Arnold sentenced; rebuked by judge

By Dev Tobin

A senior at Bethlehem Central High School was sentenced to state prison Tuesday for driving while intoxicated and causing the death of a 16-year-old. The sentence began immediately.

Prior to sentencing, Corinne Cox, Erin’s mother, told Judge Keegan she was against any reduction in sentence. “Chris Arnold made choices that night,” she said. “He bought beer illegally, drank a tremendous amount and then drove. He allowed three people to ride illegally in the back of a pickup truck, and he drove very fast. He has done what he has done, and he should face the consequences.”

Arnold, 17, of 13 Bedell Ave., Delmar, received the plea bargainged sentence of one and a half to four years in prison from state Supreme Court Judge Thomas Keegan. The sentence began immediately.

Cox was killed Aug. 26 when a pickup truck Arnold was driving at high speed left Route 155 in Guilderland, ejecting her from the rear. Arnold had a blood alcohol content of .15 percent when tested at the hospital following the accident. Three other Bethlehem teens in the truck were also injured.

Arnold pleaded guilty to second degree vehicular manslaughter and DWI Oct. 13. He had faced the more serious charge of second degree manslaughter, along with other charges.

 proceedings.

This sentence is less than that imposed in most DWI fatalities...

A sentence to state prison is appropriate and sends the message that this was a serious crime.

Cheryl Coleman

Galvin’s concerns put damper on town water project

By Mel Hyman

Before the town sinks $400,000 or $500,000 into test wells for a new water supply off Route 144, Councilwoman Sheila Galvin wants to make sure exactly who owns the land.

Galvin has urged a go-slow approach before putting the project out to bid. The town board decided more than a year ago to proceed with plans to develop a new water supply to meet anticipated demands from the new General Electric Cogeneration plant now being built in Selkirk.

“We should know beforehand what we’re getting ourselves into,” Galvin said. “My jaw fell when I heard what we might be spending before we knew whether we could purchase the land, acquire an easement or obtain permission from the owner.”

“There’s no way we would spend that kind of money until we have title to the land,” said Supervisor Ken Ringler. “Our staff has recommended that we start advertising for bids so that we can expedite the process.”

Public Works Commissioner Bruce Secor estimated that the project could be delayed from four to six weeks if the
Cable rate to increase by 2 percent

By Corinne L. Blackman

Starting Dec. 1, cable customers in Bethlehem will receive an additional item on their bill.

As part of the new 10-year agreement with the town, the franchise fees Cablevision pays to the town will increase from 3 to 5 percent. For cable subscribers, this means a 2 percent increase on their monthly bill.

In a letter sent out Nov. 1, customers were notified of the change and, although Cablevision has not yet received any complaints, town board member Charles Gunther said, "A lot of people are going to be upset about what they're doing."

Currently, Cablevision offers town residents a basic cable package for $21.95. With the increase, customers will pay $22.39.

Although the rates will also affect packages for senior citizens, they will continue to benefit from a 10 percent discount on basic service. Other customers affected will be Medicaid recipients, who receive a discounted rate on cable, and those with premium channels.

"A lot of people are going to be upset about what they're doing."

Charles Gunther

Will Kuebler, Cablevision's sales manager, defended the increase, saying that Cablevision remains one of the most competitive services in the area. "When we first came into the community, our rates were $9 or so for 12 channels," he said. "Twenty-one dollars buys double programming now — almost 30 channels, 10 years later."

Kuebler emphasized that the additional fees were not going to benefit his company. "We're turning that money back to the town," he said. "That money the town will utilize as they see fit. It goes to run the community."

According to Kuebler, the new franchise agreement also calls for the expansion of services to different areas of the town such as Van Wiss Point, and it requires them to upgrade their system to accommodate 77 channels. Work is expected to be completed in 1993.

MS self-help group to meet Wednesday

The Multiple Sclerosis self-help group will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. For meeting location and information, call 427-0421.

BC board to discuss condom issue, AIDS

By Dev Tobin

The Bethlehem Central school board tackles the controversial issue of condoms in the high school at its meeting tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m. at the district offices on 90 Adams Place.

The board is expected to discuss whether or not the district should provide condoms at the high school.

Students affiliated with the Student Action Committee asked the board at their last meeting to provide the devices free of charge as a way of dealing with the AIDS epidemic.

"This is a health care measure that should be the responsibility of the school system because so many students are in danger of contracting AIDS," said junior Sarah Warden, a leader of the student group.

Superintendent Dr. Leslie Loomis disagreed. "My view is that distribution of condoms is not the responsibility of the school district," he said. "Our responsibility is to provide the best and most effective education on this issue. We also need to help parents understand the issues of HIV and sexual activity, because this is something that each family will have to deal with directly."

Loomis said that he has received about 20 letters and phone calls, all opposed to condom distribution in the schools.

While the SAC group had given out condoms at a school dance in late October, Warden said the students' action was unclear by doing.

Whether the school district would regulate informal, student-to-student distribution is unclear, according to Chris Carpenter, spokesman for the state Education Department.

"Schools can regulate harmful or disruptive behavior, but I'm not sure that person-to-person distribution can be considered harmful or disruptive," he said.

The agenda for tonight's meeting will be light, Loomis said, so that the board can hear public comment on the distribution issue.

The board will also discuss and likely adopt a policy on HIV-related illnesses and AIDS. The new policy also sets up sanitary guidelines for dealing with bodily fluids.

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Page 2 - November 18, 1992 - The Spotlight
Burglars hit three Bethlehem businesses

By Mel Hyman

The burglary outbreak in Bethlehem has taken a bold, new twist.

Three businesses located on busy thoroughfares were broken into last week, with thousands of dollars in merchandise and cash lost in the heists.

The Zynergy computer store at 159 Delaware Ave., across from the Delaware Plaza, was hit on Wednesday, Nov. 11, most likely in the early morning, according to Det. Joseph Mastriano. The bandits used a sophisticated means of removing the front door and escaped with well over $10,000 in computer equipment.

The Zynergy store has been open only a month or so, noted co-owner John Zieske. Even though there was a considerable amount of merchandise removed, Zieske said the store was still open for business.

"It's not like they took everything in the place. The shelves are not bare. Right now we're in the process of completing the police report and filing our insurance claim.

From the looks of it, the bandits seemed to know what they were looking for, Zieske said. "They took entire systems right off the tables. Everything from monitors and software down to the mouse and mouse pads. Whether they intended to use them for themselves or sell them is hard to tell."

With computer equipment in such high demand, electronics and office equipment stores unfortunately are attractive targets for criminals, he added. "Computers are so commonplace these days that nobody questions when one pops up somewhere."

Across town in Glenmont, the Arco service station right across the road on Route 9W, both burglarized last week.

"Burglaries are up right now. As the economy's gotten worse, we've seen a definite increase." It's not unusual for a business located on a well-traveled roadway to be broken into, he said. But nonetheless seems "somewhat brazen. At some point they must have exposed themselves."

Zieske said he and his partner were determined to remain in business. "We've already received several calls from customers who heard about what happened and wanted to lend us their support. People still want to buy locally, because they know that's the best way to get service."

School clothing drive spreads warmth

Charitable effort gives pupils a lesson in life

By Dev Tobin

With cold weather on its way, elementary school pupils and church members worked together last week to send more than three tons of warm clothing to the Oneida Indian reservation about 100 miles west of here.

Parents, teachers and pupils at Hanamagreal Elementary School in Delmar, A.W. Becker Elementary School in Selkirk and Casdleton Elementary School in Castleton, Rensselaer County, pitched in along with the South Bethlehem Methodist Church and the Alcove Full Gospel Church to fill a 50-foot rental truck to the brim, according to Emerson Martin.

This is the fifth year that the Selkirk resident has organized the clothing drive, which he says helps those who give as much as those who receive.

"It's so important to teach our children to share," Martin said. "The Native American children get warm clothes, and the children here get the opportunity to help out people from another culture."

Martin is part Mohagan Indian and, as an active member of the Keepers of the Circle, lectures in schools about Native American culture.

The Oneida reservation is the third recipient of the local largesse, as Martin said he tries to target the clothing for sites where the need is greatest.

The first year, Martin worked with Donna Crisafulli and the Becker school PTO to send clothes to the Share the Warmth program on the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota.

"They wanted us to put the clothes in a railroad boxcar at a cost of $1,500, which we couldn't afford," he recalled. "We rented a tractor-trailer that year, then decided to look around in New York for Native Americans who needed warm clothes."

The transportation costs are now about $300, or $100 a school. The Hamagrael PTA donated $50 and Marty Cornelius, president of the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, donated the other $10, according to Christine Schade, coordinator of the project at Hamagrael.

Schade's pupils also caught the spirit of the clothing drive: "We're helping people who need help."

INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editorials</th>
<th>Obits</th>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Weddings</th>
<th>Sports</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Neighborhood News</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selkirk/South Bethlehem</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26-27</td>
<td>21-24</td>
<td>Selkirk/South Bethlehem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voorheesville</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34-39</td>
<td>30-33</td>
<td>Classified</td>
<td>Crossword</td>
<td>Legal Notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Section</td>
<td>Autos</td>
<td>Business Directory</td>
<td>Calendar of Events</td>
<td>Classified</td>
<td>Crossword</td>
<td>Legal Notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autos</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34-39</td>
<td>30-33</td>
<td>Classified</td>
<td>Crossword</td>
<td>Legal Notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classified</td>
<td>36-36</td>
<td>36-36</td>
<td>36-36</td>
<td>Classified</td>
<td>Crossword</td>
<td>Legal Notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossword</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Classified</td>
<td>Crossword</td>
<td>Legal Notices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Notices</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Classified</td>
<td>Crossword</td>
<td>Legal Notices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The swing of things

Six-year-old Lisa Konkle and passenger Sarah Thomas, also 6, get the ride of their lives on a tire swing at the new Kids' Place playground at Bethlehem's Elm Avenue Park. Both girls live in Glenmont. Eluore McClain
Delmar therapist tapped by Sally Jessy show

By Mel Hyman

Not everyone gets to be on the Sally Jessy Raphael show.

But Dr. Richard Gotti of Delmar did two weeks ago, during the taping of a show tentatively scheduled for broadcast on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

The topic of that show was regret and how it can paralyze. It did two weeks ago, said Gotti, and is prone to second-guessing.

Feelings of regret occur almost automatically, since humans make hundreds of decisions each day and are prone to second-guessing.

But when regret over the past sticks with you and you lie awake at night thinking about the romantic encounter you never pursued or the great job you passed up years ago, you can lose a lot more than sleep. It can color your actions for days, months and years to come, Gotti said. People tend to regret what they didn't do more than what they did do. "Usually people find a lesson in an experience that can turn out well," he said. Much of what we regret revolves around romance and intimacy, with jobs and education following close behind.

Delmar author and psychotherapist Dr. Richard Gotti will appear as a guest on Sally Jessy Raphael. Mel Hyman

"Why did I stay in that abusive relationship? Why didn't I marry someone different? Why didn't I go to law school instead of being bored to tears working as a computer programmer?"

The list is endless and unless we can make peace with past, we'll be a prisoner of our emotions and nothing will change or get better, Gotti said.

Self-reflection is the key, and once we've come to terms with what our true values are, we can move ahead. Gotti offered several ways of coping with regret, including humor, altruism, living in the present and surrendering the need to always be right. Don't try to obliterate the past, he added. That generally doesn't work.

"Strive as we may to make peace with ourselves, popular culture often gets in the way. Advertising, media hype and our materialistic culture "gives us the illusion of unlimited options," Gottisaid. "We are bombarded with images of what we should believe. This leaves us constantly open to the possibility of failure and regret."

Gotti's book was recently featured in Bottom Line magazine, which touts itself as a publication designed to help those who are anxious to improve their personal lives more effectively.

If you have an extra $20, Gotti's book could be an invaluable resource in living out the only life we have - without sadness and regret.

BOU group to meet in middle school pit

Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited will have an open meeting tonight, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethlehem Central Middle School on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m.

Center naturalists will lead participants in search of wild turkey habitats. Participants should dress for the outdoors and wear comfortable walking shoes.

For information, call 439-0291.

Christian Scientists set holiday service

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, 555 Delaware Ave., Delmar, will host a Thanksgiving service on Thursday, Nov. 26, at 11 a.m.

The service will include a Bible lesson and a lecture by Mary Baker Eddy entitled, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures."

Antarctica is topic for library lecture

The Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar, will offer a slide lecture on Antarctica on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Gotti's book was recently featured in Bottom Line magazine, which touts itself as a publication designed to help those who are anxious to improve their personal lives more effectively.

If you have an extra $20, Gotti's book could be an invaluable resource in living out the only life we have - without sadness and regret.

BOU group to meet in middle school pit

Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited will have an open meeting tonight, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethlehem Central Middle School Pit, 332 Kenwood Ave., Delmar.

Topics include the group's ongoing activities and planned future events.

For information, call 439-6885.

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Russian visitors go bananas over U.S. smiles

By Dev Tobin

"We call America the land of smiles," enthused Olga Vachtchilina, one of nine Russian high school students visiting Voorheesville from St. Petersburg.

Economic and political problems in their home city, named Leningrad until recently, make "everybody gloomy and serious," said Maria Sapegina. "Here, all the people are smiling."

The nine students and two chaperones are spending two weeks with host families in an exchange arranged by the Voorheesville Central Schools International Studies Committee.

During their visit to Indian Ladder Farms Friday, the students talked about their impressions of the United States halfway through their trip.

"In Russia, many people think America is paradise, where you can have everything you want," Sapegina said.

"There are more products here, but you need money," she added. "I like bananas, but in Russia, they are very expensive," noted Vachtchilina, who treated herself to one courtesy of Indian Ladder after the brief tour.

Five Rivers to offer Project WILD workshop

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar, is offering an Aquatic Project WILD teacher workshop on Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The program is open to teachers and youth leaders and will introduce hands-on activities for the classroom. Each participant will receive a 250-page activities guide.

Pre-registration is required. For information, call 475-0291.

While the Russians agreed that Americans were friendly, they were disabused of the notion that the streets are paved with gold by a former schoolmate, Yana Glushanok, whose family emigrated to New York City last year.

"You have to work hard here," she told her friends. Glushanok works part-time in a deli while attending Brooklyn College, but her father is having difficulty finding a job as a building engineer because he doesn't speak English.

The exchange students agreed with Glushanok that their math studies in Russia were about three years ahead of what is taught here.

"I'm taking college calculus now, and it's so easy," Glushanok said.

Voorheesville set up its exchange with School 80 in St. Petersburg because of the school's emphasis on teaching English, according to Robert Streifer, coordinator of Voorheesville's exchange program.

"The program really helps students from both countries develop a sense of global awareness, which they will need later on," he explained.

Voorheesville has an active exchange program, with trips to and/or visits from Spain, France and St. Petersburg on the agenda in the next couple of years.

"This is an ambitious program for a school our size, and it wouldn't work without the tremendous support of Voorheesville parents," Streifer noted.

The Russians will be feted at a covered dish farewell dinner Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. at the high school, Streifer said. Friday they will go sightseeing in New York City before flying home on Saturday.

Olga Vachtchilina and Olga Seleznova from St. Petersburg, Russia, are all smiles as they prepare to eat a banana at Indian Ladder Farms.
November’s changes

Editors

It is ironically fitting, perhaps, that the peaceful turnover in the U.S. government brought about by citizens’ votes falls within the same month as its most hideously dramatic change within our time.

Almost three decades will have elapsed when the sad anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination occupies the minds of many Americans this weekend.

Poor recompense indeed that we are able to reflect that the murder of a President was an aberration, even in a society that seems increasingly preoccupied with violence as a solution to its ills.

For all the gunplay and other mayhem brought into our homes by television, for all the nihilistic concepts drummed into our conscious beings, our country does remain fundamentally committed to the essence of a civilized approach to communal life.

The Nov. 3 election of a new President is an excellent example of that necessary commitment.

Wisdom from on high

Three generations ago, New York State’s schools were in the throes of centralization—a movement that all but completely wiped out the one-room schoolhouse and other small, locally controlled (mostly rural) institutions.

As the century approaches its end, centralization carried to an extreme is being increasingly preoccupied with violence as a solution to its ills.

The big thinkers would create districts that would, for example, combine the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk district with Bethlehem Central.

Big is more efficient—as everyone knows—and also is presumed to be less costly, as the federal government has been proving for so long now.

Objects and exceptions to those assumptions are evident, ranging from the issue of local control to the additional transportation imposed on many students.

And the committee’s idealism already proves to be flawed by its own recognition that money might not be saved by bigness, after all.

But such concerns would be overriding, in the committee’s view, which would empower the State Education Commissioner to decree the mergers with­out recourse by people of the various districts. Like it or not, the amalgamation would take place unless...

Unless the State Legislature, fueled by the good sense, strongly expressed, of its constituents stands in the schoolhouse door (to adopt an old, familiar expression).

Child, school, parent

The Bethlehem Central School Board is scheduled this month to face an issue forced upon it through manipulation by a small group of “activist” students: Whether or not to ratify the BCHS administration’s policy on the proposal to distribute birth-control devices in the school.

Agitation for such distribution has become both loud and aggressive in the hands of some students who have facilitated with one or another of three organizations at the school. Each of these groups, apparently with slightly differing emphases, proposes an agenda revolving around the supposition of youthful widespread sexual intercourse and the desired access to one device often recommended for birth-control use but also advised for use in homosexual contacts.

A letter setting forth the arguments in favor of the device’s distribution is published in this issue of The Spotlight. Correspondence, a letter from the Student Senate at BCHS offers soberly cautious views.

We see at least three overriding questions here.

• When will the community’s parents come forward and make certain their positions in this controversy will be fully noted? Accordin­gly, why have they as a group not been effectively heard to date—and why have they individually not set the agenda for personal standards of conduct for their children, rather than—very apparently—ceding that preroga­tive by default?

• Secondly, will parents (and other adult members of the community) recognize that protection against pregnancy and/or disease in sex relations is essentially a parent-child concern? And that in home-based discus­sions the first line of defense might even be described as abstinence—with acquisition of devices, if any, a secondary matter and a very private one?

• Finally, will the community support the Board of Education in a strong ruling that would affirm the position of the high school’s administrators?

Such exceedingly personal standards as the knot of students is advocating properly belong between parent and child, rather than in a school.

Built for buggies, 144 endangers local lives

Editor, The Spotlight:

We would first like to thank The Spotlight for its concern for the issues surrounding the safety of Route 144 (River Road), as evidenced by published letters from our neighbors. As a widely read newspaper in the area, your service is invaluable in helping to spread the word about important local issues. We would like to add our voices to those already heard, regarding this dangerous situation.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to the State Department of Transportation. We offer it for publication in The Spotlight.

• • •

We are writing a long overdue letter to express our deep concern over the frequent occurrences on River Road in Glenmont. By “overdue,” we refer not only to the weeks that have passed since the fatal accident in front of our home, but to a situation that has existed for years.

Our national grip on the basics of living together in a democracy is one positive mandate in a period of somber remembrance.

Not ‘one little burg’—but part of a world

Editor, The Spotlight:

This is in response to the “no free lunch” letter from Mr. William Thompson in the Nov. 4 Spotlight. He feels that it is time that local residents push for the Bethlehem Public Library to do so only if they pay a fee for using these services as we town taxpayers do.

I must disagree with this point of view because I am a town taxpayer, school librarian, and avid library-user. I find myself on many occasions using the facilities of many area libraries when I don’t find what I need at this library or just happen to be in that area and want to check out the library!

Agree with Mr. Thompson that we have a phenomenal library in Bethlehem, but there are other wonderful libraries out there in the rest of the world, and the concept of resource-sharing without having to pay non-residents pay is true not only of our town but of all the towns in the area.

I also have checked out programs that, for example, the Voorheesville library or the Albany Public Library have advertised in The Spotlight and I have been able to attend without having to pay a fee. It is a global concept of sharing resources and ideas that makes this such a great place to live. It also makes me feel not so isolated within one little burg, but very much a part of the larger community—albeit in the Capital District. So, please Mr. Thompson, get out there and avail yourself of what the larger “community” has to offer.

Sheila Di Maggio
Slingerlands
How do you call an Arkansawyer?  
It does seem like a long time ago, but it was only last February when Uncle Dudley was reminiscing about governing of Arkansas.

Uncle Dudley  

tired of that "Soooooooppppyyyy pig calling you make (an Ar- kansas) before fourteen years are up."
Long before, I'd add.

Undoubtedly there's good rea- sons for pigs to respond to the pigs" call for reasons that has been traditional in many civi- lized places for centuries—but I have never been cued in as to why it is so irresistible to porcine creatures (the four-footed ones, that is).

I saw a prominent headline in The New York Times that read something like this: "Capital Ready to Welcome Arkansas Travelers."
As a documented Arkansan Traveler myself, I/am thinking of showing up this later in the season. Who knows?

* * * * *

Through readers of these pages may have noticed in last week's Spotlight my little effort to rebut allegations of g cmdungly tendencies. I had described as an "old curmudgeon." I take pride in half of that title and can't entirely dismiss the other half ("cantankerous fellow"). But I felt called upon to deny such a designa- tion in respect to a comment I'd made last week, which had Governor Clinton's insistence on calling himself, in his official posi-
tion, just plain "Bill."

Yes, Governor William Jefferson Clinton (actually an adopted name, not his own family name). I hap-
pened to have a grandson whose name I've forgotten, who was named Jef-

son, so maybe I have a small special interest in seeing the in-
coming President known by his real name by most folks are. But my point really is that the use of a nickname by a person holding such high office derogates that office, and that this is to be avoided.

I was rendered by one President's use of his nickname officially, and wish that we could be spared another.

By the way, a friend in Alabama sent me a copy of the ballot from Baldwin County in that state. In it, I counted the names of some of the candidates as follows:


at least their legal names were on the ballot, along with their down-
towhiling names. At the top of the ballot, the standard line "Bill Clinton, ALsub that's just not right.

* * * * *

Worldly W retreats to the mountains

If it's rapid mail delivery that interests you, think about relocating to the shores of Winnie Lake, up in the Adirondacks, in the far reaches of Hamilton County.

I've been reading about their postal service up there. Delivery is mostly left, apparently, to a 14-year-old lad, Mark Bird. The Bird family has had the contract to deliver the local mail. Mark's fa-
ther, Dick, operates a real estate firm, operates as a part-timer in real estate firm, operates as a part-timer in real estate firm, and is also real estate firm, and is also real estate firm, the part-time office, and the post office. But mox manufacturing are run by Mark, who is said to be the nation's youngest letter carrier even.

"Every morning, Mark careers across the lake in a speedboat, picking up the mailbags each family has left on the bank, and was noted to be a recent commentary by that famous writer, Molly Ivins, in a column that concluded, however:

"I warn you, we are going to get any newstand, and if you do you will find the price also. It is a product of Fairfax Publishing, which in turn is, I believe, now owned by Capital Cities/ABC.

The bit about Raquette Lake that I've been noting is from a piece of modest length by James Regnato (whomever he may be), which occupies about five of those pages that are not scheduled, and a dozen big photos in spectacular colors. Actually, the article is apol-
cal of the contents of W, and the excuse for its presence is merely in the fact that it features the mas- sive de luxe camps built in the late 20th and early 20th centuries by (as the text quickly points out) the Morgans, Vander bilts, Harri-

muns, Huntington s, Whitney s, Rockefeller s, Colliers, and Carne-
gie s.

And when such stockholders "went into the woods, they didn't go without their butlers, chefs, chambermaids, laundresses, maidservants, taxidermists, and hairdressers."

One of the finest camps was Killare, owned by the Garvan family. In the heyday of matr'arch Reginato (whoever he may be, or may be), Killare was like Delmonico's in the woods."

"She brought up Park Avenue style. She had 21 in help and was always fluttering around in a few nights ago."

Constant Reader  

Reading an issue of a magazine whose publisher (Fairchild) called it merely M. I noted that subscriptions were being offered only for $5.00 a year. A look through their mail order catalogue showed that many readers might have re-
sponded to this bargain.

In any event, they were due for dose of editorial comment, and the announcement came the that the November issue would be M2. Last, it was "Vol. X, No. 2." A revision of this newsletter may show may sneak into these pages some new soon.

Speaking of magazines with single-letter titles: In mid-season, Constant Reader reviewed an issue of a magazine whose publisher (Fairchild) called it merely M. I noted that subscriptions were being offered only for $5.00 a year. A look through their mail order catalogue showed that many readers might have re-
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Beyond the Wachtler Court

The contributor of this Point of View, a member of the Albany Law School faculty, formerly served on the staff of the Court of Appeals. A resident of Delmar, he has written previously on matters concerning the Court.

By Vincent Martin Bonventre

The fall of Chief Judge Sol Wachtler is a personal and institu-
tional tragedy. The charges against him cast a pall over the state's top court and, perhaps, have generated renewed cynicism about public officials generally, and about judges specifically.

Wachtler's swift resignation—especially if necessary—will help lift the cloud. Hopefully, it will help separate in the minds of both litigants and the citizenry, Wachtler's personal behavior from his and the court's official work. Moreover, the strength of character and judgment of the remaining members of the Court of Appeals will likely impress the wounds to the Court's reputation and integrity—both perceived and real—rather quickly.

The Court, of course, will continue. My guess is that it will not miss much of its official business. Under the strong interim leadership of Senior Associate Judge Richard D. Simons, toget-
er with his capable and devoted colleagues, the Court will do its work with every bit of care, craftsmanship, and judgment that have long been its hallmark. This premier judicial institution will regain whatever measure of prestige it has lost and will proceed without Wachtler, true to its deserved reputation for excellence.

With the passing of the time, the Court will soon return to normalcy and its concerns—and that the state's leaders, bar, and citizens—will be with its long-term future.

What will the Court be like without Wachtler? Where will the Court move in the post-Wachtler era? Already, our government leaders, the state's lawyers, and the media are beginning to look ahead. Who will replace Wachtler, and how will that replacement affect the Court—and ultimately the law of New York?

To get some idea, it will help to outline briefly where the Court has gone during the Wachtler era, and what qualities of leadership and judicial philosophy his possible successors might bring.

Perhaps a court reveals itself most clearly in its constitutional decision-making, the kind of those decisions involving funda-

mental rights and liberties where the court is divided. Where a state court is concerned, the most telling cases would seem to be those in which the court is supreme, where it has the final say—i.e., where the court must decide on individual's rights under the state's own constitution, rather than under federal law where the federal Supreme Court has the last word.

The Wachtler-led Court of Appeals' treatment of such state constitutional rights cases could have an impact on which potential successors tended to vote in those cases provides a good indica-
tion of the court's future course under each respective, possible new chief.

Chief Judge Wachtler, and the "Wachtler Court," gained lasting reputation early on. In the first few years following his appointment as Chief Judge in January 1985, Wachtler led the Court on a path of extending individual rights. This path was far from the Court of Appeals' long tradition of providing an extra measure of protection to individuals against the power of government.

That tradition probably had its heyday under the Chief Judgeship of Lawrence H. Cooke, Wachtler's predecessor. But the early Wachtler Court made its name for backing the trend of a markedly more "conservative" federal Supreme Court which disagreed, often vehemently, with some of the Wachtler Court's pro-individual stances. The Supreme Court, in fact, reversed the Court of Appeals in several cases, only to have the New York Court adhere to its original rights-protecting decisions as a matter of independent New York law—or whether the federal Supreme Court had no say.

Court/point of view
Negative agriculture 'facts' are dangerous

Editor, The Spotlight:

Human nature is a funny thing. People—myself included—complain about how depressing news reports and headlines are. It probably always will be that way, though, because I think the public is more attracted to bad news than good.

People like hearing about the one isolated case of injustice, rather than 599 instances in which workers are treated fairly, farm animals are well taken care of, and pesticides are used sparingly.

The farm community, for example, has increasingly been on the receiving end of negative publicity—much of it generated by animal-rights extremists and environmental activists. Case in point: the recent anti-milk campaign undertaken by a group masquerading as a coalition of concerned doctors. During the campaign to condemn one of the mainstays of the American diet, it was revealed that less than 10 percent of the "Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine" consisted of actual medical doctors.

The American Medical Association discredited the committee by calling it a "pseudo-physicians" group. "Blatantly misleading Americans on a health matter and concealing its true purpose as an animal-rights organization," James Todd, M.D., executive vice president of the AMA, stated. "We find the recommendations of the Physicians Committee... irresponsible and potentially dangerous to the health and welfare of Americans." Dr. Benjamin Spock's comments on milk were also misunderstood by some of the media and public. His actual position was, "There is growing evidence accumulating that it is not good for infants." He should have noted, however, long-standing evidence that cow's milk provides vital nutrients to children over one year of age.

The apple industry is still feeling the sting of the "alar" scare undertaken by a group of animal-rights extremists and environmental activists. Much of the recent publicity was pushed by the American Farm Bureau, its actual position being held in your area, why not attend and meet some of the people who put food on the table on Thanksgiving and during the rest of the year.

J.N.S.

People need to know more about agriculture so they are less susceptible to lopsided or misleading reports about food production. An opportunity to become familiar with farming may occur in your area during this week, Nov. 16 through 20. Since 1955, the American Farm Bureau Federation has been promoting the week leading up to Thanksgiving as national Farm-City week. If a farm tour or special event is being held in your area, why not attend and meet some of the people who put food on the table on Thanksgiving and during the rest of the year.

The apple industry is still feeling the sting of the "alar" scare undertaken by a group of animal-rights extremists and environmental activists. Much of the recent publicity was pushed by the American Farm Bureau, its actual position being held in your area, why not attend and meet some of the people who put food on the table on Thanksgiving and during the rest of the year.

J.N.S.
SPS disavows actions by 2 other advocates

Editor, The Spotlight:

We are writing this letter in view of recent actions taken at Bethlehem Central High School by the Student Action Committee (SAC) and the National Women’s Rights Organizing Coalition (NWROC). The Student for Peace and Survival (SPS) would like to make it clear that although members of SAC and NWROC may also belong to SPS, they are separate groups. Furthermore, SPS takes no responsibility for the actions of SAC. We disapprove of the use of our name to further an agenda that is not ours. To clarify our proposals, SPS is advocating for non-judgmental health classes regarding AIDS and sex education and acceptance of homosexuality; elective (not on women’s issues) on an issue of interschool violence against women, as defined by student interest; and condoms in the school for students.

It is critical that we students understand gender and sexuality issues in order to behave responsibly as a member of our generation makes people of our generation makes sexuality in schools essential. Most Bethlehem students believe that because they live in such a diverse and changing community, the school board, the administration, the district does not acknowledge the sexual identity of students.

We hope that Bethlehem will be a leader in establishing an intensive AIDS-preventive system before crisis comes to the students of our school. We look forward to working with the community, the school board, the administration, the Student Senate, and the student body on these issues.

Tracy Manning, President,
Students for Peace and Survival

Why not FAX your comments to The Spotlight’s letters column? Our FAX number is 439-0690. Your signature must be included, along with the customary address, telephone (and/or FAX) number. Our usual rules of fairness, accuracy, style, taste, and length will apply.

BCHS Student Senate sees ‘anarchy’ in group

Editor, The Spotlight:

The Student Senate is highly discouraged by the actions of the unofficial school organization “Student Action Committee” regarding the “Stop the SAT and Drive Safe Dance” on Oct. 30. The Student Senate respects SAC’s right to express its views, but we must question its judgment and means of expression. The group attempted to distribute condoms and related information at the dance, without first obtaining school board authorization, as requested by the school administration. The district does not allow such actions without school board approval and we encourage our fellow students to respect the administration’s authority on this and other issues. Students have the right to disagree with policies and should express their views, but we believe they should voice their opinions through more constructive means. No educational institutions can be effective in institutions that cannot be effective in open and constructive discussion with the administration and faculty. In this more worthwhile forum, the BCHS administration has been responsive to a level that students in most other schools would surely be jealous. The Senate expresses deep regret that SAC has ignored this aspect of our school.

Asst. Sangh, President, BCHS Student Senate
In the last few years, however, Wachtler and his court changed course. Studies of the Court's decisions and the individual judges' voting records demonstrate, quite clearly, that the former Chief Judge and a majority of his colleagues adopted a decidedly more pro-prosecution, pro-government approach.

In the areas of privacy, free expression, search and seizure, the rights and liberties as it had been the Court had previously been. Under the leadership of this sober, wise, no-nonsense, greatly admired jurist, the Court would likely continue on its moderate, somewhat more 'conservative' path.

Judge Judith S. Kaye, the Court's first woman, probably would push the Court on a different course. Her voting record has been significantly more pro-individual rights than Wachtler's and the Wachtler Court. She has often been in dissent, disagreeing with the Court-majority's retreat from its earlier rights-protecting positions. This scholarly, nationally prominent figure would surely keep the Court in the national spotlight and lead it in a somewhat more 'liberal' direction.

Judge Victor J. Tome, the third most senior member of the Court, is the bench's heavyweight champion of individual rights and liberties. Over the last few years, he has regularly dissented, complaining that the Court has been abandoning its traditional role in protecting constitutional rights to the fullest. In close cases, Judge To- 

tone has been a dependable vote for the individual claiming unfair treatment by government. If this gutsy, insightful, well-loved judge is placed at the helm, the Court will likely return to where it was in the Coke and early Wachtler years.

In short, Governor Cuomo's options for a new Chief Judge are fairly clear. These three potential candidates—each a very strong choice, if for separate reasons—can be expected to take the Court in different directions. The Court, and the future of New York's fundamental law, assuredly will be affected by the Governor's selection.

The voting record of the three senior judges on the Court varies widely in cases involving rights of individuals. Each could be expected to lead the Court in different directions.

The voting record of the three senior judges on the Court varies widely in cases involving rights of individuals. Each could be expected to lead the Court in different directions.
Federal immigration agents arrest chef at Armadillo Cafe

A Trinidadian national was arrested by federal immigration agents last week at the Armadillo Cafe in Delmar.

Hugh Fuentes, 38, allegedly violated U.S. immigration laws by working as a chef without government permission. The Mexican food restaurant opened last month in the Main Square Shoppes on Delaware Avenue.

Federal authorities are considering whether to deport Fuentes.

Cancer society sets stop smoking day

The American Cancer Society will sponsor the Great American Smokeout on Thursday, Nov. 19.

To receive tips on quitting survival kits or informational material, call the Schenectady or Albany County offices of the American Cancer Society at 377-2241 or 438-7841.

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The Bethlehem Republican Committee wishes to thank the voters for their loyal support of our candidates in the 1992 election.

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Delmar Health Center to sponsor two-week stop smoking program

In conjunction with the American Cancer Society, the Community Health Plan will offer a four-session FreshStart Smoking Cessation program beginning Thursday, Dec. 3.

Each session will run from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. at the Delmar Health Center, 250 Delaware Ave.

FreshStart is designed to help participants stop smoking over a period of two weeks. The program emphasizes that quitting smoking is a two-part process: first, stopping; and second, remaining a non-smoker.

The four group meetings are conducted as work meetings. The facilitator begins each meeting by asking for questions or topics for discussion. Next, information and strategies are presented. Each session concludes with a question and answer period.

Facilitator of the program will be Terry Powers, who has led smoking cessation groups for four years.

Spaces in the class are open to both CHP members and non-members on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no charge for the class, but pre-registration is necessary.

To register, call 783-1864, ext. 4444, by Monday, Nov. 30.

Red Cross to offer first aid course

The Albany Area Chapter of the American Red Cross will offer a child rescue course on Friday, Nov. 20, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the chapter house, Hackett Boulevard, Albany.

The course fee is $25 per person. Pre-registration is required. For information, call 434-3881.

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31 Bethlehem Central High School student athletes, including Allison Thomas, Alex Teeter and Ryan Tougher, and eight coaches attended a leadership conference sponsored by the Bethlehem Networks Project last weekend.
Historic Cherry Hill seeks guides

Historic Cherry Hill in Albany is seeking volunteer guides and teachers for its program.

Guides conduct tours for adults and family groups through the museum February through December, and teachers lead discussions and conduct tours for school children on weekdays during the school year. Volunteers work six hours a month, and receive on-site training. Training sessions will begin in January.

For information, call 434-4791.

Area residents chosen to perform at Proctor's

Three area residents were recently selected to perform in Proctor's annual Christmas show on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m.

Selected from more than 100 performers were Dick Harte of Elsmere, Rebekah Connolly of Selkirk and Amanda Genovese of Delmar. They will all perform in the 25-member "Proctor's Chorus."

Former Delmar resident Allen Mills is the creator and music director for the show.

Tickets are $16.50 for adults and $8.25 for children 12 and under.

For information, call 346-6204.

Kiwani Club to give Thanksgiving baskets

The New Scotland Kiwanis Club will distribute Thanksgiving baskets to families in need of assistance this month.

The names of needy families are provided by the Human Concern Committee of St. Matthew's Church of Voorheesville.

Baskets will contain a Thanksgiving turkey, potatoes, vegetables, canned and non-perishable items and treats.

For information, call 434-4791.
State ed seeks award nominations

Nominations for the 1993 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching for elementary, junior high and high school are now being accepted by the state Education Department.

Nominations should include the teacher's name, school and school address. They must be signed and include a description of the nominator's connection with the teacher. Nominations must be postmarked by Dec. 1.

College clinic to treat disabilities

The College of Saint Rose recently established a clinic to assess and treat individuals with disabilities affecting their performance on the job or in school.

Located on campus in Hubbard Hall, 432 Western Ave., Albany, the clinic serves preschoolers through adults who are suspected of having learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders, social/emotional difficulties, developmental disabilities.

Faculty from the college's school of education staff the clinic, which is open during regular business hours and on weekends by appointment.

For information, contact Dr. Penny Axelrod at 454-5263.

Teddies for tots

The Dime Savings Bank recently presented teddy bears to the Bethlehem Police Department and the Delmar Ambulance Squad. Cradling the cuddly creatures are, from left, Elwin McNamara, member of the Delmar Fire Department and Rescue Squad; Mary Fresa, Delmar Rescue Squad member; Nancy Bryer, assistant manager of Dime Savings Bank; Sandra Pangburn, bank manager; and Jeff Vunck, traffic safety officer. The bears are used to comfort young children in an auto accident or other emergency.

Elaine McLain

Glenmont church changes school hours

Glenmont Community Church in Glenmont has rescheduled its Sunday School to meet at 11 a.m. each week, during the worship service.

For information, call 436-7710.
Analysts are optimistic about Clinton

By Dev Tobin

Whatever Clinton does as president won’t have much of an impact before the fourth quarter of 1993, noted Hugh Johnson, senior vice president and chief investment officer for the First Albany Corporation.

Expectations of a Clinton victory "were feeding into the market for six weeks before the election," Johnson said, bolstering stocks in heavy construction equipment, technology, software, biotechnology, HMO and pollution control and waste management companies.

The bond market "was initially very nervous that higher spending and deficits would bring more Treasury bonds into the market, but it is getting over those jitters now," Johnson added. "Clinton has made it quite clear he’s sensitive to the markets, which will not allow him to do all he wants to do."

Johnson noted that Clinton is a moderate Democrat who is not inclined to tax-and-spend on liberal social programs. "That’s why he got elected.”

Clinton’s proposed investment tax credit, if enacted, would probably not cost the Treasury anything because of increased economic activity, Johnson predicted, but may not create as many jobs as hoped because companies will invest in labor-saving technology.

International investors have already taken Clinton’s win into account, according to Thomas Brockley, vice president of investments for Prudential Securities.

“Clinton is getting in at a good time, because we are on our way out of the recession,” Brockley said. “As people grow more confident that they won’t be laying their jobs, they will start to buy houses and cars again.”

The banking and insurance sectors will benefit from the revival in consumer spending, he said.

Gordon CPA firm gets good review

The Delmar accounting firm of Anthony M. Gordon, C.P.A., has received an unqualified opinion from the Quality Review Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The peer review, which occurs every three years, found no problems with the firm’s financial statements and the conduct of its accounting practice.

The Gordon firm has been in Delmar since 1961.

Delmar accountant joins Albany firm

Laura L. Hardy of Delmar, CPA, recently joined Marvin and Company accounting firm in Albany as a senior accountant.

Hardy most recently served as senior accountant for Roth Nobis, and has also worked for Robert Ercolini and Company in Boston. She is a graduate of Russell Sage College with a bachelor’s degree in accounting.

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Anthony Gordon

The Delmar accountant of
Delmar joins Albany firm
The question of ownership apparently arose when it was discovered that part of the acreage under consideration was in the flood plain of the Hudson and, as such, belongs to the state.

"I'm concerned that a contractor could prove negligence on our part by letting out something to bid without our knowing whether we could move ahead with the project or not. I don't understand how we ever got to this point without doing a thorough job of due diligence," she continued. "Let's do it right the first time."

A resolution authorizing Seccor to start advertising for the drilling work approved at the Monday, Nov. 16, board meeting although a proviso was attached stating that the awarding of any contract was contingent on the availability of site.

Galvin held her ground, however, and voted against the resolution, which passed by a 4-1 margin.

Galvin questioned Seccor as to why the problem with title clearance surfaced one month ago even though the town board had given the go-ahead on the site near the Hudson in November 1991.

Secor explained that the ownership problem was unanticipated because the town tax maps showed that Ted and Sally Jennings owned all the property in question. Only recently was it discovered that part of the land was formerly under water, but was now above sea level due to dredging in the river channel some years ago.

While the immediate need for extra water is prompted by the Cogen project, it's also advisable to provide a backup supply given the continued, fast-paced growth in the town, said Councilman Charles Gunner. The water filtration project is eventually expected to be paid for by usage fees charged to Cogen.

The bulk of Bethlehem's water is now provided by the Vly Creek Reservoir and deep wells located in the foothills of the Helderberg Mountains in New Scotland. An additional amount is purchased from the city of Albany. There are three years remaining on the town's purchase agreement with the city.

Assuming there is a sufficient supply at the new well sites, which are located just south of the Hudson River Park, the water would be pumped up to an earthen reservoir and a water filtration plant, both located on a waterfront property adjacent to the New York State Thruway.

"To meet our contractual agreements with Cogen, we need to move ahead as expeditiously as possible," Ringler maintained. Phase 2 of the Selkirk Cogen project will increase Bethlehem's average water use, which now is about 4.2 million gallons per day, by an additional 1.5 million gallons daily.
**New USAF captain**

Delmar native Carol McCormick is promoted to captain in the U.S. Air Force by Brig. Gen. Tad Olestrom. Capt. McCormick, a 1984 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, is an environmental engineer in the 4404th Composite Wing's civil engineering squadron, based at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.

**Community church to host Mass talk**

The Bethlehem Community Church, 201 Elm Ave., Delmar, will host a talk by John L. Mason on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 6 p.m.

Mason is the founder and director of Insight International of Tulsa, Okla. The lecture will be based on Mason's book *An Enemy Called Average*.

For information, call 439-3135.

**Library plans program on solo sailboat trip**

The Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar, will offer a program on "Circling the Ocean — Sailing the Atlantic Ocean in a Small Boat" on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

A resident of Bethlehem for 25 years, Bert Butlin will describe his experiences while sailing solo across the Atlantic in a small sailboat.

For information, call 439-9314.

**Students can apply for scholarships**

High school students who want to apply for scholarships from the Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation should request applications by Dec. 14.

To be eligible for the $1,000 awards, students must have at least a "B" average and be U.S. citizens. One hundred winners will be chosen on the basis of academic performance, involvement in extracurricular activities and financial need.

**Hart named to college radio post**

Aaron Hart of Delmar is serving as production and jazz director of radio station WBRC at Bates College, where he is a junior.

Operated entirely by Bates students, WBRC is a non-commercial FM station that broadcasts in stereo with 150 watts of power and serves a wide area beyond the campus, including the Lewiston-Auburn metropolitan area as well as surrounding towns.

Hart, the son of Joseph and Susan Hart, is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School.

**Glenmont couple gets arts grant**

Daniel Englander and Katherine Nelson Englander of Glenmont recently received art grants through the Special Opportunity Stipends program, a project of the New York Foundation for the Arts and RCCA: The Arts Center.

Daniel Englander received $139 to mount and frame photographs for an exhibition at the Russell Sage College Gallery.

Katherine Nelson Englander was awarded $300 to frame drawings for a one-person exhibition at the Sheltun Gallery at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

**Analyst receives award for work**

Philip DeGaetano of Delmar, an associate environmental analyst at the state Department of Environmental Conservation, recently received the department's Special Achievement Award.

The award recognizes DeGaetano's work in developing a manual to help local government officials identify and address water quality issues relating to stormwater runoff.

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**SMOKING AND ORAL HEALTH**

If you have ever smoked you know that the constancy and age of your saliva can change after a "smoke". You probably have also noted that the food you eat doesn't taste as good ad before. You may wonder if your breath is offensive to your loved ones by whom you smoke.

After several weeks of smoking, your teeth are probably yellowing, brown or black. Your dentures or hygienist may have to work harder to remove stains at your next prophecy or hygiene appointment and may no longer desire dental appointments.

After several of smoking the impact on your mouth may manifest itself as a general inflammation or a more specific condition called periodontal disease. It is not unusual for smoking in the sole cause of some people's periodontal disease, but smoking is known to accelerate the disease process, including recession of gums, loss of bone, and subsequent loss of teeth.

Just ask yourself: why would anyone want to smoke?

Thinking of quitting? Contact your health care professional for help.

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Methodist women to serve pancake breakfast

The United Methodist Women of South Bethlehem United Methodist Church on Willowbrook Avenue will serve a family-style pancake breakfast in the fellowship hall on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The menu includes: juice, pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, muffins and breads, coffee and tea. All are welcome. The cost is $5.50 for adults, and $3.25 for children under 12.

Parents' groups plan joint meeting tonight

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School Parent Teacher Student Association and the middle school Parents In Education group will meet tonight, Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. at the senior high school on Route 5W.

Financial aid night set

R-C-S Parents and students will be able to obtain information and discuss financial aid options for college on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the senior high school. For information, call 720-2155.

REACH support group schedules meeting

The R-C-S REACH enrichment parents support group has scheduled its next meeting for Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at Ravena Elementary School on Mountain Road in Ravena.

Thanksgiving recess

There are no classes scheduled in the R-C-S school district Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 and 27, for Thanksgiving Recess. Regular classes will resume on Monday, Nov. 30.

Still time to order Florida citrus fruits

Orders are still being taken for tree-ripened Indian River citrus fruit from the South Bethlehem United Methodist Church.

Orders will be taken until Monday, Nov. 30, with an expected delivery date of about Wednesday, Dec. 2.

White and pink grapefruit, navel and Hamlin (juice) oranges and Orlando tangelos are available in two-thirds- or four-fifths-bushel quantities. Call 767-9937 or 767-2164 to order or for information.

Elks to kick up heels at 50s benefit dance

The Bethlehem Elks Ladies Auxiliary will host a '50s night benefit dance at the Bethlehem Elks Lodge on Route 144 in Selkirk, on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Entertainment will be by DJ CC & Me. Ticket donations are $12 per person or $20 per couple and include snacks, beverages and late night sandwiches.

Call 767-9784 or 767-9959 for information.

Dutch barn group to present program

The Dutch Barn Preservation Society will present a program on the design and construction of barns built by early Dutch settlers on Monday, Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar.

For information, call 439-9314.

The Children of Somalia Need Your Help

One out of every four children in Somalia may have already perished of starvation and hunger-related illnesses since the beginning of the civil war. These young victims are dying in silence.

At least 1.5 million people face the threat of starvation. US humanitarian agencies must deliver food and medical supplies now. Those brave relief workers who have been feeding and providing medical care to the starving have received little support to date. American private donations for relief to Somalia total less than 10% of the amount which went to Ethiopia in 1984/85.

The private voluntary agencies listed below must receive more support to pay for the transportation, relief personnel and medical supplies that are needed by the Somali people today. These voluntary agencies are essential to distributing the food being airlifted, and to providing medical care and supplemental feeding of infants and young children in Somalia, as well as in the refugee camps to which hundreds of thousands have fled.

Your support is needed to help save lives.

We call on all Americans to give today, while there is still time. The following agencies pledge to see that your donations are used where they will do the most good.

Please don't let the children's cry go unanswered. Send your tax-deductible check to any of the agencies listed below, earmarked for Somalia Relief:

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The library is celebrating Children’s Book Week, Nov. 16 to 20, in an extra special way this year. Children’s librarian and storyteller Diane Briggs has just published her first book, Flannel Board Fun: A Collection of Stories, Songs and Poems. Inspired by the enthusiastic response of children to her story programs at the library, she has created flannel board characters for 28 folk tales, poems and songs. Teachers, librarians and anyone else who works with young children will find this book a treasure-trove of ideas.

Flannel Board Fun has selections for children ranging in age from toddlers to grade two. Briggs’ book shows how to make a flannel board and story figures including time-saving lists of materials and color suggestions, and gives simple directions for successful storytelling.

Formerly an elementary school librarian, Briggs says she wrote the book because there were so few resources for the flannel board.

“The illustrations weren’t very good. I saw drawings in other books, and I said, ‘I can do that!’” One set of books still in print dates from the 1950s. I hope my book stays around that long."

Briggs gives credit to library staff member and former Glenmont school librarian Peg Lewis for her valuable advice when she initially tried to get publishers interested in the project. Lewis herself earlier this year published Randolph Caldecott — The Children’s Illustrator.

Briggs also thanks Polly Hartman who helped proofread the manuscript, and her typist, who asked for a flannel board and story figures for her granddaughter in lieu of payment.

Briggs, a native of Granville, is a SUNY Oswego graduate and earned a master’s from SUNY Albany.

She lives in Delmar with her husband and five-year old son, Thomas, to whom the book is dedicated. Thomas, she says, liked to work along with her as she created the figures for the book. "He likes to paste on the googly eyes.”

Anna Jane Abbey from toddlers to grade-two.

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Church bazaars featuring holiday fare

Start your holiday shopping early at the annual St. Matthew's Church Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will feature many unique gifts, including country crafts, Christmas decorations and wooden items. A bake sale is also planned.

Santa Claus will be on hand for picture-taking, and baby-sitting services will be available. A special supper will be auctioned off, and raffle prizes include a trip to Atlantic City.

The church is located on Mountainview Road in Voorheesville.

For information, call Elaine Burns, chairman, at 765-4898, or Karen Finnessey at 765-4361.

Church bazaar to benefit missions

On Saturday, Nov. 21, the First United Methodist Church, 68 Maple Ave., will sponsor a mission bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The bazaar will feature hand-crafted gifts, baked goods, toys, plants and books.

A special “stone soup” lunch is also planned.

Proceeds will benefit the church’s mission projects.

Soccer club slates annual awards banquet

The Voorheesville Soccer Club’s banquet will be on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 6 p.m. at Oceans Eleven restaurant, 1811 Western Ave., Guilderland.

Church sets service to celebrate Thanksgiving

A Community Thanksgiving Service is scheduled on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Voorheesville First United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Arthur Toole will lead the service, assisted by community members.

The service is open to the public. A collection will be taken to benefit the Human Concerns Committee, which provides assistance to people in the Voorheesville area.

Senior citizens schedule annual Christmas soiree

The New Scotland senior citizens group is planning its annual Christmas party for Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. at Oceans Eleven restaurant in Guilderland.

Emily and Greg Burns and Melissa and Lauren Finnessey look over some of the “berry” nice raffle prizes to be offered at the Christmas Bazaar of St. Matthew’s Church in Voorheesville Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The menu includes roast sirloin of beef, broiled Boston scrod or chicken parmesan.

For information, call Agnes Tucker at 765-4427 or Mabel Frisbee at 765-2090.

Continuing education course on “Holiday Boxwood Tree Decorating” is scheduled at the Clayton A. Bouton Junior Senior High School on Monday, Dec. 2, from 7 to 10 p.m.

The course, taught by Lara Hladun, costs $8, plus $20 for materials. Decorations can be in either Victorian or traditional style.

To register, contact Jim Hladun, director of continuing education, 765-3314, by Monday, Nov. 23.

Kiwanis distributing holiday food baskets

The New Scotland Kiwanis Club will distribute Thanksgiving baskets to area families in need of assistance. Each basket will contain turkey, potatoes, vegetables, non-perishables and treats.

The families are selected by the Human Concerns Committee of St. Matthew’s Church in Voorheesville.

Hunger network sets fund-raiser

The Hunger Action Network of New York State is sponsoring a Hands Across Albany event on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 1:30 p.m. at the state Capitol in Albany.

Area residents will join hands to draw attention to the problem of hunger in our communities and to show support for increased action by the state Legislature to help end hunger.

Participants are asked to contribute $10 and/or to solicit pledges.

For information, call 434-7371.

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Six guest commentators on today's financial matters from making investments to shopping wisely

Brokerage heeds call of investors' conscience

By Kathleen Shapiro

When Martin Bayne was laid off from his job in the financial services business a few years ago, he saw it as an opportunity to do something different.

With free time on his hands, the Colonie entrepreneur decided to change the world, or at least his own small portion of it, by creating the Richard Gerard Group, a Capital District brokerage agency catering exclusively to the needs of socially responsible investors.

Nearly two years later, the national trend toward social investing has reached an all-time high of nearly $1 trillion a year, and Bayne has risen with it, giving an average of two lectures a week in an effort to convince listeners of the benefits of using their conscience to manage their money.

Although not a new concept — Quakers, Mormons and other religious groups have practiced similar business methods for nearly a century — the move toward socially responsible investing has been building over the past 20 years.

"Americans are finding that they really can do well and do good at the same time," said Bayne, who has taken his cue from nationally known companies such as Stride Rite and Ben & Jerry's, which have been at the forefront of the movement for increased social accountability in business.

In fact, ice cream king Ben Cohen of Ben & Jerry's is a member of Bayne's corporate advisory board, which also includes health guru Dr. Bernie Siegel, representatives of the American Red Cross, the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans and Disability Advocates.

"We've collected quite an eclectic group," said Bayne, who was initially spurred into action by the fate of his younger brother, a Vietnam veteran who returned home from the war only to face a decade of mental illness, homelessness and despair. Seven years ago, he disappeared altogether.

His name — Richard Gerard — constantly reminds Bayne of his company's mission. "There are many people like Ricky in the world — desperate people who, through no fault of their own, get forgotten or misplaced in the daily drama of life around them... As a professional in the financial services industry, I've decided to do what I can to honor my brother's memory and help those less fortunate."

Using information garnered from research groups, periodicals and other firms, Bayne and his staff provide clients with a range of ethical investment opportunities that have been screened for social and environmental criteria. Corporations are rated according to their record on issues such as consumer protection, sexual equality in the work force, refusal to associate with oppressive political regimes and willingness to provide job equity regardless of sexual orientation.

Richard Gerard Group employees have their salaries voluntarily capped at an annual rate of $50,000, and Bayne's board of directors is charged with distributing 100 percent of the firm's corporate profits to local and regional charities.

I believe everyone has a responsibility to our planet, to our home. This is the perfect way to show it.

Martin Bayne

The Richard Gerard Group's board of directors includes the Rev. Peter Young, a Catholic priest and local alcohol rehabilitation advocate, Rabbi Julie Wolfsoff of Congregation Berith Sholom in Troy, Sensei John Loori of the Zen Mountain Monastery in Mt. Tremper, and area business leaders.

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Investors can compensate for low interest rates

For those with certificates of deposit (CDs), money market accounts and other interest-bearing investments, there's only one thing lower than interest rates right now—the feeling they get when they think about how sliding rates have affected their current income.

The reality of low rates has sunk in, and the possibility that they may drop even more is difficult to face for those whose investment income is at a decade low.

But a historical look at interest rates, and a new look at personal finances, might help individuals respond positively to a negative situation.

The fact is, interest rates have historically been artificially high. A 25-year look at interest rate trends shows that the 1980s—especially the early 1980s—were an exceptional period for interest-sensitive investments, not the long-term "norm." As returns correct to more realistic levels, it's important to understand that there are no quick solutions to a situation that developed over a long period of time.

This is not to suggest, however, that there's nothing investors can do to confront today's low interest rate environment. Investors in all situations, but especially those squeezed by low earnings from low rates, can reconsider the entire concept of "risk" and how they relate to it.

Risk applies to more than protection of principal. If recent rate performance has taught them anything, it's that "low-risk" investments like CDs and money market accounts do contain risk—the risk of low yields. As interest rates drop, investors need to understand that reducing or avoiding one type of risk often exposes them to another.

The risk of decreased earnings is a very real one. After inflation and taxes, reduced earnings from low rates can put investors in a negative "real rate of return" situation.

Many investors who rethink their aversion to risk decide they can accept more, creating new investment opportunities. These opportunities might include some that are more focused on the higher potential yield provided by certain types of bonds—either individually purchased or packaged in a mutual fund portfolio.

While the principal in these investments may fluctuate in value, many investors find that the added yield is more important to them than the added risk. Other options may also include common stock and mutual funds, which are more focused on potential growth and less dependent on interest rates.

It's not an all-or-nothing proposition, either. Investors can increase their exposure to risk by degrees. Generally, the key is to operate with an expanded vision of what's possible—a broader, longer-term investment perspective.

For retirees, the persons most affected by reduced rates and lower current income, some might suggest that these are the same individuals least likely to take long-term view and accept more risk. But clearly, this is not always the case.

"Retired" is simply not synonymous with "old." An increased position in growth-oriented securities often is a legitimate strategy for retired persons, especially those in their late 50s and even those in their 60s. If the need for current income can be somewhat reduced, some investment strategies can actually increase net worth and available capital, even during retirement.

Investment seminar slated Thursday

With interest rates on certificates of deposit (CDs) and money market accounts so low, some investors are searching for alternative investments.

To provide information on this topic, a seminar is scheduled on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Colonie. Speakers will be Mac Cook and Thomas Brockley of Prudential Securities.

Admission is free, but space is limited. Call Barbara De Lapp at 447-1576 for a reservation.
Forty-something? Plan for retirement

If you're in your forties, you're a member of the "sandwich generation" — caught between financial obligations to your children and your parents. But that doesn't mean you can neglect a crucial financial obligation to yourself — planning for your own retirement future.

Ask yourself: "How much money will I need to fund a comfortable retirement?" The answer depends on your earnings.

Today's "baby boomers" will probably have a retirement period that is longer than any prior generation. But a longer life also means that retirement money has to last a lifetime when you will most likely retire, when you will most likely be in a lower tax bracket.

The timing and amount of your IRA contributions must be precisely recorded and these records must have complete withdrawals. The 401(k) plan is also an important retirement savings opportunity. Since employers deduct contributions to the plan from your paycheck, according to amounts set by each employee, saving is easy because it's automatic. For 1992, you can put up to $14,000 or your annual salary into a 401(k) on a pre-tax basis, which reduces your current taxable income.

In addition, many larger companies will match up to a dollar an employee contributes. Money in a 401(k) plan is also sheltered from current taxation.

The key to a comfortable retirement is to replace as much of your salary income as possible with income from investments. The general rule of thumb: "More than 10% of your current income is required to maintain your standard of living in retirement. But along a longer life also means until you withdraw it after you retire, when you will most likely be in a lower tax bracket."

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You can invest up to $2,000 annually in an IRA. If you do not currently participate in a pension plan, your IRA contribution may be fully tax deductible. If you do currently participate in a pension plan, your IRA contribution is either partly deductible or not deductible at all, depending on your earnings.

Whether the initial contribution is deductible or not, you should consider making an IRA contribution each year because the money earned in the account compounds tax-deferred. It will not be taxed until you withdraw it after you retire, when you will most likely be in a lower tax bracket.

Today's "baby boomers" will probably have a retirement period that is longer than any prior generation. Since growth is your current objective, your retirement portfolio should be weighted toward stocks. But stocks have their risks. They are riskier than bonds in the short term. However, over the long term, stocks have out-performed other financial assets.

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Assess finances to realize goals

Since tax reform has eliminated many write-offs, deductions, and tax-favored investment opportunities, today's working couples should assess their finances to determine the best way of achieving their financial goals.

Whether you're just beginning a family or close to retirement, you'll want to consider repositioning your assets to take full advantage of the new investment opportunities and avoid pitfalls.

The following strategies, based on the current tax laws, are for three of the more common investment objectives.

Saving to reduce taxes
Regardless of your gross combined income, you and your spouse are most likely in a different tax bracket. Most couples should save money in taxes under present tax rules, but some will end up paying more.

As a result, tax free municipal bonds have become an attractive investment option. With these investments, income is exempt from federal taxes, and in many cases states and cities allow exemptions on interest earned. However, the tax law has reduced the supply of issues eligible for tax-exempt status, so consult your financial adviser when choosing bonds.

Tax shelters were eliminated by tax reform, but affordable housing tax credits can still provide some tax relief as well as real economic gains for higher income investors. Tax credit programs are available with minimum investment of $5,000 to $25,000 and require that investors meet minimum suitability standards.

Saving for college
The tax law curtails shifting income to children through trusts. Interest paid on student loans is no longer tax deductible unless you borrow equity in your home to do so.

So, one of the best ways to set money aside for your child's college education is to establish a Uniform Gifts to Minor Account (UGMA). However, under the new law, only the first $1,000 of income from new existing UGMA accounts will be taxed at the child's rate if he or she is under 14 years old. The remaining amount is taxed at the parents' rate.

Many investors focus on investments that will not generate very much taxable income, such as zero coupon municipal bonds. If you purchase these bonds for your child's education, they can be timed to mature when the child is ready to enter college. In the meantime, interest accumulates exempt from taxes.

After the child turns 14, you may want to invest primarily in conservative, income-producing investments. The less time you have to save for college, the more conservative your investment strategy should be.

Saving for retirement
Under the tax law, married couples are eligible for full tax deduction for an IRA if neither spouse is covered by a retirement plan at their work place or, if covered by a retirement plan, their income falls within certain limits. IRAs are fully deductible if a couple's combined adjusted gross income is $40,000, no deduction may be taken for an IRA contribution. It may, however, still be worthwhile to invest in one because funds grow tax-deferred.

Insurance products are another alternative to consider. A popular form of tax-advantaged savings for retirement planning is a single-premium tax-deferred annuity.

Annuities can be fixed or variable. Fixed annuities guarantee principal and interest for periods of one year up to 10. With a variable annuity, you're not locked into a specific rate of return. Instead, your return will fluctuate with the performance of the investment portfolio you select. Variable annuities allow you to move freely among a family of mutual funds without incurring current income taxes.

In both cases, the money invested earns annual compounded interest, and investment earnings accumulate tax-deferred until payout. Planning for retirement investing varies depending on a couple's income and situation.

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Mutual funds designed to meet different needs

Mutual funds try to be many things to many people. The managers do this by outlining their purpose in the investment objective section of the prospectus.

Through the years, the financial objectives of investors change. If they have carefully selected a family of funds — one group that manages several mutual funds with different objectives — a transfer within the group is simple and can be accomplished at little or no cost.

For example, a retired couple who enjoyed a fund's benefit of growth and income during their working years may now find the dividend rate little better than the yield on their savings account. Their present need is more income, more safety of principal and less growth.

An income or bond fund could offer a reasonable alternative. By investing in a bond fund, they might substantively increase their income.

But a word of caution is in order. A mutual fund that deals in senior securities (bonds) and pays a high current income has no guarantee of safety and security. The key word with mutual funds is management integrity and consistency.

The integrity and consistency of a fund's managers can only be determined through research. With the help of a trained investment professional, look at the fund record. There are several independent companies which specialize in researching mutual funds. Compare the results to those of other mutual funds with the same investment objective. See how the fund's managers have done in the past, five years and longer. The information is available, but you have to make the effort to find it and study it.

All investments have some inherent risk. The more risk, the more the borrower must pay the investor to take that risk. Some funds pay very high income by investing in securities of questionable quality. And, even though the fund is restricted to investments in senior securities, there could be considerable risk attached, which explains the higher income. In these cases, the managers have chosen to sacrifice some safety for more income.

For those investing in income to meet daily living expenses, it is essential that the income be dependable. Regardless of the income promised today, it is of little value if reduced or stopped tomorrow. When investing for income, also satisfy the need for safety. Ask about risk and make sure you get answers.

Mutual funds

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Associate
Coldwell Banker

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Brokers now work for buyers

In the past year or so, New York state has seen a change in the laws that govern real estate brokers.

Brokers are now required to state in writing who they are working for in a real estate transaction. As a result, more and more agents are offering their services as buyer representatives.

Traditionally, brokers have worked exclusively for sellers. However, as part of selling homes, they also work closely with prospective buyers. Usually before the right home is found, the broker will know the kids by name and would have shared the trials and tribulations of relocating with a family.

Out-of-town buyers depend on their broker to educate them about the area. They trust him to give New York advice on school systems, restaurants, parks and places for recreation. Eventually, a relationship develops between the buyer and the broker. But, in the past, when it was time to negotiate a contract, the broker was required to stop working for the buyer and represent the interests of the seller.

Some sellers were not comfortable having their interests protected by a broker who had so much history with a buyer.

The buyer gets a type of service that was not available in the past.

James La Bombard

New York has recently established laws of disclosure that allow the buyer to clearly establish on whose behalf he is working. A broker can now negotiate a fee to represent the buyer's interest through the entire process of buying a home.

Some brokers are now offering services to buyers similar to those provided to sellers. Brokerage companies are offering 'buyer brokerage' in addition to 'seller brokerage.'

What does the buyer get from all this? He gets more service — a type of service that was not available in the past. The broker is not selling a home, he is providing the buyer service. The broker is freer to counsel a buyer about the market and about a specific home.

When the time comes for a buyer to present an offer, the broker can provide a market analysis to determine if the asking price is comparable to the value of similar homes in the area, and the buyer and the broker can prepare a strategy for presenting an offer.

The broker can negotiate more aggressively when he is working for the buyer. Another advantage is that more properties will be available to the buyer because a broker can negotiate on "for sale by owner" properties.

Provisions should not be the sole determining factor in choosing a broker. The potential buyer should interview a number of brokers to find the person they are most comfortable with and feel will best protect their interest.

Jim La Bombard is an associate of Coldwell Banker, Prime Properties, Inc.
New reverse mortgages can help older homeowners

By Mel Hyman

A health care worker walked into the Capital District branch of Onbank in Colonie last week because she was concerned about an elderly woman she was caring for who was running low on funds.

"Health problems over the past year had eaten up quite a lot of her savings," said Phyllis Harrison, a mortgage loan officer with Onbank. "She was looking for a way to get a cash flow."

The health care worker was inquiring about reverse mortgages, since the woman was sitting on a lot of equity with her house. It seemed like the perfect solution, said Harrison.

Simply put, a reverse mortgage occurs when a person 62 or older, who owns her home free and clear, takes out a fixed term mortgage on the property and receives monthly payments, lump sum payments, a line of credit or a combination of the three.

Reverse mortgages usually amount to about 65 percent of the fair market value of the house. The remaining equity is used for interest payments and processing fees on the borrowed money.

At the end of the loan period, which is generally between 15 and 20 years, ownership of the home reverts from the homeowner to the lender. The bank then recoups its money by selling the house.

Under a special program passed by Congress last year, the FHA (Federal Housing Administration) was authorized to insure 25,000 reverse mortgages over the next five years. With this arrangement, the bank or mortgage company is guaranteed payment at the end of the loan period whether or not the homeowner has died or vacated the house.

Banks have traditionally shied away from reverse mortgages, citing the reluctance to evict someone from their house when the loan period — or equity — expires. Under the FHA program, that obstacle has been removed.

Onbank receives several inquiries each month, Harrison said, but the bank has yet to receive the go-ahead from corporate headquarters to issue reverse mortgages.

"I think there is a market out there," she said, "especially with people living longer and the refinancing wave that’s going on."

The remaining equity is used for interest payments and processing fees on the borrowed money. The key to a Saab 9000 CS locks in high performance, instead of high payments.

The CS comes with a spirited 16-valve engine, rally-bred suspension and a taut new chassis design for improved handling. It also happens to be one of the safest, most spacious imported sedans on the market.

The key to a Saab 9000 CS locks in high performance, instead of high payments.

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With less in the pot, shopping wisely is a must

As more and more Americans discover that there is less money to go around than in the 1980s, shopping wisely will become extremely important.

Shopping around for the best product at the best price is one smart way to stretch a budget. And, besides saving money, it's fun!

No one really wants to throw their money around. Most people, even the very rich, get a secure feeling from managing their money properly.

Getting a bargain is one of the old-time pleasures that many people forgot during the "borrow and spend" 1980s, but shopping wisely is coming back in fashion.

Why now, you ask?

Well, any economist can quote the statistics about the flattening standard of living, the huge debts that have to be paid off somehow and the collapsing international value of the dollar. Soon, everyone will be saying, "Honey, we'd better start watching our spending!"

Using coupons at the supermarket, getting gas for five cents less a gallon at the discount gas station, sending in film for developing, buying the discount coupon book and using it, are all satisfying ways to make one's dollar go further.

And, thank goodness, over the last decade and a half, many new ways have developed for the wise shopper to save money in the financial services arena.

Once upon a time, there was only one way to invest money — other than in certificates of deposit in the bank — and that was through a full-service stock brokerage firm. And, it goes without saying, that you had to use their services broker goes awry. They then feel they can do just as well in the discount and deep-discount brokerage firms, but aren't confident enough to make their own investment decisions. That's why many still invest with the full-service broker.

These brokers save investors money in more ways than just in lower commissions. Schwab, for example, is now running ads about their "No-fee IRAs." This is a particularly annoying maintenance fee that many full-service brokerage firms charge yearly for having one's individual retirement account with them.

And, finally, there are the outside research boutiques, more commonly called investment newsletters. These independent research companies understand there are many investors today who would like to use the no-load mutual fund families and the discount and deep-discount brokerage firms, but aren't confident enough to make their own investment decisions. That's why many still invest with the full-service consultant can.

In many cases, they're right, because most investors make money when a rising tide carries all ships upward and they lose out when the tide changes and runs out. Successful investing, many times, is as simple as that.

With CD rates crumbling, it's time you explored the alternatives with someone who knows the terrain.

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Q: My mom is having some trouble taking care of her personal needs. Is help available?

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CD's are FDIC insured up to $100,000 and offer a fixed rate of return, whereas the value of other investments will fluctuate with the market.

With CD rates crumbling, it's time you explored the alternatives with someone who knows the terrain.
So your CD's matured, what's next on financial front?

One of the most common dilemmas facing investors today is what to do with their money when certificates of deposit mature. According to the Federal Reserve Board, over $100 billion in CDs matured recently, and more than $1.5 trillion remains outstanding.

Renewing a CD will return anywhere from 3 to 9.5 percent, depending on the maturity. However, after paying more income tax and factoring in inflation, nothing.

The next step is for the investor to determine his current diversification. To accomplish this, he should make a list of goals and objectives (i.e., saving for retirement, children's education, etc.) and determine if his present asset allocation meets both stated risk tolerance and investment objectives.

Finally, I believe the most important part of financial planning is trust. A financial advisor should be helpful not only in choosing specific investments, but also in providing knowledge for the understanding of financial assets. The Union National Bank can help you with your financial planning.

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The Spotlight

FINANCIAL SERVICES
Thomas E. Brockley
Associate Vice President, Investments
Prudential Securities

[Image of Thomas E. Brockley]

What alternative investments are available to investors that can provide a high rate of return? The best alternative investments can be found in real estate, IRA and all financial assets should also be listed.

No matter which strategy is ultimately chosen, an attempt should be made to diversify investments.

Current portfolio items, including real estate, IRA and all financial assets should also be listed. By looking at the list, the investor can evaluate his current assets and determine if his present asset allocation meets both stated risk tolerance and investment objectives.

For example, in saving for retirement, older investors should be more conservative and income-oriented because, if they lose money, they will have less principal for living expenses, and less time to get it back.

Younger investors, who have longer to wait until retirement, may be more aggressive in investing for long-term growth, because they have more time to ride out the ups and downs of the stock market.

But no matter which strategy is ultimately chosen, an attempt should be made to diversify investments.

Once the proper allocation for personal needs has been determined, choosing the specific investments to meet individual needs is the next step. Mutual funds, private money managers, individual stocks and bonds are among the many choices available.

Finally, I believe the most important part of financial planning is trust. A financial advisor should be helpful not only in choosing specific investments, but also in providing knowledge for the understanding of financial assets. The Union National Bank can help you with your financial planning.

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Call us or stop in today! And start saving for better things!
Why I coach soccer

By Frank Rice

"I am spending many of my weekends and early evenings cavorting with a bunch of 12 and 13-year-old girls on a soccer field. Let me try to explain.

This past year, I had the pleasure of working with David Blabey, Stan Smith and Peter Corrigan in coaching the under-12 girls travel team. We had a very successful season, ultimately winning our Division A championship. This team could not have succeeded without the support of these coaches and the other parents throughout the season.

Many psychologists would ridicule the extent of our parental involvement as being no more than a middle age ego trip, a way of reliving a lost youth. I don't think that's the case.

During my career, I have had the opportunity to get to know several Nobel Prize winners personally, but not one of them is more important than a child. Coaching is one way of allowing kids that we are interested in them. That is part of why I coach.

Second, BSC needs more players especially in the travel team program. We have grown to that clumsy stage where we sometimes have too many players for one team, but not enough for two teams in a particular age group.

As a result, some kids may have to be turned away. Participation by girls especially needs more encouragement. Sometimes, there are not enough girls at a particular age level to field even one team and this disrupts the continuity of the entire program.

Finally, BSC needs more experienced coaches. In some cases it has become clear that the quality of our players is pushing the limits of our coaches' abilities. When we play Clifton Park, we are not competing against particular team but against an entire program. I would especially like to encourage those who we played soccer themselves and/or have prior coaching experience to consider coaching for BSC.

But anyone who is dedicated to working with kids and has an interest in learning the game can develop into a successful coach.

For me, it has been great fun, a great escape from the pressures of work, a good way to stay in shape, and most important, a great way to get to know my kids. And the wall-paper, basement, deck, garage and sidewalk can wait until next year.

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CASH & CARRY MARKETPLACE
V'ville boys shooting for one more soccer title

State semifinal match on Friday

By Greg Sullivan

The Voorheesville boys soccer team continued its fine post-season play, capturing the New York State Adirondack Regional Championship on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Blocker Stadium.

The Blackbirds outclassed Northern Adirondack Central, the Section VII champions, 2-0, to advance to the New York State Class C semifinal at Oneonta Friday. Voorheesville is the Section II champion, having won both the C and class C-CC crowns before moving to state play.

Sweeper Kevin Relyea was the big story for the 'Birds as he scored a goal in each half. The Blackbirds will play Cold Spring Harbor of Section VIII (Long Island Region) Friday at the Oneonta Hall of Fame Field at 10:30 a.m. The winner will play for the state championship Saturday.

The other semifinal game pits Section III champ Westhill against Section V winner Haverling High of Bath. The Blackbirds beat Haverling for the state title in 1990.

The winners will play for the state championship on Saturday.

Voorheesville injuries early on, including the loss of halfback Darren Ascone for the rest of the game. It wasn't until a few yellow cards were handed out to MAC that the mugging subsided somewhat.

The Blackbirds high-powered offense (98 goals), anchored by seniors Kevin Meade, Greg Sullivan, and Brad Rockmore, had a number of excellent opportunities that were thwarted by the Northern Adirondack goalie.

Coach Bob Crandell's squad will be attempting to win their second state crown in three years this weekend. The 'Birds were the New York State Champions in 1990.

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Senior members of the Voorheesville varsity boys soccer team will hope to end their high school careers with a Class C state crown this week. Shown here, from left, front row, Kyle Tracy; Greg Sullivan, Sean Bruno, Darren Ascone and Matt Reh; back row, Coach Bob Crandell, Kevin Meade, Brian Rockmore, Richie Schultz, Frank Hart, Kevin Relyea, Tom Dutkiewicz and Assistant Coach Mike Guerette.
Next year should be better, says BC girls swim coach

By Joshua Kagan

The Bethlehem girls swim team finished a less than spectacular year by placing 11th out of 15 teams at the Section II championships.

The Eagles compiled 78 points during the two-day meet on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and 14. Shaker won the meet with 443 points followed by Shenendehowa and Burnt Hills with 425 and 334 points, respectively. None of Bethlehem's 20 swimmers who competed qualified for the state tournament.

Bethlehem coach Sandie Bannas spoke positively of her team's 3-7 season. "We met both of my goals, to get as many people qualified for sectionals as possible, we had 20 swimmers and divers compete, and to have fun. The girls said they had fun and I certainly had fun.

"Pretty much everyone achieved a personal best time throughout the season or in sectionals," she continued. "We're a young team. We'll be back up there among the top teams soon. I think next year we'll be able to contend better at sectionals because this year we had a lot of freshmen who didn't know what to expect. We should be well into the top 10 next year."

The Eagles strongest showing at the sectionals was by their diving team. Kareena Zornow finished sixth and Kerri Battle tied for eighth place. Georgia Butt finished 10th in the 50 freestyle and 12th in the 100 freestyle in her final high school meet.

Close games mark end of Pop Warner season

Sunday, Nov. 15, saw the Junior Midget Hawks lose a hard-hitting battle to the South Troy Warriors by a score of 28-12.

The Hawks offense was led by Jesse Brownowski (one TD), Jeff Linstruth (one TD) and Jeremy Deyde, while Mike Coker, Mike Quackenbush and Tom Valentini led the defensive charge.

The Midget Eagles closed out their season with their best defensive effort yet in a losing effort against the North Colonie Bison, 15-0. Steve Fuler's interception and the play of Tom Klenke and Adam Van Dueren keyed the defense, while Jeff McGuire and Gary Peterson led the offense.

"The Junior Pee Wee Condors (A) lost a heart-breaker to Nickerson 64-60, with the winning touchdown coming in the final minute. The coaching staff was pleased by the total team effort and the improvement of everyone involved this season," said coach Mike Mooney.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, Bethlehem hosts the Junior Pee Wee and Junior Midget Super Bowls at the high school, starting at 3 p.m.
By Emily Church

The Bethlehem boys varsity swim team enters this year's season with 19 consecutive years of sectional victories behind them and a strong opposition ahead.

Although expectations are high for the Eagles, the boys face the strongest competition since 1990 when Bethlehem just snuck by Troy in the sectionals. This year's team is young, but very high in potential," Nef said. "The group is well-focused, and the kids understand what they're up against."

This year's team is young, but very high in potential...

Coach Nef

Nef is still optimistic about the team's chances. "We have a wide variety of talent," he said. "There is not a completely empty event. We have strong IM, back and breaststrokers."

With returning section diving champion Joe Schneider, and teammates Tim Burner and Brad Fitzgerald, diving should be one of Bethlehem's strong points, Nef said.

Bethlehem has also learned that meets aren't won just by outstanding swimmers. "The most important thing we have to do is strengthen our depth," senior Rory Neff said. "People have to realize the importance of third and fourth place, not just first and second place finishers."

Senior Ryan Green also believes that the team's cohesiveness will play a role this season. "Team together-ness and support for each other is really important," he said. "People have to realize the importance of third and fourth place."...

The team is also facing strong competition from Shenendehowa and Troy in Section II, and New Hartford and Tappan Zee, who are both from out of the section.

The Eagles first meet is Dec. 3 at home against Amsterdam.

Injuries hampered RCS football team this year

By Kevin Van Derzee

Despite the loss of some key players, the Ravena-Cohocton-Selekir football team finished the season with four wins and five losses.

Battling injuries and tough opponents, the Indians never seemed to get untracked. After a big win in their opener against Lansingburgh, the Indians lost their next two games in the second half, after having leads at halftime.

RCS then traveled to Hudson for a Friday night game. The Indians jumped ahead 30-0 at halftime and held on to defeat the Bluehawks.

The Indians lost their third game of the season to Shenendehowa and Troy in the sectionals. This year's team is young, but very high in potential.

The Eagles lost a large group to graduation, including sectional finalists Paul Engel, Mike Loydon and Ian Salsburg. "The void left by Paul and Mike is the real core of middle distance freestylers," Nef said.

The Eagles lost very few swimmers this season to make any predictions, champion Joe Schneider, and Mike Loydon team's chances. "We have a wide variety of talent," he said. "There is not a completely empty event. We have strong IM, back and breaststrokers."

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Bellevue sets session for postpartum talk

Bellevue's Women's Hospital will sponsor a postpartum discussion group entitled "For Mothers Only," on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the hospital's administrative building, 2210 Troy Road, Schenectady.

The informal group was developed to enable new mothers to share their feelings, and to give them emotional support. Discussion topics include understanding normal postpartum changes, hormonal changes, mood swings and fatigue.

To register, call the hospital's community education department at 346-9410.

St. Peter's to offer class on Caesareans

St. Peter's Hospital is offering a class on Caesarean birth on Tues., Nov. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the hospital, 315 South Manning Blvd., Albany.

The class is intended to prepare parents who are contemplating a Caesarean birth. Topics to be discussed include anesthesis, analgesia and the birth process.

The fee for the course is $15. For information, call 454-1550.

Hotline to help vets find benefits

A statewide hotline has been established to provide information on Veterans Administration benefits. Callers can speak to a benefits counselor at the VA Regional Office in New York City.

The toll-free number is 1-800-827-1000. Phone hours will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Library programs "to focus on holiday"

The Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar, is offering several Thanksgiving holiday programs for preschoolers.

Food and storytelling will be the featured activities during the "Thanksgiving Treat" program on Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21, at 10:30 a.m.

Preschoolers ages 3 to 6 will learn about Native American culture during the "Tom-Toms and Talking Hands" program on Friday, Nov. 27, at 10:30 a.m.

For information, call 439-9314.

Voorheesville church sets Christmas bazaar

St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Mountainview Road, Voorheesville, will host its annual Christmas bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will include Christmas decorations, tree ornaments, wooden goods, toys and household items.

There will be a Chinese auction and a raffle for a trip to Atlantic City.

For information, call 765-2451.

Square dance group to swing Saturday

The Tri-Village Squares will sponsor a dance on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 8 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 429 Kenwood Ave. in Delmar.

For information, call 439-7571.

Library has videos available for viewing

Bethlehem Networks Project and the Bethlehem Public Library have more than 60 educational videos available for borrowing. Some videos are for family viewing and some are for specific age groups.

Networks has compiled a "Video Resource Guide," which describes each one and tells the appropriate age level.

One video, Calling the Shots, describes how the alcohol industry uses advertising to link drinking with happiness, prestige, success and athletic ability. This selection is designed for sixth-graders and above.

Last January, Sister Anne Smollin presented a program on "Cornucopia Kids—How to Say No to Your Child" to more than 300 community residents at Bethlehem Central High School.

A videotape of this program is available for adults to borrow.

Fast Forward Future is appropriate for pupils in grades four through eight. Using a wide variety of music and technical effects, the tape teaches how to react to peer pressure.

The long holiday weekend is an ideal time for parents and children to share and discuss an educational video. For a copy of the "Video Resource Catalog," call Networks at 439-7740, or visit the library.

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Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Oliver

Suzanne Maureen Cordi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Cordi of Slingerlands, married Bruce William Oliver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Oliver of Glenmont, on Aug. 29.

The ceremony was performed at St. Mary's Church, Albany, by Father Paul Smith and the Rev. Lynn Joosten.

A reception followed at the Western Turnpike, Golf Club, Guilderland.

Matron of honor was Colleen Savarese, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Tammy Cartwright, Gina Shardella and Lisa Malk. Amanda Oliver was flower girl and Ashlyn Savarese was junior flower girl.

Best man was Gary Oliver, brother of the groom. Ushers were Vincent Einaldi, David Morrall and Kevin Myers. John Shardella was ring bearer.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Maria College. She is a registered nurse at St. Peter's Hospital.

The groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Hudson Valley Community College. He is a police officer in the town of Bethlehem.

After a wedding trip to Wyoming, the couple lives in Glenmont.
Boriello, Herbach engaged

Helen Bastian and Anthony Boriello of Rochester announce the engagement of their daughter, Cynthia Boriello, to Bruce Herbach, son of Sue and David Herbach of Delmar.

Boriello is a graduate of SUNY Albany and is a housing rehabilitation specialist for the Arbor Hill Development Corp.

Herbach is a graduate of the State University College at Buffalo and is a senior instrumentation specialist at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Williams, LeForestier to wed

Anne and James Williams of Delmar have announced the engagement of their daughter, Anne, to Wilford LeForestier Jr., son of Mary Lou and Wilford LeForestier Sr. of Troy.

Williams is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and the State University College at Brockport. She is a Spanish teacher in the Berlin Central School District, Rensselaer County.

LeForestier is a graduate of Troy High School and Hartwick College in Oneonta. He is employed by Key Bank.

A July wedding is planned.

Wilson, McKittrick engaged

Wayne and Margo Wilson of Delmar have announced the engagement of their daughter, Nancy, to George E. McKittrick, son of George and Estelle McKittrick of Albany.

Wilson, a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, is a secretary at the state Office of Mental Health.

McKittrick is a graduate of Vincentian Institute in Albany and SUNY College of Technology in Utica. He is an electronics technician at the state Office of General Services.

A June wedding is planned.

Spotlight on the Services

Emmerling graduates from basic training


He received training in Air Force missions, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

Airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree in the Community College of the Air Force.

Keneston completes Air Force training

Airman Shaun M. Keneston, a former Delmar resident, recently graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

A 1995 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, Keneston is the son of Linda M. and Wesley T. Boyd of Selkirk.

Marine earns medal for good conduct

Marine Sgt. Roger T. Downing, son of William J. and Karen Krause of Clarksville, recently received the Good Conduct Medal.

The award recognizes good service over a three-year period.

Downing is currently assigned with the weapons training battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

He is a 1988 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School.

Lalor completes Marine basic training

Marine Pfc. Patrick E. Lalor, son of Stephen and Karen Lalor of Glenmont, recently completed recruit training at Parris Island, S.C., and was promoted to his present rank.

Through the training, recruits are taught the basics of battlefield survival, the typical military daily routine and personal and professional standards.

Wakeman, DeCarlo wed

Jacqueline Wakeman, daughter of Constance Wakeman of Delmar and the late Warren Wakeman, was married Oct. 3 to Eric DeCarlo, son of Alfred and Linda DeCarlo of Schenectady.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. James Cribs at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Delmar. The bride was given in marriage by her cousin, Tim Kochan. A reception followed at the Oceans Eleven restaurant, Guilderland.

Peggy Stornelli was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Erin Abrahamson, Carolyn Jonas and Susan Godell.

David DeCarlo, brother of the groom, was best man. Ushers were William Schmidt, Joseph Lanaro and Philip DeCarlo, brother of the groom.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Maria College. She is employed at the Albany County Nursing Home.

The groom, a graduate of Schalmont High School and Mohawk Valley Community College, is employed by the State of New York.

Following a wedding trip to Florida, the couple lives in Guilderland.

Here's to a WONDERFUL WEDDING!

Mr. and Mrs. Eric DeCarlo

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The Spotlight would like to publish your engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement and photo.

Black and white photos are preferred, but color photos are acceptable. Polaroid photos cannot be printed. The close-up of the couple should be clear and sharp.

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For information, call 439-3882.

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Community Corner

Boy Scout Troop 75 slates 19th annual Sportsmart

Boy Scout Troop 75 of Delmar will sponsor its 19th annual Sportsmart on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Bethlehem Central High School.

Items for the sale will be accepted from 9 a.m. through 11 a.m. The sale will run from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., and cash and unsold items can be picked up from 5 to 5:30.

For information, call 439-3882.

For information, call 439-5363.

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Martin Faust

Martin Faust, 79, of Greenock Road in Delmar, died Monday, Nov. 9, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in New York City, Mr. Faust earned a bachelor's degree from City College, a master's in public administration from New York University, and a doctor of jurisprudence from Columbia University.

A Navy veteran of World War II, he moved to the Albany area in 1948, and retired in 1977 as deputy counsel of the state Department of Mental Hygiene.

He is survived by his wife, Roslyn Greenfield Faust; a daughter, Lee E. Faulkner of Altamont; a daughter, Phyllis Wilkin of Seattle; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Dr. John G. Sigsby

Dr. John G. Sigsby, 75, of Bender Lane in Glenmont, died Thursday, Nov. 12, at Albany Memorial Hospital.

Born from and educated in Saratoga Springs, he moved to Glenmont in 1953. He was a graduate of Union College and Albany Medical College, with a master's in psychology from Manhattan Rural Cemetry, Menands.

Contributions may be made to the Voortreese Area Ambulance Service or to the American Lung Association.

Frances Rafferty

Frances Prechal Rafferty, 82, formerly of Voortreese, died at the Teresian House in Albany on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Albany, and a member of the American Medical Association.

She was an avid carpenter.

Survivors include two sons, Timothy Prechal of Voortreese and William Rafferty of Sierra Springs; he moved to Glenmont in 1953. He was a graduate of Union College and Albany Medical College. He had also been a self-employed building contractor in Bernardsville.

At the time of his death, Mr. Faust and his wife, Gail, were part owners of Volker and Appar, a company that owns apartment complexes in Champlain.

Mr. Faulkner was also a member of the New Jersey Home Builders Association of Somerset and Morris counties. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bernardsville, New Jersey, where he was an elder and served in many other capacities.

He served on the school board in Bernardsville from 1970 to 1973 and as president of the Bernardsville Planning Board in 1967 and 1968.

Dr. John G. Sigsby was a neurologist in private practice in Albany and served on the staff of Albany Memorial Hospital. He was also a consultant at St. Peter's Hospital.

He was a member of the American Medical Association.

He was married to William Rafferty.

Survivors include two sons, Timothy Prechal of Voortreese and William Rafferty of Sierra Springs; he moved to Glenmont in 1953. He was a graduate of Union College and Albany Medical College. He had also been a self-employed building contractor in Bernardsville.

At the time of his death, Mr. Faust and his wife, Gail, were part owners of Volker and Appar, a company that owns apartment complexes in Champlain.

Mr. Faulkner was also a member of the New Jersey Home Builders Association of Somerset and Morris counties. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bernardsville, New Jersey, where he was an elder and served in many other capacities.

He served on the school board in Bernardsville from 1970 to 1973 and as president of the Bernardsville Planning Board in 1967 and 1968.

Hajo R. Christoph

Hajo R. Christoph, 89, of Good Samaritan Apartments, Delmar, died Thursday, Nov. 12, at his home.

He was a charter member of the Albany County Bar Association, 50 Colvin Ave., Albany 12206; or the Capital District Chapter of the American Diabetes Association, 50 Colvin Ave., Albany 12206.

Ruth Newcomb

Ruth C. Lestander Newcomb, 71, of New York Road in Voortreese, died Monday, Nov. 9, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Albany, Mrs. Newcomb had lived in Voortreese for the past 36 years. She worked for 15 years at New York Telephone Co., and for several years at Sager Spuck Co., both in Albany.

Mrs. Newcomb was also a librarian and secretary in the guidance office at Clayton A. Bouton Junior-Senior High School in Voortreese for 20 years, retiring in 1986.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Eugene Newcomb; two sons, Jef­frey Newcomb of Walnut Creek, Calif., and Jonathan Newcomb of Seattle; a sister, Joan Colonna of Fort Smith, Ark.; and a grandson.

Services were from Reilly & Son Funeral Home, Voortreese, with burial in Voortreese Rural Cemetery, Menands.

Contributions may be made to the Voortreese Area Ambulance Service or to the American Lung Association.

Nina Colonna

Nina Brennan Colonna of Ken­wood Avenue in Delmar died Thursday, Nov. 12, at her home.

Born in Albany, she was a life­time resident of the Capital Dis­trict. She graduated from the from Cathedral Academy in 1939 and from the Austin School of Beauty Culture in 1940.

Mrs. Colonna worked as a hairdresser in Colonna beauty shops in the area for 45 years until she retired in 1985.

She is the widow of John B. Colonna.

She is survived by two children, Claire Malone and Phyllis Wilkin­son, both of Albany.

Services were from Philip J. Fredrick Funeral Home in Man­ning Square in Albany. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont.

Contributions may be made to St. Peter's Hospice.

Lee E. Faulkner

Lee E. Faulkner, 59, owner of the Delmar Athletic Club and former­ resident of Slingerlands, died Saturday, Nov. 14, at his home in Chatham.

Mr. Faulkner was born in East Orange, N.J., and lived in Ber­nardville, N.C., from 1937 to 1976, when he moved to Slingerlands. In 1988 he moved to Chatham.

He was a 1951 graduate of Bernard's High School in Ber­nardville and a 1955 graduate of Colgate University of Louisiana.

He had also been a self-employed building contractor in Bernardsville. At the time of his death, Mr. Faust and his wife, Gail, were part owners of Volker and Appar, a company that owns apartment complexes in Champlain.

Mr. Faulkner was also a member of the New Jersey Home Builders Association of Somerset and Morris counties. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bernardsville, New Jersey, where he was an elder and served in many other capacities.

He served on the school board in Bernardsville from 1970 to 1973 and as president of the Bernardsville Planning Board in 1967 and 1968.

Philip Wexler

Philip Wexler, 70, of Delmar a retired state official, died Monday, Nov. 16, at home.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Castleton, and a charter member of the Albany Arts Guild.

Survivors include his wife, Madge Appar Faulkner; a son, Gary L. Faulkner of Alton; a daughter, Karen Beene of Greensboro, N.C.; a brother, Larry Faulkner of Rockdale, Texas; and two grand­children.

Memorial services were from the First Presbyterian Church in Bernardsville. Arrangements were by Gallaway and Crane Funeral Home, Basking Ridge, N.J.

Contributions may be made to the memorial fund of the First Presbyterian Church, Bern­ardsville, N.J., 07924.

Club awards scholarships

The Helderberg Business and Professional Women's Club recently presented scholarships to two local residents: Lori Geurtze of Greenridge, and Nicole Leach of Delmar.

Ms. Geurtze, a graduate of Bethle­hem Central High School, is cur­rently attending Elmira College.

Leach a graduate of Voortreese High School, is currently attending the State Uni­versity of New York at Uncohta.

BC grad to sing in oratorio

Alicia M. Doherty, daughter of Anna Newbold of Delmar and John J. Doherty of Chatham, will sing with Hood College cho­ral groups and the U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club in Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 22, at 3 p.m. in the Coffman Chapel on the Hood campus.

This marks the 45th year that the two choral groups have pre­sented the famous oratorio. Four soloists will join the combined choirs, orchestra, organ and harpsichord, all under the direc­tion of Don Doughby, director of choral activities at Hood.

Doherty, a junior, has per­formed in two previous holiday
Model railroad club re-creates past glory

By Mike Larabee

...The story of a railroading family may be gone, but the details won't be forgotten as long as there are groups like the Schenectady Model Railroad Club.

Squeezed across the top floor of a four-story brick building in downtown Schenectady, the club's headquarters are a monument in miniature to the vivid images of railroading's heyday. The group of enthusiasts is dedicated to the arrangement and rearrangement of trains and all things trains—diesel and steam engines, trestles and ravine bridges, roundhouses and coal towers—over hundreds of square feet of detailed diorama.

The club's handwork—three running model railroads with meticulously detailed scenery—will all be on display at an open house this weekend, Nov. 21 and 22, from noon to 4 p.m. at its 245 State St. home.

"A good model railroad is never finished," says club president Anthony Dunlap, and members spend as much of their time attending to the buildings and landscape surrounding the tracks as they do running the trains themselves. But Dunlap adds that the most important aspect of the club isn't really rails, locomotives or the perfect small-scale tree. Instead, he said, it's the close camaraderie among members and the simple pleasure of working with others who share the same high regard for the hobby. "Our main goal here is to have a good time," Dunlap said. "And we do."

While most of its almost 20 dues-paying members have their own table-top railroads squeezed into attics or basements, many come to the club because they don't have the space to compare to the group's centerpiece model, which fills a 23-by-55-foot room and features the entire family. The center will open its doors to the public this weekend. Top: a train crosses a ravine bridge on the same model.

Sunday Funday for kids and adults

By Robert Webster Jr.

With several holiday school breaks right around the corner, parents may soon find themselves assailed by cries of 'I'm bored!' or 'There's nothing to do!'

For those youthful critics, there is hope—and a respite for their parents—as the Empire State Plaza on the Egg is offering a series of plays, musical performances and activities over the next few months.

In its second year, the Sunday Funday series was designed to entertain children and adults alike, but also to provide a means of educating the audience.

"We wanted to provide good, inexpensive family entertainment that was more than just amusing kids for a few minutes," said Gram Slator, administrative manager for the Empire Center. "It should be entertaining, but have some educational value as well."

In the past, the performers usually follow up their acts by going out into the audience to talk to the children and show them the tricks of their craft, stressing the educational nature of the series. But the fun side of the performances is never overlooked and each is "guaranteed" to be a hit among the kids, said Slator, since each act has been "screened" by an informal panel of children.

The Center usually chooses its performers by having employees with children take promotional tapes home for private screenings, said Slator, "and they invariably invite the neighborhood kids over for a 'kiddie panel' to choose acts. If these kids between six and 10 say it is fantastic and ask to see it over and over again, we feel really good about those acts."

With tickets prices at $8 for adults and $6 for children ages 12 and under, Slator said, the series is not only affordable, but fun for the entire family.

"Everyone will have a good time," he said. "It's good to see a whole family exiting the theater smiling and happy and looking forward to coming back again."

Just in time for the Thanksgiving break, the Empire Center will present: a performance of "The Water Tree" on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 23, and Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 10 a.m.

Presented by the Arm of the Sea Theatre based in Malden-on-Hudson, "The Water Tree" is "a real spectacular, eye-opening piece of theater performed almost entirely without words," said Slator. Featuring a variety of exotic, colorful, life-size puppets, "The Water Tree" is a story of adventure in a rain forest, designed to present an environmental message to children.

The center will follow up this educationally-themed performance with some all-out, manic fun with the appearance of Fred "The Inflatable Man" Garbo on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m.

Fred Garbo—who provides the voice of Barkley the dog on Sesame Street—and Company will present a unique blend of juggling, jokes and gymnastics with incredible inflatable costumes that was very popular with last year's crowd, said Slator.

Other performances in the series include:

• A production of "Alice in Wonderland" by the Theatre of Youth in Buffalo on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 10 a.m.; Thursday, Jan. 7, at 10 a.m.; Friday, Jan. 8, at 10 a.m.; Saturday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m.

• The musical duo Rosenhontz will provide an afternoon of spirited music and humor on Sunday, March 21, at 2 p.m.

• The Paper Bag Players theatre troupe—now in its 25th year—will turn ordinary paper bags, cardboard boxes and shower curtains into pirates, animals and singing jumping beans on Sunday, May 16, at 2 p.m.

Subscriptions for all five shows, which enables the purchaser to a 10 percent discount, are still available. For information, call the Empire Center box office at 473-1845.
THEATER
ABSORB PERSON SINGULAR Comedy, Capital Repertory Company, 111 North Pearl St., Albany. Through Dec. 13. Tues. through Sun., 8 p.m. Sat., 2:30 p.m. Information, 462-0531.

GUY AND DOLLS musical, Proctor’s Theatre, 432 State St., Schenectady. Through Nov. 22. Tues. through Sat., 8 p.m.; Thurs., Sat. and Sun., 2 & 8 p.m. information, 345-0564.

ORPHANAGE Hudson Valley Community College, Vanderbeke Avenue, Troy. Nov. 22, 7 p.m. through Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 & 8 p.m. Information, 207-3020.

SISTER RAIN AND BROTHER SUN musical featuring life-size puppets, Catapult Puppet Theater, New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Sunday, Nov. 29, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Information, 474-5677.

BLUE WINDOW contemporary comedy, the College of St. Rose, Campus Theatre. 100 Madison Ave., Albany. Fri., 7:30 p.m. Information, 454-5209.


Food

A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY Skidmore College Department Theatre, Saratoga. Proctor’s, 1971, 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. information, 494-5002.

MURDER-MYSTERY WEEKEND play a part in a scandalous plot that ends in murder. The Lakeshore Inn, Shelley Hill Road. Standofville, Sat., Nov. 21 information, (914) 366-6074.

LETICE AND LOVAGE comedy, Proctor’s Theatre, 432 State St., Schenectady. Nov. 24-25, 8 p.m. Information, 362-3664.

GOULASH ON 15TH STREET vs. The Woman Who Loved Vegetables, comedy, North Theatre. Union College Schenectady. Nov. 20-21, 8:30 p.m. Information, 384-5204.

FOOLS comic table, Loudonville School, Route 9 and Gibson Road, Loudonville, Nov. 20-21, 8 p.m. Information, 595-1540.

MUSIC
PETER DAVIS, FRANK ORSINE, and GEORGE WILSON folk and traditional dance and music. The Eight Step, 14 Wright St., Albany. Fri., Nov. 20, 8 p.m. Information, 454-2200.

Sunday mornings highlights Mozart and Haydn, Albany Symphony Orchestra, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany. Sun., Nov. 29, 2:30 p.m. Information, 455-4755.

MARLOWE & COMPANY BIG BAND of the Northeast jazz dance benefit. Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany. Wed., Nov. 18, 7 p.m. Information, 474-5677.

THE GREAT PREDILECTIONS concert, University of Albany, Rehfeldt Performing Arts Center, West Ave., Nov. 18, 12:20 p.m. Information, 452-3995.


JEFFREY STEIN pianist, University at Albany Performing Arts Center, Sun., Nov. 22, noon. Information, 442-3995.

JUKE, JOINT & JUBILEE blues, gospel and juba dance tour, Proctor’s Theatre, 432 State St., Schenectady. Mon., Nov. 23, 8 p.m. Information, 346-6004.

LEN CHANDLER percussion/music. The Eighth Step, 14 Wright St., Albany, Sat., Nov. 21, 8 p.m. Information, 434-1703.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH benefit Top Savings Bank Music Hall, corner of State and Second Streets, Sun., Nov. 22, 2 p.m. Information, 271-0038.

FRANCO ARTISTS concert of traditional and contemporary Franco-American and Quebec songs. 71 Columbia St., Colonie, Fri. Nov. 20, 8 p.m. Information, 235-7504.

HALLARD (PLUS ONES) classical duo music stars, Lewis & Steve, The Empire Center at the Egg, Albany. Sun., Nov. 22, 2:30 p.m. Information, 473-1946.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY CORAL sopranos, Anne Turner; ballads, W. Alan Kirk, organist, Nancy Frank. St. Mary’s College’s Mary Roman Catholic Church, 158 Western Ave., Albany. Sun., Nov. 22, 3 p.m. Information, 442-3995.

BILL HARLEY—THE LONE TROUBLEMAKER musical performance, Steamer No. 10 Theatre, 500 Western Ave., Albany. Sat., Nov. 21, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Information, 442-3995.

LECTURES
FIVE TECHNIQUES OF PAINTING lecture on paintings from Renaissance to modern times. St. Peter’s, Schenectady. Sun., Nov. 22, 2:30 p.m. Information, 442-3995.

FACE THE FACTS satire. WNYC and The American Museum of Natural History, Reservoir Room, Park Avenue. Nov. 23, 7 p.m. Information, 427-5621.

HOOVES NIGHTS open stage. The Eighth Step, 14 Wright St., Albany. Sun.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 8 p.m. Information, 473-1703.


THANKSGIVING DAY BUFFET $8.95 Per Person $5.95 Under 12
Includes: Bread, rolls, salad, dressing, mashed potatoes, candied yams, corn, cranberry sauce, sweet potato casserole, baked sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, candied yams, butter squash, mince pie, pumpkin pie, pecan pie, mince pie, apple pie, and pumpkin pie. Call for reservations, 465-8811.

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COFFEE BREAK
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LUNCH
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THE Atrium. Albany, 12:10 p.m. Information.

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LASAGNA DINNER Cost, $8 for adults, $5 for children.
State streets, Albany, 6 p.m.

FARMERS' MARKET Open Daily, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

BASILSITING Albany Jewish Community Center, 343 Whitehall Rd., Albany, 5-5 p.m. Information, 436-5651.

BASILSITING Albany Jewish Community Center, 343 Whitehall Rd., Albany, 5-5 p.m. Information, 436-5651.

RENSSELAER COUNTY "HANDS HATS AND RUSTY NAILS" Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Center, Roe Street, Troy, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Information, 274-5227.

ALBANY COUNTY "COUPING WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS" workshop, Pastoral Center, 40 North Main Ave., Albany, 1 to 3 p.m. Cost, $18. Information, 497-4431.

ALBANY COUNTY "I LOVE KIDS" WALK-A-THON sponsored by Ronald McDonald Children's Charities and the Harper Foundation Crescotte Mall, Guilderland, 8 to 10 a.m. Information, 355-4392.

WHISKERS' ANNUAL AUCION to benefit the animal benevolent league, 1 Eunoe Encore, 44 Fuller Road, Colonie, 1 to 3 p.m. Admission, $10. Information, 494-4566.

CELEBRITY AUCION to benefit The Samaritans, Crossgate Mall, Guilderland, 2 p.m. Information, 467-5323.

ANTIGUARIAN BOOK AND STAMP FAIR New Scotland Avenue Armory, Schenectady, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information, 494-4431.

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION RECITAL College of Saint Rose, Saint Joseph Hall Auditorium, 695 Marywalk Street, Albany, 2 p.m. Information, 454-5268.

THEATER INSTITUTE back to work at Russell Sage theater

Actors, technicians and administrators of the New York State Theater Institute are now busy at work preparing a four-production season for the spring.

After a year long bout with the New York State budget process, the Theatre Institute finally funded sufficiently to bring back some of the personnel it had lost when 75 percent of its budget was cut last year.

By that time, the scheduling at The Egg in Albany had been such that the Theatre Institute could not plan any shows. Nor could they use the facilities at the State University at Albany where the staff was temporarily housed for a season.

During the late summer, Patrick DiBenedetto Snyder was able to work out an arrangement with Russell Sage College in Troy to use Schacht Fine Arts Center for its four productions.

This was done after late legislative activity restored a good portion of the lost budget, enabling Snyder to do some negotiating. Now, in addition to the Russell Sage theater facility, the Theatre Institute is also housed in an office at Congress and River Streets.

Snyder will revitalize its Slepping Beauty production, done in Kabuki style, December 12 and run it through December 22, Directors Joseph Salaff and Adrienne Poss return to restore and make a major production of the 1911 children’s classic book. It opens May 15 and runs through June 5.

Information may be obtained by calling 270-6888.

Guys and Dolls now playing a week's run at Proctor's

Headed by Richard Muenz as the high-flying Sky Masterson, the cast of the touring Guys and Dolls are based on Schenectady’s Proctor’s Theater through Sunday (Nov. 22) in an eight-performance run as part of its nationwide tour.

Muenz who was last seen in Schenectady in Richard Harris' Jesus Christ Superstar is considered one of the busiest road performers. He plays all the favorite roles of the Broadway shows and works almost constantly. When he doesn't, he’s back in New York doing his concerts.

Right now, he’s heading this $5 million recreation of the popular Tony Award-winning Broadway production. The eight-performance run in Schenectady costs more than $400,000. With almost 12,000 seats sold for the run so far, Proctor’s need 14000 to break even.

Meanwhile, in New York, the Broadway version of this touring Guys and Dolls is turning away people at sold-out performances.

Tickets for the Proctor’s performance are at 346-6204.

Orphans makes area premiere at Hudson Valley Community College

The area premiere production of Orphans is being presented Sunday (Nov. 22) at the Maureen Stapleton Theatre at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy.

The second presentation of Roadshow Productions (it did Greater Tuna this summer at the Cohoes Music Hall) Orphans is a play about two brothers who live isolated from society who live on the farm in a new home. When they drive a potential victim home, they find he’s a molester who turns their lives around.

With a realistic set by David Bunce, the staging has been done by Doug de Lisle.

Reservations may be made at 270-7170.

Around Theaters! Abroad Peroni Singular, Alan Ayckbourn’s British comedy at Capital Repertory Company in Albany through December 12 (463-4631). Aunace, Stephen Schwartz’s latest work at St. Peter’s College through Sunday, Nov. 22 (875-2527).
Kids can dine on doughnuts with Santa

Children ages 4 to 8 can have breakfast with Santa Claus at the Festival of Trees on Saturday, Nov. 28, and Saturday, Dec. 5, at 9 a.m. at the Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Ave., Albany.

Also at the festival, the Storytellers will perform "The Many Seasons of December." Breakfast is sponsored by Dunkin' Donuts on New Scotland Avenue, Albany.

Tickets are $3 for children and $6 for adults, which includes breakfast, entertainment and admission.

For information, call 463-4478.

Wild weekend to feature Dean Davis

The New York State Museum will feature a "Wild Weekend with Dean Davis" on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22.

The shows, scheduled at 1, 2 and 3 p.m., will feature "Animals Nobody Loves." Admission is $2 for adults and $1.50 for children.

For information, call 474-5877.

My parents and most of the adults I know probably don't even break even in the give and take of the holiday season. But most people my age and younger seem to come out whole well ahead by New Year's. In my opinion, childhood is that time when you receive a lot of gifts and all people expect in return is a thank-you letter.

This is why I wish I had taken notes. No one will buy me things that I want but don't really need again until my birthday, so I don't want to forget anything and waste this opportunity.

So the lesson for me is that there really is a practical application for the note-taking that teachers talk so much about. In fact, one of my New Year's resolutions will be to keep better records of my yearnings next year.

I'll do by some chance forget something, at least now I can replace it on the list with an item I know I'll need next year. To all of my holiday benefactors: I need a note pad.
Trains
(From Page 29)

was on frequent childhood trips by rail into Manhattan from his home in Long
Island. When he was younger, he said, he tried to find a job in railroads, but his
efforts were stymied by union control of independent openings as the industry
decayed.

Now, he said, the hobby gives him the chance to unwind from the everyday con-
cerns of his work as an auto mechanic by entering another world. "You can create
your own world," Aidola said.

Children who attend the open house, especially those who already have or are
hoping to get their own train sets, end up "mesmerized" by the size and detail of
the club's models, said Dunlap.

"Kids go crazy because this is more than they knew enough to ask for," he
said. "This is beyond what they thought their choices were."

Dunlap expects almost 500 visitors at the weekend open house, which costs $1
and is the club's biggest source of funds annually from regular dues, and at
peak times the crowds surrounding the train layouts can reach gridlock, Dunlap
said. Many onlookers will stay for hours just taking in the scenery, and inevitably
will want to run their trains at full throttle or, even more dramatically, orchestrate
a crash.

The club has changed a great deal since it was founded in the 1950s, said Dunlap.
When he first joined, he said, most of the members were retirees who referred to
newcomers as "kids" if they were under 40 and didn't look kindly on gentle suggestions
for change.

"If you said something might look better
a different way it was like you said to one of them that their daughter would
look better with both her ears on the same side of her head," he said.

All of the men who originally built the models have since passed away, and
the rules for conduct in the club are different. The control was handed from retirees
to younger members, who are fortified to juggle time for the hobby with the demands of regular work.

"We have a few rules as possible," said Dunlap. "If you want to do anything that else other isn't going to,
then go ahead."

Puppet playtime

The Catskill Puppet Theatre presents "Slater Rain and Brother Sun" Sunday, Nov. 29, at 1 and 3 p.m. at the New York State
Museum. Admission is $8 for adults and $1.50 for children.
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, November 22nd, 2:00 to 3:00 PM
54 South Clement Ave., Ravena

New 4 BR Colonial located in one of Ravena’s finest neighborhoods. Custom home features 2 1/2 baths, spacious living room with masonry fireplace and French doors leading to rear deck, bright kitchen with tile floor, ample cabinets and work stations. Master bath features a whirlpool garden tub. Features include: Air conditioning, full basement, central AC, fully equipped kitchen, Route 23, a very quiet residential neighborhood w/ attached garage. WW, central AC, centennial brickwork, very large lot, hookups for W/ D. Walk to shopping, bus line, laundromats. 5 minutes to State St. $625 plus utilities. Available December 1. Call 467-423-2457 - SELKIRK - 2-bedroom apt. $525 utilities, w/d hook-up, wall to wall carpeting, parking, security. 787-3876.

OFFICE FOR RENT: Professional building on Delaware Ave. **Complete information about the facilities available in the building includes use of conference room and office equipment. Call Greg Turner 495-9595.**

REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIEDS

150 ACRES, 190 YEAR OLD THREE STORY FARMHOUSE and barn, open fields, borders state owned Catskill mountain, off Route 23 in Cairo NY, magnificent views, horsesback riding and cross country ski trails, turkey and deer abound, near Windham, Hunter Ski areas, $350,000. (518) 634-7183.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, corner lot near several restaurants in Delmar, presently has three apartments. Price to sell, 661-6797.

REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIEDS

150 ACRES, 190 YEAR OLD THREE STORY FARMHOUSE and barn, open fields, borders state owned Catskill mountain, off Route 23 in Cairo NY, magnificent views, horsesback riding and cross country ski trails, turkey and deer abound, near Windham, Hunter Ski areas, $350,000. (518) 634-7183.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, corner lot near several restaurants in Delmar, presently has three apartments. Price to sell, 661-6797.


LOOKING TO RELOCATE YOUR BUSINESS? Call for details on this 1900 SF bldg, on Delaware Ave for $2,472,902 - or a 5.47 acres in Delmar w/ 6000 SF commercial garage for $2,000. Pagano Weber 493-9921.

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Empire Buick dealers launch holiday food drive

The sixteen member Empire Buick Dealers Association will launch a major food drive through Nov. 22, to benefit local communities throughout upstate New York, Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont.

Each dealership will host a collection box for donations of packaged foods. The public is welcome to stop by with donations anytime during the operating hours of the auto dealerships.

Goldstein Buick, Albany and Northway Buick, Latham are two of the sixteen locations involved in this community campaign.

News Center 6 WRGB TV is the official co-sponsor for this campaign.

The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York will coordinate all distribution within New York State as well as with food provision services for the needy outside of the state.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAINTING</th>
<th>PLUMBING</th>
<th>ROOFING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Hebert</td>
<td>WMD Plumbing</td>
<td>SUPREME ROOFING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting &amp; Decorating</td>
<td>Michael Dempf</td>
<td>439-0125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom Interior/Exterior</td>
<td>Plumbing</td>
<td>Home Plumbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Years Experience</td>
<td>Repair Work</td>
<td>Bethlehem Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>8 years serving our community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>439-2010</td>
</tr>
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<td>439-0475</td>
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<td>436-7273</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

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Most controlled substances and other drugs have the potential to impair driving skills. If you are taking a prescription drug, or an over-the-counter drug that can make you drowsy, it’s best to ask your doctor if these will impair your driving skills.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, drugs play a significant role in traffic accidents. Because prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines are used by a great percentage of the population, it’s important for these users to know how the drugs affect driving.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, drugs play a significant role in traffic accidents. Because prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines are used by a great percentage of the population, it’s important for these users to know how the drugs affect driving.

The U.S. government now has a new test for drugged drivers. If you are stopped for erratic driving, you will likely be tested for drugs as well as alcohol. The new tests are introduced as concern grows that even prescription drugs affect the safety of the roadways.

The officers skilled in detecting drugs on drivers are called Drug Recognition Experts (DRE). They are very accurate in determining what drug may have been used.

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For adults, stress supplants St. Nick as holiday spirit

Think back to when you were a kid. The holidays were great, right? You got tons of gifts, were allowed to stay up extra late, and got to eat lots of cookies and candy. It was definitely something to look forward to.

Now, as an adult, you have to buy lots of gifts (usually way beyond your budget), you stay up too late because you hardly have time to do it all (leading to stress and fatigue), and if you eat lots of cookies and candy, you gain weight! It becomes a time of year that many adults dread.

The holidays may be more fun for children than adults. But it doesn't have to be that way. It can be a time of year that adults look forward to with as much enthusiasm — or even more — than kids.

It's easy — it just takes advance planning. And the old saying is true: A little planning goes a long way.

Gift-giving, an integral part of the holiday season, tends to be a cause of aggravation and stress for many. It doesn't have to be. People feel they have to spend a lot of money on a gift for it to be appreciated. Not true. A really meaningful gift is one that comes from the heart, not the wallet.

Some of the best (and most appreciated) gifts don't cost much at all. They usually require more thought than cash. How about a poem (or story or play or even a TV sitcom) written especially for — or about — the recipient? You can't find that at a department store. And it's definitely something he or she won't already have.

The possibilities for creative gift-giving are endless. The only requirement is imagination and effort.

The old saying is true: A little planning goes a long way.

But if you choose the more conventional approach to gift-giving (shopping in stores), you can still avoid overspending. Just start early, and finish early. Decide what you want to get the recipient first, and then go out and look for it.

Often people end up spending too much money because they wait until the last possible moment to purchase gifts. They wander aimlessly around crowded malls, bumping into aggravated holiday shoppers, and when they're totally disgusted, they just grab the first overpriced thing they see and give it as a gift whether it's appropriate or not. Is there anything joyous about that?

It's supposed to be fun, and it can be if you adopt the attitudes you had when you were a kid.
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Pagers provide peace of mind

This year for the holidays, consider a gift that can provide freedom, mobility and peace of mind.

The pager, an innovative personal communications tool, grants the gift recipient unlimited freedom. No matter where the person is, important and timely messages will never again be missed.

- Kids can page parents at work to let them know they arrived home safely from school.
- Friends can page each other to confirm or change evening plans.
- Daycare centers and baby sitters can page parents when needed.
- Pagers range from the basic “tone only” models, which beep to alert users to call a pre-arranged number, to “alphanumeric” models, which convey word messages on screens.

Along with an average “on-air” service fee of $10 to $20 per month, pagers can be rented for a minimal amount, or purchased for under $100. A variety of pager models and services are available, depending on the user’s needs.

- For $10 to $20 a month, pagers can be rented.
- For less than $100, pagers can be purchased.

Pagers now come in a variety of colors, including pink, blue, orange, clear and neon green. Pagers can beep, vibrate silently, or even chime musical notes.

“Pagers are an affordable communications option that provide freedom and peace of mind in today’s hectic world,” says Michael Fortino, spokesperson for the Paging Services Council.

The Paging Services Council is a consumer information source that promotes the benefits of paging for use in business and at home.

“I was only kidding, Agnes ... I really do like them.”
Sheriff offer tips for safe celebration

The end of November and Thanksgiving weekend mark the beginning of the holiday season. And while it's time to celebrate and be thankful, it's also a time to be careful. Especially when a drunk or drugged driver is concerned, says Albany County Sheriff James Campbell.

The holiday season is a very festive season. Good food and good cheer are a part of the festivities. But too much "cheery" alcoholic beverages can lead to a tragic alcohol-related traffic accident when the party is over and guests take a Thomas Kinkade print home for the holidays.

James Campbell and family head home. To make this season safer, Campbell offers a few tips for the holiday gatherings:

- Always serve food if you serve alcohol. High protein and carbohydrate foods like cheese and meats are especially good. They stay in the stomach longer, which slows the rate at which body absorbs alcohol.
- Serve non-alcoholic beverages. It is important that people have the option not to drink alcohol. Especially encourage "designated drivers" to drink these alternatives.
- Don't let people mix their own drinks. If you tend bar yourself or hire a professional bartender, you can control the amount of alcohol in each mixed drink. Have small glasses for beer, wine or champagne so that if guests want to drink more they have to make repeated trips to the bar where you can monitor their consumption. Never force drinks on your guests, some may accept your unwanted offer of more alcohol not wishing to appear rude.
- Stop serving alcohol two hours before the party is over. This gives the guests time for their bodies to absorb alcohol consumed. Serve coffee, non-alcoholic beverages, and more food.

If a guest has had too much to drink try to slow his or her drinking by engaging the guest in conversation, offering drinks with little or no alcohol, and serving high protein food. Offer to pay for a cab ride home or have the guest spend the night. "Only time can sober someone up," said Campbell. "Coffee and a cold shower are not the answer. An 'awake drunk is just as dangerous behind the wheel."

For the person who has everything or just for a refreshing change!

See our Special Holiday Silk arrangements section

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November 18, 1992 — PAGE 7
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1814 Central Avenue • Builder's Square Plaza • Colonie
While we owe many American traditions to the British, Boxing Day is a British custom that never quite caught on in the U.S.A.

In the past, Boxing Day, which falls on Dec. 26, was a time for gracious lords and ladies to bestow boxed gifts on the peasants. More recently, it became a traditional day to thank the postman, doorman and other service workers with small gifts.

This year, Boxing Day falls on a Saturday, and offers Americans a great opportunity to extend the holiday beyond just family Christmas celebrations. Hosting a Boxing Day party on the day after Christmas will help keep those post-Christmas blues at bay, and give you a chance to celebrate with friends who often are too busy with family obligations on Christmas Day to visit or even call.

Start with your beverage. Port, the quintessential British drink, is an ideal winter wine, and in fact, in Britain, no Christmas dinner is considered complete without it. Rich and ruby red, port is an elegant and lower alcohol alternative to spirits and many liqueurs.

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It's the season for spending traps

The holiday season is upon us, and excitement grows as the sights and sounds of the holiday surround us. In this season when we all want to be our most generous with friends and family, it's easy to get caught up in the old "spend money" traps. The end result of many of those traps is the arrival of post holiday bills—debt which may take months to pay off.

The ease of credit purchasing is a major cause of overspending. We all dislike debt, but enjoy the immediate gratification of the "buy now-pay later" option.

A little planning, good judgement and patience can prevent holiday overspending: Take a moment to consider a few ideas:

• First, plan your purchases ahead of time. Make a list of planned purchases, compare prices and adjust your plan to meet your holiday budget.
• Purchase as much as possible with cash. Put on your credit card only what you can afford to payoff in a limited period of time.
• Beware of deferred payment plans. Even though you won't have to pay for the item immediately, and you may not be accruing finance charges, poor financial planning may lead to eventual payment of a much higher cost.
• Keep a running total of the credit purchases for each account you use. This way, you'll avoid January surprises when statements arrive.
• Remember to include those "non-gift" expenses in your holiday budget. Purchases for cards, a tree or holiday party can have a major impact on your gift purchasing power.

There's something magical about a train chugging around the base of a Christmas tree. An engine, a few rail cars, and a caboose conjures up family traditions and fond childhood memories.

The train-under-the-tree tradition began in the early 1900s with the German tin metal sets powered by wind-up engines. A few trips around the tree and then it was time to wind up again.

In the '20s and '30s the first electric sets began to appear, and by the 1950s, it seemed as if every child either already had a train under the tree, or desperately wished Santa would leave one there.

Interest in model trains began to decline during the '60s and '70s with the appearance of car racing sets and electronic games. But by that time, many of children who received trains in the '50s had already developed a love for model railroading as a hobby. Elaborate rail yard layouts have been filling basements and spare bedrooms ever since.

Model trains are once again a Christmas favorite for the young (and the young at heart). Just set up the track around the tree, or a train set chugging through the living room during the holiday season can bring back childhood memories for you and create new ones for your children.

Smile for the camera!

Tips for better holiday photos

Enhance your holiday photos by following these tips from The Photography Information Council:

• Hold the camera vertically when photographing faces. Most people tend to hold the camera horizontally out of habit, ease of use and comfort.

• Faces are vertical — thus, a vertical frame is more flattering.
• When photographing indoors by a window, stand with the window to your back.

• The subject should face the window so that the light is full and even, thereby reducing unflattering shadows. Rather than use a flash in this instance, use a higher speed film, such as ASA 400.

• Compose photos within the camera frame (rather than cropping later on), and be sure to pay attention to any distractions in the background. Before you press the shutter, be sure the composition is uncluttered.

Holiday trains still circling trees
A long-running tradition chugs on

...
GIFT GUIDE

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Beautiful creations by our designer for your door

Beautifully crafted and perfect for your door.

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Garden Shoppe

November 18, 1992 — PAGE 11

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Powerful, dependable and easy to use. A great value.

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Potato pancakes flavor Hanukkah holiday

As the first Hanukkah candle is lit this season, Jews all over the world will begin an eight-day celebration commemorating a miracle said to occur more than 2,000 years ago.

At that time, when Jews repelled their ancient temple in Jerusalem after defeating the Syrians, they found only one day’s worth of sacred oil for lighting the eternal lamp. But the sacred quality of oil burned for eight days, long enough for Jews to replenish their supply.

In remembrance of this remarkable event, Sephardic Jews of the Mediterranean region celebrate Hanukkah by lighting a small oil lamp called a chanukiya. The chanukiya has eight small wells along the bottom, one for each night of the holiday. For each evening’s ritual lighting, only the finest Extra Virgin olive oil and wicks of pure cotton are used.

In lieu of olive oil (not readily accessible to them), Ashkenazic Jews of Eastern Europe took to lighting wax candles in an eight-branched candleabra called a Menorrah. Because Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of long-lasting oil, the Festival of Lights has long been associated with fried foods, especially potato pancakes. Often referred to by their Yiddish names, latkes are made by grating potatoes with onion and frying the pancakes on a highly oiled griddle. Traditional toppings include sour cream and applesauce.

Give this recipe a try:

Sweet potato pancakes

Serve these pancakes as part of a meal in lieu of baked or mashed sweet potatoes. Alternatively, give them a light dusting of confectioners’ sugar or a drizzling of maple syrup and enjoy them for dessert. Yields approximately 1 1/2-3 inch pancakes.

- 3 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup or honey
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 pound sweet potatoes
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2-3 teaspoons light olive oil for shallow frying
- Optional garnishes: confectioners’ sugar or maple syrup

1. In large bowl, beat the eggs with the maple syrup, spices and salt.
2. Remove skin from the sweet potatoes by using a short sawing motion with a sharp paring knife (conventional potato peelers usually don’t work efficiently on sweet potatoes). Using a food processor fitted with a steel blade, chop the sweet potato very finely.
3. Blend the chopped sweet potatoes and flour into the egg mixture.
4. Brush a large heavy skillet (preferably cast-iron) or griddle lightly with olive oil and heat until the oil begins to shimmer.
5. Fry the pancakes until golden brown, about 3 to 4 minutes on the first side and 4 to 6 minutes on the second side.
6. Raise the heat briefly and transfer to paper towels to drain and reserve in a warm place. Serve.

Celebrate Hanukkah, the Jewish Feast of Lights, with an appetizer of traditional potato pancakes and applesauce.

Give the gift that opens automatically Christmas and every other day!

Genie $269.00

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• 1 Face Steel Rail
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wants you to stop in and enter The Spotlight Gift Certificate Giveaway. In return you may redeem this coupon for any regular menu item(s). NO LIMIT!

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YOU TRIM THE TREE.
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LAWN-BOY

Forever Mower
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Reg. $149.99
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50% OFF any regular menu item(s). NO LIMIT!

Give the gift that opens automatically Christmas and every other day!
Holiday lights have illuminating history

It all began in 1882—The first electrically lit Christmas tree was unveiled in the New York City home of a colleague of Thomas Alva Edison. It featured 80 hand-wired and hand-blown colored bulbs in red, white and blue. Turning slowly on a pedestal, the tree created a "superb exhibition" of "starry fruit."

Out, out brief candle—The first electrically lit trees cost the equivalent of thousands of dollars today, but the public quickly realized the benefits of electric light. Mass manufacturing of miniature bulbs and advertising warnings of the danger of candlelit trees encouraged shoppers to buy electric Christmas lights.

The turn of the century "wiremen" or electricians would hand-wire each bulb together in a time-consuming process, then wire the contraption into an overhead light fixture to provide electricity. It wasn't until 1903 that ready-made strings of wiring were sold alongside packages of miniature bulbs.

Contemporary light sets are a far cry from the 1882 version. Now, computer chips are getting into the act, allowing consumers to program up to six different twinkling, fading of chasing effects, then wire the contraption into an overhead light fixture to provide electricity. It wasn't until 1903 that ready-made strings of wiring were sold alongside packages of miniature bulbs.

A Circa-1900 General Electric brochure illustrated how Christmas trees were wired into the ceiling fixture.

Keep pets clear of holiday hazards

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, but don't let Fluffy or Spot eat it!

Holiday time creates some unique situations which can be hazardous to your pet's health, according to the American Animal Hospital Association.

Some of the more common "holiday hazards" include:

- **Bones**: The holiday turkey or ham will leave a lot of tantalizing bones, but don't feed them to your dog. Smaller bones or bone chips can lodge in the throat, stomach and intestinal tract. Fats, grays and poultry skin can cause severe gastrointestinal upset as well.

- **Holiday plants**: Holly, mistletoe and poinsettias are extremely poisonous when eaten. Keep them out of reach.

- **Electrical cords**: Sparkling holiday lights mean more electrical cords for kittens and puppies to chew. Be sure you have the cords secured and out of the way.

- **Sweets**: Too much holiday candy is as bad for your pet as it is for you. A stomach ache is a mild side effect while an over-indulgence in chocolate can actually be fatal. Chocolate poisoning is caused by theobromine, a caffeine-like chemical substance found naturally in chocolate.

- **Christmas tree**: Make sure to clean beneath Christmas trees and decorative boughs frequently.

Of course, the American Animal Hospital Association is an international organization of more than 10,000 veterinarians who treat companion animals such as dogs and cats.

Holiday time creates some unique situations which can be hazardous to your pet's health.

Ingested pine needles can puncture your pet's intestines.

Ornaments: Sharp or breakable tree ornaments, yararas, and ribbons, angel hair and, most especially, tinsel and string should be kept out of reach. Hang them high and make sure your packages are securely wrapped.

Holiday hazards are keepers of the holiday hazards.

The American Animal Hospital Association is an international organization of more than 10,000 veterinarians who treat companion animals such as dogs and cats.

“Santa forgot some things. How many days till my birthday.”
Today's "good old days" will be remembered this holiday season by families gathered in America's living rooms watching the latest movie releases and hundreds of other cable, laserdisc and tape options. The movies and other programming will be seen and heard via large screen direct view and projection television sets, laserdisc players and hi-fi stereo sound speaker systems.

According to Gary J. Shapiro, group vice-president of the Electronic Industries Association's Consumer Electronics Group, "Home theater is one of the hottest concepts today. It is the one area which takes advantage of all the benefits of both audio and video, making the viewing experience for the consumer the best ever."

David L. Spomer, manager of product marketing, color TV division, Thomson Consumer Electronics, Inc., says "The consumer can expect choice and flexibility this holiday season when making his or her personal selection for an outstanding television viewing experience that combines movie-like picture and sound."

Tom Edwards, assistant general manager for the television division, Panasonic Company, notes that "If you have a television, VCR or an audio system, you have the makings for establishing a home theater system. Like a building block process, through upgrading and holiday acquisitions for the family, you can create the initial stages for the family viewing experience."

"You don't have to spend a great deal of money starting out, and with this holiday season's prices, there's never been a better time to join in the fun of building your own family home theater."

Taking home theater to yet another dimension, front projection television can offer liquid crystal display (LCD) technology for improved definition and color. "LCD products make home theater even more convenient, since they offer screen sizes varying from 30 to 100 inches from a portable projector that can be played on your wall, a portable screen, or built-in screen," according to Sherm Langer, general manager of consumer LCD at Sharp Electronics Corp.

"LCD home theater products take up little space and offer flexibility for consumers, since they can move the projector from room to room. All they have to do is adjust the size of the picture, focus, and they're in business," Langer says.

Consumer LCD projection systems are available from around $2,000.
Underwater world comes alive with gift aquarium

Aquariums are lasting gifts that provide enjoyment long after the holidays are over.

But in order to select the best aquarium, one that's filled with colorful tropical fish and is easy to maintain, it's a good idea to do a little investigating.

First, locate a good dealer. Check with friends or the phone book to find tropical fish retailers in the area.

Next, purchase a book that provides complete instructions on setting up and maintaining an aquarium.

One basic rule to follow is to buy the largest aquarium possible, since the greater the water environment, the less chance of water problems.

If you receive an aquarium as a gift, you must assume all the responsibilities for maintenance including where to put it.

Aquariums should not be in direct sunlight because this will cause algae to grow on the glass and plastic accessories.

They should also not be put over carpeting since, during water changes, it is possible for some water to splash on the floor. Finally, aquariums need to be placed on a firm stand, since water is heavy.

The first accessory should be a tightly fitting canopy cover equipped with a fluorescent fixture. Fluorescent fixtures cast a cool light and will not cause fluctuations in the water temperature.

A good heater and an aquarium thermometer are also necessary. A recent development in this technology is the liquid crystal digital thermometer that affixes to the outside of the aquarium yet measures most accurately the water temperature.

A quality filter is an essential. And if the aquarium houses a lot of fish, a separate is needed air pump to add oxygen to the water.

Decorating an aquarium is great fun. There are multi-colored gravels, highly decorative backgrounds and hundreds of ornaments, as well as plastic plants so real in reproduction it's almost impossible to distinguish them from live plants.

Most good retailers will have a complete assortment and selection should be based on the size of the aquarium.

Once the aquarium is set up, add a chlorine neutralizer to the water and add only a few fish initially. These few fish will help develop the proper biological conditions necessary to maintain a fully stocked aquarium.

After three to four weeks, assuming everything is functioning properly, add the rest of the fish. Aquarium maintenance is a lot simpler than people think. Every two weeks a partial water change (not greater than 20 percent) by siphoning the water from the bottom of the aquarium is all that is required.

On a daily basis, of course, fish should be fed. Good quality of flake food will provide a complete diet for almost all fish.

Tropical fish are beautiful — they are easy to maintain and provide a lifelong hobby.

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Soothing to frazzled nerves and always interesting to watch, aquariums make ideal Christmas gifts.

Car wash passes beat winter grime

Car wash gift certificates are practical and affordable, and car owners actually get a lift out of having their car washed and shined.

According to a national survey sponsored by the international Carwash Association, car owners said that having their car washed made them feel good. Those surveyed typically likened the feeling to a personal activity as "taking a shower" or "going to the hair dresser."

Car wash gift certificates are about $5 each. Money-saving packs for five to 10 washes also make ideal stocking stuffers.

Specials that include interior cleaning and automatically or hand-applied waxes retail for about $8 to $40. For a showroom shine, a detailing gift package starts at about $103.
$4,000 in Gift Certificates
will be given away by the Spotlight Newspapers and participating merchants in two drawings.

Participants must fill out a Gift Certificate coupon and deposit the coupon at one of the participating merchants.

Two drawings of $2,000 each will be made; the first on Monday 12/7/92 (with the winners to be announced in our 12/9 issue) and the second on Friday 12/18/92, with the winners to be announced in our 12/23 Spotlight editions.

Each drawing will consist of $2,000 in Gift Certificates

One 1st Prize of $500 in Gift Certificates • Two 2nd Prizes of $300 in Gift Certificates
Three 3rd Prizes of $200 Gift Certificates • Six 4th Prizes of $100 Gift Certificates

Winners will be notified and given Spotlight Newspapers gift certificates to be redeemed at any of the participating stores.

Drop your Gift Certificate at any of these participating merchants

Andy's Colonie Hardware
A Touch of Class Limo & Valet
The Book Barn
Buenau's Opticians, Albany
Buenau's Opticians, Delmar
Butcher Block Furniture
Cadaloo Wine & Liquor
Capital Lighting
Capital Home Furnishings
Casual Set
Cintra Electrolysis
Ciro's Wines & Liquors
Complexions
Concepts in Fitness
Danker Florist, Albany
Danker Florist, Delmar
Danker Florist, Stuyvesant Plaza
Del Lanes
Delmar Bootery, Delmar
Delmar Bootery, Stuyvesant Plaza
Delmar Travel Bureau
Doc U Pro
Dunn's Power Equipment
Falvo's Meats
The Flower Shoppe
Garden Shoppe, Glennmont
Garden Shoppe, Guilderland
Hillcrest Garage Inc.
Houghhaling's Market
Hughes Opticians Inc.
The Image Maker
Import Specialty Gifts
Iron Horse Gifts
Jafi Oriental Rugs Ltd.
La Stella Fresh
Pasta Shoppe, Delmar
La Stella Fresh
Pasta Shoppe, Albany
Lady Di's
Laura Taylor Ltd., Delmar
Laura Taylor Ltd., Stuyvesant Plaza
Lefty's Sporting Goods
Londonderry Cafe Ltd.
The Magic Toad
Marco's Showcase
Mike's Spirits
Mohawk Mall
Morningside Gallery
Murphy Overhead Doors Inc.
Newographics Printers
Nicole's Restaurant
One Dollar Deals Inc.
The Peanut Principle
Profile Hair Design
Razor Inn
Reigning Cats & Dogs
The Silk Garden Outlet
Roger Smith Decorative Products
S.T.O.'s Troll Center
Santa Fe Trading Post
Saratoga Shoe Depot, Delmar
Saratoga Shoe Depot, Saratoga
Steiner Sports, Delmar
Steiner Sports, Valerie
Teddies Plus
Thomas Adams Commons
Craftmen's Co-op
Thorre Electric Supply
Tony's Tailors
The Village Shop
Wacky Wings
Waddingham Footwear
Walk In Auto Supply
Weisheit Engine Works
Zachary's Pastry Shoppe

Spotlight Newspapers 1992 Christmas Holiday Gift Guides and Gift Certificate Giveaway

Spotlight Newspapers
$4,000 in Gift Certificates Drawing
Two Drawings - Dec. 7th and Dec. 18th
Each drawing will consist of $2000 in Gift Certificates

One 1st Prize of $500 in Gift Certificates
Two 2nd Prizes of $300 in Gift Certificates
Three 3rd Prizes of $200 Gift Certificates
Six 4th Prizes of $100 Gift Certificates

Eleven winners in each drawing!

Winners will be notified and given Spotlight Newspapers gift certificates to be redeemed at any of the participating stores.

Drawing Rules - No Purchase Necessary
One entry per customer per store. Entrant must be over the age of 18. Employees of Spotlight Newspapers and participating merchants and their families are not eligible. By claiming a prize, Spotlight Newspapers Gift Certificate winners consent to the Spotlight Newspapers publication of their names, photos and pertinent geographical information.

NAME __________________
ADDRESS __________________
CITY/STATE ZIP