

**Final  
edition**



### Art awards

Arnot Art Museum announces winners of the Scholastic Art Awards. Details in **Weekend and beyond.**

### Cost of AID

The war on AIDS with city economies hard leading to higher tax lower real estate value **Page 6A.**

# STAR-GAZETTE

The First Gannett Newspaper

Serving The Twin Tiers

## Friday

February 5, 1988

## Weather

Today: Cloudy. 15 degrees.  
Tonight: Cloudy. Zero to -10.  
Tomorrow: Flurries. 10 degrees.

## On the market

Market drifts: Caution prevails and the stock market drifts Thursday, dropping just one point. **Page 6A.**

## Special report

# As the empire crumbles, SOI

*The first three parts of this series dealt with the practices, lifestyle and finances of Scientologists as told through the 12-year career of Margie Kuentz Hoffman, who rose to become third in command at Harry Palmer's Center For Creative Learning in Elmira. Today's segment looks at the period when Hoffman and others walked out on Palmer.*

By **LISA BENNETT**  
Staff Writer

### Engrams & E-Meters

### A Scientologist's story

She was on the West Coast promoting Harry Palmer's newest course, Avatar, when the phone calls from Elmira started coming in. Palmer's hometown followers were upset, in great debt and pre-

paring to sue him.

When Margie Kuentz Hoffman told Palmer about the calls she urged him to do something, she says he offered her a proposition. "He said: I'll give your bleedheart friends their money back you pay me \$5,000."

"I told him he was crazy," Hoffman said.

It was October 1987 — a decade since her struggle between faith and what Palmer preached and d