

STATE OF NEW YORK,
COUNTY OF STEUBEN, SS.:

The undersigned is the Publisher of The Leader, a public newspaper,
published in said County, and that the New York State Electric & Gas Corporation
Public Notice - The Tariff Revisions

notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, cut from said newspaper, was printed and
published in a daily newspaper 1 time(s) each week for 1 week(s).

The first publication being on the 4th day of January 2007,

and the last upon the 4th day of January 2007.

The text of the notice as published in The Leader is as in the annexed exhibit.

This newspaper has been designated by the Clerk of Steuben County for this purpose.

(Signature) Beth Warren

Authorized designee of Dennis Bruen, Publisher of The Leader

(Printed Name) Beth Warren

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 5th day of

January 2007

(Signature)
Notary Public

Tammy J. Simons

Expiration
Date
11/13/2010

(Printed Name)

Tammy J. Simons
Notary Public - Qualified in the State of New York - County of Steuben

License Number - 01SI6155531

Lawmakers: Repeal nursing home tax

BY MARY PERHAM
leaderbath@yahoo.com

BATH | Steuben County legislators will look for statewide support to do away with a state tax on health care services. The proposal made by Legislator Richard Argentieri, D-Hornell, urges state officials to repeal the 6 percent state tax on nursing home room rates. The proposal was unanimously approved Wednesday by the county Legislature's Rules Committee. Problems surrounding the room tax were raised last

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Argentieri said. "The burden is heavy enough for everyone." County Attorney Frederick Ahrens said another consideration is the growing trend by the state to tax medical services. The state also imposes a 8.5 percent tax on outpatient hospital services, commonly known as the "sick tax." Previously, health care services have been considered free of taxation, he said. "This could really set a precedent for other taxes on medical services, doctor's visits," Ahrens said. "It opens the door."

Legislator David Stachnik, R-Hammondsport, voted for the proposal but questioned whether Steuben could push for reform. "You need to get bigger, more significant counties," Stachnik said. "What good is going to come out this?" Proposals to the state are always forwarded for study and support to the state Association of Counties and the regional intercounty association, county Administrator Mark Alger said. The intercounty association

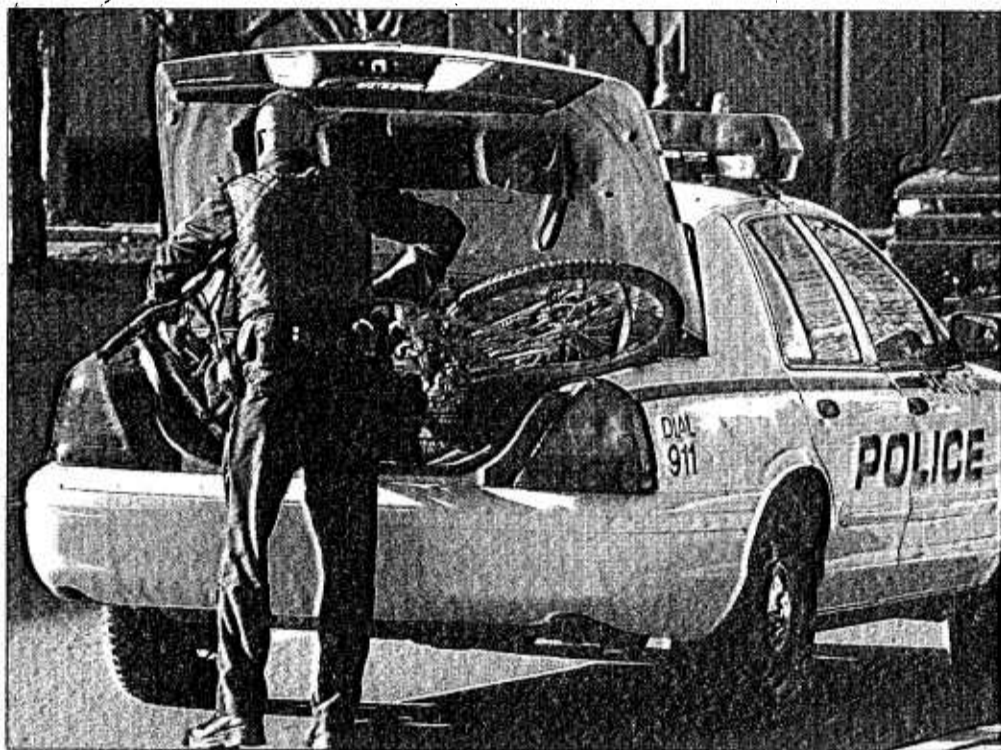
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Teens booked on larceny charges

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Murder probe continues

SAYRE MORNING TIMES

ATHENS TWP., PA. | Authorities continue to follow up on leads in the double-murder of a prominent Athens couple. No arrests have been made in the Nov. 17, 2006 double murder of David and Carol Keffe. Athens Police Chief Larry Hurley said investigators are still seeking witnesses or anyone who may have been near the murder scene at the couple's home on Moore Road.

The couple was found fatally shot in the garage of their home and authorities estimate the killings occurred between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. David Keffe, 56, was a partner of the law firm of DeSisti and Keffe. The law firm is offering a \$100,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case.

Physical dispute lands Bath man in jail

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Rayvon D. Butler was charged with second-degree criminal contempt. He was issued the order of protection after a previous domestic dispute. He was sent to the Steuben County Jail unable to pay \$2,000 cash bail or \$4,000 property bond. Butler will appear in court at a later date, and additional criminal charges are pending. DuBois said an emergency crew that responded to the same address late Tuesday night was not directly related to Wednesday morning's incident.

Cyclist injured in crash

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was an emergency medical technician in the Army, said his wife likely fractured an arm and possibly her leg. LaTele Smith was conscious and talking as crews loaded her into the ambulance. "She was crying, which is a good thing," Elliott Smith said. "She had good color." It is unknown if the driver of the Explorer was ticketed.

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9 a.m.
Urbana
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7 p.m.
Bath
Municipal Building | Bath
Zoning board
7:30 p.m.
Wayne
Town Hall | Wayne

IN BRIEF

- H'heads tree pickup has begun**
HORSEHEADS | The Village of Horseheads residents are reminded that the Christmas tree pickup service in the village has begun. Bare Christmas trees should be placed at the curb for removal by the village.
- C-S school calls special meeting**
CAMPBELL | The Campbell-Savona school board will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the district office. The board will enter immediately into executive session to discuss a specific personnel matter.
- H'heads school board to meet**
HORSEHEADS | The Horseheads school board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Big Flats Elementary School auditoria.

GOOD NEWS



Staff of the Girl Scouts-Seven Lakes Council help load boxes of Girl Scout cookies bound for troops overseas.

Cookies sent to troops

Girl Scouts in the Seven Lakes Council recently sent more than 3,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to troops overseas through the USO. "Thanks to the generosity of people in the communities in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions of New York, and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, the troops will enjoy these tasty treats over the holidays," said Suzanne Blatchford, CEO of the Girl Scouts - Seven Lakes Council.

"Not only do the troops benefit, but purchase of the cookies supports local Girl Scout activities year-round." Girl Scouts gave customers the option of buying cookies for armed forces and other local organizations, in addition to supporting Girl Scouts by buying cookies for their own friends and families. More than 1,000 boxes of cookies were also contributed to local groups such as food pantries.

PUBLIC NOTICE

New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) has filed tariff revisions with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) in compliance with the PSC's August 23, 2006 rate order regarding electricity rates to become effective January 1, 2007. The tariff revisions reflect a \$36.2 million reduction in delivery revenue (a 5.8% overall reduction in delivery rates), further unbundling of competitive services and changes to NYSEG's economic development programs.

Below is a summary of the changes to NYSEG's tariff schedules; affected by the revisions are PSC Nos. 119 and 120 (Electricity), and 121 (Street Lighting). Full details of the tariff changes are available at nyseg.com.

Tariff Revisions to Delivery Prices

Reduction in Residential Rates > An overall 5.7% reduction in electricity delivery rates for residential customers is achieved through a decrease in per kilowatt-hour (kwh) delivery charges, an increase of \$2 in the Basic Service Charge for Service Classification 1 (residential regular) and 8 (residential day/night), and a decrease of \$5 in the Basic Service Charge for Service Classification 12 (residential time-of-use).

Reduction in Small Non-demand, Non-Residential Rates > An overall 6.4% reduction in electricity delivery rates for small non-demand billed, nonresidential customers is achieved through a decrease in per kwh delivery charges and an increase of \$2 in the Basic Service Charge for Service Classification Nos. 6 and 9.

Reduction in Other Non-Residential Rates > An overall 6.5% reduction in electricity delivery rates for demand-billed, nonresidential customers.

Standby Rates > An overall 5.8% reduction in electricity delivery rates for customers with interconnected on-site generation qualifying for standby service.

Reduction in Street Lighting and Outdoor Lighting > An overall 3.4% reduction in delivery rates for all lighting customers.

Further Unbundling of Competitive Services > The cost of bill issuance has been unbundled from the Basic Service Charge and will be listed separately on customers' bills. Customers who receive electricity supply from a supplier other than NYSEG and who receive a consolidated bill for delivery and supply will not be charged NYSEG's Bill Issuance Charge. The Merchant Function Charge has also been unbundled from rates and will appear as a separate line item on the bills of customers who purchase electricity supply from NYSEG. For demand-billed nonresidential customers, metering charges have been unbundled from the Basic Service Charge and will appear as separate line items on the bills of customers who receive metering services from NYSEG.

Tariff Revisions to Economic Development Programs

- The company is introducing a new incentive, the Incremental Load Incentive.
- The company is phasing out the Economic Development Incentive, Economic Revitalization Incentive, Incubator Development Incentive and Self Generation Deferral Incentive.
- Effective January 1, 2007, the Small Business Growth Incentive is no longer available.
- Kilowatt-hours supplied by the New York Power Authority are exempt from paying the System Benefits and Renewable Portfolio Standard charges.

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Spitzer's address reveals lofty, unclear goals

THE ISSUE | Gov. Eliot Spitzer's State of the State address. **OUR OPINION** | Some lofty goals that won't become entirely clear until his proposed budget is delivered on Jan. 31.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer set a litany of ambitious goals in his first State of the State address Wednesday. If everything pans out the way Spitzer hopes, no one will be able to recognize state government and the entire Empire State as a whole.

With optimistic vision, Spitzer outlined a wide-reaching agenda framed in part by the constituency's demand for change as reflected in the governor's overwhelming victory in November.

As he did on the campaign trail, Spitzer promised ethics and finance reform, a revised budget process, more openness and accountability. He urged legislators in the audience to reign in spending, practice fiscal restraint, become bipartisan, find consensus and keep the interests of the constituency in the forefront.

Spitzer continually repeated the mantra that it was time to change the status quo. Given the gridlock and dysfunction in state government, achieving those goals would be revolutionary.

But Spitzer offered more, much of which cannot possibly be accomplished in one year or one term. For exam-

ple, putting the programs in place to revitalize the upstate economy, a key element of his address Wednesday, could take several years. It may take decades before they begin showing real results.

Also, many goals present a fiscal challenge Spitzer will have to answer when he delivers his first proposed budget on Jan. 31. How he'll be able to afford much of what he wants without raising taxes will be a tricky balancing act.

For example, Spitzer acknowledged recurring expenses outweigh recurring revenues and that the state's deficit is growing. Despite that, he plans to increase spending for education, infrastructure, economic development, municipalities and health care. At the same time, he pledged property tax relief for the middle class.

Where's all the extra money going to come from? Will weeding out Medicaid and welfare cheats produce enough savings?

Many answers will surface in about four weeks in the proposed budget. Spitzer set the bar high Wednesday and it eventually will be up to state legislators to negotiate it.

NATIONAL VIEW | MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

Scale back oil windfalls

Last week's announcement that Gale Norton will be joining Royal Dutch Shell, just nine months after stepping down as interior secretary, captures nicely the coziness that has characterized relations between the oil industry and the Bush administration.

Congress, under Republican control, has been only too happy to look the other way. But that is about to change with the new Democratic majorities, and some changes may come quite soon.

House Speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi has pledged to lay out a new renewable-fuels initiative in the first 100 hours of the new session, to be financed by revenue from the oil industry. Details of the funding mechanisms remain to be worked out, but the task should not be onerous: Oil companies are awash in windfalls that are unearned, undeserved, unwise and, in some cases, probably illegal.

The most disgraceful example: Continuing retention of royalties under a special relief program established in the late 1990s, when oil prices were so low that production incentives seemed justifiable. The companies

were supposed to resume royalty payments as prices marched toward near-record highs; instead, they have seized on an administrative error that stands to let them keep perhaps \$10 billion.

Royalties, we hasten to note, are payments to the American people for exploiting public oil and gas reserves at a profit.

Of some five dozen oil companies affected, only five (including Shell) have agreed to forgo some portion of this unintended largess. Last month, a bill forcing the others to do the same failed by just two votes in the House. Better luck this year, for sure.

Then there is the potential criminal matter of Interior Department officials underbidding producers on other oil and gas royalties, essentially by accepting their unaudited production estimates. The Justice Department is already investigating possible crimes; Congress may find need of an independent inquiry.

And then there is the program of lush incentives for deep-water drilling, which an Interior-commissioned economic analysis shows will pay the oil industry as much as \$48 million for exploration that might expand known reserves by a whopping 1.1 percent.

LETTERS POLICY | THE LEADER

The Leader encourages members of the community to tell us their thoughts on issues of public importance.

- Letters should be typed or neatly printed.
- Letters must be kept to a maximum of 250 words. Letters longer than that will not be considered.
- Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. No letters will be published unless verified with the author in person or by telephone.
- Letters may be edited for space considerations.
- The publication of any letter is at the discretion of the editor.
- All letters become the

property of *The Leader* and cannot be returned to sender.

Mail your letters to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
THE LEADER
PO BOX 1017
CORNING, NY 14830

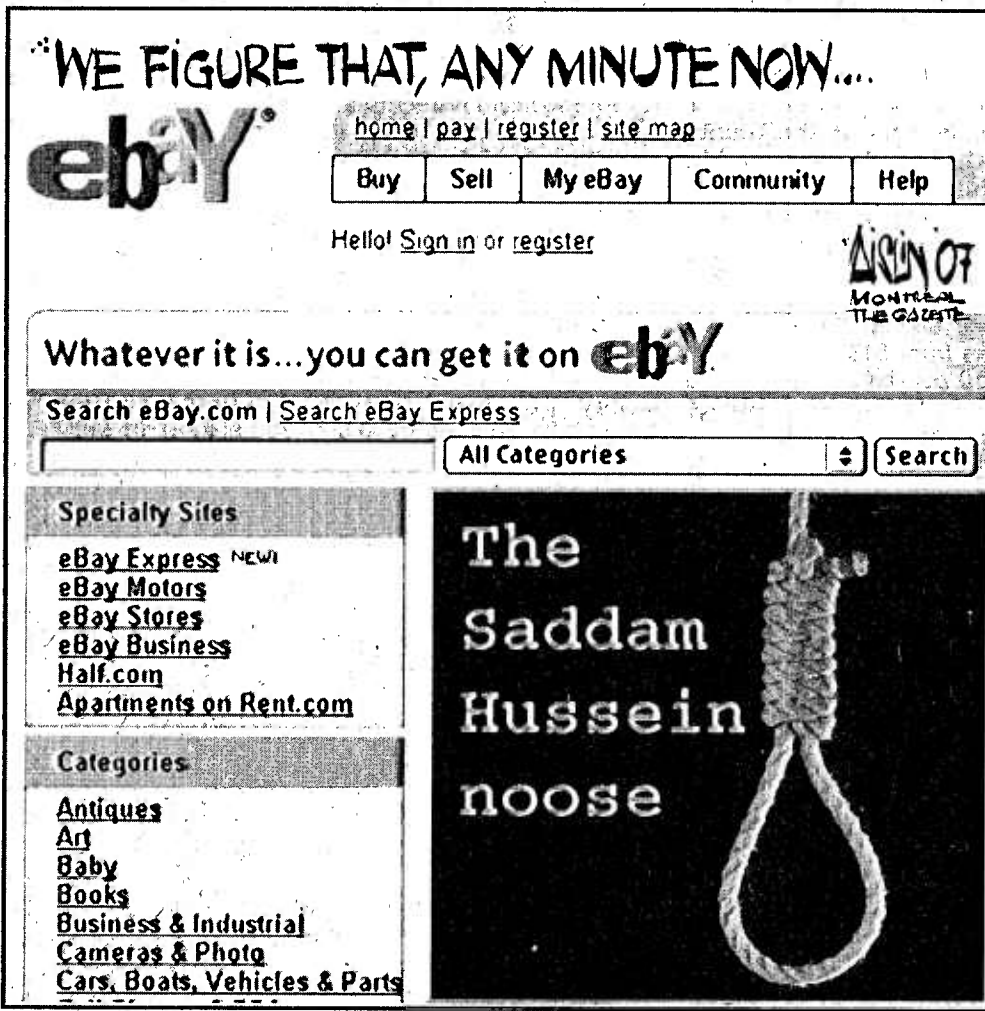
Letters also may be dropped off at our office:

Corning office
34 W. Pulteney St.

Fax your letter to:

Corning | (607) 936-9939

ARTIST'S VIEW



COMMENTARY | DAVID C. STEINMETZ

Trouble in Anglican heartland

Anglicans have been in Virginia since the first English settlers arrived in Jamestown in 1607. These early Anglicans (later known in this country as Episcopallians) were Protestant Christians, whose separate existence as a church family could be traced to the English Reformation of the 16th century and the dynastic woes of Henry VIII.

Of course, not all Anglicans, then or now, consider themselves as Protestants. Some think of themselves primarily as Catholics. There are, after all, many obvious similarities between Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. Both use colorful liturgies presided over by clergy wearing traditional vestments inherited from the middle ages.

But the differences are also important, especially in matters of doctrine. Roman Catholics adhere to a fairly long list of required doctrines, while Anglicans advocate a much shorter list of basic Christian beliefs. From the very beginning, Anglicans in Virginia happily tolerated a greater range of differences in faith and practice than Congregationalists in Massachusetts or Roman Catholics in Maryland.

Which doesn't mean that Anglicans felt themselves free to believe any old thing that passed through their minds. On the contrary, they recited the ancient Nicene Creed during their services as an outward and visible sign that they were committed to the core doctrines of the undivided Christian church, however imperfectly they understood or embodied them.

What it does mean is that Anglicans have always

thought Christians may differ over some beliefs and practices that stand outside that common core of "mere Christianity." They may differ, sometimes sharply, without breaking off friendly relationships with each other. For Anglicans the question was never whether Christians may agree to disagree (that was a given), but how to define the limits beyond which such disagreements were no longer possible.

The current controversy over gay sex is an extension of this old debate. When the Episcopal Church in 2003 consecrated an openly gay bishop and permitted a local option on the blessing of same-sex unions, it crossed a line. The question everyone asked was what kind of line it had crossed.

Non-reproductive sex outside the boundaries of holy matrimony had been forbidden in Christian churches since the year dot. When the Episcopal Church gave its partial approval, it broke with a long tradition. Was gay sex a so-called indifferent matter about which Christians could agree to disagree? Or was it a matter of core beliefs and therefore non-negotiable?

Anglican conservatives around the world agreed with Pope Benedict XVI that gay and lesbian sexual relationships were forbidden by the common core of Christian beliefs concerning faith and morals and, therefore, were as non-negotiable as the ban on adultery, theft and murder. Liberal Anglicans (who also thought the matter embodied the non-negotiable principle of inclusiveness) nevertheless commended the issue to conservatives as an "indifferent matter"

about which Christians could agree to disagree.

The conservatives did not buy it, declared the differences between them "irreconcilable," and began to distance themselves from the mainstream of the Episcopal Church. Some parishes formed a conservative network within the Episcopal Church, while others seceded - with or without their church property - to align with conservative provinces in Rwanda, Uganda, Nigeria, or South America.

Which is why the decision of nine parishes in the Virginia Diocese - including the large, wealthy, and historic parishes of Truro and Falls Church - did not come as a complete surprise.

What did come as a surprise was the timing. Like divorce, withdrawal from a family of churches is supposed to be a last resort, used only when all intermediate steps to reconcile existing differences have been tried and failed. The decision of the churches in Virginia to depart bears all the marks of impatience - or, at the very least, of the failure of the Christian virtue of hope.

No one has any right to be happy about this secession, least of all the departing congregations, who have only begun to tally up their losses.

Unfortunately, history demonstrates that schism like divorce is easier to do than to undo and a premature goodbye to one's first love may last forever.

David C. Steinmetz is the Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of the History of Christianity at The Divinity School at Duke University in Durham, N.C. He wrote this commentary for the *Orlando Sentinel*.

NATIONAL VIEW | DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The Butcher of Baghdad is dead, a just punishment for a man whose rule of torture and violence terrorized innocent Iraqis for decades.

Indeed, his death is a victory for justice, although evidence from his execution indicates that the Iraqi government was unable to rise completely above sectarian divides at this all-important moment.

Captured on a cellphone video are hooded Shiite guards verbally degrading Saddam Hussein at the gallows, leaving the disturbing imprint that the government thirsted for revenge more than rule of law.

Yet it's a significant mile-

stone that an Iraqi court convicted and sentenced Hussein - not an American court or an international court, where legitimacy might have been called into question. A courageous Iraqi court heard volumes of emotional testimony against the former Iraqi dictator and persevered in the face of assassinations of lawyers and judges. The taunting at the gallows doesn't diminish his guilt or obscure the fact that Hussein had his day in court.

Hussein was not put to death over weapons of mass destruction or violations of nuclear inspection protocol. He was executed

for having committed brutal crimes against humanity - the senseless execution of 148 people in callous retribution for an attack on his motorcade in the Shiite village of Dujail in 1982. It was an unspeakable crime, for which he ruthlessly played judge, jury and executioner of innocents. If there is regret in his death, it is that he will never face accusers in other villages across Iraq and answer in court for those atrocities.

It's too soon to know whether those vengeful moments leading up to the execution will worsen the chaos and violence of Baghdad. We certainly hope that's not the case.

NATIONAL VIEW | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The myth of job insecurity

It's a commonplace of modern life that job security is a bygone relic. In the globalized, fast-changing, fiercely competitive economy of the 21st century, corporations are accused of outsourcing jobs abroad, jettisoning workers at the drop of a stock price, undermining union protections and generally putting personnel in constant danger of unemployment.

One book decrying this development is titled "The Disposable American: Layoffs and Their Consequences." Charlie Brock, who heads an outplacement firm in Atlanta, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution how life has changed from one generation to the next: "My father worked for 33 years for one company. I worked 30 years for four companies. It's not unusual for the next generation to work four jobs in three years." A Pew Research Center poll this year found that 62 percent of Americans believe there is less job security today than there was decade ago.

All this may be consistent with the general impression that the economy is far more perilous than it used to be. But the perception that employment is a less certain thing than before, it turns out, may very well be a mistake.

That's the finding of a study published by the respected National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Mass. Ann Huff Stevens, an economist at the University of California, Davis, found that for all the tales of woe, "there is a striking lack of solid empirical evidence to support these claims."

To test their validity, she delved into surveys of men ages 58-62, conducted in 1969 and again in 2002, that asked how long they had stayed in the longest-tenured job of their careers. In the earlier survey, just over half said they had spent more than 20 years with a single employer, and one in four said he had lasted 30 years. Three decades later, the results were the same. The average length of the longest job back then was 21.9 years, compared with 21.4 years in 2002 - a decline of just six months.

During that period, there was stable job tenure among men who had at least a high school education. Among high school dropouts, however, the average length of the longest-held job fell by more than 2 1/2 years. But that was a dwindling group: The less-educated men, who were 60 percent of those surveyed in 1969, made up less than a quarter of the total in 2002.

Among women, the news is even better, says Stevens, with studies finding that women's tenure has increased or fallen much less than men's. "Long-term relationships with a single employer are an important feature of the U.S. labor market in 2002, much as they were in 1969," she concludes.

In a growing, dynamic economy, some jobs inevitably are lost. But if some employees are switching employers more often, it may be that they are voluntarily leaving for greener fields, not being put out to pasture.

The American economy has changed a lot in the last generation. What has not vanished is its capacity to create jobs - including durable ones. The American economy has changed a lot in the last generation.

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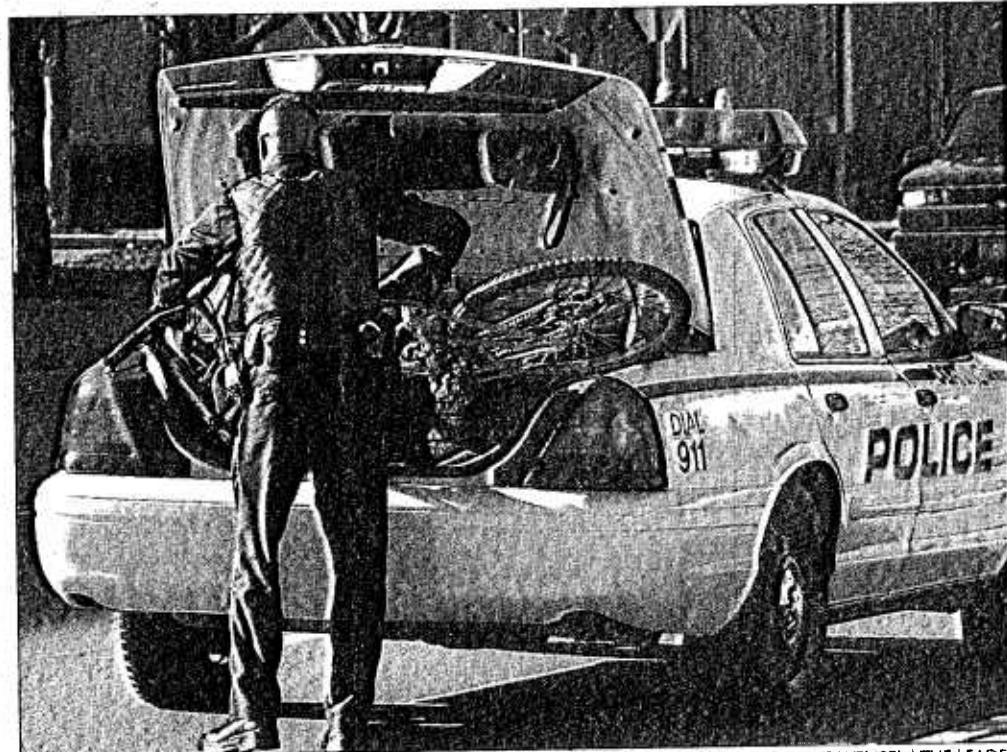
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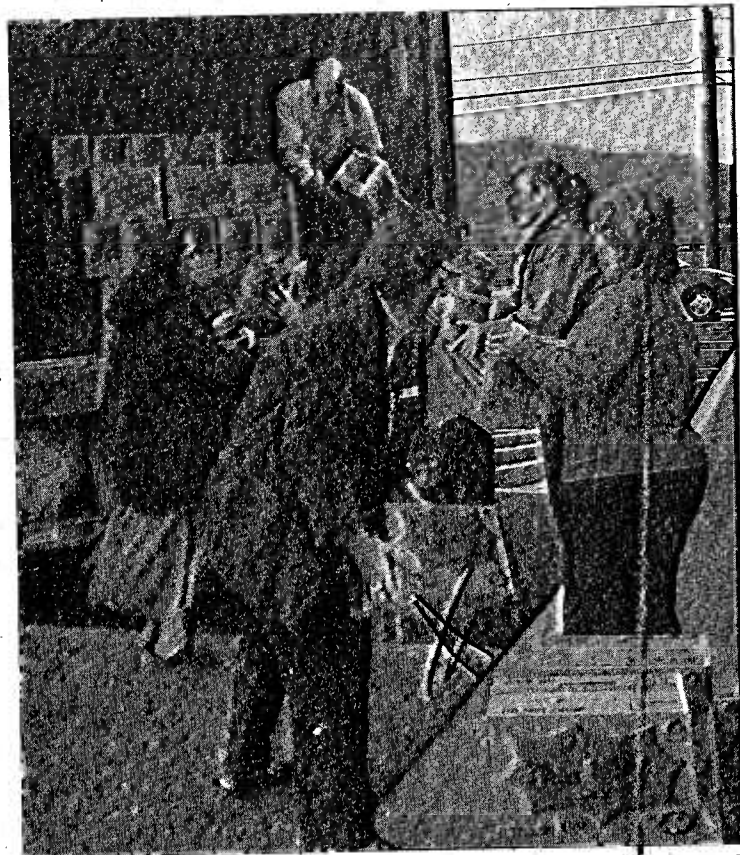
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jzick@the-leader.com

BATH | No one was seriously injured during a physical dispute early Wednesday morning at a Howell Street apartment in the village. Police were called to 109 Howell St. around 4:45 a.m. Wednesday for the report of a possible stabbing. Bath Police Department Inv. David DuBois said no one was stabbed, although a 19-year-old West Morris Street man was charged with violating an order of protection.

Rayvon D. Butler was charged with second-degree criminal contempt. He was issued the order of protection after a previous domestic dispute. He was sent to the Steuben County Jail unable to pay \$2,000 cash bail or \$5,000 property bond. Butler will appear in court at a later date, and additional criminal charges are pending. DuBois said an emergency order that responded to the same address late Tuesday night was not directly related to Wednesday morning's incident.

GOOD NEWS



Staff of the Girl Scouts-Seven Lakes Council help load boxes of Girl Scout cookies bound for troops overseas.

Cookies sent to troops

Girl Scouts in the Seven Lakes Council recently sent more than 3,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to troops overseas through the USO. "Thanks to the generosity of people in the communities in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions of New York, and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, the troops will enjoy these tasty treats over the holidays," said Suzanne Blatchford, CEO of the Girl Scouts - Seven Lakes Council.

"Not only do the troops benefit, but purchase of the cookies supports local Girl Scout activities year-round. Girl Scouts gave customers the option of buying cookies for armed forces and other local organizations, in addition to supporting Girl Scouts by buying cookies for their own friends and families. More than 1,000 boxes of cookies were also contributed to local groups such as food pantries.

IN BRIEF

H'heads tree pickup has begun

HORSEHEADS | The Village of Horseheads residents are reminded that the Christmas tree pickup service in the village has begun. Bare Christmas trees should be placed at the curb for

removal by the village.

C-S school calls special meeting

CAMPBELL | The Campbell-Savoia school board will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the district office. The board will enter immediately into executive

session to discuss a specific personnel matter.

H'heads school board to meet

HORSEHEADS | The Horseheads school board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Big Flats Elementary School auditoria.

PUBLIC NOTICE

New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) has filed tariff revisions with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) in compliance with the PSC's August 23, 2006 rate order regarding electricity rates to become effective January 1, 2007. The tariff revisions reflect a \$36.2 million reduction in delivery revenue (a 5.8% overall reduction in delivery rates), further unbundling of competitive services and changes to NYSEG's economic development programs.

Below is a summary of the changes to NYSEG's tariff schedules; affected by the revisions are PSC Nos. 119 and 120 (Electricity), and 121 (Street Lighting). Full details of the tariff changes are available at nyseg.com.

Tariff Revisions to Delivery Prices

Reduction in Residential Rates > An overall 5.7% reduction in electricity delivery rates for residential customers is achieved through a decrease in per kilowatt-hour (kwh) delivery charges, an increase of \$2 in the Basic Service Charge for Service Classification 1 (residential regular) and 8 (residential day/night), and a decrease of \$5 in the Basic Service Charge for Service Classification 12 (residential time-of-use).

Reduction in Small Non-demand, Non-Residential Rates > An overall 6.4% reduction in electricity delivery rates for small non-demand billed, nonresidential customers is achieved through a decrease in per kwh delivery charges and an increase of \$2 in the Basic Service Charge for Service Classification Nos. 6 and 9.

Reduction in Other Non-Residential Rates > An overall 6.5% reduction in electricity delivery rates for demand-billed, nonresidential customers:

Standby Rates > An overall 5.8% reduction in electricity delivery rates for customers with interconnected on-site generation qualifying for standby service.

Reduction in Street Lighting and Outdoor Lighting > An overall 3.4% reduction in delivery rates for all lighting customers.

Further Unbundling of Competitive Services > The cost of bill issuance has been unbundled from the Basic Service Charge and will be listed separately on customers' bills. Customers who receive electricity supply from a supplier other than NYSEG and who receive a consolidated bill for delivery and supply will not be charged NYSEG's Bill Issuance Charge. The Merchant Function Charge has also been unbundled from rates and will appear as a separate line item on the bills of customers who purchase electricity supply from NYSEG. For demand-billed nonresidential customers, metering charges have been unbundled from the Basic Service Charge and will appear as separate line items on the bills of customers who receive metering services from NYSEG.

Tariff Revisions to Economic Development Programs

- The company is introducing a new incentive, the Incremental Load Incentive.
- The company is phasing out the Economic Development Incentive, Economic Revitalization Incentive, Incubator Development Incentive and Self Generation Deferral Incentive.
- Effective January 1, 2007, the Small Business Growth Incentive is no longer available.
- Kilowatt-hours supplied by the New York Power Authority are exempt from paying the System Benefits and Renewable Portfolio Standard charges.

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Spitzer's address reveals lofty, unclear goals

THE ISSUE | Gov. Eliot Spitzer's State of the State address. **OUR OPINION** | Some lofty goals that won't become entirely clear until his proposed budget is delivered on Jan. 31.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer set a litany of ambitious goals in his first State of the State address Wednesday. If everything pans out the way Spitzer hopes, no one will be able to recognize state government and the entire Empire State as a whole.

With optimistic vision, Spitzer outlined a wide-reaching agenda framed in part by the constituency's demand for change as reflected in the governor's overwhelming victory in November.

As he did on the campaign trail, Spitzer promised ethics and finance reform, a revised budget process, more openness and accountability. He urged legislators in the audience to reign in spending, practice fiscal restraint, become bipartisan, find consensus and keep the interests of the constituency in the forefront.

Spitzer continually repeated the mantra that it was time to change the status quo. Given the gridlock and dysfunction in state government, achieving those goals would be revolutionary.

But Spitzer offered more, much of which cannot possibly be accomplished in one year or one term. For exam-

ple, putting the programs in place to revitalize the upstate economy, a key element of his address Wednesday, could take several years. It may take decades before they begin showing real results.

Also, many goals present a fiscal challenge Spitzer will have to answer when he delivers his first proposed budget on Jan. 31. How he'll be able to afford much of what he wants without raising taxes will be a tricky balancing act.

For example, Spitzer acknowledged recurring expenses outweigh recurring revenues and that the state's deficit is growing. Despite that, he plans to increase spending for education, infrastructure, economic development, municipalities and health care. At the same time, he pledged property tax relief for the middle class.

Where's all the extra money going to come from? Will weeding out Medicaid and welfare cheats produce enough savings?

Many answers will surface in about four weeks in the proposed budget. Spitzer set the bar high Wednesday and it eventually will be up to state legislators to negotiate it.

NATIONAL VIEW | MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

Scale back oil windfalls

Last week's announcement that Gale Norton will be joining Royal Dutch Shell, just nine months after stepping down as interior secretary, captures nicely the coziness that has characterized relations between the oil industry and the Bush administration.

Congress, under Republican control, has been only too happy to look the other way. But that is about to change with the new Democratic majorities, and some changes may come quite soon.

House Speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi has pledged to lay out a new renewable-fuels initiative in the first 100 hours of the new session, to be financed by revenue from the oil industry. Details of the funding mechanisms remain to be worked out, but the task should not be onerous: Oil companies are awash in windfalls that are unearned, undeserved, unwise and, in some cases, probably illegal.

The most disgraceful example: Continuing retention of royalties under a special relief program established in the late 1990s, when oil prices were so low that production incentives seemed justifiable. The companies

were supposed to resume royalty payments as prices marched toward near-record highs; instead, they have seized on an administrative error that stands to let them keep perhaps \$10 billion.

Royalties, we hasten to note, are payments to the American people for exploiting public oil and gas reserves at a profit.

Of some five dozen oil companies affected, only five (including Shell) have agreed to forgo some portion of this unintended largess. Last month, a bill forcing the others to do the same failed by just two votes in the House. Better luck this year, for sure.

Then there is the potential criminal matter of Interior Department officials underbidding producers on other oil and gas royalties, essentially by accepting their unaudited production estimates. The Justice Department is already investigating possible crimes; Congress may find need of an independent inquiry.

And then there is the program of lush incentives for deep-water drilling, which an Interior-commissioned economic analysis shows will pay the oil industry as much as \$48 million for exploration that might expand known reserves by a whopping 1.1 percent.

LETTERS POLICY | THE LEADER

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■ Letters should be typed or neatly printed.

■ Letters must be kept to a maximum of 250 words. Letters longer than that will not be considered.

■ Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. No letters will be published unless verified with the author in person or by telephone.

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ARTIST'S VIEW

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The Saddam Hussein noose

COMMENTARY | DAVID C. STEINMETZ

Trouble in Anglican heartland

Anglicans have been in Virginia since the first English settlers arrived in Jamestown in 1607. These early Anglicans (later known in this country as Episcopallians) were Protestant Christians, whose separate existence as a church family could be traced to the English Reformation of the 16th century and the dynastic woes of Henry VIII.

Of course, not all Anglicans, then or now, consider themselves as Protestants. Some think of themselves primarily as Catholics. There are, after all, many obvious similarities between Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. Both use colorful liturgies presided over by clergy wearing traditional vestments inherited from the middle ages.

But the differences are also important, especially in matters of doctrine. Roman Catholics adhere to a fairly long list of required doctrines, while Anglicans advocate a much shorter list of basic Christian beliefs. From the very beginning, Anglicans in Virginia happily tolerated a greater range of differences in faith and practice than Congregationalists in Massachusetts or Roman Catholics in Maryland.

Which doesn't mean that Anglicans felt themselves free to believe any old thing that passed through their minds. On the contrary, they recited the ancient Nicene Creed during their services as an outward and visible sign that they were committed to the core doctrines of the undivided Christian church, however imperfectly they understood or embodied them.

What it does mean is that Anglicans have always

thought Christians may differ over some beliefs and practices that stand outside that common core of "mere Christianity." They may differ, sometimes sharply, without breaking off friendly relationships with each other. For Anglicans the question was never whether Christians may agree to disagree (that was a given), but how to define the limits beyond which such disagreements were no longer possible.

The current controversy over gay sex is an extension of this old debate. When the Episcopal Church in 2003 consecrated an openly gay bishop and permitted a local option on the blessing of same-sex unions, it crossed a line. The question everyone asked was what kind of line it had crossed.

Non-reproductive sex outside the boundaries of holy matrimony had been forbidden in Christian churches since the year dot. When the Episcopal Church gave its partial approval, it broke with a long tradition. Was gay sex a so-called indifferent matter about which Christians could agree to disagree? Or was it a matter of core beliefs and therefore non-negotiable?

Anglican conservatives around the world agreed with Pope Benedict XVI that gay and lesbian sexual relationships were forbidden by the common core of Christian beliefs concerning faith and morals and, therefore, were as non-negotiable as the ban on adultery, theft and murder. Liberal Anglicans (who also thought the matter embodied the non-negotiable principle of inclusiveness) nevertheless commended the issue to conservatives as an "indifferent matter"

about which Christians could agree to disagree.

The conservatives did not buy it, declared the differences between them "irreconcilable," and began to distance themselves from the mainstream of the Episcopal Church. Some parishes formed a conservative network within the Episcopal Church, while others seceded - with or without their church property - to align with conservative provinces in Rwanda, Uganda, Nigeria, or South America.

Which is why the decision of nine parishes in the Virginia Diocese - including the large, wealthy, and historic parishes of Truro and Falls Church - did not come as a complete surprise.

What did come as a surprise was the timing. Like divorce, withdrawal from a family of churches is supposed to be a last resort, used only when all intermediate steps to reconcile existing differences have been tried and failed. The decision of the churches in Virginia to depart bears all the marks of impatience - or, at the very least, of the failure of the Christian virtue of hope.

No one has any right to be happy about this secession, least of all the departing congregations, who have only begun to tally up their losses.

Unfortunately, history demonstrates that schism like divorce is easier to do than to undo and a premature goodbye to one's first love may last forever.

■ David C. Steinmetz is the Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of the History of Christianity at The Divinity School at Duke University in Durham, N.C. He wrote this commentary for the *Orlando Sentinel*.

NATIONAL VIEW | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The myth of job insecurity

It's a commonplace of modern life that job security is a bygone relic. In the globalized, fast-changing, fiercely competitive economy of the 21st century, corporations are accused of outsourcing jobs abroad, jettisoning workers at the drop of a stock price, undermining union protections and generally putting personnel in constant danger of unemployment.

One book decrying this development is titled "The Disposable American: Layoffs and Their Consequences." Charlie Brock, who heads an outplacement firm in Atlanta, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution how life has changed from one generation to the next: "My father worked for 33 years for one company. I worked 30 years for four companies. It's not unusual for the next generation to work four jobs in three years." A Pew Research Center poll this year found that 62 percent of Americans believe there is less job security today than there was decade ago.

All this may be consistent with the general impression that the economy is far more perilous than it used to be. But the perception that employment is a less certain thing than before, it turns out, may very well be a mistake.

That's the finding of a study published by the respected National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Mass. Ann Huff Stevens, an economist at the University of California, Davis, found that for all the tales of woe, "there is a striking lack of solid empirical evidence to support these claims."

To test their validity, she delved into surveys of men ages 58-62, conducted in 1969 and again in 2002, that asked how long they had stayed in the longest-tenured job of their careers. In the earlier survey, just over half said they had spent more than 20 years with a single employer, and one in four said he had lasted 30 years. Three decades later, the results were the same. The average length of the longest job back then was 21.9 years, compared with 21.4 years in 2002 - a decline of just six months.

During that period, there was stable job tenure among men who had at least a high school education. Among high school dropouts, however, the average length of the longest-held job fell by more than 2 1/2 years. But that was a dwindling group: The less-educated men, who were 60 percent of those surveyed in 1969, made up less than a quarter of the total in 2002.

Among women, the news is even better, says Stevens, with studies finding that women's tenure has increased or fallen much less than men's. "Long-term relationships with a single employer are an important feature of the U.S. labor market in 2002, much as they were in 1969," she concludes.

In a growing, dynamic economy, some jobs inevitably are lost. But if some employees are switching employers more often, it may be that they are voluntarily leaving for greener fields, not being put out to pasture.

The American economy has changed a lot in the last generation. What has not vanished is its capacity to create jobs - including durable ones. The American economy has changed a lot in the last generation.

What has not vanished is its capacity to create jobs - including durable ones.

NATIONAL VIEW | DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The Butcher of Baghdad is dead, a just punishment for a man whose rule of torture and violence terrorized innocent Iraqis for decades.

Indeed, his death is a victory for justice, although evidence from his execution indicates that the Iraqi government was unable to rise completely above sectarian divides at this all-important moment.

Captured on a cellphone video are hooded Shiite guards verbally degrading Saddam Hussein at the gallows, leaving the disturbing imprint that the government thirsted for revenge more than rule of law.

Yet it's a significant mile-

stone that an Iraqi court convicted and sentenced Hussein - not an American court or an international court, where legitimacy might have been called into question. A courageous Iraqi court heard volumes of emotional testimony against the former Iraqi dictator and persevered in the face of assassinations of lawyers and judges. The taunting at the gallows doesn't diminish his guilt or obscure the fact that Hussein had his day in court.

Hussein was not put to death over weapons of mass destruction or violations of nuclear inspection protocol. He was executed

for having committed brutal crimes against humanity - the senseless execution of 148 people in callous retribution for an attack on his motorcade in the Shiite village of Dujail in 1982. It was an unspeakable crime, for which he ruthlessly played judge, jury and executioner of innocents. If there is regret in his death, it is that he will never face accusers in other villages across Iraq and answer in court for those atrocities.

It's too soon to know whether those vengeful moments leading up to the execution will worsen the chaos and violence of Baghdad. We certainly hope that's not the case.