Barber Eyes a Change in Venue

By Ann Krajewski

Town of Caroline Supervisor Don Barber, who has been involved in local politics since 1974, is mulling a change of office and considering a run for New York State Senate. Barber, a Democrat, recently granted an interview with Tompkins Weekly at his farm on Landon Road.

TW – Why run for the Senate, and why now?

DB – “First of all, it’s not clear that I am running. I’ve entertained the idea. This came about because I enjoy politics and I like what I’m doing at the town level and also the county level with a number of different initiatives. So I feel I can move people as well through the political mix, knowing that each of these entities has a completely different set of circumstances. I’d like to do what I can for my neighbors and my family who live in nearby Danby, where I grew up, knowing the pressures that are on upstate New York.

I have three daughters, one of whom has already moved outside the state to find work. My middle daughter is still in [New York] and my youngest is at Cornell. But I’m concerned that all of them are looking for opportunities and they’re not finding them around here. I have a 75-acre farm, and in past generations you would have your kids move near you but it’s not even in the cards these days. It has happened to so many people and I feel like I understand these issues and I have a deep and abiding concern for them. I’m not sure that a lot of people in Albany do. I think that they live on a whole different plateau. And so that’s the passion I bring. I’m not sure where the political world is on that passion. It could be as a New York State Senator. People have told me that I’d be good, that I could be a great voice. District 51 is a gerrymandered district, but in doing so they only have two cities, Cortland and Oneonta. All the rest of it is towns.”

TW – How did you become the Town of Caroline Supervisor?

DB – “I was first elected to the town board in 1983. At that time there was only the only Democrat. Four years later, when my term ran out as a councilman, Bob Spaulding, supervisor at the time, was in a career change and no longer wanted to be in the position. I then ran

Barber Eyes a Change in Venue

Taking a dim view of Lansing schools

By Mike Levy

Town of Ithaca residents should not forget their leadership now that long-time supervisor Cathy Valentino has decided to seek a fourth term of office. Two Democratic candidates emerged soon after Valentino announced her decision in mid-January, marking an early contest to the town supervisor race.

Tim Joseph and Herb Engman have both thrown their hats into the ring. Both have recent experience in governance – Joseph on the county level and Engman with the town. And both would like to avoid a primary election, deferring instead to the county Democratic committee to select a candidate.

Joseph, who has served 26 years with the Tompkins County Legislature, including the last six as chairperson, wants to lead the town into a future where success means less dependence on oil.

“I think we’re going to be a crisis point where a car-based transportation system is simply not going to be possible anymore,” he says. “If it came today we’d be in serious trouble.”

Joseph sees a need for a fresh approach to the town’s development. “It has to have pockets of density…you don’t sprawl all over the place, you live in compact areas,” he says. “Rather than separating workplace, residence and commercial in the way that so much land use regulation now does, you mingle everything.

His proposed move to town government is a necessary step toward realizing this goal, Joseph says. “The physical layout of the community is done at the town level. I have been getting more involved in those issues through my county work: working on affordable housing and the county comprehensive plan on economic development.”

Joseph believes he is qualified to affect the type of change he envisions. “I have an ability to articulate a vision and the ability to work across a broad spectrum of people who don’t necessarily agree on a lot of stuff but need to work together.”

Engman, a town board member for more than three years, believes he has a similar ability to work with people. “I know all the other town board members and we have worked very successfully with them,” he says. “I also know all the staff, so I wouldn’t have a problem in terms of trust. I think I’m in a good position to make,” says Ithaca Democratic Committee Chair Merry Jo Bauer. “They’re both experienced, qualified and good people. Of course, we have to consider that there might be other candidates. Bauer estimates that the decision process could take as long as four to six weeks. The committee will search for and interview potential candidates for the supervisor job as well as for the three town board positions on the ballot in November.

The group will then present a report to the town’s Democratic committee, which will endorse a candidate. While it’s possible that the selection of a Democratic candidate will go no further than this, a close vote might be cause for a primary election.

The loser has every right to challenge the committee endorsement,” says Bauer, though she suggests that such an outcome is unlikely.

The selection process is an excellent opportunity for registered Democrats to get involved in local politics and decision-making. Bauer says. One option is to run for elective office, another is to seek an appointment to a town committee and a third is becoming a member of the
This is the second installment of a two-part series on solid waste and recycling in Tompkins County.

"When we started it was all about the old landfill," relates Barbara Eckstrom, Tompkins County’s Solid Waste (TCSW) manager. Eckstrom, who has worked in the solid waste department for 21 years, adds, "I remember watching Montgomery Ward bringing in all this furniture. It was in good shape and somebody could have used it, but they smashed it all and then dumped it. When I asked the guy driving the truck about it, he said, ‘Our policy is we’re not allowed to give it away.’ And that was common. Desks from Cornell and furniture from other businesses all went in the landfill. And I thought, ‘There’s got to be a better way.’"

Eckstrom describes the county’s waste disposal effort as “taking that waste stream and dividing and conquering it.” TCSW is not so much about throwing things away anymore as about re-appportioning them. Much of what used to be considered garbage is now recycled, and as people become more conscious of the waste problem they reduce the amount of stuff they discard. Further, throwing things out is more expensive in the end, and causes more problems, than recycling them or re-using them.

Tompkins County has the highest recycling rate per capita in New York State, but “There’s still a lot we can do,” says Tom Richardson, recycling supervisor. Richardson is happy to conduct a tour of the recycling center, bringing groups of kids or adults into the transfer station to watch the process. In the front bays of the building huge piles of recyclable containers and paper and cardboard waste are loaded onto conveyors, which feed into a processing station on the other side of the wall.

The tour group gets to go behind the wall and watch the sorting process: today the sorters are picking cardboard out of the paper feeds. The paper goes forward and is collected in 1,000-pound square bales, while the cardboard goes into a separate bin to wait its turn. The bales, whether they are paper, metal or plastic, are marketed for Tompkins County by Recycle America. Depending on the type of material, they go to a variety of buyers and end up back on the market in new forms. As such, recycling brings in a profit.

Since 1990 the waste stream has been reduced in Tompkins County by 50 percent. “What I’d like to see happen is for it to go down another 25 percent in the next 10 years,” says Eckstrom. There are a number of initiatives underway to make that happen. Some existing programs will be more effective if more people know about them, so the push is on to get the word out.

A new county solid waste Web site (recycletompkins.org) now lets residents know where and how they can reduce the amount of waste they send to the landfill. Most people are unaware that Tompkins County is doing and conquering the waste stream.

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January 29 & up,
K & up,
Valentino certainly agrees. It was a positive step,” Barber says.

According to Barber, Town of Caroline Supervisor, the council brings a holistic perspective to local decision-making. He emphasizes that although Tompkins County; the City of Ithaca; the towns of Caroline, Danby, Dryden, Enfield, Groton, Ithaca, Lansing and Ulysses; and the villages of Cayuga Heights, Dryden, Freeville, Groton and Trumansburg all have separate governing bodies, they certainly do not have isolated concerns.

“As development makes the spaces between our communities shrink, with the increasing demands being placed on local gov-
ernments by our state legislature, and with increasing property taxes, a council of governments whose purpose is to find ways to increase efficiency of service delivery is a positive step,” Barber says.

Doug Austic, Ulysses Town Supervisor and vice chair of the TCCOG, describes why voluntarily cooperation on issues such as health insurance for municipal workers (the group’s current priority) and road maintenance are appealing ideas not just to legislatures, but also to Tompkins County residents.

“The smaller communities don’t have the resources,” he says. And apparently the resources that are there can sometimes be used more effectively. As an example, Austic cites re-allocation of road domains between the Town of Ulysses and Tompkins County. Some roads that were county roads could be better serviced by the town’s highway department because of location, he notes, while other roads designated as town roads have become more frequently used by a greater number of people to reach neighboring areas in the county.

These roads are better suited for county services, Austic explains, and so the designations are being changed to reduce overall costs.

“The final tax bill is less if one of those groups saves money. Then the taxpayers save money.”

The TCCOG also serves as a forum for county officials to disseminate and gather information that will affect all of the municipalities, such as the new public safety communication system. The new 800 mHz system, which includes a 195-foot tower on the Ithaca College campus, will replace dated equipment and piecemeal communica-
tion frequencies to allow emergency responders and dispatchers from various public safety depart-
ments to communicate with each other through a centralized sys-
tem. All of the municipalities will use it, so having a clear channel to work together in making the change smoothly is important.

But potentially one of the most interesting aspects of the new inter-municipal organization is that previously disconnected communities will now have a better understanding of how decisions in one place affect the others. With non-binding resolutions, leaders in one town can help make decisions and provide solidarity for the entire county without having to participate in individual policies.

A case in point is health insur-
ance for municipal workers. With a larger group, lower premiums and better coverage may be secured, but if one of the towns already has lower costs than the larger group plan, it would not make sense for that area to participate. And they would not have to. The council has already asked for state grant sup-
port, under the Department of State’s municipal services initiatives program, to investigate the health insurance issue.

“Communication is a huge issue that forma-
tion of the TCCOG means poten-
tially more influence at the state level,” Barber explains.

Please turn to page 16
City, IDA Continue Talks on Tax Breaks

By Nate Dougherty

It was among the top items on a common council agenda for the beginning of 2007, but the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to create a system of ranking applicants seeking tax abatements from the city apparently need more work.

The Community Investment Incentive Program, which would replace Ithaca’s current density policy, would prioritize companies based on criteria determined by the city and IDA. Under the original intent, common council would evaluate the tax break requests, rank them separately from the IDA and then pass along its recommendations.

But IDA officials wanted more say in the original evaluations. “At the last IDA meeting, officials said they were interested in what we’ve developed but aren’t ready to sign on just yet,” says council member Dan Cogan (D-Ward Five), who headed a subcommittee on the program. “They’re just not ready to relinquish decisions on community benefits, but they understand it’s the goal to do this kind of evaluation early on in the process.”

In his program, it meant to bring the IDA and city together when evaluating tax breaks for companies in dense areas of the green building components to a project, or if the developer is sensitive to race and gender in its hiring practices.

“It’s not as if any developer would have to fulfill each of those desirable goals,” says Council Member Maria Coles (D-Ward One). “They would be rated according to how many they fill, if comfortable housing is part of any development, or if the developer uses materials that are easiest produced and do not inflict harm on the environment in the production, like vinyl in housing, that would be a plus for them.”

Cogan suggests that council wait until the next IDA meeting to let officials discuss where they believe the program should go next. He says members of the subcommittee should attend the next IDA meeting to get on the same page.

“We recognize that we need to allow the IDA to get further in its discussions,” says Cogan. “Our...
Dryden Supplements School Referendum

By Anthony Hall

The Dryden Central School District Board of Education approved a $4.26 million referendum at its January 22 meeting, then debated the merits of bidding the project of maintenance and security upgrades as one that won’t impact local taxes.

As it turns out, the board put its toe just over the line, dipping ever so slightly into the district’s general fund for $38,500 and using another $72,000 set aside by the school board five years ago for security purposes. In doing so, the board lost a public relations opportunity: the ability to sell a capital improvement project of over $3 million as a freebie. But of course, nothing is really free.

“It’s still all tax dollars, when you think about it,” says board member Chris Gibbons, somewhat blithely. It’s true. School boards love to paint the picture of not being a freebie. But of course, nothing is really free.

Freeville Elementary School was one that won’t impact $4.26 million referendum at its Board of Education approved a $72,000 set aside by the school board five years ago for security purposes. In doing so, the board lost a public relations opportunity: the ability to sell a capital improvement project of over $3 million as a freebie. But of course, nothing is really free.

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Editorial

Garbage in, Garbage Out

Clearly we have gotten the message about reducing the amount of trash that ends up in the garbage. Tompkins County is second to none in New York State when it comes to meeting the number of folks who dutifully stack and bag their newspapers, rinse and collect the cans, bottles and jars and put it all in a bin set by the curb. Every other week you see them lined up waiting with their stuff.

The tons of waste going into the landfill have been reduced by half in the past 16 years and so has the amount of water consumed. Our landfill’s life expectancy has increased from 10 years to 20 years. We have saved a fortune in the past 16 years thanks to such diligence. Our landfill’s life expectancy has increased from 10 years to 20 years.

There’s some truth to the axiom that garbage in, garbage out. If we all take a closer look at some garbage in-garbage out routine, but if we don’t, we’ll just continue to be trucked away and buried.

Yes, there’s more to do in garbage in, garbage out routine, but if we don’t, we’ll just continue to be trucked away and buried.

Garbage in, Garbage Out

On Feb. 6 Town of Lansing voters will vote on two propositions for repairs and improvements needed to the Lansing Central School District buildings. More than half of propo- sition I funds will go towards needed repairs to the bus garage and at the elementary middle and high schools. This vote will also fund needed high school renovations and additions. The architects’ plans are posted at the bus garage, in the Field/Link in Lansing, and on www.lansingschools.org under “Capital Project Information.”

After negative community feed- back regarding earlier proposi- tions, a Facilities and Community Awareness Committee (FCAC) of parents, teachers, and administra- tors in the District plus engineer- ing and architectural advisors was formed. This group assessed which renovation/maintenance renovation item must be done for build- ing safety (roofing, HVAC, etc.) as well as which should be done for the schools to continue to offer the exceptional educational experience that Lansing residents have come to expect. The group was critical and the meetings were grueling; the resulting capital project plan is a “bare bones” blueprint that will meet our district’s basic needs. The Lansing school board carefully con- sidered the FCAC recommendation and voted in December to put the plan before the voters.

Many people wonder why the high school needs more classrooms when enrollment has not increased in any meaningful way. Taxpayers do not understand the cost of maintaining buildings. This is not a “cushion” or a waste of taxpayers’ money. When enrollment has not increased, the savings on maintenance and fuel costs for our own buildings are more than doubled.

It’s important to consider the long-range plan for the building, especially when we are in a crisis. What will we do if we have to expand our building to meet the needs of the next generation to succeed? There is no going back; there is no turning back; there is no need to start, but it is a start. An important one. Even if we are aware of the vibrant community events, how can you participate, and enjoy our area? These are the types of things that are reported in our daily and week- ly papers. If you read the paper, you risk to do other things to do so also. Mention an article to others. Give a subscription. Ask others, what is their business? We live in an enlightened community. We are putting our money where our neighbors think and how they feel. It may be a small start, but it is a start. An important one. I am not telling anyone what to think, just asking you to think, and to communicate with each other. Thank you.

Brian DeYoung
Ithaca

Opinion

The Price of a Good Education

By Maureen and Jim Bell

Dear neighbors: Perhaps you have a concern about local taxes, news or community events, as I do. You may have seen other pieces I have writ- ten in this publication. I am writing up to my last piece about taxes and the high rate of property tax in this area. I am writing about some of the positive things taxes do.

We have a great police force, we have many social programs, we have places to park and roads to drive on. As a reminder, everyone in some of these things were better, and that the money spent on social programs generated greater com- munity wealth at a lower cost. Each of us do to contribute to the community. If you have extra money, or if you already contribute, or do volun- teer work, what else can you do?

Perhaps you feel you are so busy, you can do no more. I believe you can all make small, subtle changes (or big life-changing ones) that will benefit ourselves and those around us. One thing we should all do is pay attention to the news. We listen to the news, listen to the news, and share the news. If others in the communi- ty are aware of the news, are they aware of a crime, how can they fully value the police force? If people do not have the confidence of supporting a program, how can they take a stand for it or against it?

If you are aware of the vibrant community events, how can you participate, and enjoy our area? These are the types of things that are reported in our daily and week- ly papers. If you read the paper, you need to do other things to do so also. Mention an article to others. Give a subscription. Ask others, what is their business? We live in an enlightened community. We are putting our money where our neighbors think and how they feel. It may be a small start, but it is a start. An important one. I am not telling anyone what to think, just asking you to think, and to communicate with each other.

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Letters

Enlightenment Starts With Information

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Tompkins Weekly
January 29

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**Briefly...**

**County Library Renews Sunday Hours**

The Tompkins County Public Library Board of Trustees has announced that the library will re-open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. starting on Feb. 4. The announcement followed the news that Vector Magnetics has made a significant contribution to the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation, which was to be used at the discretion of the library board.

Sunday hours ceased in February 2006, following a six-week open period funded by a New York State grant from Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton. Efforts to secure the necessary funding to maintain Sunday hours during 2006 through a public referendum in the Ithaca City School District and through direct appeals to the Tompkins County Legislator were unsuccessful.

Board president Henrik Dullea said that the board deeply appreciated the gift and that the decision to use the funds for Sunday hours was thoroughly discussed by the trustees, in light of the many other needs which need funding. While Sunday hours was a high priority for private fundraising in 2007, Dullea said that library trustees will continue to urge the county legislature to include funding for Sunday hours in the future as part of the library's core operations.

With the new seven-day schedule, the library will be open 59 hours per week, four more than the minimum required by state law, but nine hours less than comparable libraries in similar communities. Sunday hours will be in effect from Feb. 4 through May 20, and again from Sept. 9 through Dec. 16.

Library hours are: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8:15 p.m; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

**Educator Will Speak at Cornell**

Robert Parris Moses, a distinguished civil rights leader and mathematics educator, will make his first visit to the Cornell campus as the Frank H.T. Rhodes Class of '56 professor. Moses will deliver a public lecture titled “Quality Education as a Civil Right” at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, in the Statler Auditorium. Cornell President David Skorton will introduce Moses and moderate a discussion following the address.

Moses served as field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, helped form the Freedom Riders in Mississippi and worked on voter registration during the most turbulent days of the civil rights movement in the early 1960s. Later, Moses returned to the classroom, where he taught mathematics in Tanzania from 1969 to 1975. In 1982, he was awarded a five-year MacArthur Foundation grant, which provided initial funding to develop The Algebra Project, an award-winning program designed to raise the floor of understanding and participation in mathematics by members of underrepresented groups, particularly African-American, Hispanic, and low-income rural and urban high-school students.

The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. They are available at the Willard Straight Hall ticket office.

**Relay for Life Seeks Team Members**

The local Relay For Life committee has a variety of openings for those who would like to help plan the American Cancer Society’s annual fundraiser. Event organizers need individuals to serve as committee chairs and members in the following areas: team recruitment, spirit points, relay kick-off event, survivor activities, entertainment, incentives, fundraising and sponsorship.

Leadership team meetings are held monthly with additional work completed at the committee level. For more information contact Deb Mohlenhoff at deb.mohlenhoff@gmail.com or call 274-6222, or Allison Knoth at allison.knoth@cancer.org or 206-6999.

Relay For Life is an overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and empower individuals to fight back against the disease. This year’s relay will be held at the Lansing High School track on July 13 and 14. The official event kick-off is slated for March 28.

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**Street Beat**

The word on the street from around Tompkins county.

**Question: How do you feel about the Ithaca schools bond issues?**

“I like the new facilities, but not at the price projections.”

- Chris Archer, Ithaca

“I understand what it’s like to work in a facility that needs work. ACS needs real science labs.”

- Christina Mead and daughter Maggie, Ithaca

“I’ve only been here a week so I haven’t really studied the issue.”

- Sylvia Taylor, Ithaca

“I think it’s excessive. I’d like to see them look at their expenses more closely.”

- Dave Pytcher, Ithaca

Submit your question to **Street Beat**. If we choose your question, you’ll receive gift certificates to GreenStar Cooperative Market and Ithaca Flower Shop. Simply log onto www.tompkinsweekly.com and click on **Street Beat** to enter.
School Issues Address Cramped Quarters

By Anthony Hall

The Lansing Central School District Board of Education has proposed a two-part building project referendum that goes to voters on Tuesday, Feb. 6, and divides the district’s space and maintenance needs into two propositions, which also might be termed two district priorities.

The school board took a cautious approach in spite of plans to use the entire $419,509 of EXCEL aid they received from the New York State Department of Education as their share of the multi-billion dollar settlement of the lawsuit in which New York City school districts challenged the state’s school aid formulas.

The money used will be just 2 percent of the local share for the $18,725 million project, in part because it may not be available for long and in part because the money can leverage an additional $2.3 million from the state, which normally kicks in the lion’s share for school construction projects.

Voters can turn down the whole thing, denying the district additional space and maintenance projects that include boiler replacements, electrical upgrades and separate improvements at the elementary school; energy management; window hardware repair and improved drainage at the middle school.

Proposition 1 also includes six new classrooms and an expanded art classroom at the high school. The art room, which includes two teachers working within limited space, had 60 students coming and going 10 years ago, art teacher Patty Brown says. But enrollment in art is now three times that number and state requirements for a certified art program have expanded.

The high school now offers a five-course sequence in art, and is sending students to the country’s top art colleges, according to art teacher Robin Rogers. With two more teachers working from one room at the same time, Brown says “Thank goodness, we’re really good friends.” Rogers quips in return, “You’re right, guess we’re really good professionals.”

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Besides cramped quarters for the teachers, there isn’t room for separating clay projects or drawing instruction, let alone scheduling clay sculpting at a time when the dust won’t settle on students drawings and other artwork, the teachers said.

The music room is similarly cramped. At least one instrument (a cello) is stored in the principal’s office. In the music room itself, the number of chairs alone is so tight it is nearly impossible to move around even without students and their cumbersome trombones, tubas and drummers.

The music room, according to current state Department of Education codes, is more than two times too small, says high school principal Michelle Stone. The reason is the same as it is for the squeeze in the art class, ‘Ten years ago, 60 students would fit into the music room for band lessons. Now the school offers band, orchestra and symphony orchestra, sometimes piling 95 students in one room.’

Ten years ago 60 students used the music room for band lessons. Now the school offers band, orchestra and symphony orchestra, sometimes piling 95 students in one room.

Or they could approve the project and an additional $2 million, which will go toward high school music and technology additions and alterations.

A tour of the building shows why board members are asking district voters to consider the expansion project, despite the fact that demographics for the district show stabilized enrollment for the future. While much of the project is basic bread and butter maintenance, the strongest argument for additional classes lies in the strength of the programs offered by the Lansing schools.

The art room, which includes two teachers working within limited space, had 60 students coming and going 10 years ago, art teacher Robin Rogers. With two more teachers working from one room at the same time, Brown says “Thank goodness, we’re really good friends.” Rogers quips in return, “You’re right, guess we’re really good professionals.”

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Meditations On a Higher Dimension

By Larry Klaes

In earlier times, art and science were intertwined in education and culture. A person was not consid-ered a truly well rounded individ-ual unless he had sufficient school-ing in both the humanities and the sciences. This concept was ignored once again with the 2007 edition of the Light in Winter festival, held throughout Ithaca on the last week-end in January.

Event organizers describe the festival as bringing “together artists and scientists from all over the world to share one-of-a-kind col-laborations and the excitement of discovery.”

One event among many that reflected this theme was “Warped Passages,” based on the popular science book Warped Passages: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Universe’s Hidden Dimensions (HarperCollins Publishers, New York, 2005), authored by Dr. Lisa Randall of Harvard University. Randall, a professor of theoretical physics, talked about her work at the Statler Hall Auditorium at Cornell University’s School of Hotel Administration on the after-noon of Saturday, Jan. 27.

Randall is a researcher and pro-ducing artistic director for Light in Winter, explains why she invited Randall to Ithaca. “I try to read every popular science book that comes out. Not only did I love Warped Passages, I felt strongly that inviting a woman from a male-dominated profession to speak at the festival about physics was important for the visiting public to see and understand,” she says.

Randall’s book and talk are based on two science papers she wrote in 1999 with Raman Sundrum, now a professor in the department of physics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins University. The research describes a possible solution to a problem that has baffled physicists for decades: why is it that of the four fundamental forces of nature — strong, electromagnetic, weak and gravity — the force of gravity is so weak compared to the other three sets of interactions between particles and the large-scale behav-iour of matter throughout the uni-verse?

Randall and Sundrum conceived a theory that has three-dimen-sional (four if you count time) uni-verse residing in an “infinite extra dimension that warps spacetime so much that gravity [in the form of particles called gravitons] is concen-trated near another brane [a three dimensional hypersurface embedded in a higher dimensional bulk],” says Randall. “There are actual physical consequences because of this extreme warping of spacetime.”

In essence, certain parts of the cosmos may have stronger concen-trations of gravity than what we experience due to these higher dimensions, thus explaining why gravity is the weakest of the four forces of nature, at least for us.

Randall and her colleagues may be able to prove their theory later this year when the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) becomes opera-tional at the CERN laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland. This giant particle accelerator and collider may be powerful enough to produce and detect what are known as Kaluza-Klein particles that move through those extra dimensions. The physicists could then deter-mine their properties and poten-tially prove that we do exist in a world of higher dimensions that obey different physical laws.

“If the theory is true, it will affect many other sciences, such as cosmology and string theory,” says Randall. “The scientists in those fields will have to explain their the-ories and the phenomena they detect in relation to those extra dimensions that interact with our universe.”

Strings of another sort accompa-nyed and framed Randall’s lesson in physics, courtesy of musicians Stephen Andrew Taylor from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Wendy Herbener Mehne and Pablo Cohen, both of Ithaca College.

Using a combination of flute, gui-tar and live electronics, the trio per-formed Taylor’s piece, titled “Seven Microworlds,” which premiered in Toronto in 2000. The piece can be heard on Taylor’s Web site: www.stephendandrewtaylor.net.

Taylor earned his Ph.D. in music composition from Cornell. Over the past two decades he has composed a number of pieces honoring science, including one dedicated to Dr. Carl Sagan called “Pale Blue Dot” after the late Cornell astronomer’s description of earth as seen from the edge of the solar system by the Voyager 1 space mission.

Photo provided
Residents Weigh In on Village Plan

By Sue Henninger

Local residents turned out in force at a recent public meeting in Trumansburg that was scheduled to share information on the village’s comprehensive plan and to gather public input. Audience members described what they most valued in the village, citing things such as “walkability,” the “sense of community,” the “potential of the village” and the “historical aspects” of the community. Most of those in the room were village residents, although several people from the Town of Ulysses and adjoining counties also attended the meeting.

Comprehensive plan committee chair Deirdre Cunningham described the proposal as a “living document” used to provide guidance for community leaders in planning. Having a strategy in place also provides advantages such as giving the village a competitive edge when applying for grants. Cunningham noted that the committee’s process has included reviewing two previous proposals (which the village never adopted), analyzing data from a community survey, drafting a primary vision statement and developing a timeline.

Former mayor Tom Bennett attributes the failure of previous plans to the village board’s view of them as not “being perfect.” Cunningham responded that the committee understands some of the obstacles that previous groups had faced and has adapted its strategy to focus on educating the public and board members. This educational process will stress that each step is a “benchmark” that can be revised or approached in a different way if needed, and that the comprehensive plan would be a “working” rather than a “finalized” document.

Information collected from the public meetings will be used to draft vision statements that will establish a foundation for the plan. The committee hopes to have a draft plan ready to review by this summer.

Among those who addressed the meeting was David Filiberto, village board liaison to the comprehensive plan committee member, displays a land use map at the recent public information meeting in Trumansburg.

Chris Thomas, comprehensive plan committee member, shows a land use map at the recent public information meeting in Trumansburg.

Tompkins County senior planner Crystal Buck had the group break up into “topic tables” to discuss the plan’s six major areas: environment, recreation/youth, community, housing, economic development and land use. Village resident Susan Thomas stressed that she would like to see the principles of “smart growth” used to increase affordable housing within the village. Others agreed that the proper design of “high density, non-homogenous” sections of affordable housing combined with green space would be ideal.

Overall concern about the recent addition of several new stores was another priority. Businesses rather than big box stores was another priority. Businesses rather than big box stores would fit into village life, such as those that employ locals, maximizing existing resources in Trumansburg such as creating an "artistic retail market" and finding an acceptable balance in tourism by bringing in outside money while not being “overrun” by visitors.

Dick Peterson of the environment committee understood some of the village’s comprehensive plan and to share information on the village’s views of the community. Cunningham noted that the village’s zoning laws have not been updated since 1971. The revision process started by the current zoning board has yet to be completed. Thomas, and others, would like to see the residential zoning on Route 96 changed to a category such as “mixed use” so that homes and small home-based businesses could co-exist along the Main Street corridor, gradually transitioning into the downtown area.

Protecting the “green corridor” along Trumansburg Creek was a prime concern of Ulysses resident Liz Thomas. Dick Peterson of the environment committee noted that his group sees developing a larger scale recreational area by the creek as a priority as well as keeping tabs on the condition of the storm drains and preserving local water quality.

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In Alfonso Cuaron’s fine new futuristic thriller *Children of Men*, the day after tomorrow looks a lot like today’s Iraq. The British, having sealed off their borders against illegal aliens, have erected a national security state complete with check-points, identity cards and the inevitable insurgency. London looks both tailpipe crusty and hopped-up on digital imagery. “The world is falling apart,” a government official beams, “and only Britain soldiers on!” We can almost hear Donald Rumsfeld boasting that freedom is on the march. There’s one significant difference: based on P.D. James’ novel of the same name, *Children of Men* posits a future where all human females have mysteriously become infertile. With no children born for the last 18 years, humanity is looking into the abyss of inevitable extinction. Naturally, the “wrath of God” nutescases — Islamist and otherwise — come out of the woodwork, triggering a worldwide wave of terrorism. Suddenly, market day in Sadr City isn’t looking so bad.

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Granted, there are quite a few folks around today who would take the prospect of childless restaurants and airplane flights as blessings. For the rest of us, though, Cuaron (Y Tu Mama Tambien) presents what is possibly the most vivid dystopic nightmare since *Blade Runner*. As in *Blade Runner*, the script by Cuarón, Timothy Sexton et al builds on the old gumshoe/hard-boiled genre — that no human depravity should come as a surprise — and subverts it into something hauntingly the opposite. Perhaps most impressive, he achieves this not through flashy production design, but with a confident visual style that includes some truly brilliant (and harrowing) long takes. Compared to this, *V for Vendetta* feels like a trip to feed the pigeons in Hyde Park.

On January 19, the attendees were packed so tightly at 7th Art Corporation’s *Volver* benefit screening that reaching the banquet table was an achievement. Fortunately, the cause was worth the trouble: the event was held to raise funds for the non-profit corporation’s projected multiplex theater on Green Street. Along with Cornell Cinema, 7th Art is a mainstay of Ithaca’s lively film culture, and deserves support in its quest to grow (information for donors is available at www.cinemapolis.com). In this particular case, the pre-screening edibles (donated by Almodóvar’s latest creation, she deserves it. Watching her, it’s as if we’ve been transported back a couple of generations, to when actresses like Jeanne Moreau and Sophia Loren had opportunity to show the glamour of being complex, grown-up women.

It’s to the credit of Almodóvar (*Talk to Her, Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down*) that he’s willing to give the film over to Cruz. Alas, being a conscientious objector to the director’s chatty girl-festions, this writer too often found his mind drifting back to that banquet table out in the lobby.

To contact Nicholas Nicastro visit www.nicastro-books.com.
January 2007

20 Monday
Catholic School's Week

Cinematopws Now Playing: Letters from two jina (R) 7:30-9:30
p.m., Volmer (R) 7:15-9; or 277-6315

Cortland Youth Center Open 12-3
p.m. Info www.cortland.org/155
3:03. Free. Info Free.

Catholic School's Week

Eating the Rainbows, Ulysses Primary and Friendship
nutrition class for children. Rec for ages 6
and under. Guardian req for children under 18,
Info 277-6315. Volunteer opportunities.

Flat Foot Flyers Now Playing: The Last King of Scotland (R) 7:15
p.m.; 9:35pm. The Painted Veil (PG-13) 7:15-9:
35; 9:35pm, The Queen (PG-13) 7:15pm. Info
www.cinematopws.org or 272-1256. 1201 N.

GED Classes, at GAC, 9am-12pm.
Free.

GED Classes, at TC3 Campus, 11am-
2pm. Info BOCES 273-8804.

GED Classes, at Groton Elementary.
Info BOCES 273-8804.

GED Classes, at TC3 Campus, Community
School, 5:30-8:30 pm. Free. Info Free.

GED Classes, at Groton Elementary.
Info BOCES 273-8804.

GIAC Teen Program Game Room,
Video Games, Open Gym & Field Trips 4-
7pm. Info 255-6464 or www.museum.cornell.
edu or 273-6623. 1259 Trumansburg Rd.
Ithaca.

Phil Shapiro's Group Folk Guitar Lessons,
North Room Willard Straith Hall, 3-5pm.
Info 274-3222 or www.tompkinschamber.
org or www.iathcafordwad.org.

Beat Box Bard, Center for the Perfor-
ming Arts, 7pm. Fee. Info 273-4497 or
www.kitchentheatre.org.

GED Classes, at Ithaca College, 9-Noon.
Free. Info BOCES 273-8804.

GED Classes, at TC3 Campus, 11am-
2pm. Info BOCES 273-8804.

GED Classes, South Seneca
Elementary, 9-noon. Free. Info BOCES 273-
8804.

GED Classes, TC3 Campus, Community
School, 5:30-8:30 pm. Free. Info BOCES 273-
8804.

GED Classes, Candor High School.
5:30-8:30pm. Free. Info BOCES 273-
8804.

Health Home Interiors Seminar, DeWitt
Middle School Auditorium, 7-9pm. The
Ithaca Green Building Alliance & Com-
mittee for Healthy Homes present. Free.
Info 273-2707 or info@dewittschool.org.

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SECRETARY'S DAY

February 7

Jazz at the Bar, The Kitchen Theatre, 7:30pm.
Info 273-6623 or 273-6624. 318 N. Albany St.
Ithaca.

Museum of Art, 5-7pm. See all the new
work, along with Ron Jude's, is delightfully
world-premiere adaptation of Shakespeare's
work for a fun perform-
ance of music, dance and theatre. Ti
x & info 245-ARTS.
Comedy Service, Recovery Services Building.
7-8:30pm. Free. Info 273-1511. 119 W.
Court St. Ithaca.

2nd Annual J ump on Board Event, Holiday Inn,
downtown Ithaca, 5-7pm. Info 273-7070.
Free. Info Free.

Championing Community: The Un-
ion will guide you through the process of cre-
ating a new cooperative league in the area.
Info 272-2221.

February 8

The Lansing PTSO Annual Spaghetti Dinner,
Lansing HS, 5pm. Info 273-6351. The PTSo
scholarship fund. Fee. Info.

February 9

Churchill's for PreK3-8, Info 273-2707. 320 W.
Court St. Ithaca.

February 10

Cinemapolis Now Playing: The Soprano and
The Angle of the Sun comes a new musical story of
dining, dating, and composer team who created Tony &
The Best Beat Box Bard, Center for the Perfor-
music works vocal percussion with ska
and Tin Pan Alley music. Info 272-4497 or
info@kitchentheatre.org.

Info BOCES 273-8804.

GED Classes, at TC3 Campus, 11am-
2pm. Info BOCES 273-8804.

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Elementary, 9-noon. Free. Info BOCES 273-
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Health Home Interiors Seminar, DeWitt
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Free. Info BOCES 273-8804.
This week we make Valentine's Day pop-up cards & envelopes. Info www.museumoftheearth.org or 273-6623. 12:30pm Trumansburg Rd., Rt 96
This-leaf of the Yellow Dog. Cornell Cinema, Willard Straight, 2pm. This intimate & touching film follows a girl who adopts a dog against her father's wishes. Req for age 6yrs & up. Fee. Info 273-3522 or www.cinemacornell.edu.
The 2007 Crossing Borders LIVE season begins with the world premiere of a new musical. This is a benefit concert for the Ithaca Free Clinic. Playing will be The Horseshoes, Sim Edmond, Trevor Goodwin and Thousands of One. Info www.crossingscience.org or 273-3808 & email patchwork2@hotmail.com
Wild Ones, Cayuga Nature Center, Noon. Visitors can see three snakes & two hawks. Info www.Cayuganaturecenter.org or 273-6260. 1420 Taughannock Blvd. (Rt 89)
4 Sunday
American Red Cross Lifeguarding & First Aid for Homeowners. Playing will be The Horseflies, Bound For Glory: Pat Wictor, Neil Henninger, O.D.
3 Saturday
2:30pm Area girls ages 10-13 & their parents can participate in a hands-on workshop with Alvcerez del Castillo. He will bring in examples of tools & techniques used to construct & maintain long canoes. The workshop will focus on how to make a small canoe, such as a bow, paddle, oar or rowing hook. Fee. Info 273-5055 or email events@sciencenter.org
5:30pm Indoor stay and play for children 5 months to 5 years & their parents. Fee. Info 273-9477
11am Noon. Visitors can see amazing new vegetarian recipes, then taste pancakes, waffles, french toast, & beverage. Fee. Info 273-9477
12pm-2pm. Get an up-close view of three snakes & two hawks. Everyone is welcome including those concerned about someone else. Info 273-8364
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Wild Ones, Cayuga Nature Center, Noon. Visitors can see three snakes & two hawks. Info www.Cayuganaturecenter.org or 273-6260. 1420 Taughannock Blvd. (Rt 89)
4 Sunday
American Red Cross Lifeguarding & First Aid for Homeowners. Playing will be The Horseflies, Bound For Glory: Pat Wictor, Neil Henninger, O.D.
3 Saturday
2:30pm Area girls ages 10-13 & their parents can participate in a hands-on workshop with Alvcerez del Castillo. He will bring in examples of tools & techniques used to construct & maintain long canoes. The workshop will focus on how to make a small canoe, such as a bow, paddle, oar or rowing hook. Fee. Info 273-5055 or email events@sciencenter.org
5:30pm Indoor stay and play for children 5 months to 5 years & their parents. Fee. Info 273-9477
11am Noon. Visitors can see amazing new vegetarian recipes, then taste pancakes, waffles, french toast, & beverage. Fee. Info 273-9477
12pm-2pm. Get an up-close view of three snakes & two hawks. Everyone is welcome including those concerned about someone else. Info 273-8364
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Comic Book Club Hosts Winter Show

The “Cabin Fever” Winter Comic Book Show will set up shop on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Women’s Community Building in downtown Ithaca.

Among the guest cartoonists and writers who will attend are Elimira native Joe Edkin, the writer of “Sonic X,” a comic book of original stories about Sonic the Hedgehog; artist Ken Wheaton (“Simon’s Treehouse of Horror,” “1 Dream of Jeannie Tricks and Treats Annual”), small-press comic book creator Jim Coon (“Dead End,” “Detached”); and Superman novel- ist Roger Stern, writer of “Darkman vs. the Army of Darkness,” a mini-series starring characters created by Spider-Man director Sam Raimi.

The show is sponsored by the Comic Book Club of Ithaca, and includes comic book dealers, videos and DVDs. Other activities include a coloring table and “Artists’ Alley,” where the guest artists will be drawing sketches and caricatures. Sales of selected comic books and graphic novels will benefit Tompkins Learning Partners (formerly known as the Literacy Volunteers of Tompkins County). Admission is $2 and the show is open to fans of all ages.

School Sets Reading Event, Open House

Immaculate Conception School offers an open invitation to the Winter Reading Festival on Tuesday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

The event includes storyteller Regi Carpenter, a winter wonderland of children’s books and art, browsing for books at the Scholastic book fair and treats in the hot cocoa café.

In celebration of “good news in education”—the theme of this year’s Catholic School’s Week Events from Jan. 29 through Feb. 2—the festival will also feature a school open house for preK-3 through grade 8. Daytime open house hours will continue between from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

Book sales benefit reading enrichment at ICS, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Family Reading Partnership. For more information, call 273-9707. The school is located on South Plain Street in Ithaca.

Author to Speak on Philanthropy

In his book Begging for Change Robert Egger says nonprofits must stop chasing money and start focusing on the true work at hand. Egger will bring that message to Ithaca College on Thursday, Feb. 1, in a free public talk titled “Making Nonprofits Responsive: Solving the Interconnected Problems of Poverty, Hunger, and Homelessness.”

The presentation will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Park Hall Auditorium; a reception and book-signing opportunity will follow.
Town Contest
Continued from page 1
Democratic committee. Interested parties can contact her directly.
Both supervisor candidates have expressed their desire to allow the Democratic organization to decide on a candidate. “I’m expressing my interest to the party and the Democratic committee will decide who they support,” Joseph says.
“Tim and I both want the committee to express a preference, and then if there’s a very clear choice, that will probably be the end of it,” says Engman. “If it’s a split decision, then we’ll have to talk about what to do. Candidates don’t like primaries because they absorb lots of time, money and energy.
End of an Era
Valentino cites several factors influencing her decision to leave the supervisor’s post after her third term.
Two years in elected offices altogether. Twelve years in a really busy job like that kind of wears you down after a while,” she says.
“I was 72 years old in December. I got to thinking, ‘You know what, I’ve spent 23 years in elected offices altogether. Twelve years in a really busy job like that kind of wears you down after a while,’ she says.
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Losing Waste
Continued from page 2
izations to give a presentation on recycling and reducing waste. Further, according to Parr, new initiatives will focus on getting local businesses in line. “We offer a walk-through waste assessment for businesses, focusing on things like their purchasing practices,” he explains. “At the end we give them a report with recommendations on how to reduce their waste.” A “green purchasing” advisory group will help with this program and others, making it easier for businesses and residents to buy cleaning products, for example, that can be recycled rather than become hazardous waste.

In the end it costs less to do these things than to throw everything away,” says Parr. Still, one group involved in the process may suffer an adverse affect. As the waste stream narrows the trash haulers may find their workload is reduced as well. If less waste is going to the dump, consumer fees for garbage disposal should start to reflect this decline.

“It’s a change in social consciousness,” says Eckstrom, “from when it was the hauler controlling all the waste. That reduction should be reflected by reduced costs to the consumer from the haulers, but we haven’t seen it yet.”

Common
Continued from page 3
level, noting that a resolution passed by county legislators is more effective when signed by all of the inclusive municipalities. “It sends a much stronger message to the state,” she says.
All members of the council are elected officials from local governments, usually town supervisors. But alternate council members who are not elected officials are in place to vote when primary council members are absent. Tompkins County is providing staff support for the council.
As the TCCOG gains its footing, it is the beginning of something that permeates us all. Tompkins County is providing staff support for the council.
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Meditations
Continued from page 9
Voyager 1 space probe in 1990. Taylor explains what brought him to create music based on particle physics. It was inspired to compose “Seven Microdimensions,” learning about string theory, a recent branch of physics in which fundamental particles like quarks and photons are thought to consist of unimaginably small, vibrating strings. By vibrating in different ways, these strings account for all currently known particles, just as you can play many different notes on a single guitar string.

“But nobody knows whether or not the theory works, and in some ways it is quite bizarre.” Taylor adds. “In addition to our three familiar spatial dimensions, strings inhabit several other ultra-microscopic dimensions curled into complex knots. We don’t notice these microdimensions, even though the theory says we move through them constantly.”

In Taylor’s piece, the electronics are intended to act as a bridge between the “real world” of the flute and guitar and these hidden microworlds that permeate us all.

“Of the seven movements (played without pause), the fourth and seventh for both flute and guitar loosely represent the three macrodimensions,” he says. The others are solo movements inspired by various twisting microdimensions. “Collision Focus,” the first movement, zooms into microscopic chaos; the fourth, “Verticality” (the only movement without electronics), plays with ascents and wide leaps; and “Flatland” is a meditation on a plane curving into itself, leaps; and “Flatland” is a meditation on a plane curving into itself.

Taylor says, just as the seemingly simple numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and so forth give rise to complex knots. We don’t notice these things, though the theory says we move through them constantly.

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