

Walton

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private women's college when the Walton family moved to Bethlehem to take advantage of a job opportunity offered to her husband. He is presently manager of manufacturing at Precision Roll Grinders in Allentown.

At the time of their move, Zachary was one year old.

"I started teaching math part-time at Muhlenberg College and, at the same time, became a part-time administrator at Allentown College," Walton recalled. But she soon succumbed to the urging of the Rev. Daniel Gambet, Allentown College president, and the Rev. Alexander Pocetto, senior vice president, and joined the Allentown College family on a full-time basis.

Not surprisingly, Walton also credits both men as mentors who have shaped the course of her life.

With an almost disbelieving shake of the head, Walton confessed, "I honestly don't know why I went into mathematics. Nothing in my childhood ever pointed that way. I admit I was a tomboy and loved playing sports with all the boys in the neighborhood, but I enrolled in Vassar as an English major.

"I was taking some math courses and my professors were exclusively female. One, in particular, began urging me to switch to math. So I did."

The rest is history.

The encouragement Walton received from her professors at Vassar was the inspiration for her work in encouraging young women to pursue careers in math and science. And although writing grant proposals to help achieve that goal admittedly falls outside her job

description at Allentown College, it's an avocation that is "stimulating and revitalizing for me."

Through the years, Walton has accumulated numerous honors, including the 1994 Woman of Distinction award from Great Valley Girl Scout Council

Walton also earned a 1991 Annual Achievement award from the Inter-Service Club Council of Greater Johnstown, and a 1985 Outstanding Woman of the Year award from the Lehigh Valley Association of Academic Women.

Two other awards were responsible for her three-month stay in England in 1992.

She was a Visiting Scholar at Wolfson College, Cambridge University, and a Fulbright Administrative Fellow at La Sainte Union College of Higher Education in Southampton.



AP Photo

On a higher plane

Former employees of aircraft giant McDonnell Douglas watch from an aircraft assembly area in St. Louis, Mo. during the announcement of the merger between the company and Boeing yesterday. The formal announcement was held in Washington, D.C.

Finals

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A student could take a week off from a semester during the regular school year without too much trouble catching up on the material, Greenberg said.

However, a student would not be able to catch up as easily in the summer if he or she missed a week, she said.

"A lot of students aren't prepared for the day-to-day dedication that summer school demands," Greenberg said.

Students can't afford to allow themselves to be distracted when they have an intensive workload, she said.

"People have such different motivation for taking summer classes," Greenberg said.

She said she teaches some pre-freshmen who are eager to learn, and on the opposite side, there are some students who tell Greenberg they only need a C to pass the class and graduate.

Scott Beattie, a graduate student

who teaches a statistics course this summer, said he is not making his final any harder or easier because it is the summer.

Beattie said students have more time in the summer and a lower stress level than usual.

"As a teacher, I think we change how we teach a little bit every semester," Beattie said. He added the work his students have done this summer has been good.

"I've been very satisfied with what they have done," he said.

Library

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COG Executive Committee that each municipality design a decision-making process through which the library issue could be brought to closure.

Daubert, along with council member Ruth Lavin, advocated

putting the decision solely in the hands of library trustees.

"That's our only choice, Tom," said Lavin, who presented a new study she said confirms that the 84 projected parking spaces at the new library will be more than adequate.

"We put our money there, now we're putting our mouths there," said council member Jean McManis. "What else can we do?"

Daubert said the board may want to charge ahead with the Foster Avenue site, even without support from outlying municipalities.

Skaters

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"All the local government people think that none of the skater people have taken action, and it's true," Kraemer said.

"I just don't think they're doing anything. They're ticketing kids

but there's no place to go.

Skating is just another recreational activity they need to make room for."

Price said she is confident the park will be built eventually.

"I think we've been on this thing

for four years, or five maybe," she said.

"It's long. We'd like to have it sooner, but we have faith enough to know that we will get this.

"We have patience, we have faith," she added.

Brain implants approved

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Howard Zirkle's hands shook so badly that he couldn't feed himself — until he received a brain implant that cut off his shakes.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the powerful "deep brain stimulator" yesterday, saying it could help thousands of patients with Parkinson's disease or the equally debilitating disorder called "essential tremor" that Zirkle suffers.

"It's made a great difference in my life," said Zirkle, 72, of Minster, Ohio, who was almost a recluse for five years before testing the implant. "You can't imagine going in to eat anyplace and not being able to pick anything up. . . . I can pick up coffee now, carry it to the patio and not spill a drop."

Medtronic Corp.'s Activa implant "can significantly decrease tremors in many people with these debilitating diseases," said FDA Acting Commissioner Michael Friedman.

"It made a great difference in my life."

— Howard Zirkle
brain implant recipient

About 2 million Americans have essential tremor, a little-understood hereditary disorder that causes violent shaking.

Up to 1.5 million Americans have Parkinson's disease, a degenerative neurological disease that causes shaking along with rigid limbs and other worsening symptoms.

The drug L-Dopa helps some Parkinson's symptoms, although its effects wane over time.

Only about 40 percent of essential tremor patients are helped with current medicines.

The shaking eventually destroys patients' ability to work or even feed themselves.

Some undergo dangerous surgery to destroy a small part of their brains that causes the trembling. But the surgery can cause

permanent problems with speech, movement and swallowing.

The Activa brain implant promises less shaking with fewer side effects.

In a \$25,000 procedure, doctors drill through the skull and implant an electrode into the thalamus, a walnut-sized region deep in the brain.

The left side of the thalamus controls movement in the right side of the body, and vice versa.

A wire runs just under the scalp down to the collarbone, where a pacemaker-sized "pulse generator" is implanted.

It sends electrical waves to the electrode, which emits constant, tiny electrical shocks customized to block tremors.

In a study of 196 severe Parkinson's and essential tremor patients, tremors decreased in almost everyone and sometimes even disappeared.

Some 58 percent of essential tremor patients and 67 percent of Parkinson's patients had a significant reduction in their tremors, according to the study.

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