

## Rights of victims promoted

By DAVID A. VALLETTE  
Union staff

PITTSFIELD — The scales of judicial concern have begun to tip away from the defendant and toward the victim, according to court officials attending an all-day conference on "Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice" here Thursday.

"Historically, victims are perceived as having less rights than perpetrators," Berkshire Superior Court Probation Officer Richard A. Berti said, calling new legislation to help victims and witnesses "appropriate."

"Victims of crime should not also be victims of the criminal justice system," Berkshire Superior Court Judge Charles R. Alberti said in outlining efforts by judges to take a leadership role in seeing that courts treat victims properly.

The conference, organized by Clifford J. Nilan, chief probation officer for Berkshire Superior Court, was held at Berkshire Community College. College students interested in related careers joined court personnel and social service agency representatives at workshops on victims' rights and assistance, a new program of "intensive" probation, and a discussion of the sentencing processes in use today.

In opening remarks, state Commissioner of Probation Donald Cochran offered a comparison between today's court situation and that of a decade ago.

In 1974, Cochran said, the courts operated with nearly unlimited financial resources, increased their staffs, and placed emphasis on rehabilitating the convicted.

In 1984, the courts face fiscal restraint, and punishment is now seen as legitimate.

Called "clients" in 1974, the convicted are now called "offenders," and now face the issue that "offenders' behavior does create victims."

Berkshire Superior Court Judge Lawrence B. Urbano said that a good part of the problem is the "impersonal attitude" of the system.

While that attitude to some extent is necessary in order to ensure the rights of defendants, and to ensure that expensive retrials will not be necessary because defendants' rights were not fully served, the courts must make victims and witnesses feel that the system has a responsibility to them, Urbano said.

Elizabeth A. Keegan, who for two years has run the county's Victim/Witness Program on her own, asked judges to promote the concept of the "speedy-trial," asking that cases involving children be processed as quickly as possible.

"A lot of children are victimized, and it's tough getting them to recall what happened a year ago."

The new law designed to boost the rights of victims and witnesses went into effect in March. Among other things, it allows victims to orally or in writing give their assessment of the impact of a defendant's sentencing on themselves, which judges can consider.



Photo by David Vallette

Elizabeth A. Keegan, director of the Berkshire County Victim/Witness Program, asks judges to move more quickly to trial in cases involving children, during a conference on crime issues at Berkshire Community College Thursday.

## Williams College makes offer to buy Mount Hope

By JILL WALLACH  
Union correspondent

WILLIAMSTOWN — Williams College has made a counter offer for the Mount Hope Farm estate, according to lawyers working on the case.

Joseph Reinhardt, an attorney working with the Springfield law firm of Philip Hendel on the bankruptcy proceedings instituted in May by Mount Hope's owner, August E. Mansker, said that "the situation on the sale of Mount Hope is very delicate at present and we cannot comment on any details of the college's offer."

Reinhardt read a prepared statement that said, "in response to the notice of intended sale published in accordance with the bankruptcy rules regarding sales of property from a bankruptcy estate, Williams College has made a counter offer for the purchase of the Mount Hope

Farm in the amount of \$1.64 million."

Reinhardt said the counter offer was mailed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Tuesday and the court will have to determine, at a hearing to be scheduled, which sale, if any, should be approved as being in the best interests of the bankruptcy estate.

Reinhardt said he expects the hearing on the college's offer to be separate from one scheduled Oct. 31 on the sales/purchase agreement submitted by John R. Campbell, an entrepreneur from Kansas City, Kan., and California.

Campbell, in August, offered \$2.2 million for the 1,100-acre estate and \$300,000 for furnishings and antiques.

He has made a \$110,000 down payment and has spent time living at the estate. Mansker, who has had other financial difficulties, has returned to Kansas.

Campbell, in the sales/purchase agreement which was submitted in August, said he will pay \$394,000 within 60 days after the court has approved the agreement. The balance of \$1.5 million would be paid in September 1985. The offer is higher than one he made in July for the property.

Williams College holds the right of first refusal on any sale of the estate under a clause in the deed. But Reinhardt would not confirm whether the college's offer had anything to do with the rescheduled hearing on Campbell's offer.

The college and Mount Hope Realty Trust, which is owned by a group of Williams alumni, objected earlier in the year to the sale of the property to the Carley Capital Group of Madison, Wis., and have protested the terms of the sale to Campbell. The Williams alumni, called the Purple Mountain Partnership, also tried to buy the estate in December for \$1.2 million.

## Railroad museum move backed

By JOHN HITCHCOCK  
Union bureau chief

NORTH ADAMS — The president of the Hoosac Tunnel Museum Society has defended moving the railroad coach housing the museum from North Adams to Lee.

Charles N. Cahoon of North Adams said Thursday the shift will result in substantial benefits for the City of North Adams as well as for Lee.

Cahoon said that a number of people in North Adams had questioned the society's decision to relocate the coach to Sullivan Station, where it will be maintained by the Berkshire Scenic Railway.

The coach will become an asset for North Adams because it will serve as an information center for North Adams area attractions, including the new Western Gateway Park, the Natural Bridge, and the Hoosac Tunnel itself.

"The city will be putting its best foot forward in a place that is

already drawing a substantial number of tourists, many of them railroad buffs who would be most inclined to visit North Adams," Cahoon said.

Technically, the coach is owned by the City of North Adams, an arrangement made to facilitate the establishment of the Hoosac Tunnel Museum Society in 1979. The 1926 vintage coach was refurbished in 1979 and opened as the Hoosac Tunnel Museum in July, 1980. The museum has been operated by the society, a non-profit organization.

Cahoon pointed out that the space the museum occupies is owned by the North Adams Inn and the coach is allowed to be there only through special permission of the North Adams Redevelopment Authority.

The state does not intend to use the coach as part of the Western Gateway (to the Hoosac Tunnel) Park and will feature a much more elaborate display. But Cahoon said the park planners had offered to have the coach located there, if the

museum society would maintain it and keep regular hours.

"Our board rejected the idea, as it would keep us forever in the fund-raising business, and we would rather concentrate on support programs for the park itself," Cahoon said.

The board then voted to lease the coach to Berkshire Scenic Railway for three years for \$1, with the stipulation that the Lee organization provide substantial space in the coach for North Adams promotions.

It is planned to move the coach to Lee this fall.

**CORRECTION**

A front-page picture in Monday's Union of a marching bandman incorrectly identified the band as from Drury High School in North Adams. The musician was really from the arch-rival Hoosac Valley Regional High School Band.

## Cops assigned to day-care abuse probe

By DAVID A. VALLETTE  
Union staff

PITTSFIELD — Following preliminary screening of present and former children at a day-care center here, five police officers have been assigned to investigate possible instances of sexual abuses full-time.

Berkshire District Attorney Anthony J. Ruberto Jr. said Thursday that four Pittsfield police officers and a state trooper with the Crime Prevention and Control Unit are now investigating activities at the Early Childhood Development Center, at 48 Francis Ave.

There are now four charges lodged against Bernard Baran, 19, of Lanesboro, a teacher's aide at the center.



Associated Press photo

Child abuse suspect Bernard Baran Jr. appears in District Court Thursday.

On Thursday, Baran was arraigned on a charge of rape and abuse of a child with force. Pleading not guilty before Judge Alfred A. Barbalunga in Central Berkshire District Court, he is being held on \$15,000 bail, with the case continued to Oct. 18 for a pretrial conference.

On Monday, Baran had been released upon posting \$5,000 bail set after his arraignment on three other charges: two counts of indecent assault and battery on a child under the age of 14, and one count of rape of a child with force.

The alleged victims of the four crimes with which Baran is charged are a 3-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy, both in programs at the development center where the crimes are alleged to have occurred.

Thursday afternoon, in a meeting called "out of obvious response to a current tragedy in this community" according to spokeswoman Mary Huber, representatives from the county's 10 other day-care centers issued a statement in an attempt to allay fears of parents of day-care youngsters.

rare, to have an incident so close to home is disturbing to the club caregivers, as well as to you. We want you to take every opportunity to ask questions and visit with staff members about club procedures," Executive Director Susan Lampshire-Kates states in the letter.

In one of its facilities, the club has also decided to create a window to better observe activities in a day-care room, the director said.

Berkshire Center for Families and Children is bringing in a specialist to meet with teachers and parents and develop an educational program for both, designed to prevent abuse problems, according to spokesman Gordon Garrison.

"I think this community is still in a state of shock," Ms. Huber said of the impact of the Baran arrest.

Although parental feedback has not been as heavy as when a California case of alleged abuse by workers at a day-care center there was unveiled, the feedback from this local situation will begin heavily once the shock has worn off, she predicted.

**Probation ordered**

PITTSFIELD — David DeForest, 24, of 126 Depot St., Dalton, was given a six month suspended sentence Thursday in Berkshire Superior Court and two years' probation on drug charges.

DeForest was sentenced nine months after he pleaded guilty on Jan. 25 to charges of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

The charges stemmed from a raid on his home in Dalton on Sept. 1, 1983 by Dalton police.

The sentencing was delayed until Judge William Simons returned to hear the case in Berkshire County.

DeForest was given six months in the Berkshire House of Correction, suspended; 2 years probation; and ordered to participate in counseling.

## Adams Print Works auction brings in \$700,000

By JILL WALLACH  
Union correspondent

ADAMS — Over 250 people attended the second day of the auction at Adams Print Works on Columbia Street here Thursday and auctioneer Paul Saperstein expects all the items to be sold by early today.

The auction firm had gone through over 860 lots of machinery, tools and other items by 3:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon, and Saperstein said the sale has brought in over \$700,000 so far.

Buyers of the equipment and supplies will begin taking their purchases out of the factory this afternoon and on Monday.

Saperstein said all 1,100 lots of equipment and supplies were sold off individually because there were no bids for the whole group.

Much of the equipment was bought for scrap metal by local dealers and several from other New England states.

Two flatbed screen printing machines, which played a major role in the production line at the former Adams Print Works were sold for scrap at \$250 and \$500. The machines cost approximately \$150,000 each when they were purchased 20 years ago.

A bleach range, a large piece of equipment that cost nearly \$1 million new, was sold for only \$80,000 and will be shipped to a textile mill in Mexico.

A Zimmer rotary screen printer that had been repaired by APW employees after it was purchased from a firm in Blackburn, England, sold for \$21,000. APW paid \$70,000 for the printer and \$250,000 to repair it.

William Apkin of George Apkin &

Sons, a scrap metal firm in North Adams and the owner of Anestis Metals in Acton and Boxborough, said they had purchased quite a few machines during the two-day auction for scrap metal.

Apkin said most of the equipment being sold was so antiquated it wasn't worth much except for scrap metal, although there were a few machines that were still operable.

Apkin purchased six roller print machines for \$500 each plus some other equipment. Three other roller print machines were sold to Stanley Cunningham of Crystal Springs Print Works in Chickamauga, Ga., for \$1,800 apiece.

Saperstein said many of the items not purchased during the first round of bidding will be auctioned off again before the end of the auction today.

The proceeds from the auction will be used to pay the creditors of

the Adams Print Works, although the auction is not expected to raise enough to pay all the bills.

A joint mortgage of \$750,000 is owed to the Bank of Boston and the Massachusetts Capital Resource Co., a development group of insurance companies.

The \$550,000 loaned to the firm by the Bank of Boston was guaranteed for up to 90 percent by the federal Small Business Administration.

The Massachusetts Community Development Corp. is also owed \$1.3 million. The money was loaned to the Adams Print Works when the old Arnold Print Works reorganized in 1981.

The agency had between \$400,000 and \$800,000 secured by the plant's equipment, but observers expect the corporation to receive little from the auction. Money is also owed to local banks.

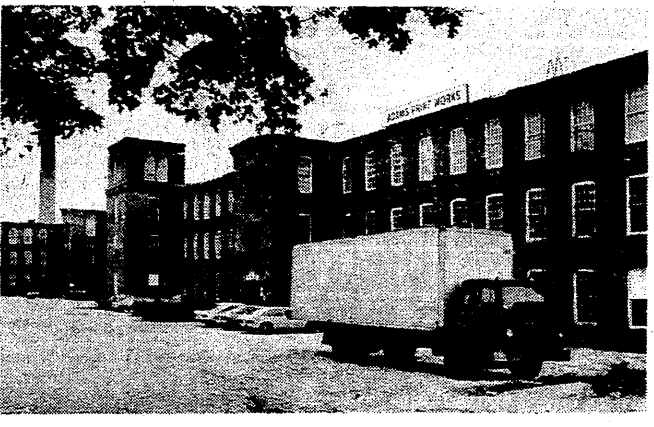


Photo by Jill Wallach

Cars park outside the bankrupt Adams Print Works Thursday while inside an auction attracted over 500 buyers and curiosity seekers from the area, from New England and from as far south as the Carolinas, Georgia and the Virgin Islands.