

Out on a limb for \$100

United Press International
COHOCTON, N.Y. — It was snowing and raining and the temperature dipped to 35 degrees and Kate Kunz was sitting in a giant

maple tree. Kunz was in the tree for 48 hours this weekend, aiming for first prize in the 11th annual "Tree Sitting Marathon" in this Finger Lakes vil-

lage. She won. Kunz, 22, of Cohocton, was not the only contestant to sit for the entire length of the contest, from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Sunday. Of the 27 who started, she and Shirley Tribble, 21, of Cohocton "went straight through to the bitter end," a contest official said.

He said Kunz was named the winner because she had no ground time, while Tribble lost nine minutes of sitting time while on the ground for breaks.

The one-of-a-kind contest is part of the village's Fall Foliage Festival. The man and woman who spent the longest time in the trees with the fewest supplies won \$100 each. This year, 14 men and 13 women of ages 13 to 30 climbed into the giant trees.

After the first 12 hours of the contest only 10 hardy souls remained. "It rained Friday night — they were cold and wet," said Lee Dorsey, a contest spokeswoman.

She said the temperature Sunday was "about 35 degrees," and "it did snow and rain."

The winner of the men's division was named just after midnight Saturday: Bob Thurling, 30, of Cohocton who also won the \$25 "Old Age Award" for persons over 30 who sit for more than 25 hours.



Pinball Wizards?

Students Mike Molnoskey, left, and Jeff Johnson enjoy a game of pinball in the new Underground Railroad Snack Bar and Arcade, located below Sbsia Hall. The Station offers

games, music and a snack bar, and is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-11 p.m. and from 4 p.m.-11 p.m. on Sunday.

Battalion photo by Beth Breake

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9:45
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9:35
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Detective tracks down lost pets

United Press International
NEW YORK — A man slashes a knife through the top of a convertible and seizes the frightened poochle inside.

A German Shepherd bolts after a squirrel in Manhattan's huge Central Park and doesn't come back.

A caller with a French accent tells a grief-stricken dog owner: "I'm a bartender and one of my customers has your pet." Pretending to act as an innocent go-between, he sets up a rendezvous, takes \$100 and disappears.

Every day in New York City, on the average, someone steals a dog for ransom. Other animals stray from their owners, who often plaster whole neighborhoods with heart-rending posters offering rewards for the return of their pets.

A group called Petfinders tries to track down the runaway or stolen canines and in the process, consoles their worried masters or mistresses. All it takes is a little know-how and a lot of grueling detective work.

"I got the idea two years ago when I was taking a long walk and noticed a bunch of signs describing a lost dog," said Irving West, founder

of the non-profit organization.

"About 40 blocks away I saw a 'found' sign and the description matched. And I thought, there ought to be a central clearing house to compare the various sources of lost-and-found information."

Now there is. For a \$12 fee for the lifetime of the pet, West offers out a card detailing breed, color, weight and other features, then gins a search.

Along with his wife, Frieda, a couple of volunteers, West regularly combs the lost-and-found columns of all 52 New York City daily newspapers and sends printouts of missing pets to all 50-milers.

He claims a 45 percent recovery rate for an estimated 1,000 cases so far, "and that isn't bad."

But the 35-year-old former home administrator — he is an inhumane conditions — says hunting animals is only part of the job.

"The most important service we provide is counseling. We deal with a lot of older people, widows, and people. It can be heartbreaking to try to give them no-sense advice," he said.

"For example, many of them want to take out costly display ads. I point out that anybody who has a pet is most likely to look in the classifieds."

His eyes flashing in anger through gold-rimmed glasses and his bristling beard giving him the appearance of an Old Testament prophet, West scorned petpayers for "playing on people's feelings of helplessness and grief."

But, he said, the victims should keep their cool and try to do a hard bargain over the phone.

They should reject repeated, night calls or midnight meetings in obscure places, he said. "I should refuse to pay outrageous sums of money — and they should never hand over money until they actually see their pet."

West, who has two cats, concedes that some people today are particularly devoted to their animals. But he feels that others harbor an overtone of hostility toward both pet owners.

"What I think we need in overcrowded cities is more tolerance and compassion all around," he said.

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<p>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p>		
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