

The ATOM TABLOID & Citizen-Gazette

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Judge Sued For Fraud

WOODBIDGE — Emery Z. Toth, an attorney and Woodbridge municipal court judge, is the subject of two lawsuits alleging fraud and conflict of interest in his representation of clients during a series of real estate deals and investments.

Toth is accused of defrauding developer Robert Bengivenga of \$450,000 in a business partnership that Bengivenga entered with real estate broker Carol Gronczewski. Toth was hired as an attorney to represent the part-

nership, which was formed in 1988, according to documents filed in Superior Court in Somerset County.

In 1993, Bengivenga invested \$450,000 in property in Matcumbe, Fla. with the promise that he would receive \$500,000. The original lawsuit, filed in 1997, said he never received the money.

The suit charges that Toth negligently prepared agreements, advised Bengivenga and failed to properly protect him in

various business deals.

Gronczewski and Toth are also named in a separate case to be tried before a Hunterdon County Court. The plaintiff in that case, Barbra Gulisano of Califon alleges that Gronczewski and Toth deliberately concealed their romantic relationship, even though Toth was representing both women in a business partnership.

The complaint alleges that because of the relationship, Gulisano's business interests were

not being represented properly in a series of real estate deals that the two women made between 1988 and 1994. Gulisano is suing for \$800,000 that she says is owed to her from years of investments.

Donald B. Fraser, attorney for Gronczewski, said, "My client's position is that all the transactions were completely above board."

Gronczewski has countersued for about \$150,000 she says Gulisano owes her.

Police Department Helps Bust International Scam Artist

PERTH AMBOY — Mayor Joseph Vas is pleased to announce that the Perth Amboy Police Department, in conjunction with police officials in Toronto, Canada, was instrumental in apprehending a suspected scam artist charged with 37 criminal attempts of defrauding the public and 22 victim complaints totaling \$22,000 in fraud.

Perth Amboy Police first received a complaint from city resident Carlos Correa, 27, on Feb. 15. Correa reported that he had been contacted by a person who informed him that he had just won \$50,000 in a Canadian

magazine contest. The victim was then told that he would have to wire \$5,000 through Western Union to cover customs fees in order to receive his prize.

Correa stated that he did not have \$5,000 at the time, but that he would send the man \$500. After Correa wired the money and did not receive his prize money, he contacted the Perth Amboy Police Department. Correa was once again contacted by the suspect who identified himself as Scott Frazier, of Frazier & Gray Associates, Toronto, Canada. Perth Amboy's Fraud Unit then contacted Toronto authorities and

initiated a joint sting investigation with the cooperation of the victim, Western Union and the Toronto Police Department.

On Feb. 20, Detective Jim White of the Toronto Police Department notified Perth Amboy officials that suspect

George Gray was apprehended and charged with the aforementioned counts. The suspect had previously been the target of two other failed sting operations involving the FBI and Western Union, making the arrest even more monumental.

Local Resident Joins Comcast Team

EDISON — Charles Garabedian of Edison has joined Comcast Cable Communications as Northeast Region director of customer service.

Garabedian, a 14-year veteran of the cable television industry, has served in various corporate customer service and call center management positions for Cablevision Systems Corp. and Time Warner Cable. Prior to entering the cable business, he

worked in various customer service capacities at the NY Times Corp. and at Walt Disney World. After attending Syracuse University, Garabedian earned a bachelor's degree from Long Island University in New York.

Comcast's Northeast Region provides advanced cable television and high-speed Internet services to over 1.5 million New Jersey and Connecticut households.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Club Seeking Participants For Parade

WOODBIDGE—The organizers of the American Irish Association of Woodbridge's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Woodbridge are seeking additional sponsors and participants for the parade.

The parade, to be held on Sunday, March 11, will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Woodbridge High School and will feature Irish dancing, pipe bands, and members of community groups.

From Woodbridge High School the parade will continue along St. Georges Avenue and make a left onto Main Street, Woodbridge. Prior to the parade, there will be a flag raising ceremony in downtown Woodbridge.

Those interested in sponsoring or participating in the parade may contact Charlie Shaughnessy at (732) 382-9646.

Bearcats Mine Gold, Bronze At Berkeley Heights Tourney

FORDS—Three Fords Bearcat wrestlers made it to the finals of the elite Berkeley Heights Invitational Tournament and all three brought home Gold medals. The tourney hosted ten teams from North and Central Jersey and this was the first time the Bearcats had been invited.

Peter Buttitta (62) showed why he was accorded the top seed, winning three matches impressively, pinning a tough Nutley opponent in the finals. Likewise, top seed Joe Bubenheimer (111), a Bearcat Co-Captain, disposed of his first two opponents by pin and then came from behind to pin Scotch Plains-Fanwood phenom Steve Mineo in a hard-fought and exciting final.

Bearcat Co-Captain Brett Epps (104) dominated his bracket with four straight pins to take the championship. The unseeded Epps planted the top three seeds on his way to the Gold medal, registering one fall in thirty-two seconds.

Matt Hart (70) and Robert D'Ambola (S-HWT) added third place finishes to complete the medal collection.

Also wrestling well for the Bearcats, but falling short of the medal round were Kacy Epps (77), Craig Batista (82), Chris Christie (87), Anthony Faiello (92), Tom Skibo (104) and Vin Maglione (132).

Woodbridge Police Upgrade Laptops

WOODBIDGE—A series of technological advances at the Woodbridge Township Police Department will continue with the installation of new laptop computers in the patrol cars, Mayor James E. McGreevey announced recently.

Information Systems Director Michael D. Esolda said Woodbridge will use a federal grant to purchase 30 IBM Thinkpad A20M laptop computers, each with 128K memory upgrades.

The computers, which will replace laptops currently in police cars, will provide police with a faster processor to speed the response time for the records officers request through the units.

Police Chief William Trenery said officers use the laptops to obtain critical data such as national crime information, DMV records, and local records.

McGreevey said Woodbridge

will receive the funds under the Federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance, which is the granting agency, allows local police departments to determine how to utilize the funds to meet their operational needs.

Community Skating Party

WOODBIDGE—The First Baptist Church of Woodbridge Scholarship Committee is sponsoring a Family and Friends Night at United Skates of America (Wood Ave. & Oak Tree Rd.) in Edison, On Sunday, March 3 from 9-11 p.m.

The cost is \$5 for admission, \$2.50 for skate rental and \$2 for a food package (pizza and drink or hotdog and drink).

For tickets or additional information, contact Gertrude Sheppard at (732) 442-8554 or Chandra Porter at (732) 821-6569.

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& Citizen-Gazette

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Engagement News

CLARK—Linda Kelly of South Brunswick and Robert Cetta of East Brunswick have announced the engagement of their daughter, Roseann Cetta of Colonia, to John Rappoccio, son of John and Louise Rappoccio of Clark.

The bride-to-be graduated from the University of Delaware, Newark, with a bachelor of science degree in education and is a middle school teacher with the South Brunswick school system.

Her fiance received a bachelor of science degree in accounting from the University of Delaware and is an account manager with Corporate Express in Whippany.

A July wedding will be held in St. Agnes Church, Clark.



Roseann Cetta and John Rappoccio

Cacchione - Lupo

AVENEL—Mr. and Mrs. Pennsylvania State University. Anthony Cacchione of Avenel announce the engagement of their daughter, Angela Marie Cacchione of Avenel to Jason Lupo of Colonia, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lupo of Colonia.

The engagement was announced on December 2, 2000. Angela is a graduate of

Pennsylvania State University. She is employed by MTV as a Producer.

Jason is a graduate of Colonia High School. He is employed by Gloria Vanderbilt as a Supervisor.

The couple plan to be married in August 2002.

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Legislation To Protect Children And Consumers Introduced

STATE—Legislation has been introduced that would make New Jersey the only state in the nation to restrict access to children and protect consumers from unmonitored "net casinos" by permitting licensed Atlantic City Casinos to start virtual casinos.

The bill (A-3150) would grant an online license to any licensed Atlantic City casino to operate a virtual casino. It requires that all virtual casino operations, software and other functions must be located at the Atlantic City locale. The virtual casino operation would be subject to the same rules and regulations outlined in the 1977 Casino Control act.

The 'virtual casinos' would only be permitted to offer the same games that are available at the Atlantic City casino, and would not include sports gambling. The license would be renewable every year.

Under the measure, an account could be established for each online gambler if the consumer passes an online security check. Entering the site would restrict access to consumers under the age of 21, and anyone residing outside the state of New Jersey.

Under the legislation, Atlantic City virtual casinos would be subject to the same taxes and regulations the hotels are subject to presently, and as overseen by the Casino Control Commission and the Division of Gaming Enforcement.

Each virtual casino would have to comply to certain provisions:

- * provide a process to set-up, credit and debit, and wager through an online wagering

account

- * restrict access to the virtual casino with Proof of legal gambling age (21)

- * require software features to establish voluntary loss limits and suspensions in operation to prevent compulsive gambling habits

- * an initial annual fee for a virtual casino permit; a renewal fee of \$100,000 to be allocated to programs to prevent compulsive gambling

- * subject to provisions of Casino Control Act; an 8 percent tax on gross revenues and 2.5 percent investment alternative tax on gross revenues; licensing of all employees related to gaming-duties; penalties for violation; supplement sanctions deemed appropriate by commission.

The measure would also allow the commission the authority to promulgate regulations for virtual casinos. It also grants authority to the commission to protect the integrity of gaming.

In an MSNBC.com article, it estimates that online gambling revenues could exceed \$3 billion by next year. In 1998, there were 90 online casinos in operation. Today there are over 250 sites dedicated to online games, all operating from outside the United States. This statistic does not include online sports books, lottery or bingo games.

Numerous online gambling companies have set up operations in the Caribbean and Central America to avoid United States regulations.

DiFrancesco Gets Campaign Boost

Special from PoliticsNJ.com

STATE - Scoring a big victory in his campaign for the GOP gubernatorial nomination is Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco, who was able to avoid a convention show-down with Bret Schundler for the organization line in Bergen County.

The Bergen County Republican Organization Policy Committee, a group of party leaders and elected officials, voted 32-1 to award the line to DiFrancesco without a convention.

The lone dissenter was veteran Assemblyman John Rooney, whose vote was not against DiFrancesco but for a county convention to decide the placement on the county line.

Bergen's GOP by-laws allow the county chairman to award the line to the incumbent.

Rooney argued that this is a unique situation where DiFrancesco is the acting governor and technically not the incumbent governor.

Rooney also maintained that the county committee in Bergen had indicated at various levels that they prefer an open convention over a vote by just a few individuals.

Leading the field in two independent polls on the gubernatorial election is Democrat Jim McGreevey.

The Woodbridge Mayor holds an 8-point lead over DiFrancesco, 40%-32%, according to a Quinnipiac University poll.

In December, a Quinnipiac poll gave McGreevey a 41%-26% lead. The poll gives McGreevey a 46% lead over Bret Schundler, similar to his 40%-24% lead in the last survey.

Among Republican primary voters, DiFrancesco leads Schundler 45%-16%.

New Jersey voters have a favorable opinion of DiFrancesco, 17%-5%, with 14 percent mixed and 63

percent who say they haven't heard enough to form an opinion.

McGreevey gets a 17 - 6 percent favorability, with 11 percent mixed and 65 percent who haven't heard enough to form an opinion. Schundler's favorability is 10 - 5 percent, with 7 percent mixed and 78 percent who haven't heard enough to form an opinion.

A Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers poll released earlier shows McGreevey with a 16-point lead in the race for Governor over DiFrancesco, 39%-26%. Against Schundler, McGreevey leads by a 43%-19% margin.

Joining the statehouse team of Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco is Tom Wilson, a veteran political operative and highly respected spin meister. Wilson will become Communications Director.

Sources say that he has agreed to take the post through the November election, at which time

he is expected to return to his lucrative State Street lobbying firm that he established in 1998.

Wilson is a former Executive Director of the New Jersey Republican State Committee and was the campaign manager for the successful re-election campaign of Governor Christine Todd Whitman in 1997.

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FAA AIRSPACE REDESIGN WORKSHOP

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Eastern Region, is advising the public that the FAA will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Metropolitan Airspace Redesign Project. The EIS will assess the potential environmental impacts resulting from proposed modifications to air traffic routings in the state of New Jersey, and parts of New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The FAA will examine ways to develop viable air traffic control (ATC) alternatives to current operations. All reasonable alternatives will be considered including a no-charge alternative/option.

Over the coming weeks, the FAA will host a series of community scoping workshops in the Eastern Region from 7 to 9 p.m. The purpose of these workshops is to invite public comments with respect to the airspace redesign project. Comments will be taken throughout the duration of the meeting.

The following Website and toll free number have been established to provide project information:
<http://www.faa.gov/programs/airspace.htm>
1-866-EISLine (1-866-347-5463).

Written scoping comments may be sent through June 29, 2001 to:
Airspace Redesign Project, c/o Ms. Jackie Brown, PRC Inc.,
Mail Stop 6S3, 1300 PRC Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or
E-mail: brown_jacqueline@prc.com

Scoping Workshops will begin at 7 p.m. with a presentation, followed by a review of exhibit displays and a question & answer period, which will end by 9 p.m. Workshops will be held at the following locations in your local area. For directions and weather-related cancellations, please call the numbers listed below or visit website address above.

March 6th, Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ (973-589-1000)
March 7th, Holiday Inn, Carteret, NJ (732-541-9500)
March 8th, Ramada Inn, Edison, NJ (732-661-1000)
March 12th, Ramada Inn, Clifton, NJ (973-778-6500)
March 13th, Holiday Inn, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ (201-288-9600)



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AREA & STATE NEWS

Racist Activist Dies

AREA — Khalid Abdul Muhammad, the militant black activist who became nationally-known for his harsh rhetoric about Jews and whites after a speech at Kean University, died Saturday morning at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, in Marietta, Georgia.

“Minister and Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad had made his transition to the ancestors,” said Malik Zulu Shabazz, a spokesman for the New Black Panther Party.

The 53-year-old Muhammad, who had shown no prior signs of illness, died of natural causes according to Shabazz. Hospital officials were not available for comment.

Muhammad was named one of Louis Farrakhan’s top lieutenants in the Nation of Islam in 1981. He served at Nation of Islam mosques in New York and Atlanta throughout the decade, and in 1991 became Farrakhan’s personal assistant.

In his own public speaking engagements, Muhammad quickly became known for his virulent attacks on Jews, homosexuals and whites.

He was ousted by Farrakhan after a 1993 speech at the Wilkins Theater, Kean University, in Union, during which he referred to Jews as “bloodsuckers” and urged mob murder of white South Africans.

Muhammad’s New Black Panther Party, has chapters in Dallas, Atlanta, South Carolina, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia and Philadelphia.

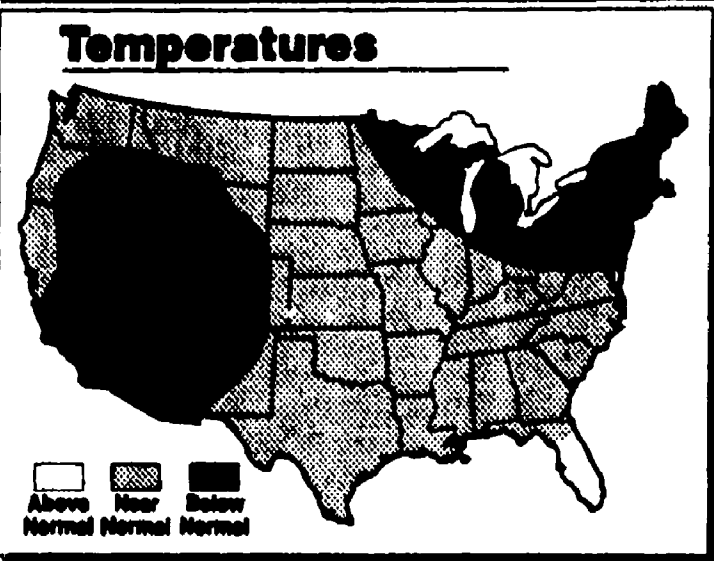
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly sunny. 41	Mainly clear. 29	Partly to mostly sunny. 46/36	Sun and clouds. 38/29	A shower with some sun. 43/18	Mainly cloudy and cold. 41/20	Cold with snow and rain. 40/24	Cold with some sun. 38/23

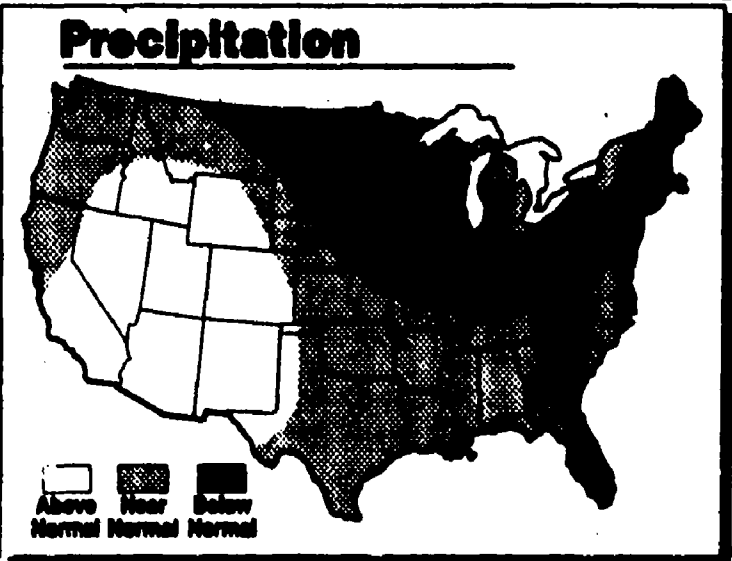
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Cold and stormy weather will persist across the Southwest and Rockies during the period. Cold but dry air will dominate the northern Plains and Northeast. Across the Southeast, rainfall and temperatures will be near normal, except continued dry and warm across Florida.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	57 35 pc	57 42 sh	58 43 r	62 32 pc
Boston	34 20 pc	36 24 c	38 28 pc	39 18 pc
Chicago	32 22 pc	40 24 pc	38 27 pc	38 18 c
Cleveland	31 27 pc	40 30 c	38 28 pc	33 13 pc
Denver	52 27 s	47 29 pc	49 27 pc	50 34 pc
Des Moines	43 29 pc	47 30 s	40 27 pc	39 21 pc
Detroit	32 20 pc	40 30 c	37 25 pc	36 12 c
Houston	54 50 c	62 48 c	68 48 pc	66 40 s
Indianapolis	36 27 c	48 32 pc	44 28 pc	39 23 c
Kansas City	49 33 s	51 33 pc	45 34 pc	50 26 pc
Los Angeles	66 46 pc	62 46 c	61 48 c	62 40 sh
Miami	84 68 pc	81 69 pc	80 85 pc	79 56 pc
Minn.- St. Paul	30 16 sf	32 18 pc	32 16 pc	28 14 c
New Orleans	62 55 c	67 58 t	72 45 c	65 39 s
New York City	36 24 c	40 28 pc	38 30 pc	42 21 pc
Omaha	47 27 pc	46 31 pc	41 28 pc	44 24 c
Phoenix	66 50 pc	68 50 c	67 52 c	71 53 c
San Francisco	57 48 c	57 47 pc	57 48 sh	60 39 r
Seattle	50 38 r	50 38 sh	49 37 pc	50 45 c
Washington	40 28 pc	44 30 pc	40 30 c	46 23 c

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset
Thu.	6:31 a.m.	5:48 p.m.
Fri.	6:30 a.m.	5:50 p.m.

	Moonrise	Moonset
Thu.	9:55 a.m.	none
Fri.	10:31 a.m.	12:15 a.m.

	First	Full	Last	New
Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16		
Mar 24				

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

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Amsterdam	38 30 pc	38 29 c	40 31 pc	46 36 c
Berlin	38 33 an	38 28 pc	36 30 c	42 37 sh
Buenos Aires	82 70 t	82 68 sh	83 71 c	83 67 r
Cairo	87 57 pc	76 45 s	70 46 s	71 50 s
Jerusalem	75 55 pc	62 38 pc	57 39 s	60 43 s
Johannesburg	73 63 c	81 63 pc	84 65 pc	79 66 sh
London	38 32 an	40 30 pc	44 34 pc	47 38 c
Madrid	46 35 pc	52 39 r	55 41 sh	55 40 r
Mexico City	69 46 sh	64 48 c	69 44 pc	68 44 pc
Moscow	24 17 pc	35 20 pc	29 26 an	32 24 an
Paris	35 24 pc	34 26 an	39 37 an	47 33 c
Rio de Janeiro	77 64 pc	77 66 pc	80 68 pc	81 70 r
Rome	50 41 r	59 52 r	72 51 pc	70 82 c
San Juan	83 70 s	85 70 s	85 72 s	85 75 pc
Seoul	43 36 pc	45 38 pc	42 21 an	33 24 c
Sydney	74 56 pc	69 60 pc	71 61 pc	70 60 c
Tokyo	54 36 pc	46 33 c	46 47 s	54 33 r
Toronto	18 16 an	26 21 c	27 7 pc	22 8 pc
Winnipeg	28 14 an	27 10 c	17 6 an	17 6 an
Zurich	33 19 an	39 36 an	47 44 sh	49 43 r

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Learn To Read Music

METUCHEN—Do you like music but wished you knew more about it? Centenary United Methodist Church, Metuchen, is offering a music course called "Learn to Read Music." Classes will be held on Saturdays, beginning March 10. The program will run for ten weeks and costs \$100 and is open to the community for all ages.

"Learn to Read Music" is made up of three segments: sight singing, simple theory, and vocal basics. Some groups also study choir techniques and etiquette. Almost all of the original group came without being able to read music at all. They can now understand and sing simple songs without first hearing the music. This is a wonderful skill for anyone who loves music and especially for the church musician. Elementary and middle school students who are taking other instruments will also benefit from this course.

Shirley Mosteller, singer, voice teacher and resident of Metuchen, will teach the course. Shirley received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Delaware and a Masters of Music in Voice from Catholic University. An avid performer and teacher, Shirley is also soprano soloist and cantor at Corpus Christi Church, Chatham.

Level One is for persons who have no background in music.

Level Two is for persons who know a little about musical terms and symbols or who may have studied an instrument. Level Three is for persons who have some ability to read music, but would like to gain more expertise.

The church is located at 200 Hillside Ave., Metuchen. If you would like more information, call the church office at (732) 548-7622. You must call to register prior to the start of classes.

Chinese Auction At Holy Family

CARTERET—The Home School Association of Holy Family (in the Parish Center, 211 Pershing Ave.), will be hosting its biggest fun raiser, the Chinese Auction on March 11.

They will have four stages and a super, super stage, kitchen, bed and bath, family fun, some prizes include: complete patio set, recliner, end table and lamp set, TV, VCR and much, much more.

The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. in order to provide our patrons with plenty of time for browsing and deposition of their tickets. The calling of the numbers will begin at 2 p.m. No children under 18.

The cost of the tickets is \$6. Call Marianne at (732) 541-8100 and leave message.

World Day Of Prayer

PERTH AMBOY—Church Women United invite you to attend "World Day Of Prayer," the world intercessory prayer and worship service.

A global movement which brings together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year by observing a common day of prayer.

World Day Of Prayer will be held on Friday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m. Hosting the "World Day Of Prayer" will be the Cathedral Second Baptist Church, 277

Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy.

This exciting annual ecumenical service was written this year by Christian women of Western Samoa on the theme "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." It calls us to educate ourselves about the problems of the world, then prayerfully take action to alleviate suffering and injustice.

Participating in the World Day Of Prayer celebration and worship service will be church women from 12 Perth Amboy churches. The public is welcome.

Seaman Completes CHP

SOUTH AMBOY—Daniel G. Seaman of South Amboy, has successfully completed California Highway Patrol (CHP) cadet training and has been assigned to duty at CHP's Santa Fe Springs Area office.

Officer Seaman is a graduate of St. Mary's Regional High School, South Amboy. He also attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick. He served in the United States Marine Corps for four years attaining the rank of Corporal.

He was a customer service representative for Rural/Metro Ambulance before joining the CHP.

CHP cadet training includes emergency vehicle operation, weapons use, physical methods of arrest, enforcement tactics, physical conditioning, the vehicle code book and other laws, crash investigation and other subjects pertaining to law enforcement.



Officer Daniel G. Seaman

Nursery School Registration

EDISON—Oak Tree Nursery School, 445 Plainfield Rd., Edison, has begun registration for the 2001-02 school year.

The two-day, three-day and five-day classes provide a 2 1/2 hour pre-school program in a loving atmosphere where children can grow socially, emotionally and intellectually. All learning is hands-on and fun.

Oak Tree Nursery School is a non-profit, non-sectarian, state certified school.

For more information, call the school Director, Caroline Ehrlich at (732) 494-2120.

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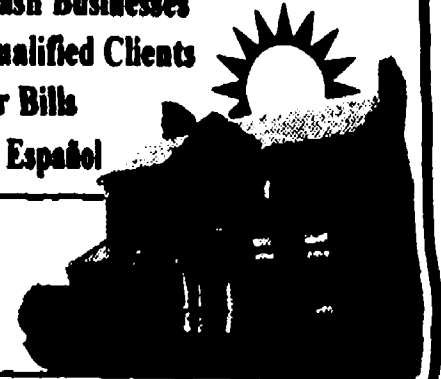
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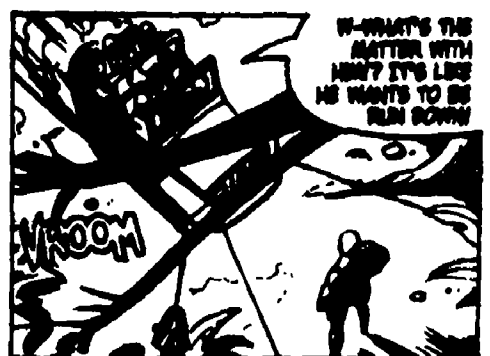
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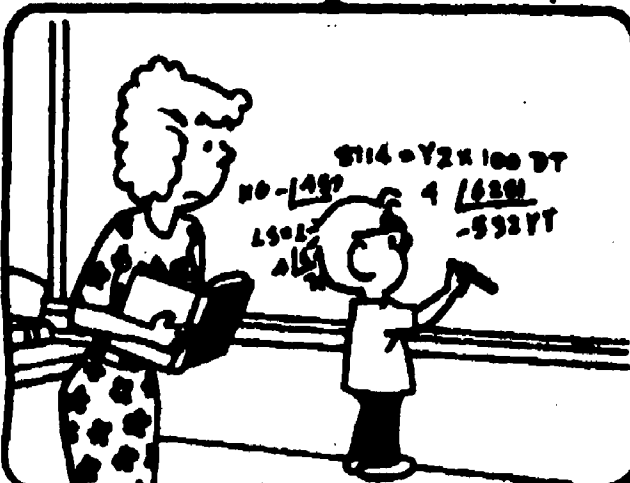
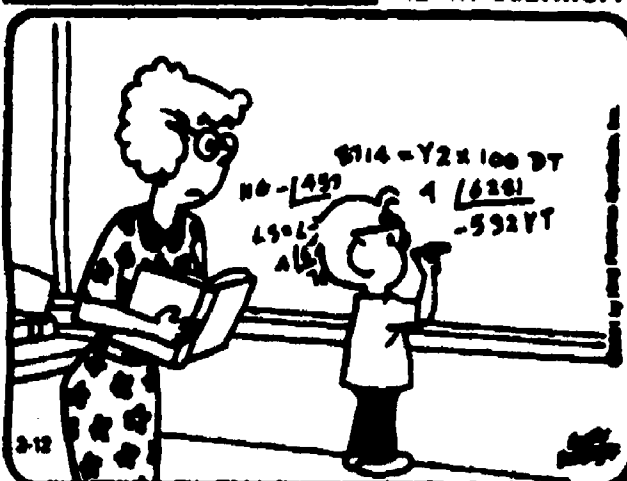
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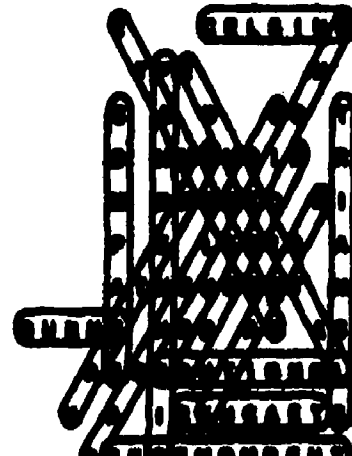
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VUSBRETTEMOMREHT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bachelor's	Dollar	Karate	Teacher
Burns	Equations	Laffalo	Thermometer
Celsius	Fahrenheit	Longitude	Triangle
Cerritos	Graduate	Master's	



THE SPATS



by JEFF PICKERING

Hocus-Focus answers

1. **1.000000** 2. **0.000000** 3. **0.000000** 4. **0.000000** 5. **0.000000** 6. **0.000000** 7. **0.000000** 8. **0.000000** 9. **0.000000** 10. **0.000000** 11. **0.000000** 12. **0.000000** 13. **0.000000** 14. **0.000000** 15. **0.000000** 16. **0.000000** 17. **0.000000** 18. **0.000000** 19. **0.000000** 20. **0.000000** 21. **0.000000** 22. **0.000000** 23. **0.000000** 24. **0.000000** 25. **0.000000** 26. **0.000000** 27. **0.000000** 28. **0.000000** 29. **0.000000** 30. **0.000000** 31. **0.000000** 32. **0.000000** 33. **0.000000** 34. **0.000000** 35. **0.000000** 36. **0.000000** 37. **0.000000** 38. **0.000000** 39. **0.000000** 40. **0.000000** 41. **0.000000** 42. **0.000000** 43. **0.000000** 44. **0.000000** 45. **0.000000** 46. **0.000000** 47. **0.000000** 48. **0.000000** 49. **0.000000** 50. **0.000000** 51. **0.000000** 52. **0.000000** 53. **0.000000** 54. **0.000000** 55. **0.000000** 56. **0.000000** 57. **0.000000** 58. **0.000000** 59. **0.000000** 60. **0.000000** 61. **0.000000** 62. **0.000000** 63. **0.000000** 64. **0.000000** 65. **0.000000** 66. **0.000000** 67. **0.000000** 68. **0.000000** 69. **0.000000** 70. **0.000000** 71. **0.000000** 72. **0.000000** 73. **0.000000** 74. **0.000000** 75. **0.000000** 76. **0.000000** 77. **0.000000** 78. **0.000000** 79. **0.000000** 80. **0.000000** 81. **0.000000** 82. **0.000000** 83. **0.000000** 84. **0.000000** 85. **0.000000** 86. **0.000000** 87. **0.000000** 88. **0.000000** 89. **0.000000** 90. **0.000000** 91. **0.000000** 92. **0.000000** 93. **0.000000** 94. **0.000000** 95. **0.000000** 96. **0.000000** 97. **0.000000** 98. **0.000000** 99. **0.000000** 100. **0.000000**

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

POPCORN™ "Hannibal"

Lacks That Original Bite



By Michael S. Goldberger

One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent



A funny thing happened on the way to us becoming civilized. We stopped eating each other. Nowadays it's only acceptable if you're in a plane crash in a desolate region, like the Arctic. And even then, if I remember my Emily Post, there is a very strict unwritten law about eating the already dead first. Of course "Hannibal," director Ridley Scott's considerably less satisfying idea of a second helping of "Silence of The Lambs" doesn't bother to observe these table manners. Its villainous protagonist, Dr. Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins), an acknowledged genius and in so many ways the epitome of cultivation, has, alas, earned the sobriquet, Hannibal the cannibal. With part two, his infamous feasting continues.

Indeed, the notion is distasteful, if you'll excuse the expression.

But like almost all taboos that have developed along the way of human evolution, each is a watershed statement about the progress of our socialization.

Hence the tantalizing aura of approach-avoidance which made the magnificently horrible "Silence of The Lambs" both a box office and critical success.

"Hannibal" attempts to tap that same verboten vein in our psyche.

But while the first film was dark and boldly authentic, over the last decade it has been lampooned ad nauseam. We've had time to digest and file its inherent obscenity. Its catch phrases have become a part of our pop culture. And so, ten years later, this sequel surfaces as no more than a very well made caricature.

Such is often the unfortunate fate of Part #2s in general, no matter how competent the effort. We anticipate a certain something. Hollywood tries to please. And whether or not we know what to expect, we certainly know what we are expecting. Thus halfway through "Hannibal," a disgruntled gourmand in the audience opined that Dr. Lecter had not yet eaten anyone. Granted, this is very soon rectified. However, what we are served up is hardly the smorgasbord of suspense and horror that fans of the first issue will be looking forward to.

Nonetheless, director Scott

must be credited with giving it the old college try. He handsomely sets the first portions of the tale in Florence, where the good doctor has taken it on the lam and assumed the identity of lecturer at a library. The stunning scenery and resultant milieu created will have you scampering to the travel agent. But the real purpose of this stimulating backdrop is to provide an environment for Sir Anthony Hopkins to strut his stuff in the face of a weak script.

Exhibiting the enigmatic but entirely entertaining duality of Dr. Hannibal Lecter, Hopkins quotes from Dante out of one corner of his mouth while salivating for gosh knows who out of the other. His tongue-in-cheek handling of the assignment manages to evince a wonderfully devilish sense of himsy while never letting us forget that this is indeed a very dangerous monster. The operative word here is smooth. Very smooth.

Playing beauty to his beast, and they hype that angle plenty this go-round, is Julianne Moore as F.B.I. special agent Clarice Starling. It's the role previously portrayed by Jodie Foster. And while the very talented Miss Moore is not quite the world class actor that Miss Foster is, her assumption of the little lost Southern girl trying to find identity and vindication within the F.B.I. picks up right where her predecessor left off.

Leastways, Doc Lecter is convinced. For without skipping a beat after meeting up again with his comely pursuer, Hopkins's psychopathic muncher launches right into his second favorite hobby: The belittling of others by virtue of their social class.

In his best Dixie affectation, the madman playfully revels in reminding Clarice that she is "pore white trash," which in his warped estimation is apparently much worse than being a murderous cannibal. In any case, it's another way of getting under her skin, so to speak.

For want of a truly absorbing plot line, filmmaker Scott allows their relationship to take precedence over all other story aspects. The irony foisted upon us is that while Clarice is Lecter's indefatigable Inspector Javert, she is also his dutiful Antigone. When a revengeful millionaire eccentric (Gary Oldman) deformed by Lecter in one of his more illustrious moments seeks revenge, Clarice takes more than a law officer's interest in protecting him. Likewise, learning that F.B.I. muckamucks are using Clarice as a scapegoat, Lecter takes the matter to heart.

Instead of seat-edged suspense and terrifying thrills, it's sheer melodrama with horror around the edges and a dollop of self-parody to season the pot. A scene wherein the title character and Clarice's chief nemesis, Ray Liotta as evil Justice Dept. bigwig Paul Krendler, go head-to-head is the kind of movie moment that stays with you long after other images fade.

Another great malign instance features Giancarlo Giannini as a Florence detective turned bounty hunter. Don't even ask.

This is a case of the whole being less than the sum of its clever little parts. In fact, the picture is a veritable buffet of sinister moments, many of them well done and memorable. But if it's a full-course entertainment you're in search of, "Hannibal" just isn't your dish.

"Hannibal," rated R, is an MGM and Universal Pictures release directed by Ridley Scott and stars Anthony Hopkins, Julianne Moore, and Ray Liotta. Running time: 131 minutes.

Professor's Play Heads To The Big Apple

AREA — On March 9-11 and 16-18, the original play "Like Bees to Honey," written by Union County College Professor Dr. Andrea Green, will be produced at the Sande Shurin Theatre, 311 West 43rd St., between 8th and 9th Avenues, in Manhattan. First produced by Luna Stage Work's Women's Work 2000, this award-winning play has enjoyed successful runs in Los Angeles, Iowa City, Tulsa, Houston, and Ft. Lauderdale.

"Like Bees to Honey" is an unconventional, intimate play about five women whose lives and backgrounds appear strikingly different, but whose secret lives of addiction are all too hauntingly similar. On their journey to recovery, they each see themselves reflected in the teenage girl who is stumbling down a path they recognize as their own.

In its New York City production, the play will be directed by Steven Hess. The all-female ensemble cast is comprised of Equity actors from NYC: Karen Asconi as Sara, Maude Boylan as Jesse, Tasha Guevara as Keisha, Constance Reardon as Rita, Christina Sasson as Kate, and Janet-Grace Swaim as the 15-year-old girl. Tickets are on sale now at SmartTix at 212-206-1515.

As noted on the production's website (www.likebeestohoney.com) "Andrea Green is an accomplished poet as well as an award-winning playwright. No wonder her plays are so poetic. But never before has poetry been so evident in her stage work as it is in "Like Bees to Honey." A

brave and eloquent voice has been emerging in Andrea's work over the years, but never has it been so clearly evident as it is in this, her most ambitious work to date. After a year of research and interviews preparing for the writing of "Like Bees to Honey," Andrea decided that what the play needed was a unique structure and style. Drawing on influences as diverse as the choruses of the plays of the ancient Greeks, and O'Neil and Albee, she has broken new ground in addressing the issues women face regarding alcohol and addiction. She approaches this subject with a candor and perspective which was unavailable to us until now."

"Like Bees to Honey" won the National Playwrighting Award from the Heller Theatre in Tulsa, OK. Green's earlier play, "For Tiger Lilies Out of Season," won the Critic's Choice Award at the Love Creek Productions Festival in 1997 and was subsequently published by Samuel French. Green is also the author of "With No Apologies," and "Joel and Julia."

Green's latest play, "Firebird," will be produced by The Theatre Guild at the Yardley Community Center, 64 South Main St., Yardley, PA on March 10-11, 17-18, and 24-25, and on Sat., March 31, at the Cranbury United Methodist Church, 21 N. Main St., Cranbury. For ticket sales for "Firebird" call 609-586-1774. A two-character drama, in which a college professor confronts a masked burglar who turns out to be a former honor student, will be directed by Mary Ann Wylie.

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

Managing An Unpredictable Income

by Barbara O'Neill, Ph.D.
AREA — For many people, managing money is a fairly predictable process. They earn the same income each month and pay roughly the same expenses. Of course, there are occasional

and household expenses remain pretty much the same. This makes it easy to plan bank deposits so that sufficient money is available to pay bills.

For other people, however, income is irregular and can vary considerably from month to month. For example, construction workers and real estate agents generally earn the most during the summer. Winter months, on the other hand, often bring a reduced income. Unpredictable income is also a fact of life for many other occupations including teachers (no summer salary), road paving crew workers, and self-employed consultants.

So how do you manage an irregular income? Plan, plan, plan. The key to develop-

ing a spending plan (budget) with an irregular income is stashing away money from high-earning months to draw from when income is lower. There is no other "magic" way.

The first step in managing an unpredictable income is tracking monthly expenses for an entire month. Every amount that is spent, however small, should be recorded (e.g., cigarettes, meals purchased at convenience stores, stamps, etc.) to get a handle on spending.

It is important to determine the amount needed to run your household each month. Occasional expenses (e.g., quarterly property taxes and insurance premiums) should be totaled for the year and divided by 12 to arrive at a monthly expense amount. Total all household expenses: those that are fixed (e.g., mortgage), flexible (e.g., food), and occasional (one-twelfth of annual car insurance premiums), to arrive at a monthly expense figure. Savings for financial goals or for emergencies should be included as an "expense."

Once you know what it takes to run your household each

month, the next step is to determine which months are "feast" (income greater than expenses) and which are "famine" (income less than expenses). For example, if monthly expenses (including savings) total \$2,000 and household income ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000, some of the surplus of high-earning months should be saved and doled out gradually over lean months to supplement income. Designate a bank savings account or money market fund to hold surplus income until it is needed.

The biggest problem experienced by irregular earners is not having the organization and/or discipline to set money aside. They spend freely during "the good times" and then have nothing to show when income is reduced. To plan ahead, estimate anticipated income for each month, based on past earning records. Be conservative with your estimates. Then subtract monthly expenses from income (e.g., \$1,500 income minus \$2,000 expenses equals a \$500 deficit). Calculate the total deficit for all months where expenses exceed income (e.g., five months with deficits: \$500 + \$1,000 + \$1,500 + \$2,000 +

\$500 equals \$5,500). Next, divide the total for the deficit months (in this example, \$5,500) by the number of months where income exceeds expenses. In this example, there are seven "good" (income greater than expenses) months and \$5,500 divided by seven equals \$786. This is the average amount that needs to be set aside during each "good" month. The actual amount saved per month can vary (read: some "good" months are better than others), however, as long as the total deficit (\$5,500 in this example) is eventually set aside as a cushion.

Managing an unpredictable income need not be a nightmare. It does take some planning and attention to detail, however. The key to success is simulating a "regular paycheck" by accumulating funds to draw upon when income is reduced.

This MONEY 2000™ message is sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. MONEY 2000™ 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™ and other educational programs, contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension office.



"surprises," (e.g., a flat tire), but, more often than not, income

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Tips To Consider Before Refinancing

AREA — Mortgage interest rates, recently reaching their lowest level in 21 months, have caught the attention of homeowners. Of all consumers applying for home financing today, nearly seven out of every 10 are existing homeowners seeking a refinance, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association of America.

"Falling mortgage interest rates are welcome news for area homeowners and homebuyers," said Jay Carldon, Branch Manager for the New Jersey area of

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. "To put it in perspective, there have only been 11 months out of the last 25 years in which 30-year mortgage rates have averaged lower than 7%. Now is the time to take advantage of these rates."

Homeowners who made their purchase in the last two years, when long-term rates averaged around 7.75%, or those with an adjustable rate (ARM) or balloon mortgage, may benefit from a refinance. Refinancing allows homeowners to 1) lower their payment; 2) take cash out based on the equity in their home; and/or 3) change their loan program.

"The old rule-of-thumb about needing to reduce your interest rate by 2% or more no longer applies," Carldon said. "Today, lenders are much more flexible, offering a variety of refinancing options for homeowners — each designed with a specific need in mind."

For most homeowners, saving money is top priority. Carldon said refinancing has the potential to save homeowners hundreds of dollars each month.

and thousands of dollars over the life of their loan. For example, a homebuyer financing a \$200,000 loan last January with a 30-year fixed-rate loan would have received an interest rate of around 8.25%. This translates into a monthly principal and interest payment of \$1,502.54. Refinancing that same loan today at 7% would cost the homeowner \$1,330.60 per month — a savings of \$171.94 a month and \$2,063.28 a year.

Keep in mind that it does not necessarily make sense to include home equity balances into a refinance. Home equity products typically offer lower rates than most consumer loans and provide possible tax benefits (consult a tax advisor). Moreover, adding a home equity product when refinancing can provide a convenient means to cash for such things as debt consolidation, home improvements or a child's education.

For more information about mortgage products and services, visit Wells Fargo Home Mortgage on the Internet at www.wellsfargo.com/mortgage/ or call 1-800-222-3408 for information on the branch in your area.

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YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Contact Lenses Still More Popular Than Laser Surgery

AREA — Despite increased competition from laser eye surgeries, soft contact lens use grew 8% in the year 2000, according to research reported in "Contact Lens Spectrum." The Contact Lens Council (CLC) reports that there are now more than 34 million contact lens wearers in the U.S. alone, with more than 80 million worldwide.

Ed Schilling, executive director of the Contact Lens Council (CLC), is not surprised. "The heavy advertising and marketing efforts of laser eye surgery practices have increased interest in alternatives to glasses," he says. "We're hearing from everyone: manufacturers, eye care professionals, and consumers who call our information line or visit our web site; people looking for

alternatives are increasingly turning to contacts as the vision correction option of choice."

Eyecare professionals report that advertising may in fact be driving more patients into the exam room asking about laser eye surgery. However, they also suggest that many of their patients are opting for contacts instead, after learning about the risks, limitations, and costs

associated with laser eye surgery. In August, 2000, the Federal Trade Commission warned consumers about the increasing number of complaints about complications from laser eye surgery, and the failure of some ads to disclose risks.

Risks alone are not the only reason patients are switching to contacts. Boomer-age candidates, particularly those with early presbyopia (also known as "Aging Eyes"), are surprised to learn that, even after laser eye surgery, they will likely continue to need glasses for reading or to compensate for the vision changes which occur around the age of forty.

The CLC web site, www.contactlenscouncil.org, offers information on both contact

lenses and laser eye surgery for consumers. For more information, people can also call the CLC's toll-free information line, at 1-800-884-4CLC.

The CLC is a non-profit organization serving as an educational resource on vision correction for consumers and is devoted to promoting the safe use of contact lenses. The CLC is sponsored by Alcon Laboratories, Allergan Optical, Bausch & Lomb, CIBA Vision, Cooper Vision, and Vistakon (a division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Products, Inc.). The American Optometric Association, Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists, and the Contact Lens Society of America are advisory members of the CLC.

Play Hard, But Play Safe

AREA — Home cardio kickboxing workouts are in demand but not many organizations have been able to produce a workout that is effective, fun, entertaining, and conscious of safety issues such as preventing injuries to your knees, lower back, and providing low impact options.

Eversley Forte is setting new standards for kickboxing workouts in the Cardio Athletic Kickbox® Total Body Home Workout Video Series and international training program. The Cardio Athletic Kickbox® Video Series offers a program that is fun, energizing, and for men and women of various fitness levels. It is an invigorating workout incorporating kicks,

punches, elbows and knees used in martial arts and boxing together with effective athletic drills. Safety tips, low impact and lower intensity options are given throughout the workout, which allow participants to "play hard" but also to "play safe." This is important since the Cardio Athletic Kickbox® videos are intended for "regular" people to use at home.

The videos even caught the attention of lawyers representing Billy Blanks and Tae-Bo®. They made ludicrous claims, which they apparently did not investigate thoroughly. "Their claims had no merit and Behind The Scenes Fitness responded accordingly," said Eversley Forte, creator of the Cardio

Athletic Kickbox® workout. Following the response, the lawyers discontinued any contact with Behind The Scenes Fitness.

Behind The Scenes Fitness was founded by Eversley Forte and is recognized by the American Council on Exercise as a Continuing Education Specialist, and is the sponsor of the "Kickboxing Fitness" manual released by the American Council on Exercise for group fitness instructors and trainers. For more information about the Cardio Athletic Kickbox® videos, Eversley Forte, training program and team members, or tour dates, call 408-244-4895 or visit www.homekickboxing.com.

ADA Seminar On Workplace Rights

AREA — The National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Greater North Jersey Chapter will sponsor the Americans with Disabilities Act employment seminar "Know Your Rights in the Workplace," 7 p.m. on March 6 at Overlook Hospital, 99 Beauvoir Avenue, Summit.

The ADA became law in 1990 and was the first comprehensive legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in employment. In accordance with ADA guidelines, the seminar will cover who is protected, types of discrimination prohibited, disclo-

sure and "reasonable accommodations." Huntley Forrester, director of the Northeastern Disability & Business Technical Assistance Center, will present the program.

To register, call Pat Evertz at (800) 833-0087.

Smart & Healthy Supermarket Tours

by Dr. Karen Easle, RD, FADA, CPCS

AREA — Learn to read labels while lowering your fat, salt and sugar intake. A registered dietitian or nutrition expert will answer your nutrition questions and guide the tour. It will be at the ShopRite Supermarket in Clark. There will be two separate tours. The first one will be on Tuesday, March 6 from 7-9 p.m. and the second one will be on Tuesday, March 27, also from 7-9 p.m.

There is a \$5 fee for cost of materials, which will be given to you the day of the tour. Registration is required. Please call

Cathy Forsythe, Secretary, between 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Rutgers Cooperative Extension to register. The phone number is (908) 654-9854.

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HAPPY TO SUCCEED—Victor Cruz, III, (C.), of Monmouth Junction, a Crossroads Middle School student, accepts a \$250 scholarship check from Carl Ashford (R.), Victor's cross-country coach, as part of the "Success Stories" community relations program. Sponsored by the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute and WCTC 1450 AM Radio, the ongoing program highlights middle- and high-school aged students from Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties who have overcome adversity to continue their athletic participation. Celebrating with Cruz during a recent appearance on WCTC is Bernard Spigner, (far L.), host of the radio station's midday show.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Firefighters Needed

SAYREVILLE-Although the Fire Department is made up of some 120 borough residents, the number of firefighters and the amount of time they have to give is dwindling. Membership levels have not yet reached a critical level, but most company's roll calls are not full. In response, the Fire Department has begun an active recruitment campaign. Recruitment messages air on Community Access Channel 12 and there are plans to hang banners over major roadways in town. These efforts are intended to inform Borough residents about the Fire Department and the growing need for volunteers.

For additional information or to volunteer, contact any of the following: Fire Chief (732)390-2938, Melrose Hose Co. No. 1 (732) 721-0762, President Park Fire Co. (732) 721-6095, Sayreville Engine Co. No. 1 (732) 390-7069, or Morgan Hose & Chemical Co. (732) 721-1443.

Spadaro Seeks Re-election

EDISON-Mayor George Spadaro recently announced that he will seek a third four-year term.

"I'm running," said Spadaro. "I'm going to try very hard to get our message out and talk about my vision (for Edison) for the next four years."

Spadaro, who has served since 1994, intends to screen before the party next month and seek its nomination for the June 5 primary election. He will be challenged by Councilman William Stephens and former Planning Board member Michael Pocchio Jr.

Stephens has not yet sent his formal letter of intent to municipal Democratic Chairman Tom H. Paterniti, but he has until March 9 to do so. He has already sent letters seeking the local Democratic committee's support.

Pocchio, a self-employed attorney, said he will not seek the Democratic Party's nomination, but will formally announce his run soon.

Woodbridge To Help Seniors And Disabled With Income Tax Forms

WOODBIDGE-Senior citizens and the disabled receiving Social Security disability living in Woodbridge Township are eligible for a special municipal tax preparation assistance program, which begins next week.

"As a service to the community, the Township's Division On Aging will once again offer a special program this year to help eligible senior citizens and disabled individuals who need assistance completing their federal and state income tax forms," Mayor James E. McGreevey said.

The free program, offered on a appointment-only basis, is open to Woodbridge seniors and disabled residents who are receiving Social Security, retirement or disability benefits and who have incomes of \$28,000 or less (single individual) or \$36,000 or less (married couple).

Tax preparation assistance is limited to the federal and state basic income tax 1040, 1040A and Homestead Rebate forms. Capital gains and property sales are not included.

Office On Aging Director Irene Allan said residents may register for an appointment by calling (732) 855-0600, ext. 5023, between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"Appointments with trained tax advisors will be scheduled at the Woodbridge Public Health Center from 9 a.m.- noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from Feb. 6-April 12," Allan said. "The Township will inform participants of the documents which they must bring with them."

The Division On Aging will send tax volunteers to the homes of Woodbridge residents who meet eligibility requirements and are homebound due to illness, disability or frailty and lack a means of transportation to the Health Center. These appointments will be set at the discretion of the Division On Aging and the volunteers. Resident screening for homebound status will be done when an appointment is requested.

Persons who meet eligibility for the Property Tax Reimbursement FREEZE Program may also receive assistance with applications for the program.

In addition to the Division On Aging program, the AARP will provide tax assistance at Woodbridge libraries.

Awards Celebrated With Song

COLONIA-One day the realization came to Bill Feldman that so many members of the Democratic Club of Colonia do participate and contribute to our community. He strongly felt that these unsung heroes should be recognized, and broached the subject to the executive board in September of 1994. They unanimously agreed to implement his suggestion and a committee was formed, consisting of Pat Caparoso, Santo DiRaimondo, Alan Richman and Bill Feldman as chairman. They agreed that the honoree of the award was received by Fay Feldman.

"Having Bill Feldman present the award to his wife was a very proud moment not only for both of them, but for the Senior Citizens' Club of Colonia as well," said George Vassiliades, president of the citizen's club. Giving the above individuals a plaque was their way of extending to them their sincere thanks for being outstanding citizens in our community. All of the honorees are aware of how important it is to be involved and all of them are aware that democracy



this award should receive a plaque and that it be presented during the holiday party.

The first honoree of the award was presented to Bob Nidds who spent countless hours trying to "beautify" Colonia. In 1995 the award went to Charles Shaugnessy and in 1996 the award was presented to Florence Caparoso. In 1997 there were two honorees and they were Dona Jago and Genie Keegan and in 1998 the award went to Mary DeStefano. In 1999 the award was presented to George Vassiliades and in 2000

is not a spectator sport and with the rights come responsibilities. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Colonia High School choir under the direction of Elaine M. Pakla, director. The holiday songs were sung by (pictured L.-R.) Jessica Rackley, Janine Negron, Jorge Becaria, Thomas Greenfeder, Carla Steitz, Patricia Fortaleza and Jennifer Bruder. Many thanks to the students and to Joseph Koury, principal, for their talents and cooperation. You were the icing on the cake, thank you!

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Sniglets

LINT FOR THE BRAIN
BY HENRY DAMEN

They Lied To Me

You've heard about the former President and the issues of Esquire. There's the famous below-the-belt cover shot, which I dubbed "Monica's View," featuring a spread-eagle Bill Clinton with a smug, "come and get some!" expression. Then there's the interview itself, the one in which Clinton whines that the Republicans "never apologized to the country for his impeachment." He also claims the Republicans "haven't necessarily put their abuse of power behind them." Folks this is pathological. And some of you voted for this nut bar?

But there's more. Naturally, the Esquire interview made news before the election. Big time. In fact, Bill Clinton's self-serving and bizarre comments were slammed everywhere. The cover pose was derided. In other words, the Esquire piece did not go over. So naturally, Bill Clinton responded...by blaming Esquire.

In a classic Clinton move he complained that the magazine lied to him. "I was promised faithfully that the interview would be done and released after the election, and I believed it," said Clinton. Here's Bubba miffed that someone broke a promise to him! What a hoot!

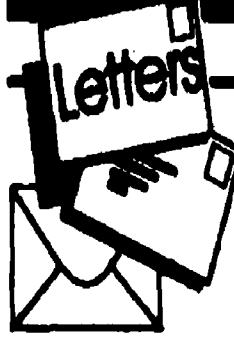
Holy Family Clothing Drive

CARTERET—On Saturday, May 19, Holy Family Home School Association will be sponsoring a clothing drive. We are soliciting the support of the community to assist and donate used clothing to be laundered and sent to Eastern European countries, primarily Poland.

We will be collecting useable clothing: men's, women's and children's (no stains or tears), wearable shoes and sneakers, belts, handbags, linens and stuffed animals. We will be conducting this fund drive in connection with the American Used Clothing Corporation.

All items donated will be collected from 8 a.m.-12 noon in the Parish Center parking lot located on Pershing Avenue, Carteret. All donations should be placed in plastic garbage bags.

READERS COMMENTARY



Verizon Has A Monopoly On Us

Dear Editor,
Verizon is, once again, trying to slip under the public radar screen with its latest plan to hike local phone rates for New Jersey consumers and small businesses. Last week, Verizon—formerly Bell Atlantic—asked the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to radically shorten the time period for public comment on its rate hike proposal. Verizon even proposed a public comment period for the late summer months when many New Jerseyans are vacationing, another attempt to hinder the public's involvement in this rate hike request.

Recalling public outcry against a similar plan it filed last year to double local phone service rates, Verizon apparently will take whatever steps it can to minimize its exposure to bad publicity. Verizon needs to remember it currently has a stranglehold monopoly on local phone service in New Jersey—servicing about 95 percent of

the state's consumers. As such Verizon owes every resident and small business owner in the state an explanation as to why we should be subjected to a rate increase.

Verizon's plan to raise local phone rates is everybody's business, especially since telephone service today is about much more than talking on the phone. Internet connections—especially high-speed internet service—play an ever-increasing role in how we do business in the New Economy. Verizon cannot be allowed to skate through this important process in the hopes consumers' attentions will be elsewhere.

It is our hope that the BPU will give the public every opportunity to speak out against Verizon's plan to raise local phone rates, making the company explain why we need higher rates to go along with their already poor customer service.

Richard T. Thigpen, Esq.
Patrick Torpey
Trenton

A Punishment That Fits The Crime

Steven Fortin, should not spend the rest of his life in prison because he sexually assaulted and murdered a 25-year-old mother of four.

A jury in New Brunswick is being asked to consider whether Fortin, 36, deserves the death penalty for the Aug. 11, 1994 murder of Melissa Padilla in the Avenel section of Woodbridge.

In his opening statement, defense attorney Robert Obler told jurors there is no evidence to show that Fortin prolonged his victim's misery or intentionally inflicted pain.

We disagree. The way Fortin killed his victim was particularly brutal. The last moments of this woman's life were filled with sheer terror.

As Assistant Middlesex County Prosecutor Thomas Kapsak told the jury sitting in Judge Joyce Munkacs's courtroom, Fortin killed while committing other crimes, such as robbery and sexual assault, and the murder may have been an

attempt to prevent his arrest. These are considered "aggravating factors" under the state's death penalty law.

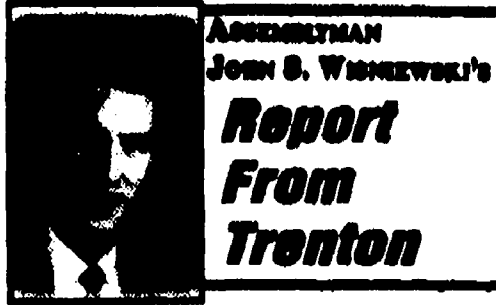
For some reason, the jurors won't be told that Fortin, formerly of Carteret, was captured and linked to Padilla's murder after he attacked a female Maine state trooper in a similar fashion during April 1995.

That incident points out why this is a subject worthy of capital punishment: After slaying this 25-year-old mother, Fortin continued to commit savage crimes.

Finally, consider the four children who lost their mother. If we cannot replace what was taken by Fortin, at least we can avenge the loss.

There's no way to bring back Melissa Padilla, but there is a way to exact a punishment from her killer that fits the crime. Steven Fortin should be sentenced to death.

The Editor



ASSEMBLYMAN
JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI'S
Report From Trenton

Do you like ghost stories? Do you like old buildings with a lot of history dating to the Colonial era? I can tell you of a place that has all of this. And you don't have to leave the state. You don't even have to leave the county. It is right in your backyard. The Proprietary House on Kearny Avenue in Perth Amboy was home to William Franklin, the son of Benjamin Franklin. He was the last Royal Governor of New Jersey—the last governor appointed by the King of England.

Visits to the Proprietary House are not always in the human form. Part of the legend of this house includes sightings of ghosts, often when "no one" has been in the house. Some of the friendly ghosts are children—two young girls, playing with dolls. Once a photographer took a picture of the fireplace in the house and developed an unexpected addition. When he processed the film, standing in the picture was a man with a black hat and cape—he wasn't there when the picture was taken. There have been stories of people in Colonial-era costumes walking about the house, but there were no tours that day. In fact, the house was empty. Or so it was thought.

The mansion was built in 1762 to house the Royal Governor of New Jersey. William Franklin was sympathetic to the English Crown. He believed that the colonies would fare better under British rule. These beliefs caused a great rift in his relationship with his dad. And because of his pro-English views, he was arrested in Perth Amboy by American patriots in 1776. After that, William never lived in the house again. His departure brought an end to colonial rule in New Jersey.

It came under new ownership in 1808 and turned into a hotel. A third floor was added and soon became known as one of New Jersey's first seaside hotels.

But, it was forced to close again. Over the years, the house had many owners, finally coming to rest in the hands of the State of New Jersey. The Proprietary House, as it has

been called for two centuries, is now managed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The Proprietary House Association has been working to restore the house and preserve its heritage. The good people of the Association do not have an easy task ahead of them although they have worked so hard already to renovate parts of the building. Some projects have been completed like the fireplaces in the Dining Room and in the Parlor. But the paint is peeling, the floor needs to be fixed, the wiring needs to be updated, just to name a few projects. All it takes is money.

Much of the reason for the disrepair is the lack of funds. For this reason, I have introduced legislation along with Assemblywoman Arline Friscia and Senator Joe Vitale that would appropriate \$2.5 million dollars to help restore the Proprietary House and make the necessary repairs. The Assembly bill has been approved by the Environment Committee and the Appropriations Committee. It now awaits a vote by the full Assembly.

The history of this house is a great one: How after 200-something years, there is a great desire to preserve the history of our state and the people who lived here long ago. This desire comes from the part in all of us who hold the history of our families dear. But the history of this house is also a sad one. The efforts to restore the mansion have been fairly recent. It was only in 1967 that the house was purchased by the state.

For the many years between 1776 and 1967, the house was not thought of as a piece of history and was not adequately taken care of. Where William Franklin's study once was, and in which Benjamin Franklin spent most of his time while visiting, is an elevator.

It is extremely important for us to preserve the history of this building as well as the rest of New Jersey's vast and noble heritage. We should start right in Perth Amboy with the last standing Royal Governor's mansion. See for yourself 225 years of history, and look for the ghosts—if you'd like. Perth Amboy is alive with history and the Proprietary House is its crowning jewel.

For further information on visiting the Proprietary House, please call 732-826-5527.

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.

send to: AT/CG, "Readers Commentary", PO Box 1061, Rahway, NJ 07065

OBITUARIES

Harry R. Howell

of Woodbridge

Mr. Harry R. Howell of Woodbridge died February 25 at Brighton Gardens, Edison. He was 86.

Born in Sewaren, he was a lifelong resident of Woodbridge.

Mr. Howell was president of Woodbridge Lumber Co., where he was associated for 40 years.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge, where he formerly served as an elder, Sunday school teacher and superintendent of the Sunday school.

His wife, the former Olga Barnekow, died in 1993. A daughter, Nancy Rusznak, died in 1973.

Surviving are a daughter, Wendy Kovacs of Lavalette; two sons, Todd and Glenn, both of Woodbridge; five grandchildren, Robert, Christopher, Edward and Kirk Howell and Deborah Gerbman and six great-grandchildren.

Anna Gurovich, 90

of Metuchen

Mrs. Anna M. Gurovich of Metuchen died February 25 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 90.

Born in Perth Amboy, she resided in Metuchen for the past 21 years.

She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Gurovich was a Roman Catholic and a member of the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen.

Her husband, Frank Gurovich; two brothers, John and Frank Kavulak; three sisters, Pauline Keller, Helena Moskova and Marisa Colotkova and her granddaughter, Patricia Sacco, are all deceased.

Surviving are her son, Frederick F. Gurovich of Parlin; two daughters, Elizabeth Hollenbach of Woodbridge and Elaine Schwalje of Metuchen; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandson.

Samuel Pauciello

of Edison

Mr. Samuel "Sam" A. Pauciello Jr. of Villas (formerly of Edison) died February 26 at home. He was 70.

Born in Orange, he resided in Edison before moving to Villas in 1994.

He retired in 1995 as a brokerage clerk for Merrill-Lynch in New York City, where he was employed for 40 years.

He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.

Mr. Pauciello was a member of the St. Raymond's R.C. Church Good Samaritans Organization and a six-year member of the church's CCD program in Village and a member of the VFW Post 3725 in Town Bank.

He was also a 3rd Degree member of Stella Maris Knights of Columbus Council #3546 of Erma and a devoted member-volunteer of its Breakfast Scholarship Committee.

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, the former Joan DaQuino; two sons, Michael Pauciello of Whiting and James Pauciello of Howell; two daughters, Nancy Moffatt of Hamilton, Loren of Hamilton, and Jeanne Martin of Hamilton; two brothers, Joseph Pauciello of Cliffwood Beach and Lawrence Pauciello of Oregon; a sister, Natalie Scarnecchia of both Warwick and Villas and seven grandchildren, Samantha, Michael, Jason, Jessica, Jackie, Tori and Joseph.

Elizabeth Cook, 74

of Parlin

Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Fazekas Cook of Parlin died February 26 at home. She was 74.

Born in Port Chester, N.Y., she lived in Staten Island, N.Y., for five years before moving to Parlin in 1960.

She was employed by W.T. Grant in Parlin for 14 years and then worked for K-Mart for nine years before retiring in 1985.

Mrs. Cook was a communicant of St. Mary's R.C. Church, South Amboy.

Her husband, Harold F. Cook Jr. died in 1995 and a brother, Julius Fazekas is deceased.

Surviving are two sons, Harold III of Middletown and Richard of Roxbury; a sister, Mary Haeger of Port Chester, N.Y. and four grandchildren.

Theresa Festner, 94

of Sayreville

Mrs. Theresa Weck Festner of Sayreville died February 24 at home. She was 94.

She was a lifelong resident of Sayreville.

Mrs. Festner was a communicant of Our Lady of Victories R.C. Church, Sayreville and a member of the Senior Citizens Club at the church.

Her husband, Emil; a brother, Alvin Weck and three sisters, Josephine Weck, Mary Sigle and Ida Switzer are all deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Theresa Semasko of Parlin; two grandchildren, Deborah Fattibene of Connecticut and Fred R. Semasko of Florida; and five great-grandchildren.

May Giddings, 73

of Edison

Mrs. May Moje Werzinger Giddings of Edison died February 26 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 73.

Born in Jersey City, she lived in Hoboken before moving to Edison four years ago.

Before retiring in 1996, she worked as a day-care instructor in Hoboken for a few years. Prior to that, she was a crossing guard in Hoboken for 10 years.

Her first husband, Frank A. Werzinger Sr., died in 1980. Her second husband, Edward Giddings, died in 1994. She was also predeceased by a son, Frank A. Werzinger Jr., who died in 1995 and a granddaughter, Darlene Werzinger, who died in 1994.

Surviving are two sons, Daniel Werzinger of Linden and John Werzinger of Manahawkin; two daughters, Maureen Werzinger of Edison and Christina Farinola of North Brunswick; a brother, Bert Moje of Keansburg; eight grandchildren, Nicole Lawson, Andy and Lanette Werzinger and Shayla, Christopher, Nicholas, Michael and Joseph Farinola and a great-grandson, Christopher Lawson.

Raymond Aceta, 44

of South Amboy

Mr. Raymond A. Aceta of South Amboy died February 24 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 44.

Born in New Brunswick, he was a lifelong resident of South Amboy.

He was formerly employed in the Track Department of Conrail for many years and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Railroad Maintenance Way Employees.

His father, Frank D. Aceta and his four grandparents, Angelo and Carmella Aceta and Robert and Florence Card, are all deceased.

Surviving are his daughter, Kimberly Deliman of Morgan; a granddaughter, Deanna Green of Morgan; his mother, Shirley Aceta of South Amboy; two sisters, Cammie Aceta of South Amboy and Ruth Ann Cocco of Upper Darby, Pa.; three brothers, Daniel of Laurence Harbor and Angelo and James, both of South Amboy; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.



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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Military briefs...

Gennaro Visits Dili, East Timor

COLONIA—Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph P. Gennaro, a 1977 graduate of Colonia Senior High School, recently visited Dili, East Timor, during a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean and Arabian Gulf while assigned to the destroyer



USS Fletcher, home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

During the four-day visit, Sailors devoted their time to helping the people of East Timor renovate a community center. They hosted local civic and peacekeeping force leaders and youth scouts aboard Fletcher and donated materials to a local orphanage and medical clinic through Project Handclasp.

Airman Springer Arrives For Duty

PARLIN—Air Force Airman 1st Class Errol W. Springer has arrived for duty at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Springer is the son of Claudette Williams of Jamaica, N.Y. and Errol W. Springer of Parlin.

Roberto Clemente Charter School Announces Enrollment Period

PERTH AMBOY—The Board of Trustees of the Roberto Clemente Charter School announces its official enrollment period, to register students for Grades 6 and 9. The school will open in September 2001 with 144 students and expand to serve grades 6-12 by the fourth year.

The school is now accepting applications from students who will enter grades 6 and 9 in September. Application forms are available at PRAHD, 100 First Street, Perth Amboy. As a public school of choice, there is no tuition; the school is free to all students. The enrollment deadline is March 29.

Since spaces are limited to 144 students, parents are encouraged to register early.

For inquiries, call (732) 442-1081.

Dog/Cat Licenses To Expire

SAYREVILLE—All 2000 cat and dog licenses expire June 30. Dogs over 7 months of age are required to be licensed annually.

Dog/Cat licenses will not be issued if rabies inoculations expire between January 1 through October 31. In these cases, a booster shot must be received in order to be eligible to purchase a 2001 license. Licenses will only be issued for dogs and cats whose rabies inoculations expire after October 31.

Written proof of current inoculation and proof of altering (spray/neutering) is required.

A rabies clinic is scheduled for

Saturday, May 5 at the Public Works Garage. The voucher program is not in effect for this year.

Chinese Auction

SOUTH AMBOY—Court Santa Maria #382, C.D.A. of South Amboy, will hold a Chinese Auction at Knights of Columbus Hall, Fourth Street on Sunday, March 25 at 2 p.m. (doors open at 12 noon). Admission is \$4 which includes coffee/cake and food is available.

For information, call JoAnn Cordes at (732) 721-3676.

New Jersey Institute of Technology Graduates Largest Class Ever

COLONIA — The largest January graduating class in the history of New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, received their degrees Jan. 12 at the school's 115th commencement at New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark.

Approximately 818 candidates, including 368 bachelor's, 425 master's and 24 doctoral degree candidates and one degree of engineer comprised the state's first higher education class of 2001. Twenty-four doctoral degrees were presented, the largest number ever awarded by NJIT at a January commencement.

James M. Lipuma, Colonia, who received a doctorate in environmental science, represented the graduate students. He also made a short speech. Lipuma, a lecturer at NJIT, holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a master's degree from NJIT. Xlibris, an electronic,

on-demand book publisher, recently made available Lipuma's first science fiction novel, *Slayer of Evermore*.

Lipuma, who has been legally blind since the age of 10, credits his visual impairment, engineering background, and a longtime love of feature films with his unique life perspective and love of writing.

NJIT is a public research university enrolling over 8,200 bachelor's, master's and doctoral students in 80 degree programs through its five colleges: Newark College of Engineering, New Jersey School of Architecture, College of Science and Liberal Arts, the School of Management and the Albert Dorman Honors College. Research initiatives include manufacturing, microelectronics, multimedia, transportation, computer science, solar astrophysics, environment engineering and science, and architecture and building science.

Federal Agency Rules In Conrail Case

WOODBIDGE—A federal agency has ruled that agreements between the Township and Conrail to reduce railroad noise near Port Reading homes are "valid and enforceable."

"The U.S. Surface Transportation Board decision upholds Woodbridge Township's contention that Conrail is obligated to abide by the terms of a 1996 Stipulation and Order of Settlement as well as a 1999 Consent Order," Mayor James E. McGreevey said.

"The two Court-ordered agreements prohibit train idling on the tracks behind homes on Rosewood Lane between 10 p.m.-6 a.m.," he said.

Despite the two agreements, Conrail trains continued to disturb the Port Reading neighborhood with late night rail noise, forcing Woodbridge to file a motion with

the U.S. District Court in October 1999.

On January 11, 2000, the court ruled that Conrail had violated the agreements and found the rail company in contempt of court. However, the court also ruled that the matter was within the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board and should be considered by that federal agency.

In its ruling, the STB has upheld the agreements and provided that, in the event of a breach of the agreements, an aggrieved party may seek appropriate relief in a state or federal court. "The STB decision will assist Woodbridge in our ongoing efforts to protect the quality of life for families who reside near the rail yard," said Third Ward Councilman Frank G. Pelzman, who represents Port Reading.

Bubenheimer, Epps Qualify for States

FORDS—Two Bearcat Co-Captains qualified for the Kids' State Tournament at the Toms River Qualifier.

Joe Bubenheimer (INT-112) took first place, besting three tough opponents in the 112 lb. class. Bubenheimer will automatically earn a bye in the first round of the State Tournament for its first place finish.

His wrestling partner Brett Epps (INT-105) pinned two opponents in the first period but lost a semifinal match to take third.

Both boys, the first of the Bearcats to qualify, will travel to Lakewood in March to compete against the state's best wrestlers.

Planting Season

EDISON—A program on "Preparing Your Vegetable and Flower Garden" will be presented at the Edison Township Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., on Wednesday evening, March 21 at 7 p.m.

A speaker from the Master Gardener department of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County will discuss the best ways to get our gardens ready for the growing season ahead.

This program is free and open to everyone. To register, call (732) 287-2298, ext. 1.

You may also sign up at the library circulation desk.

For further information, call Roberta at (732) 287-2298, ext. 227.

Students Aid Earthquake Relief Effort

WOODBIDGE—Students from Kennedy Park School #24 recently presented \$700 in donations to Woodbridge Township's Relief Fund for the victims of last month's earthquake in India.

"Woodbridge Township extends our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Kennedy Park School #24 for responding with enthusiasm and generosity to this humanitarian effort," said Mayor James E. McGreevey.

The students presented the funds to Acting Business Administrator John E. McCormac during an assembly at the school. Each student had been asked to contribute a quarter for the Relief Fund, but the proceeds far exceeded that goal.

"I thought it was really nice of our school to do this and I can't believe we got all that money," said Student Council Representative Rachel Doren. "I'm really happy and I hope India gets all fixed up."

The Mayor said Woodbridge Township continues to appeal to all residents for donations to assist the earthquake victims.

Individuals who wish to make a financial donation should send checks payable to Woodbridge Township Relief Fund, c/o of Woodbridge Township, 1 Main St., Woodbridge, N.J. 07095.



LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING—Evona Barna, (second from R.) a Fords Middle School student and president of the Early Acts Club, which raises money for local community initiatives, displays an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at a recent demonstration held at JFK Medical Center, Edison. AED is a device that evaluates a person's heart rhythm and delivers an electric "shock" if needed. Fords Middle School students were trained on how the AED works after raising \$3,000 to donate one to the Fords/Keesbey Seniors Club. With Barna are (L.-R.) Frances Gagliano and Josephine Gonyo, both of the Fords/Keesbey Seniors Club; Danielle Vinci, a Fords Middle School student and vice president of the Early Acts Club; and Cathy Pelican R.N.C., clinical education coordinator for JFK Medical Center's Training and Education Department.



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ACTIVE WIDOW LOOKING
70 yr old female, who enjoys walks, going for drives, lunch at Atlantic City. Would like to meet a man, 68 to 73, who shares similar interests. Ocean County. BOX 27953

A KING AND HIS QUEEN
We can listen, laugh, and share loving friendship filled with communication, mutual appreciation to our interest. You: tall white Jewish gentleman, 55-63, looking for Me: warm and attractive professional. Let's share the Arts, dining, and the outdoors etc. New York county. BOX 29278

HOPEFUL ROMANTIC
51 yr old, single white female, attractive, honest and sincere. Looking for a single gentleman to share good and bad times together, for friendship first. Let's grow old together as a couple and enjoys what life has to offer. BOX 39582

WE SHOULD MEET!
Divorced white female, 65 yr old, 5'2", 106 lbs, enjoys movies, reading, dancing, the outdoors, all music, animal, and much more. Seeking a single male, for great conversation to a night out on the town. BOX 10733

A KING AND HIS QUEEN
We can listen, laugh, and share loving friendship filled with communication, mutual appreciation to our interest. You: tall white Jewish gentleman, 55-63 looking for Me: warm and attractive professional. Let's share the Arts, dining and the outdoors etc. New York county. BOX 22193

HONESTY IS THE KEY
Divorced white, single mom, non-smoker, pretty dark eyes, loyal, intelligent. Enjoys writing poetry, movies, dancing, is vivacious, versatile. Seeking single male, 42 to 60, non-smoker, non-drinker, educated, children okay. Seeking someone with similar qualities. No head games. Hudson County. BOX 29251

JUST A CALL AWAY
Attractive single white female, 50 plus, non-smoker, with a great smile and sense of humor. Enjoys museums, music, dancing, beaches and traveling. Would like to meet a single white male in the local area of Union County who is attractive and intelligent, 55 to 65. BOX 35295

LOVE TO HEAR FROM U
This 39 yr old female is looking to meet a special, single, Jewish professional male, 35 to 45, who enjoys New York City, working out, dancing and more. If you can make a woman feel special, I would love to hear from you! BOX 35460

A RARE FLOWER
Single female, rare flower, all flowers, are unique, with their own personality, and style, they bring joy to everyone's heart. I'm still in the garden searching for that special someone. I like water front views, movies, dining out, and dancing. Looking for a male who can be all he can be. BOX 39917

LOOK NO FURTHER
Very pretty, and sweet single Jewish female, 35, never married, long brown hair, green eyes, gentle, down to earth, very caring, and passionate, likes helping others. Looking for a sweet, caring, Jewish white male, never married, 32 to 44, who likes movies, parks, picnics, science and reading. BOX 42759

KICKSTART MY HEART
Pretty, fit, opinionated, domesticated, passionate, classy Italian female, who likes all kinds of music, sports, entertaining at home, looking for a divorced widowed single white male, 57 to 65, family oriented, non-smoker, fit, attractive, music lover, and a sense of humor a plus. BOX 42769

NATURAL BEAUTY
Divorced female, 39, 5'5, natural red head, college educated, seeks divorced or single male up to 45, caring, sincere and educated, who enjoys music, outdoors and family. BOX 29268

LOVE IS ALL WE NEED!
Professional, 46 yr old, divorced white female, with brown hair, and green eyes, enjoys long walks, movies, hiking, golfing and much more, is seeking a single male, with similar interests, to develop a long term relationship. BOX 35040

NO MORE GAMES!
Attractive, 23 yr old, Hispanic female, who is tired of games, is seeking a single white male, 25 to 35, handsome, passionate, to develop a long term relationship. BOX 35172

JUST THE TWO OF US!
White professional widow, in her 60's, 5'7", with blonde hair and blue eyes, enjoys movies, golf, the outdoors, long walks, travel and much more, is seeking a single male, to share good times, friendship and possible romantic relationship. BOX 36812

COULD BE FATE!
Single, widowed female, in her 50's, attractive, slim, professional, enjoys, outdoors, biking, hiking and long walks. Looking for a single or widow male with similar interest for a possible long term relationship. BOX 40886



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DO U FILL THE BILL?

Dedicated, attractive, professional blonde female, 46 yr old, likes working out and more. Seeking an attractive, tall male, with Christian values. BOX 36802

BALLROOM DANCING?

Glamorous, 50's, female, smart, artist, intelligent, self-employed. Enjoys dancing and painting. Seeking someone to dance with. BOX 36890

I'LL GET BACK 2 U!

33 yr old, 5'1", 135 lb, single female with brown hair and eyes, non-smoker, never married. Likes movies, dancing, dinner, long walks and skiing. Seeking white professional male, 30 to 40, never married, childless for friendship and more. BOX 36922

SOMEONE SPECIAL

Single white female, non-smoker, social drinker, enjoys dancing, painting and more. Seeking a single male, with similar interests, for possible relationship. BOX 36974

LET'S CHAT!

38 yr old, 5'5", fit, Afro American female, Christian, professional, never married, childless, enjoys movies, jazz music, reading, the outdoors an much more, is seeking a Christian male, of any race, for friendship first and maybe more. BOX 11546

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 30755

KNOW WHAT I WANT

Single attractive professional black female, 28, 5'6". Enjoys traveling, hanging out with friends, laughing, movies, working out. Seeking a honest, caring, single professional male, 30 to 42. For a monogamous relationship. Race is not an issue. BOX 10827

EX ASIAN MODEL

32 yr old, 5'5", ex model, very slender, affectionate, caring, good sense of humor. Looking forward to meeting a down to earth, financially secure, college educated and family oriented male, who's also loving and caring. Enjoys swimming, tennis music, movies, traveling, cooking and dining out. BOX 29232

EXPLORER

Single white female, 36, 5'1", never married, no children, professional, blonde hair, green eyes, attractive, fairly fit. Enjoys dining in/out, museums, all types of music, and movies. Looking for a single white male, 30 to 50, who enjoys good conversation, evenings out, weekend trips, and day trips. BOX 37301

BE MY VALENTINE

Single white female, 26, petite, with dark eyes and dark hair. In search of a single white male, 26 to 33. I enjoy going out for long walks, movies, dining out, hiking, going to the beach and traveling. BOX 16143

FRIEND WANTED

40 yr old female, attractive, enjoy dating, walking, dining, dancing, looking to meet new friends. BOX 37646

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Single white female, 5'3", fit, attractive, dark brown hair and light brown eyes, enjoys animals, movies, reading, the outdoors, music and much more. Is seeking a single white male, 30 to 40, for dating and possible relationship. BOX 10771

INTERESTING

Single white widow, 59, attractive, slim. Would like to meet an interesting man/widower, for a possible relationship. BOX 10818

TIME ON MY HANDS

Single female, in my 40's, 5'6", attractive, looking for a single male, 35 to 50, for friendship. BOX 11193

ONLY YOU!

40 yr old, 5'4", slim, good looking, single mother who enjoys movies, reading, biking, hiking and much more, is seeking a Irish single male, 36 to 46, fit, non smoker, family oriented, to share good times and maybe more. BOX 15739

GREAT LOOKING LADY

White female, seeking gentleman, 64 to 73. I like to dine out, dance, travel and many other things. I would like someone sincere and honest, for possible long term relationship. Middlesex County. BOX 26712

SHARING IS CARING

Single female, 51, 5'7", 170 lbs, with dark brown hair and hazel eyes, likes long country rides and sunsets. Looking for a single male, for casual dating. BOX 34070

LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT

Attractive, single white female, sensual, warm, personable, caring college graduate, with varied interests, would like to meet someone who knows how to treat a lady. Must be financially secure and looking for possible long term relationship. Middlesex County. BOX 26713

I ONLY NEED YOU

Single female, 34, attractive, very outgoing, single mother of two, financially comfortable, likes movies, the shore, and dining out. Looking for a single white male, 37 to 40, with a medium build, who is financially secure. BOX 37758

UPSCALE SENIOR

I need a new oriatal, or Asian dance partner. I'm a blonde up scale senior, good looking, with an attractive figure. BOX 10873

LOVE TO HEAR FROM U

Single, tall, attractive, black female, 47, 5'8", 153 lbs, dark brown complexion, with no children. Seeking a tall, physically fit, single, divorced black or Hispanic male, 50 to 60, for friendship, and possible long term relationship, with a good sense of humor. BOX 11091

I ONLY NEED YOU

Divorced white female, 58, 5', with brown hair and eyes, very outgoing, fun loving. Likes all kinds of fun things, hope you are honest, sincere and looking for a long term relationship. BOX 11102

LET'S MEET

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

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HEAD TURNER

Single Caucasian female, brunette, 5'8", serious eyes, high cheek bones, natural body, feminine, European born, multi faceted, smart & sophisticated male, 50 to 65, who is well rounded and financially secure. If interested, and available. BOX 29242

NOT FIND

You called my number 829248. Alas it was the wrong number. Please call me with the right number. BOX 29247

DOUBLE YOUR FUN...

With this divorced female, 5'7", medium build, brown hair and eyes, enjoys the outdoors, New York City, the arts and much more. Is seeking a caring, loving, sincere, single male, to develop a long term relationship. BOX 37659

NEW BEGINNINGS

White widow, 73 yrs old, 5'7", 140 lbs, a dog lover, seeking loving and caring female, 60 to 70, who likes music, dining out, walking the beach and dancing. Monmouth County BOX 27952

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

43 yr old, 6', 180 lbs, fit, single white male, never married, professional, educated, enjoys movies, working out, good conversations, the outdoors, hiking, and much more, is seeking a single female, mature, loving, caring, over 30, of any race, to develop a long term relationship. BOX 11595

THE RIGHT ONE BABY

Single white male, no dependents, non-smoker, drug free, 54, 5'9", 160 lbs, dark hair, blue eyes, professional, likes working out, tennis, theater, movies, running. Looking for that one right person, that I can share my life with, must be a professional, no children, non-smoker and drug free. BOX 11778

HONEST AND FRIENDLY

Single white male, 58, 5'10", 186 lbs, with blue eyes, nice looking. Wishes to meet a pretty white female, for companionship. Mammoth County. BOX 27942

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Male 33, half Italian, half native American, 6'0, 190 lbs, fit, outdoor person, exotic animal lover, seeks female 25 to 35 with similar interests. Passaic County BOX 29266

THE ONE

Male, 6'2", 195 lbs, athletic, well educated, attractive, game for anything. Enjoys ice skating, skiing, theatre. New Jersey home near Manhattan; an apartment by Lincoln Center; own business. Very comfortable. Seeks attractive lady, 30-40, intelligent, interesting, fun to be with, if problems, just small ones. BOX 29272

LOVE HAS NO COLOR

True Christian, 6', Italian gentleman, young 52, handsome, very compassionate, understanding, sincere and kind. Looking for special lady, with similar qualities, who still believes in friendship and true love forever. Bergen County. BOX 29276

WANTED: ROMANCE

Single male, 55, 5'10", salt/pepper hair, olive complexion, smoker, would like to meet a trim, good hearted woman, who would be interested in companionship. BOX 36831

JUST THE TWO OF US

Single white professional male, 5'11", 190 lbs, 96, good features, looking to meet an attractive, educated, 40 to 55, 5'2" to 5'6" to share dining, movies, music, the shore, traveling, sight seeing, and other things that two people can share. BOX 42770

LADY BY CHOICE

Single white man, 38, 5'10", 170 lbs, handsome, loyal, low keyed, home body, smoker, non-drinker, no drugs, contractor. Likes camping, concerts. Seeks child free, independent woman, maybe move out West, maybe not. Warren County. BOX 30767

HONEST, GOOD LOOKING

Single, white professional Jewish male, 28, 5'10", athletic, fit, brown hair, hazel eyes, good looking and friendly. Enjoys movies, shopping, book stores, dinner, conversations, quite evenings. In search of single white female, 21 to 34, with similar interests. Friendship first, with possible relationship. BOX 26522

LOVELY WITHOUT YOU

Single male, 46, 5'9", 185 lbs, athletic build, good looking, professional fire fighter, enjoys boating, fishing, dining out, traveling, music, reading, and quiet evenings at home. Looking for a woman, 30 to 50, with no children, athletic, easygoing, good sense of humor. BOX 35062

ADVENTURE AHEAD!

Single white male, 39 yrs old, enjoys movies, reading, fine dining, the outdoors and much more, is seeking a single white female, 50 to 60, to share good time and maybe more. BOX 35069

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Single white professional male, 51, 5'8", fit, humorous, warm, caring, seeking single white female, 35 to 48, warm, attractive, fit, down to earth, for friendship, good times, possibly more. BOX 36016

SIMILAR DELIGHTS

36 yr old, 6'3", 220 lb, single male, enjoys the outdoors, country music and more. Seeking a single white female, 25 to 35, who share similar delights. BOX 11578

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Single white Irish male, 180 lbs, 6'2", enjoy hiking, biking, and the beach. Seeking a single white female, 27 to 37, for friendship and more. BOX 34713

LOOKING FOR YOU

Good looking single male, likes long drives, dancing and movies. Seeking an attractive female, 30 to 40, for friendship and more. BOX 34861

READY FOR REAL LOVE!

45 yr old, 5'11", 170 lbs, brown eyes and light brown hair, divorced professional, white father of two, college educated, financially educated, enjoys movies, biking, music, and much more. Seeking a caring, loving, Christian, single female, 38 to 48, fit to enjoy interests and friendship. BOX 37354

A LOVE CONNECTION

Fun, upbeat, nice guy, 5'10", 225 lbs, easy to talk to, fun, rugged looking and down to earth. Looking to connect with a kind, bright, passionate woman. BOX 10951

FRIENDS FIRST

Divorced white male, 53, 5'8", 175 lbs, non-drinker, non-smoker. Looking for a single female for basically for friendship or leading to something more. BOX 11025

LADY OF MY DREAM

Single white male, 38, 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. BOX 11795

THE SEARCHER ON

Single male, 58 yr old, 6', 200 lbs, dark brown hair, and eyes, likes dining out, the shore, sports, movies, plays, music, looking for a single or divorced white female, slim build, no small children, 39 to 50, and likes to have fun. BOX 36942

LIGHTNING STRIKES

Single Italian male, 6', 210 lbs. Looking for a woman, to get to know, and possibly more. BOX 37318

CAN WE TALK?

Single white male, 6'1", enjoys poetry and more, seeking a single female, with similar interests. BOX 10424

GOALS & ASPIRATIONS

Divorced white professional male, 48 yr old, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown eyes, light brown hair, father of two, physically fit, college educated, and goal oriented, honest, traditional, independent, and secure. Enjoys movies, roller skating, garage sales. Seeking a sweet, devoted, honest, Christian white female, 38 to 45, average build and neat appearance. BOX 10780

ALL THE ABOVE...

Single romantic white male, late 20's, outgoing with a sense of humor who loves the outdoors. Looking for a comperable female who has a great personality for a one on one relationship. BOX 11110

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

51 yr old, single white male, handsome, 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

PLEASURES OF LIFE

Divorced white male, 51, 6'4", 230 lbs, 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

THE WARRIOR!

Single white male, tall, attractive, 28, 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. BOX 13249

INTERESTED?

Single white male, 34, 5'11", 195 lbs, enjoys dining out, movies and more. Seeking a single black or Hispanic female, with similar interests, for possible relationship. BOX 13769

IS 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 similar interests, for friendship and a possible relationship. BOX 13830

CLASSICAL MUSIC...

...Lower. Single white gentleman, European, U.S. Citizen, seeking a lady for possible long term relationship. I am modest and educated, my great entertainment is classical music because it brings us to a higher level. The lady I seek need not like it, however, she should be understanding. BOX 15636

HARD TO FIND

Single white professional male, 55, looking for a single female, age, race, or nationality unimportant. Likes quiet times at home and romantic evenings. BOX 15974

SEE YOU SOON!

Single male, 24, employed. Looking to meet a single, attractive, fun, women. In area for fun, and dating. BOX 16180

IS THERE A FUTURE

Single white male, mid 50's, 5'6", 140 lbs, sincere, caring, easygoing person, brown/gray hair, blue eyes. Enjoys sports, dining out, movies, music and sharing new interests with someone special. Looking for a petite, single white female, 44 to 54. BOX 16221

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TEST DRIVE

By Greg Zyla

2000-01 Trans-Am Firebird WS6

Base price: \$19,300

Pontiac Trans Am's muscle car heritage dates back to 1967, stressing excitement, power and freedom. However, as good as Trans Am is, General Motors is no longer as "sold" on the car as they once were. Sales figures continue to drop, and talk of the demise of both the Firebird and its sibling Camaro by the year 2002 abound.

Sales figures are at the center of the Firebird problem, dwindling from 46,499 cars sold in 1994 to less than 30,000 in 1999. Still, the car itself is quite impressive, as few cars produced in the world today offer this type of performance for so few dollars spent.

The blueprint for Firebird

Trans Am's popularity is simple: Engineers bolted Corvette's V-8 drivetrain into the Firebird, giving instant super-car performance. And, the overall outward style is certainly not for the conservative. Firebird is bold, beautiful and looks like it's traveling 70 mph when it's sitting in the driveway.

Behind the wheel, WS6 is fast — really fast. With muscular, low-slung lines and that 325-horsepower V-8 bellowing a throaty sound, the right foot is in complete control of fun. Transferring power to huge 17-inch rear tires (standard on WS6) is a slick shifting 6-speed manual transmission, now available with a Hurst shifter. This

'Bird begs to be driven, and driven hard. It accelerates to 60 mph in five seconds, and does the quarter-mile in a little over 13 seconds at well-over 100 mph.

Trans Am WS6, in the right hands, is a dream car, capable of just about everything a world-class super car can do. It handles well, accelerates like a drag car, stops like a Corvette and, for as much high-performance as there is built into the suspension, is surprisingly comfortable. In short, it has it all at an affordable price.

One area that is dated by today's hi-tech suspensions, however, is Firebird's solid rear setup where, unlike Corvette, the axle arrangement results in some jittery tendencies, especially when driven on uneven roads or when a bump appears in the apex of a fast corner. The

result is a loose and fidgety rear end, which is common to all cars that utilize this configuration. Other than that, the overall performance package is most impressive.

If the death of the Firebird Trans Am comes to pass, owners who invest in the last generation models (1994-2001 or 02)

will be sitting on a vehicle that will surely increase in value as the years go by.

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@hearsstc.com. © 2001 King Features Synd., Inc.

Child Safety Seats: What You Should Know

(NAPSA) — Surprisingly, many parents could do more to protect their offspring. Without realizing it, more than 80 percent of parents either install their car seat incorrectly or fail to use an appropriate seat for their child's size and weight.

"We see multiple child safety seat misuses every day that have the potential to result in fatal or serious injury," says Lorrie Walker, child passenger safety coordinator at Florida Atlantic University. "Problems with car seats are not limited to improper installation. Parents who install the car seat correctly in the vehicle may not necessarily secure their child properly in the seat itself."

Walker urges parents to do their homework before purchasing a safety seat. She suggests taking family vehicles to the store and actually trying several different seats in the vehicles before making a purchase. Parents and caregivers should thoroughly read instruction manuals, and practice proper installation until it becomes second nature. The next step is practicing placing the child in the safety seat and adjusting the harness so it lies snug and flat on the baby's chest.

There are several additional steps parents should take before buying new car seats:

First, find out what kind of car seat is appropriate for the child. The National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) advises that an infant at least 20 pounds and up to one year old is safest when riding in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat of the car. This kind of seat provides lifesaving back, neck and head support in case of a frontal crash, the most common type of crash.

There are two types of seats that accommodate infants. One is called an infant-only car seat and is outgrown once the child is at least 20 pounds and one year of age. Typically, these models offer the convenience of a base that stays in the vehicle, while the seat itself can be used as a carrier. A convertible car seat is used both rear-facing for infants (up to 30 pounds and one year) and forward-facing for toddlers (over one year and up to the upper weight limits on the safety seat).

Some parents are uncomfortable with the rear-facing seating position because they can't see the baby's face. Parents often improvise by pinning mirrors on the vehicle seat cushion so they can watch the baby. But this can be dangerous in the event of a crash. Fisher-Price has addressed this issue with an infant safety seat called the "Stay-In-View." It comes equipped with a built-in mirror, allowing the driver to keep baby in full view (for instance, when stopped at a traffic light) when buckled in the rear seat as recommended.

Finally, the NHTSA and the American Academy of Pediatrics remind parents that children who have outgrown convertible car seats still need the protection offered by a belt-positioning booster car seat. This type of car seat positions the safety belt properly across the child's chest and hips. Until children reach a height and weight which allows the vehicle safety belts to fit properly around them (usually about five feet in height and 80 pounds), a booster seat helps position the adult-sized safety belts properly.

For more information on how to protect children in the car, NHTSA provides safety tips which can be found on the Web at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

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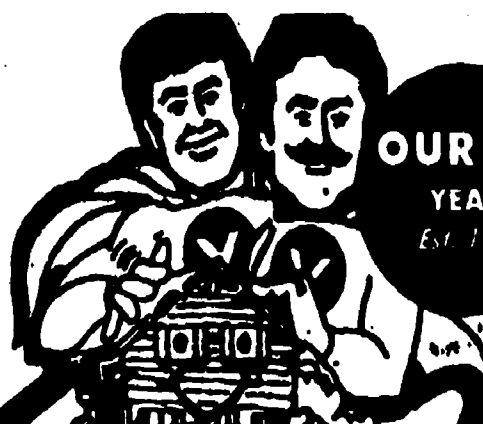
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YOUR SCHOOL NEWS**Time Is Running Out**

STATE — Time is running out to register for the Entrepreneurial Training Institute's (ETI's) spring session of classes designed to guide new and expanding small business owners, especially women and minorities, toward successful entrepreneurship.

Classes will begin later this month and early next month at ten locations throughout the state. These locations include Mount Laurel, Hackensack, Lakewood, Neptune, Newark, North Brunswick, Plainfield,

Pleasantville, Trenton and Millville. All classes are held between 6-9 p.m. Registration is limited.

The eight-week training program, sponsored by the New Jersey Development Authority for Small Businesses, Minorities' and Women's Enterprises (NJDA), covers such practical topics as preparing a focused business plan, understanding the financial aspects of running a small business and developing marketing strategies.

Program instructors and fa-

cilitators are representatives of local banks, community development organizations and the NJDA, allowing students to build relationships with the same people and organizations who might ultimately finance their businesses. Once ETI classroom sessions are completed, program participants submit their business plan to a panel of banking, accounting, law, marketing and economic development professionals for a thorough panel review. A sound business plan is necessary when students seek financing.

To apply to the ETI program,

students must possess a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma. To graduate, they must attend at least six classroom sessions, complete all written assignments and present their business plan at panel review. Nearly 500 people have graduated since the program was established in 1992.

Cost for the program is \$225, which includes textbooks. To request registration materials, prospective applicants can call ETI at 609-292-9279 or send an e-mail to eti@njeda.com. Applicants can also access the ETI registration form at www.njeda.com, but payment must be received for an applicant to be fully registered and eligible to attend classes. Enrollees do not have to be residents of the municipalities in which classes are held.

The NJEDA is committed to fostering the growth of small businesses, especially woman-owned and minority-owned businesses, by offering financing, technical assistance and training and mentoring programs. NJDA programs are managed by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Students From Japan To Study American Culture

AREA — Thirteen college students from Japan will embark on a five-week intensive course in English language and American culture at Felician College as they prepare to graduate from universities in Japan and come to the United States to earn a second baccalaureate. "It is common practice for students from Japan and other countries to earn one degree in their native country and then come to the U.S. to earn a second degree here," says Jeff Sinding, International Recruiter and Assistant

Director of Admission at Felician College.

The nine men and four women, aged 20-21, are working to complete the intensive course, offered through Kaplan® at Felician, in preparation for a standardized English competency test. Once they pass the test, they will have the option to matriculate into a degree program at Felician College this coming Fall. Towards this end, they will be in class six days a week, four hours per day through March 17. But it's not

all lectures and homework, says Sinding, who notes that the class will incorporate field trips and activities to introduce the students to American culture. Those activities include a trip to the Garden State Plaza and to New York City where they will visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and have lunch "on the town."

Housed in dormitories on the college's Rutherford campus, the students will also get a taste of American college life through evening activities organized by the various student and residence life groups on campus. These include a "Grease" movie theme night, Mardi Gras "Party Gras," "Open Mic" night, talent show, career workshop, and "Video Music Awards" night.

The group of Japanese students coming to campus is just one of the many examples of Felician College's international reach. The college's diverse student body includes students with native homelands of China, Korea, Ireland, Canada, Greece, Philippines, Albania, Columbia, Peru, Poland, Ukraine, Norway, India and Africa.

E-Commerce In Schools

AREA — David T. Grossman, a member of the Piscataway Board of Education, is serving on a state-level committee that is studying the use of electronic commerce in local school district business practices.

Patti J. Pawling, New Jersey School Boards Association president, appointed Grossman to the organization's 8-member Ad Hoc Committee on E-Commerce.

"The E-Commerce Committee is studying the use of electronic technology as a way to achieve savings for school district purchases," explained Pawling. "Purchasing over the Internet usually requires the use of a credit card; state law prevents school districts from using

credit cards in their business functions, however. Nonetheless, Internet purchasing — e-commerce — might provide significant savings." According to Pawling, the committee will assess the benefits and risks involved in using electronic technology in school district purchases. Issues surrounding school district use of e-commerce include Internet security, the potential for vendor fraud, legal impediments (such as the prohibition against school district credit cards), and the need to safeguard public monies.

The E-Commerce Committee will submit its recommendations to the NJSBA Delegate Assembly in May. The Delegate Assembly is the Association's major policy-selling body.

Dean's And Honors List

AREA — Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham-Madison Campus has released the names of area students who qualified for the Fall 2000 Semester Dean's and Honors List.

The students on the Honors List are: from Colonia, Paul Scotto; from Edison, Robert Toth;

from Ford, Jason Vizcarra; and from Perth Amboy, Frederick Springer.

The students on the Dean's List are: from Carteret, Angel Collazo; from Colonia, Jonathan Bergbauer and George Brand; from Edison, Maryellen Ruszala; from Iselin, Richard Maddock; and from Woodbridge, Christine Gurney.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must have a 3.2 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0; for the Honors List, a 3.5 or better.

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