the Company is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the Limited Liability Company Law of the State of New York.

LD-2915
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION NOTICE

1. The name of the Limited Liability Company is ROI PROPERTIES, LLC (hereinafter referred to as the "Company").

2. The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State on August 13, 2001.

3. The County within New York in which the office of the Company is to be located is Albany County.

4. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process against the Company may be served. The Post Office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail process is 2622 Seventh Avenue, Watervliet, New York 12189.

5. The purpose of the business of the Company is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the Limited Liability Company Law of the State of New York.

LD-2914
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

The limited company of Hayes Development, LLC was formed on January 23, 2003 by David H. Hayes. The address of the company is 27 Folmsbee Drive, Menands, New York 12204 in the County of Albany. The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the company on whom process can be served.

DL-2817
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

LP CONSTRUCTION, LLC
Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company
Articles of Organization of LP construction, LLC ("LLC") were filed with the Department of State of New York ("SSNY") on January 9, 2003. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to Lori Coons, 34 Mt. View Avenue, Albany, NY 12208. LLC does not have a specific date of dissolution. Purpose: All legal purposes.

Filer Address: Lavelle & Finn
450 New Karner Rd.
Albany, New York 12205
LD30002828
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Menlo Worldwide Services, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 1/9/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/20/02. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC) 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. DE address of LLC: c/o CSC, 2711 Centerville Rd., Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Suite 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity.

LD30002812
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP ("LP")
The name of the LP is MJB, FPLP. The Certificate of Limited Partnership was filed with

LEGAL NOTICE

the New York State Secretary of State on January 31, 2003. The purpose of the LP is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LP is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LP upon whom process against the LP may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LP is 26 Century Hill Drive, Latham, New York 12110-2128. LCD30002809 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

1. The name of the Company is: T.G.R. FOODS, LLC
2. The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State on February 12, 2003.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the Company's office is to be located is Schenectady County.
4. The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail process against it is 204 Vley Road Scotia, New York 12302
5. The registered agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against the liability company may be served is Thomas G. Rimmer, Jr., 204 Vley Road, Scotia, New York 12866.
6. The character of the business is to conduct any lawful business activity for profit that is not otherwise prohibited by the laws of the State of New York.

LD-2822 (B)
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of West End Pharmacy, LLC, Art. of Org. filed Secy. of State (SSNY) 2/26/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process: 68 Ontario Street, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LCD-2889
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Brandywine Development, LLC, Art. of Org. filed Secy. of State (SSNY) 1/24/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process: c/o Becker & Becker, P.O. Box 575, Albany, NY 12201-0575. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LCD-2880
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, NAME: BALMORAL PARTNERS, LLC.
Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of State of New York ("SSNY") on 09/12/02. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 200 LANCASTER ST #100 ALBANY NY 12210. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

LD-2874
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, NAME: RIVERTOWN INVESTMENTS, LLC.
Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on 10/18/02. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 200 LANCASTER ST #100 ALBANY NY 12210. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

LD-2873
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC).
The name of the LLC is UNIFIED HOLDINGS, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the Secretary of State on February 25, 2003. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the

LEGAL NOTICE

LLC is to be located in Name County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 5 Edgewood Circle, Menands, New York 12204.

LCD-2866
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, NAME: M & T DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/09/02. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 17 Homestead Avenue, Albany New York 12203. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

LD-2844
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, NAME: SHAWN HENDERSON, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/27/03. The latest date of dissolution is 12/31/2002. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, c/o Shawn Henderson, 221 Blecker Street, #2W, New York, New York 10012. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

DL-2818
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of limited liability partnership (LLP): Name: Meyers & Meyers, LLP. Certificate of Registration filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 1/23/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Meyers & Meyers, LLP, 1734 Western Avenue, Albany, New York 12203. Purpose: law and any other lawful purpose.

LD-2810
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LONDONERRY REALTY, LLC (PURSUANT TO SECTION 203 PF THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Articles of Organization of Londonderry Realty, LLC, LLC (the "Company") were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York on December 6, 2002. The Company is being formed to engage in the ownership, management, leasing, purchasing, selling, development, and mortgaging of property and any activities necessary or incidental to such purpose and any other lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the LLC. The office of the Company is to be located in the County of Albany, State of New York. The Secretary of State has been designated as the agent of the Company upon whom process against the Company may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company served upon such Secretary of State is 50 State Street, 6th Floor, Albany, New York 12207. LD2807 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Business Incubation Support Services International, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 0/07/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in New Jersey (NJ) on 1/29/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. NJ 07662. Arts. of Org. filed with NJ Dept. of Treasury, Division of Revenue, 225 West State St., Fl., Trenton, NJ 08608. Purpose: any lawful activity.

LD-2905
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of New Bedford Realty Development, LLC, Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 3/3/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Massachusetts (MA) on 3/19/01. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. MA address of LLC: c/o The Richmond Company, Inc., 7 Essex Green Dr., Suite 56, Peabody, MA 01960. Arts. of Org. filed with MA Secy. of Commonwealth, One Ashburton Place, 17th Fl., Boston, MA 02108. Purpose: any lawful activity.

LD-2879
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of NB Realty, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 3/3/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 2/27/03. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. DE address of LLC: c/o CSC, 2711 Centerville Rd., Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Suite 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity.

LD-2878
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Xerox XBS Warehouse Holding LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 2/4/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/18/02. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: 800 Long Ridge Rd., Mail Stop 2-4B, Stamford, CT 06904. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, Lockerman & Federal Sts., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity.

LD-2872
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Eby-Brown Transportation, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 2/21/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 9/17/01. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Principal office of LLC: 280 West Shuman Blvd., Suite 280, Naperville, IL 60566. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, Federal & Duke of York St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity.

LD-2871
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP ("LP")
The name of the LP is PJB FP, L.P. The Certificate of Limited Partnership was filed with the New York State Secretary of State on January 31, 2003. The purpose of the LP is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LP is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LP upon whom process against the LP may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LP is 26 Century Hill Drive, Latham, New York 12110-2128.

LCD30002810
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York, will hold a public hearing on TUESDAY, April 01, 2003, at the Town Offices, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, New York, at 7:30 p.m., to give consideration to the application of Foxfire Town Homes, LLC, 15 Kenwood Ave.,

LEGAL NOTICE

Glenmont, NY, for approval of a four lot (4) subdivision on Bender Lane & Foxfire Lane, as shown on map entitled, "Subdivision Plan, PROPOSED DUPLEX LOTS, BENDER LANE, 'THE MEADOWS' SUBDIVISION, SECTION 2C, Town of Bethlehem, County: Albany, State: New York", dated February 11, 1997, revised to 02/13/03 and made by Paul E. Hite, LLS, Delmar, NY. Douglas Hasbrouck Chairman, Planning Board
NOTE: Disabled individuals who are in need of assistance in order to participate in the public hearing should contact the Parks Dept. at 439-4131. Advance notice is requested.

LD-2921
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 2, 2003, at 7:45 p.m., at the Town Offices, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York for Area Variance under Article XVI, Front Yards, Section 128-71, Accessory Structures of the Code of the Town of Bethlehem for construction of a garage, which will encroach onto the Front Yard setback requirement at premises 94 Fernbank Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054.

Michael C. Hodom
Chairman
Board of Appeals

LD-2920
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 2, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., at the Town Offices, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York for Area Variance under Article XII, Percent of Lot Occupancy, Section 128-50, Single Family Dwellings of the Code of the Town of Bethlehem for construction of an addition, which will exceed the Percentage of Lot Occupancy at premises 28 Mallard Road, Glenmont, New York 12054.

Michael C. Hodom
Chairman
Board of Appeals

LD-2919
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York, will hold a public hearing on TUESDAY, April 01, 2003, at the Town Offices, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, New York, at 7:45 p.m., to give consideration to the application of A.T. Zautner & Son, 32 Manor Dr., Glenmont, NY, for approval of a four lot (4) subdivision at the end of Willow Drive, Delmar, as shown on map entitled, "Preliminary Plat, PROPOSED SUBDIVISION, 'WILLOW ESTATES', Property of A.T. Zautner & Son, Inc., Town of Bethlehem, County: Albany, State: New York", dated January 16, 2003, revised to March 1, 2003 and made by Paul E. Hite, LLS, Delmar, NY. Douglas Hasbrouck Chairman, Planning Board
NOTE: Disabled individuals who are in need of assistance in order to participate in the public hearing should contact the Parks Dept. at 439-4131. Advance notice is requested.

LD-2922
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, NAME: TPJG ASSOCIATES, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/17/03. The latest date of dissolution is 12/31/2050. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 22 Wilson Avenue, Cohoes,

LEGAL NOTICE

New York 12047. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. LD30002819 (B)
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, NAME: VARGA DEVELOPMENT CO., LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/07/03. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 1414 Western Avenue, Albany, New York 12203. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

LD30002830
(March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Vector SCM, LLC, authority filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/4/03. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 9/5/00. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC) 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, registered agent upon whom process may be served. DE address of LLC: c/o CSC 2711 Centerville Rd., Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, Corp. Dept., Lookerman & Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity LD30002826 (March 26, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

VOORHEESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE REGARDING
ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCEDURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Board of Education action taken December 9, 1991, the following procedures must be followed to procure an absentee ballot to be used for elections conducted by the Voorheesville Central School District. An absentee ballot and application will be mailed to each qualified voter who requests such in a signed letter provided the voter meets the criteria listed below: The person will be unable to appear to vote in person on the day of the school district election for which the absentee ballot is requested because he/she is, or will be on the day:

a) a patient in a hospital, or unable to appear personally at the polling place because of illness or physical disability or;
b) because his/her duties, occupation, business or studies will require him/her to be outside of the county or city of his/her residence on that day;
1) Where such duties, occupation, business or studies are of such a nature as ordinarily to require such absence, a brief description of such duties, occupation, business or studies shall be set forth in the affidavit.

2) Where such duties, occupation, business or studies are not such a nature as ordinarily to require such absence, the application shall contain a statement of the special circumstances that such absence is required; or
c) because he/she will be on vacation outside the county or city of his/her residence on that day. The application shall also contain the dates which he/she expects to begin and end the vacation, the place or places where he/she expects to be on vacation, the name and address of his/her employer, if any, and if self-employed, a statement to that effect; or
d) absent from his/her voting residence because he/she is detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial or is confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony. Letters requesting applications for absentee ballots may be received by the District Clerk not earlier than the thirtieth (30th) day nor later than the seventh (7th) day before the election. Requests should be addressed to: Clerk, Board of Education P.O. Box 498 Voorheesville Central School District Voorheesville, New York 12186 The Clerk shall post the list in a conspicuous place or places during the election, and any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the absentee voter's ballot of any person on the list at that time, by making a challenge and the reasons known to the inspector's of election before the close of polls.

Dated: March 12, 2003
Dorothea Pfeleiderer,
District Clerk
Voorheesville Central School District

LD-2869
(March 26, 2003)

Using your home's equity to enhance your home's equity

By TIMOTHY P. MINAHAN,
Vice President, KeyBank N.A.

The clichés are true, but they tell only part of the story.

"Your home is the biggest investment you'll ever make," says one — but homeowners can use that investment to improve their homes and lifestyle.

"Home is where the heart is," suggests another — but it's also where the equity is, an often-dormant but powerful financial resource.

Using that investment, that equity, opens up new possibilities for homeowners, possibilities that have never been more wide open.

Home equity is simply the value of a home, minus any mortgages or liens owed. Homeowners can borrow against that equity, using either home equity loans or lines of credit, for many useful family purposes. Families typically use this resource for special vacations, building or buying a retirement home, financing a child's or grandchild's education, remodeling or adding a room, purchasing a new car, or consolidating debts. Every homeowner has plenty of ideas for using extra cash, and home equity can make those ideas reality.

One of the most common uses of home equity financing is funding home improvements that benefit families not only by enhancing their lifestyles but also by increasing the value and selling price of the property.

Home equity loans are preferable to withdrawing funds from an IRA or liquidating other assets because such withdrawals often entail penalties or even capital gains tax consequences.

Even relatively new homeowners might be surprised at how much equity has accumulated in their property. In the currently hot real estate market across our region, anyone who has owned a home for more than five years has probably built up sizeable equity as real estate values have increased.

Home equity loans and home equity lines of credit are affordable, convenient and the

interest is tax deductible in many instances. Typically, the interest on home equity loans is low, and repayment terms are flexible, with either variable or fixed-rate payment options available.

Consolidating existing debt obligations into one monthly home equity loan payment can provide both convenience and smaller payments in many cases, as homeowners make just one monthly payment instead of several. Home equity loan repayments can typically be spread out, usually up to 20 years, so the payments could be smaller than the multiple payments homeowners often make. Also, interest expense is generally tax deductible.

A home equity loan provides a one-time lump-sum payment, and the borrower repays in equal payments over a fixed period of time. A line of credit provides cash as needed, at various points over a period of time. Payments will vary depending on the outstanding balance, and more funds become available as a loan is repaid, replenishing the line of credit. This makes a line of credit ideal for homeowners using borrowed funds for home improvements they're undertaking themselves. They can borrow on their line of credit for building materials only as needed, for example.

One of the most common uses of home equity financing is funding home improvements that benefit families not only by enhancing their lifestyles but also by increasing the value and selling price of the property.

replacing or improving heating and cooling plants and landscaping.

Obtaining a home equity loan or line of credit for these value-enhancing improvements can be very simple, beginning with contacting bank representatives for details on rates and application procedures. Of course, the usual qualifiers for borrowing will apply, including assets, income, credit history, and current financial obligations.

Selecting a variable or fixed interest rate is an important decision. A variable rate plan allows borrowers to take

advantage of decreases in interest rates when the bank lowers the prime rate.

Home equity rates are generally tied to the prime, which has dropped numerous times over the past two years. A fixed rate, however, provides the security and peace of mind that comes from knowing the interest rate will not fluctuate.

Interest rates, closing costs,

payment schedules and prepayment penalties for home

equity loans or lines of credit vary somewhat at different banks. Shop around by asking:

- What is the annual percentage rate?
- Is the rate variable or fixed?

- What are the applicable

fees (potentially including an application fee and a property appraisal fee)?

- What are the closing costs?
- Are there penalties for prepayment?

In the current financial climate where low interest rates prevail, homeowners would be wise to consider home equity borrowing as a very useful tool for value-enhancing home improvements or other important family priorities — a tool with unique advantages.

About the Author: Timothy P. Minahan is a vice president and oversees 20 KeyCenters throughout Upstate New York. He has worked for KeyBank for more than 11 years. His office is at 66 South Pearl St. in Albany and he may be reached at Timothy_P_Minahan@keybank.com.



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Chief

(From Page 1)

the cooperation between various factions in the community.

Ken Ringler, state commissioner of the Office of General Services and former Bethlehem supervisor, remembers when LaChappelle was named chief.

"From the first time I interviewed him, I could see he had a vision for reinvigorating and moving the Police Department forward," Ringler said, "Now that

he's leaving, you can see his vision's come true."

In addition, Ringler said LaChappelle had built a rapport in the department. "Because of all the good things he has done and all the good people he's put in place the department will continue like clockwork."

"Dick is a visionary chief of police and one of the most effective with whom I have worked. He's made a tremendous difference to Bethlehem schools and the community," said school Superintendent Les Loomis.

"He's the person most responsible for the positive cooperation between the Police Department and the district."

And, Loomis believes the SRO program is exemplary. "I think it represent a model for the state and the nation," he said. "Dick took tremendous initiative in bringing the SRO program to Bethlehem schools."

"As a result of his work and all the officers' work, our students know they have friends on the force who are dedicated to keeping our community safe. He's made an incredible difference," Loomis said.

Supervisor Sheila Fuller concurs. "Dick has been a great leader and a great person for this community. He's very innovative and brought change to the department."

She also said LaChappelle deserves credit for implementing the SRO program. "It was a program that started out rocky — parents and students were concerned about police being in the schools. To see how that program grew and gained the respect of the community was impressive, Fuller said.

LaChappelle said he is proud of the entire department and its

strength and connection to the community. "I have such confidence in each and every one of the Bethlehem officers."

He is also confident that whoever is named the new chief will face a smooth transition. His advice to a successor: "Before

anything else, remember that you serve the community. Sometimes your focus gets misdirected, but ultimately, we are responsible to the community."

In terms of his own future, he said, "I expect some opportunity will come along."

Library hosts meeting

By KRISTEN OLBY

When Bethlehem Public Library officials asked voters to approve an \$8.5 million dollar overhaul of the library three years ago, Shirley Seyler voted against it despite working at the library for 22 years. "I think that was an astronomical cost," she said.

Seyler and about eight others attended a public meeting held March 24 at the library to discuss a scaled-back plan being offered to voters in May. The \$1.5 million bond proposal would allow for building repairs and an upgrade of technology services that library officials said are essential.

"This is really a project that says all right, we're going to look at the next five years and do what we need to do to provide the level of service this community deserves," said John Hathaway, president of the library board.

Last year, the library served approximately 325,000 patrons, making it the second busiest library in the Hudson Valley, behind Albany. Built more than 30 years ago, library officials say the building is desperately in need of upgrades. The bond proposal would allow for interior lighting to be replaced utilizing an energy-saving system, a new ceiling,

fallen bricks would be repaired and bathrooms would be made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"We're going to put in additional data ports — we're going to try and make the library more user friendly," said Hathaway.

Services such as the reference and circulation desks will be shifted for accessibility, parking lot lights, for which parts are no longer made, will be replaced, and landscaping will be improved. This time, the library won't close for construction.

The \$1.5 million price tag will be paid for through a five-year bond. If approved, the tax rate would increase by \$33 for a home assessed at \$150,000, according to the proposal. The library would contribute \$100,000, already set aside, for the work. Library officials said a long-term plan must also be evaluated. They have already identified future improvements that need to be made after 2007, including installing an elevator and replacing the roof.

"I think this proposal is better ... it utilizes space better," said Seyler.

The polls will be open on May 20 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Bethlehem Central Middle School.



Circle of Friends pre-school in Delmar will hold an

OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday, April 2 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Parents are invited to bring their pre-schoolers (who will be 3 by December 1st) to explore a variety of hands-on learning activities and join in a sing along. Circle of Friends offers a fully integrated

Early childhood program with 4 and 5 hour classroom options.

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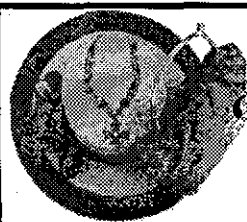
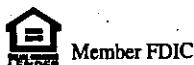
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Christopher and Tracey Blaney

Roberts, Blaney wed

Tracey Lyn Roberts, daughter of Michael and Linda Roberts of Selkirk, and Christopher Michael Blaney, son of Jack and Judith Blaney of Randolph, Mass., were married June 1.

The Rev. James Daley performed the ceremony at the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar.

A reception followed at the Polish Citizens Club in Albany.

The maid of honor was Kelly Roberts, sister of the bride.

Bridesmaids were Amy Audine, cousin of the bride, Kerry Blaney, sister of the groom, Brooke Boisvert, Jennifer Radley and Kristin D'Angelo.

The best man was Patrick Norton.

Ushers were Salvatore Tardino, Daniel Hoffenberg, Heath Burney, Christopher Poznanski and Roger Edgerly.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and The College of Saint Rose.

She works at Grebb & Ellis in Boston.

The groom is a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

He is a property manager for the Beal Co. in Boston.

After a wedding trip to Aruba, the couple lives in South Boston.

*In Delmar,
The Spotlight is sold at
Delmar Marketplace, Stewart's,
Mobil, Getty, and Sunoco Elm Ave.*

Dean's List

Le Moyne College

Lauren Caimano of Delmar.

University of Hartford

Benjamin Greenberg of Delmar.

Births

Out of town

Boy, Aidan Michael Lieberman, to Danyel and Joel Lieberman of Ballston Spa, Feb. 14.

Paternal grandparents are Robert and Susan Lieberman of Slingerlands.

Schron, Diaz engaged

Amy Jennifer Schron, daughter of Steven Schron of Delmar and Barbara Schron of Slingerlands, and Jason Alexander Diaz, son of Gail Diaz of Brockton, Mass., and the late Edward Diaz, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Northeastern University. She is a junior analyst for Monitor Equity Insights in Cambridge, Mass., and a graduate student at Northeastern University.

The future groom is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts. He is a vice president at A.G. Edwards in Boston.

The couple plans a May 29, 2004 wedding.

O'Connell, Kraszewski to wed

Kerry Ann O'Connell, daughter of Jacqueline O'Connell of Glenmont and the late Maurice J. O'Connell Jr., and David Michael Kraszewski, son of Benjamin and Barbara Kraszewski of Mechanicville, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, Siena College and Sage Graduate School. She is a senior claims adjuster for One Beacon Insurance in Albany.

The future groom is a graduate of Mechanicville High School and Siena College. He is a senior auditor for Empire Medicare Services in Albany.

The couple plans a Sept. 26 wedding.



Philip Fibiger and Emily Russell

Russell, Fibiger to marry

Emily Susan Russell, daughter of William and Kathryn Russell of Ithaca, and Philip Norman Fibiger, son of Nancy Fenster and William Fibiger of Delmar, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Cornell University. She is a graduate student at

the University of California Los Angeles.

The future groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Cornell University.

He is a software developer for Dimensional Fund Advisors in Santa Monica, Calif.

The couple plans a July 11 wedding.

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3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15

Location: United Methodist Church,
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To Register arrive by 4:40 1st Day of Session

Cost: Paid in Full with Registration
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Attire: Wear Comfortable Clothing, bring a mat

Instructor: Sherrie Hickey,
Certified Pilates Instructor

Questions? Call 439-4136

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Black and white photos are preferred, but color photos are acceptable. Polaroid photos cannot be printed.

For information and submission forms, call 439-4949. Mail announcements to P.O. Box 100, Delmar 12054.

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Saturday, March 29 • 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 30 • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Obituaries

Max Privler

Max Privler, 89, of Delmar died Sunday, March 16, at Community Hospice of Albany County at St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in Albany, he was an Army veteran of World War II, serving with the 157 Infantry in Italy.

He was a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

Mr. Privler operated Skipper's and Walt & Mac's Fish Fry, both in Albany.

He was a route man for Three Farms Dairy and Crowley's Dairy before he retired. He also worked part time in maintenance at Bleeker Stadium.

In the 1940s, he was instrumental in starting the West End Little League.

He was a life member of the Wiggand VFW Post, serving as a Post commander from 1978 to 1979. He was a former commander of the Albany County Council VFW and a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent No. 6.

He was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Gunderland Elks, the Nathaniel Blanchard American Legion Post 1040, the Ancient Masonic Temple and Bethlehem Senior Citizens.

Mr. Privler was a member of Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Albany.

He was husband of the late Ethel Clark Privler.

Survivors include his wife, Marie Erdmann Wright Privler; his wife's two daughters, Beverly Wright Krugman and Sheree Wright Pittz; his wife's son,

Wayne Wright; and a brother, Daniel Privler of Highland.

Services were from the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar.

Entombment was in Graceland Cemetery in Albany.

Contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, PO Box 9007, Albany 12209 or the Good Samaritan Fund, 125 Rockefeller Road, Delmar 12054.

Roy LaMere

Roy V. LaMere, 75, of Delmar died Monday, March 17, at his home.

Born in Keesville, he was a longtime resident of Troy before moving to Delmar.

He was an Army Air Forces veteran of World War II.

Mr. LaMere worked for the Public Works Department in Troy for more than 25 years.

He was a former member of the Troy Rod & Gun Club.

He was a communicant of the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar.

He was husband of the late Ellen Welfel LaMere and Elsie Moran Schemehoran.

Survivors include 24 children; 40 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

Services were from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle and Applebee Funeral Home.

Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery in Troy.

Contributions may be made to the Slingerlands Fire Dept., 1520 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands 12159.

Alice Delaney

Alice LeBrun Delaney of Feura Bush died Monday, March 17, at Villa Mary Immaculate Nursing Home in Albany.

She was the widow of William James Delaney Sr.

Survivors include two sons, Thomas P. Delaney of Clifton Park and William James Delaney Jr. of Baltimore, Md.; a daughter, Dorothy A. Schipano of Feura Bush; eight grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Services were private.

Burial was in Graceland Cemetery in Albany.

Contributions may be made to Villa Mary Immaculate Nursing Home, 301 Hackett Blvd., Albany 12208.

Natalie Linke

Natalie J. Linke, 84, of Old Ravena Road in Selkirk, died Sunday, March 16, at Rosewood Gardens Nursing Home in East Greenbush.

Born in New York City, she lived in Selkirk for more than 30 years.

Mrs. Linke was a nurse.

She attended First Reformed Church of Bethlehem.

She was an accomplished artist and enjoyed knitting and sewing.

Survivors include a cousin, William Linke of Connecticut; her dear friends, the Bova family; and her cat, Jelly Bean.

Services were from the Caswell Funeral Home in Ravena.

Burial was in Graceland Cemetery in Albany.

Contributions may be made to First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, 30 Church Road, Selkirk 12158.

Katherine Arnold

Katherine Wagner Arnold of Albany, and formerly of Delmar, died Thursday, March 20.

Mrs. Arnold worked for the former New York Telephone Co. in communications accounting.

She was a member of the Telephone Pioneers.

She was the widow of Guy C. Arnold.

Survivors include a nephew, Louis E. Wagner of Rensselaer, and two nieces, Elma W. Peters and Margaret J. Gavigan, both of Albany.

Services were from First United Methodist Church in Delmar.

Burial was in Onesquethaw Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Gertrude Munyan

Gertrude H. Munyan, 95, formerly of Voorheesville, died Tuesday, March 4, in Rochester.

She was the widow of William Munyan.

Survivors include two daughters, Margaret Baker of Rochester and Sally Ten Eyck of Voorheesville; a son, John Munyan of Rochester; two sisters; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Services were from First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville.

Arrangements were by the Cremation Service of Western New York in Rochester.

Contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund of First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, 66 Maple Ave., Voorheesville 12186 or the Albany

Chapter of the American Red Cross, 33 Everett Road, Colonie 12205.

Dean Stout

J. Dean Stout, 89, of Deerfield, Mass., and formerly of Delmar, died Tuesday, March 18, at his home.

Born in Woodward, Okla., he was a graduate of Kansas State University.

He was an Army Corps of Engineers veteran of World War II.

Mr. Stout was a landscape architect for the National Park Service for 28 years. In the Albany area, he was a chief of highway beautification and regional landscape architect for the Federal Highway Administration.

He was an amateur photographer and longtime member and past president of the former Delmar Camera Club. He was a former member and area representative of the Photographic Society of America.

He was an amateur radio operator with the call sign W2CDQ and a member and past officer of the Albany Amateur Radio Association. He was a life member of the American Relay League.

He was the husband of the late Nancy Stout.

Survivors include a daughter, Molly Reynolds, and two grandchildren.

Services were from Delmar Presbyterian Church in Delmar.

Burial was in Bethlehem Cemetery in Delmar.

Arrangements were by the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Contributions may be made to the endowment fund at Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Ave., Delmar 12054.

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We will continue to print Obituaries of residents and former residents of the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland at no charge.

In Memoriam, and Cards of Thanks will also be printed for \$25.

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Diva does Troy in 'Master Class'

By DEV TOBIN

Throughout her career, opera singer Maria Callas defined the word diva — a tremendously talented singer who was difficult to work with and led an interesting personal life.

In 1971 and 1972, after her singing career was mostly over, Callas taught at Juilliard School of Music. Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning play "Master Class," opening this week at the New York State Theatre Institute, shows how the singer/actress who commanded the world's top opera stages worked her magic on a few students in a New York City classroom.

Lorraine Serabian said she prepared for the lead role by reading and listening to everything she could about Callas. She talked to several of Callas' students and found that she was really a "gentle and loving" teacher, but the play is, more dramatically, about how a temperamental diva would teach.

"I try to bring out the humanity of the woman, not just the diva, that's so Johnny-One-Note," Serabian said. "The writing is amazing; Terry gives insight into opera, but also shows what it means to be an artist."

Serabian said the play will appeal to people who know nothing about opera, but also has "inside jokes for opera buffs."

Callas' influence on the postwar opera world was immense, Serabian said.

"She dared to be an actress, not just a voice box," she said.

Serabian explained that she had performed Callas in "Master Class at Hofstra University, her alma mater on Long Island, two years ago and NYSTI Producing Artistic Director Patricia Snyder caught the last show.

Serabian recalled, "Patricia said she had to do this," so Snyder worked out the details of the three-way co-production with the Helen Hayes Theater in Nyack and Queens Theater in the Park.

"It's great to play before different audiences," Serabian said.

The play earned a good review of its run at the Helen Hayes from *The New York Times*, which called Serabian "smashing in a star-dependent play."

Most of the audience at NYSTI is students, but Serabian said the young audience will discover that "music is more than MTV."

She said high school students who attended the play at the Helen Hayes were "riveted, sitting on the edge of their seats."

"Master Class" is on stage at the Schacht Fine Arts Center of Russell Sage College in Troy.



Tony Award nominee Lorraine Serabian stars in the NYS Theatre Institute's new co-production of Terrence McNally's play 'Master Class.' The play will be performed onstage at the Schacht Fine Arts Center of Russell Sage College in Troy.

Troy March 27, 28, April 2 and 3 at 10 a.m., March 29, April 4 and 5 at 8 p.m., and March 30 and April 6 at 2 p.m.

* Tickets are \$19, \$16 for senior citizens and students, \$8 for children under 13. For information or reservations, call 274-3256.

Garden show is sign of spring

The 16th annual Capital District Garden & Flower Show, with the theme "Memorable Gardens," will be held this weekend, March 27 to 30, in the gym of Hudson Valley Community College on Route 4 in South Troy.

The show, the area's most popular garden show, has been extended this year to four days. Hours are Thursday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The gym will be transformed into a garden oasis with professionally landscaped gardens, floral designs and a garden marketplace to get gardeners ready for a bus spring.

Longtime gardening editor Martha Roach will give a keynote speech at noon on Thursday in the college's Maureen Stapleton Theater. Roach, the author of "A Way to Garden: A Hands-on Primer for Every Season," will discuss her practical approach to gardening and will be available for questions after her talk.

There will be another 50 lectures and demonstrations throughout the four days, including talks by representatives of the Landis Arboretum, Perennially Yours, North Country Daylilies, the Capital-Hudson Iris Society, the Mohawk-Hudson Bonsai Society, the Water Garden Company, Capital Region ReLeaf, Willow Spring Perennial Farm, the Schenectady Rose Society and Home Depot.

Cornell Cooperative Extension will provide testing of soil samples for a \$1 charge.

Tickets are \$8; \$6 discount advance tickets are available at Price Chopper. Admission is free for children under 10. Parking is free.

Partial proceeds from the show will benefit Wildwood Programs, which provides services for developmentally disabled people.

A fund-raising dinner garden party for Wildwood Programs will be held Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$100; for information, call 356-6410, ext. 426.

An engaging romance



Anna Remet and Howard Schaffer try to find each other after a long absence in Talley's Folly by Lanford Wilson. Performances are slated for March 28, 29 and 30 at Steamer No. 10 Theatre in Albany.

ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

Theater

DRIVING MISS DAISY

Capital Repertory Theatre, 111 N. Pearl St., Albany, through April 19, \$30 to \$38. Information, 445-7469.

MASTER CLASS

Maria Callas as Juilliard teacher, New York State Theatre Institute, Schacht Fine Arts Center of Russell Sage College, Troy, through April 6, \$19, \$16 for seniors and students. Information, 274-3256.

TALLEY'S FOLLY

staged reading of Lanford Wilson play, Steamer No. 10 Theater, 500 Western Ave., Albany, March 28 at 8 p.m., March 29 at 3 and 8 p.m., March 30 at 3 p.m., free. Information, 438-5503.

VERONICA'S ROOM

Schenectady Civic Players, 12 S. Church St., weekends through March 30, \$12. Information, 382-2081.

HARRIET RETURNS TO US

one-woman show about Harriet Tubman, Capital Repertory Theatre, 111 N. Pearl

St., Albany, March 29, 11:30 a.m., \$12, \$40 for four. Information, 445-7469.

Music

MICHAEL BRECKER

The Van Dyck, 235 Union St., Schenectady, March 27, 7 and 9:30 p.m., \$20. Information, 381-1111.

JOHN COWAN BAND

with Drew Emmitt and Peter Rowan, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, State and Second streets, March 28, 8 p.m., \$22 and \$25. Information, 273-0038.

MARIA MULDAUR

The Van Dyck, 235 Union St., Schenectady, March 28, 7 and 9:30 p.m., \$20. Information, 381-1111.

FOUR BITCHIN' BABES

The Egg at Empire State Plaza, Albany, March 29, 8 p.m., \$18. Information, 473-1845.

CYRIS CHESTNUT TRIO

The Van Dyck, 235 Union St.,

Schenectady, March 29, 7 and 9:30 p.m., \$20. Information, 381-1111.

MARSHALL CRENSHAW

with Eddie Dillon, WAMC Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany, March 29, 8 p.m., \$22. Information, 1-800-323-9262, ext. 4.

DOGS OF DESIRE

Albany Symphony Orchestra chamber group performs "Best of" concert, featuring American music, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, State and Second streets, March 29, 8 p.m., \$20, \$15 for seniors and students. Information, 273-0038.

L'ENSEMBLE

Cole Porter concert, The Egg at Empire State Plaza, Albany, March 30, 3 p.m., \$20. Information, 473-1845.

STRING TRIO OF NEW YORK

WAMC Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave., Albany, March 30, 2 p.m., \$15. Information, 1-800-323-9262, ext. 4.

DUBRAVKA TOMSIC

pianist playing works by Haydn,

Beethoven and Chopin, Memorial Chapel of Union College, Schenectady, April 4, 8 p.m., \$20. Information, 372-3651.

VANILLA FUDGE

The Van Dyck, 235 Union St., Schenectady, April 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m., \$25. Information, 381-1111.

LEO KOTTKKE

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, State and Second streets, April 5, 8 p.m., \$23 and \$26. Information, 273-0038.

SUSAN TEDESCHI

with Paul Rishell and Annie Raines, The Egg at Empire State Plaza, Albany, April 6, 7:30 p.m., \$28. Information, 473-1845.

Comedy

THE NOBODIES OF COMEDY

with Mark Gross, Jamie Lissow and Modi, Proctor's Theatre, State Street, Schenectady, March 29, 8 p.m., \$16 and \$19. Information, 346-6204.

Family Fun

THE RED BALLOON

Visible Fictions Theatre Company production, The Egg at Empire State Plaza, Albany, March 30, 2 p.m., \$15, \$12 for seniors, \$10 for students. Information, 473-1845.

Visual Arts

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

permanent collections on New York state history and geography, Empire State Plaza, Madison Avenue. Information, 474-5877.

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND ART

Richard Callner retrospective, through June 1; plus exhibits on Hudson River School painting, American sculpture, Egypt and the history of Albany, 125 Washington Ave. Information, 463-4478.

SCHENECTADY MUSEUM

Spirit of Schenectady and Collection Highlights, Nott Terrace Heights. Information, 382-7890.

ALBANY CENTER GALLERIES

161 Washington Ave., Country Trash: New Works by Stephen V. Martonis, through April 4. Information, 462-4775.

ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GALLERY

Albany-Shaker-Road, Colonie, "Show Off," artwork and ephemera from 57 upstate museums and historic sites, through April 30, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Information, 242-2241.

YATES GALLERY

at Siena College, Route 9, Loudonville, photographs of Ecuador by Dale Raisig, through May 21, Wednesday to Sunday. Information, 783-2517.

LOCAL COLOR ART GALLERY

961 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, "Winter Blues," through April 30, Wednesday to Sunday. Information, 786-6557.

Call for Artists

SINGERS NEEDED

for April 13 "Messiah" concert, rehearsals on Fridays at 7 p.m. at Loudonville Community Church, 374 Loudon Road. Information, 459-3152.

ARTISTS WANTED

exhibit space available for original

paintings at Local Color Art Gallery, 961 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham. Information, 786-6557.

DELMAR COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

openings in the string, horn and percussion sections. Information, 439-7749.

COLONIE TOWN BAND

several openings, rehearsals on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at town hall, Route 9, Newtonville. Information, 783-2760.

COLONIE CENTENNIAL BRASS CHOIR

openings for brass players, rehearsals on first Thursday and third Tuesday of the month, at 7:15 p.m. town hall, Route 9, Newtonville. Information, 783-2760.

SUBURBAN SOUNDS COMMUNITY CHORUS

openings in mixed chorus, rehearsals Sundays at 7 p.m. at Altamont Village Hall, 115 Main St. Information, 861-8000.

FRIENDSHIP SINGERS

openings in women's singing group, focusing on old favorites and show tunes, rehearsals Tuesday mornings at Community United Methodist Church 1499 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands. Information, 439-2360.

SIENA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR

rehearsals Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. for orchestra, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for choir, Siena College, Route 9, Loudonville. Information, 783-2325.

ANNIE SCHAFFER ORCHESTRA

openings in the string section, rehearsals Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to noon, Nott Terrace and Eastern Avenue, Schenectady. Information, 372-5146.

MALE SINGERS NEEDED

for Electric City Chorus, training provided, rehearsals at Faith United Methodist Church, Brancypine Avenue and Eastern Parkway, Schenectady, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Information, 785-4807.

MONDAY MUSICAL CLUB WOMEN'S CHORUS

invitation for new members to join in singing classical and popular songs, Third Reformed Church, 20 Ten Eyck Ave., Albany, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Information, 477-4454.

CAPITAL COMMUNITY VOICES

rehearsals at Columbia High School, Luther Road, East Greenbush, 7 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays. Information, 477-8308.

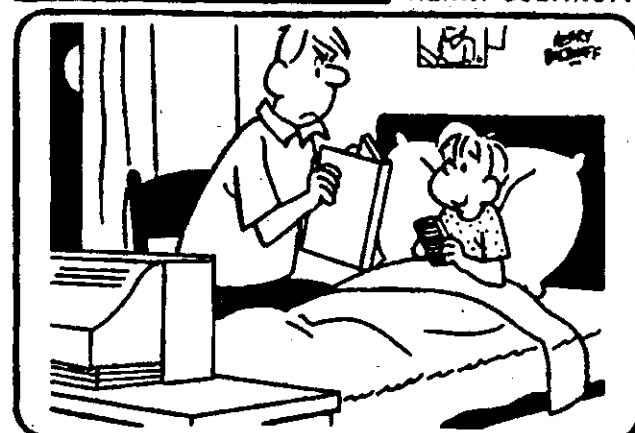
MAGIC MAZE • TOM HANKS

P F T C Z W U R P M J R R H E
C Z X E L T T A E S E O R U S
Q N L J N G E N C C T Z E X V
T R P N L G I J U C S H T Y E
C A P H I L A D E L P H I A Y
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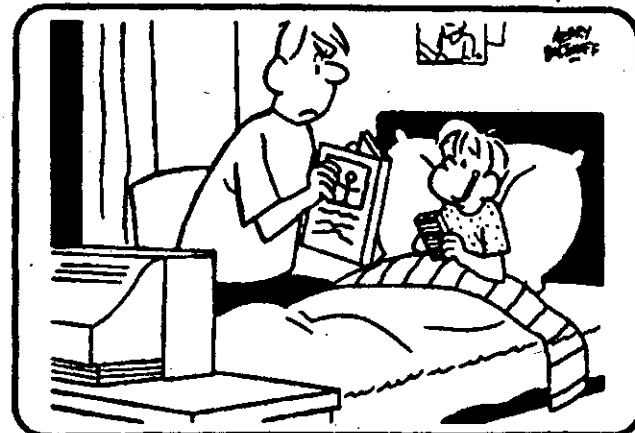
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Actor | Comedy | Oscar | Splash |
| Apollo 13 | Director | Philadelphia | Toy Story |
| Big | Dragnet | Producer | Writer |
| Cast Away | Drama | Punchline | |

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

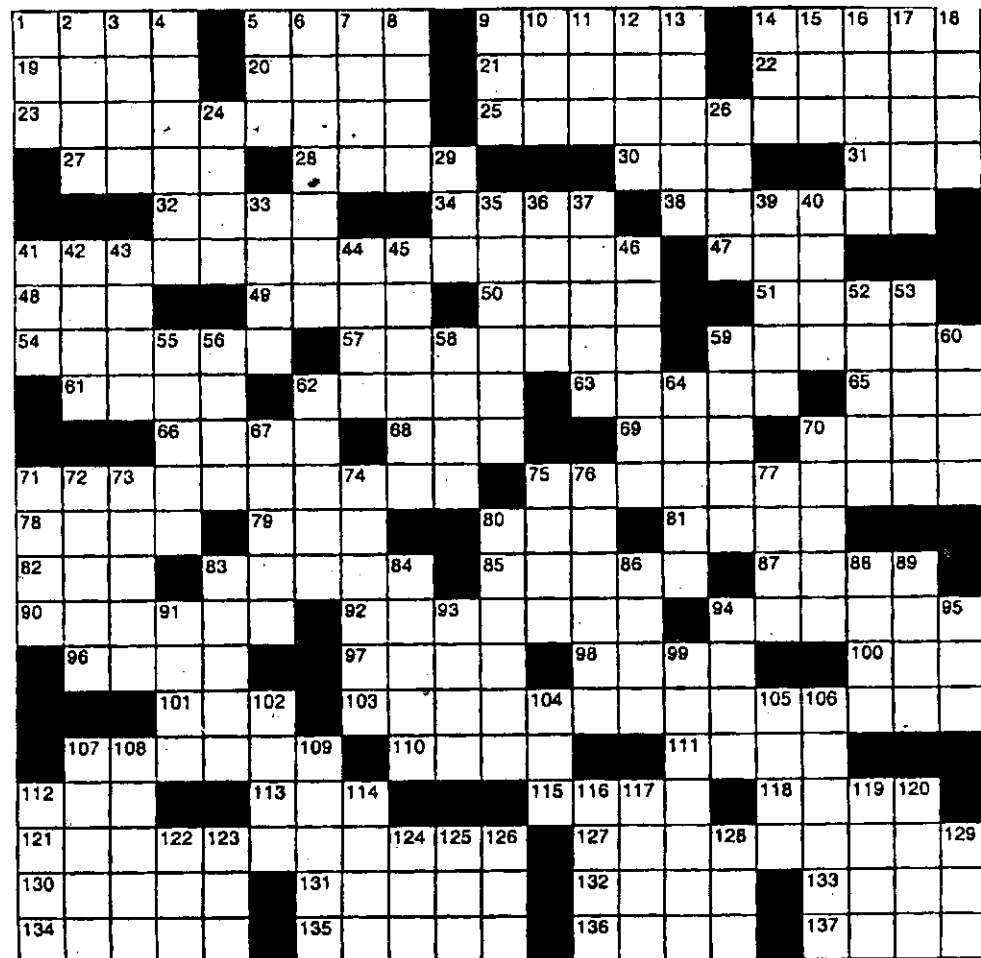


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy has thermometer. 2. Book cover has illustrations. 3. Blanket is striped. 4. Moon is gone. 5. Chair back is different. 6. Man's shirt has no collar.

The Super CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 TV's "The Show"
- 5 Pinnacle
- 9 Elfman of "Dharma & Greg"
- 14 Terra —
- 19 Bum remedy
- 20 Make murky
- 21 "There's — Out Tonight" ('61 hit)
- 22 Took on board
- 23 Clingy critters
- 25 Start of a remark
- 27 Self-smitten
- 28 Change for a five
- 30 Papal name
- 31 Pipe cleaner?
- 32 — impasse
- 34 Part of CPA
- 38 Hackney's home
- 41 Part 2 of remark
- 47 Ram's ma'am
- 48 Teachers' org.
- 49 — mater
- 50 Guitar accessory
- 51 Neighbor of Can.
- 54 Calculus
- 57 Went along with
- 59 Like some attics
- 61 Commoner
- 62 Dentist's weapon?
- 63 Macabre
- 65 One — customer
- 66 Jury member
- 68 Nonclerical
- 69 Deli delicacy
- 70 Gourmet
- 71 Part 3 of remark
- 75 Part 4 of remark
- 78 Set up the ball
- 79 First lady?
- 80 Letters of desperation?
- 81 Place for a patch
- 82 Woodworking tool
- 83 Hunt like a hound
- 85 Atlanta campus
- 87 February forecast
- 90 Knight wear?
- 92 Breakfast food
- 94 Singing Wonder
- 96 Baseball's Nolan
- 97 Cassette
- 98 Pons or Ponselle
- 100 Shady character?
- 101 "For shame!"
- 103 Part 5 of remark
- 107 Treasure
- 110 "The Wind in the Willows" character
- 111 Sink or swim?
- 112 PC key
- 113 Cutesy suffix
- 115 Hammett hound
- 118 Basics
- 121 End of remark
- 127 Turnpike feature
- 130 " — Gay"
- 131 More advanced
- 132 Moro of Italy
- 133 Soho streetcar
- 134 Mouth-watering
- 135 White wine
- 136 Regensburg refusal
- 137 Tropical tuber

DOWN

- 1 Yak
- 2 Norwegian king
- 3 115 Across' mistress
- 4 Friendly
- 5 Circle section
- 6 Harland Sanders' rank
- 7 Bearing
- 8 In addition
- 9 — alai
- 10 Cassowary kin
- 11 Figs.
- 12 Yuletide
- 13 Aconagua's locale
- 14 Comic Margaret
- 15 Garage supply
- 16 Sing like a soprano
- 17 Topical role
- 18 "Zip — Doo-Dah"
- 24 Pro foe
- 26 Lug
- 29 Patriotic org.
- 33 At a distance
- 35 "Northern Exposure" town
- 36 Dressed tootsie
- 37 Home on the range?
- 39 Mindful
- 40 Bartok or Lugosi
- 41 Cable channel
- 42 Bucket of bolts
- 43 Butz or Warren
- 44 Actor Epps
- 45 Gibb
- 46 Sings on a mountain
- 52 Out to get
- 53 Salt away
- 55 Not so hot
- 56 Cain's victim
- 58 "The Great Pacificator"
- 59 Forward-looking
- 60 Dry goods measure
- 62 Ambition
- 64 Foe of Apollo
- 67 Vertical
- 70 New Hampshire city
- 71 A Four Corners state
- 72 More up-to-date
- 73 Savaia's of "Kojak"
- 74 Duration
- 75 Major —
- 76 Tristan's tootsie
- 77 Unisex garment
- 80 One of the Finger Lakes
- 83 Austen title
- 84 Characteristic
- 86 Sudden attack
- 88 "Glad All —" ('64 hit)
- 89 Feral
- 91 Lauer or LeBlanc
- 93 Lhasa —
- 94 Content completely
- 95 Printer's measures
- 99 "The Four Seasons" composer
- 102 Military chapeau
- 104 Nutritional abbr.
- 105 Grouch
- 106 Costello's cronie
- 107 Skater Barzhnaya
- 108 Barber's need
- 109 Early emancipator
- 112 Blows away
- 114 '52 Winter Olympics site
- 116 Laurel or Lee
- 117 Lacquered metalware
- 119 Puppeteer Baird
- 120 Old Glory feature
- 122 Ransom — Olds
- 123 Deranged
- 124 Actress
- 125 Neighbor of Calif.
- 126 SAT's big brother
- 128 Cambodia's — Nol
- 129 Medical grp.

The Spotlight CALENDAR

Wed. 3/26

BETHLEHEM

SOLID ROCK CHURCH

1 Kenwood Ave., evening prayer and Bible study, 7 p.m. Information, 439-4314.

TOWN BOARD

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

BETHLEHEM TOASTMASTERS

The Clubhouse, Adams Station Apts., 1 Juniper Drive, Delmar, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-0871.

BINGO

Blanchard American Legion Post, 16 Poplar Drive, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-9819.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 58

Elsmere Elementary School, 247 Delaware Ave., 7:30 to 9 p.m.

TESTIMONY MEETING

First Church of Christ, Scientist, 555 Delaware Ave., 8 p.m. Information, 439-2512.

NEW SCOTLAND

FAITH TEMPLE

Bible study, New Salem, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-2870.

PRAYER MEETING

evening prayer meeting and Bible study, Mountainview Evangelical Free Church, Route 155, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-3390.

NEW SCOTLAND SENIORS

Wyman Osterhout Community Center, New Salem, call for time. Information, 765-2109.

AA MEETING

First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, 68 Maple St., 8 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

Thurs. 3/27

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM SENIOR CITIZENS

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 12:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Weekly meeting at Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 1-2:30 p.m. Information, 465-8732.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Parks and Recreation Office, Elm Avenue Park, 2-5:30 p.m. Information, 439-0503.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

children's choir, 6:15 p.m., senior choir, 7 p.m., 85 Elm Ave. Information, 439-4328.

AA MEETINGS

Slingerlands Community Church, 1499 New Scotland Road, noon, and Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., 8:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

NEW SCOTLAND

THE CLOTHING CLOSET

A service supported by area Reformed churches to provide clothing to those in need; volunteers welcome. Clarksville Reformed Church, Route 443, Clarksville, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. Information, 768-2916 or 439-5400.

Fri. 3/28

BETHLEHEM

VISUAL SUPPORT GROUP

Strategies to cope with visual

NEW SCOTLAND

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Bethel Baptist Church, meeting at

impairment, led by Dr. Edwin Pesnel. Refreshments. Room 101, Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, 1-2 p.m. Sponsored by Bethlehem Senior Services. Information, 439-4955, ext. 4.

AA MEETING

First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, Route 9W, 7:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

CHABAD CENTER

Friday services, discussion and kiddush at sunset, 109 Elsmere Ave. Information, 439-8280.

NEW SCOTLAND

PIONEER CLUBS

For children grades 1 through junior high; Mountainview Evangelical Free Church, Route 155, 3:45 - 5 p.m. Information, 765-3390.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

United Pentecostal Church, Route 85, New Salem, 7 p.m. Information, 765-4410.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Preschool Storytime, Voorheesville Public Library, 10:15 a.m., No signup necessary.

Auberge Suisse Restaurant, Route 85, 475-9086.
Clarksville Community Church, Route 443, 768-2916.
Family Worship Center, 92 Lower Copeland Hill Road, Feura Bush, 768-2021.
Faith Temple, New Salem, 765-2870.
First United Methodist Church, 68 Maple Ave., Voorheesville, 765-2895.
Jerusalem Reformed Church, Route 32, Feura Bush, 439-0548.
Mountainview Evangelical Free Church, Route 155, Voorheesville, 765-3390.
Onesquethaw Reformed Church, Tarrytown Road, Feura Bush, 768-2133.
New Scotland Presbyterian Church, Route 85, 439-6454.
St. Matthew's Church, Mountain View Road, Voorheesville, 765-2805.
Unionville Reformed Church, Delaware Turnpike, 439-5001.
United Pentecostal Church, Route 85, New Salem, 765-4410.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY MEETING

Annual meeting, Voorheesville Public Library, 1:30 p.m.

SPRING CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT

Concert with Albany Pro Musica, Voorheesville Public Library, 2 p.m.

Mon. 3/31

BETHLEHEM

PEACE VIGIL

Bethlehem Neighbors For Peace, weekly peace vigil, Four Corners intersection, Delmar, 5-6 p.m., Information, 439-1968.

MOTHERS' TIME OUT

Christian support group for mothers of preschool children, Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., nursery care provided, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Information, 439-9929.

DELMAR KIWANIS

Quality Inn, Route 9W, 6:15 p.m. Information, 439-2437 or 439-6952.

CLASS IN JEWISH MYSTICISM

Delmar Chabad Center, 109 Elsmere Ave., 7 p.m. Information, 439-8280.

INDOOR PISTOL SHOOTING

Albany County Pistol Club, Winne Place, 7 to 9 p.m. Also Tuesday. Information, 439-0057.

EXPLORER POST 157

For boys and girls 14-21, focusing on environmental conservation, 310 Kenwood Ave., 7:30-9 p.m. Information, 439-4205.

DELMAR COMM. ORCHESTRA

rehearsal, Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-7749.

AA MEETING

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., 8:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

NEW SCOTLAND

QUARTET REHEARSAL

United Pentecostal Church, Route 85, New Salem, 7:15 p.m. Information, 765-4410.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Preschool Storytime, Voorheesville Public Library, 10:15 a.m., No signup necessary.

'GUIDE FOR PARENTS IN THE COLLEGE SEARCH'

Voorheesville Public Library, 7 p.m., Call 765-2791 to register.

Tues. 4/1

BETHLEHEM

DELMAR ROTARY

Quality Inn, Route 9W, 7:30 a.m. Information, 767-2930.

TREASURE COVE THRIFT SHOP

First United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Ave., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

THRIFT SHOP AND LUNCH

Sponsored by the South Bethlehem United Methodist Women's Organization, next to the church on Willowbrook Avenue, weekly on Tuesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Information, 767-9953.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Glenmont Community Church, Weiser Street, 6 p.m. weigh-in, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Information, 449-2210.

ELSMERE FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Firehouse, Poplar Drive, 7:15 p.m. Information, 439-9144.

PLANNING BOARD

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

BINGO

at the Bethlehem Elks Lodge, Route 144, 7:30 p.m.

A.W. BECKER PTA

Becker Elementary School, Route 9W, 7:30 p.m. Information, 767-2511.

SLINGERLANDS FIRE COMMISSION

firehouse, 8 p.m. Information, 439-4734.

NEW SCOTLAND

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Weekly at Voorheesville Public Library, 51 School Road, 10:15 a.m. Information, 765-2791.

NIMBLEFINGERS/QUILTERS

Voorheesville Public Library, 51 School Road, 1 to 3 p.m. Information, 765-2791.

PLANNING BOARD

New Scotland Town Hall, Route 85, 7 p.m. Information, 765-3356.

V'VILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Village Hall, 29 Voorheesville Ave., 7 p.m. Information, 765-2692.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Preschool Storytime, Voorheesville Public Library, 10:15 a.m., No signup necessary.

Wed. 4/2

BETHLEHEM

OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

Board meetings first Wednesday of each month, open to public. Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 4 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BUSINESS WOMEN

Normanside Country Club, Salisbury Road, Elsmere, 6 p.m.; dinner 6:30 p.m., program and meeting to follow dinner. Information, 439-7237.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH

Evening prayer and Bible study, 1

Kenwood Ave., 7 p.m. Information, 439-4314.

BETHLEHEM LIONS CLUB

Quality Inn, Route 9W, Glenmont, 7 p.m. Information, 439-4857.

BETHLEHEM ELKS LODGE 2233

1016 River Road (Route 144), Cedar Hill, 7 p.m. Information, 767-2886.

TESTIMONY MEETING

First Church of Christ, Scientist, 555 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-2512.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

BINGO

Blanchard American Legion Post, 16 Poplar Drive, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-9819.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 58

Elsmere Elementary School, 247 Delaware Ave., 7:30 to 9 p.m.

BC SCHOOL BOARD

district office, 90 Adams Place, 8 p.m. Information, 439-7098.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Onesquethaw Chapter, Masonic Temple, 421 Kenwood Ave., 8 p.m. Information, 439-2181.

NEW SCOTLAND

V'VILLE ZONING BOARD

Village Hall, 29 Voorheesville Ave., 7 p.m. Information, 765-2692.

NEW SCOTLAND SENIORS

Wyman Osterhout Community Center, New Salem, call for time. Information, 765-2109.

PRAYER MEETING

evening prayer meeting and Bible study, Mountainview Evangelical Free Church, Route 155, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-3390.

FAITH TEMPLE

Bible study, New Salem, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-2870.

AA MEETING

First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, 68 Maple St., 8 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Preschool Storytime, Voorheesville Public Library, 10:15 a.m., No signup necessary.

Thurs. 4/3

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM SENIOR CITIZENS

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 12:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Weekly meeting at Delmar Reformed

Church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 1-2:30 p.m. Information, 465-8732.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Parks and Recreation Office, Elm Avenue Park, 2-5:30 p.m. Information, 439-0503.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

children's choir, 6:15 p.m., senior choir, 7 p.m., 85 Elm Ave. Information, 439-4328.

AA MEETINGS

Slingerlands Community Church, 1499 New Scotland Road, noon, and Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., 8:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

NEW SCOTLAND

THE CLOTHING CLOSET

A service supported by area Reformed churches to provide clothing to those in need; volunteers welcome. Clarksville Reformed Church, Route 443, Clarksville, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. Information, 768-2916 or 439-5400.

'RIVERWAY STORYTELLING'

Festival for families, Voorheesville Public Library, 7 p.m., No signup necessary.

Fri. 4/4

BETHLEHEM

AA MEETING

First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, Route 9W, 7:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

CHABAD CENTER

Friday services, discussion and kiddush at sunset, 109 Elsmere Ave. Information, 439-8280.

'BOOKS IN THE MORNING'

Discussion of "To the Lighthouse" by Virginia Woolf, sponsored by Humanities Institute for Lifelong Learning; Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 10 a.m. -noon. Information, 439-9661.

PRESCHOOLERS EVENT

Caterpillar and Polliwog, Chicken Little, In the Small Small Pond, and The Gardener will be shown, Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., 10:30 a.m., free drop-in event for preschoolers age 3-6.

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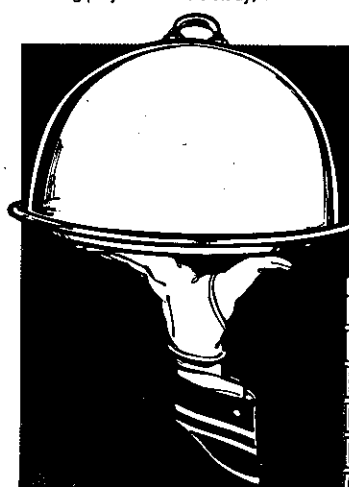
For children grades 1 through junior high; Mountainview Evangelical Free Church, Route 155, 3:45-5 p.m. Information, 765-3390.

FRIDAY FISH FRY

Eat-in or take-out, New Salem Volunteer Fire Dept., Route 85A, 4:30-7 p.m. Information 765-2231.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

United Pentecostal Church, Route 85, New Salem, 7 p.m. Information, 765-4410.



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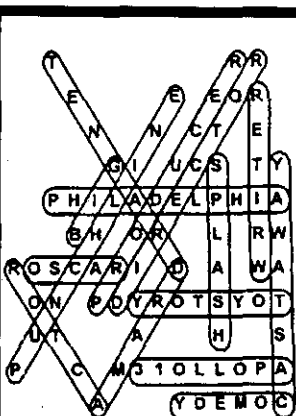
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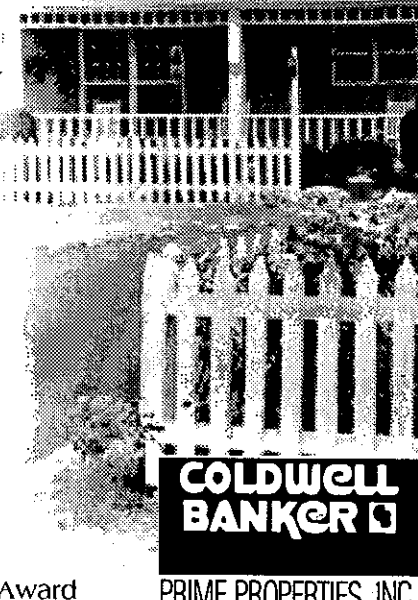
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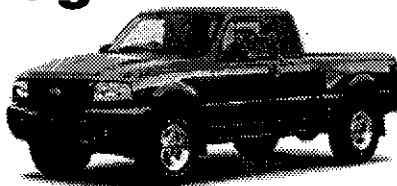
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Avoid marital stress: Replace wiper blades

Ladies, do the men in your life procrastinate when it's time to replace windshield wiper blades? Are you tired of nagging about smearing, screeching and chattering wiper blades? Do you dread another rainy Sunday drive, feeling unsafe without the benefit of an unobstructed view of the road?

Don't tolerate it any longer. Act now to preserve peace and promote safety. Buy a set of wiper blades and install them yourself. It takes only a few minutes,

says the Car Care Council.

Simple directions are right on the box. Before you begin, here are two suggestions from the council:

- You can make the wiper blade

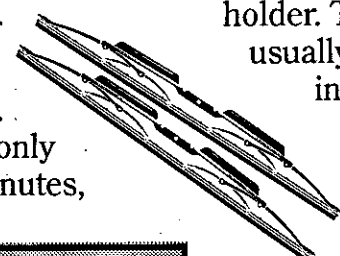
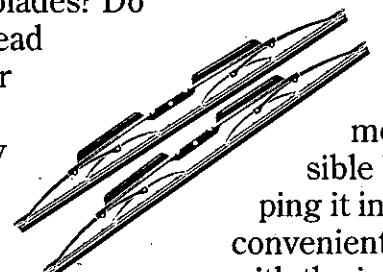
more accessible by stopping it in the most convenient location with the ignition key. Don't use the wiper on-off switch, as it causes the wipers to stop in their parked position.

- Look for replacement rubber squeegees to avoid the cost of buying the entire blade and holder. They're usually easily

installed and can restore wiping action, as long as the rest of

the components are OK.

Among vehicles passing through the check lanes during National Car Care Month (October) 15 percent failed because of worn windshield wiper blades. The normal life expectancy of the rubber squeegee is six to 12 months. That's reason enough to learn to do it yourself.



MARSHALL'S SUBARU

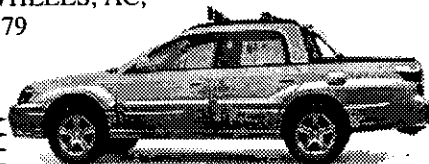
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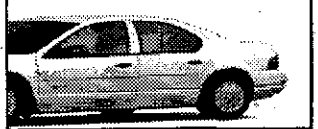
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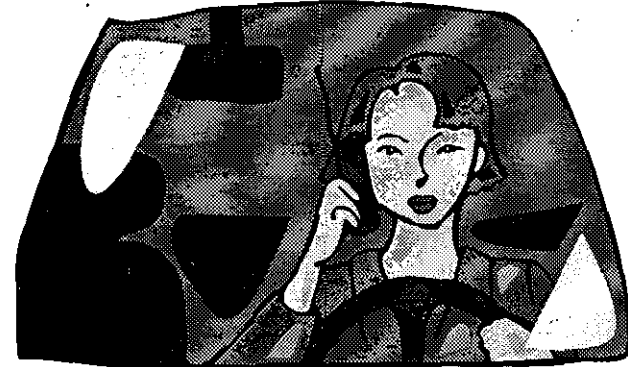
Does "On the road again" mean "On the phone again"?

This summer you'll see more cell phones than ever, and many of them will be on the ears of people behind the wheel of an automobile. Some of these phones and their owners will wind up in car crashes, but don't be too quick to blame the cell phone. Blame the drivers who use them in the wrong place at the wrong time, allowing conversations to divert their attention from the road.

"Hands-free devices make it easy to eliminate reaching and dialing, but it's not about having your hands free," said Rich White, a spokesman for the Car Care Council. "It's about having your mind free to concentrate on driving. It's best to pull off the road, or even better, call back later."

White said there are a variety of other situations that can distract motorists whether they're en route to their vacation destination or simply driving across town. Many of these can be addressed with little or no money. Examples include:

- Things hanging from the rear view mirror – Take them down. They can ob-



struct vision out of both the front and rear windows.

- A damaged rear view mirror – Get it repaired. Many of your driving decisions are only as good as the view from your mirrors.

- Worn windshield wiper blades – Replace them. Smeared glass and chattering blades can be unnerving. Blades are inexpensive and you can probably

do the installation yourself.

- Torn or frayed car mats – Get new ones.

The old mats can catch a heel, diverting your attention and/or interfering with the motion of your foot on the accelerator or

brake.

- Droopy headliner – Purchase a kit to reattach it or buy a new one. Material draping down in the back obstructs the view out of the rear window.

- Keeping a pet in its place away from the driver.

Determine what annoyances you can fix yourself and which ones need professional attention, says the Car Care Council. Take care of them as soon as possible; to delay could mean an accident waiting to happen.

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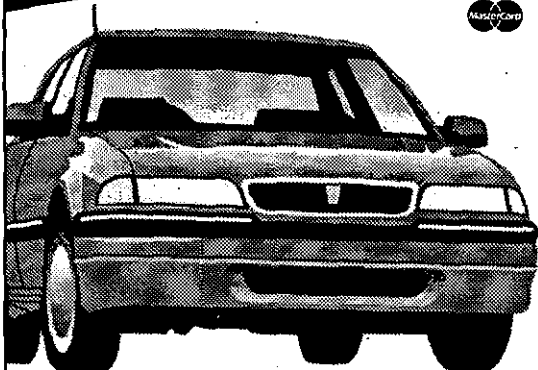
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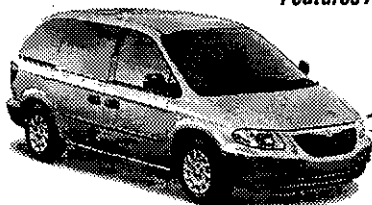
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Trip

(From Page 1)

would probably not be refunded. The district had already forwarded the almost \$44,000 collected for the trip to the travel agent who organized it.

According to Loomis, the agent had already paid the vendors, including the hotel, restaurants, museums and the bus company.

"The travel agent will attempt

to recover the pre-payments, but the district has no assurances it is possible to do so," Loomis said.

"A credit to fund a re-scheduling of the trip during a period when the world is more settled is also a possibility," he added.

"The district cannot legally refund the money if it is determined it cannot be recovered," Loomis said. "The attorney for the school district is

reviewing contracts associated with the trip to determine if there is any language that would require refunds under the conditions of the cancellation."

Loomis call the timing of world events "unfortunate." He said several facts went into his decision, including, "the announcement of the 48-hour countdown to the possible commencement of war with Iraq, plus the Tuesday announcement of the country going on the higher orange alert about possible terrorist activities."

He also said there was "a communication from the state Department of Education cautioning school districts that large cities and public gathering places could be especially

vulnerable to terrorist attacks, and the risk was greater for east coast cities."

"All of these occurred immediately before the decision to cancel (the field trip)," he added.

"The decision, made Wednesday morning, followed a meeting of the district administrators and principals held to discuss the issue. The decision to cancel was unanimous within our administrative

group," Loomis said. "It was a very difficult decision because we knew that it would disappoint so many people, but we felt our responsibility for the safety of the students left us no choice."

Several parents accused Loomis of being more concerned

with the potential liability of a lawsuit than with students' safety. He denied that was the case. Parents also accused the administration of succumbing to fear and said the decision to cancel should have been left up to parents.

Loomis said the administration was responsible for school-sponsored trips, adding that if time had permitted, input from parents would have been helpful.

Lab School parents asked the school board to reverse the administration's decision, and board President Warren Stoker asked each member to respond.

Board member Richard Svenson said the school board approved all field trips and wondered about the process whereby the superintendent unilaterally reversed the board, but he did not go so far as to suggest reversing the decision to cancel field trips.

While some members might not have agreed with the decision to cancel, in the end, they unanimously supported the superintendent's authority to make the decision and did not reverse it.

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Chamber

(From Page 1)

who has enhanced economic development in the community by providing time or financial services. This year's recipient is Christine McCarroll of McCarroll's The Village Butcher at Delmar's Four Corners.

"People like Christine are what small business is all about, giving back to the community without expecting any recognition," wrote the person who nominated McCarroll.

While owning and operating the village butcher shop takes up the majority of McCarroll's time, she is also active with the Four Corners Merchants Group — a community organization that strives to preserve Delmar's Four Corners by creating a vital business center.

McCarroll gives her time mentoring special needs high school students who are employed at the store and also served on the chamber board from 1998 to 2001.

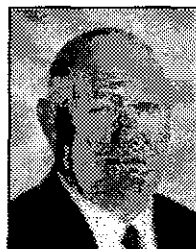
The recognition came as a surprise to McCarroll, who said she enjoys volunteering.

"I just feel like I'm getting involved and you really do get back what you put in to the community," said McCarroll.

Community Spirit Awards will also be presented to John Guastella and Dave Rubin. Guastella has been active in fundraising and publicity for the Bethlehem Veterans Memorial Park. Rubin serves as manager and coach for the Bethlehem Tomboys girls softball league and played a significant role in the creation of a town pavilion and concession stand at the Line Drive playing fields.

Award recipients will be honored April 10 at the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce's annual award dinner at the executive mansion in Albany.

The dinner begins at 6 p.m., and the public is invited. Tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased by calling 439-0512.



Good Samaritan Senior Living

by Lee Bormann
President/C.E.O.



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