

THE REGION

Board Calls State Rule Irresponsible

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 "I would like to argue the amount of the surplus, not the question of having a surplus," he said.
 Ayer said the town has reduced its extra funds by 15 to 20 percent since 1989 and has decreased taxes for residents outside of the village this year.
 The town should break the law if it has to because it makes good business sense, Councilman Frank Steigerwald said. "I think we should continue to run the town of Cazenovia like a good business," Steigerwald said.
 In other areas of the report, which covers the 1989 fiscal year, the state auditor misunderstood the town's practices, Ayer said.
 The auditor cites Cazenovia for drawing the salary of the town assessor from the general fund. He also said the assessor's name should appear on the town payroll and taxes and social security withholdings should have been deducted.
 "Of course he's not on the payroll. This is a contract," Councilman Gordon Bowers said.
 The town and several other municipalities contract with Lawrence Fitts, an assessor in Morrisville. Fitts is not a town employee, Bowers said.
 The report says the town should have records of investments made at a local bank on behalf of the South Cemetery, a cemetery owned by the town, in its trust and agency fund. But Ayer said that money comes from a trust fund set up by a donor.
 "I have never heard of a trust account where the benefactor tells the trustee how to run an account," Ayer said.
 Ayer appointed Councilman Roger Cook deputy supervisor in response to the auditors criticism that town checks were signed with a rubber stamp when Ayer was not available — a practice that is illegal.
 A deputy supervisor assumes the duties of a supervisor in his absence and has the authority to draw town funds.

Snowmobiler Drowns in Oneida Lake

By SCOTT SCANLON
 And MIKE FISH
 The Post-Standard

CONSTANTIA — The treachery of Oneida Lake claimed another victim Monday when a Liverpool man broke through the ice on his snowmobile.
 Michael Croteau, 28, of 212 Old Liverpool Road was following his best friend, Patrick Case of Central Square, on a nighttime trip from Bridgeport to Constantia. At about 12:45 a.m., Croteau hit thin ice about two miles from shore and broke through.
 He was pronounced dead a short time later after being airlifted to University Hospital in Syracuse. Case did not go into the water and was not injured.
 Although it is common to see snowmobilers trekking across Oneida Lake, certain spots can be unforgiving to those unfamiliar with them, Assistant Constantia Fire Chief

Michael Dineen said.
 Dineen was called to the scene after the pilot of Onondaga County's Air One helicopter spotted Case weaving frantically on his snowmobile and waving and pointing. The helicopter was on routine patrol and, using heat sensors, was able to locate Croteau's body floating amid broken ice.
 Dineen, who lives along the lake, is an avid ice fisherman and owns five snowmobiles. When he was called to respond, he refused to go within 400 feet of the accident because there had been open water in the area only five days earlier.
 Air One picked up Dineen and fellow Constantia volunteer firefighter Richard Dupre on nearby ice. Dupre stationed himself on the skid of the helicopter and within minutes was able to fasten a rope to Croteau and lift him from the water. Croteau was unconscious by that point, Dineen said.

"Snowmobilers are out on the lake all day and all night long," he said. "It's a popular place, especially with a larger size sled, because you get a chance to open them up and run them."
 "But there are pressure cracks in certain places out there. The ice will look good as you drive up to it, but it will break underneath you."
 That's what happened to Croteau, Dineen said.
 The accident was about a mile south of Long Island. Ice north of the island was 6- to 8-inches thick over the weekend, but the area where Croteau fell through was only about 2 1/2-inches thick, he said.
 Even Croteau's three years of experience as a snowmobile hobbyist weren't enough to fully gauge the situation.
 "Obviously the ice thickness would not have been noticeable unless they had been

familiar with the area," he said. "It's really difficult to tell how thick the ice is without stopping and cutting a hole."
 Croteau and Case, who for years had golfed and fished together, took up snowmobiling about three years ago and often crossed Oneida Lake from Bridgeport to Constantia. The pair had also taken weekend trips to Cranberry Lake, Redfield, Williamstown and elsewhere, said Croteau's mother, Joan.
 She said her son and Case, who lives on Gildner Road, had been best friends since they entered Hastings-Mallory Elementary School together in 1968. They both went on to graduate from Paul V. Moore High School in Central Square in 1980. After that, they went to Mohawk Valley Community College, where they were roommates.
 Croteau went on to attend the State University College at Oswego.

Alcohol Cited In Accident

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 when the accident occurred.
 Based on the interview, Donahue said, he concluded Bruno was traveling "well in excess" of 60 mph at the time of the accident.
 "Was he racing with someone else? No," said Donahue.
 The second snowmobiler discovered Bruno on the tow path after the accident, and went to a nearby house to call for help, Donahue said.
 Bruno had recently purchased a 1965 Ford Fairlane, and was planning on restoring it, said Greg Heintz, a lifelong friend.
 "He loved anything to do with cars, snowmobiles, boating. Ron was that type of guy, very outgoing," said Heintz.
 "Ronny was a great person to be with when your spirits were low. He always showed you the light in any bad situation," Heintz said.
 For the past four years Bruno had worked at Bruno Novelty Co., an amusement and video game store in Canastota owned by his father, Ronald D. Bruno.
 He described his son as a "well-liked person who had a lot of friends." His son was a hard worker, he said.



Sue Frankel, left, and Moana Cole sit in the visiting room of the Public Safety Building in Syracuse. The two were charged with damaging a B-52 bomber at Griffiss Air Force Base. They were protesting U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Anti-War Activists Keep Vigil in Jail

By BOB SANDERS
 The Post-Standard
 Susan J. Frankel's grandparents died in the Holocaust.
 That's one of the reasons that she, along with three other pacifists, tried to hammer a B-52 bomber into plowshares at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome on New Year's Day.
 "It used to be that the people were brought to the ovens. Now the ovens are being brought to people, and they are being carried by those B-52s," Frankel said Monday as she sat behind bars at the Syracuse Public Safety Building.
 Beside the 27-year old Catholic worker from Washington, D.C., was fellow protester Moana Cole, 22, of New Zealand. The other two male protesters — Ciaran O'Reilly, 30, of Australia, and William Street, 35, of Hazelton, Pa. — are being held in the Greene County prison.
 All face the possibility of a decade in jail.
 For the Anzus Peace Force Plowshares — ironically named after a defense treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States — the arrests marked their first major brush with the law.
 And they have continued their protest into prison, refusing both freedom and food, as the deadline nears to the war in the Persian Gulf that they tried so desperately to stop. Despite their hunger, they talk of strength and liberation.
 Those who don't resist and watch silently as the nation slides toward war are the real prisoners, Frankel said.
 "It's as if we have no choice. As if we totally give up our freedom of whether or not we will kill human beings," she said.
 Charged with conspiracy and damaging U.S. government prop-

erty, they have "indicted" government officials for war preparations. Already a support group has conducted a vigil on their behalf and set up a Syracuse office at the Help Building, 250 Lincoln Ave., and sent out 250 letters asking for support. Four attorneys, coordinated by Joe Heath, a veteran at representing social activists, have been appointed by the court and are advising the defendants on how to represent themselves.
 But their actual trial could be months away. The four have refused U.S. Magistrate Daniel Scanlon's offer of freedom in exchange of a promise not to break the law again.
 "I'd be in jail the next day anyway," Frankel said. "I'll be right out at Griffiss air base again."
 For the first 10 days since their arrest, all four drank only liquids. Streit is reportedly continuing his fast until tonight — the United Nations deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.
 But now each alternate skipping a day without solid food. Cole fasted Sunday and it will be Frankel's turn Wednesday. The two vegetarians only grimaced and laughed as they pushed away prison hamburgers served to them for lunch Monday.
 "I might as well still be fasting," Cole said. "The only thing I been eating is soup, potatoes and bread anyway."
 Cole, a native Polynesian, was brought up by activist parents in Australia. In college, she specialized in media and communication studies, but she hated being "a passive voyeur" and converted to an activist Catholic in New Zealand, where she is now a citizen. For past 18 months, she has been visiting and working with Catholic Worker communities.

Winter Tales Dazzle Pupils

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 it.
 But her flop encouraged her to learn the art of telling stories. The next time a storytelling assignment came along, she jumped at the opportunity.
 Practice is still important to the 40 members of Hamilton's storytelling group. Although they are not as polished as Lane, they are excited about telling their stories.
 Lane said that energy is being well channeled.
 "You can't be a quiet, shy person and be able to tell stories well," she said. "These children know what they have to say is important and they enjoy saying it."
 She said she's pleased that the youngsters want to continue the tradition of storytelling and offered some advice.
 "Don't memorize the words of a story," she said. "Learn the heart of the story and the words will follow. But the most important thing is to choose the stories that choose you."

Woman Dies In Fire in Her Home

By RALPH PERKINS
 The Post-Standard
 AURORA — A fire that killed a 51-year-old woman Monday was electrical in origin, according to Peter Pickney, an investigator with the Cayuga County district attorney's office.
 Lorraine Shambo died in the fire, which was believed to have started in a wall at the home on Cherry Avenue where she lived alone.
 Officials said Shambo had lived in the house all her life. She had between 15 and 20 pet cats, all of whom perished in the fire, officials said.
 The fire caused heavy damage to the small two-story house in the center of this village on Route 90, about 20 miles south of Auburn on the east shore of Cayuga Lake.
 "Flames were shooting out the windows and there was heavy smoke," Cayuga County Sheriff's Department Identification Officer Coe Ecker said.

About 25 firefighters from Aurora and nearby Union Springs battled the fire for more than 2 1/2 hours before putting it out shortly after 9 a.m., officials said. It was the first fatal fire in this village in about 40 years, Aurora Fire Chief Tom Gunderson said.
 Shambo was discovered in an upstairs bathroom, Gunderson said. Rescuers brought her body out of the house about 10:15 a.m. to a waiting hearse. County Coroner Janice Ross conducted an autopsy and said the results were pending laboratory tests.
 Alan Connors, who lives next door to Shambo, noticed flames shooting out the house windows and raced to her house. He tried to get inside to save Shambo, but was driven away by the intense heat and heavy smoke, fire officials said. Connors' wife, Carolyn, reported the fire.
 No firefighters were hurt.
 Investigators were attempting to determine what caused the fire, but they do not suspect foul play, Ecker said.
 Linda Kabelac, a neighbor who lives across the street, said Shambo was a friendly woman who enjoyed her privacy.
 Shambo had worked at Wells College since Sept. 8, 1969.

Kinge Seeks Dismissal Of Trial's Guilty Verdicts

By LILLIE WILSON
 The Post-Standard
 ITHACA — Shirley Kinge's defense lawyer moved Monday to have the guilty verdicts against the 55-year-old Dryden woman thrown out, charging that she had not received a fair trial and that new evidence had surfaced since the proceedings.
 Attorney William P. Sullivan Jr. would not say what the new evidence was. In 29 pages of motion papers filed Monday, he referred to the existence of new evidence that he said might have led to a verdict "more favorable to the defendant" had it surfaced during the trial.
 Sullivan also complained of improper conduct by a juror, of evidence having been withheld by the prosecution, and of actions by the prosecution that unfairly hampered the defense. He did not divulge in the papers, nor would he discuss when contacted by phone, what evidence the prosecution might have withheld or what jury conduct he was citing as improper.
 He specifically accused prosecutor George Dentes, however, of hurting the defense by releasing prejudicial documents — such as search warrants executed for the apartments of Shirley Kinge and her son Michael — to public files and by arresting Joanna White, Michael Kinge's girlfriend, shortly before Shirley Kinge's trial. Both are accusations that Sullivan has leveled at the prosecution before.
 In November, Shirley Kinge was found guilty of nine felonies in connection with the Harris family murders of the previous winter. Her son Michael, whom police said committed the murders, was killed in a shootout Feb. 7 when police stormed the Kinge's duplex. Shirley Kinge was arrested immediately. Joanna White, accused of helping Michael by giving him tides before and after the crime, was arrested five months later.
 The new defense motions are set for oral argument in Tompkins County Court on Thursday morning.

Fulton Sewage Operator Fired

By JACQUELINE ARNOLD
 The Post-Standard
 FULTON — The chief operator of the city's sewage treatment plant was fired for the second time in nine years Monday because of a threat he made against his boss and his incompetence in maintaining equipment.
 Mayor Muriel Allerton, who dismissed Edwin L. Munger, 57, said the lack of maintenance has already cost city taxpayers \$70,000 in repairs.
 "It was tens of thousands and we're not through yet," Allerton said of the damages.
 Additional expenses, including legal fees and salary payments made during Munger's 10-month suspension, have put the total cost to the city at more than \$107,000.
 Munger, whose annual salary is \$34,580, has received about \$27,250 since his paid suspension began in April, and he will be eligible for state retirement benefits, city personnel director Jeanette Peacock said.
 Munger, who has worked at the sewage treatment plant for 25 years, was fired based on a 53-page recommendation by a civil service hearing officer. He was found guilty of four charges of misconduct and two charges of incompetence.
 In 1982, six years after he was promoted to chief operator, he was fired by then-Mayor Verner Drohan for using city pickup trucks — on city time — to haul materials for a new home he was building in the area.

Munger was reinstated in 1986 after an appeals court ruled that the firing was too harsh. The hearing officer at the time had recommended a 60-day suspension, not dismissal.
 The latest charges, which were served in April of last year, mainly involved Munger's failure to properly maintain three pumping stations in the city. The stations pump sewage to the main treatment plant.
 "Everyone wants immediate results, but things like this take time," Allerton said, referring to the lengthy hearing process. "To have respect for the law, you have to follow it — even if it's expensive."
 One of the accusations against Munger involved a verbal threat against his supervisor, city engineer Samuel Patane, during a conversation at the plant on Nov. 27, 1989.
 When Patane asked two times about the whereabouts of a new air conditioner for the plant, Munger replied, "If I lose my job over this, I'll put a gun to your head."
 Jeffrey Shelchick, an Albany attorney who served as the hearing officer during last summer's proceedings, said the verbal threat alone was enough to fire Munger.
 But his "complete failure to take responsibility" for maintaining sanitation equipment was "even more appalling in its scope," Shelchick said in his recommendation.
 "The penalty of discharge is certainly not shocking in light of the damage the city has suffered and the vicious threat the respondent made to his supervisor," he said.
 During an inspection of the three pumping stations in March 1990, the facilities were found in complete disrepair and full of filth and built-up sludge, according to testimony.
 Pumps did not work, alarms were deactivated, wires were exposed and gates were not in operation. Some of the wells in the pumping stations contained several feet of built-up sludge.