

# RAHWAY News Record

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## Rahway defeats Irvington 21-0; chooses Queen at halftime

by Pat DiMaggio

Rahway High School's 9th annual Homecoming Queen was crowned last Saturday at Veteran's Field during halftime ceremonies. Rahway defeated Irvington with a score of 21 to 0, and Cathy Savard was chosen to represent her school as the 1989-90 queen.

Senior candidates included Debbie Zapotocky, Erica Messersmith, Sophia Halkias, Cathy Savard, Ginelle Givens and Allison Crowley. "Princesses" included freshman Bridgette Callahan, sophomore Sherri Hoagland and junior Jennifer Canales.

Savard is president of Blue Tri, vice president of the National Honor Society, editor of the yearbook, and a member of the Student Government Association and the Rahway High School cheerleaders. Upon graduation, she will pursue a degree in theatre arts.

"I am very proud to be able to represent my town as homecoming queen," said Savard.

Rich Nolan, yearbook advisor, explained that the ceremonies were not just a beauty contest. "This is a brains contest," he noted.

Ballots are given to senior boys who are asked to nominate five girls. The top ten vote-getters are then put on another ballot and the senior boys are asked to vote for five, said Nolan.

The names of the top five or six (in case of a tie) are then given to an impartial board who interviews each candidate and scores them on beauty, appearance, poise, personality, school

and community activities, general intelligence and academic intelligence. The day before the event, scores are tallied up and only Mr. Nolan knows the results.

The parents of each candidate are involved in the crowning ceremonies, and the father of the queen is asked to present the crown, said Nolan. "The parents always do an outstanding job," he explained.



QUEEN... Cathy Savard was chosen as Rahway High's Homecoming Queen for 1989-90.



'PRINCESSES'... Left to right, Bridgette Callahan, Sherri Hoagland, Jennifer Canales.



FAMILIAR FACES... Debra Kachmarsky (left) of Rahway, and Barbara Cannis, registered nurses at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield, discuss their involvement with the N.J. Hospital Association's nurse recruitment advertising campaign. As part of the campaign, photos of Kachmarsky and

Cannis are appearing on billboards throughout the state and on posters distributed through N.J. hospitals. The nurses met recently with NJHA executives at the Center for Health Affairs in Princeton to discuss the project. (story inside.)

## Board of Ed. approves '89-'90 district objectives

by Pat DiMaggio

The Rahway Board of Education approved district objectives for the 1989-90 school year at the last board meeting, held on September 19.

District objectives are submitted each year to the county superintendent in accordance with the provisions of the local school district planning process. These plans of action have been designed to provide school districts with an established procedure to plan educational improvement for students.

The following district objectives were approved by the board: By June of 1990, the dropout rate in grades four, seven and 10 will not exceed 4 percent; By June of

1990, 87 percent of the students in grades six through eight will exceed the State Minimum Proficiency Level (MLP) on the California Achievement Test (CAT), and 87 percent of the students in grade nine will surpass the High School Proficiency Test (HSPT) in mathematics.

By June of 1990, 80 percent of the students in grades five and seven and 88 percent in grade 11 will score at six or above on the May 1990 District Writing Sample as scored with registered holistic scoring; By June of 1990, 97 percent of the students in grades four, seven and 10 will exceed the MLP in language as assessed with the CAT administered in May.

Rahway's Board of Education was also notified of the status of last year's objectives and the district's progress towards meeting those action plans. Objective #1, which stated that by June of 1989, 85 percent of the students in grades three, six and nine would achieve at or above the state minimum level of proficiency on the CAT or the HSPT in mathematics, resulted in 79.2 percent of students in grade nine achieving at or above the minimum level.

Students in grades three and six in Cleveland, Franklin, Madison and Roosevelt Schools exceeded expectations.

Objective #2 was achieved in full when 90 percent of the students in grade nine passed the objective portion of the High School Proficiency Writing Test by June, 1989.

Objective #3 stated that the student attendance rate would improve to 92 percent, and the number of dropouts would decline by 15 percent for students in grades nine through 12 by June, 1989. Analysis of the results indicated the student attendance rate at 88 percent.

The dropout rate indicated a five percent decline for students in grades nine through 12.



THE 'VOICE' OF SILENT FILMS... Noted radio/TV organist Lee Erwin at the console of the 'mighty Wurlitzer' cinema pipe organ, on which he will accompany 'Phantom of the Opera' at Rahway's Union County Arts Center on October 28.

## Noted organist to accompany 'Phantom' on 'Mighty Wurlitzer'

Long before its recent revival as a hit Broadway musical, Gaston LaRoux's 19th century novel "Phantom of the Opera" twice achieved hit status as a movie - first in 1925, with Lon Chaney in the title role, and again in 1943, with Claude Rains (of Casablanca fame). Both historically and artistically, the earlier version is generally regarded as the more significant of the two films.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, at 8 p.m., the classic 1925 silent version of "Phantom" will return to life on the big screen of Rahway's Union County Arts Center - but it won't be completely silent. (Silent films never were.)

Noted radio organist Lee Erwin will be accompanying the film on the arts center's authentic 1928 Wurlitzer

pipe organ. He has been a frequent guest performer at the nostalgic Rahway showplace, both in concert and accompanying silent films.

Erwin had been organist with the Arthur Godfrey radio and TV show for some 22 years, and toured several years with legendary screen star Gloria Swanson in her personal appearances at screenings of her "Queen Kelly," for which Erwin furnished musical accompaniment.

The noted organist hails from Huntsville, Alabama, but has more recently settled here in the northeast. He studied classical organ in France, and besides arranging and playing for Godfrey, was also the organist for several of the CBS radio "soaps."



CONTENDERS FOR THE CROWN... Left to right, Debbie Zapotocky, Erica Messersmith, Sophia Halkias, Homecoming Queen Cathy Savard, Ginelle Givens, Allison Crowley.

## Red ribbon event aims to make Rahway drug-free

The Rahway Advisory Council for a Drug-Free Community has proclaimed Saturday, October 28, as the day for Rahway Community members to show their unity for a drug-free community. The council urges all residents, business establishments, churches, schools, hospitals, clubs and organizations, police and fire departments and all other members of the community to tie a red ribbon on a tree, post, or door knob, or a mailbox - somewhere visible.

The event is meant as a symbolic demonstration of community support to make Rahway drug-free. The slogan for this campaign is "Rahway Is Wrapped Together For A Drug-Free Community." The activity is the first in a series of events planned by the Rahway Advisory Council for a Drug-Free Community. The series will lead toward a citywide event ti-

led "Community Unity Day" to involve all community members. Help and ideas are needed. If you would like to volunteer your time, ideas or help with fundraising, contact Olga Sica evenings at 382-3570, or (days) Lynn Dolce at 574-0846.

## Open House at Rahway historic sites

On Sunday, October 15, from 1-4 p.m., the Rahway Historical Society will sponsor an Open House tour of the restored 250-year-old-plus Merchant's and Drover's and Terrill Tavern Museums. These colonial inns, famous for hosting George Washington for breakfast, feature period decor, furniture and tools. Staff in colonial dress will demonstrate cooking, crafts

## Notice of special meeting

A special meeting of the Board of Adjustment is scheduled for tonight (October 12) at 7 p.m. in City Hall. Its purpose is to address the continuation of the Hamilton Laundry application.

## 1st Annual Fall Festival at Day Care Center

From October 12-15, the Rahway Day Care parking lot will be transformed into a wonderland of rides, games, cotton candy, hot dogs, and balloons! The community is invited to join the Day Care parents and

staff for a time of fun and frolic at the center's 1st Annual Fall Festival.

Festival hours are Oct. 12 - 6 to 9 p.m., Oct. 13 - 6 to 10 p.m., Oct. 14 - 3 to 10 p.m. and Oct. 15 - 3 to 6 p.m.

## RHS senior scores in national competition

Principal Robert L. Brown of Rahway High School announced today that senior John Tar has been named a Commended Student in the 1990 National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the competition, will be presented.

About 35,000 Commended Students nationwide are being honored for their outstanding performance on the 1988 PSAT/NMS-QT, which ranks them in the top five percent of more

than one million students who entered the 1990 Merit Program by taking the qualifying test. Commended Students scored slightly below the level required to continue in the 1990 competition for Merit Scholarships, but they have shown exceptional academic promise.

An official of the Merit Program stated that "to be designated a Commended Student in this extremely competitive program is an attainment deserving of public recognition and is a credit to these young people and their schools."

## Busacca completes training

Navy Seaman Anthony E. Busacca, son of Anthony V. and Maryellen Busacca of W. Milton Ave., Rahway, has completed recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL. During the eight-week training cycle, Busacca studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job training in

one of the Navy's 85 basic fields.

Busacca's studies included seamanship, close order drill, Naval history and first aid. Personnel who complete this course of instruction are eligible for three hours of college credit in Physical Education and Hygiene.

Busacca joined the Navy in May 1989.



COMMENDED... John Tar, senior, with the official word, is a Commended Student in the 1990 National Merit Scholarship Program. He is the son of Anthony V. and Maryellen Busacca.