

12/27/96

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METUCHEN • EDISON

THE REVIEW

Vol. 29, No. 1

Friday, December 27, 1996

A Forbes Newspaper 50 cents

Man beaten by teen gang

15-25 youths attack him

By VERA CARLEY

THE REVIEW

EDISON — A 20-year-old Fords resident is recovering from severe injuries sustained when he was attacked outside the Brunswick Edison Bowl on Oak Tree Road 1:30 a.m. Sunday.

Although he suffered cranial nerve damage, a broken nose and eye damage, Ralph McGrane sounded positive about recovery in a telephone interview Monday.

"I am doing all right. I should stay one or two more days," Mr. McGrane said, noting he still suf-

fered from severe blurriness in his right eye because of the blows to the head.

Hoping to be home by Christmas, the Crows Mill Road resident said he was simply in "the wrong place at the wrong time."

Mr. McGrane had gone to the Brunswick Edison Bowl with a group of five friends for a game of bowling. As he was leaving with a friend, a 17-year-old Fords resident, a gang of teenagers attacked him.

"They tried to steal my jacket, they stole my friend's hat," he said.

Mr. McGrane said he did not remember many details of the attack. (Please turn to page A-2)



AUGUSTO F. MENEZES/THE REVIEW

Message received, loud and clear

Communications-handicapped students put on a multi-cultural holiday show at Washington School in Edison.

Session returns to TV

By VERA CARLEY

THE REVIEW

EDISON — The video camera will roll again as the Board of Education resumes taping its work session meetings next month.

The board voted unanimously Dec. 12 to tape the meetings after pulling the plug in September.

Board member Philip Labasi made the motion, saying the public was being excluded from important discussions and debates on issues at work sessions.

"All they see at this session is the vote," he said.

Mr. Labasi and Gwynne Kesselman were the only board members in September who objected to removing the video camera from the work sessions.

Board President David Dickinson had recommended the move, saying the camera distracted the board from getting its work accomplished. He claimed its removal would speed up meetings because some board members would not be inclined to make public speeches and other camera-shy members would feel free to speak.

Despite voting along with the rest of the board, Mr. Dickinson said he has not changed his opinion about the effect of the camera. Board members make speeches to the camera to get their message across, he said.

"It slows down the process ... Some (board members) want to make big political speeches, not to the board members, but out to the public," Mr. Dickinson said. (Please turn to page A-2)

Incident brings new calls for teen curfew in Edison

By VERA CARLEY

THE REVIEW

EDISON — Another attack on a young adult in Edison has renewed calls for a township curfew.

The Township Council again discussed implementing a curfew or other measures to put a halt to such incidents after a Sunday morning attack left a Fords resident with a broken nose and contusions.

The possibility of implementing a curfew was raised earlier this year by Councilman Billy Kruczkak to ensure police could question Edison teenagers out on the streets in the early morning hours. Mr. Kruczkak renewed his call in June after a teenager was brutalized by other youths following a camp-out that allegedly turned into a riot near the Steven's Preserve.

The Township Council dropped discussion of implementing a curfew after Police Chief Edward Costello delivered a report that cited other ordinances that police enforce to control teenager activity after hours, including those targeting loitering, parental responsibility and underage drinking.

(Please turn to page A-2)

Make noise about 287

DOT schedules forum on borough sound walls

By VERA CARLEY

THE REVIEW

METUCHEN — Residents and officials will get another chance to sit down with state officials and talk about erecting noise barriers along Route 287.

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) will hold a public meeting from 6-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22.

"Basically, it's a progress report," DOT spokesman John Dourgarian said.

The DOT expects to have completed noise measurements of the sounds emanating from Route 287 for the meeting.

However, a feasibility study of where noise barriers are needed won't be done until May. The study will also include preliminary engineering on how to install the barriers.

Mayor Ed O'Brien said the scheduled meeting is very encouraging for the borough.

The borough has been requesting noise barriers for more than 20 years. This year the issue again came to the fore. (Please turn to page A-2)



AUGUSTO F. MENEZES/THE REVIEW

Standing by the new Morris Stores Building plaque are Bob Nann Jr., Suzanne Nann, contractor Jim LaPorta, Eric Berger, Vice Chairman Arnold Nietsen, Executive Vice President Annamæ Brerenbach, architects Reidun Anderson and Fred Schmitt, and Metuchen Savings Bank Chairman of the Board Martin P. Jessen.

Plaque for Morris Stores guards landmark's history

By VERA CARLEY

THE REVIEW

METUCHEN — Although the doors to Morris Stores closed last fall, it remains a fixture in the hearts and minds of long-time borough residents.

And despite renovations at the site of the old store on Main Street, its history became a permanent part of the building Dec. 14 when a plaque commemorating its successful 47 years was dedicated.

On hand for the dedication were the Zuts brothers, who operated Morris Stores since its doors first opened in 1948.

"Everybody I meet says they miss the store," said Irving Zuts.

Morris Zuts opened the department store in 1945 and along with his brothers, William, Irving and Herman, turned it into a success.

The store bore the name of Morris because he was the oldest, according to William.

On hand for the dedication were

Irving, Morris and William. Herman is deceased.

"The people on the street said we would be in business five to six months because we didn't have much experience," Morris said.

Success came by extraordinary

'Morris Stores was the key store for the downtown Metuchen and they serviced the people on a very personal basis.'

— Martin Jessen

sale prices for anything the Zuts sold. At times the sales got so good, Irving Zuts said, customers would fight over clothing.

Customers may have been stingy over clothing, but they haven't been with their affection for the Zuts brothers.

"Wherever I go people recognize me," Irving Zuts said.

Although their store closed in the fall of 1995, the Zuts still believe Metuchen is a good place to live and work.

"I think they did a very nice job. Metuchen is still a very nice town," William Zuts said. "I miss the customers and people who work for us. I miss coming here every morning. It's more like a family. I knew everybody by their names."

Now residents interested in borough history will find the Zuts name inscribed on a plaque outside the Main Street Trattoria.

"It is great," Irving said.

The plaque noted that Mr. Morris Zuts was the founder of the company and he and his brothers became "pillars of their community."

In the plaque dedication ceremony, Metuchen Mayor Ed O'Brien commended the Zuts brothers "for laying the foundation on the borough." (Please turn to page A-2)

Council rolls the dice with Edison's municipal budget

By VERA CARLEY

THE REVIEW

EDISON — The Township Council is willing to take a gamble and sink money earmarked for potential legal liabilities back into this year's budget.

The township's budget raises taxes by 4 tax points to 39 cents per \$100, or an extra \$68 for a homeowner with a property as-

essed at \$170,000.

In lowering the proposed tax increase by more than two points, the Township Council cut the administration's proposed budget and used \$5.23 million of bond money reserved for contingent liabilities to offset the tax impact in the \$69.8 million budget.

"It is a very difficult budget; there is no doubt about that. The people of this town have said you have to bite the bullet when

it comes to spending," Councilman Raymond Koperwhats said. "I do have apprehensions (about the insurance funding). I think it's a gamble... It looks like they (the citizens) are willing to take this gamble."

Mr. Koperwhats cast a vote in favor of the township budget despite voting against the budget amendment last week. At that meeting he voted against the

amendment along with Councilman Peter Barnes III, citing concern about whether bond money should be used to offset the tax impact when there are other possible liabilities on the horizon. Questions were also raised about using a one-time infusion of revenue to offset tax increases.

Mr. Barnes cast the lone dissenting vote Monday. He explained afterward that his concerns remained the same.

"I am just troubled about using that amount of money," Mr. Barnes said. "I have some major questions."

The councilman, however, said he wasn't disturbed terribly by his fellow council members' actions. As the lone dissenter, he said, perhaps his concerns are unfounded.

"There is a certain gamble to this," (Please turn to page A-3)

A modern 12 days

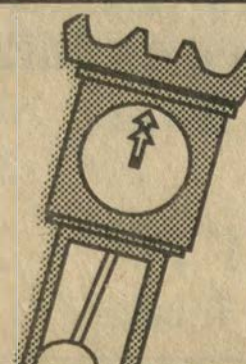
From partridges to turtle doves, let's check the cost analysis

See Community Life



Early Deadlines

Because of the New Year's holiday, *The Review* will have an early deadline for letters to the editor and press releases. They should be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27 for publication in the next issue.



First Nights

Start the new year with a special celebration

See Weekend Plus inside

Man attacked by gang of teens

(Continued from page A-1)
 assault.
 "After the first hit, I really don't remember much after that," he said. "There was just too many of them."

According to Edison Police Sgt. Freeman, the pair was leaving the bowling alley when they were confronted by a large group of 15-25 black males in their late teens.

Sgt. Freeman said the incident began when one of the males in the group approached the pair and accused them of bumping into the group and demanded an apology. Another member of the group then punched Mr. McGrane in the face.

Other members of the group joined in and began assaulting Mr. McGrane and his friend, who suffered contusions to his head, face, legs and arms.

The group punched and kicked the victims about the body and head for several minutes before an employee from the bowling alley came to the exit doors and the crowd dispersed, Sgt. Freeman said.

The 17-year-old then drove Mr. McGrane to JFK Hospital for treatment and hospital staff called the police.

As Mr. McGrane recovers, police are continuing to investigate the incident.

"We are treating it as a possible bias incident due to comments made to the victims during the assault," Sgt. Freeman said.

The sergeant said he would not detail what those comments were. Mr. McGrane also refused to comment on what was said during the altercation.

"All I can tell you is that it was a

black-on-white incident," he said.

The assault follows two similar mob attacks in the township on victims who were severely beaten and needed hospital treatment.

The most recent attack occurred Nov. 20 when a J.P. Stevens sophomore was assaulted by a gang of students while walking home from school. The incident left the 15-year-old with a broken jaw.

In June, a St. Joseph's High School student was beaten while attending a party in the outskirts of the Steven's Preserve. The student was beaten so severely, he had to have his ear reattached and now suffers from hearing loss.

Anyone with information regarding the assault is asked to call Det. Thomas Kapesandi of the Edison Police Detective Bureau at 248-7539. All calls are kept confidential.

Attack renews calls for curfew

(Continued from page A-1)
 "I am really concerned about this getting out of hand," Councilwoman Eileen Teffenhart said.

Ms. Teffenhart said although Deputy Chief Angelo Bekiarian assured her the township's laws are the strictest rules possible when it comes to teenage violators, she would like to investigate other areas that might curb such violence.

"Maybe we could make laws stricter requiring more parental responsibility," Ms. Teffenhart said. "It just seems that it is unfortunate that we had three serious

incidents."

Councilman Charles Tomaro said he wouldn't be in favor of a curfew unless it enjoyed the support of the police department and questioned its usefulness. A curfew would not have prevented this incident or any of the two previous ones, he said.

In another recent attack, a 15-year-old sophomore was beaten Nov. 20 when he and two of his friends were ambushed while walking home from school. The student suffered a broken jaw.

Mr. Tomaro added that he didn't believe the incidents were differ-

ent from other altercations in other towns.

That may be true, but Mayor George Spadaro said he was shocked by the level of violence and the range in age of youths involved in the incidents.

"It all really smacks of a loss of respect for the law and lack of respect for other people," he said.

Council President Bill Stephens said police have been prosecuting individuals to the full extent of the law and making quick arrests after the incidents.

DOT schedules forum

(Continued from page A-1)
 the front burner when Metuchen was alerted that it wouldn't be receiving the barriers promised for next year. The DOT decided to shelve those plans when it re-examined the process in which it was erecting Type II noise barriers — those along existing highways, where no additional construction is being done.

In the process of re-evaluating its noise barrier policy, the DOT decided it wanted to study the construction of barriers in seven communities along Route 287. It

also demanded assurances that those municipalities would share the cost.

The DOT and the borough have still not ironed out the issue of who would pick up the cost for erecting the noise barriers.

"That is still under discussion," Mr. Dourgarian said.

Mayor O'Brien previously suggested the DOT use the millions of dollars earmarked for widening the intersection at Route 27 and Middlesex Avenue, which has not been supported by the borough, for the project.

Sessions are returning to TV

(Continued from page A-1)
 want to play to the public. But we will try it the other way and see what happens."

Board member Felton King said he changed his vote to put cameras back into meetings because the removal did not change the board's behavior.

"I don't see much difference," he said. "The public now will be able to get information that it wouldn't normally get to hear. The camera wasn't there and the public didn't know the substance of the discussion."

Mr. King said allowing the public to see the board's actions could help build public trust.

Before the work meetings were taken off the air, they had been regularly dragging on past midnight, testing both the stamina and patience of board members and the public.

To help alleviate the situation,

the board also voted to separate its work session/action meeting into two meetings.

Later, Mr. Labasi explained he has been upset with the taping cancellation since it was adopted.

"I think it's been shown, now with the board voting 9-0 to reinstitute television coverage, that a lot of information and decisions being made in the work session are not being made known to the public," Mr. Labasi said. "This will be taking us back to the road of openness. All I want is full and open disclosure of our meetings in Edison."

Since the camera were removed from the work session and another meeting added to the agenda, board meetings usually have winded up by 11:30 p.m.

Mr. Labasi said he does not believe televising the meetings

again will make them longer. Although the regular action meetings may be ending earlier, he said the primary reason isn't the camera or the separate work session. Mr. Labasi said the difference is the change in administration, with Dr. Vincent Capraro assuming the reins of acting superintendent from Melindo Persi, who has been suspended from his duties by the board.

"The big improvement is with the acting superintendent in the way he prepares the agenda. We are using less paper and we are not repeating things over and over again," Mr. Labasi said. "That's the increase in efficiency."

The board may also choose to combine its personnel/finance meeting with its work session or action meeting to reduce the number of meetings, Mr. Labasi said.

Plaque guards history

(Continued from page A-1)
 borough's downtown."

Planning Board member Martin Jessen had suggested erecting the plaque in recognition of their work.

"I am for history. We have to try and have people develop roots," he said. "Morris Stores was the key store for downtown Metuchen

and they serviced the community, and they serviced the people on a very personal basis. They cared for their employees and they cared for their customers."

United States Real Estate Acquisitions L.L.C., resident Eric Berger's company, acquired the store this year. It is now being leased to the trattoria and a martial arts school.

We're on-line

Letters to the editor can be sent to *The Review* through the Internet. Send E-mail to: fornews@cnj.digex.net. This week, letters to the editor should be received by 5 p.m. Friday. For more information, call editor David Block at 722-3000, Ext. 6310.

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1.75L CANADIAN MIST 11⁹⁹	1.75L J & B Scotch 26⁹⁹	1.75L WOLFSCHMIDT Vodka 80° 11⁹⁹	1.75L TANQUERAY Gin 24⁹⁹
1.75L CANADIAN CLUB 16⁹⁹	1.75L CUTTY SARK 24⁹⁹	1.75L CONGRESS Vodka 80° • Gin 8⁹⁹	1.75L GILBEYS or SEAGRAMS Gin 11⁹⁹
750 JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK 19⁹⁹	1.75L GRANTS Scotch 18⁹⁹	1.75L MAJORSKA Vodka 80° 10⁹⁹	1.75L CASTILLO RUM Silver 11⁹⁹
750 GLENFIDDICH Single Malt 19⁹⁹	1.75L OLD SMUGGLER 15⁹⁹	1.75L LUKSUSOWA Polish Vodka 80° 18⁹⁹	750 BACARDI RUM Silver • Amber 6⁹⁹
750 DEWARS White Label 12⁹⁹	1.75L INVERHOUSE Scotch 14⁹⁹	750 ABSOLUT Vodka 80° 11⁹⁹	1L GORDONS Vodka 80° 7⁹⁹

MEISTER BRAU or SCHMIDT'S Reg. • Light 6⁹⁹	MILLER NIPS Beer Only 7⁹⁹	BUSCH 30-PACK 9⁹⁹	MOLSON Golden • Ice 14⁹⁹
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750 SOUTHERN COMFORT 76° 8⁹⁹	1.75L E & J Brandy 14⁹⁹	750 BERINGER White Zinfandel 4⁹⁹
750 CAHOLANS IRISH CREAM Regular 9⁹⁹	750 MARTELL VS Cognac 16⁹⁹	750 GLEN ELLEN Chardonnay • Cabernet 4⁹⁹
750 CAMPARI Liqueur 12⁹⁹	750 COURVOISIER VS Cognac 18⁹⁹	750 FETZER Valley Oaks Cab. Sauv. • Sundial Chardonnay 5⁹⁹
750 GOLDSCHLAGER Cinnamon Schnapps 14⁹⁹	VERMOUTHS	1.5L R. MONDAVI Woodbridge Sauv. Blanc • White Zinf. 7⁹⁹
750 JAGERMEISTER Liqueur 14⁹⁹	1L STOCK VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 3⁹⁹	1.5L SUTTER HOME Chardonnay • Cabernet 7⁹⁹
750 AMARETTO DI SARONNO Liqueur 15⁹⁹	1L M & R VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 4⁹⁹	750 CHERRY KJAFKA 8⁹⁹
750 LICOR 43 Liqueur 15⁹⁹	JUGS	750 R. MONDAVI Coastal Cab. • Zinf. • Pinot 8⁹⁹
750 SAMBUCA ROMANA Liqueur 15⁹⁹	4L CARLO ROSSI All Flavors 7⁴⁹	1.5L SEBASTIANI Heritage Cabernet • Chardonnay • Merlot • Pinot 9⁹⁹
750 B & B Liqueur 21⁹⁹	5L BOX PETER VELLA All Flavors 7⁹⁹	750 SIMI Chardonnay 10⁹⁹
750 DRAMBUIE Liqueur 22⁹⁹	4L TAYLOR CALIF. CELLARS Chab. • Burg. • Rhine • Rose 7⁹⁹	750 SIMI Cabernet 13⁹⁹
1.75L KAHLUA Liqueur 30⁹⁹	4L INGLENOOK Chab. • Burg. • Rhine • Rose • White Zinfandel 8⁹⁹	750 MARQUES DE RISCAL White 4⁹⁹
SODAS	2L COKE • SPRITE DIET COKE 1⁰⁹	750 MARQUES DE CACERES Rioja 7⁹⁹
		1.5L FONTANA CANDIDA Frascati 8⁹⁹
		1L HARVEYS BRISTOL CREAM 12⁹⁹
		750 LOUIS JADOT Pouilly Fuisse 15⁹⁹

AMERICAN	SPANISH	SPUMANTE	FRENCH
ANDRE All Types 2⁶⁹	FREIXENET Cordon Negro Brut 6⁹⁹	VERDI Asti Spumante 2⁹⁹	DOMAINE CHANDON Blanc D'Noirs • Napa Valley Brut 10⁹⁹
COOKS Brut • Dry 3⁹⁹	SPUMANTE	BALLATORE Gran Spumante 4⁹⁹	MUMMS Cordon Brut NV 19⁹⁹
EDEN ROC Brut • Extra Dry 3⁹⁹	VERDI Asti Spumante 2⁹⁹	STOCK Asti Spumante 5⁹⁹	PERRIER JOUET Grand Brut 19⁹⁹
TAYLOR Brut • Dry 4⁹⁹	CINZANO Asti Spumante 6⁹⁹	CINZANO Asti Spumante 6⁹⁹	PIPER HEIDSIECK Extra Dry NV 19⁹⁹
TOTTS Brut • Dry 4⁹⁹	NANDO Asti Spumante 6⁹⁹	NANDO Asti Spumante 6⁹⁹	MOET & CHANDON White Star 20⁹⁹
GREAT WESTERN Brut • Dry 6⁹⁹	M&R Asti Spumante 7⁹⁹	M&R Asti Spumante 7⁹⁹	MOET & CHANDON Brut Imperial NV 22⁹⁹
KORBEL Brut • Dry • Brut Rose 8⁹⁹			TAITTINGER Brut NV La Frances 23⁹⁹
			VEUVE CLICQUOT Brut NV 23⁹⁹
			DOM PERIGNON 75⁹⁹
			GEORGES DUBOEU Beaujolais Nouveau Pays Doc Niveau 5⁹⁹

Edison schools pass monitoring inspection

By VERA CARLEY

THE REVIEW

EDISON — Ceiling tiles were replaced and wall tiles painted as the district recently prepared for the state monitoring inspection.

Conducted every seven years by the county Board of Education, the monitoring focuses on numerous areas, including facilities, finances, teacher and staff evaluation, and curriculum.

Middlesex County Board of Education Business Administrator Ed Kent recently spent three days inspecting Edison High School, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson middle schools, and Menlo Park, Lincoln, and Washington elementary schools.

"For the most part we did very well,"

district Business Administrator Dan Michaud said.

Among the problems cited by inspectors were broken faucets at Edison High School and a leaky boiler valve at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

One reason the district did pass the monitoring was it had earmarked money in this year's budget in preparation for the test. Some of the \$948,091 for maintenance and repairs went toward necessary small-item repairs.

The money is allotted specifically for maintenance such as painting walls, replacing tiles, removing and replacing carpets, and installing new sound panels, according to a five-year comprehensive maintenance plan.

"We are not talking about big-ticket items here," Mr. Michaud said.

The business administrator said the district puts aside money every year for maintenance and repairs, a large part of which goes to service contracts.

Some residents opposed to a capital improvement bond referendum have raised the question of whether a significant amount of additional money is needed to bring the schools up to par.

Board President David Dickinson said passing the state monitoring test does not mean a referendum is not needed.

"We did a quick fix to the buildings to do a certain number of items," he said. "It wasn't raining so the roofs weren't leaking."

Mr. Michaud was also quick to argue the maintenance plan, state monitoring approval and a school bond referendum were not related.

"He (Mr. Kent) did not go beyond the walls to check the wiring — to check wiring that is 30 years old," Mr. Michaud said. "The roofs were not addressed in monitoring."

School roofs were a major part of the proposed \$37.1 million referendum defeated Dec. 10. Mr. Michaud noted some elementary schools only have one boiler; those are more than 20 years old and need to be repaired or replaced through a school bond and capital expenditures.

"It's not going to be pretty (if an elementary school boiler breaks)," Mr. Michaud said. "It's not going to be inexpensive either."

Some proponents of the referendum, however, recently called into question the district's efforts to pass state monitoring at a Board of Education meeting earlier this

month. They asked why the ceiling tiles were painted to hide the water discoloration caused by leaking roofs and made allegations that some classrooms were identified as storage closets.

Mr. Michaud said the district was told by county officials that the discolored tiles had to be replaced or painted, and broken or cracked tiles were to be replaced, but he denied other serious allegations, including that the district misrepresented special education classrooms as storage closets to the monitoring officials.

Mr. Michaud said that would be unnecessary because the county already knew about the district's problem with substandard classrooms and had given permission to use those rooms.

"There was no attempt to hide anything," he said.

County officials bring extensive checklist on tour of schools

By VERA CARLEY

THE REVIEW

EDISON — Middlesex County Board of Education officials used a detailed checklist when they swept through the district recently for state monitoring of schools.

The checklist for the evaluation of school buildings covers a wide variety of areas that must be complied with in order for a district to pass state monitoring.

The yes-or-no checklist covers whether the proper paperwork, such as a certificate of compliance, has been issued by the local fire official/inspector within the year, and if an approved asbestos man-

agement plan is available. It also covers areas like exits/interior, vocational/laboratories, classrooms and interior compliance requirements.

Some items require 100 percent compliance, while other sections require only 80 percent compliance.

In summarizing the results, the county checks the number of "no" responses in areas where 100 percent compliance is required. Then it calculates the number of "yes" and "no" responses for the 80 percent compliance section, adds those two categories together, and multiplies that total by .80. The resulting number is how many items

the district must comply with to pass monitoring.

Based on those results, the Edison school district was found to be in compliance this year.

Some areas that require 100 percent compliance are:

- Exterior switches and receptacles are covered by securely fastened weather-proof plates.
- Fire escapes and/or exterior stairs can be safely negotiated and are free of any storage beneath them.
- Fuses and/or circuit breaker panels are protected by metal covers and all unused circuit break openings are covered.
- Instructional areas are free of all unapproved construction: e.g. walls, partitions, doors and stairs.

(Note: Unapproved means no evi-

dence of Bureau of Facility Planning or local construction authority approval.)

Others areas that only require 80 percent compliance are:

- Exterior walls are free of structural cracks, loose masonry and crumbling parapets. Lintels are free of rust and flaking.
- Gutters and down spouts appear to be in good condition and are secured to the soffit and wall. Runoff does not appear to be obstructed.
- The grounds are free of holes,

glass, stumps, roots, rocks and other hazardous obstacles.

• The playground area equipment is in safe operating condition (free of rust, jagged edges and protruding bolt/nut ends, etc.).

• General purpose play areas and fields are provided for physical education programs and free play.

• The student enrollment of the school, as reported on the Fall Survey, does not exceed the functional capacity of the school.

• A chalkboard and display board are provided in each instruc-

tional space and are free of cracks and jagged edges.

• Doors on any occupied space are free of dead or slide bolts and permit exiting without the use of a key.

• Ceilings, walls and floors are free of holes, sags, evidence of water damage and other hazardous conditions.

• Toilet fixtures are operational.

• Food items and non-food items (cleaning products, etc.) are stored separately from each other in home economics laboratories.

Edison rolls the dice

(Continued from page A-1)

Council President Bill Stephens said. "I think the gamble is worth taking."

There are five or six projects down the road which will bring additional revenue to the township, he said, including:

- entering a partnership with a private water company,
- a possible county takeover of welfare services and senior transportation,
- turning the township's recycling into a money maker,
- increasing ratables with the further development of Raritan Center through the construction of the fly-over from Woodbridge Avenue.

If these projects pan out, it will prevent the township from facing 8-10 percent tax increases, Mr. Stephens said. However, he said the future of the township budget looks like it will continue to push taxes up three to four tax points each year.

Councilman Billy Kruczak noted Edison still has the second lowest tax rate in Middlesex County.

Mayor Spadaro's proposed budget would have raised taxes from 35 to 41 cents per \$100 of assessed property.

Instead of following the mayor's blueprint exactly, the Township Council decided to cut \$1.1 million in salaries and wages — 30 municipal positions. Also eliminated from the budget were \$600,000 in operating expenses.

Saved from cuts were the mayor's chief of staff and financial analyst/economic development assistant.

The Township Council had targeted those controversial jobs in its preliminary budget reductions. Originally, it suggested changing the title of chief of staff to executive assistant and reducing the salary for the position.

Mr. Stephens said the council's finance committee followed the wish of the mayor, who will have another year to prove these posi-

tions are needed. Both positions remain in the budget, he added, because the mayor moved money from other line items.

"Well, that's nice," Councilwoman Eileen Teffenhart said. "I'd like to know what he removed, what he swapped, and whose head got chopped."

The council can make recommendations for budget cuts, but the administration does not have to follow them.

Mayor Spadaro said although the chief of staff position had been saved after a discussion with council members, they still cut money from the administration's budget. Those cuts will force everyone to work harder, he said.

"We've got to be able to make do with less," he said. "I agreed reluctantly with the areas the council wanted to cut."

He said he went along with the reductions because many citizens cannot afford a big tax increase.

The mayor also pointed out the size of township government has shrunk over the years, despite an increase in Edison's population.

"We have less employees on the payroll now and we've got new programs to boot," the mayor said.

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New school-funding legislation could help district

By VERA CARLEY
THE REVIEW

EDISON — The school district could benefit from the new state school-funding legislation, at least initially.

The legislation approved last week might boost the district's state aid for this year, acting Superintendent of Schools Vincent Capraro said.

"I am just anticipating we are going to receive a little more money for state funding," he said.

The additional funding could range from \$500,000-\$850,000. However, Dr. Capraro

said those additional funds would be offset by the lower cap on local school budgets also mandated in the new legislation.

"If you look at the additional state funding money and the decrease in the cap amount, it is probably an equal amount (of money) or even less," Dr. Capraro said.

The new law only allows school districts to increase their budgets by three percent.

Board member Bruce Polkowitz said that makes it a very difficult task for the board, considering the fixed costs that rise each year.

The state plan also would increase state aid for many of the region's school dis-

tricts. The legislation increased the total amount of state aid to districts by \$286 million to a total of \$4.3 billion.

The increased state funding this year was combined with the establishment of core-curriculum standards in May. Those standards were devised to meet the state Supreme Court's 1994 ruling requiring the state to provide a "thorough and efficient" education to all students.

The state estimates it will cost each district an average of \$7,200 per year for each student to meet those core-curriculum standards.

Although the district's spending levels

are slightly higher than the new state-imposed average, additional spending can be approved by the voters.

According to Dr. Capraro, the district will meet the state's core-curriculum standards.

"I think we are at a point where we meet (now) if we are not ahead of the core curriculum (standards)," he said.

"No matter what changes there are, we'd adapt and be successful," Mr. Polkowitz added.

However, Dr. Capraro noted that state-funding legislation has continually changed.

And it may again. It is expected the state legislation will be challenged by the Education Law Center in Newark. It was the Education Law Center which filed the lawsuit that led to the state Supreme Court ruling on providing a "thorough and efficient" education.

Regardless of those changes, Dr. Capraro said he expected the district to be on target with its preparations for the 1997-98 budget.

The Board of Education plans to meet next month to continue its discussion on goals and objectives for the district and funding.

Metuchen officials uncertain about chances of tax hike

By VERA CARLEY
THE REVIEW

METUCHEN — Can the Borough Council hold the bottom line on taxes in next year's budget?

Borough officials said it is too early to speculate on whether the budget or taxes will go up next year. Last year, municipal property

taxes did not rise in the borough.

Business Administrator Bill Boerth said he has already received budgets from each department head. However, he said it is too early to make any predictions on whether taxes will remain stable.

"I am not anticipating anything major, but it's too early to tell," Mr.

Boerth said.

Mayor Ed O'Brien also added his reluctance to predict the budget future.

"We have a lot of imponderables," he said.

Mayor O'Brien said his number one concern with the budget is what the state does with the gross receipts and franchise tax.

Because that money, collected from utilities, is such a large portion of municipal budgets, many mayors have expressed deep con-

cern about the state skimming off the top.

Franchise and gross receipt taxes were \$934,467 in last year's \$9.7 million Metuchen budget.

Mr. Boerth said he's heard various proposals concerning the franchise and receipts tax, including phasing it out entirely over a five-year period.

The borough will also wait on state aid figures. Mr. Boerth said he doesn't know when figures on state discretionary aid will be re-

ceived by the borough, but he hopes they are released early, like last year.

There are also questions about additional costs facing Metuchen, including paying for daytime EMT coverage. The borough and Edison Township have agreed, in concept, to a plan of jointly hiring four EMTs to take emergency ambulance calls during the day in the municipalities.

Although the final bill and logistics haven't been completely ironed

out, Mayor O'Brien said it has been agreed that such coverage is needed. He complimented the Metuchen and Edison first aid squads for having reaching a proposed agreement without the acrimony that usually occurs on an issue that has become very sensitive for squad volunteers.

Mayor O'Brien added that savings from a decrease in Middlesex County Utility Authority's tipping fees will be offset by increased sewage treatment fees.

Bishop to help with outreach

Responding to the in-migration of thousands of people from the subcontinent of India, the Presbytery of Elizabeth (Presbyterian Church, USA) has invited Church of North India Bishop Franklin Jonathan to help the churches of the Edison area reach out to and understand their new neighbors.

Bishop Jonathan, his wife Kanchan, their son Vikas and daughter Jaya will be living in the manse of Carteret Presbyterian Church. The bishop will not only work closely with the Iselin, Oak Tree, Metuchen and Community Presby-

terian Churches, but will also be available to address the concerns of other churches in the presbytery which are experiencing rapid demographic change.

Mrs. Jonathan is the founder of Indian Church-related schools for the physically and mentally challenged. Invitations for the bishop and his wife to speak, preach or lead workshops will be coordinated by the Presbytery of Elizabeth, 525 East Front St., Plainfield, NJ 07060. For more information, call the Rev. David G. Cassie, associate executive, at 755-3776.



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Commentary

Yes, Virginia...

Reply to question is still valid a century later

One of the most famous newspaper articles had nothing to do with war, politics, crime or the economy. The article was a simple reply to a letter to The New York Sun from a little girl, Virginia O'Hanlon, who lived with her parents in New York City. Below is the full text of the letter and the reply written by Sun editorial writer Francis Pharcellus Church.

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

* * *

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest men, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

How to get the most from The Metuchen-Edison Review

The Metuchen-Edison Review invites readers to get involved with your local newspaper by calling or writing to let us know what you think is newsworthy. Our staff is always eager to hear your opinions, suggestions and comments.

If you have a news tip, or would like to get some publicity for a coming event, call editor Dave Block at 722-3000, Ext. 6310, or reporter Vera Carley at Ext. 6321.

This week's deadline for news releases is noon Friday, Dec. 27. You can mail them to The Review, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, N.J. 08876, fax to 526-2509, or send E-mail to fornews@cnj.digex.net.

LETTERS

Letters for the New Year's issue should be sent to the above address by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27. The normal deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number for verification purposes. An evening number is also helpful.

We prefer letters to be typed and double-spaced. If it is not possible to type a letter, please print neatly. Because of the chance of misinterpretation, we reserve the right not to accept letters that are handwritten in cursive.

We reserve the right to edit letters for matters of libel, clarity, fairness and space.

THE REVIEW

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RUMBLE

Letters to the editor

Sondergard rebuts his detractors

To The Review:

The hysterical responses (Dec. 20) to my three-sentence letter are remarkable in that they vilify me on the basis of attributing to me positions I did not take, on issues I did not discuss.

I made no argument against the school technology initiative ("blatantly hateful," or otherwise). I stated no opinion on the technology initiative in an effort to win converts, and if my letter was "arrant nonsense," I can at least demonstrate that I have good manners by thanking The Review for printing it. I indicated no personal animosity toward some of the initiative's more vocal supporters, said nothing about the effect, good or bad, of improving so visible and measurable an area as school technology infrastructure, and did not attack public education or technology.

I have intentionally taken no public position on the controversy about the amount and kind of technology needed in Metuchen's schools, because I recognize this as a complex issue about which I am insuffi-

ciently knowledgeable, and because I have had no desire to engage in the low level of debate so amply demonstrated in last week's Review by my critics.

The three specific accusations Mr. Mintz attributes to me, each "more false than the other" (a logical impossibility), are also not in my letter, including his belief that I accused him of being a Communist. I pointed out the similarity between the words and ideas chosen by Mr. Mintz to advocate his position regarding the technology issue and those of Karl Marx, because the similarity exists. This, however, does not necessarily mean that Mr. Mintz is a Communist, any more than my statement that $E=MC^2$ necessarily means that I am a scientist.

The failure of Messrs. Mintz, Golbe and Barron to understand my three-sentence letter makes me wonder if an English language comprehension initiative might not be as important as the technology initiative they so stridently advocate.

BYRON SONDERGARD
Metuchen

Donor outraged by shrub removal

To The Review:

On Thanksgiving I happened to drive by St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen and I was appalled to see specimen shrubs and large trees being cut down. While I had been previously advised by Brother Peter Murphy that these trees and specimen shrubs were to be removed, it was my understanding in talking to the St. Joseph's High School community and others that the cutting of the vegetation was postponed indefinitely.

As the donor of all of the trees and specimen shrubs and as the donor of the labor to plant them, I find it inconceivable that I was not notified one last time before the trees were cut. The materials and labor when donated to St. Joseph's High School had a value of at least \$20,000. To cut these trees in such a covert manner on Thanksgiving Day indicates that there is something more than cutting trees and shrubbery at the heart of this problem.

As you know, I have been a firm friend of Brother Regis and St. Joseph's High School for more than 20 years. During that time, Brother Regis has toiled and slaved to make St. Joseph's High School more visually attractive. In fact, it was his dedication which motivated me to make regular donations to St. Joseph's High School. During that time, I met with the brothers of the order and felt that my efforts were much appreciated by the St. Joseph's High School community.

I understand that the reason for the removal of the trees and shrubs was to allow easier maintenance and

grass cutting, the movement of some plants and trees to make the campus more aesthetic in appearance, and in some areas, to give more vision at the entrances and exits of the driveways. As an individual who has spent his lifetime in landscaping and to growing trees and shrubs, I find it inconceivable that I was not advised as to what should or could have been done, other than the total removal of the trees and shrubs. Selective pruning could have solved a majority of the problems presented. This would have facilitated safety and vision at intersections and allowed for ease of lawn maintenance. In a few cases, the trees and shrubs which were not appropriate could have been removed and placed elsewhere. In fact, I would have been happy to help in the movement of some of these bushes and trees to allow them to remain on the campus.

St. Joseph's High School depends upon volunteers and benefactors to do much of the physical work on the property. By cutting down these trees and shrubs, you not only hurt me but basically told me that my donations were not acceptable, and you also told anyone else who donates money or goods to St. Joseph's High School that in order to satisfy political ambitions of a few, the public at large is to be sacrificed. I cannot believe the incredible results of Thursday and Friday afternoon and I have been shocked at the callousness which has been shown by the school toward Brother Regis, myself and any other contributor.

JOSEPH A. BARTONEK
Barton Nursery
Edison

Boths are treasures of Edison

To The Review:

In a recent letter to the editor published in The Review, an individual attacked two of Edison's treasures — Joseph and Eleanor Both.

They are two individuals who have put in long hours and long days to make this a better place to live in.

Our sages teach us that when you pass on if you have one friend, you are a very wealthy person. In the case of Eleanor and Joseph Both, they are millionaires because they have thousands of friends that are there for them.

I've known Eleanor and Joseph Both for over 10 years. Recall what President John F. Kennedy said: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." He was describing the attitude subscribed to by the Boths. These two citizens emulate that statement. They are tireless workers for the seniors. They are tireless workers for anyone who needs help and for the benefit of all Edison residents.

Joseph Both did not run for the Board of Education to enrich himself. Joseph Both did not run for the Board of Education to make a name for himself. Jo-

seph Both did not run for the Board of Education to get his friends or family members jobs. He ran for the board for the right reasons — to make the Edison school system a more responsible school system to the taxpayers and a better system for the students.

The Ethics of the Fathers states by three things are the world preserved: truth, judgment, and peace. And it is said, judge ye why the truth and the judgment of peace is in your gates. It is furthered stated which is the right course that a man should chose for himself? That is which he feels to be honorable for himself and which also brings him honor for mankind.

I cannot speak for all the citizens of Edison Township but my family when I say Eleanor and Joseph Both have chosen the right course for their lives. They are a credit to their children, their children's children and this entire township.

This year the Almighty has blessed the Boths with a set of twins for grandchildren. I believe the Almighty in his infinite wisdom feels that the more Boths we can put on this planet, the better the world will be.

BURTON S. GIMELSTOB
Edison

This letter was received via the Internet.

More letters on page A-8

Letters to the editor

Don't fine student smokers

To The Review:

Re: "Edison board seeks to fine student smokers" (Dec. 6); I hardly thought — not in the time I was in it, nor in the daily passage of time since — that the Class of 1981 of Edison High School was tolerant, accepting or radical — until that particular headline allowed me to rethink my own personal history. Say what you'd like about that year of education (and every gram of it is true), but at the least we were given a taste-test of being an adult in our routine: Here, this is the place you can smoke cigarettes. Our preference is that you chose not to, as you can guess from health classes; yet, should you so make that determination to do so even on cold and wet days, even with a tight schedule of classes, here you go!

In a day and age when rubbers are freely distributed in some schools; at a time when people bark, yap and howl about having the "freedom" to be pornographers under the First Amendment; fining students and considering a revocation of their driver's licenses for something that still boils down to a choice sounds like we are attending to a matchstick while the town burns. Also, such strictures against cigarettes make the public school population closely resemble the prison populations, where free choice isn't a scenario, either.

Do we want students to be healthy and happy — or are we move involved in people-pleasing the insurance companies and HMOs that have a stranglehold on this country? What's next? A decision that the cafeteria food is most nutritious, so we'll fine students for turning away? How invasive are we going to allow Big Brother to become?

In 1981, it was a cynical, regular laugh to think about Orwell; in 1996, it's as simple a reality as reading a headline and knowing that every move is observed by some so-called trained professional. Personally I am grateful I can learn about this in my own kitchen — where I can take off my shoes, drink coffee, even smoke cigarettes — instead of finding myself furiously hiding out in a place that is supposed to educate me, not infuriate and handcuff me.

JEANNEE SHOBRIDGE
Bangor, Maine

Board's behavior 'fractious'

To The Review:

Being long removed from having children in the Metuchen schools, I have tended to leave educational issues to those more directly involved. If, however, the action of revoking the superintendent's use of a car was taken without his knowledge or discussion (article, Dec. 20), I must protest the disrespect shown to the superintendent. The Board of Education may have the right to direct the actions of and, if his contract permits, fire the superintendent, not to insult or cripple him. The public did not grant them that mandate, whatever the election results.

I am not an attorney but, notwithstanding the opinion of the board's counsel, life experience leads me to believe that the continuing use of a vehicle by the superintendent for many years constitutes an implied contract which would be upheld by any court. Any of you lawyers out there care to comment?

Unless the arguments used in the recent board election campaign were complete fabrications, the board has many major issues to pursue. I do not doubt the validity of the points about the aged car fleet, gas usage, etc., but they are penny-ante and divisive matters outside the mainstream questions on which the board should be concentrating, and one has to wonder why they are being handled in so fractious a manner. At least this one does.

CHARLES R. EISENSTEIN
Metuchen

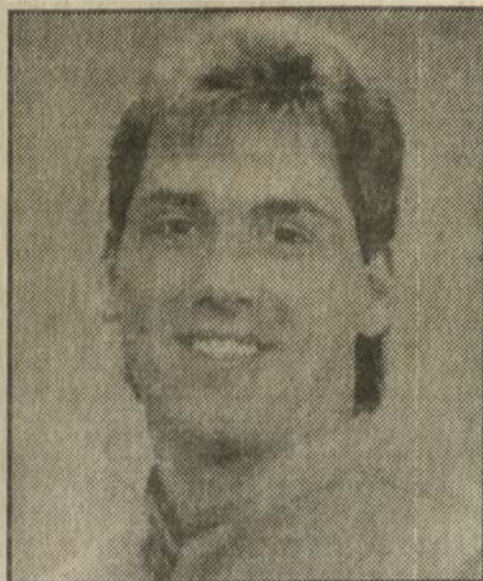
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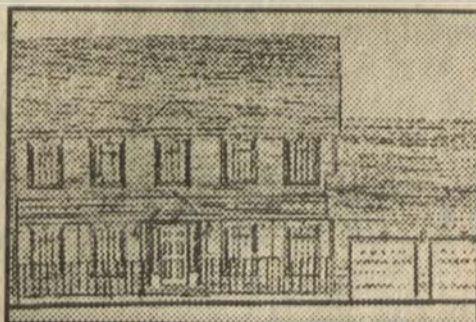
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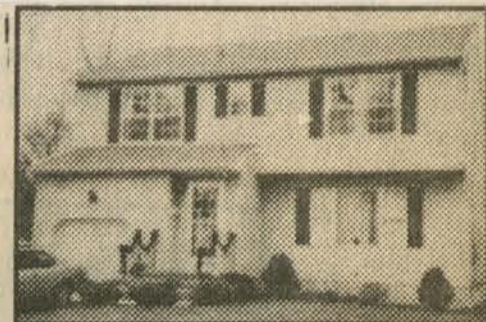
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Letters to the editor

Transportation cuts hurt citizens

To The Review: Last year legislation was enacted which increased the share of funding which would be available to Area Wide Transportation System to provide transportation assistance to senior citizens and disabled residents.

Unfortunately, as is often the case, the other shoe dropped. At the last minute, \$700,000 was slashed from the state budget, and county agencies were left holding the bag.

No one has ever argued that the state budget should never be reduced. The elimination of waste and the rooting out of inefficiencies are universal goals. But clearly this cut will do neither.

Middlesex County provides free transportation services to about 6,000 elderly and disabled citizens every year. Clients use the service for vital medical visits, to get to work and for recreation.

As a result of the budget cut, the county is now considering whether a fare should be charged to senior citizens and disabled residents for the transportation. This is but one more example of how state budget cuts are merely shifting costs to residents through new and higher fees, tuition and property taxes.

We can now add transportation for senior citizens and disabled residents to the growing list of victims of Whitmanomics.

BARBARA BUONO Assemblywoman, 18th District Edison

This letter also was signed by Middlesex County Freeholder Jane Z. Brady. Mrs. Buono's Assembly district includes Edison and Metuchen.

Focus technology in high school

To The Review: During the last few meetings of the Metuchen Board of Education, I have followed the discussions on Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the technology plan with interest. However, I feel that one important aspect is being overlooked.

I have had the pleasure of hearing a presentation several times by Dr. Michael Mahan, a former tenured professor at Auburn University and currently chief academic adviser to the Rutgers University Department of Athletics. In his discussion of the problems that freshmen have in adapting to a college environment, he has cited a study from Penn State which

determined that 60 percent of freshmen leave school in their first year since they do not have the high degree of computer competency that is needed to survive in the current collegiate environment. Since we are behind many districts in our level of computerization, I would hate to see any of our bright young Metuchen High School juniors and seniors fail to achieve their career goals due to lack of computer knowledge.

CHARLES A. BARKER Metuchen

Domestic Violence Crisis Team seeks new volunteers

EDISON -- The Domestic Violence Crisis Team is looking for new volunteer members.

The free service is available for domestic violence victims and fam-

ily members who live in Edison. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call 248-7361, Ext. 5, then leave your phone number and address.

If you need services of the Domestic Violence Crisis Team, call 248-7361 any time. In case of an emergency, call 911.

Drunk struck cop, police say

Police log

EDISON Philip Stragapede, 26, of Carteret, was charged with assault and resisting arrest 10 p.m. Dec. 20, police said.

Mr. Stragapede was arrested outside Cineplex Odeon at Menlo Park Mall by off-duty police officer Jason Vickery, according to reports.

Mr. Vickery was working at the Odeon when he tried to calm a disturbance between a 26-year-old Piscataway resident and Mr. Stragapede, police said, but the Carteret resident became boisterous and uncooperative.

Mr. Vickery reported he noticed Mr. Stragapede smelled strongly of alcohol and attempted to arrest him. The suspect then allegedly struck Mr. Vickery with a shoulder blow to his chest, forcing the off-duty officer to grab him to maintain his footing. Both fell to the floor, police said.

Mr. Stragapede was also charged with being drunk and disorderly.

A Perth Amboy resident's green GMC van was stolen between 4-10:08 p.m. from Menlo Park Mall Saturday, police said.

The car was parked facing Lafayette Road when it was stolen, police said.

A Bridgewater resident reported his car was burglarized and items stolen from it between 10:10-11:55 p.m. Saturday.

The car was parked at Macaroni Grill on Parsonage Road when it was entered and \$410 worth of items stolen.

A Carteret resident's 1993 Chevy Blazer, valued at \$15,000, was stolen from Bowl-O-Mat on Oak Tree Road between 7-10:30 p.m. Satur-

day, police said.

Police are investigating a burglary of Southside Deli on Main Street at 10:08 p.m. Saturday.

A witness, using a pay phone outside the deli, alerted police that the outside window of the deli was smashed.

Police found a large cement block on the floor of the deli.

The deli owner reported the cash register with \$125 inside was stolen along with a Brother Touch Labeler, police said.

Cleyn Caesar, 24, of Staten Island, was charged with shoplifting clothing worth \$1,582 at Macy's in Menlo Park Mall Saturday, police said.

He was allegedly caught stuffing clothes into a Gap bag while in the men's fitting room.

Police allegedly found Polo sweatshirts and Spandex tops along with Tommy Hilfiger clothes in the bag.

A Matawan resident told police he was attempting to enter traffic near Menlo Park Drive at 8:25 p.m. Saturday when a 1988 Chevy Nova refused to allow his car to merge, according to reports. The car then pulled next to the victim's 1992 Acura Legend and an unknown female passenger reached out of a car window and broke the antenna off his car, police said.

The antenna was valued at \$1,000, according to reports.

A South Plainfield resident returned from shopping to discover

her 1987 red BMW was stolen from Menlo Park Mall between 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, police said.

A radio was stolen from a room at Country Hotel off Route 1 between 9 a.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, police said.

The Clarin Am/Fm cassette stereo was valued at \$500, police said.

METUCHEN

Two Metuchen High School students were charged with defiant trespass at 12:21 p.m. Dec. 17, police said.

Capt. Stewart Novick said the two students, 17-year-old and 16-year-old males were walking on the railroad tracks at the rear of the Metuchen Manor, on Middlesex Avenue, when a police officer tried to question them.

When confronted the students fled. The police officer was able to stop one of the teens, who identified the other suspect. A backup officer caught up to the second juvenile, Capt. Novick said.

Both juveniles were arrested and turned over to the high school, he added.

A 17-year-old male was arrested for possession of marijuana and driving without a license 11:43 p.m. Dec. 20, police said.

Police learned the male was operating without a license when the car he was driving was stopped on Middlesex Avenue and Oak Street, Capt. Novick said.

The male was later found to have marijuana on him when he was searched after being arrested on the initial charge, he added.

The passenger in the car was not charged.

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Barnes father-son duo makes politics a family affair

By **VERA CARLEY**
THE REVIEW

EDISON — Despite a challenging first year in politics, both Peter Barnes Jr. and his son, Peter Barnes III, say they haven't withered under the strain.

Next month the freshmen politicians, both six feet, three inches tall, will celebrate their first year in their respective offices: the state Legislature and Township Council. The uniqueness of their simultaneous election last year surprised many in the political community.

But not Mr. Barnes Jr. The former FBI agent and Edison Township police director said he wasn't shocked to win election, but added he was pleasantly surprised about his first term representing the 18th district, which has been enjoyable and educational.

The assemblyman, who plans to seek re-election, said he was impressed with the quality of people working in state government.

"I was probably like a lot of other people, I thought they don't get a lot of things done," he said. "They do get a lot of things done."

Splitting time between Trenton and Edison, Mr. Barnes Jr. has been busy working with Assemblywoman Barbara Buono on various legislation.

One of the first actions he took before even being sworn in was pre-filing legislation to save the embattled State Commission of Investigation (SCI), which could have been shut down because its charter was about to expire.

The assemblyman's bill was combined with another from the state Senate and the SCI was saved from being terminated.

"I would say that was one of my highlights," Mr. Barnes Jr. said. "It gets involved in areas that fall outside the (state) attorney general. The SCI has the ability to conduct inquiries beyond that scope. The people that serve on it are just outstanding citizens from throughout the state."

Ms. Buono and Mr. Barnes Jr. have also been working on other issues facing the community, including hazardous busing. Last week, the legislature passed on their proposal to redefine and fund hazardous busing. Instead, it agreed to let school districts put money for courtesy busing in their budgets and prevent the state commissioner of education from eliminating it from their fiscal plans.

Mr. Barnes Jr., who bristles at being labeled a politician, preferring to be called a "public servant," said he also will work hard this year on campaign finance reform.

A former FBI agent who investigated political corruption, Mr. Barnes Jr. said he ran into several instances where politicians became involved in criminal activity in attempting to finance their campaigns. To eliminate that, he has proposed a plan which would restrict political candidates from accepting more than a total of \$1 for each registered voter in the district.

"It takes away all the PAC (political action committee) money and it brings it back to grassroots campaigns," Mr. Barnes Jr. said. "It would cut down the amount of money you have to spend to hire nameless consultants. They are the ones that get all the money and dig up the dirt — whether real or imagined."

The assemblyman's vision is of campaigns based on legislative debates in each municipality in a district, which could be televised on local access cable television. The campaign reform also would motivate more people to run for office, he said.

With a slew of other legislation taking aim at the same problem without such drastic restrictions, he said he did not know if his bill would be approved.

"It's absolutely humiliating to raise money," Mr. Barnes Jr. added. "It is definitely a very major negative and a real cancer in American politics in the way people finance these campaigns."

Although his bill may not be popular with lobbyists or fellow

politicians, Mr. Barnes Jr. said he would never shy away from speaking his mind, even though he plans to seek a second term. No one from the Democratic Party has ever tried to influence his vote, he added.

"Even on the controversial ones,

said. Democratic Party Chairman Thomas Paterniti, Mayor George Spadaro, and former Mayor Samuel Convery have not interfered with this council's votes, he added.

"None of them have ever called me," Mr. Barnes III said. "On Public Works (a council subcommittee

problems in the department and suggestions on improvements.

Although some of those suggestions have been implemented, at the time the trio was criticized for the investigation by dome who said it would hurt the Democratic Party.

Assemblyman Barnes said similar statements were made to him as police director.

"It was the same thing I ran into as police director, trying to correct the ills in the department. They said 'the other side is going to use this against us and you are going to give them an opportunity,'" he recalled. "It potentially has a chilling effect on doing the right thing ... You have to consider what is the right thing in your heart, mind and soul."

According to Mr. Barnes III, doing the right thing meant taking a stand against relying on bond money previously earmarked for potential legal liabilities to offset taxes. Mr. Barnes III, who had said he wouldn't let the issue slip by him, voted against the proposed township budget Monday because it called for using the bond money to offset taxes.

That vote put him on the opposite side of the fence with the Democratic majority on the council — a place the councilman often finds himself.

Despite the differences on the budget, Mr. Barnes III said he believes the council has moved the township forward this year.

"We have a long way to go, but I hope we've done a couple of things," he said. "We hope that we've enhanced the credibility of the municipal government — that our word is our bond."

There have been numerous times when the new Township Council members have had to learn about issues on the run. The biggest was probably the township budget; they were sworn into office in January and it was already seven months late in being adopted.

"There is a learning curve. You have to learn as you go," Mr. Barnes III said. "You never just vote

on an issue and you have to do your homework."

Mr. Barnes III said in those times he turns to people who have background knowledge. He also said he is careful to listen to the public, including the familiar faces at council meetings.

"I am not bothered by the Eleanore Boths, Burton Gimelstobs, and Jim Kukors of the meetings," he said. "I think it's your duty to listen. Sometimes they have very good ideas. Sometimes they don't. Others enjoy the celebrity status of being on television."

In turn, those activists say while they do not agree with Mr. Barnes III on every issue, they respect the councilman, noting his integrity and saying they expect more of him than other township officials.

"It's very rare to hear that. I will live up to that expectation," he said. "I think the other six (council members) will also live up to that (expectation) and have."

Mr. Barnes Jr. said at the legislative level, representatives don't have the same kind of contact with the public as his son does. At the local

level, the results of ordinances and municipal action are more apparent, as Mr. Barnes Jr. experienced when he was Edison's police director for three years, he said. During those days, many complaints came from the same group of people, he recalled.

Councilman Barnes noted his fellow running mates and fellow freshman council members, Mr. Tomaro, Joan Kapitan and Billy Kruczak, have all worked diligently. He also praised Mr. Stephens for leading the council during some difficult times, saying he has done a "superb job."

The councilman even had kind words for Republican council members Eileen Teffenhart and Raymond Koperwhats. Despite differences of opinion between the two parties, Mr. Barnes III said the two council members are honest and dedicated public servants.



AUGUSTO F. MENEZES/THE REVIEW

Edison Township Councilman Peter Barnes III and his father, state Assemblyman Peter Barnes Jr., are both wrapping up their first year in politics.

no one tells you how to vote," Mr. Barnes Jr. said.

His son agreed, saying on the local level, he also has never been told what to do.

"I have never gotten a phone call that 'you must do that,'" Mr. Barnes III said.

The councilman noted the Democrats on the Township Council ran on the slogan "People, Not Politics," and although it has been used against them at times, they are voting their conscience, he

investigation) there was definitely commentary, but not from the hierarchy ... No one ever said 'drop the investigation.'"

Mr. Barnes III along with Council President Bill Stephens and Councilman Charles Tomaro investigated the Department of Public Works (DPW) after a fatal car accident involving an off-duty sanitation worker and the arrest of other off-duty DPW workers on drug charges. Their investigation culminated in a report detailing

"You have to consider what is the right thing in your heart, mind and soul."

— Peter Barnes Jr.
State assemblyman

"You have to learn as you go. You never just vote on an issue and you have to do your homework."

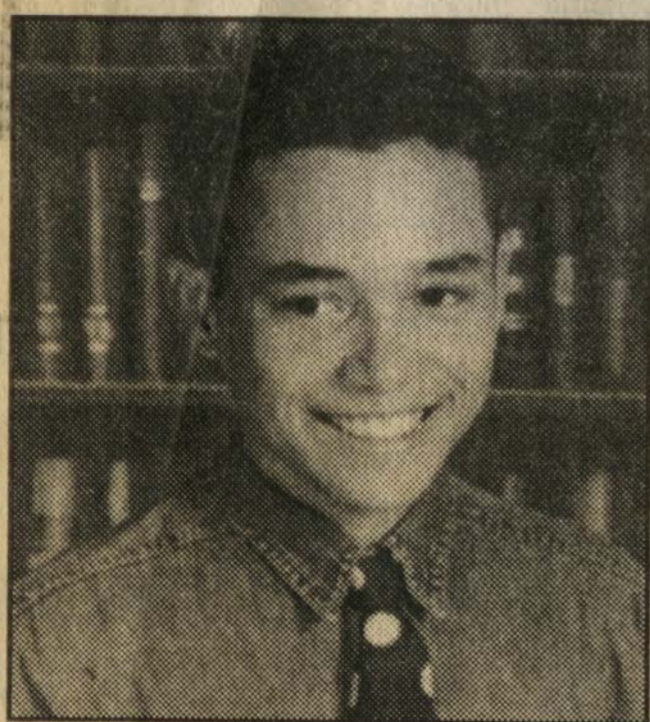
— Peter Barnes III
Township councilman

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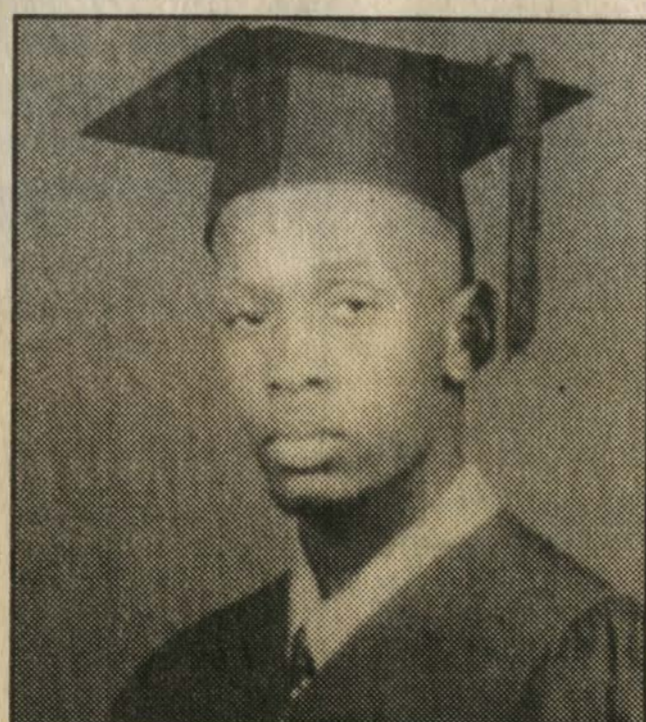
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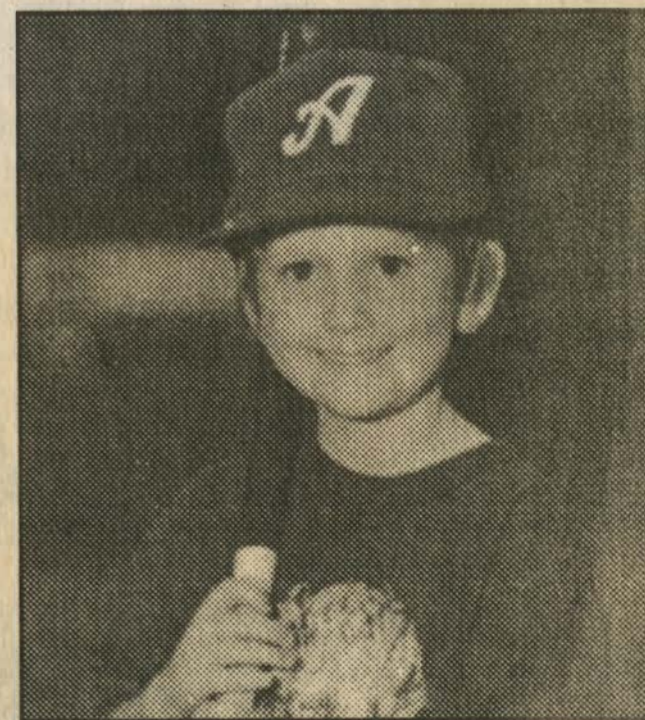
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S.R. Hauling & Clean Up

Edison
(908) 248-5411

MADD

of Hunterdon/Somerset Counties
91 E. Somerset St. • Raritan
(908) 526-4664

Ethicon Inc.

US Hwy 22 • Somerville
(908) 218-0707

Somerset Medical Center

Addiction Recovery Program
110 Rehill Ave. • Somerville
(908) 218-7990

Costello-Runyon Funeral Home

568 Middlesex Ave. • Metuchen
(908) 558-0149

Oak Tree Presbyterian Church
455 Plainfield Rd
No. Edison

DRINKING AND DRIVING ARE DEADLY! Please Drive Safely and Enjoy Your Holidays.

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

-A COST ANALYSIS: \$16,851.91



Day 1

For \$29.95, Dreyer's Farm in Cranford can supply you with a 6-7 foot pear, peach, plum, nectarine or any other fruit-bearing tree. Lush and hearty, when transplanted in the spring, the trees may attract a variety of sweet song birds but at last look, partridges are nowhere in sight. If you're following the song, you can decorate your pear tree with a \$20 hand-painted ceramic partridge from The Arrangement in downtown Cranford.

Total: \$29.95 + \$20 = \$49.95.



Day 2

White turtle doves, the classic picture of peace and purity, are extremely sweet and gentle birds. They don't make perfect gifts, however, because they need to be kept outside and can't be bought in local pet stores. But, if your true love really wants a pair, you can pick them up from a bird breeder for about \$15 each.

Total: \$15 x 2 = \$30



Day 3

Save your money on that trip to France. At Flanagan's, 2501 Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield, you can taste the most "outrageous" French onion soup in the world. For only \$3.95 you can order 150 of these soups for a price of one round trip ticket to France. It literally makes your mouth water. And, speaking of hens, you can't beat the chicken or buffalo wings. For only \$4.95 you will find flavors in this dish like nowhere else. It's not surprising that the chef of these two dishes, John Ziminski, has a background in French cooking.

Total: \$8.90 x 3 = \$26.70



Day 4

Consider a parakeet for your calling bird. Parakeets are \$17.99 each at Pheasant Run Pets at the Pheasant Run Shopping Center off Warrenville and Washington Valley roads in Warren.

Total: \$17.99 x 4 = 71.96



Day 5

Every finger on your honey's pretty little hand can be glistening in gold when you pick up five 14-karat gold rings at \$150 each from J. Winthrop and Co. jewelers in Westfield.

Total: \$150 X 5 = \$750

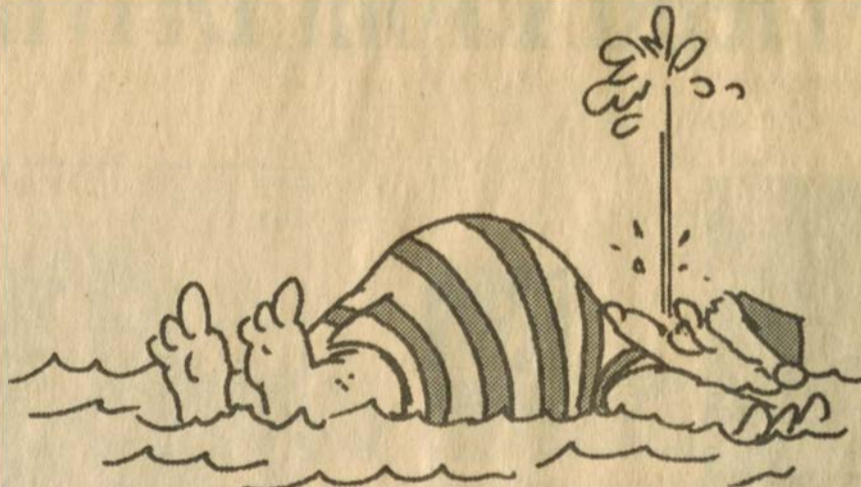


Day 6

With a net (and a little patience) you can get six geese for no cost. These days, the birds are often seen as little more than pond polluting pests, causing problems at parks and golf courses across the state. If you really need six of them, they shouldn't be too hard to find. Catching them, on the other hand, could be a different story.

Of course, throwing six live geese into a car isn't exactly the best thing healthwise _ for you or your car. It's almost guaranteed there will be a few automotive upholstery repair and hospital bills in the future of the bird watcher who tries it.

Total: 0



Day 7

You can learn to swim like a swan at the Metuchen-Edison YMCA. An eight-week class of half-hour sessions costs \$50.

Total: \$50 x 7 = \$350



Day 8

If you want "maids a-milking" go rent an old movie because you won't find anybody manually milking cows in Hillsborough anymore. But you can see machinery milking cows at the Rainbow Valley Dairy Farm at 91 Rainbow Hill Road in Neshanic, free of charge. Rainbow Valley sends their "raw" milk to Readington Farms in Whitehouse for processing and bottling. You can purchase a gallon of the finished product, pasteurized with only 1 percent of the fat left, at ShopRite in the Nelson's Corner Shopping Center on Route 206 and Amwell Road for \$2.85. Then you could run next door and rent an old movie about "maids a-milking" at the Moovies video rental store for \$3

Total: \$5.85 x 8 = \$46.80



Day 9

You can give nine of your friends drum lesson at Rifino and DeSorbo Music Studio, Dunellen. Cost is \$648 per year for one private lesson each week.

Total: \$648 X 9 = \$5832.



Day 10

Hand-crafted pipes are consistent sellers about \$50 and up. Why not fill one up with Saneuil cavindish blend tobacco. It is mildly and cool scented and costs about \$8.95 for a 4 ounce bag from Perkins C B Tobacco store in the Bridgewater Commons. So while your your sweetie indulges, you won't suffer too much in their clouds.

Total \$50 x 10 = \$500 for 10 pipes,

plus the scented tobacco at \$8.95 x 10 = \$89.50.

Total for both is \$589.50.



Day 11

If your beloved really trusts you, he/she may provide you with escorts from Marilyn Escorts for a night out for dancing at Peter's Wildlife in Piscataway. Male and female escorts are available in the Piscataway area, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at \$250 an hour. And don't forget the cover charge.

Total: Escorts -\$250 X 11 = \$2,750.

Peter's cover charge -\$5 X 11 = \$55.

Total cost: \$2,750 + \$55 = \$2,805.



Day 12

To help the twelve lords a leaping jump even higher, they could do a lot of leaping, lunging, and jumping at a step aerobics class at the Scotch Plains "Y". They'd need to buy memberships, which cost \$525 per membership or \$6,300 for twelve. But, for \$784 they could purchase a family membership and leap together.

Total: \$525 x 12 = \$6,300.

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

BIL

The Borough Improvement League clubhouse — the Old Franklin School House — is located at 491 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen.

Round Robin Bridge will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8.

The BIL board will meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8.

The first meeting for 1997 will be held 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. Delaware-Raritan Girl Scout President Ruth McDonald will speak. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about the BIL, call Louise De Courcy at 549-4919 or Lenoir Stewart at 548-9474.

JCC Senior Adult Club

The Senior Adult Club of the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County is located at 1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison.

Call Claire Fishkin, coordinator of Senior Adult Services, at 494-3232 for information on senior services.

Edison AARP

The Edison Chapter of AARP No. 3446 meets at the Victorian Manor, 2863 Woodbridge Ave.

For information on the Knitting and Crocheting Club, call Kay at 548-1976.

Vice President Helen Rader is planning the following trip:

- Jan. 19-24: Paradise Island in the Bahamas. Buses for all trips leave from the Annex of our Lady of Peace in Fords. For more information, call Ms. Rader at 738-7441.

Metuchen AARP

Metuchen AARP Chapter No. 3208 meets 1:15 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Reformed Church of Metuchen, 150 Lake Avenue.

The Tour Committee has prepared the following trips:

- Feb. 14: Bus trip to see comedy *Wally's Cafe*

at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Cost is \$39.50 per person, including transportation and meal. Menu is fried shrimp and scallops, Yankee pot roast, catch of the day, stuffed breast of chicken. Bus will leave Reformed Church 10:15 a.m. and return about 4:30 p.m. For tickets, send a check (payable to Metuchen Chapter 3208, AARP) plus a note with your name, address, phone number and luncheon choice to Felonese Kelley.

• March 18: Bus trip to Mount Haven in the Pocono Mountains. Cost is \$38 per person, including transportation, breakfast buffet, activities all day, dinner choice of corned beef and cabbage or Chef's Irish Chicken, four-hour open bar and an Irish show. Bus will leave Reformed Church 8:30 a.m. and return about 6 p.m. For tickets, mail a check (payable to Metuchen Chapter 3208, AARP) plus a note with your name, address, phone number and luncheon choice to Marie Kolwicz, 2 Ethel Place, Metuchen, 08840. For details, call 548-0137.

Senior Citizen Commission

The Metuchen Senior Center, 15 Center Street, offers trips and activities for anyone 60 years old and older.

A podiatrist will provide routine foot care 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday. The cost is \$10 for those with Medicare coverage. Appointments are necessary and may be made by calling 632-8524.

A chess club meets 10 a.m. every Friday and is open to anyone who enjoys playing. Bingo takes place every Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-noon.

Recreational contract bridge is offered at the center 1 p.m. every Wednesday. Players of all levels welcome.

Ceramics instruction is offered 10 a.m. every Monday.

A free senior exercise class is held 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

For more information, call Alice Fleming at 632-8524.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY DEC. 31

- ☑ VACATION DAY — gym games, swimming, New Year's Eve party and more for children 3-4. Members \$15, non-members \$23; pizza lunch \$2 extra. Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 494-3232.
- ☑ CELEBRATE METUCHEN NITE — "First Night" arts. Adults \$9, children 2-12 \$1; a \$2 surcharge if purchased after Dec. 26. Metuchen, starting 6 p.m. Call 548-2044.
- ☑ NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY — at Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison, 8:30 p.m. Cost \$100 per couple; must register in person. Call 494-3232.
- ☑ NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY — sponsored by Men's Club of Congregation Beth-El, 91 Jefferson Blvd., Edison, 9 p.m. Admission \$65 per couple (BYO liquor or kosher wine). Reservations: Call 287-1819 or 985-7272.

COMING EVENTS

- ☑ TOASTMASTERS INTL. — public speaking group's meeting features speech on *The Rules*, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Jan. 4. Guests welcome. Call 940-2536 or 885-5708.
- ☑ OPEN HOUSE — and admis-

- sions for new students (bring transcript). Middlesex County College center, 317 George St., New Brunswick, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Jan. 7. Call 249-6207.
- ☑ HOW-TO ON HERBS — Susan Kemp about how to be healthier and live longer with herbs. Free admission. Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., Edison, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8. Registration: Call 287-2298 or TDD 777-7813.
- ☑ AAUW LUNCHEON — annual event of Metuchen-Edison Branch, American Association of University Women. Cost \$15. The Barge, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy, 1 p.m. Jan. 11. Reservations required by Jan. 4; call 225-4027 or 819-8540.
- ☑ TOWN EMPLOYMENT — workshop sponsored by Nova Vocational and Employment Services. Free admission. Senior Citizens Center, 2963 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15. Call 738-5225, Ext. 132.
- ☑ OFF THE PAGE — taping of cable TV poetry show with Beth Borrus. Free admission. Metuchen Public Library, 480 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16. Call 321-0130.
- ☑ SHABBOT DINNER — by Neve Shalom Sisterhood, Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave., Metuchen. Kabbalat Shabbat services 8:30 p.m., gala Oneg Shabbat to follow. Cost \$12 for adults, \$10 children 5-12. Reservations due Jan. 10. Prospective members welcome. Call 548-2238.
- ☑ SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE — Rabbi Peter Knobel from Beth Emet synagogue (Evanston, Ill.). Free admission; optional lunch \$12

- members, \$15 non-members. Temple Emanu-El, 100 James St., Edison, 8:30 p.m. Jan. 17 and 10 a.m. Jan. 18. Registration: Call 549-4442.
- ☑ CASINO TRIP — sponsored by Seymour Feldman Leukemia Fund to Showboat hotel-casino (Atlantic City). Cost \$30; patrons receive \$20 casino credit. Bus leaves from Manny Gerstein office, 1901 Route 27, Edison, 8:45 a.m. Jan. 19. Reservations: Call 985-3800.
- ☑ OPEN HOUSE — to mark first anniversary of Franklin Family Center, 596 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, 1-4 p.m. Jan. 19. Call 906-1873 or 548-2044.
- ☑ SCRABBLE FEST — word game party sponsored by Women Helping Women (bring a Scrabble set if possible). St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. (at Route 27), Metuchen, 7 p.m. Jan. 31. Call 549-6000.
- ☑ HAVDALAH SERVICE — celebrated by Temple Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave., Metuchen, 4:30 p.m. Feb. 8. Meaning and symbols explained, light meal served, folk dancing, arts and crafts, discussion groups. \$7 per person. Prospective members welcome. Call 548-2238.

Send calendar listings to "This Week," Metuchen-Edison Review, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, N.J. 08876, or fax (908) 526-2509. Listings should be received in writing 10 days before publication date.

Monday Morning
A Family Day Care Management Service

Just one phone call to quality care!

Monitored Child Care
Flexible Care Times
Insured • Individual Attention

Somerset County (908) 526-4884
Union County (908) 668-4884
Princeton Area (908) 253-9595
Hunterdon County (908) 788-8838

"A Commitment to Quality Care Since 1981"

Former students play favorites with teachers

Students named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students* or *The National Dean's List* were asked to nominate teachers who "made a difference in their lives."

Local teachers from Edison so honored by former students include:

Edison public schools: Billie Gibson Burozski.

Edison High School: Lawrence N. Acciani, Carol Bamdad, Denise Kozinski Grippaldi, Winston Hughes, Karen Lynne Lowenstein, Frances Bonarrigo Rak, Gregory Paul Stoen.

J.P. Stevens High School: Kathleen Simko Babich, Van Chmara, Mary Elizabeth DeSena, Ellen Davis Epstein, Matthew J. Hrevnak, Joseph Richard Kupcha, Gordon William Nienburg, Dorina M. Tooker.

Bishop Ahr High School: Maureen Mallon Dudies, Joseph Charles Haumacher II, Joseph A. Kupcha, Joseph A. Nolan, Elizabeth Mary Savner, Mary Ellen Doyle Sochor, Marlene Soncuva, Lillian Aizman Voloch.

John Adams Middle School: Jeanne Rothenberger Kushinsky, Ruth Allen Stolt, Diane Berg Wions.

Herbert Hoover Middle School: Louise Stedronsky Fernandez.

Woodrow Wilson Middle School: Carl F. Annand, Frances Inzano DeFranzo, Leslie C. de Geneste, Barbara Ann Gadek, Maryann Murphy, Susan Hamilton Peterson.

Menlo Park School: Florence E. Gasior.

Benjamin Franklin Elementary School: Rae Brinkley Montgomery.

Martin Luther King Elementary School: Gilbert G. Burgess.

Lindeneau Elementary School: Nina Hovell Frahme.

Washington Elementary School: Eileen M. Sudock.

James Madison Schools: Elsie Rinaldi Rebovich, Miriam Miller Rockmore.

Wardlaw Hartridge School: Robert Andrew Gould, Dana D. Sudall.

Middlesex County College: Nora M. Barrett, Jamie T. Daley, Audrey Werner Freier, Ronald C. Goldfarb, Trudi Harris, Lucia E. Tillotson and Phyllis Laskey Galbraith, retired.

Local teachers from Metuchen so honored by former students include:


Metuchen High School: Dianne Hunter Kuenzel.

Saint Joseph High School: Hilary M. Brown, John F. Madden, Craig Ronald Martin, Patrick P. McGroarty.

Metuchen Christian Academy: Lynn Rogers.

COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION INSTITUTE...of New Jersey

Dr. Paul I. Abend, Medical Director/Rehabilitation Physician



Featuring the only full line of underwater equipment in New Jersey

This program is specifically designed to aid people with the following ailments:

- Osteoporosis
- Diabetes
- Arthritis
- Neck & Back Pain
- Amputees
- Polio
- Sports, Orthopedic & Neurological Rehabilitation
- Strokes & Cardiac Conditions
- Parkinson's Disease
- Fibromyalgia
- Chronic Fatigue

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Planning A Wedding?

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Ext. 6123
To Get a **FREE** 48 Page Bridal Guide from **Forbes** NEWSPAPERS

Tickets on sale for New Year's

METUCHEN — Celebrate Metuchen Nite, a "First Night" arts organization, is scheduling its events for New Year's Eve.

Children's performances will run 6-8 p.m. at Edgar School, the Reformed Church and the YMCA. Adult performances begin 8 p.m. in and around Borough Hall. The program ends with fireworks at midnight on Main Street near Hillside Avenue.

Buttons are \$9 for adults and \$1 for children 2-12 before Dec. 26, \$11 for adults and \$3 for children 2-12 after then. Buttons are on sale at Borough Hall, the Metuchen Savings Bank, Seldow's and the YMCA.

For more information, call 548-2044.

Middlesex County

Places of Worship

CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

200 Hillside Avenue
Metuchen
908-548-7622

Sunday School and Morning Worship - 9:30 AM
Pastor Paul M. Maliel

Child Care Provided

METUCHEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD

CORNER OF ROSE & WHITMAN AVE.
P.O. BOX 561 • METUCHEN • NJ 08840
549-4163

Rev. Donald McFarren, Pastor
Sun. School, all ages - 9:45
Worship - 11 am & 6 pm
Children's Church & Nursery
Wednesday; Bible Study - 7:30 PM
Auxiliary Ministries for all ages
Fridays: Youth Activities
Day Spring Child Care - 549-1020
ACADEMY K8TH - 549-7854
Come Worship with Us

The Reformed Church of Metuchen

150 Lake Ave. 548-2463

"Come Grow with God's Love & Ours"

Saturday Worship 5:30 PM
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Raymond C. Ortman, Pastor

NEW LIFE GOSPEL CHURCH

1750 Cedarwood Dr. • Piscataway
752-4434

Steve Dibenedetto, Pastor

9:15 AM - Sunday School
10:45 AM - Sunday Morning Worship
6:30 PM - Evening Service
Wed. 7:30 PM - Evening Prayer Service

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Daycare - Ages 1 through 5 years
Elementary School, grades 1-8
High School, grades 9-12

North Stelton African Methodist Episcopal Church

Craig Avenue @ Ethel Rd. • Piscataway, N.J.
(908) 287-5184

"The Family Friendly Church"

Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:45 a.m. - Worship Service (Nursery Services Available)

Tues., Dec. 31st - 7 p.m. Kwanzaa Celebration (Dinner Service)

10 p.m. - Watch Night Service

Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Pastor

Oak Tree Church

455 Plainfield Road • North Edison, NJ 08820
549-4178

Rev. Rick Oppelt, Pastor

Worship & Church School
10:00 AM
Adult Education
11:15 AM
Nursery & Playground
Facilities
Activities for All Ages

Celebrating Thirty Years of Faith

GRACE ALLIANCE CHURCH
(formerly Rutgers Area Alliance)

Meeting at Timothy Christian School in Piscataway

Call 562-1818

Sunday Worship: 11 am
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FROM \$36⁹⁵

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

ELEGANT ROOMS WITH SEPARATE DJ'S

- ★ 6-HOUR OPEN BAR
- ★ SHRIMP COCKTAIL
- ★ FUL COURSE
- ★ PRIME RIB DINNER
- ★ CHAMPAGNE TOAST

per person plus service & tax

\$52⁸⁶

Purchase your tickets early

Luncheon Specials From \$4⁹⁵
Dinner Specials From \$9⁹⁵
Childrens Special Menu \$2⁹⁵

PARK & MOUNTAIN AVE., SCOTCH PLAINS 322-7726

Anthony Melillo, 70

Industrial engineer; WWII soldier

EDISON — Anthony V. Melillo, 70, died Dec. 20, 1996 at his home. He retired in 1988 after 25 years as an industrial engineer at the Avenel plant of General Dynamics Corp.

He was born in Newark and had lived in Edison since 1971.

Mr. Melillo received a degree in industrial engineering from the former Upsala College in 1947. He served in the Army during World War II.

Surviving are two sons, Kenneth and Steven; a daughter, Christine Smith; four grandchildren; two sisters, Mary Berberian and Phyllis

DeLufo; and two brothers, Armand and Sal.

His wife, Dorothy Sheerian Melillo; six other brothers, Nicholas, Victor, Pat, Thomas, Alexander Jr. and Joseph V.; and another sister, Geraldine Pasini, are deceased.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday at St. Lucy's Roman Catholic Church, Newark, following services at Megaro Memorial Home in Belleville. Burial was in Glendale Cemetery, Bloomfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the New Jersey Foundation for the Blind, P.O. Box 929, Denville, N.J. 07834.

Edna G. Nielsen, 85

Machine operator for sportswear firm

METUCHEN — Edna G. Nielsen, 85, died Dec. 18, 1996 at the JFK Hartwyck at Edison Estates nursing home in Edison. She was a machine operator with the Raritan Sportswear Co. of Perth Amboy until her retirement in 1966.

A native of Bridgeport, Conn., Miss Nielsen lived in Perth Amboy before moving to Metuchen in 1956. She was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church

in Edison.

Surviving are a brother, John, and a sister, Agnes Marcy, both of Metuchen; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Saturday at Flynn & Son Funeral Home in Fords. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Wesley United Methodist Church, 5053 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, N.J. 08837.

Tillie Freda Russell, 91

Retired assembler and store clerk

EDISON — Tillie F. Freda Russell, 91, died Dec. 21, 1996 at JFK Medical Center. She had been an assembler with the former Western Electric in Kearny from 1954-62 and a clerk at the former Hahne's department store in Newark from 1962-77.

Mrs. Russell was born in Sorrento, Italy, and settled in Jersey City when she immigrated to the United States in 1905. She had lived in Edison since 1970.

She was a member of the Oak

Tree Senior Citizens Club and also the Altar Rosary Society at St. Helena's Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are a son, Joseph Luciano of East Hampton, N.Y.; a daughter, Gloria Bellina of Edison; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday at St. Helena's Church, following services at Gosselin Funeral Home. Entombment was in the Good Shepherd Chapel Mausoleum at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Stephen Bagan Sr., 77

Diesel mechanic; WWII soldier

EDISON — Stephen M. Bagan Sr., 77, died Dec. 19, 1996 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. He retired in 1987 after 20 years as a diesel mechanic for the township.

He was born in Jersey City and had lived in Edison since 1947. Mr. Bagan served in the Army during World War II and was a member of Clara Barton Post 324, American Legion. He was a parishioner of St. Matthew's Roman

Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife, Elaine M. Williamson Bagan; two sons, Stephen M. Jr. of Edison and David A. of Parlin; three grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and two brothers, Walter and Edward, both of Edison.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday at St. Matthew's Church, following services at Piscataway Funeral Home. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Dennis Toth Jr., 46

Cub Scout leader; Pop Warner coach

METUCHEN — Dennis S. Toth Jr., 46, died Dec. 22, 1996 at JFK Medical Center in Edison. He had been a Cub Scout leader in the borough and since 1992 an assistant coach of the Metuchen Bulldogs, a Pop Warner football club.

He was born in New Brunswick and lived in Edison before moving to Metuchen in 1981.

Mr. Toth was employed for more than 23 years with E.R. Squibb & Son (now Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.) in its veterinary services department in Lawrenceville. He served three tours of duty in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

Surviving are his wife, Gail Prentice Toth; two sons, Ryan and Dion, both at home; his parents, Yolanka and Dennis Sr., and a

brother, Steve, all of Edison; and his maternal grandmother, Ida Balough of Cherry Hill.

A requiem service will be 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave.

Visitation is 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26 at Koyen Funeral Home, 319 Amboy Ave.

Obituaries

William P. Grempel, 54

Factory worker; private pilot

METUCHEN — William P. Grempel, 54, died Nov. 20, 1996 at St. Peter's Medical Center in New Brunswick. He had been a factory worker and an accomplished private pilot.

Mr. Grempel was born in Freeport, N.Y. He lived in Edison, Metuchen and East Brunswick before moving to Jamesburg in 1977.

For 20 years he operated a paste machine at the Delco-Remy Division of General Motors Corp. in New Brunswick. Mr. Grempel served in the Air Force during the 1960s as a crew chief for F-100 jet fighters.

A longtime member of the Air-

craft Owners and Pilots Association, Mr. Grempel was a member of the Aeroventure Flight Club and Kenmarson Aero Club at the Robbinsville Airport. He was a member of B.P.O. Elks Lodge 2180 in Jamesburg.

Surviving are his wife, Denise of Jamesburg; a son, Todd, and a daughter-in-law, Renee, both of Nutley; a grandchild; a brother, John; a sister, Eileen Straub; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held Nov. 23 at Franklin Memorial Park in North Brunswick with the Kenmarson Aero Club performing a flyover tribute in honor of Mr. Grempel.

Marilyn Ann Lindemann, 58

Preschool teacher; also a clubwoman

METUCHEN — Marilyn Ann Lindemann, 58, died Dec. 21, 1996 at JFK Medical Center in Edison. She had been a preschool teacher at the Metuchen-Edison YMCA on High Street.

Mrs. Lindemann was born in New Brunswick and lived in Bloomfield before moving to Metuchen in 1971. She was a member of the Borough Improvement League; the Metuchen Garden Club; and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, in Fords.

Emily Stromko Chevins, 73

Westinghouse assembly worker

EDISON — Emily Stromko Chevins, 73, died Dec. 18, 1996 at JFK Medical Center. She had been an assembly worker with Westinghouse Corp. at its former Route 27 plant until her retirement in 1976.

Mrs. Chevins was born in Newark and had lived in Edison since 1950. She was a member of the Edison Senior Citizens Club and

the Edison Democratic Club. A brother, Walter Stromko, died in 1995. Surviving are her husband, Albert; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Tuesday at Flynn & Son Funeral Home, Fords, followed by a religious service at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Burial was in Clover Leaf Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

Alma Cyrus Burnett, 80

Nurse on staffs of two hospitals

EDISON — Alma Cyrus Burnett, 80, died Dec. 17, 1996 at her home in Piscataway. She had been a licensed practical nurse with hospitals in New Jersey and New York.

Mrs. Burnett was born in Littleton, N.C. She lived in East Orange, Montclair, Union, Bloomfield and Edison before moving to Piscataway in 1990.

She was on the nursing staffs of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in East Orange and New York Hospital in Manhattan until her retirement in 1974. Mrs. Burnett graduated from the Princeton School of Nursing in 1961.

Her husband, Reese S., is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Shirley Grant Woodward; three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, two brothers, five sisters and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Saturday at

Woody Home for Services, in Orange. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

William W. Bowen, 75

financial officer for religious body

METUCHEN — William W. Bowen, 75, who served on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and was a financial officer with the former Lutheran Church in America, died Dec. 18, 1996 at his home.

He was director of treasury services for the denomination at its Manhattan offices when he retired in 1988. Mr. Bowen also was chairman of the finance committee and a member of the executive board for the denomination's New Jersey synod. He was on the board of trustees of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and a member of the Metuchen Civil Rights Committee.

Mr. Bowen began his career in 1942 at the Westinghouse Electric Co. plant in Sunbury, Pa., after his graduation from Bucknell University. He later became an accountant with the RCA Victor division of the former Radio Corp. of America, in Camden; comptroller for Penn Electrical Engineering Corp. in Scranton, Pa.; the corporate controller for American Book-Stratford Press, in Manhattan;

business manager for the Camp Fire Girls, in Manhattan; and director of financial management for the United Community Corp., in Newark.

Mr. Bowen was born in Camden and lived in Clarks Summit, Pa., before moving to Metuchen in 1966. He was a past president, former treasurer and former member of the board of directors of the Tanglewood Lakes Community Association in Greentown, Pa.

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Donna Jeanne Ray Bowen; a son, Steven Raymond Bowen of Arlington, Va.; three daughters, Susan Bowen Miller of Hanover, Pa., Jeanne Bowen Minnick of Gaithersburg, Md., and Diane Bowen Baumann of Derwood, Md.; nine grandchildren; and a brother, Charles of Cherry Hill.

A memorial service was held Sunday at the Grace Lutheran Church in Perth Amboy.

Arrangements were by Koyen Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to your favorite charity.

Joseph F. Augustine, 86

Hospital chef; Army sergeant

EDISON — Joseph F. Augustine, 86, died Dec. 21, 1996 at JFK Medical Center. He had been a chef at two hospitals and an Army veteran of two wars.

A native of Pittston, Pa., he lived in Jersey City before moving to Edison in 1950.

Mr. Augustine joined the Army in 1928; he served in France during World War II and in Korea during the Korean War before retiring with the rank of master sergeant in 1956. He was a chef at JFK Medical Center from 1968-70 and at what is now Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield from 1970 until his retirement in 1975.

He also worked for Gulon Industries in Metuchen before becoming a hospital chef. Mr. August-

tine was a parishioner of St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth Uretig Augustine; four daughters, Marcy Evancho and Toni, both of Edison, Fran Tortorello of Union and Dorie Nastus of North Brunswick; a son, Joseph of Highland Park; eight grandchildren; a sister, Mary Girone of Lyndhurst; and two brothers, Anthony of Secaucus and Frank of Hoboken.

Two other sisters, Rose Heinsohn and Carmello, and another brother, Sam, are deceased.

Services were held Tuesday at Costello-Runyon Funeral Home, Metuchen, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Matthew's Church. Memorial contributions may be made to JFK Medical Center or Edison First Aid Squad No. 1.

Sixth-grade student's poem published

EDISON — Madhu Punjabi, a sixth-grade student at Herbert Hoover Middle School, has had her poem "The Beach" selected for the North American Open Poetry Contest.

The poem will be published in the anthology *In Dappled Sunlight* by the National Library of Poetry in the spring. Madhu will be eligible to win one of 70 cash or gift prizes as a semifinalist.



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Hillside Cemetery

CHANGE

Those who are attuned to the subtleties of everyday life take note of the fact that we are constantly engaged in change that presages death. The common act of saying goodbye as we take leave of the house in the morning is, in itself, death in microcosm. Most of us assume that we will return, so we take little note of the true significance of the event. Those who take no such thing for granted know that Life is about change, both big and small. In the words of Rainer Maria Rilke, "Our being is continually undergoing and entering upon changes that are perhaps of no less intensity than the new...that death brings with it. And just as at a certain point in that most striking of changes we must leave each other altogether, so we must, strictly speaking, at every moment give each other up and let each other go and not hold each other back."

As life is about change, so is grieving from loss about change. Grief can be experienced physically, emotionally, behaviorally, and

Consider These Thoughts
by Jay Costello



perceptionally. All four are present and they change during the grieving process. There is no set time period for each stage. Though we never stop caring, we take the raw material of our loss and gradually shape it into something we can live with. We don't just recover, we are transformed. When looking for a quality funeral home, consider COSTELLO-RUNYON FUNERAL HOME, 568 Middlesex Avenue in Metuchen, or call us today at 548-0149.

"All passes; nothing returns."
Ellen Glasgow



These Mandarin Chinese-speaking kindergartners at James Madison Primary have come along way with their English since September. At left is their teacher, Hope Blecher-Sass.

ESL kindergartners sing in their second language

By VERA CARLEY
THE REVIEW

EDISON — Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?

On Thursday morning, he saw and heard kindergartners performing for their fellow students at James Madison Primary School.

What made the performance so special was these kindergarten children are in the English as a Second Language (ESL) class. Few could or would use English when they began school in September and only spoke Mandarin Chinese, according to their teacher, Hope Blecher-Sass.

But since then, as evidenced by the sing-along, the students have been making notable progress.

"The singing really brings them out," she said.

Singing makes it easier for students to produce the vocal sounds and it's also good entertainment.

"It was good," said second-grader Jeremy Boyd, who took in the show along with his class.

Jeremy, 7, said he liked the singing and remembered the book from his younger days.

ESL student Stephanie Chuang said the brown bear song was her favorite. Peridou Lee said "Sally the Camel" was fun. But Raymond Lee agreed with Stephanie's musical selection.

"They love that book," Ms. Blecher-Sass said.

The group studied the songs to bolster their English skills, she explained.

"Singing helps them learn the flow of the language," she said.

The consonant sing-along focused on six letters — r, s, m, p, t and c — which were in the songs. The students will focus on another six letters in their ESL class, which immerses them in the English language, Ms. Blecher-Sass said.

The kindergarten students participating in the performance were: Peridou, Stephanie, Raymond, Alice Lee, Katherine Wu, Sharon Hsieh, Lambert Peng, Eve Shen, Christine Wang, Allison Wang and Angela Liang. The students come from throughout the township to attend James Madison Primary School, which serves as a magnet school for Mandarin-speaking ESL students in kindergarten-second grade.

Young writers study poetry, aim for publication

EDISON — Maya Angelou would be impressed with Ms. Mastriano's seventh-grade English classes at Herbert Hoover Middle School.

They have been writing various types of poetry for publication in the *Anthology of Poetry for Young Americans*. During September, Oc-

tober and November, the students learned different styles, patterns and forms of poetry.

The school's students have written a number of poems in several different styles: acrostic, concrete, bio, color. The pupils will also learn how to write to build a "poem ani-

mal," among other exercises.

Ms. Mastriano has integrated poetry into her classroom and the lives of her students by relating them to novel concepts and the seventh-grade theme of tolerance. Twenty-one poems from her class were published last year.

Three at Wardlaw-Hartridge named AP scholars

EDISON — Three Edison residents who attend The Wardlaw-Hartridge School have been named Advanced Placement Scholars by the College Board in recognition of their achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. Current seniors Stephanie Co and Kiran Guthikonda qualified

for the AP Scholar with Honors Award by earning grades of 3 or higher on four or more AP exams on full-year college-level courses, with an average exam grade of at least 3.25. Senior Marissa Owsianik qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP exams on full-year college-level courses, with grades of 3 or higher.

Students' art, poetry displayed

Six area high school students are having their work featured in an ongoing exhibit of student art and poetry.

Community briefs

They are Melissa Cunningham, Dawn DeStefano and Tae Young, all artists from John P. Stevens High School in Edison; Brianne Dopart, a poet from Metuchen High School; Greta Ge Gao, a poet from JPS; and Maria Sciarrino, an artist from MHS.

All six students attend Middlesex County Arts High School, which compiled the exhibit from works of its students over the past school year. The exhibit may be seen at the Middlesex Public Library through the end of the year.

For more information on the Arts High School, call 249-5151.

Dog, cat licenses available on Jan. 2

METUCHEN — Dog and cat licenses for 1997 will be available beginning Thursday, Jan. 2.

New licenses must be purchased in person at Borough Hall, 500 Main St. Renewals can be handled by mail using a form in the borough's 1997 calendar. A \$2 late fee will be added for all licenses purchased after Feb. 28.

If your pet's most recent rabies vaccination expires before Nov. 30, 1997, a booster shot must be obtained before a new license can be issued.

For more information or a license form, call 632-8503.

Children 'Let It Snow' at library next month

EDISON — Although there may be no snow outside, the Edison Free Public Library wants children to "Let It Snow!"

The library is holding a contest for all township youngsters in preschool through sixth grade to guess the total snowfall, in feet and inches, for January. The contest begins Thursday, Jan. 2 and ends Friday, Jan. 31. Prizes will be awarded and winners notified by phone.

For more information, call 287-2351.

Aerobics, swim lessons at community center

EDISON — The Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County will start winter classes Monday, Jan. 6.

Step Aerobics, water aerobics, swim lessons and children's after-

Elks Lodge commended for dedication to needy

METUCHEN — Gary Dengelegi, the exalted ruler of B.P.O. Elks Lodge 1914 on Middlesex Avenue, attended the New Jersey State Elks Association fall conference in New Brunswick.

He was commended for the lodge's dedication to the state Elks' pledge of serving their communities and those in need, according to a press release. Mr. Dengelegi lives in Edison.

The Elks have more than 49,000 members in the Garden State; They contributed more than \$12 million in charitable works last year of the \$143 million national total.

Sue Johnson honored by Lions Clubs group

METUCHEN — Sue Johnson has been honored by the Lions Clubs International Foundation as a Melvin Jones Fellow.

She is a member of the Metuchen Metro Lions Club and recently received a plaque and lapel pin "acknowledging her dedication to the foundation's humanitarian goals," according to a press release.

The award is named for the founder of Lions International and is the highest honor of the foundation.

Story time programs offered in Metuchen

METUCHEN — The Metuchen Public Library has scheduled two series of story time programs for children.

The "Toddlers" program for children 2½-3½ will meet 1:30-2 p.m. Wednesday from Jan. 15-Feb. 19. The "Ready Readers" program for kindergarten and older preschool children will meet 10:30-11:15 a.m. Thursday from Jan. 16-Feb. 20. Both programs are open to

Metuchen residents only. Registration is required; call 632-8526 or stop in at the library, 480 Middlesex Ave.

Women's Club produces fire safety video

METUCHEN — "Be Cool About Fire Safety" is the title of a safety film produced for children 5-8 and distributed by the Metuchen Women's Club.

Eleven copies of the film were given to libraries and fire departments in Metuchen, Edison and part of Woodbridge for use with fire-prevention speeches in area schools.

The club distributed the film as part of a General Federation of Women's Clubs service project. The film, financed by Allstate Insurance Co. in conjunction with the For A Safer America Coalition, features original songs and a performance by Little Richard.

Women Helping Women sponsors support groups

METUCHEN — Women Helping Women is now accepting registration for four separate support groups:

Rape survivor therapy, held in the evening and led by a licensed therapist.

Incest survivor therapy, held morning or evening. This also is led by a licensed therapist.

Bereavement, for women grieving over the loss of a loved one. The group will meet Wednesday evening.

Bereavement therapy, for women grieving over the sudden death of a child. The group will meet Saturday morning.

Registration is required for all support groups. For more information, call 549-6000. Cost is \$15 per session for each group.

Residents may order Metuchen, the Movie

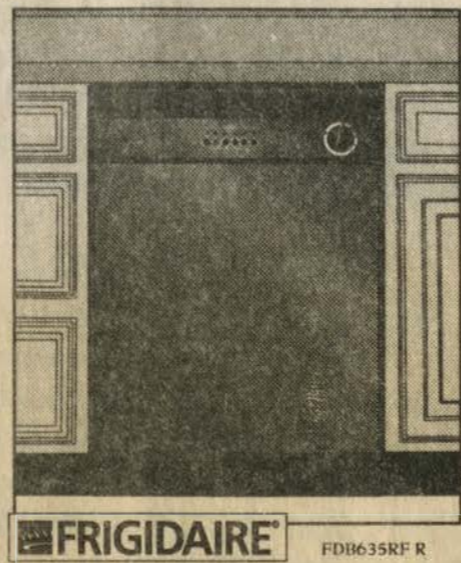
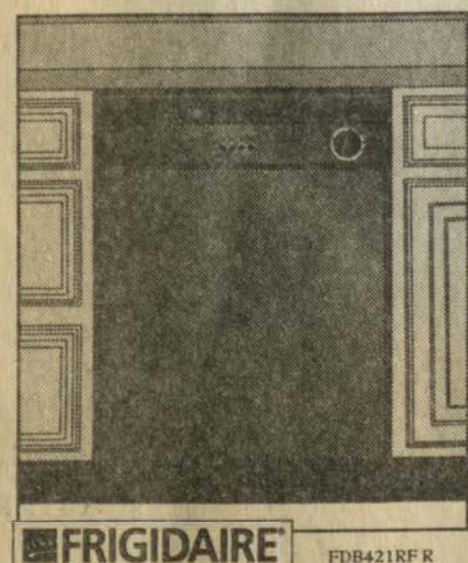
METUCHEN — The Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a showing of *Metuchen, the Movie* at the Forum Theatre this fall.

This 1929 silent film, which recently surfaced, was actually made by the chamber and edited by the Forum Theatre.

VHS copies of the film are available for \$20. Call the chamber at 548-2964.

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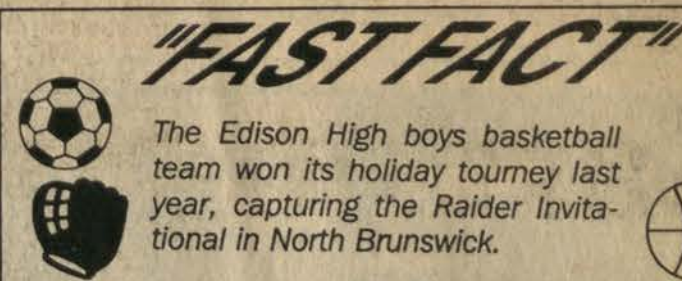
The office will close at 5 p.m. from December 20, 1996 through January 3, 1997.

During that time there will be **NO Saturday hours.**

* A \$25 late fee will begin on January 13, 1997.

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Sports



Cliff's Notes



Mark Clifford
Sports Editor

722-3000
Ext. 6343

Rock Gym: a great place to hang out

If you have a hyperactive kid who always seems to be climbing the walls, or if you yourself were once such a child, you may be interested in the Wall Street Rock Gym.

I just joined it myself, and I'd highly recommend it to men, women and children of all ages.

The just-opened Wall Street Rock Gym, which is located next to Henderson's Gymnastics on Tingley Lane (off Grove Avenue) in Edison, bills itself as "New Jersey's premier rock-climbing gym."

Ever since I first heard there was such a thing as indoor rock climbing, I've been eager to try it out. Throughout my entire childhood, you see, I was an incorrigibly compulsive climber.

There was, for example, this gigantic, ancient white-barked tree in our neighborhood which drew me and my friends like that mountain in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

We called it "Thunderbolt" and we worshiped it as the granddaddy of all great climbing trees.

Kids in the neighborhood gathered at Thunderbolt every day, and we double-dog-dared one another to climb to the greatest height, shimmy out on the smallest limb, or jump from the highest point.

(Yes, moms, these are the kinds of death wishes your children pursue whenever you let them out of your sight.)

Anyway, some contractors chain-sawed old Thunderbolt to death a few years ago, so if you or your children have a climbing jones, I'd say the Wall Street Rock Gym is your best bet.

The gym has a huge main chamber with a 30-foot high ceiling and 5,000 square feet of wall space featuring a variety of nooks, crannies and overhangs. Ropes run through pulleys on the ceiling, and the climber ties an end of one of these lines onto his/her harness for safety.

Quasi-rocks of all shapes and sizes adorn the walls to form holds for the climbers' hands and/or feet. These holds have been strategically arranged to form a series of routes, sort of like vertical obstacle courses.

The easiest routes have big, secure-feeling holds. The tougher routes, on the other hand, feature holds which are considerably less finger-friendly. They're about the size and shape of those petrified wads of chewing gum which can be found under every school desk in North America.

Be forewarned, though. Rock climbing puts a tremendous strain on the hands, so for beginners it's kind of like being in a snowball fight without wearing gloves: the hands start hurting and stop functioning long before the rest of the body does.

At least, that's what happened to me.

Besides typing, you see, the most strenuous things I've asked my fingers to do lately are operating my toenail clippers and the television remote control.

These activities, not surprisingly, left my digits ill-prepared for rock climbing, so my first couple of workouts turned my hands into useless, throbbing claws for about 48 hours.

Because of the temporarily crippling effect it can have on your hands, I'd advise you to start rock climbing on a gradual basis if you happen to be one of the following: a concert pianist, courtroom stenographer, pinball wizard, finger painter or hand puppeteer.

Take it extra easy if you happen to make your living in practically any of the medical fields, from brain surgery to proctology.

Once your hands get strong enough to support long periods of climbing, however, you can give yourself a heck of a workout. Climb the walls for a while, and your arms start burning like you're mainlining lava.

Rock climbing is one of those "extreme" sports that have become so hip nowadays. But you don't have to head for the Rockies to try it; the Wall Street Gym is just a stone's throw away.

Local teams top recent relay meets

J. P. Stevens High topped the girls team standings and St. Joseph's did the same on the boys side at Saturday's East Brunswick Relays, while Metuchen brought home some hardware from the Fairleigh Dickinson Holiday Classic.

The J.P. Stevens girls started Saturday's competitions by placing first in the high jump at 10 feet 4 inches, as Kimberlee Turko and Adriane Kilar each cleared 5-2.

The Hawks then went on to win the sprint medley (Daba Briggs, Candice Steele, Turko, Kathy Sutkowski) in 4:28.8 and the shuttle hurdles (Carla Roa, Kilar, Eun jung Kim, Turko) in 33.9 seconds. The former tied a meet record and the latter broke one.

Stevens' girls also placed second in the 4 x 200 (Candice Steele, Daba Briggs, Sheryl Sarnicki, Sutkowski) in 1:55 and third in the 4 x 400 (Turko, Briggs, Monique Brewer, Sutkowski) in 4:30.9.

On the boys side, J.P. was fourth in the sprint medley (Ryan Prescott, Peter Lee, Murteza Haidri, Lee Goldblatt) in 4:06.9 and fourth in the distance medley (Haidri, Mike Sanabria, Louis Fonseca, Dan Babich) in 11:44.5.

On the boys side, St. Joe's finished first in the shot put (Keith Rzewuski, Paul Volosin) at 97-2½ and second in the high jump (Marc Grayson, Mike Bernabe) at 11-2, the 4 x 200 (Jason Womack, Joe Mangiapayne, Bernabe, Ed Potter) in 1:37.1 and the 4 x 400 (Mangiapayne, Ken Zampella, Womack, Potter) in 3:38.2.

St. Joe's took third in the shuttle hurdles (Zampella, Barry Finn, Grayson, Geoff Toth) in 34.5, the sprint medley (Bernabe, Peter LaGregeor, Don Mahoney, Paul Skolarczyk) in 3:57.6 and the distance medley (Matt Evans, Mahoney, Chris Moye, Ray Driscoll) in 11:32.2.

The Falcons were also fourth in the 4 x 800 (Skolarczyk, Bob Mateicka, Ray Driscoll, Matt Evans) in 8:37.5.

Edison won the boys high jump, as Ken Timmons (5-10) and Tim



Adriane Kilar helped J.P. Stevens win the girls shuttle hurdles event at Saturday's East Brunswick Relays.

Lutz (5-8) combined to go 11-6. The Eagles also finished third in the boys 4 x 200 (Kriston Pasley, Paul Morotto, Larry Floyd, Timmons) in 1:37.4.

Edison placed sixth in two girls events: the 4 x 200 (Folake Aaron, Melissa Sandora, Suzanne Plantec,

Megan Ross) in 2:00.9 and the high jump (Ross, Sharon Mozgai) at 8-4.

Metuchen, meanwhile, passed on the East Brunswick Relays in favor of competing in the Fairleigh Dickinson event. The choice appeared prudent when the Bulldogs won a large cache of medals.

The Metuchen team of Jordan Melograna, Tyrone Ross, Keith Kreiger and Ryan Manatch placed first in the both the 4 x 400 meters (3:31.7) and the 4 x 200 (1:36.4).

Other outstanding performances among the Metuchen boys included a second-place finish in the

4 x 800 (8:49) behind Steve Deppie, Sean Ryan, David Stein and Scott Ferino and a fifth-place finish with its "B" team in the 4 x 400: Deppie, Ferino, Stein and Justin Drum.

Ryan was also third in the 1600 (4:48), just one place ahead of teammate Chris Piekarski (4:49). Yet another Bulldog, Mike Gurzo, was fourth in the 3200 (10:30).

On the girls side, Metuchen won the 4 x 200 in 1:52.4 with a team of Ugochi Okorie, Jessica Akey, Carolina Rivera and Layla Cherry.

Okorie also placed fourth in the 60 hurdles and broke the Metuchen sophomore record in the 55 dash with a time of 7.4.

Lady Bulldogs Sharon Jacoby (6:14), Lauren Durgin (6:18) and Kym Libman (6:26) placed 2-4 in the 1600. Vanessa Picone won the novice 400 in 59.5.

St. Joe's also competed Sunday at the Passerelli Relays in West Point, N.Y. There, Falcons Driscoll and Scott Defilippis went 1-2 in the 3200 in 10:01.1 and 10:05.1, respectively.

St. Joe's also won the distance medley relay with Evans, Potter, Moye and Driscoll combining to go 11:16.8, and the shot put relay with Carlos Noya, John Andes and Volosin throwing for 126 feet.

Potter was also second in the individual long jump at 18-10½ and Mangiapayne, Mahoney, Womack and Potter teamed to take third in the 4 x 400 in 3:43.4.

EAST BRUNSWICK RELAYS TEAM STANDINGS

Boys — 1. St. Joseph's 56; 2. South Brunswick 41.5; 3. Pinelands 30; 4. Westfield 29; 5. East Brunswick 20.5; 6. Hunterdon Central 18; 7. Edison 16; 8. Nottingham 9; 9. J.P. Stevens 8; 10. (tie) Steinert and Piscataway 6; 12. Montgomery 4; 13. Linden 3.

Girls — 1. J.P. Stevens 44; 2. Piscataway 39; 3. Westfield 36; 4. Hunterdon Central 33; 5. East Brunswick 31; 6. Pinelands 18; 7. South Plainfield 11; 8. Montgomery 9; 9. South Brunswick 7; 10. (tie) Steinert and Nottingham 6; 12. Spotswood 6; 13. Edison 1.

Tournaments abound during holiday season

Area high school sports teams will leap right back into action after a short Christmas break, with several major events scheduled over the next few days.

TRACK AND FIELD

Metuchen and J.P. Stevens will send their teams to the Seton Hall

Relays. The individual competitions begin 10 a.m. Friday and the relay events start noon Saturday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hawks will host the J.P. Stevens Tournament, with Friday's first-round games pitting Rahway against Roselle Catholic at 6 p.m.

and J.P. versus Union Catholic at 7:30 p.m. The consolation and final will be the next day at 6 and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

Bishop Ahr will host the Gene Haley Memorial Tournament, in which it will meet Old Bridge 7:30 p.m. in Friday's opening round.

Edison will be in the Timothy Christian Tournament. The winners of Friday's T.C.-Edison (1:30 p.m.) and South River-North Brunswick (3:30 p.m.) games will play 3:30 p.m. the following day. The consolation game is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Also scheduled for action Friday are Metuchen vs. St. Mary of South Amboy in the St. Mary Holiday Tournament (7:30 p.m.) and St. Joseph's vs. Trenton in the Elizabeth Holiday Tournament (6 p.m.).

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Metuchen will be trying to win the Highland Park Tournament, beginning with a 1 p.m. matchup Friday with Henry Hudson, followed by a trip to either the consolation game (1 p.m.) or the final (2:30 p.m.) the following day.

The Bishop Ahr girls will play in the Paramus Catholic Tournament, meeting Ursuline Academy 4 p.m., Friday, followed by either the consolation game (4 p.m.) or the final (7 p.m.) Sunday.

Edison plays South River at 1:30 p.m. in Friday's first round of the Charger Classic in Spotswood.

WRESTLING

Metuchen will compete in the North Brunswick Tournament, which gets under way 9 a.m. Friday, while Edison will try its luck in the John Goles Tournament at Warren Hills High, which begins 10 a.m. Friday. Stevens, meanwhile, will wrestle in the Rahway Holiday Tournament, which starts 9 a.m. Friday.



Kristy Suriano and the rest of the Eagles will play in the Charger Classic in Sayreville.



PHIL NERGES/SPECIAL TO THE REVIEW

Takin' it to the rack!

Sungjin Im of the Heat elevates over Stephan Trotte of the Sonics during a recent Edison Recreation Basketball game in the Minor Boys Division.

AUGUSTO F. MENEZES/THE REVIEW

Garden State champs

Edison grapplers cop another tourney title

By MARK CLIFFORD
THE REVIEW

The Edison High wrestling team won the Garden State Classic in Princeton for the third consecutive year Saturday, racking up 169 points to outpace a field which included Elizabeth (128.5 points), Princeton (129.5), Watchung Hills (107.5), Shore Regional (77), Franklin (55), J.F. Kennedy-Iselin (43.5), Monmouth (42) and Trenton Central (four).

Eagles who were champions in their respective weight classes included Willie Kearns (103 pounds), Anthony Rendina (112), Bill Enoch (135), Jarrod Hahn (145) and Geoff Clifford (189).

Edison's second-place finishers were Griff Banos (119), Nick Appenelli (130) and Tom White (heavyweight). Eagle fourth-place finishers were Jim Gerity (140), Will Chapman (160) and Brian Steinhauer (171).

Edison also won the event's junior varsity tournament, scoring

180.5 points to second-place Woodbridge's 120.

Eagle Mike Coyne, the first-place finisher at 125, was voted the JV Outstanding Wrestler Award. Other Edison division winners were Pete Tambini (112), Rob Harrison (119) and Dan Curto (heavyweight). Edison also received second-place finishes from Mark Barbato (103) and Ryan Kay (145) and thirds from Chris Loux (103) and Robert Lee (130).

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Amy Bruno scored 27 points and Iesha Mayfield scored the game-winning basket to go with her 16 points as Edison prevailed 60-59 in Friday's season-opener at Sayreville.

Edison (60)
Bruno 11-5-27, Mayfield 6-4-16, Coyne 2-0-4, Montalbano 0-4-4, Murphy 1-0-2, Taylor 0-1-1, Suriano 2-2-6. Totals: 22-16-60.



Sayreville (59)
Vazquez 5-4-14, Palitto 2-0-5, Painchaud 8-7-27, Gianpaolo 4-0-8, Villanti 0-1-1, Marshall 0-2-2. Totals: 19-13-59.
Edison 9 14 10 22 — 55
Sayreville 17 10 8 24 — 59

BOYS BASKETBALL

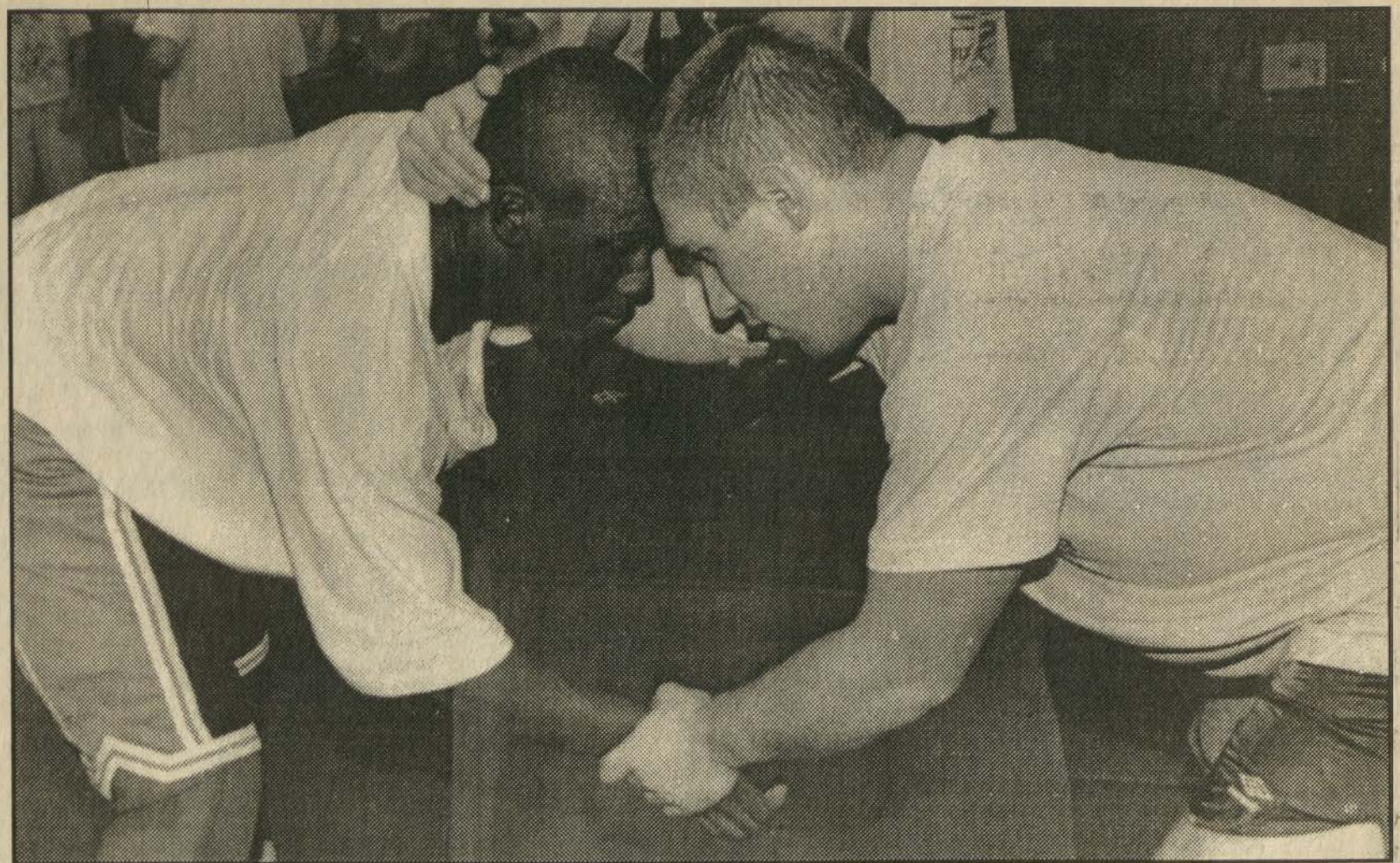
Edison dropped Friday's opener to visiting Sayreville 70-53 despite an 18-point effort by junior forward Oscar Royster.

Sayreville (70)
Carter 2-0-4, Farinck 6-0-14, Hargrave 2-6-1, Norrie 9-0-22, Popowski 1-0-2, Patenski 1-0-2, Ziobran 4-4-14, Fisher 0-2-2. Totals: 25-12-70.
Edison (53)
Banos 1-5-7, Schuck 1-4-6, Roma 4-2-10, Kralich 4-1-10, Royster 8-2-18, McGowan 1-0-2. Totals: 19-14-53
Sayreville 17 23 11 19 — 70
Edison 14 16 10 13 — 53

BOYS BOWLING

Edison got a huge series from both Rosendo Bezares (189-256-256) and Mike Moon (224-226-226) en route to a 4-0 sweep over South Brunswick in Friday's Opening Day at Carolier Lanes.

Edison (992-1064-1073-3129) — Tkaczuk 192-179-215, Gomolcak 194-197-179, Moon 224-226-226, Bezares 189-256-256, Mockowiak 193-180-DNB, McEwen 170-205-197, Bowler



Edison wrestlers Will Chapman and Geoff Gifford placed fourth at 160 and first at 189 at Saturday's Garden State Classic.

DNB-DNB-166.

GIRLS BOWLING

South Brunswick and Edison

tied 2-2 at Carolier Lanes in Friday's first match of the season. Krista Nygyard had Edison's high game with a 160.

Edison (648-649-699-2036) — Miralot 144-104-134, Montanye 124-98-133, Honkisz 106-187-145, Nygyard 143-131-160, Brooks 137-121-127, Daniels 140-106-110.

Stevens survives against S.P.-F.

By MARK CLIFFORD
THE REVIEW

The J.P. Stevens High girls basketball team (1-1) showed it has come a long way since last year with Monday's 46-29 victory over visiting Scotch Plains-Fanwood (0-2).

"I think we're faster, we crash the boards more and we really do have more of a balanced offense," said Hawks Head Coach Kathy McKeon, whose team finished just 3-17 last year.

The Raiders scored just five points in the entire first half, thanks to the pressure of J.P.'s defense and some rather sloppy play, but then rallied to outscore the Hawks 15-9 in the third quarter.

"All of a sudden, in the third quarter, they started out-hustling us," said McKeon. "We were making very poor passes. I think we started panicking."

The Hawks, however, regained their composure and weathered the storm, and put the game away by midway through the fourth quarter.

The game took a final, bizarre turn in J.P.'s direction when, with the score 31-22 in favor of the Hawks with 5:27 left to play, the officials whistled a SPF player for a technical foul, then called two more technicals on the Raider coaches for arguing. J.P.'s Lauren Elwood stepped to the free throw line and hit five of six free throws to make the score 36-22, effectively icing the game.

Elwood finished with 21 points and seven assists, coolly sinking 10 of 14 from the free-throw line and three teays.

Hawk teammates Lauren Brown and Dana Honcharuk scored nine

and eight points, respectively, and Joanne DiMuzio supplemented her six points by grabbing seven boards. While guard Brooke Kobren scored only two points, she made a nuisance of herself on defense, scrapping her way into four steals and numerous tie-ups.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood (29)
Beatha 1-3-6, Hicks 6-1-14, Vanderheyden 0-0-0, Hulls 2-1-5, Jansen 0-0-0. Totals: 9-5-29.
J.P. Stevens (46)
Elwood 4-10-21, DiMuzio 3-0-6, Kobren 0-2-2, L. Brown 4-2-9, Honcharuk 4-0-8, T. Brown 0-0-0, Lubisco 0-0-0. Totals: 15-14-46.
S.P.-F. 5 0 15 9 — 29
JPS 8 10 9 19 — 46

WRESTLING

The J. P. Stevens High wrestling team went 2-1 in Saturday's quadrangular match at South Brunswick. The Hawks beat Woodbridge, 39-22, and Marlboro, 44-33, but lost to South Brunswick, 36-32.

Rudy Valentino (125), Lorenzo Miceli (130), Jarrod Shaw (145), Jason Steingart (152), Brian Rocco (160) and Lou Riggi (171) each went 3-0 on the day for J.P., while Randy Reina and Richard Reba (103) each went 2-1.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Stevens absorbed a 66-34 drubbing in Friday's opener at home against highly regarded Piscataway.

Piscataway (66)
Anson 6-8-22, Malloy 3-1-9, David 3-0-6, Lonke 3-0-6, Clooney 2-2-6, Eaddy 2-0-5, Reid 1-0-3, Thompson 1-1-3, McGee 1-4-6. Totals: 21-16-66.
J.P. Stevens (34)
Stein 2-0-4, Powell 2-2-6, Moleta 1-0-2, Lamb 3-1-7, Davis 3-2-8, Crawford 1-5-7. Totals: 12-10-34.
Piscataway 26 12 17 11 — 66
J.P. Stevens 10 11 7 6 — 34

GIRLS BASKETBALL

An awesome Piscataway team punned visiting J.P. 70-30 in



Piscataway's Charles McGee (23) reaches in on J.P.'s Jeran Crawford as Garry Lamb watches with concern. Piscataway won this Friday game, 66-34.

Friday's season-opener.

J.P. Stevens (30)
Elwood 3-2-9, DiMuzio 0-2-2, T. Brown 1-2-4, L. Brown 4-2-10, Honcharuk 0-1-1, Lubisco 2-0-4. Totals: 10-9-30.
Piscataway (70)
Jones 15-2-32, L. Guarneri 5-1-11, Jes. Guarneri 2-0-4, Scott 6-1-13, Abrosca 2-0-4, Croley 1-0-2, Adjah 1-0-2, Jen Guarneri 1-0-2. Totals: 33-4-70.
J.P. Stevens 2 12 4 12 — 30
Piscataway 23 13 22 12 — 70

GIRLS BOWLING

Stevens beat Old Bridge 4-1 in Friday's opening-week action at Carolier Lanes. Nicole Paul and

Lauren Weiner each rolled a 186.

J.P. Stevens (723-776-749-2248) — Robak 170-181-146, Weiner 145-186-130, Forman 105-DNB-152, Samely 114-DNB-DNB, Paul 151-160-186, Siperstein DNB-126-135, Angle Teo 143-123-114, Angena Teo DNB-96-DNB.

BOYS BOWLING

Adam Kanter's 214 was J.P.'s high game in Friday's 4-0 loss to Old Bridge at Carolier Lanes. J.P. Stevens (911-850-834-2595) — Manenty 171-165-171, E. Kanter 180-159-158, A. Kanter 191-214-196, Grossman 167-149-DNB, Ludwin 123-DNB-DNB, Pedinoff 202-158-169, Levy DNB-154-DNB, Lernerman DNB-DNB-157, Ackerman DNB-DNB-160.

Bishop Ahr stifles Immaculata

The Bishop Ahr High girls basketball team (2-0) outlasted visiting Immaculata (0-2) 36-29 in Monday's defensive struggle, despite the fact not a single Lady Trojan scored in double figures.

Immaculata (29)
Rzemieniewski 3-0-6, Schmelzer 2-0-5,

Reigner 0-2-2, McCarron 5-0-12, H. Reigner 2-0-4. Totals: 12-2-29.

Bishop Ahr (36)

Van Cleef 2-3-7, Robinson 1-0-2, McGrane 1-0-3, Singleton 4-1-9, Johnson 3-2-8, Williams 3-1-7, Winston 0-0-0, Gross 0-0-0. Totals: 14-7-36.

Bishop Ahr 57, South Brunswick 40 — Bishop Ahr's balanced

attack won Friday's opener against visiting South Brunswick.

South Brunswick (40)
Avery 1-0-2, Schneider 4-3-11, Szabo 1-0-2, Tracy 8-0-19, Flantzer 0-2-2, Martin 1-0-2, Miller 1-0-2. Totals: 16-5-40.

Bishop Ahr (57)

Van Cleef 1-1-3, Robinson 1-0-2, McGrane 4-0-10, Winston 3-4-11, Singleton 4-1-9, Johnson

2-5-9, Williams 2-7-11, Goss 0-2-2. Totals: 17-20-57.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Brian Loniewski canned five three-pointers in a 21-point performance to lead the Trojans to a 61-54 win over South River in Friday's opener at South River.

Middlesex High hosts 12th annual grappling tourney

The 12th annual Middlesex Kids Wrestling Tournament, sponsored by Middlesex High School Wrestlers, will be held Sunday at Middlesex High School.

The tournament is for wrestlers in eighth grade and under (born 1982-1990). Wrestling is scheduled to begin 8 a.m. All weigh-ins will be between 5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday. The entry fee is \$13 if postmarked by Dec. 19. Late entries (\$18) will be accepted at weigh-ins only if space is available.

All wrestlers must also have a 1996-97 USA Wrestling membership (\$25 — can be purchased with tourney registration). For information or an application blank, call Tom Macmath at 526-0492.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
EDISON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
There will be a special public meeting of the Edison Township Board of Education on January 6, 1997, at 5:30 P.M. in the Office of the Superintendent, 100 Municipal Boulevard, Edison, N.J.
The agenda to the extent known is to discuss Student/Personal Matters and any other matter that may come to the attention of the Board. Formal action will be limited to the discussion of the privileged session agenda.
The Edison Township Board of Education reserves the right to go into privileged session to discuss personnel and/or legal matters if necessary.
\$7.59 ME182 1T 12-27-96

EDISON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

LEGAL AD
The Edison Township Board of Education has set the following schedule for the remainder of the 1997 School Board Meetings. Meetings will be held at J.P. Stevens High School, Grove Avenue, Edison, New Jersey, 08820 or Edison High School, Boulevard of Eagles, Edison, New Jersey 08817.

REMAINING 1997 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday - January 9, 1997 - Finance/Personnel Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - January 16, 1997 - Work Session 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - January 23, 1997 - Monthly Public BOE Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - February 13, 1997 - Finance/Personnel Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - February 20, 1997 - Edison High School Work Session 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - February 27, 1997 - Monthly Public BOE Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - March 13, 1997 - Finance/Personnel Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - March 20, 1997 - J.P. Stevens High School Work Session 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - March 27, 1997 - J.P. Stevens High School Work Session 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - April 10, 1997 - Finance/Personnel Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - April 17, 1997 - Edison High School Reorganization Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Thursday - April 24, 1997 - Monthly Public BOE Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

7:00 P.M. Edison High School
The agenda to the extent known is to discuss any matter that may come to the attention of the Board.
Formal action may be taken by the Board.
The Edison Township Board of Education reserves the right to go into privileged session to discuss personnel and/or legal matters if necessary.
\$23.97 Daniel P. Michaud, Secretary
ME183 1T 12-27-96

City of Metuchen Middlesex County Public Notice

TAKE NOTICE, that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with R.S. 39-10A-1, at public auction on January 2, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. at Nixon Service, 2042 Rt. 27N, Edison, NJ, the below described motor vehicle which came into possession of the Metuchen Police Dept. through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.
The motor vehicle may be examined at 2042 Rt. 27N, Edison, NJ.
(1) 1991 Nissan Van # JN1MS 36P3M W0255 01
Metuchen Police Dept.
Pat. Edward Mosko #15
ME184 1T 12-27-96
\$8.46

PUBLIC NOTICE

SEALED BIDS will be received from bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:25-1 et seq., in the Multipurpose Room, First Floor of the Engineering and Operations Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey, until 10:00 a.m. 01/09/97 and opened and read for:
RTP 287 SEC 2N & 3S RT 95 SEC 100
RAMP CONSTRUCTION, INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS, SIGNALIZATION AT WASHINGTON & RIVER RD EDISON, PISCATAWAY & SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY (M-2874)
DP98233
The Department, in accordance with Title V Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin or handicap in the contract award.
Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975 c. 127.
Drawings, specifications, and bid documents may be inspected or obtained for a fee \$37.00, for full size drawings, at the NJDOT Plans Distribution Building #8 Thickett CN 600 Trenton, New Jersey 08625, during business hours. Names and addresses of prospective bidders for this project may

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

be acquired by telephoning (609) 530-8584 or (609) 530-8585 during business hours. Their fax number is (609) 530-8347.
Drawings, supplementary specifications, and boring logs may also be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contacting organizations at our various District Field Offices at the following locations:
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MHS crushes No. Plainfield

Six pins power Dog wrestlers

The Metuchen High wrestling team got its season rolling with Monday's 59-24 victory at North Plainfield.

The Dogs got pins from Eli Nadell (125 pounds), Matt Sprunger (130), Allen Jesnen (135), Jason Gibbons (171), Cue Bowles (189) and Ben Davis (heavyweight).

Nick Zanneto (103), Ryan Hill (112) and Sean Kohl (215) accepted forfeits for the Bulldogs, while Justin Killian (145) won a 6-4 decision.

Metuchen (41)
Baran 9-8-29, Penny 1-0-2, Mertz 1-0-2, Muratore 1-0-2, Tinkor 1-1-3, Poandl 0-3-3. Totals: 13-12-41.

New Brunswick (26)
Robinson 1-0-3, Baker 6-1-15, Jones 3-0-6, James 0-0-0. Totals 10-1-26.
Metuchen 6 17 7 11 — 41
New Brunswick 6 8 6 6 — 26

BOYS BASKETBALL

Carteret beat visiting Metuchen 53-29 Monday, despite an 11-point effort from Bulldog Josh Pryslak.

Dyke 2-2-4, Pryslak 4-1-11, Brian Clark 0-2-4, Baffuto 1-0-2, Van Dzura 3-1-7, Carmiglia 0-3-3, Garcia 0-0-0, Stio 0-0-0, Kates 0-0-0, Freeland 0-0-0, Vasco 0-0-0, Thomas 0-0-0, Kenyon 0-0-0, Leitner 0-0-0. Totals: 10-9-29.

Metuchen (29)
Carteret 20 13 10 10 — 53
Highland Park 65, Metuchen 21 — Metuchen opened the new season with an inauspicious debut Friday, falling behind 18-0 by the end of the first quarter en route to a resounding loss.

Highland Park (65)
Barnes 2-0-5, Smith 3-1-7, Boyd 8-1-17, McCarthy 3-0-6, Darryl Garvin 7-2-19, Cermiano 1-0-2, Cullen 2-0-4, Talbert 2-0-3, Garvin 1-0-2. Totals: 28-4-65.

Metuchen (21)
Dyke 0-2-2, Vasco 0-1-1, Van Dzura 1-3-5, Leitner 1-3-5. Totals: 7-7-21.
Highland Park 18 25 10 10 — 65
Metuchen 0 8 5 8 — 21

Metuchen (45)
Quimpo 2-2-6, Orrico 4-3-11, Kitz 3-0-6, O'Donnell 6-1-13, Baks 2-0-4, Kudroch 0-0-0, Fiore 1-3-5. Totals: 18-9-45.

Metuchen (34)
Baran 8-2-25, Penny 1-0-2, Mertz 1-0-2, Muratore 1-0-2, Tinker 1-1-3, Sprunger 0-0-0, Poandl 0-0-0. Totals: 12-3-34.

Carteret 10 16 9 10 — 45
Metuchen 11 3 10 10 — 34
Metuchen 41, New Brunswick 26 — Baran's 29 points topped the output of the entire New Brunswick team in Friday night's season-opener at New Brunswick. No other Lady Bull-

Williams, St. Joseph's roll past Old Bridge

Jason Williams led St. Joseph's High basketball team to a 62-47 victory in Friday's season-opener at Old Bridge with a 24-point performance.

St. Joseph's (62)
Hopkins 2-0-6, Williams 11-0-24, Cavanaugh

1-0-2, Reilly 3-0-6, Cumiskey 1-0-2, Wilson 2-6-10, Uszenski 4-0-8, Vogage 1-2-4. Totals: 25-8-62.

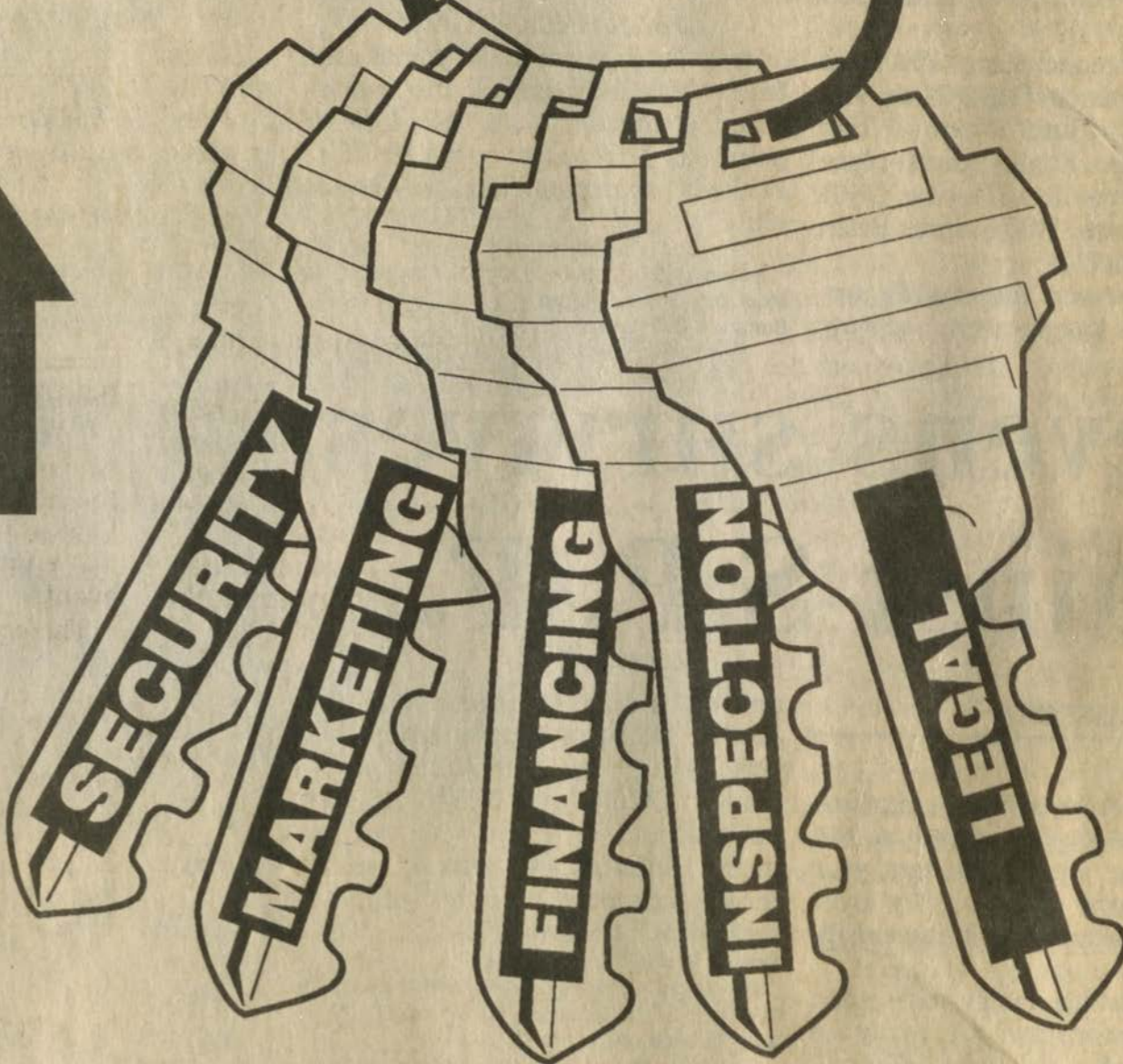
Old Bridge (47)
Rodriguez 1-0-2, Swanson 1-0-2, Shaw 3-3-12, Sajkowski 3-2-10, Watters 7-5-19, Daily 1-0-2. Totals: 16-10-47.

St. Joseph's 10 17 14 21 — 62
Old Bridge 10 8 20 9 — 47

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Weekend Plus

Inside

Welcome to the December 25-27, 1996 *Weekend Plus*. We'll return to our regular format in two weeks. Merry Christmas!

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WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL

At the movies

Weekend Confidential didn't quite have the experience we had hoped for when we attended the new Loews multiplex in New Brunswick, as we promised to do two weeks ago. But we're confident that its theaters, with their stadium-style seating, will prove to be a great place to catch a flick.

On the night we went to take in *Mars Attacks!*, everything looked promising. They ran a completely unconventional trailer for the rules of the theater, in which the Muppets cautioned patrons not to surf and not to forget to watch the movie.

Because the seats rise gradually from the entrance level of the theaters to the back where the projector is, one gets the feeling of watching a film in the balcony of a performing arts theater, described two weeks ago by *Confidential*.

At the Loews, an audience full of Rutgers students, all hip to the filmmaking vision of director Tim Burton, was into it! Welsh superstar Tom Jones's name came up in the opening credits and they broke into applause. As the film (which deserves comparison with *Dr. Strangelove*) progressed, the crowd reveled in the moviewatching experience, laughing and commenting uproariously in all the right places. It was a scene reminiscent of the great poet Joe Weil's "Ode To Elizabeth," in which a theater of teens scream at Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and cry at Nicholson's death.

Alas, midway through the movie, the picture shut off and the lights went up. Fire drill! ... or something of that ilk. And the end of the show for *Confidential*. We returned two days later. The staff graciously let us in to see the rest of the movie. It was a Sunday afternoon, so the audience was a little more sedate, possibly even offended at some of the more gruesome stuff in the film, despite it being done tongue in cheek.

On the second go-round, the seats were just as comfortable, the legroom just as spacious, the view of the screen just as unobstructed. If you're hip to movies, get hip to the Loews.

Making '97 a family affair

Metuchen counts down to New Year's bash

By VERA CARLEY
Weekend Plus writer

The countdown is on. The borough is ticking off the days until its New Year's Eve "Celebrate Metuchen's Nite" celebration, when it will strike midnight and usher in 1997.

The Celebrate Metuchen Nite Committee expects a big turnout for the third annual event.

"I hope that what's going to happen, especially because New Year's Eve is mid-week this year," committee member Bill Lovett says. "I hope since it's our third year, people are used to it now and have planned for it."

Lovett says 20 sponsors have contributed \$100 donations to sponsor performers at the event. The committee hopes to have 20

'I hope since it's our third year, people are used to it now and have planned for it.'

— Bill Lovett
Event organizer

more sponsors on board before the event.

"We are walking a delicate balance between donated money and admission fees," he says. "The more sponsors we have, the less we have to rely on admission. We may just end up with seed money for next year's event."

The committee has selected performers it

believes will attract large crowds. Musical entertainers playing the event include singer Kathy Graham, who specializes in Broadway tunes; the Cantabile Choir, a chamber choir; Deans of Harmony, a barbershop quartet; Metuchen opera singer Shirley Mosteller; Keltia, a Celtic/Scottish group; blues singer Scarlett Moore; and Metuchen folk singer Greg Stier.

The committee has also booked performers appealing to children. Performers between 6-8 p.m. include: Magic by Westcraft; art teacher Mickey Waring; Jingles the Clown; a *Beauty and the Beast* show; Angel the Amazing Dog; a balloon artist and a ventriloquist.

"We think it's a great way for families with real young children to participate. And then the parents can come back in the

evening for the adult stuff," Lovett says.

Another crowd pleaser that has attracted the crowds is the fireworks display at midnight in the heart of downtown.

"I think that's a great way to actually celebrate the New Year's starting," Lovett says.

The Celebrate Metuchen Nite is still looking for a few more volunteers. All volunteers will be able to attend the events for free.

Until Dec. 25, admission is \$4 for children ages 2-12 and \$9 for adults. After Dec. 25, tickets are \$2 more. Shows run 8-11:40 p.m., after which attendees will gather to usher in the new year. Buttons for admission can be purchased at the Metuchen YMCA, Metuchen Borough Hall, Metuchen Savings Bank and Seldows in Metuchen, or by calling 632-8502.

Somerset County towns join forces for First Night

By DORE CARROLL
Weekend Plus writer

Artists are booked, venues are chosen, fliers are posted and buttons are selling. Organizers are excited about First Night Bridgewater-Raritan-Somerville, and all they need now is people to come out and party.

First Night, the alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration, is boasting a wide variety of performers and activities for people of all ages to enjoy.

"It's a community celebration. It's geared for everyone," executive director Ellen Rannels says. "We want to bring neighbors, friends and family together."

"New Year's Eve is an important holiday," Rannels says, adding that it's one people sometimes don't know how to celebrate, instead ending up home on the couch.

After visiting family in Virginia and Massachusetts nearly 10 years ago and attending First Night festivities there, Rannels thought it would be a great idea for this area.

"I wanted to bring this cultural event to the community," she says. "You can really adapt it anywhere."

First Night is inspiring because it's done through the arts, Rannels says. "The arts transcend a lot of barriers. It's unified."

First Night has been celebrated in communities around the country for about a decade, but First Night Bridgewater-Raritan-Somerville is unique because events will happen simultaneously in three towns, Rannels says. The three towns have been declared a "regional center" and encouraged to participate in group activities, so it seemed natural to have the First Night celebration in all three communities, Rannels adds.

"Each town is reflecting its own personality, and people will be able to enjoy everything," she says.

The First Night festivities will begin with a small ceremony at 6 p.m., but there will be a golf tournament and a five kilometer run in Bridgewater during the day. The golf outing starts 11 a.m. at the Green Knoll Golf Course, and the run kicks off at noon from the

Bridgewater-Raritan High School field house.

Most evening events will be indoors, because "you never know with the weather," Rannels says. As for food, some snacks will be available in the Bridgewater-Raritan High School cafeteria, some restaurants in Somerville will offer discounts for First Night button holders and "warming stations" will be set up at some sites. In Raritan, pizza and soda will be available at one of the event sites.

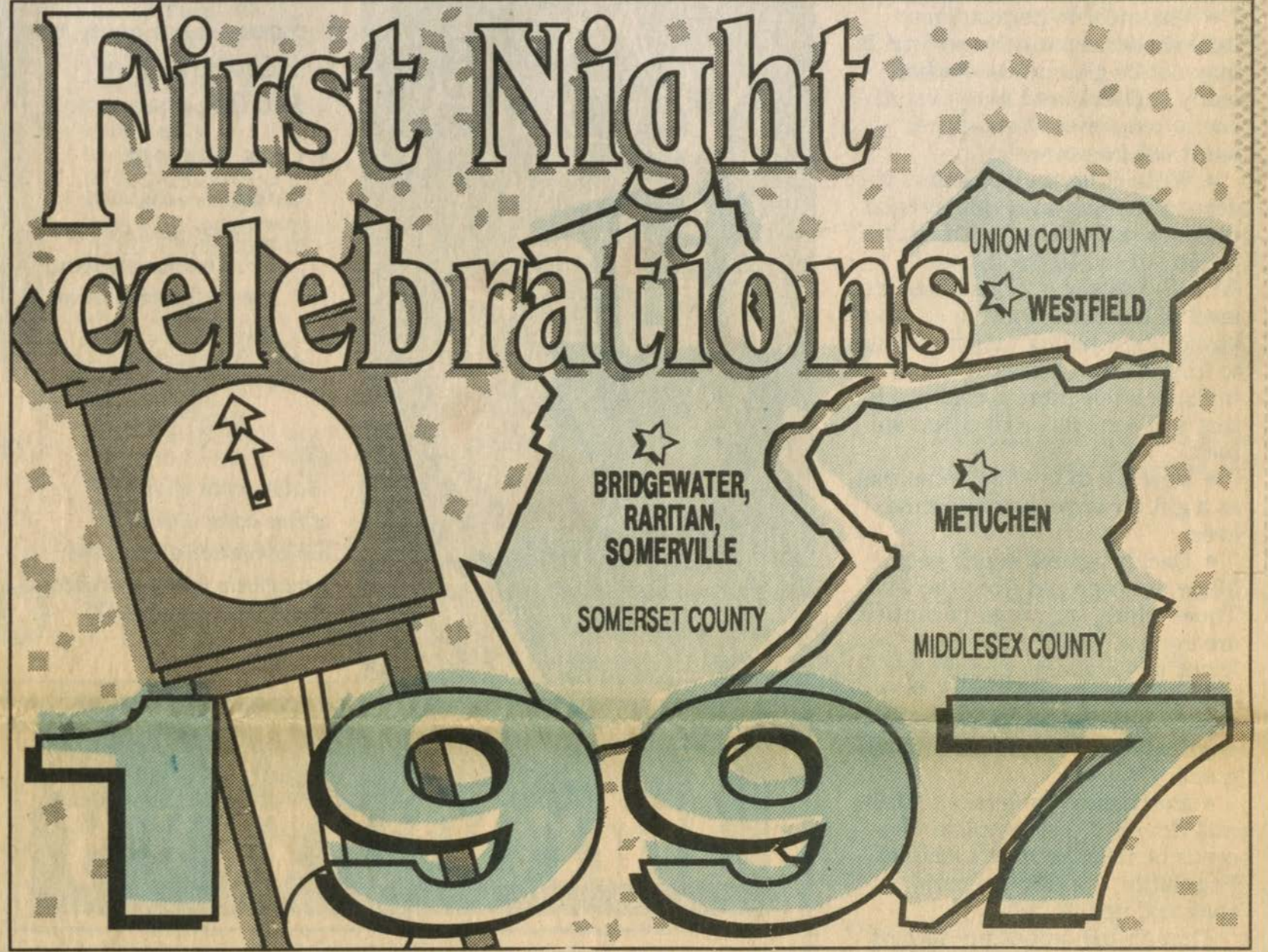
All Bridgewater events will be held at Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School in the lobby, auditorium, gymnasium and studio classrooms of the 100 Building. The bands Point Cross, 4 @ Jazz and the Philharmonic Orchestra of N.J. string quartet will perform there. Some children's rides will also be set up.

In Raritan, a battle of the bands geared for teenagers will be held in the Somerset County Annex building on First Avenue. Interactive storyteller and Raritan resident Kathryn Weidener will perform, along with The Great Carlini and an Elvis impersonator. There will also be a country line dancing site. Events will be held at St. Ann's church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Municipal Building.

In Somerville, Captain Hawker's 13-piece band, the Shoestring Players, Jazz Accident and Mr. Goodbody will perform. Carnival games will be set up and many local choirs will perform. Events will be held at the Central/Middle School buildings on Cliff and High streets, Immaculate Conception Church on Mountain Avenue, First Reformed Church on Main Street and the County Administration Building on Grove Street.

At the stroke of midnight, First Night festivities will conclude with a fireworks display at Exchange Field on Green Street in Somerville.

First Night admission buttons are available in each community and complete schedules will be provided upon purchase. For more information, call 707-8308.



BARRY RUMPLE/WEEKEND PLUS

Westfield to hold its first First Night

By KAREN BITZ
Weekend Plus writer

For the first time ever, Westfielders will be able to unite in a family-oriented, non-alcoholic atmosphere to ring in the new year. This year, the Westfield "Y" is sponsoring Westfield's first ever First Night celebration, a night chock-full of entertainment for people of all ages and backgrounds.

"First Night is a New Year's Eve celebration with something for everyone," says its director, Julia Black. Scheduled for the night are several musical and dance performers, entertainers, athletes and artists.

"It's a very safe community event that will bring a lot of life back to the downtown community," she says.

The event begins 6 p.m. Dec. 31 with a town-wide procession starting at North and Central avenues in the hub of downtown. Children from the town's six elementary schools will create masks and puppets to display along the route.

After this, participants will be able to enjoy any of the more than 30 events that will go on simultaneously throughout the town. The sites will be grouped into three clusters so people will not have to drive from location to location.

'It's a very safe community event that will bring a lot of life back to the downtown community.'

— Julia Black
Event director

"If they do pick events far from each other, they will be able to drive around the periphery of the sites," Black says.

The streets in the downtown area will be closed throughout the celebration.

Among the many events scheduled for First Night are ballroom dancing instruction; an internationally known bluegrass band known as Skyline; a performance

by the Westfield Symphony Orchestra; an interactive singer and entertainer named Pierce Joyce; and Aquaducks, a synchronized swim show by national ranked junior Olympic medalists.

There will also be several events for teens, including a bouncy boxing show, a gladiator joust, a human gyroscope, Rocky Mountain joust, a human gyroscope, Rocky Mountain wall climbing and a volleyball tournament.

"We had a focus group of teenagers and they said they wanted activities," Black says.

Buttons for Westfield's First Night, which allow admission to all the events, are now on sale for \$10 at the Westfield "Y" on Clark Street, the Westfield Recreation Department, the Town Bookstore on East Broad Street, Rorden's Realty on Elm Street, and King's supermarket on South Avenue in Garwood. For more information, call Julia Black at the "Y" at 233-2700.

Ring In The Holidays On A Winning Note!

FREE ADMISSION DAILY (Post Time 12:30 PM, Gates Open 10:30 AM)

FREEHOLD RACEWAY

Your BEST BET for a GOOD TIME!
Rts. 9 & 33 • Freehold, NJ • (908) 462-3800

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE			
Date	Live Harness Racing	Afternoon Simulcasts	Evening Simulcasts
12/26	Yes	Yes	Yes
12/27	Yes	Yes	Yes
12/28	Yes	Yes	Yes
12/29	No	Yes	Yes
12/30	No	Yes	No
12/31	Yes	Yes	Yes
1/1	Yes	Yes	Yes

Starting Dec. 26th Freehold will have simulcasting from the Meadowlands.

*No purchase necessary. Entrants must be 18 or older. Register to win 1/3/96.

Know what you're getting into if you get a pet next year

By ANITA JOY AUSTENBERG
Weekend Plus writer

With the swift approach of another year, people tend to look inside themselves for some evidence that they have bettered themselves or the human condition within the last year. Failing that, they look for ways to ease their consciences, that perhaps they may live on borrowed karma for the next twelve months.

And so, the New Year's Resolution is born — cared for and nurtured for three, perhaps four days before it is left to fend for itself, where the unsupervised Resolution inevitably sticks its finger in a socket or crosses the street without looking both ways and meets its untimely end. Why are these resolutions so hard to stick to?

Probably because people overshoot and make them too hard to keep up with. This year, I have personally vowed to gain 60 pounds of empty calories, and resolved to squander my entire paycheck within two days of receipt. Will I be able to accommodate these goals? With pleasure!

For those who have a more genuine interest in improving the quality of life for the other creatures — human and animal — who share our earth, the following are some relatively simple suggestions:

- Volunteer to help out your local shelter or humane society. It may not be glamorous — what many shelters need most is someone to mop or stuff envelopes — but it will be rewarding.
- Write at least three letters this year to endorse an animal-related cause or legislation. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has suggestions for every level of humane advocacy — from boycotting whaling nations, a letter to improve conditions at puppy mills, or a telegram to a company that still tests its products on animals.

• Vow not to procure an animal as a gift for anyone at any time, ever.

• Decide against exotic pets. Many are captured from the wild. Those which are raised in captivity are done so under inhumane, frightfully inadequate conditions. It is often impossible to accommodate these animals' special physical needs in a home environment.

• Purchase New Jersey's "Animal Friendly" license plate. Proceeds benefit the state's Animal Population Control Program, to spay and neuter pets.

Though the propensity toward self-improvement seems to be uniquely human (ever heard of a kitten makeover?) there are some very specific ways my animals working to make themselves even more perfect, if that were possible. I have compiled the following list of their resolutions:

- A wet dog shall no longer shake at a distance farther than

twelve inches.

• When regurgitating, a cat shall stain a portion of both shoes in a pair. If this is not possible, he should at least dampen both the interior and exterior of one shoe.

• The minimum acceptable length for a car ride will be changed from five to eight miles. Failure to ride the full distance will result in a doggie standoff, whereupon he must be removed from the backseat by force.

• Finally, the cats will double litterbox usage this year. Also, at least one cat will be present while the box is being changed, so reaction time for re-soilage can be shortened to a bare minimum.

Though we will probably never attain perfection in this lifetime, we can be content knowing we lived each day to the fullest, making each year better. Topping this year is going to be difficult — in 1996 John Shaft came to live with me, his mom and littermates found

happy, loving homes, and Mouse survived and has thrived through the removal of a noncancerous but still very scary abdominal mass.

Miss Kitty and Rusty-Bob have remained blissfully free of injury and disease, knock wood, and all of them have given me so much joy to make me happy for a lifetime. Just sharing my life with them has made me a better person. If a pet can do all that, why bother making resolutions at all?

On behalf of all of us — wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Anita Joy Austenberg works with the Humane Society of the United States, which has more than 2.8 million members. She shares her home with two cats, Mouse, Kitty and John Shaft, and a retriever, Rusty-Bob. For more information, call (201) 927-5611. This column runs the fourth week of the month.



Season's Greetings

from
ACQUA
RISTORANTE



777 Route 202 • Raritan, NJ 08869
908 707-1777 • Fax: 908 218-4330
(formerly Sam's Grille)

COME CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE WITH US.

- **EARLY SEATING**
5 pm - 6 pm (out by 8pm)
5 Course Dinner
\$40.00 per person
- **LATE SEATING**
8:30pm - 2:00am
6 Course Dinner
with Champagne Toast,
Live DJ Entertainment
& Dancing
\$75.00 per person

Experience a night of Fine Italian Cuisine in our comfortable, exquisite atmosphere with personalized service. We will make it a time to remember!

Open Christmas Eve & Christmas Day!

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Soup
• Pasta F. Eggroll
• Lobster Bisque | Salads
• Organic Mesclun
• Caesar
• Spinach w/ duck & chicken | Antipasto
• Fresh mozzarella and tomato
• Fried calamari with tomato fresca
• Grilled Portabella stuffed with crabmeat | • Grilled Eggplant served with sun dried tomato roasted in garlic vinegarete
• Stuffed Artichoke Hearts with spinach and fontina cheese
• New Zealand mussels fradaviolo |
| Pasta
• Rigatoni Vodka fresh tomatoes cream sauce
• Fresh Stuffed Ravioli w/meat, roasted red pepper, mozzarella and basilina
• Fresh Gnocchi w/marinara or Bolognese
• Fresh Fettuccine w/marinara sauce
• Fresh Fettuccine Pescatore w/clams, scallops or Bolognese sauce | Entrees
• Prime Sirloin Steak w/ mushroom bordelaise sauce
• Roasted Beef Wellington roasted filet mignon in a puff pastry served in bordelaise sauce
• Braised Osso Bucco served with rice pilaf
• Stuffed Baby Flounder w/ lobster stuffing
• Grilled Veal Chop served with sauteed mushrooms and roasted red pepper
• Veal Cia Bello sauteed w/ mushrooms and sun dried tomatoes and white wine
• Grilled Salmon in lime butter
• Veal & Chicken Involtine stuffed fontina cheese asparagus and egg | | |

Ciao Bello
Ristorante & Bar 908-704-8444
156 N. Gaston Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876

Introductions

To Respond to an ad call,
1-900-370-7446
\$1.99 Per Minute.
To Place your FREE 30-word ad call,
1-800-881-9582
You must be 18 or older.

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

African-American Lady, 50, full-figured, spiritual/active, seeks Gentleman companion, 45+, any race, not afraid to have fun, nonsmoker, no drugs, social drinker ok. #23510

Although I'm perfect for every Man, only one is perfect for me. Pretty, blonde, slim, young 40, DJF, seeks captivating DJM, 36-45, fit, nonsmoker, who knows what he wants! #23518

Beauty, kindness, fun! Slender, never married, affectionate, nonmaterialistic SJF, 29, long-haired, green-eyed, 5'7", 125 lbs, nonsmoker, nondrinker, with good figure and traditional values. Seeking good-natured, educated SWM for music, comedy, cuddling, love. #23521

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

Active SWM, 25, 6', 210 lbs, enjoys outdoor activities, sports, home cooking, movies. Seeking slender S/DWF, 24-29, who would like to stop and smell the roses with me. #23514

Adventurous WM, 40s, romantic and spontaneous, seeking WF to share magic moments, secrets of the heart and intimate relationship. #23520

Attractive, well-built, Libra Man, 35, seeks attractive, shapely F, 20-35, for friendship, possible long-term commitment. Into music, the Bible, writing songs. #23509

Bored WM, mid-30s, seeks older WF. Must be drug-free, open-minded and adventurous. #23517

DWM, 37, 6', 200 lbs, vocalist, physically fit, financially secure, enjoys biking, music, outdoor activities, beach, movies. Seeking S/DF, 25-40, with similar interests, for friendship, possible long-term relationship. #23512

Handsome and sincere SWM, 44, 5'10", 175 lbs, nonsmoker, numerous interests. ISO reasonably attractive S/DWF, 30+, for dating, possible long-term relationship. Children welcome, n/drugs. #23515

Healthy, spontaneous, adventurous, passionate, prudent and playful Italian businessman, 5'10", 210 lbs, brown/brown. Seeking same in a curvy Female — for love in smoky places and shadowy corners. #23522



(The tickets from the early show)

Start collecting new memories today.

To respond to an ad call,
1-900-370-7446
\$1.99 per minute.
To place an ad call,
1-800-881-9582.
You must be 18 or older to use this service.

Loves culture! 64-year-old, tall WM, likes theater, travel, dining out, classical music, opera, Barnes and Noble Bookstore, ISO Female, 48-58, with similar interests, for friendship. #23505

Unique, unconventional, honest, secure SWM, 38, horticulturist, outdoorsman, tradesman, International foods and friends, historic homes. ISO SF, 30+, to share interests and lifestyles. #23513

Free Introduction And One Free Retrieval A Week! Up To 15 Minutes!

HOW TO PLACE YOUR FREE AD

- ▲ Write your personal ad.
- ▲ Call 1-800-881-9582 to place your FREE 30-word ad for 4 weeks.
- ▲ We will help you write your ad and explain how to retrieve your messages.
- ▲ You must be 18 or older.

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN AD

- ▲ Note the five-digit voice mailbox numbers at the end of the ads you would like to respond to.
- ▲ Call 1-900-370-7446 (24 hours a day). Follow the simple instructions.
- ▲ Calls will be billed at \$1.99 per minute.
- ▲ Press 1 to Respond to a specific ad or
- ▲ Press 2 to Browse through voice ads.
- ▲ You must be 18 or older.

ABBREVIATIONS

B=BLACK	H=HISPANIC	P=PROFESSIONAL
C=CHRISTIAN	J=JEWISH	S=SINGLE
D=DIVORCED	M=MALE	W=WHITE
F=FEMALE	N=NONDRINKER	WW=WIDOWED
G=GAY	NS=NONSMOKER	ISO=IN SEARCH OF



Block of Time™

Blocked from 900 use? With Block of Time™, you can now access Introductions from any touch-tone phone, even those blocked from 900 use. It's easy—you can charge it to your credit card. It's smart—it allows you to budget your phone time. For more information or to purchase a Block of Time™, call 1-800-881-9582. Use your Visa or MasterCard. You must be 18 or older.

Question and Answer Session

Find someone special? Want to know more about that person? Call our new Question and Answer Session. You get a profile of the person you're interested in meeting. And you have the option of giving a profile of yourself by answering a few simple questions. It's a great way to learn if the two of you have something worth exploring! Call 1-900-370-7446. \$1.99 per minute. You must be 18 or older.

ATTACHED VERY DISCREET W/M— 40s, Business man, brown hair & eyes, husky build, D/D free. ISO attached only WF, shapely and intelligent. D/D free for occasional daytime intimate monogamous relationship. 30-50, Somerset City area. This advertiser has chosen to receive mail. Please respond to: Box 5177, Forbes Newspapers, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876

GOOD LOOKING— WPM 53, Easy going, trim athletic build. I am caring, sincere, smart and romantic. Seeking WF counterpart for a discreet one on one loving relationship. This advertiser has chosen to receive mail. Please send a letter to Box 4985, Forbes Newspapers, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876

WHITE WIDOW— petite. Loving, physically/emotionally attractive. Seeks WWWWM, 59 plus. 5'8" with same qualities or friendship, sense of humor helpful. Middlesex County. This advertiser has chosen to receive mail. Please respond to Box 5185, Forbes Newspaper, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876

SWM — 28 ISO female 21-28, whose under 155 lbs. whose interest are dining out, walking, movies & music. Somerset City. area. Non smoker & drinker. Friendship first. This advertiser has chosen to receive mail. Please respond to: Box 5184, Forbes Newspapers, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876

WHITE MALE, 50 attached seeking WF 35-50 for an adventurous, caring, romantic, discreet daytime relationship. This advertiser has chosen to receive mail. Please respond to Box 5181, Forbes Newspapers, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876.

WHITE WIDOW— petite. Loving, physically/emotionally attractive. Seeks WWWWM, 59 plus. 5'8" with same qualities or friendship, sense of humor helpful. Middlesex County. This advertiser has chosen to receive mail. Please respond to Box 5185, Forbes Newspaper, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876

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Professional Disc Jockey Service

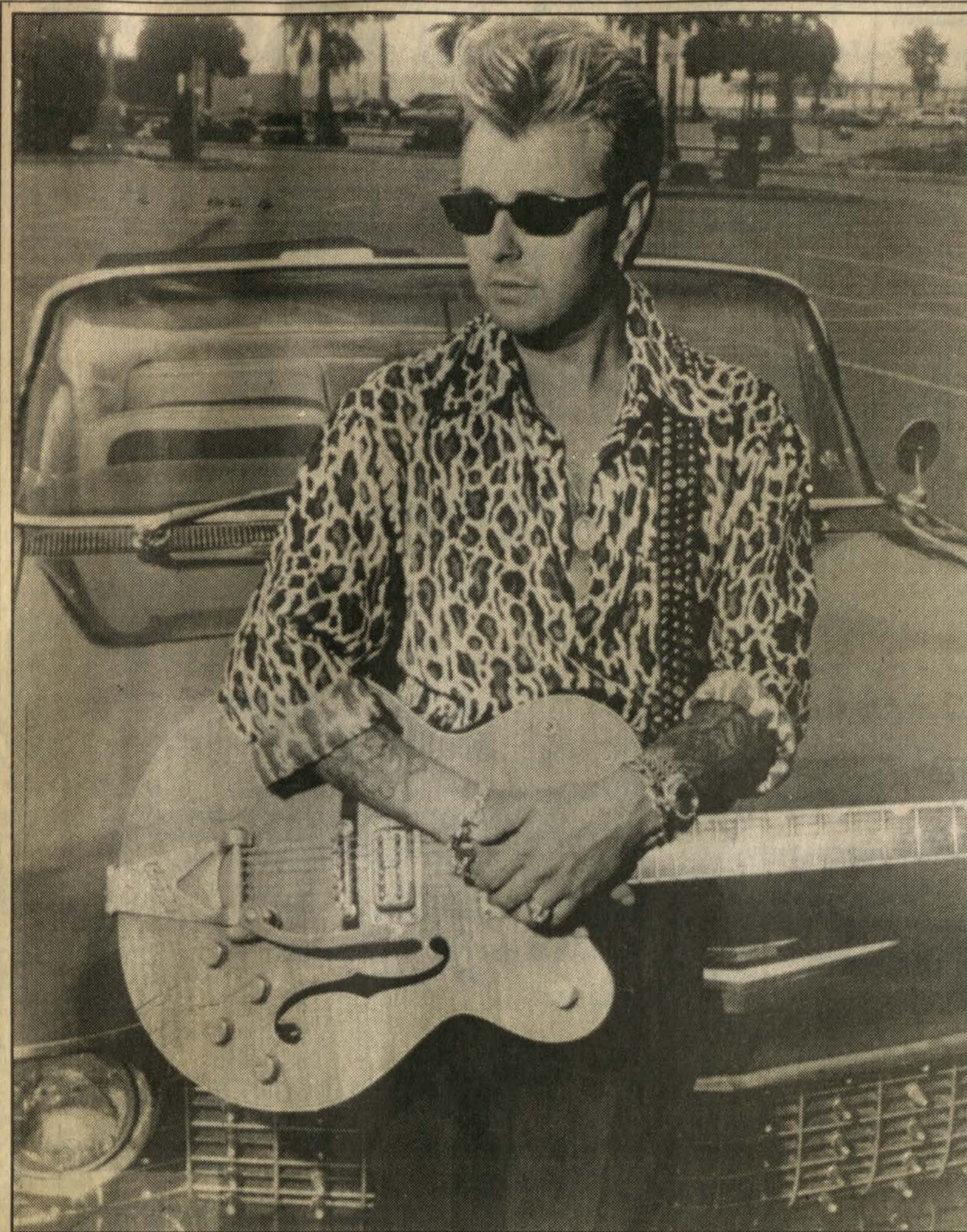
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 - Nursing Bras • Teddies
 - Stockings • Panties • Gowns
- Complete Lingerie Needs
• Personal Attention • Expert Fitting
- Personally Yours.
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(908) 234-1444
M-Thurs, 10-5:30 Fri Sat 10-5



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Still a cool cat after all these years

The Brian Setzer Orchestra, featuring the ex-Stray Cats leader and a 17-piece big band, will rock your way into the New Year 8 p.m. Sunday at Club Bene in Sayreville. See *Club Mix*.

WHAT TO DO



Club Mix



In Concert

BOURBON STREET CAFE

Old Bay Restaurant
61 Church St., New Brunswick
(908) 246-3111
"Is That Jazz?" (acid jazz), Sundays.
New-artist showcase, Mondays.
•Bluesman Willie, Dec. 27.
•Night Train, Dec. 28, Jan. 4.
•The VooDudes, Jan. 1.
•Supreme Court, Jan. 2.
•Big Jack Johnson, Jan. 3.

CLUB BENE

Route 35, Sayreville
(908) 727-3000
•Strange Brew, Dec. 27.
•The Soft Parade, Dec. 28.
•Brian Setzer Orchestra, Dec. 29.
•Gallagher II, Dec. 31.
•Bay City Rollers, Jan. 3.
•Carlo Renza (Elvis Presley tribute), Jan. 4.

CORNERSTONE

25 New St., Metuchen
(908) 549-5306
•Kenny Davern Quartet, Dec. 27.
•Allan Vache Quartet, Dec. 28, 31.

CROSSROADS

78 North Ave., Garwood
(908) 232-5666
•Grant Green Jr., Dec. 27.
•B.B. & The Stingers, Dec. 28.
•Clarence Spady, Dec. 31.
•The Blues Hounds (w/Matt O'Ree), Jan. 2.
•Bill Perry, Jan. 3.
•Big Jack Johnson, Jan. 4.

INDIGO JONES

369 George St.
New Brunswick
(908) 828-5055; www.brunsfest.com/indigojones
Breakin' Kaos (jungle/house), Saturdays.
"Black Box Outburst Theatre" (comedy), Sundays.
Open mike, Mondays.
•Funky Family, Dec. 27.
•Call for details, Dec. 31.

JACK O'CONNOR'S

1288 Route 22, Bridgewater
(908) 725-1500
Gladys Richards (piano), brunch Sundays.
Willie Lynch Trio (Irish), Thursdays.
•Summit Stompers, Dec. 27.
•99 Years, Dec. 31.

MINSTREL COFFEEHOUSE

Somerset County Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Rd., Basking Ridge
(201) 335-9489
•Liza DiSavino, A.J. Bodner, Debbie Brewin-Wilson, Dec. 27.
•Martin Sexton, Jan. 3.

MURPHY'S INN

102 Woodfern Rd., Neshanic
(908) 369-9830
•Johnny Charles, Dec. 27.

ORPHAN ANNIE'S

1255 Valley Rd., Stirling
(908) 647-0138
Open jam, Sundays.
Joe Cerisano, Tuesdays.
Open jazz session, Wednesdays.
•Two Queens in the Court, Dec. 27.
•Hubert Sumlin, Dec. 28.

PALMYRA

22 Hamilton St.
Bound Brook
(908) 302-0515
•John Bianculli, Dec. 27.
•Call for details, Dec. 28.
•Jazz Heads, Dec. 31.

SHOUT!

116 Watchung Ave., Plainfield
(908) 769-9267
•New Life Crisis, Dec. 27.
•Lunchbox Superhero, Dec. 28.
•Rob Base, Dec. 31.

STRESS FACTORY

90 Church St., New Brunswick
(908) 545-4242
Comedy club.
•Malcolm George, Dec. 26-28.
•John Mulrooney, Dec. 31.

VERVE RESTAURANT

18 E. Main St., Somerville
(908) 707-8655
•John Bianculli, Dec. 28.

CHICKENFAT BALL

2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5
Watchung Arts Center
Watchung Circle, Watchung
(908) 753-0190

•Jazz jam session with Ken Peplowski, Randy Sandke, Howard Alden, Ben Aronov, Linc Milliman and Chuch Reed. Admission \$18; no tickets sold at the door.

THE GREAT NEW YEAR'S

EVE CELEBRATION

7 and 10 p.m. Dec. 31
Paper Mill Playhouse
Brookside Dr., Millburn
(201) 376-4343

•Revue with entertainers from the professional theater's productions. Admission \$80-\$60.

N.J. SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3
Richardson Auditorium,
Princeton University

8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4

State Theatre, New Brunswick
(800) ALLEGRO
•Les Paladins Suite No. 2 by Rameau;
Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major,
K.488; Schumann's Symphony No. 4 in D
minor. Adults \$38-\$12; senior citizens 30 per
cent off; students (1 hour before curtain) \$5.

ORGAN FEAST

4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5
Our Lady of Peace Church
Route 130, North Brunswick
(908) 548-0347

•Featuring organists Lester Berenbroick, John Stokes, Joseph Suchocki and Carol Sullivan. Admission \$5 per person, \$10 per family.

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31
State Theatre, 19 Livingston Ave., New Brun-
swick
(908) 246-7469

•"The Irving Berlin Songbook" with New York cabaret singer Mary Cleere Haran. Admission \$45-\$25.

Frampton gets revived on CD reissue

Peter Frampton: Frampton Comes Alive (Mobile Fidelity re-issue)

Classic albums are labeled as such because they define a particular artist at a certain period in history. It is not only the music but often the context in which the music was made.

Prior to this album's release in 1976, Peter Frampton was known primarily for his guitar work in The Herd and Humble Pie. After three excellent but ignored solo albums (the best being *Wind of Change*), Frampton and his



record company decided to take advantage of his devoted live following and record some of his North American tour using remote trucks parked outside some

of the venues.

After the tour, Frampton sifted through the various tapes and chose what he thought would be most representative of his concerts. He chose well. *Frampton Comes Alive* became one of the biggest selling live albums of all time, and one of the biggest selling albums, period.

Certain songs on these discs have been played ad nauseum by FM radio, so I will refrain from discussing those. There are some real beauties here that deserve another listen, however. One is

"Lines on My Face," which features heartfelt lyrical imagery, as well as a Frampton guitar solo that begins in a slow dirge-like manner before erupting into a dramatic crescendo. Another gem is "Wind of Change," which gives the listener a chance to appreciate Frampton's acoustic guitar prowess. The lyrics actually predated Frampton's meteoric rise to superstardom but, coincidentally, explain that feeling well.

— Andy Goldenberg

Weekend Plus

All the news we manage to fit

Editor
Nathan Shashoua

Staff writers
Rosa Cirianni
Christopher Lawrence

To suggest a story idea or ask a question about Weekend Plus, call editor Nathan Shashoua at (908) 722-3000, ext. 6307. Send press releases and letters to the editor to Weekend Plus, Forbes Newspapers, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876.

Weekend Plus is the arts and leisure supplement for Forbes Newspapers, publishers of: Somerset Messenger Gazette, Bound Brook Chronicle, Green Brook-North Plainfield Journal, Warren-Watchung Journal, Hills-Bedminster Press, Franklin Focus, Middlesex-Dunellen Chronicle, Piscataway Review, Metuchen-Edison Review, South Plainfield Reporter, Highland Park Herald, Cranford Chronicle, Westfield Record, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Press.

<p>LOOK! SENSIBLE DENTAL FEES! DR. KENNETH M. KUCHARZ 3 West Union Ave. Bound Brook General Dentistry "We Treat the Entire Family" 26 Years in BOUND BROOK 356-0678</p> <p> </p> <p><small>Additional charges may be incurred for related services which may be required in some cases.</small></p>	<p>EXAMINATION \$35 (including oral cancer screening)</p>
	<p>CLEANING \$50 (includes scaling)</p>
	<p>ROOT CANALS (one canal) \$300</p>
	<p>FILLINGS \$25 (Silver amalgam one surface)</p>
	<p>CROWNS \$550 (Porcelain fused to metal)</p>
	<p>FULL DENTURES \$550 (Upper or Lower)</p>
	<p>PARTIAL DENTURES \$635 (Upper or Lower)</p>
<p>SIMPLE EXTRACTIONS \$85</p>	

- SIGN UP FOR SISTER'S CLASS! -

"UPROARIOUS INTERACTIVE THEATRE!"
INSPIRED. MARIPAT DONOVAN AS SISTER, AN OVERWHELMINGLY AND VASTLY APPEALING CHARACTER, ENGAGES IN HILARIOUS BANTER WITH THE AUDIENCE. 'LATE NITE CATECHISM' SPEAKS TO AN AUDIENCE THAT IS BROADER THAN THE MEMBERSHIP OF ANY ONE CHURCH."
—New York Times

"LAUGH-OUT-LOUD FUNNY!"
—Associated Press

"HILARIOUS AUTHORITARIAN!"
SISTER INTERACTS WITH THE AUDIENCE SMASHINGLY!
—Daily News

NOW PLAYING IN N.Y.!

"HILARIOUS!"
—The Record

FROM THE PRODUCERS OF 'TONY N' TINA'S WEDDING'

LATE NITE CATECHISM

FOR TICKETS CALL: (212) 279-4200 / GROUPS: (212) 889-4300
ST. LUKE'S CHURCH 308 West 46th Street on Restaurant Row

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

UNLIMITED BOWLING!
No-Tap Scotch Dbls!
Champagne Toast!
Delicious Hot & Cold Buffet!
Crazy Bowl Music!
Party Favors!
Door Prizes!

COME & CELEBRATE WITH US! MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

JUST \$30 PER PERSON! OR \$50 PER COUPLE!

TUESDAY, DEC. 31ST 9:00PM - 3:00AM
*\$10.00 Non-refundable deposit required, per person.

STRIKE & SPARE
380 US HWY. 22 356-0011

GET-AWAYS

<p>NEW JERSEY</p> <p>\$69 SUN.-THURS. - \$89 FRIDAY Dinner and Breakfast Included That's right, full breakfast & dinner & an oceanfront rm! A great place to hold your next bus. meeting or conference! The Strippers are in the rips, golf courses are beautiful & shopping is always good in Victorian Cape May (price does not include cost of fishing trip or golf course fees). Fri. Nite pkgs. from \$69 including dinner & full breakfast for 2. Great weekend romantic getaway pkgs. incl. bkfst & dinner. Subj. to avail. Call 1-800-257-9432. Marquis de Lafayette Hotel, 501 Beach Dr., Cape May. Listed w/ the Nat'l Historic Reg. http://www.cape.net/capemay/marquis</p>	<p>SOUTH CAROLINA</p> <p>ESCAPE WINTER IN N. MYRTLE BEACH</p> <p>* 1 BR \$350 - 2 BR \$560/Mo. * Golf & Shows * Oceanview Home - 3 BR/2 BA \$575/Mo. * Oceanfront Home - 3 BR/2 BA \$600/Mo. All UTIL. - No Pets - ☎ 803-272-6174 Windjammer - 817 S. Ocean Blvd., 29582</p>
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TO PLACE AN AD
Call Kelly
908-722-3000
extension 6853

4 What to do

Happenings

CURTAIN CALLS

Princeton
(609) 924-8777.
• "First Night" arts for New Year's Eve, starting 8 p.m. Dec. 31. Buttons \$15.
FIRST NIGHT BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN-SOMERVILLE
(908) 707-8308
• Arts for New Year's Eve, starting 6 p.m. Dec. 31. Buttons \$10.
FIRST NIGHT WESTFIELD
(908) 232-8041;
www.westfieldnj.com
• Arts for New Year's Eve, starting 6 p.m. Dec. 31. Buttons \$10.

Kid Stuff

NEW YORK EXPRESS
1 and 3:30 p.m. Jan. 5
Edward Nash Theatre
Raritan Valley Community College, North Branch
(908) 725-3420
• Roller dance show starring Steve Love. Admission \$6.

Stage

NOW PLAYING
CROSSROADS THEATRE COMPANY
7 Livingston Ave.
New Brunswick
(908) 249-5560
• "The Amen Corner, James Baldwin play with a full gospel choir. To Jan. 5. Admission \$45-\$22; group rates available.
FORUM THEATRE
314 Main St., Metuchen
(908) 548-0582
• "Sophie, Totie and Belle, revue about the lives of Sophie Tucker, Totie Fields and Belle Barth. 8 p.m. Dec. 27, 28; 2 p.m. Dec. 29; 7:30 and 10 p.m. Dec. 31. Admission \$37.50-\$25.
GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE
9 Livingston Ave.
New Brunswick
(908) 246-7717
• "Sing a Christmas Song, world premiere musical adapted from A Christmas Carol. To Dec. 28. Admission \$32-\$24; discounts available.
MCCARTER THEATRE
91 University Pl., Princeton
(609) 683-8000
• "A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens standard. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 27; 2 and 8 p.m. Dec. 28; 1 and 5:30 p.m. Dec. 29. Admission \$35-\$26.
OFF-BROADSTREET THEATRE
5 S. Greenwood Ave.
Hopewell
(609) 466-2766
• "Forever Plaid, musical about a pre-Beatles vocal group. 8 p.m. Dec. 27, 28, Jan. 3, 4; 2:30 p.m. Dec. 29. Admission \$20 Saturday, \$18.50 Friday and Sunday.

SHERATON AT WOODBRIDGE PLACE
Route 1, Iselin
(201) 301-0562
• "A Deadly Brief Case, 007 spoof done dinner-theater style. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 28. Admission \$42.
STATE THEATRE
19 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(908) 246-7469
• "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, early Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. 8 p.m. Dec. 27, 28; 2 p.m. Dec. 28, 29. Admission \$5.
VILLAGERS THEATRE
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset
(908) 873-2710
• "The Nat "King" Cole Songbook, revue of his hits. 8:30 p.m. Dec. 27, 28, Jan. 3, 4; 3 p.m. Dec. 29, Jan. 5. Admission \$15.

THE ART MUSEUM
Princeton University
(609) 258-3788
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday (closed Jan. 1). Tours of the collection 2 p.m. Saturday. Free admission.
• Contemporary photographs, to Jan. 5.
BUNKER HILL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
287 Bunker Hill Rd.
Griggstown
(908) 281-5431
1-5 p.m. the first Sunday of the month (weather permitting).
EAST JERSEY OLDE TOWNE
Johnson Park
River Rd., Piscataway
(908) 463-9077
Village of relocated 18th century structures set near the Middlesex County Park Police station. No tours offered at present. Gift shop closed until further notice.
METLAR-BODINE HOUSE
1281 River Rd., Piscataway
(908) 463-8363
• Artifacts of Lenni-Lenape Indians and other peoples from the land now known as Piscataway. Noon-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Adults \$2, children \$1.
MIDDLESEX COUNTY MUSEUM
Cornelius Low House
1225 River Rd., Piscataway
(908) 745-4177
1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday (closed Jan. 1).
MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM
614 Mountain Ave., Westfield
(908) 232-1776
2-5 p.m. Sunday. Adults \$2, students 50 cents, children under 6 free.

NEW JERSEY MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE
Cook College
Route 1, New Brunswick
(908) 249-2077
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday (closed Dec. 31, Jan. 1). Free admission for members. Non-member admission: adults \$3, senior citizens \$2, children 5-older \$1. Registration required for groups.
TRAILSIDE NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER
452 New Providence Rd.
Mountainside
(908) 789-3670
1-5 p.m. every day (closed Jan. 1). Registration required for programs.
WALLACE HOUSE AND OLD DUTCH PARSONAGE
38 Washington Pl., Somerville
(908) 725-1015
George Washington's headquarters when he was stationed in Somerville in 1778. 10 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday (closed Jan. 1). Free admission.
JANE VOORHEES ZIMMERLI ART MUSEUM
Rutgers University
Hamilton St., New Brunswick
(908) 932-7237
Reopens Jan. 2. Normal hours 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday. Free admission.
• Works by Alexander Arefiev, to Jan. 26.
• Recent acquisitions to the Rutgers Archives for Printmaking Studios, to Feb. 16.
• "Four Centuries of Prints" from the collection, to Feb. 16.
• "Ancient Art from the Collection," to Feb. 16.
• "Lit from Within: Amish Quilts of Lancaster County," Pa., to Feb. 16.
• Works by Alexander Arefiev, to Feb. 23.

AMONG FRIENDS
(908) 874-5599
• Social at Unitarian Church, Princeton, 7:30 p.m. Friday.
BRANDIS DANCE THEATRE
(908) 388-4605
• Ballroom and Latin dance at Knights of Columbus hall, Dunellen, 9 p.m. Dec. 27, 26.
INTERFAITH SINGLES
(45+ older)
(908) 233-2278
• Social at First Baptist Church, Westfield, 9 a.m. Sunday. Cost \$2.
MARRIAGE CONNECTION
(908) 232-8827
• Buffet luncheon at Mojave Grill, North Avenue, Westfield 1-4 p.m. Jan. 19. Call for reservations by Jan. 10. Limited to 34 people.
NEW HORIZONS
(Catholics, 28-48)
(908) 560-0500
• Christmas dance at Marriott hotel, Somerset, 9 p.m. Dec. 27. Cost \$15.
SINGLEFACES
(908) 462-2406
• Dances at Hilton hotel, Iselin, 9 p.m. Dec. 28, 8 p.m. Jan. 5. Cost \$12.
• New Year's Eve dance at Gran Centurion, Clark, 9 p.m. Dec. 31. Cost \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door.
• Dance at Holiday Inn, Springfield, 9 p.m. Jan. 4. Cost \$12.
SOMERSET HILLS SINGLE HIKERS
(908) 774-6759
• Hike at Pyramid Mountain, Boonton, 11:30 a.m. Jan. 5. Meet in lot across from Willie's Tavern, Bedminster. Cost \$5; bring water and lunch.
WEEKEND RACQUETS
(908) 937-9317
• Tennis at The Club at Woodbridge, 5:30 p.m. Jan. 5. Cost \$22; reservations required.
WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS
Woodbridge Chapter
(908) 634-6812
• Dance at Elks lodge, Woodbridge, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 29. Cost \$7.

Singles

HEY MA... "What's In the Icebox?" Meals to Go
Menu for the Week of December 23, 1996
Mon. Honey Mustard Chicken \$4.25 or Roasted Veggies over Wild Rice \$4.25
Tues. Beef Stroganoff \$4.25 or Pasta w/ Peas & Mushrooms \$4.00 CLOSING AT 3:00
Wed. Closed HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Thurs. Fussilli w/ Sausage & Cabbage \$4.50 or Sandwiches \$3.00 CLOSING AT 3:00PM
Fri. Jambalya \$4.75 or Sandwiches \$3.00 CLOSING AT 3:00PM
440 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook (Rt. 28) 764-9255
62 W. Main St., Somerville 722-8782

BUZZY'S FOOD & SPIRITS
FAMILIES WELCOMED
New Years Eve Celebration
Dinners Starting At: **\$8.95**
Complimentary Champagne
Seatings at 2-4-6- & 8pm
Reservations Suggested • Casual Attire
200 Stelton Road • Piscataway • 752-2229

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE AT: MAX'S CUCINA ITALIANA
SEATINGS AT 5PM, 7PM:
• 9:30 SEATING FOLLOWED BY GALA NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION FEATURING D.J./DANCING CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS
63 W. Somerset St. • Raritan, New Jersey 725-4553

All 1/4 lb. Sandwiches \$3.00
Dinners \$4.00 to \$5.00
Hey Ma... "What's In the Icebox?" Meals to Go
Menu for the Week of December 23, 1996
Mon. Honey Mustard Chicken \$4.25 or Roasted Veggies over Wild Rice \$4.25
Tues. Beef Stroganoff \$4.25 or Pasta w/ Peas & Mushrooms \$4.00 CLOSING AT 3:00
Wed. Closed HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Thurs. Fussilli w/ Sausage & Cabbage \$4.50 or Sandwiches \$3.00 CLOSING AT 3:00PM
Fri. Jambalya \$4.75 or Sandwiches \$3.00 CLOSING AT 3:00PM
440 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook (Rt. 28) 764-9255
62 W. Main St., Somerville 722-8782

THE CROSSROADS RESTAURANT & BAR
MODERN AMERICAN & CAJUN CREOLE CUISINE
NEW YEARS EVE BASH!
8:30PM - 5:00 AM
\$55 per ticket or \$100 per couple, INCLUDES but not limited to:
HOT & COLD BUFFET: RIBS, HOTWINGS, JAMBALYA...
Continental Breakfast Platter: Muffins, Bagels...
5 Hours Open Bar! Well Drinks and All Draught Beer Free From 9pm to 2am
FREE CHAMPAGNE at 11:45 to 12:15
FREE Party Favors to Celebrate the NEW YEAR!
Admission to See One of The Cross Roads Favorites: CLARENCE SPADY
Tickets Are Limited So Come On Down And Get Your Ticket, Today!
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT TUESDAY - SATURDAY
FEATURING: Blues Jazz & Roots Music
78 NORTH AVE. GARWOOD 232-5666

Celebrate! NEW YEAR'S EVE at McAteers!
Ballroom reservations Full-course dinner featuring shrimp cocktail and **Prime Rib**
Champagne cocktail, of course
Unlimited drinks • Hats and Noisemakers
OPEN BAR 9 PM - 2 AM
Music and Dancing To Live Bands
\$110 Per Couple
Price includes all taxes & gratuities
Reservations Required
Full payment due at time of reservation.
McAteers (908) 469-2522
1711 Easton Ave. (off I-287) • Somerset, NJ

New Years Eve Gala Celebration
8:30 to 1:00 A.M.
Open Bar
Hors D'Oeuvres
Four Course Dinner
Dancing to Jim Hoffman's "Encore"
Champagne & Noisemakers at Midnight
Continental Breakfast at 1:00
MENU:
Seafood Bisque
Tricolor Salad
w/Citrus Vinaigrette Dressing
CHOICE OF:
Beef Wellington (Filet Mignon Au Foi Gras)
En Puff Pastry
or North Atlantic Salmon
En Brochette
Sauce Buerre Blanc
Mixed Vegetable Julienne
Roasted Risole' Potato
Dark Mint Chocolate
Bit Clusters
on Mint Creme Pillows
\$65.00 per person
6% Tax, 18% Gratuity not included
COACH N' PADDOCK
Rt. 78 (Exit 12)
4 Miles West of Clinton
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Open 7 Days • Weddings • Banquets

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Joe Todaro of Rosina's Restaurant & Tom Miano Former chef & co-owner of Catari's
ANNOUNCE THE GRAND OPENING OF
UNCLE JOE'S BRASS RAIL
FEATURING LIVE LOBSTERS OR PRIME RIB
\$9.95 ALSO STEAKS, CHOPS, AND SOME TRADITIONAL ITALIAN DISHES
• SALAD BAR • GOURMET PIZZA
PRIVATE ROOM FOR UP TO 50 PEOPLE
108 Talmadge Ave. Bound Brook 356-5553

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GALA NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
To include:
Full Course Prime Rib Dinner
Champagne • Open Bar
(Rye, Scotch, Gin, Vodka, Rum, Bourbon, Wine & Beer)
Continental Breakfast
Hats & Noisemakers
Continuous Music of Three Live Bands:
James Boys • Relentless • The Islanders
starting 9 pm til 3 am
ONLY \$110.00 per couple
(tax & gratuities included)
Also Serving Early Dinner From Our Regular Menu
1013 Washington Ave. & Route 22
Green Brook, NJ 08822
(908) 968-2739

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FAX (908) 220-0535
Quail Run Center
125 WASHINGTON VALLEY RD. WARREN • 908-563-1188
FAX (908) 563-9222
Lunch Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11:30 am-2:30 pm
All Major Credit Cards Accepted • Dinner Hours: Mon-Thurs 5-10pm Fri-Sun 5-10:30pm

POOJA FINE EXOTIC INDIAN CUISINE
• Wide Selection of Best India Cuisine
• BYOB • Catering for All Occasions
• Every Item Prepared Fresh To Our Patron's Choice of Mild, Medium or Hot
• No Package Items Used in Food Preparation

FREE DINNER
Buy 1 Dinner Entree Get 2nd Dinner Entree FREE*
*Entree of equal or lesser value (UP TO \$8). One coupon per table. Minimum 2 or more dinners. Dine in only. May not be combined with any other offer. Offer expires January 31, 1997

10% OFF
Any Take-Out Order
May not be combined with any other offer. Offer expires January 31, 1997

Buy 3 Buffet Lunches Get One FREE
(Reg. \$6.95)
ALL YOU CAN EAT
Mon. - Sat.
Limit one per table. May not be combined with any other offer. Offer expires January 31, 1997



Galleries

ALEXANDER LIBRARY

Rutgers University
George St., New Brunswick
(908) 932-7511
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 1-5 p.m. Saturday (closed Dec. 31, Jan. 1). Free admission.
*Documents and Images from Feminist Contemporary Art," to Jan. 13.
*An Anarchist Experiment" by the Modern School of Stetton (Piscataway), Gallery '50, to Jan. 16.

THE ARTISTS SHOWCASE

10 Budd Ave., Chester
(908) 879-9552
Reopens Jan. 4. Normal hours noon-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Free admission.
*Holiday Eclectica," to Jan. 31.

BARRON ARTS CENTER

582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge
(908) 634-0413
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday; 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday (closed Jan. 1). Free admission.
*Trains, Trolleys and Tracks," to Dec. 27.

BEAMESDERFER GALLERY

65 N. Second Ave.
Highland Park
(908) 249-6971
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday (closed Jan. 1).
*Amour & Amour," etchings and lithographs by Michael Kuch, to Dec. 28.

BERNARDSVILLE LIBRARY

2 Morristown Rd., Bernardsville
(908) 766-0118
Open during library hours.
*Recent watercolors of John M. Williams Jr., Downstairs Gallery, to Dec. 31.
*Home for the Holidays," to Dec. 31.

EVERHART GALLERY

117 S. Maple Ave.
Basking Ridge
(908) 221-9007
11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday (closed Jan. 1). Also open by appointment.
*Christmas collectors show, to Jan. 18.

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

31 N. Fifth Ave., Highland Park
(908) 572-2750
Open during library hours.
*Paintings by Shirley Geismar, to Dec. 31.

HUNGARIAN HERITAGE CENTER

American Hungarian Foundation, 300 Somerset St.
New Brunswick
(908) 846-5777
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday (closed Jan. 1). Group tours by appointment.
*Hungary, 1100 Years," to Jan. 26.
*Festival of Trees, to Jan. 26.

COLLEGE CENTER GALLERY

Route 514, Edison
(908) 906-2566
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday (closed Jan. 1). Free admission.
*Works by Sheila Eichenblatt, to Dec. 30.

MUNICIPAL GALLERY

455 Hoes Lane, Piscataway
(908) 562-2301
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday (closed Jan. 1).
*Works by Grace Previty Booth, to Dec. 30.

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS

68 Elm St., Summit
(908) 273-9121

Free admission; call for each day's hours (closed Jan. 1).

*Sculpture from New Jersey, Part Two," to Jan. 5.
*Works "Sans Color" by S. Allyn Schaeffer, to Jan. 8.

PALMYRA TEA ROOM

22 Hamilton St.
Bound Brook
(908) 302-0515
Open during cafe hours.
*Holiday exhibition, to Dec. 28.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY STORE

36 University Pl., Princeton
(609) 921-8500
Open during store hours.
*Transformations Craft Cooperative exhibit, to Dec. 27.

PRINTMAKING COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

440 River Rd., North Branch
(908) 725-2110
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. Saturday (closed Jan. 1). Free admission.
*23rd annual juried members show, to Jan. 11.

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

North Bridge St., Bridgewater
(908) 526-4016
Open during library hours.
*Raritan Valley Arts Association show, to Dec. 29.

SWAIN GALLERIES

703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield
(908) 756-1707
9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday (closed Jan. 1).
*Christmas Miniatures," to Jan. 3.

JACOB TRAPP GALLERY

Unitarian Church
4 Waldron Ave., Summit
(908) 273-3245
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-noon Sunday (closed Jan. 1).
*Variations in Realism," to Jan. 3.

WILLIAMS GALLERY OF FINE ART

8 Chambers St., Princeton
(609) 921-1142;
www.wmgallery.com
Reopens Jan. 9. Normal hours 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday or by appointment.
*Salon show, to Jan. 18.

ZIA GRILL

19 Dennis St., New Brunswick
(908) 247-3287
Open during grill hours.
*Paintings by Marianne Cenko, into January.

Dance

THE NUTCRACKER

(American Repertory Ballet)
Jan. 2-5; McCarter Theatre
91 University Pl., Princeton
(609) 683-8000
*Tchaikovsky's holiday standard. Admission \$29-\$21; call for showtimes.

THE NUTCRACKER

(New Jersey Ballet)
Dec. 26-29; Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Dr., Millburn
(201) 376-4343
*Tchaikovsky's holiday standard. Admission \$36-\$24; call for showtimes.

Rehearsals

CANTABILE CHAMBER CHORALE

7:30 p.m. Wednesday
Presbyterian Church, 409 Mountain Ave., Bound Brook
(908) 560-7132, Ext. 2
*Middlesex County ensemble with emphasis on new American music. Singers in all vocal parts welcome; auditions by appointment only.

CELEBRATION SINGERS

8 p.m. Tuesday
United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Ave. East, Cranford
(908) 245-2339
*Choral group specializing in show tunes and light classics.

DEER RIDGE SINGERS

7:30 p.m. Tuesday; United Methodist Church, Washington Valley Rd., Martinsville
(908) 604-2039
*Chamber music ensemble specializing in Renaissance and Baroque works. Additional male voices welcome; some choral experience required.

FESTIVAL CHOIR

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
St. Joseph Church
Mountain Ave., Bound Brook
(908) 247-6751
*Performs for Catholic services in the four-county Diocese of Metuchen. New members welcome.

HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY CHORUS

7:30 p.m. Thursday
Reformed Church, 21 S. Second Ave., Highland Park
(908) 545-1958, 572-5405
*Preparing for cabaret concert of show tunes. Singers high school age and older welcome; membership not required for cabaret.

HOUNDS FOR HARMONY

7:45 p.m. Monday
PeopleCare Center, 120 Findeme Ave., Bridgewater
(908) 647-2180, 526-0872
*All-male ensemble singing barbershop style.

MID-JERSEY HARMONY CHORUS

7:30 p.m. Wednesday
Reformed Church, Main St., South Bound Brook
(908) 725-6178
*All-woman ensemble singing barbershop style. Open rehearsals.

ORATORIO SINGERS

7 p.m. Thursday
First United Methodist Church
1 E. Broad St., Westfield
(908) 233-8883
*Ensemble that sings major choral works. All levels of experience accepted; adults and high school students welcome.

RARITAN VALLEY CHORUS

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
Neshanic Reformed Church
715 Annwell Rd., Neshanic
(908) 281-8509
*Adult chorus with members from throughout the area.

RARITAN VALLEY SYMPHONIC BAND

7:30 p.m. Wednesday
Hillsborough High School
Raider Blvd., Belle Mead
(908) 359-7485;
tisch2@ix.netcom.com
*Community ensemble which draws from within Central New Jersey.

SAENGER CHOR

8 p.m. Monday
Saenger Halle, 220 Somerset St., North Plainfield
(908) 276-8572
*40-voice chorus that specializes in German song. All voices welcome; not necessary to

SOMERSET VALLEY CHORUS

7 p.m. Tuesday
PeopleCare Center, 120 Findeme Ave., Bridgewater
(908) 469-3983, 873-8833
*All-woman ensemble singing barbershop style.

Harmony workshop Tuesdays in November; registration required.

SOMERSET VALLEY ORCHESTRA

7:30 p.m. Thursday
Bound Brook High School
Route 28, Bound Brook
(908) 722-0122
*Community orchestra with players from the area. New players needed, especially French horns, string basses, cellos and tubas. No audition needed.

STARLITE CHORALE

7:30 p.m. Tuesday
Osceola Presbyterian Church
1689 Raritan Rd., Clark
(908) 885-1120
*Specializing in show tunes, standards and big band songs.

SUMMIT CHORALE

7:45 p.m. Tuesday
Christ Church, 561 Springfield Ave., Summit
(201) 762-8486
*Choral works from the Renaissance to the present.

WASHINGTON ROCK GIRL SCOUT CHORUS

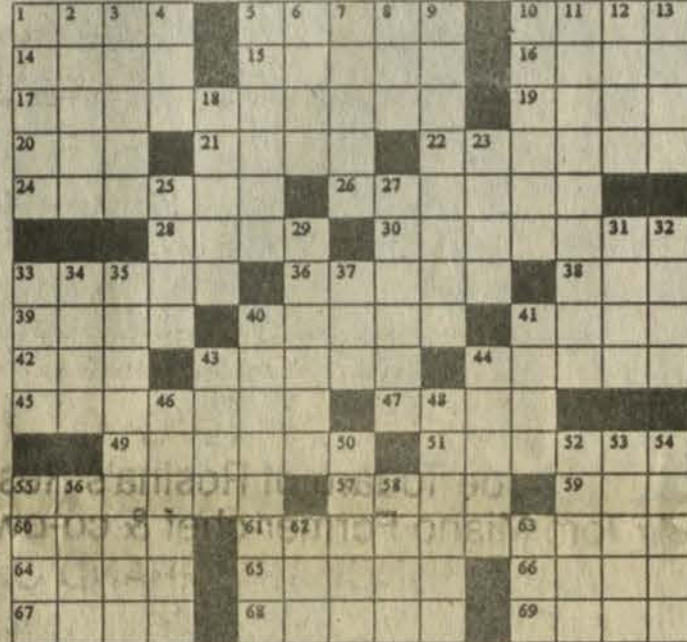
6:45 p.m. certain Wednesdays
(call for dates)
Edison Intermediate School
Grove St., Westfield
(908) 232-3236, 233-3716
*All-girl ensemble from 24 towns in three

Weekend Plus WEEKLY CROSSWORD

"Farewell 1996"

By Gerry Frey

- ACROSS
- Owly
 - Photographer Ansel
 - Peter Pan's pirate
 - Against
 - Rent again
 - Precedes legal
 - '96 Cruella DeVille
 - Beware the _____ of March
 - Hearing aid
 - _____ State, '96 Big 10 champs
 - Mr. Borgnine
 - Turn aside
 - Child to parent
 - Indian address
 - Actor Peter
 - Eastern Eur. people
 - '96 "Striptease" star
 - Marker
 - Pointed and
 - Actor John
 - Effortless task
 - Writer Miller to friends
 - Beeped
 - Ravines
 - Try to grab again
 - Spanish river
 - Flashy
 - Hasenpfeffer
 - Olympian Bruce
 - Fibs
 - Mr. Onassis
 - Jai
 - '96 Madonna role
 - Sad
 - Observed
 - Sea eagle
 - Coll. entrance exams
 - Eliot for one:2 wds
 - Fewer
- DOWN
- Earnings
 - Relative by marriage
 - Wood measure
 - One in Hamburg
 - William Tell, e.g.
 - Sandwich shop
 - Above it all
 - Prefix meaning middle
 - '96 Super Bowl team
 - Type of anesthetic
 - '96 Madam Secretary
 - Poetic words
 - Follows Down or Big
 - Variable stars
 - Stir up
 - Invitation request
 - Tristan's partner
 - Response to "Will You?"
 - Pled horse
 - Dines
 - Healed wound
 - Entice
 - Shannon Lucid's job
 - Bullring cheer
 - '96 dance craze
 - Messy one
 - Window part
 - Hold on to
 - Pyle & others
 - French and Italian, e.g.
 - Privileged class
 - Vermont city
 - Presses
 - Creed
 - Pokea
 - '96 loss to jazz world
 - French state
 - Wernher _____ Braun:
 - Lamprey



Quotable Quote

"I always knew I'd look back on my tears and laugh, but I never did think I would look back on my laughter and cry."
Anonymous

Answers on page 2

When Dining Out Look To Forbes Newspapers For The Best Selection Of Restaurants In The Area.

To Advertise Call (908) 722-3000 (Somerset & Middlesex Counties) or (908) 276-6000 (Union County)

Celebrate The Holidays At THE NEWLY RENOVATED *Costa del Sol*

Authentic Spanish & Portuguese Cuisine At It's Best.

Featuring: • Veal • Steak • Chicken • Seafood • Fish • Pork

Call Now For Details & Reserve For New Years Eve
600 W. Union Ave. • Bound Brook • 908/560-0620

Start Your New Years Eve With Fine Food & Wine

One Seating from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. December 31, 1996

New Year's Eve Pre-Fixe Menu Seven Courses for Seventy Bucks includes accompanying wines and Champagne Toast to Complete The Evening. Call for details and Reservations

The Wild Mushroom 705 Route 202 722-9677 (near Ortho)

It's Time For Something New & Enticing with a Touch of Elegance!

Bring in the New Year with the best Evening Ever!

Spain 92 RESTAURANT

NEW YEARS EVE - Seatings at 3, 5 and 7:30pm (take out available)

Starting at 10:00pm Limited Seating
NEW YEARS EVE FIESTA
a fabulous FIVE COURSE DINNER

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, NOISE MAKERS, HATS
CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
Make Your Reservations Now

Rt. 202 N. Corner of Thompson St., Raritan • (908) 704-9292

Enjoy a Special Menu For New Year's Eve At *Bahn Thai* the finest Thai cuisine

319 Route 22 East at Sansone Plaza, Greenbrook, NJ (908) 968-0085, 0088
Hours: Tues-Thurs, Sun 11am-9:30pm Friday - Sat 11am-10:30pm

All major credit cards • No liquor license • Non-smoking • Take-out available • Family Owned & Operated

HERB PATULLO'S GREENHOUSE RESTAURANT LUNCH & DINNER SERVED DAILY

RESERVE NOW FOR NEW YEARS EVE

\$25 PER PERSON HOT & COLD BUFFET 9PM UNTIL 2AM

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EVERY FRI. & SAT. NITE IN DECEMBER "ART & WILLIE"

1 NORTH VOSSLER AVE. • BOUND BROOK
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The Crucible doesn't give you what you want

But it gives audiences what they need

By JEFFREY COHEN
Weekend Plus film critic

Hollywood tends to give the people what they want. And what the people want, in most cases, is snappy, predictable entertainment, with lots of uplift and at the very least, a glimmer of hope. Let's be honest, too: that's one of the reasons we love Hollywood; it gives us hope, no matter how false.

Arthur Miller, on the other hand, has never offered audiences much hope. In 1949, when he gave us what will always be known as his masterpiece, he did not bother to sugarcoat it, even in the title. It's not called *Near Death But Ultimate Salvation of a Salesman*, after all.

That could be why Miller has never translated especially well to the screen. Hollywood being Hollywood, the movies have tried to turn Miller's work into something it's not, and Miller being Miller, the playwright was not in the least interested in selling out to let them do it.

All of which makes the current film of Miller's *The Crucible* all the more amazing. Miller held onto the rights to the play for decades, tinkering with his own screenplay and holding out until someone would agree to make it his way. And now someone has.

Nicholas Hytner, who previously

adapted *The Madness of King George* to the screen, has taken what Miller wrote, and he has filmed it very well. Casting Daniel Day-Lewis as John Proctor, the decent but flawed hero of the tragedy, and Winona Ryder, working extremely well against her traditional casting, Hytner has not sold out to give us sexy Pilgrims the way Demi Moore's laughable *The Scarlet Letter* did last year. He has made the suffocating allegory the playwright always intended.

Written as a reaction to the McCarthy-era Communist persecutions, Miller brought the scene back to its roots: Salem, Massachusetts in the Puritan era. And someone is about to start the ball rolling to have an entire society scream "witch."

When first seen, Abby Williams (Ryder), with fire in her eyes, is leading a group of her young girlfriends into the woods for an innocent-looking dabble in spells that will make a boy fall for each of the participants. But Abby has darker things on her mind, and when the local minister (Bruce Davison) stumbles upon the ritual, she has the means to implement them.

Abby and her friends, to escape persecution themselves, begin naming local townspeople as practicing witchcraft or consorting with

Satan himself. And, as such things do, the pranks shortly get seriously out of hand. Innocent people are taken away in chains.

Among them is Elizabeth Proctor (Joan Allen), John's wife, whom Abby wishes to remove. It seems that when Abby was in John and Elizabeth's employ, she and John had an affair, and now Abby believes — mistakenly — that if Elizabeth is hanged, John will be free to love her.

Day-Lewis is at his best here, watching the trap spring around him even as he knows that he set part of it for himself. He starts off as the charming hero, even a little on the arrogant side, then deteriorates as he realizes his powerlessness. Even Ryder, often an incredibly annoying actress, here uses that to her advantage, giving us evil disguised as innocence.

While Miller's language might seem somewhat stilted and a little melodramatic in another setting, in the Puritan setting, it works beautifully, and the actors converse, rather than recite, which helps the language do its work.

There is no hope given. There is no salvation to be found here, even in standing up for principles and doing the right thing. In the end, nobody gets what they want. And the warning is clear: allow yourself to be swept up in hysteria, and



Daniel Day-Lewis, as Proctor, tries to keep Abigail Williams (Winona Ryder) at bay in the new film version of Arthur Miller's classic play, *The Crucible*.

there will be no good end.

Hytner has done Miller's text proud.

Weekend Plus rates films on just how much of their \$8 ticket price they're worth:

The Crucible.. \$7.75

Directed by Nicholas Hytner. Screenplay by Arthur Miller. Produced by Robert A. Miller and David V. Picker. Rated PG-13.
John Proctor.....DANIEL DAY-LEWIS
Abigail Williams.....WINONA RYDER

Judge Danforth.....PAUL SCOFIELD
Elizabeth Proctor.....JOAN ALLEN
Reverend Parris.....BRUCE DAVISON
Reverend Hale.....ROB CAMPBELL
Thomas Putnam.....JEFFREY JONES
Giles Corey.....PETER VAUGHAN
Judge Sewall.....GEORGE GAYNES

Porn publisher's saga puts punch back into movies

People Vs. Flynt is a superb chronicle of a life

By JOHN ANGELO

Weekend Plus correspondent

Seize peddler. Millionaire publisher. Born-again Christian. Assassin's target. Nemesis of Jerry Falwell. Drug-addled recluse. Courtroom fighter for the First Amendment. The life of Larry Flynt, founder of *Hustler* magazine, could only happen in America.

Where else could an unabashed pornographer wade through the American court system to defend

the people's rights to freedom of the press and freedom of speech? In *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, director Milos Forman brings to the screen the circus-like life of Flynt and relishes every ironic detail.

The loose-cannon title character, played by Woody Harrelson, begins as a small-time club owner with his brother Jimmy (played by Harrelson's real-life brother Brett Harrelson). As the two brothers struggle to keep their business afloat, young Larry devises a scheme to attract the attention of his male audience: He'll create a club newsletter that features revealing photos of the dancers scheduled to appear in person. This is when Larry first encounters his opposition with the law (he's baffled when his publishers tell him his newsletter must contain some sort of text).

The brothers' wildest dreams come true as the newsletter slowly evolves into the infamous *Hustler* and becomes a tremendous success. Larry basks in his newly found success, living a life filled with sex and drugs. His wild and lascivious ways continue throughout his marriage to stripper and *Hustler* centerfold Althea (Courtney Love, in a stunning and unforgettable performance).

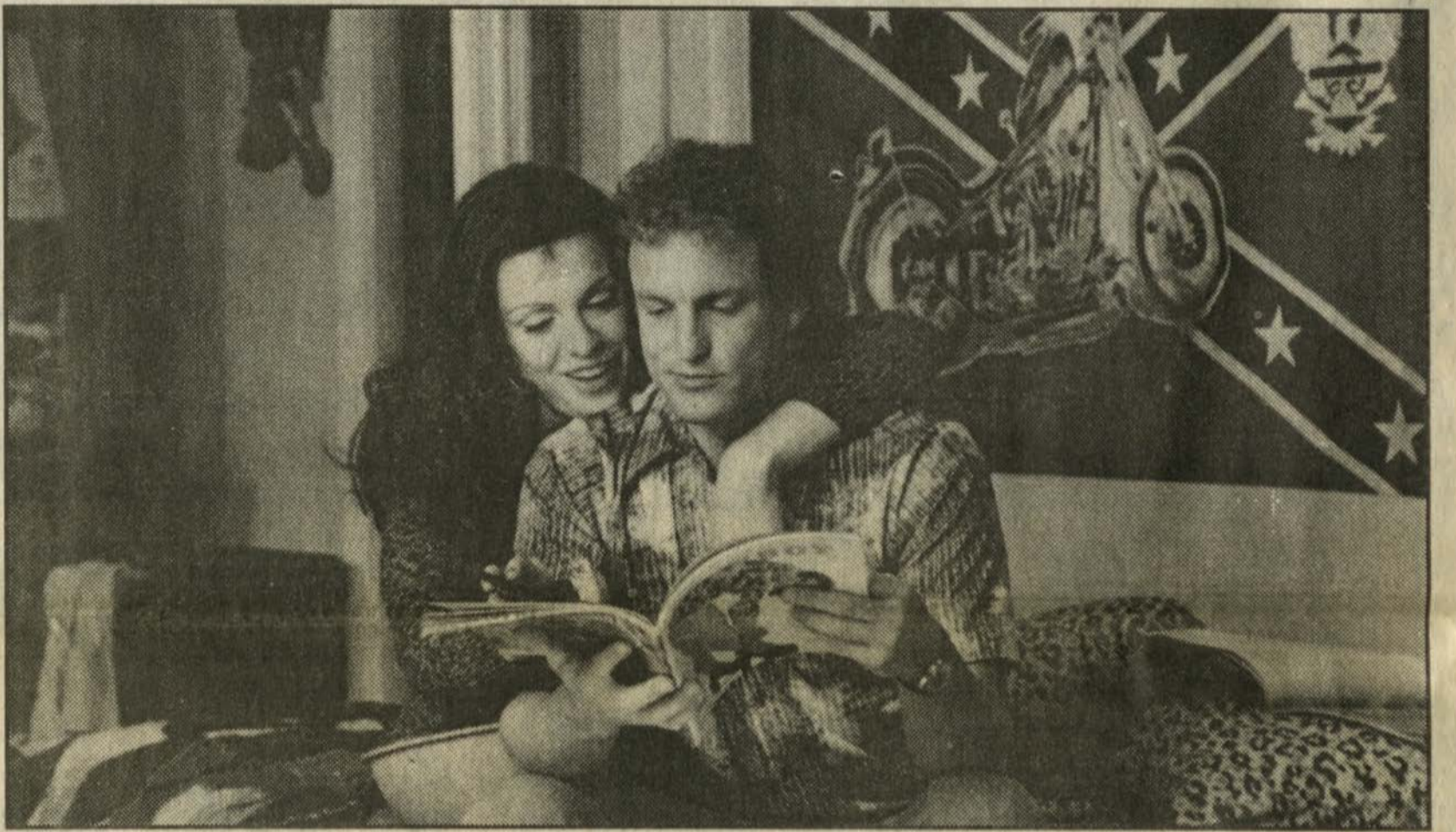
Flynt gains notoriety across the country and receives the moniker of "the most hated man in America" for spreading pornography throughout the nation. One of Flynt's many enemies goes so far as to attempt to kill him, an act which left him confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Even

paralyzed, Flynt spends his life stepping on the toes of conservative America, including evangelist Jerry Falwell, and as a result spends the majority of his days in the courtroom defending the First Amendment.

Woody Harrelson delivers a splendid performance as the film's unlikely hero. Whether he's playing Flynt as an arrogant young man, drunk from his own power, or a weak and vulnerable man watching his empire crumble, he evokes the audience's sympathy.

The film isn't interested in whether you agree with the material published by Flynt. In fact, most people will call it garbage. It does, however, challenge you to consider what the First Amendment really means. Do the rights of freedom of the press and freedom of speech apply to everyone or only those with messages we want to hear? With his outrageous sense of humor, dedication to principles and wild courtroom antics, I soon found myself rooting for the so-called "worst man in America."

Probably the biggest surprise of the movie, though, is an intense performance by Courtney Love. As Flynt's stripper-turned-wife Althea, Love is instantly believable as the wild party girl basking in her newly found life of luxury. Her performance, however, grows even stronger when society pummels the helpless Flynt and Love displays the ferocity with which Althea defends her husband. It was no mistake that Columbia released this movie at the end of the year, a



Woody Harrelson (Larry Flynt) and Courtney Love (Althea Flynt) get close over a little light reading in *The People vs. Larry Flynt*.

time when studios try to get their best films into the minds of Academy Award voters. I know, you'd sooner expect Steven Seagal to approach the podium to receive the gold statuette, but I'm telling you, she's that good.

Rounding out the cast is Edward Norton (last seen in *Primal Fear*) as Alan Isaacman, Flynt's long-suffering attorney and reluctant friend.

Complaints have been running rampant lately about the lack of

quality product coming out of Hollywood these days. Poor screenwriting, big studio disappointments and low-risk moviemaking are all cited as reasons for the lackluster year in film.

The People vs. Larry Flynt, on the other hand, is an exception. The film made its world premiere at the closing night of this year's New York Film Festival. As the only Hollywood film shown in the notoriously artsy festival, *The People vs. Larry Flynt* surprised many

moviegoers by being one of the highlights of the entire event. With its dynamic writing, compelling characters and astounding performances, *The People vs. Larry Flynt* puts the punch back in Hollywood films.

The People Vs. Larry Flynt\$8

Directed by Milos Forman. Written by Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski. Produced by Oliver Stone, Janet Yang and Michael Hausman. Rated R. 130 minutes.

Video Rewind

The Frighteners (MCA/Universal Home Video) deserves a better fate than its initial theatrical box office total would indicate. This high-tech ghost story, with Michael J. Fox as a bogus ghost-buster who has to become the real thing in a great big hurry, turned off film fans when in theatres, possibly because of its mix of horror show and horror spoof is a little hard to understand. But the laughs work nicely, Fox does good work, and the plot, although it has large holes, is at least a little original. It's certainly worth a rental, assuming the renter is not turned off by some relatively grotesque visuals and some violence. Make that a considerable amount of violence.

For Teri Hatcher fans dying to see her naked, *Heaven's Prisoners* (New Line Home Video) is something of a tease. This supposed film noir, starring Alec Baldwin as a Louisiana ex-cop trying to solve a series of nasty murders, features two brief glimpses at Hatcher in the buff, probably with an eye toward drawing her Internet-geek fan base. Otherwise, it's a blatant attempt by Baldwin to start a franchise for himself, and it misses badly. And you should hear some of the N'Awlins accents!

Top ten rentals

1. *The Rock*
2. *Tin Cup*
3. *Independence Day*
4. *Mission: Impossible*
5. *The Birdcage*
6. *Chain Reaction*
7. *Primal Fear*
8. *Striptease*
9. *Matilda*
10. *Dragonheart*

New releases: *A Family Thing*, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*

— List courtesy of Easy Video, Bedminster

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(C) 158 Route 206 North, Peapack, NJ 07977						
South Bergen Savings Bank 800-273-3406						
30 yr FIX	8.25	0	20%	60 days	8.26	We Lend To 95% LTV with
1 yr Arm	6	0	20%	60 days	7.35	PMI-Call For Details!
7/1 Arm	7.5	0	20%	60 days	7.57	
(C) 250 Valley Boulevard, Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075						
United National Bank 800-223-1123						
5/1 yr ARM	6.75	2	20%	60 days	7.32	Ask about our
10/1 yr ARM	7.25	2	20%	60 days	7.5	first time home buyers program.
(C) 1130 Rt. 22 East, Bridgewater, NJ 08807						
Valley National Bank 800-522-4100						
30 yr FIX	8.25	0	10%	60 days	8.32	*Lock is 60 days from
15 yr FIX	7.625	0	10%	60 days	7.73	commitment.
1 yr ARM	5.875	0	10%	60 days	8.03	
(C) 1455 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470						
World Savings 908-302-9790						
30 yr FIX	7.2	0	5%	60 days	7.95	Portfolio lender.
1 yr ARM	3.75	1.5	20%	60 days	7.4	No *Jocs-Free Pre Approval
Coft ARM	7.34	0	20%	60 days	7.38	
(C) 198 Washington Valley Rd., Warren, NJ 07059						

LEGEND: (A) Licensed Mortgage Banker - N.J. Department of Banking (B) Licensed Mortgage Broker - N.J. Department of Banking. (Entity does not make loan commitments for listed programs. Funding for listed programs made available through another source). (C) Bank (D) S&L Rates are subject to change without notice. APR - Annual Percentage Rate. N.A. - Rates not available at time of survey. Points include discount & origination. Truth in lending disclosures. All loan payments based on 30 year amortization (360 monthly payments) with the exceptions of 10 year fixed (120 monthly payments), 15 year fixed (180 monthly payments), 20 year fixed (240 monthly payments), 7 yr Balloons and 7/23 Balloons (30 yr amortization, 84 equal payment w/one balloon payment) and 5 yr Balloons (30 yr amortization, 60 equal payments w/one balloon payment). *APR legend APR's on variable rate loans are subject to increase but may decrease. © Copyright 1996 Mortgage Market Information Services, Chicago, IL - Philadelphia, PA. Survey Date: 12/19/96

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\$1.00 each additional line

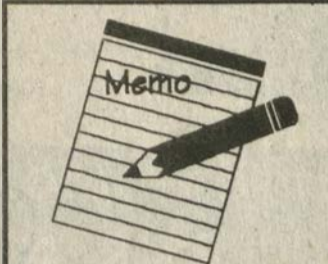


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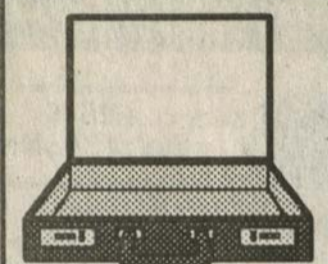
SPECIALS

**Automotive
Apartment Rental
Merchandise
Service**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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EMPLOYMENT

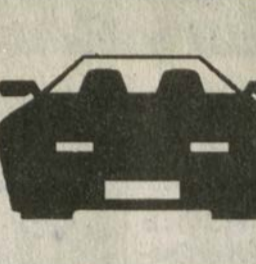


5010-5100

FOR SALE



2010-3100
AUTOMOTIVE

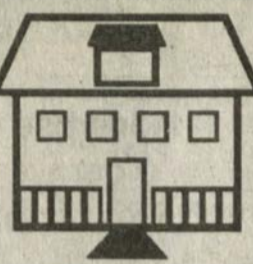


8010-8710

SERVICES



4010-4230
REAL ESTATE

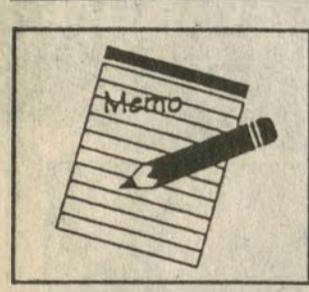


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(Never known to fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and hear me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted. AL

1040 Personals

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
(Never known to fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and hear me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted. JB

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2100 - Free to Good Home
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- 4110 - Instruction/Education
- 4120 - Insurance
- 4140 - Legal
- 4150 - Loans & Finance
- 4170 - Miscellaneous
- 4175 - Moving
- 4190 - Party & Entertainment
- 4210 - Professional
- 4225 - Seasonal

4000 SERVICES

4010 - Adult Day Care
4020 - Business
4040 - Child Care
4050 - Cleaning
4060 - Convalescent
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4200 Plumbing

Automotive Guide

8000 AUTOMOBILES



8010 - Under \$1000
 8020 - Under \$2500
 8030 - Automobiles
 8040 - Antiques and Classic Automobiles
 8050 - Luxury
 8060 - Sportscars
 8070 - Family Vans
 8080 - 4x4's, Sport and Light Trucks
 8090 - Trucks and Vans
 8100 - Financing
 8110 - Parts, Accessories
 8120 - Automotive Repair
 8130 - Miscellaneous Automotive

8010 Automobiles under \$1000

CHRYSLER—'85 LeBaron, GTS Turbo, 4 DR, PS, PB, AC, Pioneer Sys., new tires/brakes, runs good, needs clutch. Make Offer. 908-561-0941.

8020 Automobiles under \$2500

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8030 Automobiles

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OLDS '88 CUTLASS— Calais Quad 4 engine, \$2,000. 4 dr, ac, auto all pwr, cruise, 429-4218

PONTIAC 6000 '86— 4 dr, blue, all pwr. ac, \$3500. exc. cond 382-3991 no calls after 8.

SUBARU— 92 L, 4 whl wagon, anti lock brakes, AC, 92K hwy mi. Exc. Cond. \$8000. 658-4064

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Advertise in the Classified!

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 8220 - Mopeds
 8230 - Off-Road
 8240 - On-Road
 8250 - Parts, Accessories Service
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Ads in Classified don't cost — They pay!

8400 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

8410 - Campers and Trailers
 8420 - Motor Homes
 8430 - RV Parts, Accessories & Service
 8440 - Misc RV

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8600 BOATS

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 8620 - Power Boats
 8630 - Sailboats
 8640 - Motors
 8650 - Marinas & Charters
 8660 - Rentals & Sales

8670 - Slip Rentals
 8680 - Storage
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FIND YOUR DREAM BOAT



IN FORBES CLASSIFIEDS

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27 mo. closed end lease for credit-qualified individuals. Required at inception: \$1,000 cap. reduc. \$545 bank fee. \$500 ref. sec. dep. and 1st pay't. Lessee resp. for maint., excess wear & tear, & at end of lease for mileage in excess of 12,000 mi/yr at 18¢/mi. End of lease purch. option at fair market value. Price incl. all costs to be paid by a consumer, except for lic., reg. & taxes. Not resp. for typos.

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BRAND NEW 1997 OLDSMOBILE 88 SEDAN

LEASE PER MO. 36 MOS. **\$305⁸⁵**
 OR BUY FOR **\$21,125**

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 Winner Of Oldsmobile's Prestigious Elite Award For Superior Sales & Service Customer Satisfaction!

4 dr, 4 cyl, 4 spd man trans w/OD, pwr stmg/anti lock brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr locks/trunk, tilt, r/dof, t/glass, b/s mldgs, cloth int, bckts, console, rads, all season tires, int wipers, dual air bags, Stk. #078, VIN #TM311078, MSRP \$15,790.

\$13,995

1996 OLDSMOBILE LSS SEDAN

SAVE 2650
 4 dr, 6 cyl, 4 spd man trans w/OD, pwr stmg/anti lock brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/seats/locks/trunk/ant/mir, tilt, cruise, r/dof, t/glass, b/s mldgs, alum whls, rads, all season tires, bckts, console, int wipers, dual air bags, leath int, 6013 demo miles, STK#025, VIN#T4808489, MSRP \$26,600.

\$23,950

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Purchase for

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New 1996 Infiniti G-20



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TAKE DELIVERY BY 1/2/97 and Additional Savings Will Apply!

\$399*

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New 1997 Infiniti I-30



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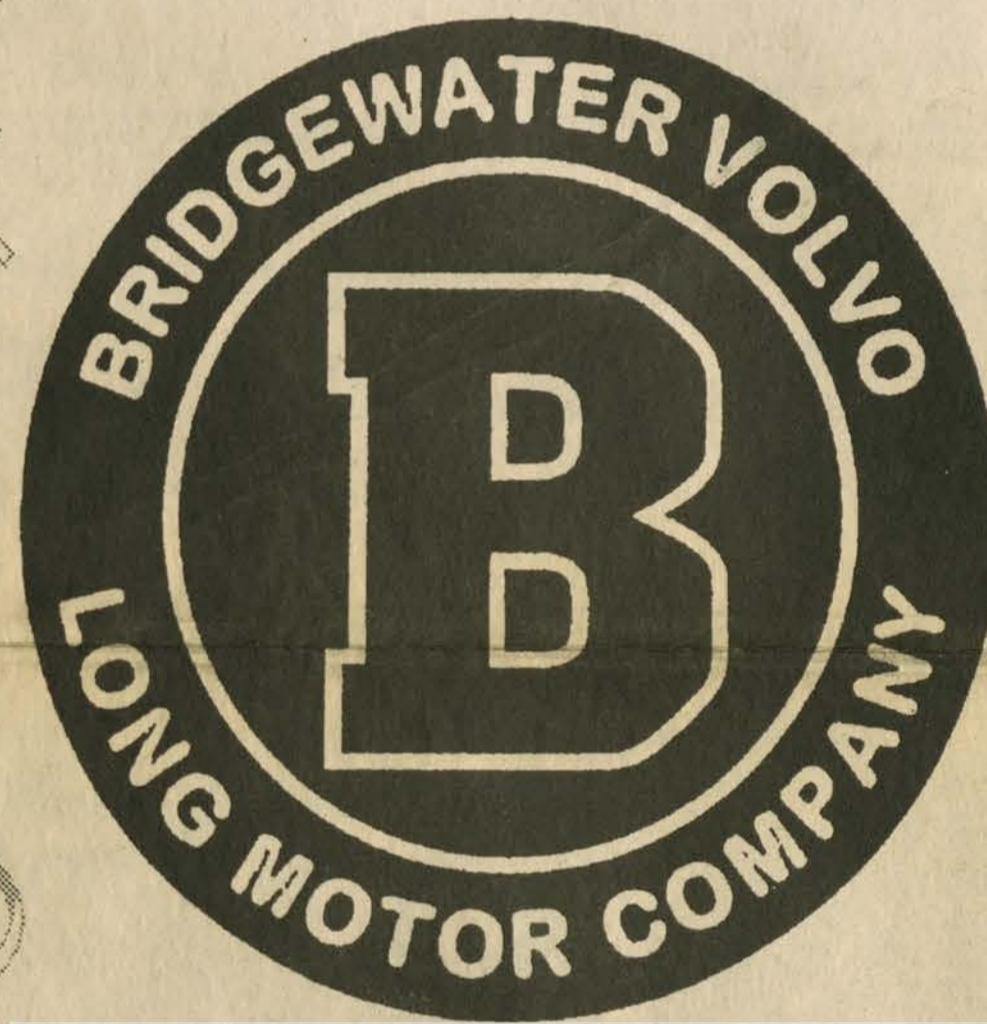
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Price incl. all costs to be paid by a consumer except taxes, licensing & registration. *36 mo. closed end lease req. 1st mo. pymt, cap cost redcut: \$500/I-30, \$1500/Q-45, \$450 bank fee & ref. sec. dep: \$400/I-30, \$600/Q-45 due at incept. Incl. 12,000 mi. yr. w/excess @ .15¢ mi. thereafter. Total pymts/purch. opt: I-30: \$14,364/\$20,060, Total cost: \$15,714; Q-45: \$25,164/\$30,740.85, Total cost: \$27,714. Lessee resp. for maint. & excess wear & tear. Subj. to approval by primary lending source. Offers expire 1/2/97.

Happy New Year

1997

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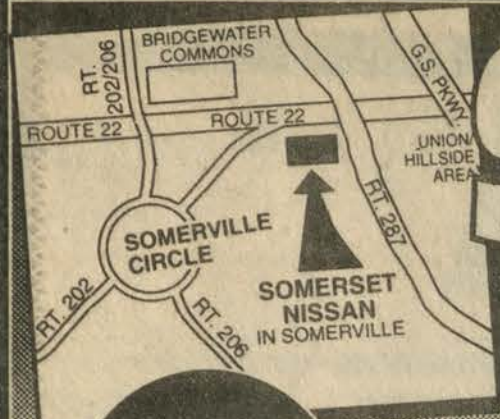
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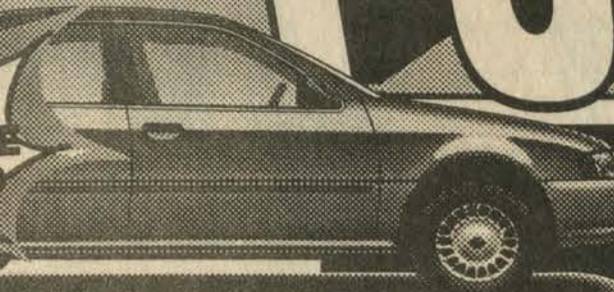
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BRAND NEW 1997 SENTRA GXE

\$105

LEASE PER MO. 24 MOS.

4 dr, 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, r/def, bckts, console, rads, all seas, int wipers, dual air bags, STK#7852, VIN#VC715354, MSRP \$16,019.

NO GIMMICKS! NO HASSLES!

BRAND NEW 1997 ALTIMA GXE

\$139

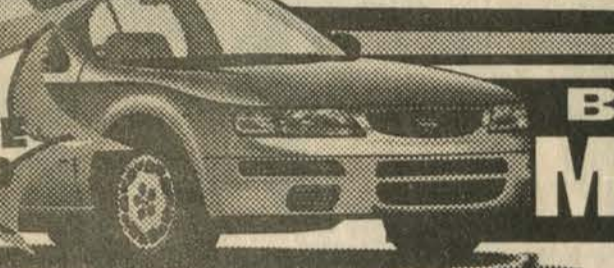
LEASE PER MO. 36 MOS.



4 dr, 4 cyl, auto trans, pw strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, tilt, cruise, r/def, b/s mldgs, bckts, console, rads, all seas tires, int wipers, dual air bags, STK#7998, VIN#VC190136 MSRP \$20,047.

GAP INSURANCE INCLUDED

GAP INSURANCE INCLUDED



BRAND NEW 1997 MAXIMA GXE

\$199

LEASE PER MO. 36 MOS.

4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/glass, b/s mldgs, bckts, console, rads, all seas tires, int wipers, dual air bags, STK#7848, VIN#VM500924, MSRP \$23,742.

BRAND NEW 1997 PATHFINDER XE

\$222

LEASE PER MO. 39 MOS.



4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, CD player, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/glass, all season tires, dual air bags, STK#7964, VIN#VW112981, MSRP \$27,368.

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'93 FORD PROBE
2 dr, 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, r/def, t/glass, b/s mldgs, bckts, console, int wipers, 68,830 miles, ST#P1328, VIN#OP518611.
\$7450

'95 NISSAN PICK UP XE 4X4
4 cyl, 5 spd man trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, t/glass, bckts, console, rads, all seas tires, int wipers, 18,584 miles, ST # P 1 1 2 9 A, VIN#SC358053. Must see!
\$14,970

'94 NISSAN PICK UP XE
4 WD, 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/anti lock brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, rally whls, bckts, rads, all seas, int wipers, 29,536 miles, STK #P1320, VIN #RC339682.
\$12,900

'92 ACURA INTEGRA
2 dr, 4 cyl, 5 spd man trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, trunk, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/glass, b/s mldgs, bckts, console, rads, all seas, 62,097 miles, STK #7838A, VIN #NS000558.
\$11,560

'96 NISSAN ALTIMA GXE
4 dr, 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, trunk, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/glass, b/s mldgs, bckts, console, int wipers, dual air bags, 22,734 miles, STK #P1329, VIN #TC153887.
\$13,890

'96 NISSAN 240 SX
2 dr, 4 cyl, 5 spd man trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, ant, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/glass, b/s mldgs, rads, bckts, console, all seas tires, int wipers, 69,220 miles, STK #P1337, VIN #TW052803.
\$18,400

'93 HONDA ACCORD
4 dr, 4 cyl trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/glass, b/s mldgs, bckts, console, rads, all seas tires, int wipers, 69,220 miles, STK #P1350, VIN #PA168701.
\$11,390

'94 NISSAN QUEST
Van, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, trunk, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/glass, b/s mldgs, rads, all seas tires, int wipers, 38,118 miles, STK #P1318, VIN #RD802969.
\$15,860

'96 NISSAN MAXIMA GXE
4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, trunk, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/glass, b/s mldgs, cloth int, bckts, console, int wipers, dual air bags, 19,863 miles, STK #P1336, VIN #D8T4064.
\$18,860

'90 JEEP CHEROKEE
Utility, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr wind/locks, r/def, t/glass, b/s mldgs, bckts, console, rads, all seas tires, int wipers, 62,362 miles, STK #7384A, VIN #L213819.
\$11,450

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NEW TRANSPORT SE!
New 1996 7-Passenger w/4-Spd Auto Trans, 3.4 Liter MFI 6-Cyl Eng, Pwr Steering, Pwr Front Disc Brakes, 4-Wheel Anti-Lock Brakes, Air Bag, Tilt Whl, Cruise Cntrl, AM/FM ETR Radio System w/Clock & Cass, Elec Fr Wind Def, Pwr Winds & Lcks, & More! Stk#6-793/VIN#T2226292.
\$20,997!
ORIG. MSRP \$24,331!

NEW GRAND AM SE COUPE!
New 1996 w/4-Speed Automatic Trans, 2.4 Liter Twin Cam 16V 4-Cyl Eng, Air Cond, Passlock Theft-Deterrent System, Elec Rear Defog, AM/FM ETR Stereo w/Clock & Cassette w/Auto Reverse, Pwr Locks, Pwr Steering, Pwr Front Disc Brakes, 4-Wheel Anti-Lock Brakes, Dual Air Bag, & Much More! Stk#6-595/VIN#TM532484.
\$13,777!
ORIG. MSRP \$15,989!

NEW GRAND PRIX SE COUPE!
New 1996 w/4-Speed Automatic Trans, 3.1 Liter 3100 SFI 6-Cyl Eng, 4-Wheel Power Disc Brakes, Pwr Anti-Lock Brakes, Pwr Steering, Dual Air Bag, Pass-Key II Theft Deterrent, Power Antenna, Power Door Locks, & More! Stk#6-397/VIN#TF255436.
\$17,997!
ORIG. MSRP \$20,209!

FIREBIRD CONV'T
1996 Formula w/4-Speed Automatic Trans, 5.7L SFI V8 Eng, Pwr Strng, 4-Whl Power Disc Brakes/Anti-Lock Brakes, Dual Air Bags, Pwr Antenna, AM/FM Radio Stereo w/Graphic Equalizer w/6 Speakers, Remote Keyless Entry, & More! 4622 demo mi, Stk#6-668/VIN#T2230884.
\$24,297!
ORIG. MSRP \$27,384!

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