

## Bee Editorial

# College graduates: educate yourself about credit

If you are among the hundreds of college grads returning to Amherst after a few years away, your number one priority is likely to be landing that first job. Your number two priority? Learning how to manage the money you'll make.

In the past months, 1.3 million college graduates flooded the job market across the nation. Locally, in addition to those returning to the area, many graduates of Buffalo State College, Canisius College, Erie Community College, Daemen College, Medaille College, D'Youville College and others have stayed in the Buffalo area to look for their first professional position.

The good news, according to Job Outlook 2007, is that employers say they will hire 17.4 percent more students this year than in 2006. However, with that first post-graduation job comes a new dimension of financial freedom

for most young adults, and the financial responsibility that comes with it.

"If you have made it through college with a good credit history, you'll want to maintain and improve that as you enter the job market," said Connie Scherrer, manager of the Transit Road branch of the Summit Federal Credit Union. "With most young people carrying some college loan debt, the last thing you need is more credit card debt piling up. Instead, this is the time when you should look to the future and develop good habits for saving and investing."

It may sound a bit contrary, but Scherrer tells graduates returning to the Amherst area that they need to think not just about themselves and what pleases them today but what they want in the future, possibly including a family and a home of their own.

When you put money away, it's not just for a

rainy day, but rather to support long-term dreams and aspirations.

Some helpful ways to think about it: have a plan for each paycheck. Allocate what is needed for student loan payments and living expenses; assign a portion of earnings that automatically gets transferred to savings; and participate in any retirement plans offered by your employer, especially through pre-tax payroll deduction such as 401k plans.

If you already have credit card debt, discuss the best ways to pay it off, now. Carry only one card with a low maximum spending limit and low interest rate, and pay it off in full each month. Debit cards are a great alternative, allowing you to spend only money that is already in your checking account.

Visit "Credit Reports and Reviews" under the member privileges section of the Web site [www.summitfcu.org](http://www.summitfcu.org) for more information.

## Spindle items



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• **A YEAR LATER** — On Oct. 11, 2006, The Amherst Bee hit newsstands with this top story: "Services threatened by proposed budget." The budget numbers quickly left the limelight. Who would have guessed the Oct. 18 edition's top

stories would be "State of emergency," "First dose of FEMA aid en route" and "Superintendent: schools to remain closed until safety guaranteed." The storm that started the evening of Oct. 12 came with unprecedented force.

I was in my apartment alone because

my roommate, Kathryn, was unable to make it home from her parents' house in North Buffalo. My power went out around 8:50 p.m. — minutes before "Grey's Anatomy" was scheduled to begin. I really thought it was going to be back on in an hour or so because, like many, I had no idea what was going to happen over the next few hours.

I woke up the next morning and saw that I still did not have power. Without looking outside, I called managing editor Dave Sherman, saying I would be late. I was slightly embarrassed when I looked out and realized that going into Amherst was obviously not going to happen.

Kathryn actually went to work. She walked the two miles from her home to the Buffalo Zoo, dressed in various winter gear from her parents' basement. As she said, the animals have to eat and be taken care of.

Sitting home alone was a bit creepy and lonely, so I heated water on the stove to make hot chocolate and ventured out

with my travel mug. Walking through the streets, taking pictures, I was freaked out — the best way to describe my mood. The narrow streets of Buffalo were a complete mess; I wondered when I would finally be able to leave.

I met many caffeine addicts during my walk. Assuming I had a mug of coffee, instead of hot chocolate, they pleaded with me to tell them where I got the coffee — probably for some energy as the cleanup process was sure to be extensive.

When I got home, I started shoveling the driveway by myself and made nothing more than a mere dent in the heavy, wet snow. I gave up and sat in my car, charging my cell phone and listening to radio updates. My level of "freaking out" rose as I became more aware of the seriousness of the storm, especially for my readers in Amherst.

Later in the day, I started to shovel out my car, but at that time there was more water than snow. Then my level of "freak-

ing out" decreased as the power trucks turned down my street. I forget now how many I counted, but I just smiled in relief that we were getting help. Others on my street clapped and cheered, waving to workers.

I became a nomad for a few days, staying with Kathryn's parents, who had power and opened their home to friends and family, and then went down to my parents' house in East Aurora. They had no damage. On Sunday, I went home to see how the city was recovering and was never so happy to see the lights on in my apartment. I then threw out all the perishables I purchased on Oct. 11. I also thought I was dealing with a frozen, dead fish, but luckily I was stopped before I flushed him, because he "defrosted" and is still alive today.

The memories of the October storm will never be forgotten: the sound of trees cracking, the chaos the next morning, the towering piles of branches and most of all the companionship.

## Out of the Past

### 125 Years Ago Oct. 12, 1882

Work on the Main Street bridge is progressing, and the key-stones have been placed in the east arch, which will be completed in about two days. The building of the west arch is well under way, and will be pushed as fast as possible.

A public auction will be held at the residence of Mrs. Anna Brunner on the Skinnersville Road, one mile north of Wolf's Mills, on Thursday, October 26. To be sold are two good working horses, one colt, three good cows, wagons, farm implements and seed potatoes. The auctioneer is M. Snyder.

Messrs. Fred Weide and D. Oppenheimer are about to open a butcher shop in the Klein building. They hope to merit a fair share of patronage.

Old winter will soon be howling at the door and those who have not ordered their coal should give Mr. Peter Grove a call at once.

The dry season has proved injurious to the celery product.

Charles W. Folger of Ontario County heads the Republican ticket for governor. The Democrats have nominated Grover Cleveland.

The Fulton Market, 352 Main Street, Buffalo, advertises canned goods, oysters, game, lake and ocean fish and poultry at wholesale prices.

"I am laying down the law," as a fellow said when he floored an attorney.

"A gentleman, when making out his will, added a clause that his wife should remarry. This was, he explained, to ensure that he would have at least one person to daily deplore his death."

### 100 Years Ago Oct. 10, 1907

H.B. Long, the village milkman, has raised the price of milk from six to seven cents per quart.

The Village Board passed a resolution to build a new village and fire hall, and a committee led by D.P. Arbogast has been appointed.

### 75 Years Ago Oct. 13, 1932

The call of St. Paul's Church, Williamsville, to the Rev. Charles J. Menge has been accepted and he will arrive here January 1 to become its pastor.

Russell J. Hoffman of Williamsville has finally received the Medaille de Verdun for his service with the 309th Infantry during the World War. He was not able to be at Camp Dix earlier this year when the French government bestowed the honor on some 250 veterans.

John M. Magoffin, whose family's name will be found in the early history of Amherst, died suddenly at his home in Buffalo on Monday morning, Oct. 10, 1932. About the last act he did Saturday evening before being stricken the following morning was to write a check for his subscription to The Amherst Bee. It reached the office Monday morning, after he was no more.

Work on roads and bridges in the Erie County system will be continued as long as weather permits, according to George C. Diehl, county superintendent of highways.

### 50 Years Ago Oct. 10, 1957

A Williamsville landmark, the Mansion House on Main Street, is a victim of progress. The three-story stone building, estimated to be 137 years old, is located on the site to be occupied by the new Loblaw shopping plaza.

A man held up the Miles Shoe Store in the Northtown Plaza about 10 o'clock last Saturday. The stick-up artist entered by means of a front door that was not closed all the way. The store owner said the bandit needed a haircut.

Harry Altman has turned over several animals from the Glen Park Zoo to the Buffalo Zoo. He decided it was better to have the animals in a place where they could be enjoyed the year 'round rather than at Glen Park, where they are on view only during the summer months.

### 25 Years Ago Oct. 6, 1982

U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato will be in Amherst on Oct. 14 to conduct a "town meeting" in Town Hall, 5583 Main Street.

Gloria Aquila of Snyder is chairman of the downtown events committee for City Fest '82, highlighting improvements within Buffalo.

Jimmy Goodrich, former world lightweight boxing champion from Snyder, died Friday, Sept. 24, 2007 in Fort Meyers Beach, Fla. The boxer boasted, "My hair was never mussed."