

# Clarkson Institute Chief Faces Sex Charges

**BY LARRY ROBINSON**  
**POTSDAM** — A 43-year-old former Clarkson University department head wanted for questioning in more than 50 sexual abuse cases across the United States and Canada was arrested by state police Thursday.

Canton-based state police say that Thad Paul Alton, 43, of Route 2, Potsdam, was charged with two counts of sexual abuse, third degree. Just four days ago, Alton abruptly relinquished his position

as the director of Clarkson University's Management Institute.

State police began searching for Alton Tuesday morning. He was arrested at approximately 10 a.m. Thursday when police spotted his vehicle between Canton and Potsdam. He was initially charged by investigators with two counts of sexual abuse, third degree.

Police say the arrest stems from allegations that Alton had sexual contact with two 14-year-old boys, one from Potsdam and the other

from the Brasher area in 1987.

Alton was arraigned before Parishville Town Justice Dean Wilson and was released after posting \$2,000 bail, according to police.

State police Bureau of Criminal Investigation Investigator Richard Babcock said Alton's arrest comes as a result of a month-long investigation involving agencies in New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin and Canada.

Babcock said that "more than 50" allegations of sexual abuse of mi-

nors going back as far as seven years have been uncovered as a result of that investigation, and he noted additional charges are expected to be filed against the Potsdam man.

Outside of his duties at Clarkson University, Alton was an avid kayaker and served as an instructor for the North Country Kayaking Association — a youth sporting club centered in the Stockholm area.

One member, who asked not to be identified, said Alton was a

leader in the club's activities, which includes organizing kayaking competitions for North Country youngsters around the United States and Canada.

Attempts to reach Alton for comment have been unsuccessful.

While state police would not comment on the exact number of local youths who may be involved in the on-going sexual abuse investigation, another officer close to the case described that figure as "quite a few."

"This investigation is going to have some far reaching ramifications," said Babcock, who pointed out that he did not feel that any out-of-state extradition proceedings will take place because of the legal complexities of subpoenaing children.

"There are definitely going to be more charges. The investigation so far has uncovered cases involving more than 50 kids," said Babcock.

"All of the kids involved have

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## Waddington's Chamber Picks Best In Contest

**WADDINGTON** — The Waddington Chamber of Commerce announces the winners in their 4th annual decorating contest. Each winner will be mailed a check in the near future from the chamber, according to chamber member Liz Phillips.

The winners are:

In the original category — 1st place Lisa Locey of Rt. 345 \$25; 2nd place Alice Agen of St. Lawrence Ave. \$15; 3rd place Lloyd Sheets of the River Road \$10; Judy Sharlow of Rt. 37 \$5; 5th place Ernest Blair \$5.

In the Religious category — 1st place W. Evans Smith of Rt. 37, \$25; Heritage House of Lincoln Ave., \$15; Phil Spadacini of Lagrasse St., \$10.

In the traditional category — 1st place Robert Smith of Brookview Drive, \$25; 2nd place Mary Hanna of St. Lawrence Avenue, \$15; Richard Lauterbach of Greene St., \$10.

Honorable mention: Emmy Pemberton, Mart Hanel, Larry Clark, Matt & Jane Lavo, Terry Clarwell, Larry Burns and Howard Pruner.

## Decorating Contest Winners Noted

**HAMMOND** — The Hammond Volunteer Fire Department has honored several homeowners and businesses in the Hammond area as winners of their annual Christmas Decorating Contest.

Winning first place in the contest was Wayne and Lottie Bertram of the Webster Road who won a \$75 prize.

In second place: \$50 Clarence and Sally Custer on Main St.

The following homes won Honorable Mention in the contest: Dean and Cherie Rogers of Rt. 37; Harold and Rhonda Cazzoli of the Cook Road; Frank and Eulach Valerio of Main St.; Hammond Service Center, Main St.; Citizens Telephone, Main St.; Paul and Robin Paddock of Lake St. and David and Judy Schubert of the Split Rock Road. Hammond Fire Department.

## Psych Center Donates To UW

"With a \$9,700 contribution to the United Way's 1989-90 campaign," said an administrative member at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center in Ogdensburg, "together we care and it shows."

"We know that finding help for problems and community needs can be frustrating. We hope that our 30 percent increase in contribution to the United Way Campaign can help," said an employee. "We're sure it will!"

As Donald Ballou, Executive Vice-President of the United Way of St. Lawrence & Franklin Counties puts it: "Our contributions broaden the United Way's environment in addressing community needs. From the services supplied by the agencies we support; for example, counseling to rehabilitation and teaching, to providing vital emotional support, you as contributors, are part of the full scope of caring which affects our communities. Thanks to you, it works for all of us!"



**WINS CHRISTMAS PRIZE** — Joe Montgomery, center, has won the Christmas stocking prize at Garns Supply in Ogdensburg. At left is James Boprey, manager, and at right is Michelle Alkerton, Garns employee who drew the winning ticket with Montgomery's name. (Koch Photo)

## Heritage Mall Developers Plan New Shopping Center Plaza

**BY LAURIE RAMIE.**  
**MASSENA** — The developers of a \$55 million mall here say that an "overwhelmingly positive response" from prospective tenants and clientele has spurred their interest in also building a \$10-15 million strip center that will employ an additional 650 people.

Retailers who visit the Massena mall site sense the excitement that is building for St. Lawrence Centre, and that makes them much more excited to become part of the area," said Anthony C. LaValle, managing partner for Heritage Companies, based in Syracuse.

St. Lawrence Plaza will provide rental space for a proposed nine specialty or daily convenience-oriented stores who typically operate just outside a mall to capitalize on its captive traffic.

Heritage came before the Town Planning Board last night with an architectural, environmental and legal representative in tow to pre-

sent a first look at sketches of the St. Lawrence Plaza.

LaValle explained that the plans are now ready for review by both local and county regulatory agencies, which was the purpose of their brief preliminary presentation last night.

The meeting resulted in promises by the Town Planning Board that they would accept lead agency status for the project and would also forward the detailed plans to the St. Lawrence County Planning Board for prompt review.

The nine slots designated for occupation in the plaza have just about all been rented, LaValle told the *Daily Courier-Observer* after the meeting, but announcements of which retailers will locate there await a future date.

The one specialty store that has been firmly nailed down is the plaza's anchor tenant, a 52,000 square foot supermarket called Sun Foods that also has a branch loca-

tion in Plattsburgh.

"Sun Foods is a one-of-a-kind supermarket that will attract people from a large area because of its wide variety of fresh food, full line of seafood, full deli and low, warehouse prices," LaValle said.

If the environmental assessment review meets with approval from the town and county planners, Heritage intends to begin construction of the plaza in the spring, with opening set for fall of 1990. St. Lawrence Centre is slated to open Aug. 1.

Town Planning Board Chairman William T. Blair stressed last night that while the board was looking favorably upon the plans as presented, their chief concern would be for the residents of that commercial area.

LaValle gave assurances that the company is going beyond legal requirements to insure that everyone remains happy with the development.

## Massena Country Club Members Decide To Build Club House

**BY LAURIE RAMIE.**  
**MASSENA** — An overwhelming majority of the Massena Country Club membership voted Tuesday night to construct a new clubhouse, even though that plan carries a half-million-dollar price tag.

Approximately 70-percent of the 325 members participated in the 7:30 p.m. single question election, of those, an estimated 96-percent voted in favor of rebuilding, according to sources who attended the private session.

Presented to the members were two options — bring the currently condemned clubhouse back to life with nearly \$400,000 in repairs, or spend an estimated \$500,000 to raze the building and construct a new facility.

Country Club Board of Directors President James Grenier said late Tuesday night that the desire of the members came through loud and clear with a vote of 217 in favor of a new building, while only 10 suggested that repair would be the better choice. Absentee ballots from those unable to attend the session were also included in that count.

"That option makes me very happy," Grenier said. "It was overwhelmingly in favor of building a new clubhouse and that means the general membership has given us the authority to go ahead with it."

The St. Lawrence River Road clubhouse was condemned several months ago after engineers determined that the 31-year-old structure was unsafe for occupation.

Deterioration of the main support beams was at the heart of the problem, according to the Country Club's Building Committee Chairman Reginald Cross. The Board of Directors has been discussing ways to renew the building's worth for three months, and their work culminated in a Nov. 30 presentation to the membership.

Cross said Tuesday night that he too was pleased the members opted to go for the new building, having said previously that an architectural study of the facility by Seabrown Associates of Canton revealed that even strengthening those supports and replacing the hyperbolic roof would provide only 10 more years' worth of wear for the clubhouse.

## Man Charged In Sex Abuse Case In City

**BY MARK PURSER**

A 22-year-old Ogdensburg man was placed in city lock-up early this morning after he was charged with criminal trespass 2nd degree and sexual abuse 3rd degree — both misdemeanors — after he allegedly forced himself on a woman after removing her clothing, according to city court files.

Edward J. Shaver of 214 Pero Lane was arrested at 1:05 a.m. this morning on two warrants from city court, police said.

Shaver was accused of refusing to leave a woman's home after being asked. The woman's age was unavailable but police said she was in her 20's.

The woman lives in Ogdensburg. He was accused of removing the woman's clothing against her will. Shaver allegedly pulled the woman's pants down to her ankles and sexually abused her while preventing her from getting up, city court records show.

Shaver is also accused of fon-

dling her breasts, according to files in city court.

Police say when Shaver came to the woman's home on Dec. 8 the woman thought it was a friend from work knocking at her door, police said.

Police say that after Shaver sexually abused the woman, he left her residence.

She later filed paperwork against Shaver at city police headquarters.

Police say the victim informed them that Shaver had possibly been drinking before he forced himself on her.

Shaver is currently in city-lock up in lieu of \$500 bail. He is expected to be arraigned later today, according to city court officials said.

Police said the delay in the arrest stemmed from a delay by the District Attorney's office. The District Attorney's office requires that all requests for warrants be reviewed by the DA's office before they go to city court.

## Mashaw Admits He Stole Purse, \$1,100 At Rose's

**BY PATRICIA BULLOCK**

An Ogdensburg man has admitted he stole a purse belonging to Rose McLoughlin from Rose's Tavern on Ford Street November 16, which contained \$1,100 as part of a plea agreement with the District Attorney's office.

Earlier this week, Daniel Mashaw, 25, had his plea agreement thrown out when he told the court he didn't remember taking the purse.

Mashaw is represented by Atty. Charles B. Nash.

Mashaw tried to plead guilty to grand larceny, fourth degree, and attempted possession of a forged instrument, second degree. He had been charged with taking the purse and trying to cash a check for \$175 on the account of Tony J. Baker.

Earlier this week he claimed he had been told he took the purse, but that he did not remember taking it. However, Mashaw did admit he had the money in his possession

at the time of his arrest.

St. Lawrence County Court Judge Eugene L. Nicandri threw out the plea arrangement after Mashaw claimed he did not remember taking the money and after he refused to tell the court who the \$175 check was made out to.

Judge Nicandri accepted the plea Thursday morning after Mashaw told the court he had taken the money and that he was aware who the check was made out to.

Mashaw had been indicted for grand larceny, fourth degree, and criminal possession of a forged instrument, second degree. He is currently facing an additional one-year sentence for a violation of probation for consuming alcohol while on probation.

He had been sentenced to serve a six-month term in St. Lawrence County Correctional Facility and placed on five years probation for burglarizing Don's Tavern.

## City Hires Peccolo As New Building Inspector

**BY EVAN LAMBROU**

Ogdensburg officials have hired a city man to serve as building inspector to handle the city's planned crackdown on slum housing.

Joseph Peccolo will be starting his job on January 2, but the city officials say they will also have to fill the building inspector's position held by Robert Breen who quit his post Thursday, according to City Manager

## Santa Boards Seaway Ship, Brings Cheer