

Brides

(continued from page 1)

"None of the dresses fit properly," Higgins said. "Tammy told one of the girls that she must have gained 40 lbs. since her fitting."

Higgins said that the sleeves of one dress had been assembled backwards, with the left sleeve sewed into the right armhole and the right sleeve into the left.

"The gown was disgusting," said Lisa's sister-in-law, Diane Higgins, one of the bridesmaids. "It didn't hang right or fit right. The side seams, which are supposed to go straight down the sides of the dress from the armhole to the hem, came around to the front at the top of the skirt."

The bust was too small, while the hips were way too big, Diane Higgins said. The skirt, which was supposed to be tea-length, went to the floor.

The inside edges of the seams were frayed and unfinished. A seam on one side of the skirt had been cut with pink shears, while the seam on the skirt's other side had been jaggedly cut with regular scissors, Diane Higgins said.

The Alfred Angelo label, which read "Dance-Allure, a division of Alfred Angelo" in gold letters and was glued inside Diane Higgins' gown, fell off into her mother's hand.

"I told Tammy that the gown was obviously homemade. She insisted that it came from a factory and finally told me that I didn't know what I was talking about," Diane Higgins said.

With the wedding two weeks away and no decent dresses, the five girls in Lisa Higgins' wedding went to PJW Bridal Shop, which obtained identical dresses from Alfred Angelo in two weeks. PJ&W's sales slips also read "Alfred Angelo #6110."

Janet Pisaneschi of PJW Bridal examined one gown which Lisa Higgins bought from Tammy's. "All Alfred Angelo gowns have seams finished on a marrow machine. There aren't any raw edges left anywhere," she said. "They all have a union label and size tag. All labels are stitched in, not hot-glued as on the dress which Lisa showed me. The material, thread and zipper all match. These are very high-quality gowns."

Pisaneschi said that the fuchsia gown which Lisa Higgins showed her had raggedly-cut, frayed seams sewn together with light-colored thread. One part of the gown had "fishing wire" in it. The zipper was a slightly different shade of pink (fuchsia) than the material.

Even the tags on the two gowns were different. The tag on the gown from Tammy's said "Dance-Allure, a division of Alfred Angelo" in gold letters, while the tag in the dresses which Higgins bought from PJ&W said "Alfred Angelo" in black letters.

"We never claimed that these were Albert Angelo gowns," Slater said. "You look at anything in my shop and it's that way. Any gown in this price range won't have finished seams or blind hems."

When Higgins sent the gown from Tammy's to Alfred Angelo's customer service department for examination by its quality control department, customer service supervisor Janet Feldman gave her a written evaluation of the dress.

Feldman wrote that "the inside tags are not of the type commonly used by Alfred Angelo, the inside seams are inconsistent with those commonly seen in Alfred Angelo gowns and the inset sleeves were unfinished."

"The dress sent to us does not represent the standard quality of Alfred Angelo gowns," Feldman concluded in her letter.

"I can normally get gowns in within eight weeks, twelve weeks tops," Pisaneschi said. "There's no six-month waiting period. The manufacturer gives each order a shipping date and an in-store date, which they always abide by."

"It takes four to six months to get a gown. Having one in stock is a rarity. We can't predict the date of delivery," Slater said. "I don't

care what other bridal shops say. I've been around for five years and have thousands of satisfied customers."

Slater recently relocated her shop from Main Street in Shavertown to West Eighth Street in Wyoming.

Angela Estes Allabaugh also bought gowns for her wedding party at Tammy's. She had no problems with her wedding gown, purchased off the rack. But the bridesmaids' gowns were another story.

Allabaugh's bridesmaids ordered their Alfred Angelo dresses, \$126 apiece, in August, 1992, and were told that they would be ready in four to six weeks.

In January and March, Allabaugh said that Slater told her that there were "problems" with the dresses.

Allabaugh says she called a customer service representative at Alfred Angelo, who told her that the dresses had never been ordered.

"Tammy couldn't show me a purchase order or any proof that the dresses had ever been ordered," she said.

After an unsuccessful attempt to get a refund on their dresses, Allabaugh's bridesmaids were forced to buy their dresses at another shop, which was able to obtain them in two weeks.

After having unsatisfactory business dealings with Slater, Susanne Stash O'Donnell filed a civil complaint with District Magistrate Earl Gregory against Tammy's Bridal, resulting in a judgement in her favor for \$320 plus court costs.

O'Donnell said that she ordered her gown, manufactured by Mori-Lee, which she paid \$320 in advance for, on April 11, 1992, for her November 28 wedding.

Three days later she ordered three Alfred Angelo bridesmaids' dresses with long sleeves, black bodices and iridescent green skirts.

Several days after having taken O'Donnell's order, Slater called her and told her that the company had discontinued that style but had three dresses on the rack which were slightly larger but could be altered to fit the bridesmaids.

O'Donnell said that while browsing through a brides' magazine two months later, she saw a photo of the same style of bridesmaids' dresses that Slater had told her had been discontinued. The information under the photo said that this style, with the iridescent green skirt, was only available with a green bodice.

When she asked Slater to check with the manufacturer, Slater verified that the bodices of the dresses would be green with long sleeves, not black.

When O'Donnell went to Tammy's October 12, she was shown one long-sleeved gown with a green bodice and skirt.

When one of the bridesmaids went there the next day for a fitting, her gown was the right color but had short sleeves. O'Donnell then found out that only one gown had the long sleeves which she had ordered; the other two had short sleeves.

O'Donnell said that since Slater told her that she had a no-money-back policy, she accepted the three gowns and had the long-sleeved gown altered to match the other two.

Although O'Donnell gave Tammy's until November 6 to come up with her bride's gown, she said that she never received it. After the deadline she cancelled her order and bought a similar gown from a bridal shop in Bloomsburg.

"I didn't get my gown until the day before my wedding. I never had a chance to have any pre-wedding portraits taken," she said.

According to records in Magistrate Gregory's office, Pamela Pascoe also filed a civil complaint against Tammy's Bridal, winning a judgement of \$929.77 plus court costs April 14, 1992.

According to the complaint, Pascoe ordered bridesmaids' dresses February 17, 1992. On August 27, 1992 she found out

that Tammy's Bridal had no account with the company, according to the complaint.

Slater has appealed the suit with Pascoe to the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas. Her attorney, Stephen A. Menn, refused to comment on the case until it has been settled.

"This is a small matter and will probably be handled by an arbitration panel," he said. "Hopefully it will be resolved in the not too distant future."

Lisa Higgins said that she has complained to the Attorney General, who is investigating the matter.

Deputy Attorney General J. P. McGowan confirmed that his office is investigating several complaints against Tammy's Bridal, regarding deposits for merchandise and fulfillment of obligations, but refused to elaborate.

"My attorney and I sat down with the Consumer Board and worked everything out. Everything was fine," Slater said.

Slater has countered that Lisa Higgins has been trying to get people not to do business with her.

"She has been lying about this and has affected my business terribly," she said. "She's claiming false things, telling people that I was going out of business."

Slater also said that it isn't possible for Higgins and Allabaugh to have called Alfred Angelo in Willow Grove to confirm Slater's orders.

"Alfred Angelo is under written contract with me so that they can't give out any information on my business. This is a standard practice with them - I'll show it to you in writing," she said.

"Why don't you write about my many satisfied customers instead?"



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Luzerne County Fair planning committee

As the 1993 Luzerne County Fair approaches (September 8-12), committees are hard at work finalizing plans. Committee members include, first row from left: Gary Hozempa, John Hannigan and Sebastian, Joe Walters, Ron Fitch, Ray Hillman, Doug Smith and Judy Kmetz; second row from left: Susan Stephens, Ayleen Landon, chairman Ed Kelly, treasurer Lillian Piatt, vice-chairman Clem Norman, Dick Williams, Walter Roberts, Dale Parry, Shirley Weidner, Sandy Dobrowski; third row: Wayne Pettit, Al Radjinski, John Urbane, Jon Pomrinke and Larry Hilbert.

Wrestling clinic at Benton August 9-13

Benton Tiger Wrestling Club will hold a Folkstyle Scholastic wrestling clinic at Benton High School from August 9 through August 13. This clinic is open entry to local grapplers. (Wrestlers from all schools are welcome to attend.)
Two sessions daily: 1st grade

through 6th grade, registration 8:30 a.m.; Wrestling Clinic from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Jr. High/Sr. High, registration 6 p.m.; Wrestling Clinic from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Entry fee is \$25. Only first 50 entries accepted in both groups. Takedown, Breakdown, Pin

Clinic will be conducted by four time PIAA state champion, John Hughes and two time PIAA state champion, Russ Hughes, former Benton wrestlers.

For advanced registration and group fees, call Scott Hughes, 864-3916.

PENN STATE



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND YOUR PARENTS!

PENN STATE WILKES-BARRE will hold OPEN HOUSES

Tuesday, August 3, and
Thursday, August 5 - 6:30 p.m.
at the Campus in Lehman

You can talk with counselors and learn about admissions, financial aid, and student life. A light supper will be provided **PLEASE RSVP to 675-9238.**

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!

Whether you're a high school freshman, sophomore, junior or senior, now's the time to plan for a Penn State education.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

If you're a high school graduate, you still have time to apply for the fall 1993 semester.

At PENN STATE WILKES-BARRE, you have so many choices.

The first two years of most of Penn State's 180 four-year baccalaureate degree programs are available at the Wilkes-Barre Campus. All credits are transferable to any other Penn State campus including University Park. Listed below are some of the majors which you may begin at Penn State Wilkes-Barre:

SAMPLING OF 180+ BACCALAUREATE AND 25+ ASSOCIATE DEGREE MAJORS

ENVIRONMENTAL MAJORS

Environmental Resource Management
Geosciences
Earth Sciences
Meteorology
Leisure Studies/Outdoor Education
and Environmental Interpretation Option
Wildlife and Fisheries Science
Forest Science
Geography
Agricultural Engineering
...plus other majors as well as an environmental engineering minor.

HEALTH/HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MAJORS

Exercise and Sports Science*
Nutrition*
Nursing
Health Policy Administration*
Human Development and Family Studies
Health Education
Communication Disorders
(*often pursued as preparation for Physical Therapy masters' degree)

ENGINEERING MAJORS

Civil Engineering
Architectural Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Computer Engineering

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY MAJORS

All of the Technology Majors can be completed at the Wilkes-Barre Campus
Surveying
Electrical Engineering Technology (associate and baccalaureate degrees)
Telecommunications Technology
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Biomedical Engineering Technology

BUSINESS/BUSINESS-RELATED MAJORS

Associate degree in Business Administration
Hotel/Restaurant Management
International Business Options
Accounting
Marketing
Management
Real Estate
Actuarial Science
Agricultural Business Management
Finance
Economics
Labor and Industrial Relations

EDUCATION

Elementary and Kindergarten Education
Secondary Education
Special Education
Vocational and Industrial Education
Art Education
Music Education

COMMUNICATION MAJORS

Advertising
Film/Video
Broadcast-Cable

LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS

Associates degree in Letters, Arts, and Sciences
Administration of Justice
Psychology
Sociology
English
Anthropology
International Politics
Public Service
African/African American Studies
Women's Studies
Prelaw

ARTS MAJORS

Architecture
Theatre Arts
Landscape Architecture
Music
Art

AGRICULTURE

Animal Bioscience**
Dairy and Animal Science**
Horticulture
Landscape Contracting
(*often pursued as veterinary school preparation)

SCIENCE

Biology
Mathematics
Astronomy
PreMedical
Chemistry
Computer Science
Physics

FINANCIAL AID: Eight out of ten students attending Penn State receive financial aid including scholarships, grants, loans and work-study opportunities.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Every year, Penn State Wilkes-Barre awards scholarships to more and more students. In 1992, 82 freshmen and sophomores received scholarship awards.

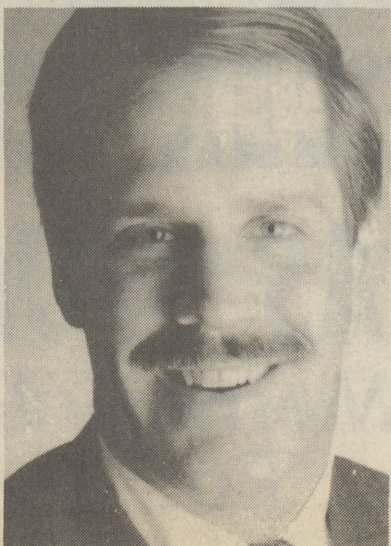
FIND OUT MORE! Call the Admissions Office at (717) 675-9238 or (800) 426-2358; or write: Admissions Officer, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, P.O. Box PSU, Lehman, PA 18627

Elected president of Heart Ass'n board of directors

Jay Kelly, Dallas, was recently elected president of the board of directors of the local chapter of the American Heart Association.

In this volunteer capacity, Kelly is responsible for coordinating and implementing various Heart Association programs and services with the assistance of fellow volunteers throughout Luzerne County.

A graduate of the University of Maine, Kelly received a master of science degree in Sports Management and Marketing from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He currently serves as assistant vice president for preventive health management at Wyoming Valley Health Care System, Inc.



JAY KELLY