& Citizen~Gazette

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer 3

Pollando Loses Seat

SAYREVILLE—The Republican-led Borough Council recently approved a list of appointments to the Recreation Advisory Committee. Three names were conspicuously absent: Thomas Pollando, Kathy Makowski, and Joe Tirelli. Pollando was president and a founding member of the Sayreville Athletic Association and has been a recreation volunteer for twenty years. Tirelli and Makowski were both SAA trustees who have attended all the panel's meetings and events.

"There's no justification for it." said Makowski, who spent a year on the committee. They believe the reason they lost their seats is their support for

Public Works Director Bernard Bailey, a supporter of the Democratic Party who gained tenure days before the Republicans gained their first council majority in six years. Hunka Bunka Ballroom, a nightclub partly owned by Bailey, is one of the SAA's local sponsors.

Mayor Kennedy O'Brien reappointed 12 of the board's 20 members. Republican Councilman John Melillo, who heads the committee and serves as council liaison, was left to appoint the remaining members.

Melillo said that he didn't reappoint Pollando because he couldn't work with him personally. Melillo alleged that Pollando denied him a basketball coaching job because of his position on Bailey. Melillo said he didn't know Tirelli and Makowski personally He chose people he knew from his years as a recreation volunteer to fill the spots.

Pollando denied not giving the coaching position to Melillo because of his position on Bailey, but did say that he had expressed concern over

Melillo's comments about Bailey during an October phone call.

Melillo had made allegations that the SAA was taking "drug money" from Bailey's club. While not denying using those words, Melillo claims they were taken out of context and misrepresented.

"All I'm interested in is doing the best for recreation," Melillo said.

Pollando said he hopes the mayor and council will "come to their senses" and reinstate all three volunteers.

Inside: Check Out Our

COUNTRY ALUMINUM Home improvements

THE PARTY OF THE P

ROOFING & SIDING LEADERS & GUTTERS STORM WINDOWS DOORS

Jack Gendiek 583-0871

Knights Of Columbus Free Throw Competition

Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Victory Council 2061 Sayreville, will host the local competition for the Knights of Columbus International Youth Free Throw Championship. The competition is open to boys and girls ages 10 through 14 on Saturday, Jan. 20 at Our Lady of Victories Monsignor Dalton Hall Gymnasium, Main Street, mitted with entry form.

Registration timing is as follows: 10 years old-9 a.m.; 11 years old-9:30 a.m.; 12 years old-10 a.m.; 13 years old-10:30 a.m.; 14 years old-11 a.m. All competitors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and a copy of a Birth Certificate or other proof of age must be sub-

The Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually by the Knights of Columbus. Winners progress through local, district and state level competitions International competitions will be based on state con-

For additional information, call (732) 257-2061.

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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Democratic Unity

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — rules Any questions about the unity that Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jim McGreevey has forged with South Jersey party leaders were effectively quashed recently at a fundraiser for the state committee that brought in more than \$700,000.

Admission to the fete. described as a "Who's Who in South Jersey business and organized labor" was a hefty \$37,000, the new maximum donation allowable to state committees under Election Law Enforcement Commission

The fete at the Tavistock Country Club was organized by former Camden County Chairman George Norcross; Donald younger brother Norcross, head of the South Jersey AFL-CIO and outgoing Camden Freeholder Frank Spencer, who is also president of the Building Trades Council.

Besides guest of honor McGreevey, also attending were former Gov. Jim Florio and state Sen. John Lynch, D-Middlesex.

NEWS CLUB

ISELIN Chapter #3810—The

Iselin Chapter of AARP #3810 has announced the following trips from Jan.-Nov., 2001.

Jan. 25-Social meeting at 12 noon. Business meeting at 1 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Grant Ave., Iselin.

Feb. 17-Broadway Show, "Chicago."

Spring: 3 days/2 nights

-Rhode Island, Block Island and Foxwood.

Apr. 1-Smorgasbord & Show at Woodlock Pines.

Apr. 19-Lunch & Show-"Hello Dolly."

June 23-Lunch & Show-"Dancing in the Street."

July 5-Show-"Carousel."

August 11-Summer Lunch Musical and Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.

Oct.-8 days/7 night trip to the Casino Capital of the South Tunica, Mississippi Beale Street Tour, tour of Graceland, Nashville Memphis, Grand Ole Opry, Mississippi River Boat Cruise and much, much more.

4-Show-"Seven Nov. Brides for Seven Brothers."

For more information, call (732) 283-2790.

All meetings are held at the K of C Hall and all trips leave from K of C Hall, Grand Avenue, Iselin.

Local Youths Achieve Blackbelts In Shukokai Karate

FORDS—After years of only one in the U.S. hard work and dedication, five local youths have finally reached their dream of being promoted to blackbelt in Shukokai Karate.

"Blackbelt is the culmination of four to six years of rigorous training and intensive competition requiring a serious commitment reached only by the most conscientious students," said Bill Bressaw, chief instructor of the American Shukokai Karate Union and one of only four seventh Dan masters worldwide and the

The students, Chris Hrabinski, age 12 of Fords; Ali Mirzaei, 14 of Woodbridge; Rebecca Watkins, 14 of Colonia, Bryan Latar, 15 of Metuchen and Jessica Campos, 14 of Port Reading, have all been training at the Middlesex Karate Dojo (the Japanese world for school) on New Brunswick Ave., Fords, three days a week for the last four to six years, plus rigorous training sessions and competitions.

"This is an incredibly tal-

ented group of kids. Rebecca Shukokai championships in won two gold medals in the South Africa in 1998.

Chris won a Bronze last May in Germany and Jessica



New Skukokai blackbelts from (L.-R.) Ali Mirzaei, 14 of Woodbridge; Bryan Latar, 15 of Metuchen; Chris Hrabinski, age 12 of Fords and Jessica Campos, 14 of Port Reading.

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COMTABLOI

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PRODUCTION STAFF:

Production Manager - Michele I. Nagiewicz Graphic Designers - Lenore A. Ledzion, R.E. Barker, Michael Angelo Alfonso Typesetter - Carol J. Green • Proofreader - Garnet R. Pisano

> **ADVERTISING STAFF:** Retail Advertising Director - Francene Sciortino-Kopas

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has been an assistant instructor working with our Woodbridge Township recreation program," said Bressaw.

The ceremony took place recently at the Middlesex Karate Dojo New on Brunswick Ave., Fords, during an open house and holiday celebration attended by over a hundred residents.

"We gave the kids a chance to come in and share their love of karate with their friends and family," Bressaw said.

Woodbridge Councilman Rick Dalina handed out certificates on behalf of the township to Sensei Bressaw and the newly installed blackbelts.

YOUR LOCAL NEWS



GIANTS GIVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME—Recently, the Iselin Giants Pop Warner Football players and cheerleaders welcomed the 2000 Heisman Trophy Winner-Chris Weinke to the American Stock Exchange. While the Giants cheerleaders cheered Mr. Weinke on, the football players were thrilled to meet him and receive autographs. This capped off a great season for the Iselin Giants. The Junior Pee Wee Football players became Central Jersey Division Champions as well as the Junior Pee Wee, Pee Wee and Midget cheerleaders winning their Divisional Championships. The Midget cheerleaders advanced forward and became Garden State Champions for the year 2000. If you would like to know how your son or daughter can become an Iselin Giant, just call Wayne or Barbara at this number for 2001 sign-up information, (732) 388-1944.



rou re invited ...

WOODBRIDGE - ... To the first district-wide Bilingual Connections Project Workshop and Bilingual Parents' Council meeting at Lafayette Estates School #25 on Jan. 23 from 7-9 p.m.

This will be the first in a series of six workshops which are aimed at forging an alliance between our ESL/Bilingual students' homes and their schools. This first workshop will also be the district's annual planning meeting for the ESL/Bilingual program.

The topic of this first workshop will be: Computer Software to Improve Learning.

Parents, friends, and teachers of students in the ESL/Bilingual Program are all invited to attend. Those who have need of interpreters are encouraged to bring someone.



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Bearcats, Old Bridge Wrestle To Tie

FORDS - The Fords Bearcat wrestlers (A-division) opened their 2001 season with one of the league's toughest teams and fought them to a tie. 45-45

Seven pins and one decision

rounded out the scoring for the Cats, but forfeits in at least two

weights prevented a win.

Fastest pin honors went to HWT Vin Maglione who planted his man in just 13 seconds. Three of his teammates also managed pins in under a minute. Peter Buttitta (63) needed just 40 seconds, Tom Skobo (100) took 50 seconds and Kacy Epps (76) used 54 seconds to register their falls. Pinning after the first period were Tom Hogan (73) and Craig Batista (85).

Mike Hart (67) earned a decision to close out the scoring.

Understand Hypertension

EDISON -- Understanding Hypertension" will be presented at the Edison Township Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., on Wednesday evening, Jan. 31 at

Alicia Felicia, Coordinator of Education and Development at St Peter's Hospital, will present the program

Please register by calling (732) 287-2298 ext. 1 or you may sign up at the circulation

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"The Legal Corner"

This Week's Topic: Workers' Compensation"

What are the different types of Claims I can bring under the New Jersey Workers' Comment of New Jersey Workers' Compensation Statute?

A. The different type of workers' compensation claims include:

- 1.) traumatic injury claims
- 2.) occupational injury claims
- 3.) dependency claims

A traumatic injury is an injury that results from a specific event, such as a fall or specific episode of lifting.

An occupational injury is one that usually takes place over a prolonged period of time, often over years of exposure to harmful substances or injurious work conditions.

The Statute also provides for a dependency case which allows the dependents of a deceased worker to file a claim for dependency benefits.

You should check with a workers' compensation attorney regarding the Statute of Limitations and Notice Provisions for your particular claim.

For more information, please call Stephen A. Spitzer, Esq., at 732-855-6089

Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. 90 Woodbridge Center Drive, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

YOUR AREA & **STATE NEWS**

Mutual-Aid **Emorgoncy Action Becomes Law**

STATE-Governor Whitman signed into law legislation to better define the command structure in multiple-town responses to fires and other emergencies

The new law (A-1710) sets up a clearly delineated plan of procedures for fire companies or other emergency services that engage in joint or mutual-aid efforts In addition, the law requires that deputy and battalion chiefs and fire company officers be included in county mutualaid fire response plans.

"In an emergency that requires a regionalized response, communication and structure are the two keys for a successful operation," said Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-Sayreville). "An emergency action plan will give direct chain of command and create a quick response team."

Up until now, only a limited number of fire chiefs have taken part in such planning work. The law will ward against confusion and turf battles, and encourage inclusion of all decision-making fire officials.

The new law will improve communication among fire companies.

"A coordinated and organized effort of multiple fire departments can quickly respond and control an emersituation," gency Wisniewski. "A cooperative emergency response team benefits both the community and the firefighters responding to a call."

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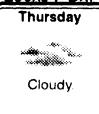


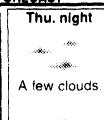
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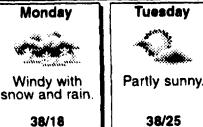


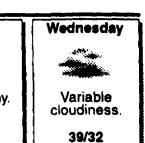






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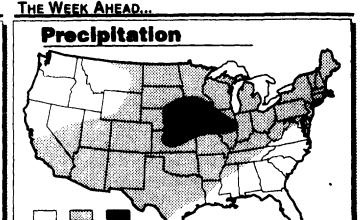
THE WEEK AHEAD..

Temperatures

Near Below Normal Norma

NATIONAL SUMMARY

storm system will bring precipitation to the Southeast and Gulf Coast during the period. Storms will bring rain and mountain snow to the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains, Cool weather will cover the Southwest. Temperatures are expected to average 5 to 10 degrees below normal across New Mexico Arizona. Southern California.



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES Sunday Saturday Thursday Friday Hi Lo W Hi Lo ₩ Hi Lo W 37 33 c **Boston** 34 20 pc 36 26 pc Chicago 32 22 pc 32 18 c 24 c 32 14 c 36 26 c Cleveland 29 21 c 33 24 c 34 23 c 16 pc 42 20 pc 42 22 s 33 21 pc Des Moines 19 c 32 23 c 36 14 c 32 21 pc 33 20 c Detroit 42 sh 35 c 59 29 pc Houston Indianapolis 19 c Kansas City 44 18 c Los Angeles 65 45 pc 69 37 pc Minn. St. Paul 24-10 sn 30 16 sf 55 31 c New Orleans 39 sh 38 30 pc New York City **36** 26 c 30 pc 39 36 c 19 pc 32 20 c 37 24 DC 40 13 c 36 65 33 pc Phoenix 59 41 pc 60 41 s 63 43 pc San Francisco 55 42 pc 55 44 c 56 44 c 45 c 45 38 c 38 sh 49 40 c Washington 42 36 r

SUN & MOON Sunset Sunrise 7:17 a.m. 4:58 p.m. 7:17 a.m. 4:59 p.m Moonrise Moonset 2:06 a.m. 12:45 p.m. 3:08 a.m. 1:19 p.m Moon Phases Last New First 16 Jan Feb 1 Feb 8

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, st-snow flurries, sn-snow, t-ice.

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES Friday Thursday Saturday Sunday HI LO W Hi Lo W Amsterdam 35 sn 40 39 sn Berlin 38 33 c **Buenos Aires** 71 50 s 73 52 s 58 42 pc 59 46 pc Jerusalem 37 sh 43 36 r 88 61 pc 84 57 pc Johannesburg 84 59 pc 87 63 pc 40 36 sh London 38 37 sn 35 c 47 40 r 36 r Madrid 42 38 r 43 38 c 69 39 s 21 14 pc 66 40 s 23 21 sn 39 32 sn 82 70 pc 50 39 r 63 39 pc Mexico City 71 40 s 25 12 pc Moscow 24 19 sn 39 38 sn 80 70 sh 37 35 sn Paris 36 sn Rio de Janeiro 80 68 pc 80 68 pc 51 36 c 83 71 pc Rome 49 36 c 84 37 San Juan 71 pc 83 71 pc 36 32 pc Seoul 43 33 r 25 s 31 3 Sydney 70 60 pc 72 68 r 80 69 pc 48 39 s Tokyo 37 27 s 51 38 c 42 30 s 33 20 c 22 3 p Toronto 17 16 c 17 6 sr 19 18 sn 28 15 c 22 3 pc 37 32 c Winnipeg 40 31 c Zurich

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

"Book Describes Wealth-Building Strategies"

by Dr. Karen Ensle, RD, FADA, CFCS

AREA — Although the big lottery winners and the "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" game show get lots of media attention, most wealthy Americans accumulate their assets slowly over time. In the book "Eight Steps To Seven Figures" author Charles Carlson describes common traits of 170 millionaire investors. Like previous books, such as "Getting Rich In America" and "The Millionaire Mind," these keys to success boil down to patience and discipline. Below is a brief summary of the eight steps:

- 1. Start Investing Now -Time is an investor's greatest ally. Many of the millionaires that were profiled started investing in their twenties or thirties. The longer a person waits to get started, the more they need to invest to accumulate \$1 million by age 65. For example, a 30year-old would need to invest \$202 per month while a 40-yearold would need to set aside \$629 monthly.
- 2. Establish a Goal Carlson notes that, without goals, maintaining a regular investing program is like maintaining a regular

exercise program - difficult to sustain. Goals provide motivation and direction. Specific goals with a time deadline and a price increase commitment allow investors to dissect a goal into a series of "mini goals" that increase one's sense of accomplishment.

- 3 Buy Stocks and Stock Mutual Funds - Stocks provide the best chance for growing money over time. To find out how long it takes for a sum of money to double, choose a rate of return and divide it into 72. Since 1926, the average annual return on stocks has been around 11% Using the Rule of 72, this means stock returns, on average, double every 6.54 years (72 divided by 11). Bonds and cash assets, on the other hand, take much longer.
- 4. Swing For Singles Many millionaires aren't great stock or mutual fund pickers. Instead of trying to pick the latest "hot" investment, they pick quality investments and hold them long term. They also stay away from investments they don't understand and purchase no-load mutual funds and low-cost stock index funds to reduce investment expenses.
 - 5. Invest Every Month -

Well over half of the millionaires that were studied invested at least once a month. This enables investors to take advantage of "time diversification." In other words, by spreading investments over time, you limit the risk of buying at peak prices and lower the average cost of shares Another good strategy to follow is dollar-cost averaging. This means investing a regular dollar amount at a regular time interval (e.g., monthly).

6. Buy and Hold - Threequarters of the surveyed millionaires hold stocks for more than five years. Infrequent trading reduces taxes, transaction costs, and "reinvestment risk" (the risk associated with putting money somewhere else). Many people try to be "market timers" and pull their money out of stocks when the market drops. They run the risk of not owning shares when prices go up

- 7 Take What Uncle Sam Gives You Millionaire investors take full advantage of tax breaks such as the 20% tax rate on long-term capital gains, Roth IRAs, and tax deferred 401(k) plans
- 8 Limit Shocks to Your Finances · "Shocks" are events that tend to decrease wealth and include frequent job-hopping,

moving and investment trading. large families, and divorce According to Carlson, many millionaires tend to have stable lifestyles. Carlson says that their wealth increases because "interruptions kill investment programs." They rob a portfolio of time and compounding.

This MONEY 2000TM message is sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension, MONEY 2000 IM is a program designed to increase the financial well being of New Jersey residents through increased savings and reduced household debt. For further information about MONEY 2000 M and other educational programs, contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension office.

Social Security Announces Selection of "Ticket To Work"

AREA — Social Security awarded a five-year competitive contract to Maximus, Inc. of McLean, VA to provide program manager services to assist Social Security in the administration of the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program.

The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program increases Social Security disabled beneficiaries' choice in obtaining rehabilitation and vocational services and assures that more Americans with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in the workforce and lessen their dependence on public benefits.

The responsibilities of the program manager include:

· recruitment of employ-



ment networks;

- facilitation of access by beneficiaries to employment networks;
- ensuring availability of adequate services; and
- ensuring reasonable access

The Ticket to Work Program will be phased in nationally beginning in January 2001 and will be fully operational in all states by February 2003. The program will continue through September 2005.

Social Security To Leave Agency AREA — Kenneth S. Apfel, Commissioner of Social Security, recently announced that at

Commissioner Of

the end of his term in January 2001 he will leave his cabinet level position to join the faculty as chair of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. "It is an honor to be appoint-

ed to such a distinguished position at the LBJ School," Commissioner Apfel stated. "In the course of this new century, the leaders of our country will be called upon to find practical solutions to increasingly complex problems. And I can think of no finer calling than to use the experience and insights I have gained in my years of public service to help young people prepare to meet the challenges of the future."

confirmed as the Commissioner of Social Security in 1997, Apfel has led an agency that literal. ly touches the lives of all Americans. The position has frequently been described as one

of the most complex and challenging in the federal govern-

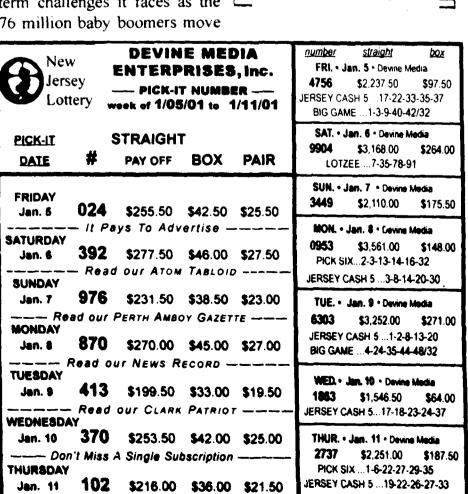
Each month Social Security issues benefit payments to more than 50 million people. The agency's annual budget of \$427 billion represents 23% of the entire federal budget. As Commissioner, Apfel is responsible for the actions of approximately 65,000 employees who, among other responsibilities, serve the needs of 26 million visitors each year to over 1,300 field offices and answer 60 million phone calls annually on the agency's toll-free telephone lines.

Over the past three years, Commissioner Apfel has played a leading role in educating Americans of all ages and backgrounds about the current Social Security program and the long-Since being nominated and term challenges it faces as the 76 million baby boomers move

closer to retirement in the next decade During his tenure, he has also played a leadership role in efforts to strengthen childhood disability programs and to enable persons with disabilities to return to work.









Keep Your Wedding Running Smoothly

(MS) - You're engaged A sparkling gem sits atop your finger and you are humming the familiar tune of "dom, dom, da, dom" as you browse through a bridal magazine. A wedding is a momentous event that requires a lot of planning - but you needn't get frazzled about the work involved. Staying organized and taking advantage of timesavers will help your day go by without a hitch.

Here are a few organizational tips to make sure you'll be all smiles on your wedding day.

 'Slow and Steady Wins the Race' - Don't try to do everything at once. Many bridal magazines and books give realistic countdowns to the wedding and tell you what things you should be concerned with at

what time These checklists often advise that planning should begin at least six to 12 months in advance of your wedding date. Booking caterers, reception and ceremony sites, and popular DJs or bands are some of your first concerns.

- Plan the 'Write' Way -Purchase a wedding planner book or create one of your own to keep track of everything from guest lists to fabric samples to vendor addresses. You certainly can't remember every small detail - a written list stored in one location will keep important information at your fingertips.
- Round Up Helping Hands - Family members and friends may be eager to help you with wedding details. Enlist these thoughtful individuals to take

AFTER SIX • FUMAGALLI • HENRY GRETHAL • RAFFINATI

over some of the work, like addressing thank-you notes or picking up rental items and accessories for the bridal party.

· Keep Guests Well Informed - A multitude of wedding stationery items will make things easier for your guests and for you too. William Arthur Inc., manufacturer of fine stationery products for weddings and other special occasions, offers a wide variety of wedding stationery components that will graciously facilitate your special day

Keep your RSVPs organized by sending Reply Cards along with your invitations. You might even print them with meal options, giving both you and the caterer a heads-up before the event regarding the

attending.

Including Pew Cards or "Within the Ribbon" Cards will direct close friends and relatives to specific, special rows for the ceremony. Keepsake wedding programs are more than a treasured memento of the day - they also serve as a useful tool for orienting guests to the order of activities during the ceremony and they provide a who's who of the attendants and participants. Table Cards and Place Cards will help your guests find their seats at the reception with-

number of guests who will be out difficulty. And beautifully printed menus add a touch of class, offering a list of the different appetizers, main courses. wines and desserts.

Staying calm on your wedding day is easy if you start getting organized early. The extensive selection of products offered by William Arthur stationers will help maintain gracious orderliness both prior to and during your special day. Visit www.williamarthur.com to find an authorized retailer near you, then sit back and relax your day is sure to be magical



(MS) - Love is the greatest gift one can give another. And platinum is the ultimate, most enduring symbol of lasting love. More and more couples are opting for a dazzling set of platinum rings for a daily reminder of their monumental day and lifetime pledge to one another.

> WITH THIS RING. **LTHEE WED**

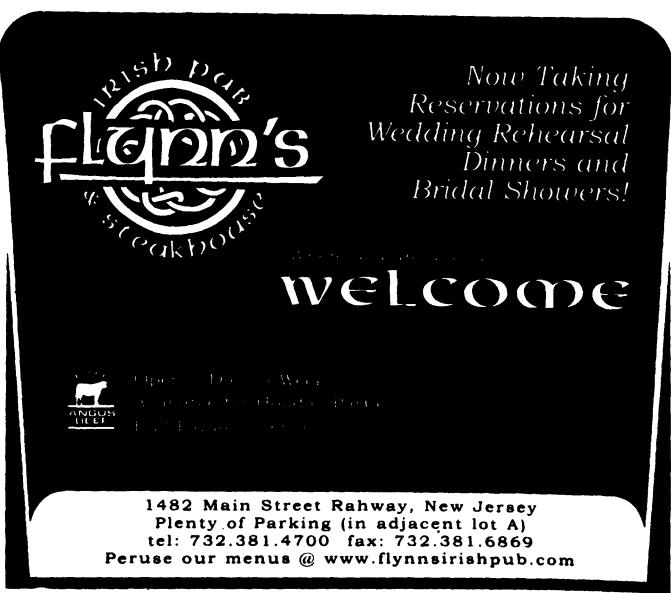
According to a March 2000 survey by Platinum Guild International USA (PGI-USA) and Modern Bride magazine.

85 percent of engagement rings, 89 percent of women's wedding rings and 89 percent of men's wedding rings were platinum. "Because platinum is the purest, rarest and most precious of all metals, it is most fitting for an emotional milestone like a wedding - the ultimate symbol of forever," says Laurie Hudson, President of PGI-USA.

A NEW LIFE TOGETHER Platinum has come from

being a curiosity to being the







Bridal

Recycle Bridesmaid Gowns into Useful Items

Weddings are not always just about the bride and groom. Dolled up in pink taffeta or lime green chiffon, bridesmaids often have the responsibility of making the brides' choices in wedding party apparel look stylish. Even if they normally have grade A style sense, brides never fail to surprise guests with outlandish frocks for their close friends and family.

Though you're usually forced

to grin and bear it ... cheer up bridesmaid! Here are a few clever ways to turn that garish gown into functional items after the couple has said, "I do," courtesy of "101 Uses for a Bridesmaid Dress" (William Morrow and Company Inc.), by Cindy Walker.

- Make darling bedroom slippers.
- You can never have too many hair scrunchies.
- Jazz up your tissue boxes.

- Design unique cocktail napkins.
- Stuff it full of newspaper, prop it in the back of your car, and drive in the carpool lane.

(You deserve it!)

- If you're bored, wear it to your little sister's prom.
- Make a ruffled skirt for the bathroom sink.
- Or precious little earmuffs.
- Make spectacular baby clothes for the couple's

- · Wear it on a blind date (because you were told he had such a good personality).
- Fashion a stylish sleeping mask for your next long flight.
- Cut yards and yards of ribbon for all your wrapping needs.
- Make the perfect lamp shade for that romantic evening.
- Whip up lovely silk flowers

- to brighten every room.
- · Dust rags just cut into neat squares.
 - Make handbags for all your friends.
- Golf club covers that will stand out on the course.
- Give it to your kid brother to use as a tepee.
- Cut it up into frost covers for your rose bushes.
- Design Father's Day ties for years to come!

Say '9 Do' In Platinum continued...

metal of choice for fashionforward designers and consumers, enchanting a whole new generation of brides and grooms around the world. Its rich, white luster - which actually grows more beautiful with time - enhances the brilliance and depth of diamonds and colored gemstones, making it the perfect accompaniment to an engagement ring. Platinum also secures a gemstone unlike any other.

"Because of its strength and durability, prongs made from platinum have long been the preferred way to hold important stones," Hudson says. "The world's most famous diamonds, including the Hope diamond, are secured in a platinum setting."

The latest designs feature an array of new finishes, from Engraved and vintage accents www.preciousplatinum.com.

are enjoying new popularity as classic jewelry-making techniques are revived. In addition to the classic elegance of a platinum engagement ring, brides and grooms will be choosing detailed platinum wedding bands as well.

The rate of platinum ring sales has increased from 24 percent in 1998 to 40 percent in 2000. "During the next two years we expect the platinum market share to exceed 60 percent," Hudson says.

For more information about platinum bridal iewelry and a "Platinum Guide," write to PGI-USA, 620 Newport Center Drive, Suite 800, Newport Beach, satin to highly polished. Calif. 92660, or visit

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Helpful Hints On Choosing An Image Maker

AREA—Choosing a wedding imagemaker is the most important decision a couple will have to make when planning their wedding. The wedding images. whether still photography or videojournalism, are very important and must be well thought out

Our generation is first to be able to capture the images digitally and have them posted on a web site the following day or have the video stream on the internet live Our generation has a lot of opportunities that should be decided carefully

The process of choosing a professional photographer and videoiournalist is similar in many ways.

Being referred by a friend or family member is the best way to choose your imagemaker. This will avoid spending countless hours going to bridal shows and meeting with prospective imagemakers Being referred gives you an opportunity to see an individual's completed product, price range and know first hand how that person works. This information is priceless and serves countless hours at meetings

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Some couples choose to meet with professionals only on price. Price should not be at the top of your list. Quality, reliability and most of all product should come first Why spend a great sum of money on a product that is average when you could have spent a few extra dollars on images that you are going to treasure for many decades.

Couples forget the flowers die, the limousines go back to the garage and the reception is over in only four hours. The images will last forever. The old adage is true. "You always get what you pay

A bride should seek information from as many companies as possible, but she should only meet with three imagemakers. Couples can get very confused if they meet with too many people. It usually creates more confusion for an already overworked bride.

Some questions that should be asked include:

Who is going to be covering the entire event? Do you feel

comfortable with this person?

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images. This is usually enough to capture the day. What type images are a part of the album? What is the quality of the album? The individual you choose should be dressed professionally, and have a studio that has their work displayed. Brides should also seek letters displayed from previous couples who have cho-

Choosing an independent compa-

ny with one or two imagemakers

will usually provide you with a

more thorough service. How

many images will be taken the

day of the event? The average

photographer will take 300

sen their services. Everything you discuss should be in writing. Some imagemakers will provide packages while others will provide a service tailored to individual needs. It is very important to let the imagemaker know your needs at the initial visit. This makes the entire process much more enjoyable.

The album you view should reach your highest expectations. This work is considered the best work this individual will provide. Be sure to ask questions if you do not see items in the album that you would like in your album

If you have asked all of the appropriate questions you are on your way to being very proud of your wedding images.

Videojournalism follows the same principals, although the studio and video creativity is para-

The recording should be fast moving and interesting. It should look very similar to television in that the viewer should not get bored watching it.

Transitions from one scene to another should be smooth. The audio should be tailored to the video. The entire recording should be a seemless story that flows together smoothly.

The Gellman brothers have been professional imagemakers for over a decade. If you have any further questions regarding this topic, contact them at (732) *431-8273*.

Say 'I Do' to a Whiter Smile for Your Wedding

to shine, and the details matter - from your sparkling engagement ring to your dazzling smile. Now, brides and grooms can say "I do" to a whiter smile and make their weddings picture-perfect.

Crest Whitestrips is an effective at-home tooth whitening system that affordably provides truly noticeable results. The system uses clear, flexible strips coated with hydrogen peroxide whitening gel on one side that adhere directly to the "smile" teeth - those visible to others when smiling. The strips are designed to keep the peroxide in direct contact with the teeth long enough to get at stains beneath the surface.

This product uses the same enamel-safe whitening ingredient that dentists have used for years to treat stains beneath the surface of the teeth. They are worn twice a day for 30-minute periods for two weeks, and the whitening benefits last for at least six months.

"People naturally want to have whiter teeth, which can help them feel more self-confident and happier with their overall appearance. I'm excited to be able to offer my patients another whitening option that is both effective and safe when used as directed," says Dr.

(continued on page...)



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Fairy Tales Come True ... Create Your Dream Wedding

As a bride and groom, you want your wedding to be perfect From the ceremony to the reception, you'll need to consider all the details. Whether a garden reception, an ultra-formal ceremony or a wedding honeymoon combination, each wedding shares common characteristics upon which a couple must agree

Once you've agreed to tie the knot, the days up until your wedding will be a whirlwind of activity By knowing what tasks you should tackle now and which are better reserved for later, you'll have plenty of time to plan the wedding of your dreams.

This basic checklist can get you started on your way to a beautiful wedding day

- * Set the date As soon as possible after getting engaged. you should select a wedding date and decide on the type of wedding you would like to have. From a traditional ceremony in a church to a surprise wedding, where guests are invited to a "party" that turns out to be a wedding, you can personalize the event and plan a wedding that reflects your lifestyles and interests

the church or location of the ceremony soon after setting the date to ensure you can get married on the day vou've chosen. Then, you need to reserve a reception location. Most party houses and reception halls have party planners and catering directors who can assist you in planning your dream wed-

- * Select a photographer -Every photographer has a different style. You should choose one who will accommodate your wishes, like taking the types and number of shots you want, attending both the ceremony and reception, and offering the album design you would like. The photographer's personality is very important - you will be spending an entire day with this person, so you should choose someone who will make you feel comfortable.
- * Book reception entertainment - Select a band or disc jockey who will cater to everyone at the reception - both the younger and older generations. The musical selections should be diverse, and requests from the guests should be taken
- * Arrange wedding trans-* Reserve a location - Reserve portation - Whether it's a Rolls-

Royce, stretch limo, horse and buggy, or double-decker bus, you should plan for transportation to and from the ceremony and to the reception for yourself and your attendants. Make reservations early, especially if you want a white car.



* Order dresses - Shopping for a wedding dress, headpiece and bridesmaid dresses is one of the most fun parts of the planning process. Choose a wedding dress that reflects your style and personality - and makes you look beautiful. When considering dresses for your attendants, you should opt for a style that complements your dress, as well as the women in your party.

- * Choose a florist Flowers can add an elegant touch to the wedding day, and every florist has a unique style. Select one whose arrangements you like and who can offer helpful, creative ideas about bouquets, corsages and centerpieces.
- * Decide on a bakery Select a bakery based on the varieties of the cakes offered and the look of previous work. Ask for a taste of the different types of cake offered. and check if the bakery will be able to create the design that you want.
- * Select formalwear -Whether it's a basic tuxedo or a top hat and tail coat, formalwear completes the look of the wed-

ding party. Select a formalwear provider who offers the style you want, has a variety of sizes available to fit all of the male attendants, and offers a large selection of bow ties and cummerbunds or vests.

Order invitations Invitations come in many different styles, so you will have a number of books to look through. Decide on a design that best suits the wedding, based on its formality, the time of day and the wedding colors. A stationery professional can help them with this

With these important decisions made, you only have a few things left to do, like selecting favors. writing a wedding bulletin and buying thank-you gifts for your attendants. You are now well on your way to the wedding of your

'Shall We Dance?' Memorable First Dance Songs

You've picked out the dress, secured the reception site and have even agreed upon the seating arrangements. However, you've yet to decide on that memorable song to signify your new lives as newlyweds.

Whether you're searching for a classic or would rather a current hit, the right song sets the mood for the entire evening Browse through this list, courtesy of WeddingTips.com for the song that will stage that memorable first dance as well as perfectly showcase your newly learned two-step.

Classics and Pop Standards

Nothing stands the test of time better than a classic love song. Guaranteed to remain in style through the years, your song will be enjoyed by many of the guests at your reception who span different generations.

- * "All I Ask of You," Michael Crawford (Phantom of the Opera)
- * "Always and Forever," Luther Vandross.
 - * "Crazy," Patsy Cline.
- * "Have I Told You Lately," Rod Stewart.

* "Just the Way You 🦃 Are," Billy Joel

"Love and Marriage," Frank Sinatra.

* "Only You," The Platters

* "The Way You Look Sinatra Tonight," **Bennet**

* "Unchained Melody, Righteous Brothers.

* "Wonderful Tonight," Eric Clapton.

Current Hits

Perhaps a song that is a little more recent is what you are looking for. Following are some

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selections that were favorites for year-2000 weddings.

- * "Amazed," Lonestar.
- * "From This Moment," Shania Twain and Bryan White.
- * "Could Not Ask For More," Edwin McCain.
 - * "Truly, Madly, Deeply," Savage Garden.
 - * "It's Your Love," Tim McGraw and Faith Hill.
 - * "I Do, Cherish You," 98 Degrees.
 - Found Someone," Barbra Striesand and Bryan Adams.
- * "I Knew I Loved You Before 1 Met You,"

Savage Garden. * " I Swear," John Michael

- Montgomery.
- "Valentine," Martina McBride & Jim Brickman.

A Little Different

- * "Hawaiian Wedding Song," Elvis Presley.
- * " I Got You Babe," Sonny and Cher.
- * " I'll Grow Old With You," Adam Sandler ("The Wedding Singer").

* "Two Less Lonely People in the World," Air Supply. * "You're My Best Friend," Queen.



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Laughing Your Way To The Altar Say 'I Do' to a Whiten Smile

continued...

Cherilyn Sheets, an expert on tooth whitening, a professor of clinical dentistry at the School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California and a former president of the American Academy Esthetic Dentistry.

In a recent survey, more than 50 percent of both men and women wished they had whiter teeth. Yet, reportedly, less than five percent of all people actually have their teeth whitened.

Evaluated extensively in clinical studies and consumer trials, Crest Whitestrips do not harm tooth enamel during the whitening process. The strips can be placed on the teeth in a matter of seconds and can be worn while doing everyday activities like talking on the phone or checking your guest list or gift registry. They form to comfortably fit the shape of the teeth and provide a controlled dose of hydrogen peroxide. The peroxide in the gel dissipates considerably within 30 minutes from the time of application.

Even if a bride and groom have whitened their teeth professionally. Crest Whitestrips offer a convenient touch-up for the two weeks prior to the big day. Additionally, whitening toothpaste can be used to help polish away surface stains daily, so pack a tube for the honeymoon.

Crest Whitestrips can be ordered online www.whitestrips.com or by calling 888-CrestWS (273-7897). The system is also available in many dentists' offices nationwide. The 14-day supply is priced at \$44, plus shipping and handling, and will be available in stores in 2001.

Couples want their wedding day to be perfect, as they smile for endless photos, greet friends in receiving lines and dance into the sunset. And, thanks to new technology, achieving a bright, white smile can be an easy, convenient and affordable part of the preparation for a "white wedding."

AREA-Marriage is steeped in traditions, many of which are whimsically applied.

Tracing the origins of the better known traditions is not only fun, but also frequently quite amusing.

When the world was young, a best man carried more than a ring. Since there remained the real threat of the bride's family attempting to forcibly retrieve their daughter, the best man stayed by the groom's side throughout the marriage ceremony, alert and armed, and ready for any of the bride's rel-

Beauty and Meaning Ane In 'Bloom'

Following are some favorite blooms and their meanings, courtesy of Roses Inc. (www.rosesinc.org).

Amaryllis - pride, pastoral poetry Ambrosia - reciprocated love Aster - symbol of love Bells of Ireland - good luck Bluebell - humility Cactus - endurance Camellia - good luck gift to a man Carnation (solid color) - "yes" Cattail - peace, prosperity Chrysanthemum (red) - love Chrysanthemum (white) - truth Crocus - cheerfulness Daisy - innocence, loyal love Dandelion - faithfulness, happiness Forget-me-not - true love, memories Forsythia - anticipation Gloxinia - love at fist sight Heather (white) - protection, wishes will come true Holly - domestic happiness Hyacinth (blue) - constancy Ivy - wedded love, fidelity, affection Lily (calla) - beauty Magnolia - nobility Myrtle - love, Hebrew emblem of marriage Orange blossom - eternal love, marriage and fruitfulness Orchid - love, beauty Peony - happy marriage Poppy (red) - pleasure Poppy (yellow) - wealth, success Rose (bridal) - happy love Rose (red) - love Rose (thornless) - love at first sight Rosebud (red) - pure and lovely Smilax - loveliness Stephanotis - happiness in marriage Tulip (general) - perfect lover Tulip (red) - declaration of love Violet (blue) - faithfulness Zinnia (magenta) - lasting affection Zinnia (scarlet) - constancy Zinnia (white) - goodness

atives who may be on the attack. He also might serve as a sentry outside the newlyweds' home on the honeymoon night. The threat of recapture by the bride's family was perceived as so genuine that beneath the church altars of many early peoples would be stored an arsenal of clubs, knives, and spears.

Among the Goths, of ancient Germany, a man married a woman only from within his own community. When women were in short supply, he captured his bride-to-be from a neighboring village. The bride groom - to - be, accompanied by a companion, seized any young girl who had strayed from the safety of her parental home.

The present-day custom of a best man is a relic of that twoman, strong-arm stance; for such an important task, only the best man (or strongest man in the village) would suffice.

From this practice of abduction, which, one could say, literally swept a bride off her feet, also sprang the later symbolic act of carrying a bride over the

threshold of her new home.

The roots of romance are often-times quite curious.



Share Good News With Us!

PRINT OF ENGAGEMENT	ANNOUN	CEMENT					
	of]					
(Bride-elect's parents or persons announcing engagement)	(town)	(list full address for our records only)					
announcement the engagement of their daughter		of					
	(bride-elect's FULL name)	(address if different from parent's)					
(flance's FULL name)	of						
(flance's FULL name)	(address if o	(address if different from parent's)					
son of	of	•					
		(address)					
The engagement was announced on							
	(date)						
is	s (graduate of, attended)						
(bride-elect's name)	(circle one)	(high ashool, college)					
She is employed by		•					
(employer)		(job title)					
is a (graduate of, attended)							
(groom-elect's name)	(circle one)	(high school, college)					
He is employed by	## A	•					
(employer)		(job title)					
The couple plan to be married on							
(data)							
Phono:	•	(day phone, for our records only).					
		(any process, the out tended day).					

YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

I'm Not Rappaport

METUCHEN---The Forum Theatre is pleased to announce the third production of the 2000-01 season, I'm Not Rappaport, the Tony award winning comedy, will open on Saturday, Jan 27 and play through Sunday, Feb. 18.

This joyous comedy, set in a secluded section of Central Park, is about two octogenarians determined to fight off all attempts to put them out to pasture. Talk about an odd couple, originally played by Judd Hirsch and Clevon Little on Broadway, Nat is a lifelong radical out to fight injustice (real or imaginary) and a spinner of fantasies. His unlikely partner is Midge, a black apartment supper who spends his days in the park hiding from his tenants who want him to retire.

This wonderful laugh filled comedy is written by Herb Gardner, the author of the Tony award winning Conversations with My Father, which played to glowing reviews several seasons ago on the Forum stage. Gary Cohen, the producing Artistic Director of Edison Township's Play's in the Park series, will direct.

For information, the Forum's website can be found Diswww.forumtheatre.com. counted tickets are available for groups as well as students and senior citizens. To arrange for tickets call the Forum Theatre box office at (732) 548-0582.

iced Tea, iced Coffee...iced Chocolate?

(NAPSA)-It should come as no surprise, Americans love chocolate! According to Food & Drink Weekly, chocolate was voted America's favorite snack food. From chocolate chip muffins to candy bars, chocolate comes in a variety of forms and new products are popping up every day. If you enjoy the taste of hot chocolate on a cold winter day, you're going to love Dunkin' Donuts' new Chocolate Coolatta this summer. This frozen chocolate drink is made with two percent milk and is a great way to stay cool this summer.

"America loves chocolate. In fact, the average American eats 11.7 pounds of chocolate each year. Our customers will find that Chocolate Coolatta is the ultimate summer chocolate experience and is definitely one of our most exciting new product introductions," said Katie Dadagian, Beverage Category Manager for Dunkin' Donuts.

While Americans do eat large amounts of chocolate, we're not the only ones. Chocolate consumption around the world is growing three percent each year. According to Food and Drink Weekly, the British eat an average of 35 pounds of chocolate each year, making Great Britain the world's largest per capita consumer of chocolate.

According to a popular cooking Web site, one possible explanation for our love affair with chocolate is its versatility. While most people enjoy chocolate as an afternoon snack, many people use it as a way to relax, still others consider chocolate a great way to reward themselves.

"By combining chocolate and Coolatta, two products that people obviously enjoy, we believe Dunkin' Donuts has created a beverage that will make everyone happy this summer, Dadagian.

POPCORN" eeOh Brother, Where Art Thou?"

Worth Seeking Out





Someday, in a film appreciation course at some idyllic little college, a privileged group of young students will be treated to a screening of "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou."

The slightly prorumpled will fessor dutifully inform his bright-eyed eager



charges that this quintessential example of celluloid irreverence by the Brothers Coen (Ethan and Joel) is neither their most profound nor their funniest work. But, lest he lose his captive audience, he will quickly assure that the comedy about three Southern chain gang escapees is nonetheless quite entertaining.

Probably a sandy-haired fellow in wire-rimmed glasses, the prof will then further affirm that even an average film by Coen standards is better than most others. However, the point our latter day Mr. Chips will then make is that the true treasure of "Oh Brother" lies in its historical significance, as well as in the artistically savvy segue that it suggests. In short, the motion picture is a grand homage to film auteur Preston Sturges in general, and to his "Sullivan's Travels" (1941), specifically. A screening of same will be in order.

Paying attention to the old black-and-white, not only because it could be on the test but because it's a very funny. socially conscious motion picture, the students will learn that famed Hollywood phenom John L. Sullivan (Joel McCrea) is known for his uplifting comedies. Only thing is, he pines to make a serious movie. He even has a working title: "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" Get it? Get it? Write it down.

"Thus," the prof sums up, most likely attired in a modest gray tweed with leather elbow patches, "on their own quirky terms the Coen brothers have fashioned a paean to their spiritual mentor. Like Sturges, and like his John L. Sullivan, they celebrate the power and wisdom of social comedy. And through this loving reference, not only do they call attention to Mr. Sturges's work, but symbolically complete it as well." A bit academic, true...but actually not bad.

Now, the question is, can you really appreciate "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" without also renting "Sullivan's Travels?" Or, more appropriately, can you enjoy it without digesting all this

pedantic elucidation and comparative filmography? And the answer in both cases is, most certainly and of course.



For starters, you can't help but like a movie that actually has the cheek to give Homer a writing credit. Loosely based on "The Odyssey" (what road movie isn't?) with a touch-up by Ethan Coen, the feckless travail of George Clooney and company as they take a Cook's tour through the folkways and mores of the Depression-era South is a barrel of satirical monkeyshines. Few filmmakers serve up likable dolts and social misfits with the Steinbeckian charisma that become the Coens' trademark. And while a loose-leaf approach to direction in the early going keeps things a mite too scattered for a bit too long, the result is sublime once brother Joel gets

things to coalesce.

Mr. Clooney, further displaying that he is big screen stuff, is adroitly droll as Everett Ulysses McGill. The poor man's fop, he makes time for grooming rituals that wouldn't seem so narcissistic in better economic times Sporting a speech pattern that echoes the get-rich spiel of a correspondence school, he embodies one of the film's funnier oxymorons: He is the self-appointed brains of the operation.

Telling tales of hidden treasure to woo his two inseparable chain-mates into escaping Ulvsses is hell-bent on making it home before his ex-wife (Holly Hunter in a small but effective role) ties the knot with a promising suitor. After all, this new fellow has a job. Wafted along by their leader's fancy gift of gab. John Turturro as Pete Hogwallop and Tim Blake Nelson as Delmar O'Donnel round out the stouthearted stooges.

During their eventful sojourn, the fugitives become country music stars (The Soggy Bottom Boys) without knowing it, and take a ride on the wild side with Babyface Nelson (hysterically displayed as a manic-depressive by Michael Badalucco). They also run into a Bible salesman (John Goodman) with a rather hard sell, happen in on a KKK rally, and eventually play a pivotal role in a gubernatorial election. Oh, and since this is based on "The Odyssey," let's not forget the interlude with a trio of sirens. As a result, one of them gets turned into a frog...sort of, maybe.

In any case, there are two definites. The boys are forever in peril and Dixie always



bing. This wickedly clever muckrake of the South and its supposedly vanished institutions, both real and perceived, is starkly unsentimental in its comic acerbity. It will be interesting to see how

this film fares below the Mason-Dixon Line. It'll also be fun to know how those kids back at Old Ivy did on the exam. But have no fear. There's no test here. Just an assignment: See "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?"

Brother, Where Art Thou," rated PG-13, is a Universal and Touchstone Pictures release directed by Joel Coen and stars George Clooney, John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson. Running time: 106 min-



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The great American statesman from Kentucky Henry Clay wrote in 1829, "Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both are created for the benefit of the people."

During my tenure in the Assembly I have kept that idea in mind. Since I was first elected to the General Assembly I have made an effort to work with my colleagues on both sides of the political aisle to do what's best for the people of New Jersey and the people of the 19th legislative district.

VERIZON RATE HIKE- In

late summer Verizon, formerly known as Bell Atlantic-New Jersey, filed a rate hike petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities that would have, if granted, doubled our phone rates for local service. Verizon promised that if the rate hike were approved subscribers would get some services for free, like touch tone service, call waiting and caller I.D., whether you wanted them or not. The plan also called for all regulation of telephone rates to be removed. Verizon claimed that most people would be better off paying this higher rate and receiving the enhanced services. I was and I continue to be opposed to any Verizon rate increase. To many New Jersey residents a doubling of local phone rates would create a real financial hardship. I led the fight in the Assembly and testified before the Board of Public Utilities in opposition to this plan. I am pleased to report that we were successful; Verizon withdrew its application for a rate hike and for now rates will stay the same. Rest assured I will continue to keep a close watch on this most important issue.

CHILD BOOSTER SEATS-As a father of three daughters, child safety has been an issue that has always been high on my priority list. In January 1999 the Governor signed the "School Bus Enhanced Safety Inspection Act." "surprise inspection done just one year earlier showed a high percentage of so called Ainspected" buses to be in bad shape. This bill that I sponsored gave the DMV enhanced powers to inspect and monitor school buses. The law also established fines for school bus operators who did not do necessary repairs in a timely manner.

During this legislative session I have introduced legislation that passed the Assembly that would require parents to use booster seats for children between the ages of 4 and 8 or who weigh less than 80 pounds. The statistics are frightening, in 1998 over 500 children between the ages of 4 and 8 died in automobile accidents. The problem is not that we do not buckle our kids into seatbelts, statistics show that most of us do.

The problem is that by the time a child reaches 40 pounds they have effectively outgrown a typichild safety Unfortunately they are still too small for adult-sized safety belts. A safety belt that does not fit can be dangerous. For example, shoulder belts can cut into a child's neck or stomach during an accident and cause serious injuries, and lap belts can leave them without upper body or head protection. The major American automobile companies have also recognized the need to make children safer by easing the transition into booster seats.

The Ford Motor Company, Chrysler and General Motors all have plans to promote booster seat use.

MANDATORY SPRIN-KLER IN COLLEGE DORMI-**TORIES**- Early in the morning of Wednesday, January 19, 2000, a fire blazed in the Boland Hall dormitory on the campus of Seton Hall University in South Orange. The fire tragically claimed the lives of three college freshman and injured almost 70 other students. In the wake of this tragedy a study conducted by the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority revealed that 71% of the almost 40,000 college beds in New Jersey's college dorm rooms were without sprinklers. As a member of the General Assembly and as a member of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission, I joined with both Democratic and Republican leaders in the legislature and sponsored a bill that was later signed into law that requires sprinklers in every college dormitory room in the state of New Jersey. Placing sprinklers in dorm rooms is a positive safety step. Nevertheless we must continue to stress the fundamentals of fire safety and prevention as part of our overall education program.

In addition to my work on specific legislation, 2000 has also been a successful year in my attempts to get funding for all the towns in the 19th district. In Sayreville I was able to secure a \$60,000 grant for the Morgan I First Aid Squad. This money will you.

go towards the purchase of a new crash truck. I secured another \$60,000 grant for a South Amboy fire company to purchase some much needed safety equipment. Only by working together with the hard working dedicated volunteers of both these organizations were we able to bring this money into the 19th district. It is my sincere hope that 2001 will bring additional funding to several additional volunteer organizations.

As a member of the Assembly

Transportation Committee the challenges of infrastructure improvements, traffic congestion relief and improving mass transit has been my primary focus. One of my proudest accomplishments this past year was to obtain funding for a problem that has been plaguing Sayreville and South Amboy residents for almost thirty years. Everyone who lives or drives in the Melrose section knows that Old Route 4 (also known as Main Street) has had major drainage problems which forever has caused deep flooding and dangerous icy conditions. For years the people who live and work in this area lived with this dangerous situation. At times of inclement weather people's lives and safety have been at risk. This is a project that I have been committed to since my election to the General Assembly. I am pleased to report that the New Jersey State Department of Transportation has committed \$800,000 and has begun working to improve the drainage systems along Old Route 4. Early in 2001, Main Street will no longer have the flooding and ice problems that have plagued residents, drivers and business people in this area since the early 1970's

As the year 2000 comes to a close I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you in the New Jersey General Assembly. I have worked to be responsive to your needs However, to properly represent you I need your help and guidance. I view my role as your elected representative as a partnership. I need to know your thoughts and concerns on the issues that most concern you. I encourage you to contact me at my district office to share with me your thoughts and ideas. My district office is located at 3145 Bordentown Avenue in Parlin. My telephone number is 732-316-1885, my e-mail address is Asm Wisniewski@njleg.state.nj.

I look forward to hearing from

READERS COMMENTARY



One Man's Trash, Another's Treasure

Dear Editor,

There is a saying that one

man's trash is another man's treasure. Here in Middlesex County, we are still searching for that treasure in Mayor Guiliani's plans to ship most of New York City's trash through New Jersey. Since this plan was announced, communities in Middlesex County have been scrambling to stop their homes and neighborhoods from being overrun by New York City's trash.

First, the plan called for the construction of a transfer facility in the Borough of Carteret. After bitter local opposition and a hard-fought battle, the site of the proposed facility was moved to the neighboring city of Linden. The problem not only lies with the Linden site, but with the proposal to transport 10,000 tons of garbage a day, by train, from this facility to landfills in the South and Midwest. This train is expected to be up to a mile long and its route will cut off traffic on a dozen local roads. This plan could have a potentially disastrous impact on communities, such Woodbridge and Carteret, where emergency services could be tied up at these rail crossings and unable to properly respond to a call on the other side of the tracks.

The residents living along these rail lines, particularly in the communities of Port Reading and Carteret, have been bombarded with almost unbearable noise and air pollution from the existing freight line traffic. A new mile long train packed with garbage makes a bad situation even worse. A train of this magnitude will cause more backups on the train line, leaving more trains idling in the backyards of neighboring homes for longer periods of time. Residents will also have to suffer with more fumes and leakages from the garbage train.

The residents of Middlesex County should not have their health, safety and quality of life compromised simply because their community hosts a rail line. While the trash has to go somewhere, packing it on a mile long train through densely populated Middlesex County is not the best solution. Instead, its an accident waiting to happen.

Joseph F. Vitale Senator, 19th District

Way Beyond

Where is the public outrage?? CBS Television abused its right to public respect on Dec. 3. Their abuse of the Edison Police Department on 60 Minutes went way beyond reporting. It was muck raking at its worst. Edison Police are like you and me, human. That means they make mistakes. To employ an often repeated biblical quotation, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

The cases sighted go back many years and I'm not certain that the stories given by those involved were accurately reported in the first place. All I know for sure is that the abuse of the current 200 officers who are sworn to "Protect and Serve" was the worst form of yellow journalism.

To inpugn the integrity of Chief Ed Costello and his fellow police officers to sell television displays advertising, media's arrogance toward the people who do the most for Americas citizens. CBS failed to point out the real sins in America, namely, those that went on in the White House. How dare they presume to come to Edison, a community of ninety thousand hard working citizens, and display for the world to see the sin of the few, to the embarrassment of us all.

> Robert A. Brown Edison

Got something to say? Why not write a letter to our "Readers Commentary" column? Tell us how you feel about current situations both locally and nationally.

seed to: AT/CG, "Readers Commentary", PQ Box 1061, Relivery, NJ 07065

Comics Puzzles









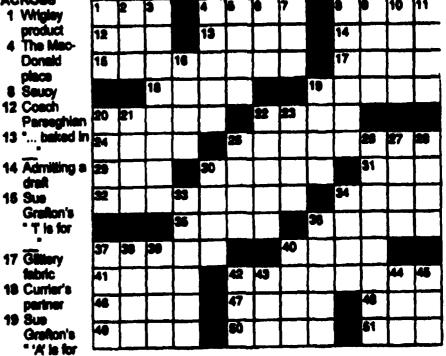
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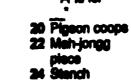












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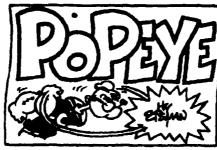
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HENRY BOLTINOFF

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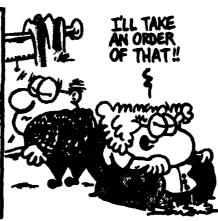






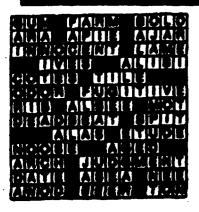
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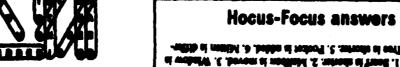






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YOUR SCHOOL NEWS

Program Helps Teachers Get The Picture

(NAPSA) — Picture this. Fujifilm, a leading manufacturer of film and photographic equipment is once again sponsoring an educational program for elementary school students.

Fujifilm PhotoPals "Get The Picture: My WORLD," a program for grades 3-6 is designed to help teachers and students use photography in their studies.

Lesson plans demonstrate how teachers can incorporate photography in the classroom through major subject areas, such as Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science.

Each lesson has five basic steps: educational objectives, lesson plan, follow up, photo opportunities and PhotoPals.

Fujifilm PhotoPals "Get The Picture: My World" is a program that helps students share their experiences, such as holidays and special events, with students from other classes or schools.

According to Matt Knickerbocker, Vice President, Marketing, Consumer Markets Division, Fujifilm, there continues to be a high level of interest in the PhotoPals program from classrooms across the country.

Said Knickerbocker, "Fujifilm PhotoPals enhances learning through taking and sharing pictures, making it fun in the process."

In addition to calling the Fujifilm PhotoPals hotline (1-800-819-2200) to sign up for the program, the program is also featured on the Internet at www. scholastic. com/photopals. The

site offers areas where students can download a sign-up form for the program and teachers can access suggestions for classroom activities to enhance the Fujifilm PhotoPals "Get the Picture: My WORLD" program.

By using the Web site, students can even turn their photographs into material for holiday newsletters for their class or their family.

Fujifilm Photo Pals "Get The Picture: My WORLD" program, now in its ninth year, enables students to better recognize, assess and connect with the world in which they live.

To learn more about Fujifilm PhotoPals "Get The Picture: My

world" and other Fujifilm programs, as well as Fujifilm's broad range of products and services, visit the Fujifilm Web site at www.fujifilm.com.



For the ninth consecutive year, a program is helping teachers make photography part of their lessons.

Student Loan Borrowers Advised: Read The Fine Print

(NAPSA) — The amount Americans borrow for college through federal student loan programs has nearly tripled over the past decade. With annual student loan borrowing levels surpassing \$35 billion dollars, any provision that reduces the cost of repaying college debt would appear to offer families welcome financial relief. Many student financial aid experts, however, warn that a Clinton administration-initiative that promises reduced student loan interest rates for some college graduates could actually increase total borrowing costs for hundreds of thousands of others.

Student aid experts caution that many student loan borrowers who accept the administration's offer could unwittingly end up locking in the highest-possible student loan interest rates, foregoing potentially lower interest rates in the future, and passing up more valuable interest-saving benefits offered by private lenders.

"We are advising student loan borrowers to read the fine print and proceed with caution," said Shelly Repp, general counsel for the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs.

On Aug. 10, President Clinton announced that student loan borrowers who consolidate their loans in the federal government's direct loan program would receive an 0.8 percentage-point interest rate reduction. Borrowers who make their first 12 consolidation loan payments within six days of the due date retain the discount for the remainder of the repayment period.

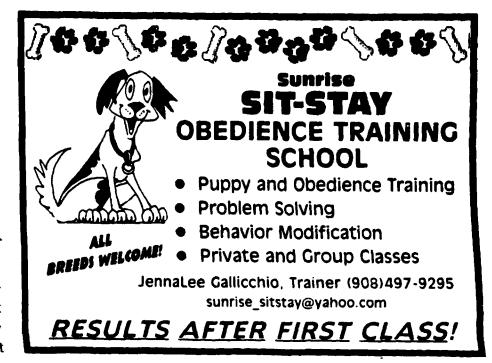
Critics of the plan note that the federal government's own estimates indicate some 77 percent of these student loan borrowers will fail to make their first 12 payments on time and lose the discount. Because current student loan interest rates are at or near the maximum levels set by law, these borrowers will end up locking in the highest-possible student loan interest rates for the repayment period on their fixed-rate consolidation loan, a term of up to 30 years. Based on the administration's estimates, more than 300,000 borrowers with college loans could get stuck with higher interest rates.

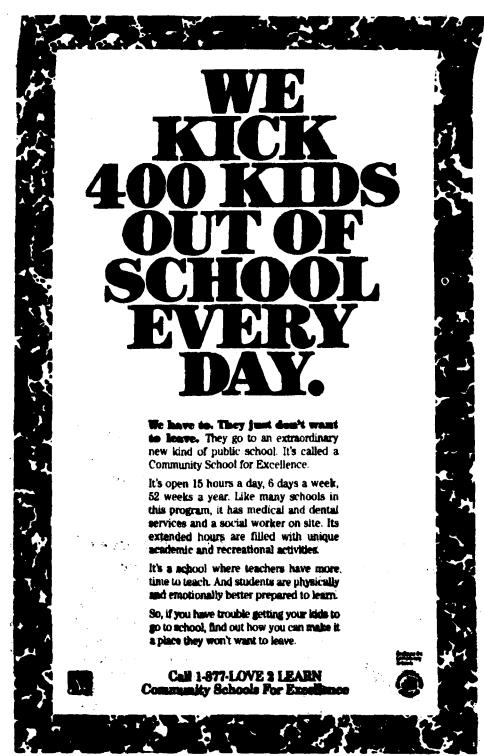
More troubling, these borrowers will likely forego lower student loan interest rates in the future. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that interest rates on variable-rate student loans will fall from the current rate of 8.19 percent to 7.2 percent by 2005. Borrowers who lock in the current high student loan rates through a fixedrate consolidation loan will miss the opportunity to enjoy these lower rates in the future. According to one analysis, a borrower who consolidates \$25,000

and loses the 0.8-percentagepoint discount would forego nearly \$200 in savings if the lower interest rates forecast by CBO come to pass. The additional interest costs will be much larger for those borrowers who elect an extended repayment term, which the majority of consolidation borrowers choose.

In addition, student aid experts advise borrowers to check if they qualify for potentially more valuable borrower benefit plans offered by private lenders. Many lenders offer interest rate reduction options that typically provide a 2-percentage-point reduction in the interest rate for borrowers who make their first 36 to 48 monthly payments on time. A graduate who qualifies for a lender benefit program on \$25,000 in student loans would save \$345 more than a borrower who qualifies for the direct consolidation loan discount and repays an equal amount over the same 10-year period.

"Many borrowers may find that consolidating their loans in the government's program is not in their best interest," Repp said.







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OBITUARIES

Minnie Lee Gash of South River

Mrs. Minnie Lee Gash of South River died November 15 at St. Peter's University Hosital, New Brunswick. She was 78.

Born in Lawrence, S.C., she lived there before moving to South River 55 years ago.

She was formerly employed by Edgebrook, New Brunswick, as a domestic worker.

Mrs. Gash was a member of the Union Baptist Church, South River

She was a church clerk for 30 vears, past president of the Senior Usher Board and member of the Senior Choir, the Nurses Unit and the Deaconess Board, all at the church.

Since 1963, she was a member of the Nurses Unit Association of N.J., Inc. She was also a member of the Register of Deeds Vasti Court 39 of the Order of Calanthe, Edison

She had served as chairperson of the Sea Coast Usher Union Education Committee in New Jersey and had served as president of District Union No. 1 Choir of Central Jersey.

Her husband, Aaron Gash, is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, the Rev. Ivy Gash-Smith of South River; two granddaughters, Aisha and Ebony Smith, both of South River, a grandson, Eugene Smith, also of South River; a granddaughter, Najay Harris of South River, two grandsons, Taquan Smith of New Brunswick and Nile Smith of South River, and three greatgrandchildren.





Clarence Harrison of Isolin

Mr. Clarence R. Harrison of Iselin died December 17 at home. He was 67.

Born in Clarion, Pa., he lived in Jersey City and Maine before moving to Iselin in 1966.

He was a union engineer with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 68 of West Caldwell. Previously, he worked for Reynolds Metals of Carteret as a maintenance machinist for 20 years.

Nestors Deli, Iselin, which they re-named KC's Corner Market in 1999

Anna Johnson, 90 of Parlin

Mrs. Anna May Johnson of Parlin died December 1 at Carriage House Manor Care Center, Sayreville. She was 90.

Born in Old Bridge, she has lived all her life in Parlin.

Before her retirement 28 years ago, she was employed as a shipping clerk with E.I. DuPont Photo Products, Parlin, for 44 years.

She was a member of the Sayreville Senior Citizens Tuesday Club.

Ariley A. Wuest of Edison

Mr. Artley A. Wuest of Edison died December 4 at Muhlenberg Regional Hospital, Plainfield. He was 94. Born in Yonkers, N.Y., he was a lifelong resident of Edison.

He was a machinist working for the Edison School System for ten years, retiring in 1973. Prior to that, he worked for Wright Aeronautical in Paterson and

He served in the Korean War from 1950-53 and was a member of the VFW Post 2636.

Surviving are his wife the former Kathleen Curtin; five sons, David, at home: Russell of Maryland, Douglas of Kentucky, Matthew of Highlands and James of Iselin; two brothers, Gerald of Kendall Park and Walter of California; three sisters, Belle Mullens of Michigan, Sarah Bushinski of Long Island, He and his wife bought the N.Y. and Almeda "Maxine" Galasso of Florida, and two grandchildren, Emily Matthew Harrison.

> Her husband, Amos G. Johnson died in 1980 and a brother, Charles E. Johnson, Jr., died in 1995.

Surviving are two sisters, Catherine Stegway Murphy of Parlin and Gladys Spiers of South Amboy; a niece, five great-nieces; five greatnephews; five great-greatnieces and 11 great-greatnephews.

Mr. Wuest was a member of the Reformed Church of Metuchen and the Edison Senior Citizens Club.

Surviving are his wife, Helen (Meeker) Wuest; a son, Artley T. Wuest of Edison; a daughter, Helene Gonick of Taylor, S.C.; and three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Matthew Laterza

Mr. Matthew F. Laterza of Parlin died November 30 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was

Born in New York City, he lived in The Bronx, N.Y. before moving to Parlin in 1985.

He was employed as a printer Champion Envelope, Kenilworth for 30 years, before

Mr. Laterza was an Army veteran of World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Carmela DeGennaro; a son Anthony of Iselin; a daughter, Sally Collado of Florida and four grandchildren.

Nina Moschersky of Porth Amboy

Mrs. Nina Meschersky of Perth Amboy died December 17 at home. She was 82.

Born in Perth Amboy, she was a lifelong resident.

She attended Perth Amboy public schools and was a 1936 graduate of Perth Amboy High School. A graduate of Douglass College, New Brunswick, she a former ninth-grade teacher at Colonia Junior High School.

She also previously worked for Shell Oil Company, Sewaren

and was editor of the magazine put out by Shell Oil's Sewaren plant.

Mrs. Meschersky was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Perth Amboy.

Her parents, the Very Rev. Vladimir Meschersky (Russian Orthodox Church) and Anna Meschersky, two brothers, George and Walter Meschersky and a nephew, Walter Meschersky, Jr. are all deceased.

She is survived by many friends.

Charles F. Rose of Carteret

Mr. Charles F. Rose of Carteret died December 6 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy. He was 72.

Born in Newark, he lived in Carteret for the past 47 years.

He was a retired machine operator from Engelhart Industries in Union for 26 years.

Mr. Rose was an Army veter-

His wife, Rose L. Rose, died in 1988. Two brothers, Theodore and Robert Rose are also deceased.

Surviving are five sons, David Rose, Charles F. Rose, Jr., Joseph Rose, Christopher rose and Jesse Rose, all of Carteret; three daughters, Diane Parlacoski of Perth Amboy, Elizabeth Butler of Asbury Park and Paula Rose of Carteret; two sisters, Dorothy and Betty; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Libby H. Cohen, 72 of Woodbridge

Mrs. Libby H. Cohen of Florida, died December 8 at North Ridge Hospital, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She was 72.

Born in New Brunswick, she resided in Woodbridge for over 40 years. She moved to Pompano Beach, Fla. in 1991.

She graduated from New Brunswick public schools and attended Rutgers University.

She was a lifelong member of Hadassah and a member of the Sisterhood Adath Israel, Woodbridge.

Mrs. Cohen was an active member of Temple Adath Or.

Surviving are her husband, Jerry Cohen of Pompano Beach, Fla.; three daughters, Cindy Sigl of Cranford, Lynn Friedman of Newtown, Conn., and Stephanie Cahn of Voorhees; a brother, G.J. Wasserburg of Pasadena, Calif.; seven grandchildren, David, Matthew and Elizabeth Cahn, Jessica and Samantha Friedman and Scott and Brian Sigl.

Stacia Galloway of Porth Amboy

Mrs. Stacia M. Galloway of Florida (formerly of Perth Amboy) died December 17 in Holly Hill, Fla. She was 84.

Born and raised in Perth Amboy, she moved to Florida in 1969.

She was a registered nurse, receiving her nurse's training at Perth Amboy General Hospital (now Raritan Bay Medical Center).

She served as a captain in the Army Nurses Corps during World War II and the Korean War and retired from Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck.

Mrs. Galloway was active in church activities at St. Brendan's Catholic Church, Ormond Beach, Fla.

Her husband, Army Lt. Col. George L. Galloway, died in 1990. A sister, Frances Urban, died in June of this year and her parents, Paul and Veronica Urban are also deceased.

Surviving are a brother, Paul Urban of Perth Amboy; a daughter, Kathleen Chumley of Ormond Beach, Fla.; and a grandson, Benjamin Chumley of Cape Coral, Fla.

OBITUARIES

Richard Gallaghor of Edison

Mr. Richard M. Gallagher of Edison died December 19 at home. He was 63.

Born in Johnstown, Pa., he had resided in Edison since 1962.

He was a maintenance worker for General Motors Corp., Linden, for 30 years before retiring in 1992.

Mr. Gallagher was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose, Edison.

Surviving are his wife, Carol Hoyland Gallagher; two daughters, Jody Meagher of Monroe Township and Vicky Brim of Highland Park; his step-mother, Ruth Gallagher of Johnstown, Pa., two sisters, Florence Brenchak and Elsie Stiles, both of Johnstown, Pa.; a brother, Melvin Gallagher of Texas and three grandchildren, James Meagher, Lei-Ann Meagher and Kaleigh Meagher.

William M. Stack Lifelong resident of P.A.

Mr. William M. Stack of Perth Amboy died December 9 at St. Peter's University Hospital, New Brunswick. He was 86.

Born in Perth Amboy, he was a lifelong resident.

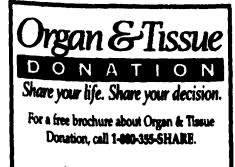
He was an insurance agent with Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., retiring as district manager in 1961 after 34 years.

Mr. Stack was a veteran of World War II.

He was a communicant of St. Mary's R.C. Church, Perth Amboy, and a member of the Knights of Columbus San Salvadore Council 299, Perth Amboy and its 4th Degree Assembly.

His wife, Catherine Galvin Stack, died in 1984.

Surviving are two daughters, Madonna Stack of New York City and Roseann De Luca of East Windsor; and three grandchildren, Kate, Colleen and Anthony.





Coalition on Donation

Lillian Gostkowski of South River

Mrs. Lillian M. Nowakowski Gostkowski of South River died November 18 at Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel. She was 85.

Born in South Amboy, she lived most of her life in South River.

She was a communicant of St. Mary of Ostrobrama R.C. Church, South River, where she was also a life member of the Altar Rosary Society.

Her husband, Anthony, died kowski.

in 1980; a daughter, Dolores C. Gostkowski, died in April of this year. A brother, Ted Nowakowski and a sister, Jennie Dembinski are also deceased.

and the contract of the second second second

Surviving are a son, Anthony Gostkowski, a deacon at St. Bartholomew Church, East Brunswick; a sister, Charlotte Konopacki of Palm Harbor, Fla; and two grandsons, Michael and Christopher Gost-

Irene C. Billott, 85 **Lived in Porth Amboy**

Mrs. Irene C. Billott of Edison died December 2 at home. She was 85.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived in Edison.

She was a grants specialist with the Environmental Protection Agency in New York City. Before that, she was a hair dresser for her father's hair salon in Perth Amboy.

Mrs. Billott was a member of Clara Barton Senior Citizens Club, Edison.

Her husband, Henry John

Billott, died in 1977.

Surviving are a sister, Margaret Markham of North Carolina, five nephews, Anthony Ciccone, Robert Ciccone, Richard Ciccone. Gary Markham and Bill Csokonay, and three nieces, Debbie Goldman, Ellen Wooley and Amy Gentile.

Bortha M. Lamola Lifelong resident of P.A.

Mrs. Bertha M. Lamela of Perth Amboy died December 9 at Edison Estates. She was

Born in Woodbridge, she was a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy.

She lived in Edison for the past two years.

Mrs. Lamela was a floor lady for General Cigar in Perth Amboy for 30 years.

Holy Rosary Church, Perth grandchildren.

Amboy and a member of the Holy Rosary Seniors.

Mrs. Lamela was also a member of the Olive Street Seniors, Perth Amboy.

Her husband, Joseph Lamela, died in 1977.

Surviving are a son, Joseph Lamela of Edison; two grandchildren, John Lamela of Brick and Joanne Scholz of She was a communicant of Kendall Park; and five great-

Dorothy Rozanski of Cartorot

Mrs. Dorothy Kurdyla Rozanski of Carteret died December 8 at home. She was 89.

Born in Carteret, she was a lifelong resident there.

She was a retired custodian for the Carteret Public School system for many years.

Mrs. Rozanski was a communicant of Holy Family R.C. Church, Carteret.

Her husband, Walter Rozanski, died in 1964. Three brothers, Vincent, John and Thaddeus and a sister. Wanda Rader, are all deceased.

Surviving are two sons, Adam Rozanski of Carteret and Edward Rozanski of Rahway; a sister, Mary Horvath of Carteret; a brother, Walter Kurdyla of Carteret; three grandchildren, Diane Krynski, David Rozanski and Christina Rozanski.

Holon C. Kipping of Hopolawn

Mrs. Helen C. Costello Kipping of Hopelawn died December 17 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 82.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived in Metuchen before moving to Hopelawn 28 years

She worked as a factory technician with Merck & Co., Rahway, for 38 years prior to retiring in 1981.

Mrs. Kipping was a member of the Hopelawn Senior Citizens Club, Hopelawn **VFW** Post 1352 Ladies Auxiliary and the Metuchen BPO Elks Lodge 1914.

Her husband, Harry "Kip" Kipping, died in 1996. Three sisters, Ann Mursky, Rita Costello and Claire Smith and a brother, Raymond Costello, are all deceased.

Surviving are a sister, Marie Bushman of Metuchen; a brother, Leo Costello of Sun City, Ariz.; and many nieces and nephews.

Delores Shaw, 71 of Fords

Mrs. Dolores Shaw of Fords died December 18 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 71.

Born in North Bergen, she resided in Edison before moving to Fords in 1980.

She was employed as a picker/packer with CSSC Corp at Raritan Center, Edison, for 14 years before retiring in 1998.

Mrs. Shaw was a communicant of Holy Spirit R.C. Church, Perth Amboy.

Surviving are three daughters, Linda Redding of Ocala, Fla., Dolores Beaton of Woodbridge and Dawn Shaw of East Brunswick, two sons, Arthur Shaw of Hopelawn and Kenneth Shaw of Fords; two sisters, Florence "Flo" Petrick of Toms River and Marie Burke of Secaucus; a brother, Joseph DiPrete of Hasbrouck Heights, seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Alexander Pache of South River

Mr. Alexander Pache of South River died December 14 at Covenant Medical Center, Cooper, Mich. He was 87.

Born in Oberlin, Ohio, he had resided in South River before moving to Saignaw, Mich. He worked for DuPont Chemical Co., Parlin, for 34 years before retiring in 1975.

Mr. Pache was a communicant of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Saginaw.

His wife, Julie, died in 1984. A nephews.

brother, William Pache, is also deceased.

Surviving are a son, Robert Pache; two grandchildren, Marc and Robert Pache, all of South River; four brothers, Joseph Pache of Fairborn, Ohio, John Pache of Grove City, Ohio, James Pache of Saginaw, Mich. and Walter Pache of Dunedin, Fla.; a sister-in-law, Margaret Pache of Columbus, Ohio, and many nieces and

The Cathedral-Second **Baptist Church**

277 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy Bishop Donald Hilliard Jr., D.Min., Senior Pastor 732-826-5293

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP - SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. Early Worship Service 9:30 a.m. **Bible Discovery Hour**

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11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration 6:00 p.m. **Night Church**

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6:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

12:05 noon Mid-Week, Mid-Day Inspiration

7:30 p.m. Pastoral Teaching Friday, 6:30 p.m. • New Generation Youth Fellowship

HOLY COMMUNION . . . Every First Sunday

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YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEWS

Motor Mind • by Mitch Kudler, iMotors.com

(NAPSA) — Dear Mitch: As a practical joke, some of my coworkers put mayonnaise on my car since it was my last day at that company. Not only did it smell bad for weeks, but now the dark blue paint on my 1997 Honda Accord is discolored What can I do? -Paul K

Answer To make your car less of a deli on wheels, you have a couple of choices. If you're lucky, the mayo only stained the clear coat finish of your paint. Take your vehicle to a detail shop and see if they can color sand and buff the stain

CVMD A

repaint the damaged areas.

Dear Mitch: Have gremlins invaded our 1998 Dodge Grand Caravan? Occasionally when I'm driving it above 35 miles per hour, the van will hesitate, then all of the gauges go to zero, the "check engine light" comes on, and the cruise control will reset. A few seconds later, the van comes back to life and acts as if nothing ever happened. What's going on? -Jill M.

Answer: Jill, we have been looking for those gremlins for years. On the off chance it's not

DIANILA GALILAMATUH

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away If not, you will have to the gremlins, you may have an electrical problem with your vehicle. The first line of attack would be to check your battery cable connections to make sure they are clean and secured properly If that doesn't do it, have a mechanic at a NAPA AutoCare Center or your local dealer run a battery and charging system load and operation test.

> Dear Mitch: Almost without fail, the brake pedal on my 1997 Ford Explorer begins to stick after I've driven it for about five minutes. The only way I can unstick it is to lift it from the back. This problem hasn't caused me to come to a screeching halt, but it does feel like I'm driving around with the emergency brake on all the time. My mechanic has thrown in the towel trying to fix it. What do you think? -Daniel A.

> Answer: Daniel, tell your mechanic not to get discouraged. I've worked on many Fords and this was a common problem on Grand Marquis and Crown Victorias in the mid

90's. I'll bet dollars to doughnuts that a brake vacuum booster is bleeding down on your Explorer, causing the brakes to self apply.

Dear Mitch: I've just had a baby and need to buy a car that provides safety for my family. I want to buy a used car because I've heard it's a better value. How can I feel comfortable knowing that I've bought a used car that is in good shape? They all look good on the outside, but I'm worried about what's under the hood. -Beth B.

Answer: Buying a used vehicle is a very smart move. New vehicles lose much of their initial value, which means you can get a great late-model used car or truck for a lot less money. In my 16 years working on cars, one of the biggest concerns that customers always have is the quality of the vehicle they're buying. Here are a couple of things to look for when buying a used car:

Ask to see a copy of the work order that shows all of the repairs made by the dealer or owner. Then have the car checked out by an independent ASE-certified mechanic you know and trust.

- Find out if there is a "cooling off" period that allows you to return the vehicle and get a full refund after you've purchased it. Look for one that allows you to bring back the vehicle within 7 days or 700 miles with no questions asked.
- Be sure your car or truck comes with a compressive warranty covering repairs; the best dealers offer a 3-month or 3,000 mile warranty for used vehicles
- Check with your local Better Business Bureau (www. bbbon line.org) and see if the dealer has had a large number of unresolved complaints from consumers.

Mitch Kudler, an operations manager at iMotors.com, has over 16 years of automotive repair experience and is a Certified Master Technician. Questions about car buying or repair can be emailed to Mitch@iMotors.com. For more information about buying a used vehicle, call toll-free 1-888-IMOTORS (1-888-466-8677) or visit www.imotors.com.

ALTERNATORS STATITERS & CENERATORS MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED! **Test Drive** VISA

by Greg Zyla 2001 NISSAN FRONTIER 4X4 CREW CAB "OFF ROAD" **BASE PRICE: \$25,449**

Call it menacing or call it cool - however you want to describe it, the all-new 2001 Nissan Frontier is one tough-looking truck.

The Frontier's design is a cross between an armored car and some sort of large, earthmoving vehicle. It comes complete with huge riveted fender flares, a gape-mouthed grill, and lots of off-road 4x4 add-ons that separate this 4-door Frontier from the rest.

Also new for 2001 is an interior upgrade, including 20-oz. cup holders, better-upholstered seats, roomy dimensions for five adults and added safety enhancements for youngsters.

The enhanced interior also features a better instrument panel cover, gauges, steering wheel and new fabrics and colors. There are several audio systems to choose from, beginning with an AM/ FM/CD stereo and escalating to a state-of-the-art, steering wheelcontrolled multi-disc CD changer with all the whistles.

Under the hood, there's even more good news. With this latest model, Frontier becomes the first pickup in its class to offer a factory-installed Eaton supercharged V-6 engine. The mill produces 210 horsepower and is available in two-wheel and fourwheel drive, King Cab or Crew Cab, and with manual or automatic transmissions. All supercharged Frontiers include tuned suspension, power windows, door locks and outside mirrors, unique interior cloth, 17-inch alloy wheels, and special badging inside and out. This much-needed power boost will be an "in demand" option for '01, so if you have your heart set on one of these, you better get your order in

Our test model 4x4 "Off-Road" version, however, came with the normally aspirated 3.3liter, 170-horse V6 and automatic transmission. This 170-horse V6 is adequate, but the supercharged version would be our top pick because Frontier is built on a ladder frame suspension and carries up to five adults plus a payload and weighs over 4,100 pounds.

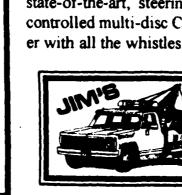
Thus, it needs every extra bit of horsepower it can get, and the manual five-speed and supercharged V-6 are the answers. The EPA numbers for our test model are 15 city and 19 highway.

Prices for the 2001 Frontier line start at \$11,699 for the 2.4liter 4-cylinder Frontier XE Regular Cab 4x2 with five-speed manual transmission to \$25,099 for the top-of-the-line supercharged 3.3-liter V-6 Frontier Crew Cab SC 4x4 with fourspeed automatic transmission.

In summary, 2001 Frontier's new front and rear fascias, new grill, two-inch higher hood line, new fenders with large flares, new front fog lamps, a new tailgate and new badging make it look very different from the 2000 model, which we tested recently. It is definitely worth a look for those looking for a multi-functional vehicle that's fun to drive.

Greg Zyla writes weekly columns on all things automotive. Write to him in c/o King Features Weekly Service, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803 or send an e-mail to letters.kfws @hearstsc.com.

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Single white female, red hair, brown eyes, 125 lbs, who enjoys dining out, dancing, traveling and many other things. Seeking a male, 65 to 75, who's sincere and honest with similar interests, for possible relationship. Middlesex County.

Single white female, 5'4", enjoys the outdoors, music, reading, movies and more. Seeking a single male, with similar interests. BOX

LOVE HAS NO COLOR Single professional black, full fig

ured female, 55, who enjoys theater, movies, traveling, and fine dining. Seeking a single or divorced professional male, non-smoker, fun oving, and enjoys life, for friend-ship, possible relationship. BOX

OME MARI WOMAN

Single white female, 63, affectionate, caring, faithful, full figured woman, in search of marriage minded, single or divorced, white rnale, for everlasting love and happiness. BOX 29259

UNPRETENTIOUS WIDOW

Union County area Afro American widow, mid 50's, thin/medium build. Loyal, kind, honest, sensitive, independent, unpretentious, social drinker, no baggage. Enjoys chess, cards, walks, dining in and out, dancing, theater and much more! Seeks widowed or divorced male, 65 to 70, race not important. BOX

GRAND EXPECTATIONS
31 yr old female, 5'2", long blonde hair, blue eyes, physically fit, petite, college educated, likes tennis, rollerblading, biking, the beach, and more. Looking for a single white professional male, 30 to 39, who's college educated, fit and knows what he wants out of life. BOX 36604

RING RRY BELL!
Single black female, 56 yr old, brown hair and eyes. Enjoys dancing, movies, AC, and dining out. Seeking a single black male, 55 to 65, that has similar interests. I would really like to develop a long term relationship. BOX 37561

Single white female, classy, attractive professional, 59, 5'2", non-drinker, non-smoker. Enjoys dancing, theater, the Jersey shore. In search of a single white profession-al male, 55 to 65, non-smoker, honest, emotionally and financially secure. BOX 37739

ANGEL FROM UP ABOVE

Single white professional female, mid 40's, warm, sincere, and honest, non-smoker, social drinker, emotionally/financially secured. Looking for a male, with similar interests, and qualities for a monogamous relationship. BOX 13785

Seeking a tall, fit, single or divorced, spiritually sensitive, humorous, caring male, 50 to 60, for a possible long term relationship. Enloys conversation, quiet ship. Enjoys conversation, quiet sinp. Enjoys conversation, quiet evenings, music, dining out, theater. 5'8", 47 yr old, single attractive black female, 155 lbs, with no children. BOX 13807

CIVE ME A CALL

Single white female, active, attractive, seeking single white male, medium build, on the go, fit, 38 to 52, to spend quality times with, who enjoys walks on the beach, travel, dining out, quiet romantic evenings, dancing a plus, if you are a special someone, looking to be appreciated by that special some-one, please call. BOX 34622

MEKING MR. RIGHT

Attractive, single white female, nice, warm, personable, college educated. Seeking someone who is financially secure, and knows how to treat a lady. For a possible long term commitment. BOX 37564

SEDS TRAVEL PARTNER

60 yr old female, attractive, 5'5", enjoys the outdoors, fishing, walking, golf, gardening, reading, cooksports, and more. Seeking a male for some good times. BOX

40 yr old female, mother of one, lrish/American, 5'7", 130 lbs, attraction tive, looking for a male with a good sense of humor for dating.

9000 sense BOX 37624

ATTRACTIVE ITALIAN Looking to meet a nice, sincere, happy gentleman, 50 to 55, who likes to cook. I am an attractive, Italian born female, 48, brown hair, brown eyes, 5°. Love to dance, socializing, Bricktown or Toms River Areas, Ocean County, BOX 26680

DOLISSIX COUNTY

Divorced Jewish professional female, 35, 5'5", pretty, sincere, intelligent, caring, enjoys life, music and varied interests. Seeking thoughtful, Jewish professional male, emotionally and financially secure, with similar interests for mmitted, long term relationship. BOX 26697





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white professional female, 39 yrs old, Mother of one, 5'6", blonde with blue eyes, compassionate, attractive, non-smoker, great personality, good sense of humor. Seeks attractive, clean cut, tall, caring, affectionate, male, 35 to 45, to share everything life has to offer. Let's talk. Hudson County BOX 29233

ON THE HUNT

Are you looking for single white female, who's intelligent, attractive, and fun loving, If you are a single white male, non- smoker, between the ages 56 and 64, who likes dancing, New York and Atlantic City and live in the Union County area, give me a call. BOX

LOVE CAN'T WAIT

portraits. Looking for non-smoker, accomplished person. BOX 13106

HOPELESS NOMANTIC

Big green eyes, 5'4", 117 lbs, fit, 50, Law Enforcement professional, interests are; hiking, dining, dancing, movies, theatre, quiet times and more. Looking for a male, who's assertive, with salt/peeper hair and mustache. 80Y, 13318 hair and mustache. BOX 13318

MOSSARTIC AT MEART
Widowed female, 67 yr old, 5'7",
slim, easy going, brunette hair, blue
eyes, likes books, music, conversation and new experiences. Looking for an active, intelligent, good natured man, 65 to 75, from Union Essex County. All calls answered. BOX 37020

LIGHTED THEE COLY! 40 yr old, 5'5", 125 lbs, fit, divorced white mother of one, hard working, sport minded, with a good sense of humor. Looking for a physically fit, single white male, who likes working out, the beach and more. BOX 37387

WINTER'S HOSTESS

35 yr old female, blonde hair, blue eyes, petite. Enjoys cross-country skiing, hiking, camping, poetry readings, traveling and museums. If you are interested, give me a call. BOX 39254

Single white, professional female, 27, enjoys nature hiking, traveling, theater, music and more. Seeking a single male, non-smoker with similar interests. BOX 11946

LOOKING FOR LOVE

lbs, gray hair, blue eyes, non-smok-er or drinker, enjoys quiet times, walks, bowling, the outdoors and more. Seeking a single male, with similar interests, for possible relationship. BOX 13363

DESTINY CALLS

Youthful, attractive, slim, brunette, 50 yr old female, with good sense of humor, enjoys movies, theater, fine dining, beach and oldies seeking single, attractive white male, 48 58, non-smoker, for friendship and possible long term relation-ship. Please be caring, honest, edu-cated and financially comfortable.

47 yr old, attractive single white female, is seeking a spiritual rela-tionship with a sensitive and caring, single or divorced Hispanic or black male, 47 to 58, with a good sense of humor. I enjoy good conversa-tions, movies, music and dining out. BOX 13535

LET'S HAVE PUR

Single white female, 29, 5'7", 130 lbs, short hair, hazel eyes, enjoys walks, partying and more. Seeking a single male, 21 to 30, with similar interests, for fun times and more.

ATTRACTIVE LADY

Vivacious, attractive, shapely, red-head, green eyes, early 50's, 5'4", 112 lbs, enjoys the theatre, dining out, and travel. Seeking professional, intelligent, attractive man, 53 to 62, for possible relationship. BOX

HEAVY SET GUY WARTED Single white female, heavy set, 34, long blonde hair, blue green eyes, attractive, non-smoker. Enjoys movies, dining, flea markets, travel and more. Seeking single white male, 30 to 45, non-smoker, with similar interests, for dating and

possibly a long term relationship. Monmouth county, BOX 26633

ARE YOU READY Attractive, adventurous, affection-ate, educated, divorced white professional female, 48. In search of upbeat, honest, compassionate, secure, divorced white professional male, who is special for long term relationship. Monmouth County Only. BOX 26652

ROMANCE WARTED

Athletic, slim, single white professional female, 36, dirty blond hair, Irish catholic, 5'5", outgoing, attractive, non-smoker. Likes to work out, run, and bike. Seeks single white professional male, non-smoker, catholic, fit, athletic, 33 to 39, for friendship, and possible long term relationship. BOX 29228

ATTENTION JOHN!

You're 39 and a pharmaceutical

executive, triathlete, you respond-

ed to my ad "Romance Wanted",

mailbox #29228, your message got

cut off before I could get your tele-

phone number, could you please

call again and leave your number.

IMSPANIC JERSEY GIRL

Single Hispanic female, 5'6", 130

lbs, dark hair and eyes. Seeks white

5'10" and over, who's single, sin-

cere, honest, family orientated and

enjoys New York City, Soho, the

Village, dining, movies, theater and

the beach. Must be non-smoker.

CHATRAL JERSEY

Divorced white female, 5'7", 125

lbs., straight blonde hair, green

eyes, mid 50's. Enjoys the outdoors,

hiking, country music, travel and cooking. Seeks healthy, single male,

54 to 64, with similar interests for

friendship and possible relation-

BOX 29267

ship. BOX 30759

Hispanic professional male,

EVE CATCHER & MORE

Divorced white mother of one, 5'5", slim to medium built, attractive, brown hair and eyes, fair comcollege educated. employed in the pharmaceutical industry. Looking for a single white female, financially stable, tall, slender with a positive out look in life. **BOX 35301**

IF YOU'RE READY....

27 yr old, white professional female, 5'4", brown hair and eyes, enjoys cooking, reading, animals, outdoors, meeting new people and volunteering. Seeking a single male with similar interests for friendship first and possible relationship. BOX

TALL AND ATTRACTIVE

36 yr old, green eyed, tall, voluptuous brunette female. I enjoy working out, music, comedy clubs, shooting pool, sports, and movies. Looking for a tall, spontaneous, single man with a good sense of humor. BOX 36287

ASIAN ATTRACTION

Single female, down to earth, sophisticated, Artist, marriage minded, enjoys ballroom dancing, walks in the village and more. Looking for an Oriental for long term relationship. BOX 36596

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NO HANG UPS

48 vr old, 6', 210 lbs white divorced

male with brown hair and eves.

Enjoys movies, dining and fun

times. Seeking a single female, 35

to 55, for fun and good times. BOX

INTERESTED?

Single white male, 34, 5'11", 195

lbs, enjoys dining out, movies and

more. Seeking a single black or

Hispanic female, with similar inter-

ests, for possible relationship. BOX

R U READY?

Single white male, 45, 5'8", 190 lbs,

brown hair, green/brown eyes,

enjoys sports, movies, talks, the

outdoors, quiet times and more.

Seeking a single female, with simi-

lar interests, for friendship and a

possible relationship. BOX 13830

LOOKING FOR YOU

37 yr old, white male, 5'11", 200 lbs, attractive and fit with a good sense of humor, enjoys the outdoors. Looking for black or Hispanic female, smoking, children, age and looks are not important, with a condinerrouslib. just a good personality. BOX 37711

GIVE ME A CALL!
Single white male, 25, 5'11", blonde hair, blue eyes, seeking a single white female, 18 to 26, for possible relationship. BOX 39026 RECLUSIVE BY CHOKE
35 yr old, 5'10", 170 lb, single white male, contractor, handsome, low key, loyal with no children, loner, smoker and non-drinker.

Likes camping, concerts, consider-ing moving out west. Seeks child-free, independent woman, 18 to 40 BOX 40268

Single white male, 30, shy, 5'11", 175 lbs, smoker, home owner, employed, also has depression disability. Seeks a single female, child free, age open, for friendship and companion, 80X 11755 companion. BOX 11755

MECLUSIVE BY CHOICE

Single white male, 30, 5'10", 170 lbs, handsome, loyal, low keyed, loner type, no children, smoker, non-drinker, no drugs, home body, financially secure. Likes camping, rock/country concerts. Seeking a female, 18 to 40, with no children, for a relationship, would consider moving out west. BOX 26523

lide 👸

nto a new

omance

A new

relationship is

always uplifting!

BLONDE AND BEAUTIFUL

Single attractive comedian, 27 vrs

old, brown hair and blue eyes, looking for an attractive, blonde

white female, 18 to 22, for fun and

Single male, drug-free, sense of humor, enjoys taking walks, the beach, movies and trying new

things. Looking for a female, 25 to 40, with similar interests. BOX 13822

PICK MY BRANCH

Single male, certified tree surgeon,

6', 210 lbs, business owner, enjoys the city, mountains, the outdoors,

the beaches and more. Looking for a female with similar interests to show me the city. BOX 37544

WALK INTO MY LIPE

Single male, looking for a down to earth, warm hearted female, non-

smoker. Enjoys the outdoors, walks, movies, and more. Children okay. For possible relationship. BOX

CAM WE TALK!

ingle white male, 6'1", enjoys

poetry and more, seeking a single female, with similar interests. BOX 10424

laughter. BOX 13815

LIGHT UP MY LIFE

Single male, 6', 190 lbs, French/Italian. Electrician by trade, so let me light up your life. We can get together to have some fun. I enjoy laughter, dancing, and more. BOX 37751

OLD FASHION MAN Single male, old fashion type, 44 yrs old, blonde hair, 5'10", 165 (bs. enjoys dinners with a view, holding hands, flowers, making my sweetheart laugh. Looking for an single female, 35 to 50, for long term relationship. Hudson County BOX

A SPECIAL GUY

Divorced white father of two adult children, 49, 5'10", 190 lbs, considered attractive, emotionally/financially stable and a non-smoker. Interests include: theatre, movies, and other activities. Seeking a white female, 45 to 51, honest, caring, and attractive for possible long term relationship. County. BOX 26704 Middlesex

Looking for a good woman, 30 to 40, for romantic times, good times and kids don't matter. Someone with a good heart, who doesn't play games. Hudson County. BOX 29231

Wanted. A white female, school bus driver, who has free time in between runs to share a special polite relationship. I'm a white selfemploved business man. Let's have lunch, BOX 13757

TO THE POINT
Single male, 41, looking to meet someone who is sincere and down to earth for good times and casual dating. BOX 37945

Single white male, 34, non-smoker, non-drinker. Likes the outdoors year around changes of the seasons, fall, walks, movies, boating, fishing, camping, hunting, concerts, and dinner. Seeking a single white female 25 to 40, non-smoker. white female, 25 to 40, non-smoker, non-drinker, same interests, and must be secure about herself. BOX

MARRIAGE MINDED

35 yr old, single white male, 5'9", 175 lbs, non-smoker from Westfield. Enjoys antiques, the outdoors, dining, movies, running and quiet times. Seeking an attractive single or divorced white female, 28 to 40, with similar interests, for long term relationship. BOX 38557

MARRIAGE ORIENTED
44, 5'10", 170 lbs, blonde/blue, trim, athletic build, Irish/German, handsome, financially established, soft spoken gentleman, with tradi-tional Mid Western values. Enjoys country drives and quaint towns. Seeks warm, caring, woman, 34 to 42, with attractive figure, family oriented. Children welcome. BOX

DRIGHTEN UP MY LIFE

Recently widower, retired youth service professional, healthy, nonsmoker, 63, 5'11", 150 lbs, disease and drug free. Would like to meet an attractive, fit, honest female, to cuddle, pamper, spoil and bring love and happiness to each others life. BOX 36615

S1 yr old, single white male, hand-some, fit enjoys dining out, golf, walks, movies and the beach, seeking a single white female, 41 to 52, for a long term loving relationship. BOX 11657

DOO'T MISS THE BOAT 52 yr old white male, fit, enjoys movies, long walks, the beach, travelling, arts & crafts and more. Seeking a white female, 45 to 53, who's slim and in good shape. BOX

Youthful, 45 yr old, attractive, single Italian white male is seeking an attractive, single female, to devela long term relationship. BOX

progressive politics, jogging, music, improvement of self and others. Any religion, serious only. Hudson County. BOX 29282 CREAM IN YOUR COFFEE Divorced white Italian male, 52, 6'3", 198 lbs, black hair, green eyes. Seeking a female, 55 to 60, who is

COMMUNITY THERAPIST Kind, bold, Jersey City or Hoboken woman, sought for very significant romance, with this single white male, **59**, 58", trim, interested in

affectionate, caring and likes good conversation. Race unimportant.

PLEASURES OF LIFE Divorced white male, 51, 6'4", 230 los, happy, secure, professional, looking for a tall, thin, single female, 43 to 50, who enjoys the simple pleasures of life, for a possible relationship. BOX 13083

I'M WAITING!

Single white male, tall, attractive, 38, high school grad, who enjoys dining out, dancing, swimming, and quiet romantic evenings. Seeking single white female, 25 to 45, non-smoker, with similar interests 80% 13249 ests. BOX 13249

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Good looking college student, 6', auburn hair, blue eyes, goatee, plays in a band, nice, hopeless romantic. Enjoys sports, music, quiet nights at home, walks on the beach and more. Looking for that special single female. BOX 13260

ALL CALLS ARSWER

39, 6', 175 lbs, divorced male, professional, with one child, enjoys the outdoors, skiing and more. Looking for that special someone, to share my life with, my success with, and start a family with. BOX 13326 SEEKS CHRISTIAN

43 yr old single black Christian male, 6'2", down to earth, loves

Christian music and walks in the park. Seeking someone, who loves the Lord, never married, and has no children. Race and age. BOX 13436 NO HEAD GAMES Single white male, 32 yrs old, seek-ing a down to earth, fun healthy

ing a down to earth, fun healthy female, who likes to go places and do things, for a possible marriage. Smokers and drinkers okay, must be drug free. BOX 13625 CLASSICAL MUSIC... ...Lover. Single white gentleman, European, U.S. Citizen, seeking a lady for possible long term relationship. I am modest and educated, my great entertainment is clas-

sical music because it bring us to a higher level. The lady I seek need not like it, however, she should be understanding. BOX 15636

ANY VEGGIES AROUND? Single white male, 38, 6', 165 lbs, non-drinker, non-smoker, nature outdoors type. Loves to cook, music, art and movies. In search of non-smoking, single or divorced female, sincere, down to earth, 27 to 44. BOX 26564

Paris and sailboats, caring relation-ship, not a one time thing. Single white male, 5'7". 170 lbs, hazel eyes, enjoys sailing, movies, muse-ums, theatres, arts. Seeking a female, 42 to 52, for relationship. Ocean County BOX 26653

NEW TO THE AREA

Originally from Boston. Started school early pre med, law, CPA. Eventually worked for government. Moved to New York to start my own business. Enjoys movies, dancing, fencing, music, bars, very athletic. Looking for attractive young lady, with a sense of humor, 30 to 40. BOX 29225

JUST THE TWO OF US

21 yr old, single black and Italian male, 6'1", 192 lbs, attractive, good personality and great sense of humor. Enjoy EMS, playing ball, motor cycles and just having fun. Looking for a single female 18 to 25, who is attractive, honest, fun loving and willing to experience life to the fullest. Hudson county BOX 29227

ARE YOU OUT THE

Single white male, 43, 5'6", 150 lbs, attractive, healthy, honest, affectionate, sincere, enjoys laughing, life, and all it offers. Seeks sincere, romantic, attractive female who romantic, attractive remaie who enjoys dining, good conversation, quiet times for dating and possible long term relationship. Bergen County. BOX 29277

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USED CARS & TRUCKS

193 Ford Escort LX Station Wagon. a/c anvitm cassette, p/b, p/s, exc cond 93,000 mi Asking \$3595, 732-721-8339

193 Honda Accord, 2 dr. 57 000 mi JOE 732-574-2343

'93 Ford Escort LX Station Wagon amilini cassette a/c p/b, p/s Exc cond 93,000 mi Asking \$3595 Call 732-721-8339 ans much before 6pm

193 Mercury Capri Convertible JOE 732-574-2343

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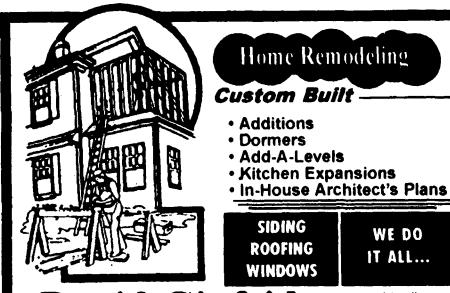
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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

NJ Leaders Receive Great American Smokeout Award

AREA—Youth advocates who teach their peers about the dangers of tobacco, the state's first 100 percent smoke-free hospital, both indoors and out, and a county freeholder who has supported tobacco control initiatives were among seven New Jersey residents and organizations recognized for their leadership in the fight against Big Tobacco today at the American Cancer Society's Great American inaugural Smokeout Awards ceremony. The awards were presented at the American Cancer Society's North Brunswick office.

"Smoking is the most preventable cause of death. Yet, Big. Tobacco continues to be a powerful force with billion-dollar marketing strategies and sophisticated public relations campaigns. The American Cancer Society cannot tackle this monster alone," said Jackie Smith, New Jersey director of tobacco control and prevention for the American Cancer Society. "We need partners in our community to help educate young people, business leaders who set up smoke-free workplaces and elected officials who will say no to the influential tobacco lobby and improve public policies to help make our community tobaccofree.'

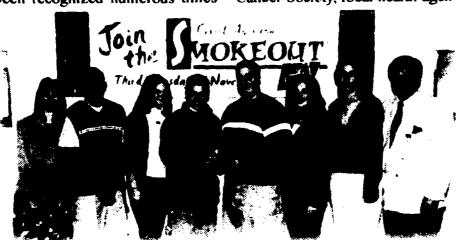
About 87 percent of lung cancer deaths and about 30 percent of all cancer deaths in the country can be attributed to smoking That's why the American Cancer Society has been celebrating the Great American Smokeout for the past 24 years to help adult smokers quit, prevent children from picking up the deadly habit and increase public awareness about the dangers of tobacco use.

The seven New Jersey groups who received the American Cancer Society Great Smokeout Award included:

Youth Advocate Category: COST (Children Opposed to Smoking Tobacco), Mary E.

Volz School, Runnemede, N.J.—Five years ago, a group of middle-school students from the Mary E. Volz School decided they wanted to do something to protect other children from the tobacco industry. Since then, they have been recognized numerous times

control and prevention within Monmouth County is unmatched throughout the state. Freeholder Handlin initiated the Monmouth County Communities Against Tobacco Coalition—a collaboration between the American Cancer Society, local health agen-



PEER GROUP HONORED—The American Cancer Society honored students from the Woodbridge High School Peer Leadership Group at its first annual Great American Smokeout Awards Ceremony held Nov. 15 at the American Cancer Society's state headquarters in North Brunswick. The Woodbridge students took top honors in the School category at the statewide event for its outstanding efforts aimed at educating teens on the dangers of tobacco.

for their engaging anti-tobacco initiatives. During the group's brief existence, the students have conducted surveys, drafted resolutions, participated in compliance checks of local merchants selling tobacco products, written a play entitled, "The Trial of the Marlboro Cowboy," and even developed and maintained a web site aimed at warning children of the dangers of smoking and the deceptive behaviors of the tobacco industry. The group has also met with officials from all levels government, including: President Clinton, U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg and Donna Shalala, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Elected Official Category:
Amy H. Handlin, Monmouth
County Freeholder, Freehold,
N.J.—As a dedicated American
Cancer Society volunteer for over
10 years, Freeholder Amy H.
Handlin has displayed the marks
of a true leader with vision and
enthusiasm. Her commitment to
the issues surrounding tobacco

cies, schools and community groups—which has grown to include over 75 representatives. As chairperson of this coalition, Freeholder Handlin has been the instrumental lead in all coalition initiatives, ranging from public service announcements to overseeing compliance checks of local merchants selling tobacco products and organizing community anti-tobacco forums.

Individual Category: Mary Palisades Medical Center, North Bergen, N.J. - As Director of the Community Health Office at Palisades Medical Center, Mary Conte has been successful in the implementation, training and facilitation of the American Cancer Society's Freshstart program. Through her work with the American Cancer Society's TATU program in County, Conte has reached out to thousands of students and teachers, encouraging them to participate in the Great American Smokeout. Conte is also an American Cancer Society

volunteer and is on the American Cancer Society Hudson County Advisory Board.

School Category: Woodbridge High School, Peer Leadership Group, Woodbridge, N.J.-The Peer Leadership Group from Woodbridge High School has been very vocal in the fight against Big Tobacco for the past several years. They have participated in the Great American Smokeout and National Kick Butts Day, and have encouraged other students to quit smoking with announcements, letters, posters and protests. With funding from a grant, the students created their own commercials, which were shown in five local movie theaters over a one-month period. The students, as well as their surrounding communities, have all been influenced by the variety of anti-tobacco initiatives that they have committed themselves to.

Hospital/Healthcare Category: Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank, N.J.-Although Eugene Cheslock, M.D. has been an outstanding American Cancer Society volunteer for many years, in the past several months he has been entrenched in an innovative initiative to promote a healthier, cleaner environment for the surrounding community. Dr. Cheslock has implemented a 100 percent indoor and outdoor smoke-free policy at Riverview Medical Center, an affiliate of Meridian Health System. Under his lead. Riverview Medical Center will be the first hospital in New Jersey to implement such a policy, which applies to all staff, patients and visitors of the hospital campus. Dr. Cheslock and Riverview Medical Center have taken a huge step forward in promoting a smoke-free environment and have set a fine example for other hospitals in New Jersey, many of which are now looking into promoting similar initiatives at their own institutions.

Community/Non-Profit Category: Hunterdon Prevention Resources, Flemington, N.J.-Hunterdon Preven-tion Resources has been active in the fight against tobacco by educating the public, children in particular. about the dangers of tobacco products. they led the drive to remove and ban tobacco vending machines from all establishments in the town of Clinton and have worked closely with the American Cancer Society on several antitobacco initiatives, smoking cessation programs, and the TATU program in Hunterdon County.

Corporate/Business Category: New Jersey Imperials Lyndhurst, Team, Soccer N.J.-The North Jersey Imperials Soccer Team has partnered with the American Cancer Society since 1996 to present free tobacco-prevention assemblies for 3-5 grade students throughout Bergen, Morris and Passaic counties. The team also distributes free vouchers to all students who attend the assemblies for their opening game and honors the students with prizes and announcements throughout the game. The dedication to young people expressed by the players and their true desire to keep these children from becoming addicted to tobacco is clear in all they do.

"These individuals are the true champions of the anti-tobacco movement in New Jersey," said Richard Arndt, chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society's Eastern Division. "Their leadership serves as an example to all of us and will help encourage many other members of our community and business leaders to do the same and take a stand against Big Tobacco during our Great American Smokeout."

Some 48 million adults in the country are current smokers—20.1 percent smoke daily, 4.4 percent smoke on some days. In New Jersey, 21 percent of adults smoke. The rates are even higher among high school students—37 percent—and if current trends continue, 135,000 New Jersey kids alive today will eventually die from smoking.

The American Cancer Society estimates that some 164,000 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed this year in the United States and about 156,900 men and women will die from the disease. New Jersey will have some 4,800 new cases of lung cancer and some 4,600 New Jersey residents will die from the disease.

For information about the dangers of tobacco and how to quit smoking, the public can call the American Cancer Society toll-free anytime at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit its web site at www.cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

