

DANAS. Then, I called
a phone because I didn't want peo-
ple to know I was taking out a
\$10,000 loan."

Heavy debts were not supposed
to dissuade Helsing from making
them heavier. "I was supposed to
keep everyone encouraged, keep
everyone willing to put down a flat
few thousand," she said.

But last year, she encountered a
special case: a couple that was
bankrupt and having marriage dif-
ficulties because they spent al-
most all of their time apart,
working off their debt, studying at
the center and raising a child.

Officially, Helsing had two op-
tions on how she could have ad-
vised them to deal with their
problems. She could have said:
buy more counseling or spend
more time taking classes. "It was
more time or more money and
they didn't have either one," Hels-
ing said.

So she told them to go home.

"That was the first time I didn't
handle a situation in the preor-
dained way," said Helsing. "It
was the first time I advised some-
one to handle their life and not
their psyche."

This was the turning point for
Helsing — the first employee to
leave the center. "There were a

and other expenses.

That was when Palmer's em-
ployees started talking — really
talking — for the first time.

In Friday's Star-Gazette: Break-
ing away.

Callers impersonate S-G reporters

Thomas Wright, who was quoted
in this week's series, "A Sciento-
logist's Story," said he received
calls Wednesday night from two
people misrepresenting them-
selves as Star-Gazette reporters.

Wright said the callers asked if
he or his wife, Kathy Raine, had
received any threats for speaking
out about Scientology. The callers
also asked about the threatening
note Margie Kuentz Hoffman re-
ported to Elmira City Police Tues-
day.

In addition, they inquired about
the workings of the Center for Cre-
ative Learning, where Wright was
formerly employed, including
whether books by L. Ron Hubbard
were sold there, where the money
went and if there was any racism
at the center.

The callers identified them-
selves as Jim Pfiffer, the newspa-
per's Towanda bureau chief, and
sportswriter Ed Weaver. These
Star-Gazette reporters did not
make the calls.