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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BEACON MOORE. Barbara Wilson, Marilyn Moore, Shirley Pittenger, Jay Pittenger and Larry Campbell show off the new memorial photo to the Beacon Memorial Association for the Beacon Memorial in the Beacon Plaza.

### Museum was Moore's dream

The old high school had hallways lined with cases of trophies, recalled Marilyn Moore, president of the Muncie Central Alumni Association board. The trophies were hurriedly put in bushel baskets and boxes and tucked away in closets when the old school closed. A 1950 Central graduate, it has been Moore's dream since the school's closing to have a museum for Beacon memorabilia. "I wanted to gather all of it together in one place — not Central history — before we lose it to time," she said. The trophies were cleaned and restored by Jay Pittenger, a 1953 Central graduate, and Larry Campbell, a 1954 Central graduate, just in time for the museum to open Feb. 21 for the Central-Milan basketball game. Most of the basketball, football, swimming, track, tennis and golf trophies were repairable with very few unclaimed pieces, like bands and feet, remaining in a box. A 1928 trophy of the Beacon's state basketball championship is one of the most prized trophies. Six photographs and scrapbook clippings from the collection of Joe McCrory are on display, showing the former basketball coach's accomplishments with his team. The most unusual items include door plates off the front of the high school and principal's office donated by Elmer Cox, a former student. "We also have a purple jacket, hats, blanket, megaphone, badges and stuffed animals from Herbert Hook, a longtime and well-known basketball fan," said Shirley Pittenger, the museum's curator and a 1953 Central graduate. "Many people will remember him from the '50s, '60s and '70s. He sat across from the announcers, often making his presence known."

### Music, drama and more

A large photograph of the Beacon Central Choir Choir in 1953 sits in the Beacon Memorial Room, water marks range of \$2,294 in credit card debt spread out on two cards, according to Myranda. "People who can't afford a credit card's minimum payment, who are using a cash advance from another card to pay the minimum, or who are postponing basic needs such as a doctor's appointment because they're tight on cash, should think twice before buying any gifts, says Howard S. Dvorkin, founder of Consolidated Credit Counseling Services. "Try not to use your credit card if you don't have to," says Katherine Orth, senior financial adviser at American Express Financial Advisors in Wilmington, Del. "If you don't have the money, period, don't buy because it is never a good idea to go into debt for something like a Christmas or a wedding present."

### Cash is recommended

Continued from C1  
"They are not at the point where they are ready to let loose the credit card," says Phil Rist of RistResearch, which conducted the survey on more than 7,000 consumers in the retail group. "But they are feeling better about the economy. Many will use credit cards, but financial planners recommend using cash — particularly if consumers already are in debt. Between 60 percent and 65 percent of consumers have an existing balance on their credit card, according to Consolidated Credit Counseling Services in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. In 2003, consumers had an av-

### IF FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

LOOKING FOR AN UNUSUAL gift for the holidays or for later in the year? The Art Association's Holiday Gift Gallery features the work of 50 artists and crafters in the Railroad Park in Union City. Gifts include paintings and prints, nice ceramic wooden toys, pottery, quilt racks, cutting boards, jewelry, holiday decorations, body and bath products, hand-knit ponchos and bean warmers, treats from Sista's Kitchen and items for the home. Gift gallery hours will continue through Christmas Eve. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 4-7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. The Art Association's Holiday Gift Gallery features the work of 50 artists and crafters in the Railroad Park in Union City. Gifts include paintings and prints, nice ceramic wooden toys, pottery, quilt racks, cutting boards, jewelry, holiday decorations, body and bath products, hand-knit ponchos and bean warmers, treats from Sista's Kitchen and items for the home. Gift gallery hours will continue through Christmas Eve. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 4-7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

## bits

### FASHION

**Zip into fashion when selecting a winter jacket**  
It's November. Do you know where your all-terrain jackets are? Combining function with fashion is key when purchasing an activewear jacket.

Companies such as REI, Nike and Spideak employ teams of designers whose mission is to create jackets that look good and offer cutting-edge technology. Brands such as "water-proof/breathable" and "Gore Tex" often appear on hangtags. According to the NTD Group, a market research firm, men spend \$2.8 billion on outerwear in the past year. So shopping out what's new and improved is important before shopping. What's in for 2004-05? Here are several trends among outdoor wearers:  
• Soft shell, two-in-one jackets.  
• Face shearing to the rescue.  
• Increased length in jackets.  
• Resurgence of wool.  
• Increased length in jackets. The soft shell is getting the most attention because it's all about "letting things in and letting things out."  
• The soft shell is the latest revolution because it helps moisture escape while dissipating body heat to keep you warm," she says from Kent, Wash.  
• A soft shell traditionally features a nylon outer face that sheds rain and snow. A polyester fleece inner face traps body heat. Add a bit of stretch and you've got a comfortable jacket that promotes mobility, too.

### TRAVEL

**Cruise through this travel book**  
NEW YORK — Trying to decide between a short cruise or a long one? A big ship or a small one? Basic ports of call or destinations you've enjoyed in the past? How do you find the right cruise for a multigenerational trip, or for a passenger in a wheelchair, or for an adult who prefers a ship with no children aboard?

The 2005 edition of *Cruise Cruises & Cruise Ships*, from Berlitz Publishing, may help you decide. The \$25.95 book, by Douglas Ward, who has been evaluating cruises for 20 years, rates cruises, explains precisely what makes the best cruises different from the rest and demystifies the complicated cruise pricing system. Ward authored Hapag-Lloyd's Europa ship as the finest cruise ship available, followed by the SeaDream Yacht Club's SeaDream I and SeaDream II, and the Royal Caribbean's Legend, Legend II and Spirit ships, and the Queen Mary 2.

### HOUSES

**Sprucing up your kitchen with new cabinets**  
Want to spruce up the kitchen with new cabinets? Today, lots of folks are taking on this do-it-yourself project. Home centers

are stocking up on all sorts of cabinets and parts, making things easier for you.  
First, find the highest place on your floor; it's your starting point. Then, everything else needs to be "blinded up" to equal that height.  
Set corner cabinets first; then work out from there. Hang upper cabinets before lower ones. Never use regular wood screws for hanging, or your stuff will wind up on the kitchen floor. Use special construction screws instead.

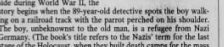
### FOOD

**Food Network tip: Oil-packed tuna tastier**  
Oil-packed tuna is more flavorful and has a nicer consistency than its water-packed cousin. Look for Italian tuna for a special treat. These tunas are in a totally different class than the flakey canned ones, and are ideal for Nicotina Salad.

### BOOKS

**Mute boy, talkative parrot star in book**  
The Final Solution: A Story of Detection, by Michael Chabon. Fourth Estate, \$19.95.

Michael Chabon more knows how to pick his influences. Chabon, who developed his love of comic books into the 2001 Pulitzer Prize-winning epic novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, turns to the classic genre of the English detective story in his novella *The Final Solution*. Originally published in *The Paris Review*, *The Final Solution* is a deftly written account of a mute Jewish boy, his talkative parrot, and an elderly detective-turned-bookkeeper who has a striking resemblance to a famous literary character known to hang out with a sidekick named Watson.  
Set in the English countryside during World War II, the story begins when the 10-year-old detective spots the boy walking on a railroad track with the parrot perched on his shoulder. The boy, unbeknownst to the old man, is a refugee from Nazi Germany. The book's title refers to the Nazis' term for the last stage of the Holocaust, when they built death camps for the mass killing of Jews. The parrot speaks only in strings of German words.  
"Here was a puzzle to kindle old appetites and energies," the old man thinks.  
Chabon is clearly having fun in *The Final Solution*, his first book for adults since winning the Pulitzer — he wrote the child's book *Somersault in the Ice Cream*. And when such a talented writer is having a blast, it's tough not to enjoy it right along with him.  
With five wonderful illustrations by Jay Ryan accompanying the plot, this novella is a fine way to pass the time until Chabon's next novel covers inland.



THE MUTE BOY AND HIS TALKATIVE PARROT, AND AN ELDERLY DETECTIVE-TURNED-BOOKKEEPER WHO HAS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO A FAMOUS LITERARY CHARACTER KNOWN TO HANG OUT WITH A SIDELICK NAMED WATSON.

## CHECK OUT THESE 1ST-DAY ADS... HOT OFF THE PRESS

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