

**11-year-old enrolled at Simon's Rock**  
Son of Woody Allen, Mia Farrow taking classes

**Armed robbery suspect in custody**  
Pittsfield police made arrest during routine traffic stop

**Weather Watch**  
Today: Partly cloudy, mid-40s  
Tonight: Rain, some, 30s  
Tomorrow: Windy, cloudy, 30s  
Sunday: Fair, mid-40s

**Celebrate 1000**  
Countdown: 22 days to go

# The Berkshire Eagle

On the Web: www.BerkshireEagle.com Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Friday, December 10, 1999 40 pages — 59

## Tribute paid to six heroes

**Berkshire contingent feels bond**

**By Greg Sakonak**  
WORCESTER — When active and retired Pittsfield and North Adams firefighters boarded buses at Pittsfield Central Fire Station at 4 a.m. for the firefighters' memorial service here, they had a hunch they would be confronted with an event the likes of which they had never seen before.

But few could have been prepared for the outpouring of grief and support for the six fallen firefighters from Worcester residents and firefighters representing most of New England and much of the country.

*'It's the job that you do. You work on the edge, and you know that the next alarm could be your last,' said Pittsfield Chief Raymond Risley.*



**Thousands of firemen at services**

**By Greg Sakonak**  
WORCESTER — The pall that settled over this city seven days after the double disaster had not yet fully lifted here when thousands of firefighters gathered in grave silence along a three-mile route in downtown Worcester to honor the six fallen heroes.

It could be seen in the faces of Worcester residents and children who stood at quiet attention, holding bouquets of flowers and handmade signs that read, "Thank you heroes — I'll miss you," and "We will never forget you."

*'In Worcester, these are not the faces of unknown heroes, they are members of our family,' said Mayor Raymond Mariano.*

Nearly 200 Berkshire County emergency personnel were by bus, by car and by a special Amtrak train, heading to Springfield to the three-mile procession and interfaith ceremony at two-hour service at the Worcester Convention Center.

Pittsfield Fire Chief Raymond Risley, who went with more than 50 Pittsfield active and retired members of the 100-year-old department, said the emotional salute and inspiring tribute to the six Worcester firefighters who gave their lives a week ago.

"We are never with the likes of anything that size and hopeful, I'm never still," Risley said after the return bus ride yesterday afternoon at Central Fire Station on Columbus Avenue.

"The speakers said it very eloquently. It's the job that you do. You work on the edge, and you know that the next alarm could be your last."

Those who addressed the memorial spoke often of the bond among firefighters, saying it is a dynamic and powerful outside the profession don't understand.

This is a brotherhood," retired Pittsfield firefighter Joseph Aron said. "We could sit at any firehouse and they would let us sleep there for the night."

David Bartholomew, firefighter Dennis Ordway explained the brotherhood this way: "I've known my family. We can relate to what's going on, and if we had to die for someone, we would do it in a heartbeat and not hesitate at all. That's what makes us firefighters."

Firefighters pass an arch flanked by ladders at the end of a solemn three-mile procession yesterday in Worcester.



President Clinton passes during his address.

Debrae Redlerman, whose husband, Paul, was one of the six firefighters who died in the blaze, reads the name of her son at the memorial service. Another son is at right.

**Human corns grow in lab dish**

**By Loran Nevegard**

WASHINGTON — A Canadian-led research team has created the first laboratory-grown human corns, prompting excitement from manufacturers who hope the tissue could replace more chemical, brittle or flammable contact lenses and lead to the growth of artificial corneas for people.

"They show the same function as a real human cornea," said lead researcher Mark Griffin of the University of Ottawa, Griffin said the first growing cornea from human eyes cells when she couldn't find enough donated corneas to perform important medical research.

The cornea is a window into the eye, a transparent protective covering that also focuses light to the proper spot on the retina. Some 10,000 corneal transplants are performed each year using corneas donated at death, enabling people whose corneas became damaged or clouded to see again.

But there are hardly enough donations to fill that need, leaving little for researchers to use.

BOND, continued on A8

**Are you tired of waiting for philosophers to answer the question 'What is life?'**

**Geneticists pare life**

**By Rick Weiss**

WASHINGTON — A team of geneticists has come close to determining the minimum number of genes required for life to exist, an advance that could ultimately allow scientists to design and create living organisms completely from scratch.

"One of waiting for philosophers to answer the question 'What is life?'" the researchers took a scientific approach and concluded that about 100 genes are needed for a minimal life form to pass for "alive" — a state generally defined by its ability to reproduce and respond to the environment.

"The discovery of what appears to be the simplest recipe for making a living thing, described in today's issue of the journal Science, could shed new light on the origins of life and the myriad ways that biology has coaxed itself up since our time."

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But until speakers including President Clinton, U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Governor of Worcester Bishop Donald P. Barry and Mayor Raymond Mariano put the city's great loss in words, it could only be heard in the left-right of marching drums, occasionally punctuated by the steady tolling of church bells.

The multi-line of firefighters in dress blue uniforms, eight men wide, came from Boston, New York City, Washington, D.C., Manchester, N.H., Windsor, Ontario and Dallas, Ireland, to name a few.

Monday, with between 20,000 and 30,000 firefighters, and with others remaining on the ground and the streets surrounding the arena, Worcester remembered an event that has left their lives in a warehouse fire last Friday.

Nearly 200 Berkshire firefighters and public safety officials were among those who paid tribute (see story at left).

The families of the fallen were present with members of honor from the International Association of Fire Fighters, and with Gary that flew over the U.S. Capitol on Dec. 1. As he took a bus from U.S. Sen. John Kerry, James F. Lyons Jr. father of firefighter James F. Lyons III, looked his face in the mirror, bearing with him.

Before a rare solemn audience that approached only once — publicly when Clinton took the podium — speakers again and again spoke of the great bond held by firefighters. That fraternal bond they had nurtured for centuries.

Lynn, Thomas E. Spivey, Timothy P. Lyons, Paul A. Redlerman, Raymond M. Loney and Joseph T. McGuirk — to cite the burning Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse with the intent of saving lives, whether they were the homeless people thought to be dwelling there or their fellow firefighters.

And it was their selfless decisions that made those men heroes, the speakers said.

"This tragedy is defined by the amazing courage of two brave firefighters who rushed into a burning building, without

**TRIBUTE, continued on A8**

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**In The Eagle**

**Branding the bomb**

Boris Yeltsin lashed out at President Clinton for criticizing Russia's war in Chechnya, bluntly reminding him that Russia possesses a nuclear arsenal.

**Racial road rage**

Two lesbians were arrested on the charges during a 73-year-old black woman whose car was followed by their pickup for more than 20 miles.

**Reader's Guide**

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**Cellucci: Community college for those who flunk MCAS**

**By Joan McMillan**

BOSTON — The governor has a plan on the works to send the potentially thousands of high school students who might flunk the MCAS tests in 2002 to community colleges to obtain the remedial skills they lack.

The idea is yielding second momentum in the community college system. And a parents group opposed to the standardized test and the administration's math test.

Gov. Paul Cellucci said he expected to see significant improvement in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System scores by 2002, but acknowledged there will still be those who don't pass.

"To the extent that we have students who don't come out of the failing category, in either math or English or both, we want to make sure there is an avenue for them to fix that. And that avenue we believe to be at the community college," Cellucci said.

The class of 2002 will be the first class for which passage of the 100-point MCAS will be a graduation requirement.

Thirty percent of last year's eighth graders, who will graduate in 2002, failed the math MCAS.

Stephen Stone, chairman of the Board of Higher Education, plans to meet with legislators, of Education Commissioner David D'Amico again next week to discuss a draft proposal aimed at improving the community colleges in educating those who fail the MCAS.

"There really are going to be some failures used in some locations, significant failures that we need to start to plan for," Stone said.

But said the roots of such a plan had yet been estimated. It may be that per-pupil expenditures could

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