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& Citizen-Gazette

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Memorials Mark Six Months

AREA—Where six months ago smoke and ashes darkened the daytime sky over New York, two shafts of bright light pierced the night sky Monday in memory of all those who lost their lives in the September 11 attacks.

The lighting of the "Tribute in Light" was one of many ceremonies held across the United States. The twin towers of light are meant to represent the fallen twin towers of the World Trade Center.

Located about a block from "Ground Zero," the banks of 44 searchlights will remain lit

from dusk until 11 p.m. for 32 days and under certain conditions might be seen for up to 25 miles away.

Gov. James E. McGreevey opened a special exhibit of the Memory Walls and kiosks on which families, friends and volunteers left personal mementos, notes of remembrance and testimonials to their loved ones following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Some 700 New Jerseyans died in the World Trade Center attacks, on Flight 93 and at the Pentagon.

The governor was joined by

victims' family members, dignitaries and clergy in presenting the two-month exhibit, "9.11 NJ: Response and Reflection," being presented by the New Jersey State Museum at the Department of State Galleries, 225 West State Street, in Trenton.

"The walls have evolved into memorial shrines that provide an immediate and moving tribute to the victims and the rescue workers," said McGreevey.

The walls and kiosks were originally set up at the Family Assistance Center in Liberty

State Park in Jersey City, which was established shortly after the attack to assist families and friends of individuals from New Jersey who were lost or missing.

Local victims of the September 11 attacks include:

Edward L. Allegretto, 51, Colonia, convertible bonds broker, Cantor Fitzgerald-Confirmed dead;

Tariq Amanullah, 40, Metuchen, vice president, Fiduciary Trust International-Confirmed dead;

Eustace (Rudy) Bacchus,

(continued on page...32)

P&G Closing Edison Site, Cutting 750 Clairol Jobs

EDISON — Procter & Gamble Co. is cutting 750 jobs in its Clairol division, or nearly half of the division's global manufacturing work force, and is closing a distribution center in Edison and three overseas manufacturing plants.

The moves announced last week come as the company consolidates operations after its purchase of Clairol in November. In January, the company announced it would cut 1,440 non-manufacturing jobs.

The distribution center closing is the latest in a series of bad news announcements for the township's economy.

Sherwin-Williams is closing its Edison plant and laying off 86 workers.

Ford is trimming 626 jobs at

its Route 1 motor vehicle assembly plant while Nautica Enterprises laid off another 57 workers in January.

Elmo Leather cut 106 jobs in December, Allied systems reduced its workforce here by 94 people in November and Blueflame cut another 133 positions in October.

Hair care manufacturing, which includes shampoos, conditioners and styling products, will be consolidated primarily at existing P&G hair care plants, said Francine Gingras, a company spokeswoman.

As a result, the company will close a Clairol distribution center in Edison, as well as manufacturing facilities in Lima, Peru; Maracay, Venezuela, and Cramlington in

the United Kingdom. P&G is maintaining Clairol hair color manufacturing operations in Stamford, Conn.; Vallejo, Mexico, and at its Rydalmere site in Sydney, Australia.

There will be 260 jobs cut at P&G's Stamford operation.

Many of those cuts are related to the consolidation of their shampoo and conditioner manufacturing operation to an existing plant in Iowa City, Iowa, Gingras said.

The consolidation is expected to preserve approximately 800 of the current 1,550 Clairol manufacturing jobs and will be completed by the fall of 2003, the company said.

P&G, based in Cincinnati, markets approximately 250 brands and employs nearly 106,000 people in more than

80 countries worldwide. Its beauty brands include Pantene, Olay, Max Factor and Cover Girl and it acquired Clairol brands, including Herbal Essences and Nice 'n Easy.

Sayreville Site Selected

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - Fifty-seven county residents killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks will be memorialized in a monument at Waterfront Park on the Raritan Bay in Sayreville.

The Middlesex County freeholders selected the site and allocated \$750,000 for the memorial in their 2002 capital budget.

CME Associates of Sayreville, which has conducted a number of engineering tasks for the county, has volunteered to design the memorial.

The freeholders chose the Sayreville location after visiting a number of county parks.

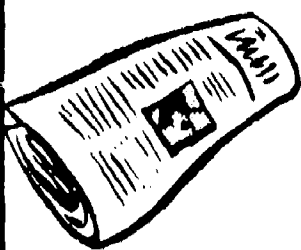
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS**New School Grant Kicks Off Pedestrian Education**

PERTH AMBOY - The City of Perth Amboy has begun a pedestrian safety education program throughout the public school system as part of the city's \$16,000 Pedestrian Safety Enforcement and Education grant from the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety. Members of the police department will visit each elementary and middle school in Perth Amboy to educate students on the importance of pedestrian

safety and the perils of not obeying local traffic procedures. In order to reach the adult population, the police department is looking to expand the program this year to include local civic and community-based organizations.

The program includes teaching students to cross at intersections and crosswalks, to avoid crossing between parked cars, to wear bright colors when walking at night and to obey all traffic signs

and signals. Under the \$16,000 grant, Perth Amboy will be able to provide ten additional hours of police manpower over a 32-week period, as well as funding for promotional materials and the public

speaking presentations. Given the fact that New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation, the risk factor associated with pedestrian injuries and fatalities is great.

In addition, pedestrian collisions represent the second largest category of motor-vehicle fatalities and injuries in the state, according to the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

County To Upgrade 3 Traffic Lights

WOODBIDGE - Three traffic lights along a heavily traveled Township roadway will be upgraded under an agreement with Middlesex County, Mayor Frank G. Pelzman has announced. The arrangement calls for the County to fund the state-mandated improvements of lights at three intersections along Woodbridge Center Drive, between Route 1 and Main Street.

"This agreement with the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders will enable

us to improve those traffic lights without burdening Woodbridge Township taxpayers," Mayor Pelzman said.

The three intersections covered in the agreement are:

- Woodbridge Center Drive and Highview Drive,
- Woodbridge Center Drive and Maple Hill Drive
- Woodbridge Center Drive and Wick Corporate Center.

As part of the swap agreement, Woodbridge Township will take over the maintenance of Avenue Street from Rahway

Avenue to Route 35. The upgrading of the traffic lights along Woodbridge Center Drive is part of the Main Street/Woodbridge Center Drive improvement project.

That plan calls for the building of a bridge to carry Main Street traffic over the Woodbridge Center Drive intersection, as well as the construction of full interchange ramps.

There will be many additional improvements at the intersection, including drainage, curbing, sidewalks, and road widenings.

Ryan Auto Opens Headquarters

EDISON—Ryan Automotive Limited has entered a long-term lease for a facility located at 200 Carter Drive, Edison, to be used as the new corporate headquarters, owner Rod Ryan announced recently. It will be the first time, in its thirty years of operation, that Ryan Automotive Limited will have a separate, centralized headquarters.

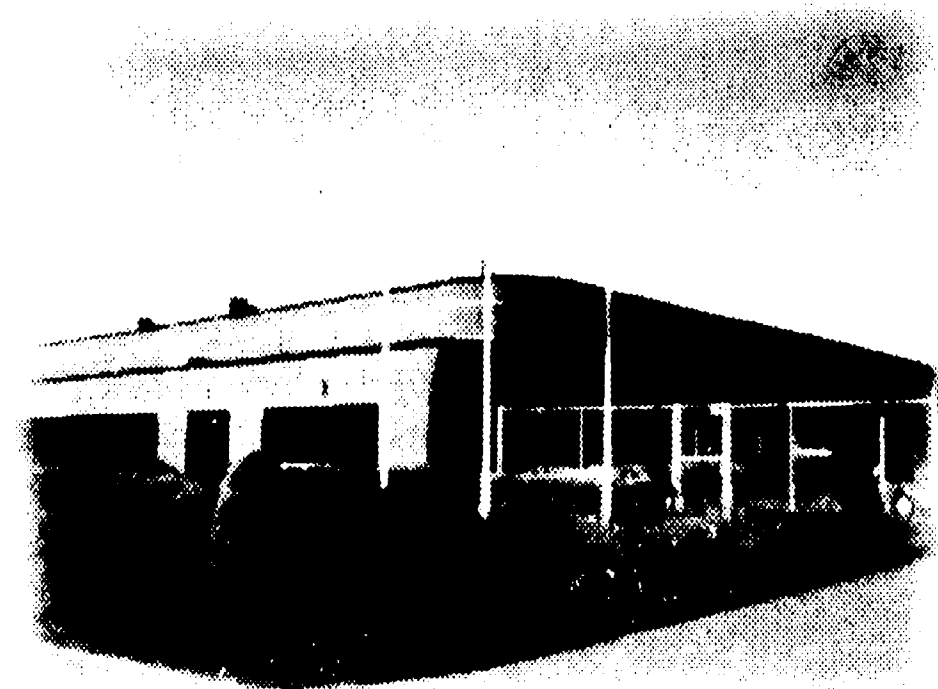
Ryan explained that, "the new headquarters represents a goal that I've been trying to reach, to consolidate much of the accounting and record keeping for our growing roster of Ryan

Automotive dealerships and to create a corporate headquarters befitting the level of our operations."

Ryan Automotive Limited consists of ten dealerships throughout New Jersey that include: Open Road BMW, 731 Route 1, Edison; Open Road BMW's Certified Pre-Owned BMW Showroom, 540 Route 1, Edison; and Open Road

Honda/Mazda/Isuzu, 50 Route 1, Edison. The 6,000 square feet of office space will house the offices of Ryan and other Ryan Automotive corporate executives.

In addition, the offices will have the very latest in computerized record storage and retrieval systems that will keep the financial records for all Ryan Automotive dealerships.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS—The new 56,000 square foot headquarters of Ryan Automotive Limited, located at 200 Carter Drive, Edison.

LEADERSHIP AWARD—Chris Van Der Stad and George Heinze, members of the United Way of Central Jersey's Board of Trustees congratulate Barry Evans and Lynn Mioduszewski, representatives of Minteq International, Inc. of Sayreville. Minteq received the agency's Leadership Campaign Cup in helping to raise money for United Way programs. The awards dinner took place at the East Brunswick Hilton.

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Governor Establishes Direct Link With State's Teachers

STATE—Continuing to demonstrate that his administration is changing the way the business of education gets done in Trenton, Governor James E. McGreevey recently signed an Executive Order establishing the Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee. Through this committee, teachers will now have a direct link to the Governor and a direct link on how the state is working to improve its schools.

"Teachers will always have a seat at the table of this administra-

tion," stated McGreevey. "This Committee will guarantee it."

The mission of the Committee will be to advise the governor on the experiences of teachers in the classroom, identify and examine factors that attract bright students to the profession, and recommend ways to end intellectual isolation among teachers by building and supporting communities of learners.

The Committee will also be charged with identifying teachers who employ the best practices

and improve student achievement and with proposing ways to recognize and celebrate those accomplishments.

"To change the way Trenton approaches education, we must look to those who are actually in the classrooms for guidance," said McGreevey. "We must support New Jersey's teachers and develop ways to ensure that our children are learning from teachers of the highest quality."

Over the past few weeks, Governor McGreevey has

demonstrated his commitment that education will be the cornerstone of his administration by announcing a number of initiatives. Along with creating the Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee, McGreevey

- Showed his commitment to improving the education of children in our poorest school districts by ending 20 years of litigation regarding the *Abbott v. Burke* court decisions with the newly created Abbott Implementation and Compliance Coordinating Council.

- Established an Education Cabinet of business and education leaders charged with improving communication and coordination

at all levels of our education system.

- Called for literacy standards to be developed for pre-school, kindergarten and first grade teachers and for students in second, third and fourth grades by Sept. 1, 2002.

- Created the Early Learning Task Force, which will be charged with identifying best practices and research based programs that can be incorporated into a statewide plan by June 2002.

One of those best practices is the Reading Coach program McGreevey discussed during the campaign, the first phase of which will be in place by the beginning of the next school year.

Briefing Set For School Board Candidates

AREA — New Jersey's county school boards associations will sponsor a briefing session for local school board candidates on March 18. This program will address the structure and responsibilities of local school boards in New Jersey.

"Local school board membership is a rewarding, and increasingly complex public

office," said Patti J. Pawling, NJSBA president. "The briefing sessions will give candidates an overview of the full range of school board responsibility."

Participants at the briefings will receive information on policy-making, school administration, school finance and budgeting, school-community relations, collective bargaining, and

relations among the board, superintendent and staff.

The briefing will be held on Monday, March 18, 7 p.m. at North Brunswick Twp. H. S., Raider Road, North Brunswick. Call 1-877-294-6418 to register. (Sponsored by the school boards associations of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset and Union counties.)

South Amboy Elementary School Announces Honor Roll

SOUTH AMBOY—The South Amboy Elementary School has announced its Honor Roll students for the second marking period of the 2001-02 school year.

Honor Roll of Distinction:
6-1: Elvin Merlo, Ivana Nemcikova and Chelsea Russell; **6-2:** Myra Dabkowski, Suraj Rama, Rachel Resignato, Staciann Sarno and John Zammit; **6-4:** Katey Charmello, Heather Erickson and Melissa Marino; **5-1:** Courtney Hulsart and Matthew Richmond; **5-2:** Glenn Wagner; **5-3:** Sandra Jazikoff and Russell MacKenzie; **5-4:** Joseph Ward; **4-4:** Michele Richardson.

Honor Roll: **6-1:** David Dunn, Chelsea Frisch, Joanna Heyer, Raphael Resignato, Brianna Septor, Adam Siuzdak and Nikita Viens; **6-2:** Rachael Abadie, Nicole Brown, Kelly Crowley, Colin Krzyzanowski, Stephanie Kulesar, Lawrence Lenahan, Faith Salameh and Nicholas Vecchione; **6-3:** Kaileigh DeLuca, Samantha Gavron, Jessica Kotsak, Chelsea Lorentz, Andrew Pappas and Richard Vayda; **6-4:** Jaclyn Charmello, James Corr, John Cooney, Nicole Kotula, Michael Macato, Mark Parisen, Lindsay Polak and Danielle Valdivia; **5-1:** Pa-

tricia Affriol, Cassidy Kreie, Kyle Ravaoli and Matthew Wanko; **5-2:** Maikel Ghaly, Brittany Harkins, Danielle Peterson, Ryan Stevens, Ashley Tackman and Tashiana Ventura; **5-3:** Courtney Bouchard, Eric Oppenheimer and Hannah Riley; **5-4:** Aubrey DeLeo, Conchetta Lorentz, David Tucka, Andrew Walczak, Jennifer Walsh and Charles Weiss; **4-1:** Timothy Brinkerhoff, Krystle Castro, Domeniek Couvertier, Tahira Naqvi, Chelsea Nelthropp, Kristen Wagner and Carolyn

Wells; **4-2:** Connor Anderson, Colin DeLuca, Catherine McLean, Daniel O'Connor and Danielle Tucka; **4-3:** Colleen Applegate, Jamie Cannon, Robert Jicha, Kevin Kotsak, Ashley Noble, Daniel Noble, Matthew Reagan, Christina Sima, Eric Stahl, Tara Longenhagen and Craig Warzecha; **4-4:** Kristen Barlies, Rebecca Bartlinski, Joseph Charmello, Stephanie Escareno, Colin Jannuzzi, Piotr Kruszewski, Luke O'Connor, Kimberly Richmond and Patricia Taylor.

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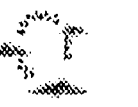
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week of: 3/03/02 - 3/09/02			
WINNING PICK-3		WINNING PICK-4	JERSEY CASH-5
SUNDAY, Mar. 3			SUNDAY, Mar. 3
Mid Day	274	8452	1-4-7-8-22
Evening	056	8080	MONDAY, Mar. 4
MONDAY, Mar. 4			4-20-22-35-37
Mid Day	974	4588	TUESDAY, Mar. 5
Evening	342	5368	4-7-13-30-31
TUESDAY, Mar. 5			WEDNESDAY, Mar. 6
Mid Day	211	0179	24-26-29-33-38
Evening	601	5303	THURSDAY, Mar. 7
WEDNESDAY, Mar. 6			9-17-25-27-34
Mid Day	635	4212	FRIDAY, Mar. 8
Evening	941	2814	9-19-28-31-33
THURSDAY, Mar. 7			SATURDAY, Mar. 9
Mid Day	069	8082	3-9-15-24-34
Evening	062	8389	
FRIDAY, Mar. 8			BIG GAME WINNING Numbers
Mid Day	959	1808	TUESDAY, Mar. 5
Evening	945	2385	2-13-15-21-48/3
SATURDAY, Mar. 9			FRIDAY, Mar. 8
Mid Day	565	5059	13-15-31-36-49/18
Evening	796	3059	
WINNING PICK-6 Numbers			LOTZEE WINNING Numbers
MONDAY, Mar. 4			WEDNESDAY, Mar. 6
6-8-11-14-16-36			31-42-49-54
THURSDAY, Mar. 7			SATURDAY, Mar. 9
1-5-9-12-16-48			16-45-47-48

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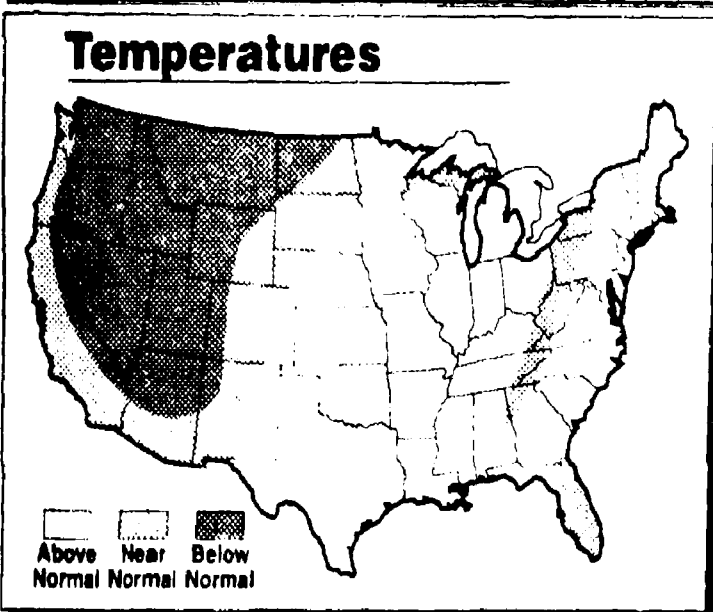
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
A few showers.	Cloudy with showers	Cloudy; frequent showers.	Cloudy with showers.	Variable clouds.	Cloudy and rainy	Clouds and sun.	Showers; windy later on.
55	41	53/37	54/38	53/43	56/43	56/35	52/43

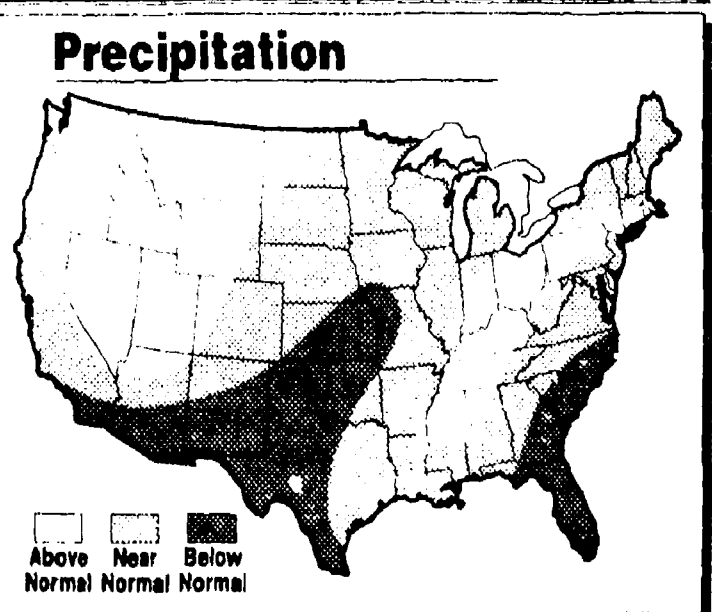
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Temperatures will rise again during the period across the east to average 3-6 degrees above normal. Cold weather will funnel into the West with temperatures in the Rockies as much as 10 degrees below normal. Fast moving systems will keep much of the nation wet.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Boston	50 36 c	48 34 c	47 33 sh	47 37 c
Chicago	48 36 r	40 36 sh	40 28 c	44 38 pc
Cleveland	50 37 r	52 39 sh	51 36 c	52 39 s
Denver	38 20 sn	40 20 pc	44 22 pc	46 24 s
Des Moines	46 32 c	40 30 c	44 34 pc	49 34 pc
Detroit	48 34 r	48 34 sh	47 32 c	50 38 pc
Houston	82 64 pc	80 64 sh	79 61 c	79 61 c
Indianapolis	57 44 sh	57 36 sh	55 37 c	56 43 c
Kansas City	58 36 c	50 34 sh	56 34 pc	58 38 pc
Los Angeles	66 44 s	64 46 pc	62 43 pc	62 32 c
Miami	83 71 s	83 70 s	83 70 s	82 66 s
Minn.-St. Paul	36 24 pc	38 26 pc	40 28 sn	36 22 st
New Orleans	78 63 pc	78 62 sh	79 61 c	79 63 pc
New York City	56 40 pc	50 42 sh	54 38 sh	53 46 c
Omaha	48 36 r	40 28 sn	44 32 pc	50 30 pc
Phoenix	73 47 s	71 48 s	72 50 s	72 38 pc
San Francisco	59 46 pc	58 45 pc	57 45 pc	58 35 pc
Seattle	46 38 sh	48 38 c	48 35 c	48 27 c
Washington	60 44 pc	60 46 sh	62 38 sh	59 49 c

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset	
Thu.	6:11 a.m.	6:02 p.m.	
Fri.	6:09 a.m.	6:04 p.m.	
	Moonrise	Moonset	
Thu.	6:49 a.m.	6:40 p.m.	
Fri.	7:12 a.m.	7:38 p.m.	
Moon Phases			
New	First	Full	Last
			
Mar 13	Mar 21	Mar 28	Apr 4
Mar	28	Apr 4	
Weather (W):			
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice			

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amsterdam	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Berlin	53 46 sh	55 47 r	54 45 c	53 45 sh
Buenos Aires	51 41 r	52 32 pc	47 33 s	48 35 s
Cairo	79 70 f	79 66 l	80 71 c	79 53 pc
Jerusalem	74 52 pc	75 54 pc	74 52 s	78 61 s
Johannesburg	63 42 s	62 42 pc	59 41 s	61 43 s
London	85 58 pc	84 58 pc	83 59 pc	80 58 pc
Madrid	52 41 r	55 46 sh	56 46 r	53 44 c
Mexico City	44 40 sh	48 41 c	49 36 r	50 42 c
Moscow	75 47 pc	77 46 s	79 49 s	80 49 pc
Paris	38 20 sn	29 10 pc	22 11 pc	27 18 pc
Rio de Janeiro	61 47 c	55 47 c	53 45 c	51 40 c
Rome	84 72 pc	84 72 pc	84 71 pc	81 70 pc
San Juan	67 49 pc	64 52 pc	57 50 r	57 48 r
Seoul	85 72 pc	83 71 pc	83 71 pc	82 72 pc
Sydney	62 49 c	56 41 pc	55 37 s	48 32 s
Tokyo	73 54 pc	75 58 s	81 65 pc	87 67 s
Toronto	60 57 pc	70 50 pc	52 44 c	58 50 pc
Winnipeg	33 28 pc	38 32 sn	47 24 c	43 33 c
Zurich	9 -2 c	13 12 sn	21 11 sn	17 -4 c

YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

McGreevey Appoints Counsel To Turnpike Authority

STATE—Governor James E. McGreevey has appointed Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer as General Counsel to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

"We welcome the opportunity to provide the Turnpike Authority with superior and cost-effective legal advice."

The Wilentz firm replaces Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Peretti—the Morristown-based firm that represented the Authority through the prior administration.

Bill Cracks Down On Title Fraud

STATE—The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee has approved legislation Assemblyman Gary Guear and Assembly Deputy Majority Leader Neil M. Cohen sponsored to control motor vehicle title fraud.

The measure (A-198) would increase the penalties for committing title fraud to a third-degree offense punishable by up to five years in jail and \$15,000 in fines. Falsifying title papers, obtaining a title in violation of the law, forging title papers, using title papers for a wrong vehicle would be prosecuted as third-degree offenses.

"Since this measure was drafted, particularly in the wake of Sept. 11, there is an increased need to penalize those who maintain and produce falsified documents," said Cohen. "It is simply a security breach that should no longer exist."

Investigations surrounding the terrorist attacks uncovered evidence that six of the terrorist hijackers had illegal New Jersey motor vehicle documents.

The panel approved the measure unanimously. It now heads to the Assembly Speaker, who decides whether or not to post it for a floor vote.

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By Michael S. Goldberger

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



"Whew!" That's what you exclaim when the closing credits of "We Were Soldiers" finally bring an end to the non-stop killing. Simultaneously you run the back of your hand across your brow in a gesture of both relief and astonishment. Relief, that you didn't participate in the battle of Ia Drang Valley (now known as The Valley of Death). Astonishment, that the horrors of war are still a very real part of our so-called civilized world.

You have just witnessed director Randall Wallace's depiction of America's first major military involvement in Vietnam, circa 1965. And understandably your emotions are mixed. Respect must be paid. Yet it's frustrating.

Because you know that the greatest respect you could possibly pay to anyone who ever fought in armed combat would be to once and for all figure out how to end our unceasing necessity for antiwar movies. But you know that there will be more wars which are inevitably followed by more antiwar movies. And you wonder, how much more eloquent than "All Quiet on the Western Front" (1930) would an antiwar movie have to be to finally get the job done? Now, that film would be truly worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize. Not like some of the goons they've obsequiously given it to.

In the meantime, at least we keep trying. Basing his effort on the autobiographical works of Lieutenant General Hal Moore and war correspondent Joseph L. Galloway, director Wallace gives it the old college try. The gripping, heart-rending result is the most explicit battle footage since "Saving Private Ryan" (1998).

It is tough stuff indeed. And therefore unless you think your antiwar resolve needs a booster shot, you may wish to spare yourself the two hours and seventeen minutes of very graphic violence and simply reaffirm to self, family and friends your conviction that war is bad. Whether war buffs will like it is another matter. Granted, "We Were Soldiers" hardly glorifies armed conflict. And depicting very real people dying very real deaths may put a damper on

things for even the staunchest of hawks. But they're a tough crowd to fathom and we may have to wait for word of mouth from their numbers.

Leading the cast of heretofore unsung heroes is Mel Gibson as Colonel Hal Moore, a romantic contradiction as devoutly religious as he is unflinchingly brave. He assures his men that he will be the first to set foot on the battlefield and the last to leave it. And not unlike Patton, when he prays he asks G-d to disregard the prayers of the heathen enemy.

Assigned to inaugurate the first fighting force in Vietnam to ride into battle on helicopters, Korean vet Moore appreciates the irony in his newest commission. His 7th Cavalry was once the charge of General George Armstrong Custer. And thus when the dangerous combat mission he is given seems strikingly similar to his 19th century predecessor's last assignment, he hopes it isn't all a big premonition.

But not to worry assures Sam Elliott as the profoundly stout-hearted Sergeant Major Basil Plumley, Moore's devoted right-hand man. He's the type of second in charge that Victor McLaglen always played, the meat 'n' potatoes career grunt who no West Point officer could do without. Using a derogatory term to imply that Custer was a sissy, the paratrooper veteran of WW II and Korea assures his boss that said expletive does not describe him.

Ordered to engage the enemy stronghold at Ia Drang Valley, also known as LZ X-Ray, the 7th Cavalry's experience turns out to be a microcosm of the entire Vietnam War experience. It is a primer of what America should expect.

All the clues and hints were there. Unfortunately, the foresight wasn't.

On the home front, unaware that the national blood bath has begun, the exotic-eyed Madeleine Stowe as Colonel Moore's dutiful army wife is the symbol of grace. With Yellow Cab drivers delivering the first smattering of bad news telegrams mailed from an insensitive War Department, she tries to maintain calm among the panicked young wives.

While everything it took us nearly ten years to learn was originally illustrated in the tragic details of this mutual massacre, so imbedded in the politics of the century's first half was our thinking that we missed the signals. And thus while showing what selfless sacrifices were made by both sides, it is to director Wallace's artistic credit that he also interweaves the battlefield heroics with a pervasive and knowing sadness. It is the sort of melancholy remorse that comes with realizing that no matter how brave or glorious were their actions, it is the woe of our generation that we didn't use their example to save some of the 59,000 American lives that then proceeded to follow them into battle.

"We Were Soldiers," rated R, is a Paramount Pictures release directed by Randall Wallace and stars Mel Gibson, Madeleine Stowe and Sam Elliott. Running time: 137 minutes

Spook Handy To Perform

WOODBIDGE — Singer/songwriter, acoustic guitar and harmonica player Spook Handy will perform at the Barron Arts Center, Woodbridge on Friday evening, March 15 at 8 p.m. The performance is the second concert in the "Garden Grown II" folk music series featuring some of the Garden State's home grown finest folk performers being held at the Barron. The concert is free to the public but reservations must be made due to the limited seating capacity. Call the staff of the Center weekdays between 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at (732) 634-0413.

Spook Handy's singing, acoustic guitar picking and harmonica playing weave the musical influences of folk, blues, bluegrass and rock into a timely and pertinent message for today. His message is that we are all here to live, love and learn and have fun doing it.

Handy's concert at The Barron Arts Center is sponsored by The Woodbridge Township Cultural Arts Commission chaired by Dr. Dolores Capraro Gioffre with support from The Woodbridge Township Arts Council. The director of the Center is Stephen J. Kager. Funding for the concert series is made possible in part by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission through a grant provided by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Future performances in the concert series will be Elaine Silver on May 17 and Mary Ann Farley on June 21, so mark your calendars.

The Barron Arts Center, located at 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge Proper at the intersection of Rahway Avenue (Rte. 514) and Port Reading Avenue, is an accessible facility.



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YOUR HEALTH NEWS**On-The-Job Eye Injuries And Dangers Highlighted During March**

OLD BRIDGE Each working day in the United States, more than 1,000 employees sustain job-related eye injuries. Some 100,000 workers are disabled annually because of vision loss due to work-related injuries.

Old Bridge ophthalmologist Dr. Robert Scharfman says he would like those numbers to drop. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, 90% of all job-related eye

injuries can be prevented with proper protective eyewear. Dr. Scharfman is working to educate the public about eye safety and March's designation as Workplace Eye Safety Month.

He explains, "Although workplace injury is a leading cause of ocular trauma, visual loss and disability blindness, a great deal can be done to reduce such injuries. Worksite injuries often involve automobile repair-related workers as well as construc-

tion-related workers including carpenters, welders, plumbers and machine operators."

According to Dr. Scharfman, all who enter a work site where eye dangers are present, not just the worker, must wear adequate protection. Employers should have an effective eye care program that includes the use of safety and protective eyewear. Occupational eye care programs should be enforced daily with discipli-

nary action taken if necessary.

The issue of eye safety and the workplace extends into office buildings and white-collar jobs as well. "With more people using computers, complaints of eye fatigue, difficulty focusing and discomfort are now commonplace. We've moved into the computer age but many of our offices have not. Poor lighting and desk configurations can be major problems for employees. In addition,

heating and air conditioning systems in office buildings can also increase problems with dry eyes, especially in the winter months. When the eye doesn't produce enough tears to keep it comfortable, people often experience stinging, burning, scratchiness and problems with contact lenses," says Dr. Scharfman.

Visit www.njlasikmd.com or call (732) 607-0555 to learn more about Dr. Scharfman and his practice.

Free Directory Supplies Snapshot Of Valuable Resources For Older Americans

AREA — Savvy seniors and those who care about them can call 1-800-222-2225 for a free copy of the *Resource Directory for Older People*, a comprehensive listing of services and organizations compiled by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Administration on Aging (AoA).

The directory of almost 300

public and private organizations answers questions such as:

- "Where can I learn more about local volunteer opportunities, Elderhostel, or support groups for family caregivers?"
- "How can I find home delivered (Meals-on-Wheels) programs in my community?"
- "Who can answer my ques-

tions about menopause?"

- "What medical centers are studying new treatments for Alzheimer's disease?"

Along with a brief description of the organizations, the book contains mailing addresses, phone numbers, as well as Internet and email addresses. State agencies on aging and ombudsman programs are listed in the appendices.

"The recently updated resource directory is like a Yellow Pages specifically for older people. The book contains contact information for a myriad of health organizations focused on areas such as heart disease and hormone replacement therapy to which physicians can refer patients," said Dr. Richard J. Hodes, the NIA director.

"The book will be very useful

to health and legal professionals, social service providers, librarians, researchers, and others with an interest in aging. By working together with the National Institute on Aging, we will distribute the directory to those who will benefit from it most, including family caregivers of older persons," said Norman L. Thompson, AoA's acting principal deputy assistant secretary for aging.

The directory is available to download from the NIA and AoA websites at www.nih.gov/nia and www.aoa.gov/directory. A single hard copy is also available free of charge by calling 1-800-222-2225 or 1-800-222-4225 (TTY). A nominal fee to cover printing, shipping and handling will be charged for multiple copies as follows:

• 2-50 copies: \$5 per copy

• 51+ copies: \$3 per copy

The NIA, part of the National Institutes of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services, leads the federal effort supporting and conducting research on aging and the special medical, social, and behavioral issues of older people.

The AoA of the Department of Health and Human Services is the official Federal agency dedicated to policy development, planning, and the delivery of supportive home and community-based services to older persons and their caregivers through the national aging network of state and local agencies on aging, tribal organizations, service providers, and volunteers.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Manual Now Available

AREA — Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) has announced the publication of "Lead Poisoning: What It Is and What You Can Do About It." The 56-page booklet, available in English and Spanish versions and designed for a general audience, contains information on preventing and recognizing the signs of lead poisoning, as well

as the legal rights of those who may be at risk from it. Produced with the help of a grant from the State Department of Human Services, Office for the Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the booklet is available free of charge from LSNJ and local Legal Services programs across the state.

The new booklet, an updated version of one last published in 1998, is part of LSNJ's community legal education program, which also publishes a newslet-

ter, "Looking Out for Your Legal Rights," and a series of legal rights handbooks.

Those interested in obtaining a copy of "Lead Poisoning: What It Is and

What You Can Do About It" should contact their local Legal Services office, write to LSNJ at 100 Metroplex Drive, Suite 402, Edison, New Jersey 08818-1357, or call LSNJ at 732-572-9100. An order form for the publication is also available on the LSNJ web site, www.lsnj.org.

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

— Guest Column —

Social Security Tax Tips For Late Filers

by Dennis Mass
Social Security Manager
in Elizabeth, New Jersey

Just getting around to filing your income tax return? With so little time left before the deadline, a few reminders may be helpful. We are providing the following hints to make sure you don't have mistakes that could delay the processing of your return.

- Make sure your dependents have Social Security numbers. To claim children as dependents on your tax return, you need their Social Security numbers. If

you need a Social Security number for a child, contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.

- Be sure you have the correct Social Security numbers for yourself and your dependents. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) checks all names and Social Security numbers on your tax return, including those belonging to children. If any of the numbers are incorrect, you will receive a letter from IRS asking you to explain the discrepancy. You cannot receive a tax refund until all the Social Security numbers are correct.

- If you are self-employed and net over \$400 a year, you must pay Social Security taxes with your income tax return. If you operate a trade or business full time or part time, or engage in a profession, either by yourself or with a partner, you have earnings from self-employment. You must report net earnings of over \$400 a year on schedule SE and file it with your income tax return. Even if you don't owe any income tax, you may owe Social Security self-employment tax.

- If you paid a household worker at least \$1,200 in wages in 2001, you must report his/her wages and pay Social Security tax on his/her earnings with your tax return. Workers covered by this law include housekeepers, maintenance workers,

child care providers, gardeners and others who provide household services. The exception is workers under 18 years of age who do not do these jobs for a living, like teenagers who babysit or cut the grass.

- If you already receive Social Security benefits, you may have to pay income taxes on part of your benefits. You may owe taxes on 50 percent of your Social Security benefits if your adjusted gross income plus one-half of your Social Security benefits plus your nontaxable inter-

est is between \$25,000 and \$34,000 for an individual, or between \$32,000 and \$44,000 for a couple. If these amounts are above \$34,000 for an individual or \$44,000 for a couple, you may owe tax on 85 percent of your benefits.

For more information about Social Security, check out our website at www.ssa.gov, or call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 or contact your local Social Security office. If you have tax questions, call IRS.

Holocaust Survivors May Exclude Restitution Payments From Income

AREA — Holocaust survivors, their heirs or estates will receive the full benefit of any restitution payment made by governments or industry. Restitution payments are excluded from federal taxes and should not be included as income or listed anywhere else on federal tax returns.

The restitution payments stem from World War II and are part of an on-going program by nations and industries that bene-

fited from the forced labor or property confiscation of Nazi-era victims to compensate those victims.

Further information is available in Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax," the main tax guide for individuals, and in Publication 553, "Highlights of 2001 Tax Changes." These publications may be obtained on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Selling Your Home

AREA — If you sold your main home, you may be able to exclude up to \$250,000 of gain (\$500,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly) from your federal tax return, according to the IRS. This exclusion is allowed each time that you sell your main home, but generally no more frequently than once every two years.

To be eligible for this exclusion, your home must have been

owned by you and used as your main home for a period of at least two years out of the five years prior to its sale. If you and your spouse file a joint return for the year of the sale, you can exclude the gain if either of you qualify for the exclusion. But both of you would have to meet the use test to claim the \$500,000 maximum amount.

If you do not meet the ownership and use tests, you may be

allowed to exclude a portion of the gain realized on the sale of your home if you sold your home due to a change in health or place of employment.

If you cannot exclude all the gain from the sale of your home, use Schedule D, Form 1040, to report it.

For more details and information, get a copy of Publication 523, "Selling your Home," by calling 1-800-829-3676, or download it from the IRS Web Site at www.irs.gov.

Faster Refunds Through Direct Deposit

AREA — Want a faster refund? The IRS says that more taxpayers are choosing direct deposit as the way to get their federal tax refunds. The payment is more secure - there is no check to get lost. And, it's more convenient - no special trip to the bank to deposit a check! To request direct deposit, follow the instructions for "Refund" on your tax return.

Nearly 34 million people had their tax refunds deposited directly into their bank accounts during the 2001 filing season, a 15 percent increase from the year before. Choosing direct deposit is the best way to guard against having a tax refund misplaced or stolen.

Want an even faster refund? Try e-file! Taxpayers who file

electronically get their refunds in about half the time as those who file paper returns.

A word of caution - some financial institutions do not allow a joint refund to be deposited into an individual account. Check with your bank or other financial institution to make sure your direct deposit will be accepted. Also, make sure you have the correct nine-digit routing number and your

account number when selecting direct deposit.

For more information about direct deposit of your tax refund, check the instructions for your tax form. This and other helpful tips are available in IRS

Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax." To get a copy, visit the "Forms & Pubs" section of the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, or call toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).



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EDITORIAL**Woodbridge
Township
Television****WTT 35****PROGRAM SCHEDULE****Friday, March 15**

11 a.m.—Read Across America with Mayor Frank G. Pelzman at School #4 and 5

1 p.m.—Woodbridge Township Council Meeting, Agenda Session, Taped, March 12

3 p.m.—“Access New Jersey” with John

Mishler Art Exhibit, Umpire Clinic, Synder H.S. Media Arts Program and Freedom Plaza

5 p.m.—Read Across America with Mayor Frank G. Pelzman at the Oak Ridge Heights School

7 p.m.—Disabled firefighter Swasie Turneris Wheelchair push from Washington, D.C. to NYC for Police & Fire victims of the Sept. 11 tragedy, taped March 3

9 p.m.—Service Learning Program:

Senior Citizen Luncheon at Woodbridge High School

Saturday, March 16

1 p.m.—American Irish Association 29th Annual Woodbridge St. Patrick's Day Parade, taped March 11

5 p.m.—American Irish Ceremony and Flag raising, taped, March 11

Sunday, March 17

1 p.m.—American Irish Ceremony and Flag raising, taped March 11 and 5

p.m.—American Irish Association 29th

Annual Woodbridge St. Patrick's Day Parade, taped March 11.

Programming may vary due to availability of programs and technical considerations.

For more information, call WTT-35 at (732) 726-2310. Qualified non-profit organizations may fax or e-mail items for the Bulletin Board to the following: FAX (732) 726-2360.

E-mail address: lee.beckerman@twp.woodbridge.nj.us.

Readers Commentary**A Special Tribute**

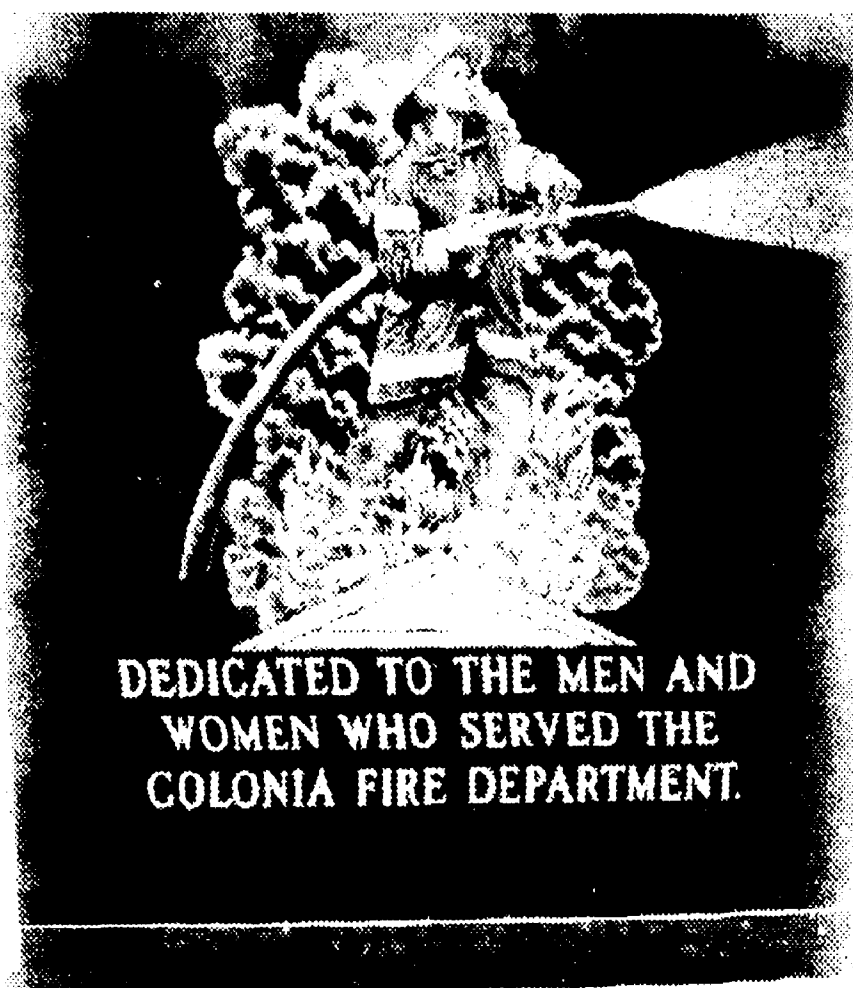
Dear Editor,

The Senior Citizen's Club of Colonia meets twice a month at the Fire House on Inman Avenue, Colonia.

Recently, a massive piece of granite was placed at the front entrance of the building. It is 5 foot wide, 5 foot high, 1 foot thick, weighs more than 1000 lbs., has black, gray and some dark red color in it. It is also cold to the touch and is etched showing a firefighter watering down a fire, with lights on both sides. These are the physical characteristics of this monument.

As we pass by with our careful, deliberate short steps, our failing eye sight, and perhaps today feeling our aches or pains, we not only have enough time to appreciate it, but we also can relate to it as well. The overall dimensions are short of the distance our hearts will travel to reach the families of those who lost their uncle, brother, son, husband, or father. The weight of the granite is much less than the weight of our heavy hearts for the families of lost ones.

The color dark red for the blood shed, black for the mourning period, the cold touch for the loss of life. The



fireman for displaying their bravery and courage. The light for the internal love and affection that we hold so dear to our hearts for our fire fighters. That's what we see and feel when we pass that massive piece of granite.

So to only say “thank you” seems so inadequate for your service to our community.

During our twilight years we often turn to our Lord and ask for the strength to carry

one. We now ask that He bless and protect our firefighters, keep them out of harm's way that they may return safely to their families. May the Lord take a liking to you and your families, keep you under His protective care, bless you and your families always. Amen!

George Vassiliades
President
Senior Citizen's Club
of Colonia

Taking An Interest

Dear Editor,

After hearing about recent events in which a neighbor's house was broken into, in broad daylight, I decided it was time to come out from my self-imposed hibernation, to suggest meaningful ways we can combat such elements in our society. I would like to state for the record, that back in the days I grew up here in Iselin, these types weren't as pervasive as they are today. Simply put, we were interested in preserving the safety and community within our neighborhood. We took an interest in our neighbors.

Most unfortunately today, people live in self-isolation with little regard for one another. This is just yet another symptom of growing computer/information society in which we spend more time at our computers, than we actual people. Either we are too afraid to come out of our homes, or we're off in our own little worlds that tune out the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, unless we become active members of society, we can all face a certain future where the criminals will own the streets. We will have to live almost exclusively in our

homes. Are we ready to give up more freedom for the sake of those who willing and arrogantly break the law, threatening our very own personal security? We need proper action and now.

I feel it's time to bring back the days of neighborhood watch programs, which get people involved with one another.

This would keep our neighborhoods safer, deter crime and keep us connected with one another. These types of programs could actually foster a greater sense of community, which in this day and age is quickly becoming more and more important.

We can't afford to live our lives isolated and in fear. We have to come out of our homes, and take a more active role and assume leadership once again. This would set an example for our children so they don't take it all for granted.

We need our local governments to begin or reinstate these neighborhood watch programs and get people involved. Unless we get busy, we'll be living with these fears for many more years to come. It's our choice.

Albert F. Worth Jr.
Iselin

Single Letters

LIST FOR THE BRAIN BY HENRY DAMEN

Standing In The School House Door

There is even the “Ask Campaign” where neighbors are urged to ask if there are any guns in the homes of their children's friends, using social ostracism to harass gun owners.

Letters to Levi Strauss are met with smarmy, vague references to safety and “common sense” solutions to gun violence—currently the antigunners' preferred

code for gun control. Hey guys, read your history. This is a fancy way of doing what they did in Germany in the early 1930's.

Being run by Democrats, Philadelphia has lousy schools. The education system has long been plagued with low test scores, chronic teacher shortages, crumbling buildings, and deficits in excess of \$200 million.

The situation is so bad that the state of Pennsylvania has assumed control of the largest school district. Gov. Mark Schweiker wanted the worst-performing schools to be run by private companies hoping at last, the children would have an opportunity to compete and achieve.

Fat chance! According to the Associated Press, the

NAACP and school employee unions have formed a group called “The Coalition to Keep Our Public Schools Public.” They plan to sue Pennsylvania, arguing that the state takeover will “abolish the rights of the school district and the citizens of the city.” Oh, there's a law allowing the state to take over the school system, so they want the law declared unconstitutional.

That's right, my friends, they will try to prove there's a constitutional right to let children fail! Despite all the lip service about “the children,” they have no problem allowing thousands of kids to remain under-educated and unprepared to compete in society if it means holding on to political power. As I said, Democrats.

SPRING 2002

HOME IMPROVEMENT



A supplement to

ATOM TABLOID
& Citizen-Gazette

News Record

PATRIOT

**DEVINE
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ENTERPRISES

SPRING '02 HOME IMPROVEMENT

Valiant A Name You Can Trust

CARTERET—In 1956, Genare Valiant first opened the doors to Valiant Aluminum Products on Roosevelt Avenue, West Carteret. His goal was excellent workmanship and honest value.

Now 46 years after Genare Valiant founded VHR, the third generation, Genare, Michael Jr. and Anthony are still carrying on their grandfather's tradition. They are proud to be part of the Carteret business community. They still maintain Valiant Home Remodelers on Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret. This is their third and largest facility. Their products have improved dramatically since their grandfather's day.

Valiant Home Remodelers has done work for many community groups and churches including St. Joseph Church, Holy Family, Sacred Heart Church, First Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, St. Elizabeth's Church, St. Mary's Church, St. Helena's Church, St. Francis Cabrini's Church, Carteret

Housing Authority, Elizabeth General Hospital/Trinitas Hospital and Ford Motor Plant. The Valiant staff and family has been a mainstay in sponsoring Carteret's Children, Pop-Warner cheering and football, the Little Carteret League, and dozens of other groups have been sponsored.

In 1997, the Valiant family created the "Michael J. Valiant Sr. Foundation" in the name of Michael Valiant Sr. The goal was to give something back to a community that has given so much. Over the years, with the help of the Carteret community and business associates, the foundation has donated over \$20,000 to its two main benefactors "The Carteret Specials" and COSAC (Center for Outreach & Service for the Autism community).

Valiant's product lines feature premium names you can trust such as: Great Lakes, Window, Wolverine



Valiant building circa-1965



Valiant building circa-2002

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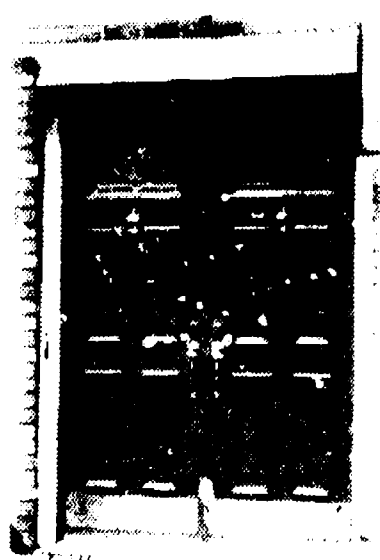
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Operation House ID Has A Plan: Helping 911 Find Your House With NightVision Reflective™ Address Signs

AREA-The next time your out and about in the neighborhood you may not have noticed them at first, but something new has been added to the landscape.

NightVision Reflective address signs.

Every second counts when paramedics, firefighters, or police need to find their way to your door to aid you or your family members. It's crucial especially at night. That's when owning NightVision Numbers House ID in front of your home helps you sleep well.

Address America is an eight-year-old company based in Ridgeland, Mississippi. It was started by David Ashley, a long-time Mississippi resident.

David first realized the urgent need for reflective address signs

when he owned a firewood delivery business. Many of his customers' homes were poorly addressed and he often spent several hours a day looking for their homes. He quickly saw that this could be more than just an inconvenience.

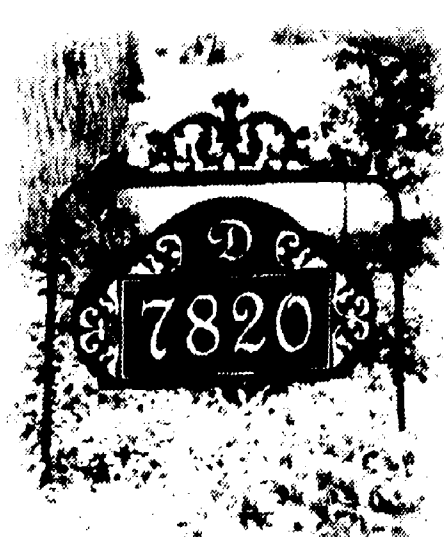
When he heard of a local resident who had lost his life while waiting for help to arrive, he decided to DO something about the lack of adequate addressing in the area.

The goal of Operation House ID is simple, to install an address sign for every home in the neighborhood, so you can be found more easily in case of emergency. Ambulances, firefighters, patrol cars, cabs and even the pizza boy depend on you to make it easy to find your home.

Studies show that many homes are difficult to find at night.

That's when NightVISION Numbers really stand out. These signs are highly visible both day and night. They're also an attractive addition to your landscape. NightVision Numbers are beautifully reflective and made out of heavy gauge, powder-coated steel and aluminum high impact poly-propylene. The same commercial grade material that's used on federal and state highway signs.

NightVision Reflective



Address Signs are made by Address America, an 8 year old company based in Ridgeland, Mississippi. They are available in two sizes: standard on 30 inch pole or deluxe on 48 inch pole. The larger size can also accommodate an additional personal greeting.

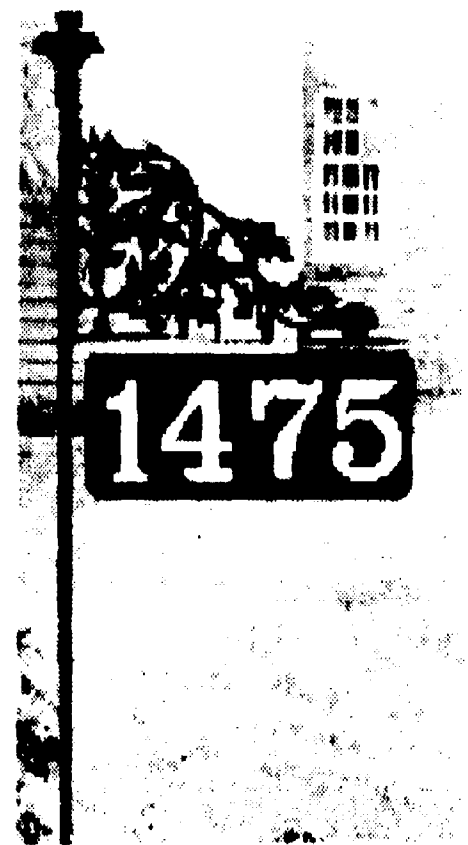
Over 750,000 families in the US and abroad own NightVision signs which besides providing safety, the maintenance-free signs also beautify any yard or home. Delivery trucks, taxis and friends can also locate your home easily.

The original patent-pending NightVision Reflective Address Signs are distributed on a local basis by a nationwide network of independent Operation House ID Affiliates.

Ask yourself:

"Can 911 find YOUR home when every second counts?"

For further information, call Dawud Q. Bilal at 908-405-1851.



Renovate the Kitchen For Functionality

(NUI) - Large family gatherings have a way of migrating to the kitchen. It is often a home's focal point not only during social events, but on a nightly basis when food becomes the main attraction. So it's not surprising that in an independent study conducted for the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), homeowners are enlarging and updating their kitchens to make them more functional and attractive.

"Aesthetics are important, but designing a functional and safe work area is our No. 1 goal in kitchen renovations," said Linda Kay DeMartini, ASID, a principal at Kay Designs in Burlingame, Calif. "We can create a new look in the kitchen simply by changing surfaces, whether it be new flooring, cabinetry, countertops or islands."

While renovating the kitchen nets one of the best returns on your investments, it's also a chance to make one of the busiest rooms more user friendly.

"As kitchens tend to grow in size, it's important to have appliances logically placed. Refrigerated cabinets allow homeowners to have point-of-use refrigeration without taking away any design," said Paul Leuthe, corporate marketing

manager for Sub-Zero Freezer Company, Inc.

Making a kitchen functional and aesthetically pleasing isn't always easy. An interior design consultant can help access all of a client's needs and assist in the kitchen's creation.

Knowledge, education and training make ASID interior design consultants uniquely qualified.

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Bathroom Safety Tips For Senior Citizens

(NUI) - People 80 years and older are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population, and as more people enter into this age group, it's a good time to think about home safety. Although interior home safety is often taken for granted, many seniors don't realize that by taking simple precautions, major accidents can be prevented in the home.

"Many rooms in the house, such as the bathroom, simply are not equipped to handle the special needs of older persons," says Alice N. Henry, manager of marketing communications for Roto-Rooter. "Almost 85 percent of senior citizens want to live at home. But to do so safely, they may need to make some simple changes."

The plumbing experts at Roto-Rooter offer these tips to help reduce the risk of bathroom injury for seniors:

- Place a noncorrosive seat in the bathtub or shower for worry-free showering.
- Install a hand-held shower head with an on/off button which is convenient for those people who sit in the shower.
- Set the water thermostat at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit to reduce the risk of scalding.
- Substitute the tub and shower valves with pressure

balanced valves and high limit stops, which prevent a surge of hot water, thus preventing scalding.

- Make sure the bottom of the bathtub, shower and bathroom floor are equipped with nonskid mats or some other suitable surface.
 - Install grab bars around the toilet, bathtub and towel rack.
 - Replace faucet handles with controls that are easy for arthritic hands to use.
 - Install special lifted toilet seats for convenience and to prevent back injuries.
 - Make sure the pathway from the bedroom to the bathroom is lit properly and place double-sided tape on the underside of rugs and runners to avoid slips.
 - Adjust bathroom counter heights from 30 to 36 inches so a seat can easily fit underneath.
- Reduced strength, brittle bones and impaired sight can hinder a safe home life for the elderly. Following these low-cost safety tips and tailoring the home environment for seniors' specific needs can help prevent unnecessary accidents in the home.

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Notice to neighborhood residents from
OPERATION HOUSE ID

NightVISION Reflective Address Signs are now being installed in your neighborhood!

"Can 911 find YOUR home when every second counts?"

The goal of Operation House ID is to install an address sign for every home in the neighborhood, so you can be found more easily in case of emergency. Ambulances, firefighters, patrol cars, cabs and delivery people depend on YOU to make it easy to find your home. Studies show that many homes are difficult to find at night. That's when NightVISION Numbers really stand out. These signs are highly visible both day and night. They're also an attractive addition to your landscape.

NightVISION Reflective Address Signs are constructed of engineer-grade materials like heavy-gauge, powder-coated, steel and aluminum and high-impact poly-propylene.

4" high reflective numerals are made of the same commercial grade material that's used on federal and state highway signs. All signs come with our unconditional money-back guarantee:

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Operation House ID is a proud Member of the National Safety Council
Operation House ID is not a government entity. We receive no government support or funding.
Over 750,000 families are protected by NightVISION Reflective Address Signs!

National Safety Council

How to Help Keep Your Home Mold and Allergen Free

(NUI) - Many homeowners are unaware of the harmful levels of allergens and molds in their homes. Molds, dust mites, cat and dog allergens and cockroach allergens can trigger asthma and allergy symptoms and make your family sick.

Therefore, it's important to eliminate these molds and allergens as much as possible. If you have respiratory problems, allergists say that improving the air quality in your home can make a big difference.

However, a comprehensive home allergen analysis can cost thousands of dollars if performed by an industrial hygienist.

"Testing the home for allergens and molds is an important part of disease management and

one that is often overlooked due to the difficulty of testing the home environment," said Dr. Jonathan Bernstein, an allergist and associate professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

That's why Bernstein recommends Allergen Alert, a kit that tests the levels of the most common indoor allergens and molds in the home. It sells for \$99.98 and comes with two allergen collection traps, a video, and instructions on how to use the traps to collect dust samples for a professional analysis. The traps attach to your vacuum cleaner, so you simply vacuum the rooms you want to test and then send the collected dust samples to the laboratory in a postage-paid

return box.

About two or three weeks later, you'll receive a report detailing the levels of allergens and molds in each room you tested. You'll see if the levels are high, medium or low for each allergen the kit detects.

In the meantime, there are things you can do to help rid your home of allergens. Bernstein and Mike Vogel, director of Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes, offer these tips:

- Dust your home often. Use a vacuum cleaner with a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter to help keep settled dust from becoming airborne when you vacuum.
- Wash your bedding once a

week. Beds tend to harbor dust mites, so wash bedding in temperatures higher than 130 degrees or with a special detergent designed to eliminate dust mites. Placing specially designed covers over mattresses, comforters and pillows also can help.

- Keep humidity low. Mold and allergens thrive in humid areas, so keep indoor relative humidity below 50 percent with air conditioners and dehumidifiers.
- Keep your kitchen clean. Keep food covered in sealed con-

tainers. Wash dishes and sweep the floor frequently. Clean places where crumbs can accumulate, such as near the toaster, stove and counter tops. Take out the trash often.

- To control mold, keep your home free of damp areas. Repair leaks and clean your bathtub regularly, as well as sinks and other areas where mold is likely to accumulate.

For more tips and information about Allergen Alert, log on to www.healthyhomeair.com or call 1-800-560-9111.

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How to Save Energy Dollars At Home

(NUI) - With the uncertainty of energy prices and shorter and cooler days ahead, there are easy ways to keep your energy bill down while keeping your home comfortable. By replacing old products with energy-efficient ones and using energy wisely in your home, you can help your pocketbook.

There is another big plus to being energy-efficient - you help the environment. Using less energy means less air pollution from powerplants that burn oil, coal or natural gas.

Here are some simple tips from Consumer Federation of America Foundation on how to be environmentally friendly and save energy in your home:

- * Make your next light bulb or fixture an ENERGY STAR qualified one. ENERGY STAR labeled lighting uses 75 percent less energy to brighten your home. Replacing the most often used light bulbs in your home will save you money and time spent on buying and replacing

bulbs. The government-sponsored ENERGY STAR label is awarded to energy-efficient appliances and products that help you save energy and money and preserve the environment for future generations.

- * Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. It takes the same amount of energy to run them when they're half full as when they're completely full. Also, use the energy saver feature on your dishwasher.
- * Change the air filters in your home's cooling and heating system. A dirty filter can mean higher energy bills and a less healthy home environment for your family.
- * Tighten up your home. Add new weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors. This can reduce your energy bill up to 20 percent. Look for other air leaks in your home and seal them up to prevent unnecessary heat loss. If you're in the market for new

windows, look for ones with the ENERGY STAR. They will help keep your home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

- * Set your hot water heater at the "normal" setting - no higher than 120 degrees. This can save up to 11 percent of your water heating costs. To save more, buy a hot water insulation kit to wrap your old water heater with.
- * Consider replacing your refrigerator if it is 10 years old or older. Refrigerators use more energy than any other appliance in your home. A new ENERGY STAR refrigerator uses less than half the energy of a 10-year-old conventional model.

For more information on buying energy-efficient products for the home, log on to www.buyenergyefficient.org. For ENERGY STAR information, visit www.energystar.gov or call 1-888-782-7937.

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Tips to Increase Fire Safety in Your Home

(NUI) - Each year, fire kills more people in America than all natural disasters combined.

The best way to fight a fire is to prevent it. Education in fire prevention can safeguard you and your family from fires that can occur inside or outside the home.

Smoking, cooking and heating are common causes of residential fires.

Smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths. Never smoke in bed and remember that a smoldering cigarette butt or ash can ignite easily.

For kitchen safety, have a fire extinguisher 10 feet away from the stove and learn how to properly use it.

When using a fireplace, make sure the flue is open before lighting a fire and never leave a fire burning unattended.

Your home should be equipped with smoke alarms - the first line of defense in fire prevention. Fire extinguishers should be mounted close to the kitchen, garage and workshop, preferably near an exit.

Plan a drill for evacuation and involve the entire family. Have two different escape routes from each room in your home. If the alarm sounds, roll out of bed and stay low to the ground. One breath of smoke or gas may be enough to kill you.

Memorize the emergency number of the local fire department. Select a location in front of your home where everyone agrees to meet. Make sure your address is clearly labeled outside your home.

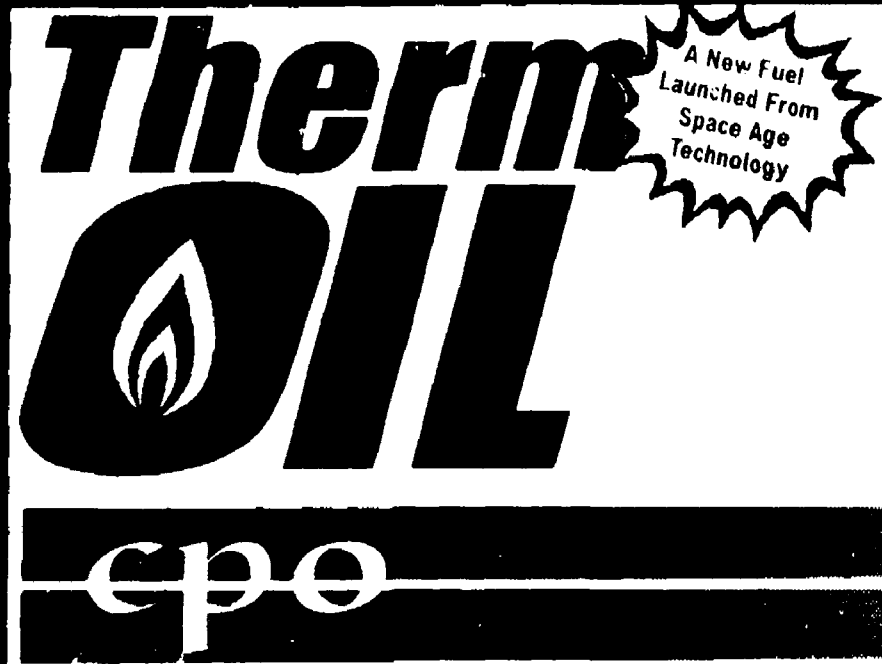
Outdoors - whether you are in the front yard or at a campsite - stay alert and use safety measures for outdoor fire prevention. Around the house, clean gutters and remove leaves, branches and other debris. Keep a shovel, rake and water bucket handy. Install a water hose long enough to reach the roof. Maintain an adequate outside water source such as a small pond, swimming pool or hot tub.

While barbecuing, watch the grill and make sure children and pets are kept far away. Fireworks can cause burns, lacerations, amputations and blindness. Leave any area where amateurs are using fireworks.

It is important to understand your homeowners insurance policy before a fire occurs. Keep a complete inventory of your property, including serial numbers, photographs or videotapes.

Home is the place you should feel the safest, so make sure you have created a fire-safe environment. For more tips, call for the free Life Advice brochure "Fire Safety" at 1-800-638-5433.

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Create A "Natural" Living Room: Out Of Doors!

As the weather warms up, backyards across America become the gathering place of choice for many friends and families. As a result, more Americans are transforming their wooden decks into "outdoor living rooms" with beautiful casual furniture, elaborate landscaping and a designer flair typically reserved for the interior of a house.

Creating an outdoor living room is a creative and fun project that can involve the entire family. The Flood Company, deck care experts for more than 150 years, offers these tips for homeowners:

Discuss How You Want To Enjoy The Deck

In order to choose the appropriate furniture, landscaping, lighting and other accessories for

your deck, determine how you plan to use it. Dining and upscale entertaining requires a different mood than backyard barbecues and sunbathing.

Choose Deck Furniture

Once you've determined how you want to use your deck, it's easy to decide on furniture.

There are several outdoor furniture options to suit your lifestyle. Wrought iron furniture is more elegant, as opposed to the contemporary feel of cast aluminum. Rattan and wicker are both popular furniture styles that can give a light, tropical flair to your deck.

If you plan to entertain on your deck, a bar setup with stools might be of interest, or perhaps an outdoor dining set. If your deck

will be a place for lounging and relaxation, a wide variety of patterns and styles are available in settees, chairs and loveseats.

Relaxing requires sling-back chairs and chaise lounges. With pillows, these can be as comfortable as your indoor sofa. Dining requires a more formal table and chairs. If you'll be doing both, you can blend these two looks together.

Create Mood With Outdoor Lighting

You can use lighting to create a mood on your deck in the same way you do indoors. Just as candles can create a romantic ambiance, so too can lawn torches. And, these torches of light can also serve the purpose of keeping mosquitoes away if they are cit-

ronella-scented. Another illumination option is weatherproof lighting.

With today's electrical engineering, you can light your railings, benches and stairs, adding dimension to your deck and preventing stumbling over objects in the dark. And, this form of lighting will not be damaged by the elements.

Bring Beauty To Your Outdoor Living Room With Landscaping

Landscaping is important for the aesthetic quality of your deck and you can involve the entire family in the creation and maintenance. Winding stone walkways, beds of flowers that bloom year around, large rocks and trees are all examples of creative landscap-

ing. Choose items that will complement your deck. Have your children help you with decision-making and the upkeep of your landscaping.

Keep Your Outdoor Living Room Looking As Nice As Your Indoor

The wooden planks of your deck are like the carpet for your outdoor living room. Keeping them clean and in condition are key. If your deck looks dirty and gray, restore its natural beauty with a non-bleach deck cleaner. This will remove surface and ground-in dirt without damaging the sensitive fibers of the wood or stripping the wood's natural color. Cleaning is a good idea once a year.

How To "Spring" Into A Perfect Paint Job

As the mercury begins its rise after a winter hibernation, spring is when many of us finally rise off the couch and make the great leap toward painting the house.

Whether it's minor trim work or re-painting the entire house, this is the season when 25% of all exterior paint jobs occur. An even greater number of paint projects are considered during this period, but dismissed because of their perceived difficulty.

Paint Selection

With winter but a memory, you may notice that the season's coldness and moisture have left your siding cracked and faded. Or, you may be sick and tired of the color you've lived with all these years.

Whatever your reason for painting, the first thing to decide is what kind, and color, of paint to use.

First and foremost, paint experts agree that the last thing you want to do is skimp on paint quality, especially for your home's "envelope."

Lower-quality paint doesn't offer a durable enough coating and is prone to fading, cracking and peeling. Premium paints also cover more fully in one coat, thereby saving you time and money by not having to paint a surface over and over.

When selecting the color scheme, remember that color can make a house look larger (lighter tones) or smaller (darker colors), as well as more inviting or secluded. Also, make sure the color you choose will complement your home's landscape and surrounding area.

Once you've decided on the

color, your next step is selecting a sheen. According to Tom Rapps, brand manager for Dutch Boy Paints, the simplest piece of advice is to go with a flat or satin sheen for all your primary surfaces, and a gloss or semi-gloss for trim, doors, trellises, etc.

Your next dilemma is latex v. oil. Oil-based paints once reigned supreme, but most pros now prefer the ease and convenience of latex. "Oil penetrates wood better, but latex dries faster, doesn't yellow and can be cleaned up with soap and water," says Rapps. "In addition to being more environment-friendly, latex also expands and contracts with the temperature, something oil paints don't do."

How Much To Use?

Armed with the information on what color, sheen and type of paint you want, don't wait until you're in the paint aisle to figure out how much you'll need to get the job done.

The easiest way to determine the scope of the project is to first measure the total distance around

the house and multiply that by the height (from ground to eaves). Then add the square feet of all gables. (The area of a gable is determined by multiplying its base by its height and dividing by two). This will give you the total square feet of the house.

Divide total square feet by 400 to determine gallons needed. If you have painted masonry or stucco, add 50 percent more paint. If the exterior features painted shingles or shakes, add 20 percent.

The All-Important Prep Work

The last step before priming and painting the house is the prep work.

"Ask any professional painter and they'll all say the most important step to a great paint job is great preparation," says Dutch Boy's Rapps.

The two-step process entails preparing the house and the surface. In preparing the house, the key is to cover or remove any-

thing you don't want painted, from cars in the driveway to bushes, screens and shutters.

To prepare the surface, scrape away loose, scaling paint; replace damaged siding, sills and trim; sand the gloss off shiny surfaces; caulk cracks or gaps around windows and doors; and scrub away dirt, grease and mildew.

Next Step: Painting Your Masterpiece

Now that you've got the right paint and the proper surface to receive your would-be creation, the hard part is behind you. Believe it or not, the most enjoyable part of the whole project is about to begin.

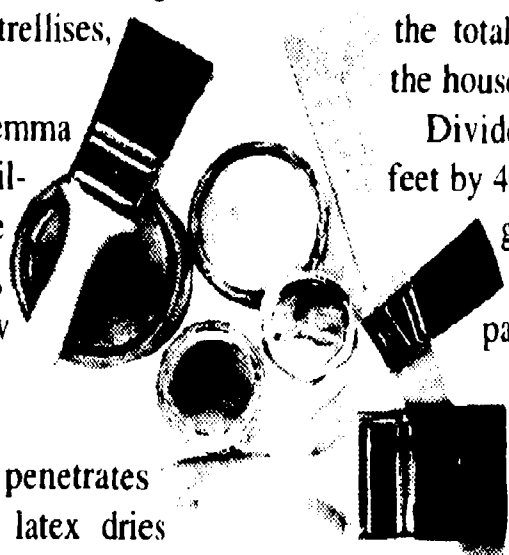
Where do you start? All exterior paint jobs should begin with the gables. From there, move to the siding, painting from top to bottom. You'll want to paint win-

dows next. Using a sash brush, paint upper windows first so that you won't need to lean a ladder against fresh paint.

After that, paint trim work and then doors. Some additional pieces of advice for painting an exterior:

- Always paint away from the sun, and never in temperatures below 50 degrees
- Paint the underside of each siding slat before painting the face
- Don't close a painted door until it's completely dry
- Always work from unpainted to painted areas
- When positioning a ladder, one-fourth of its length should be away from the house at ground level

And when you're finished, stand back by the curb and admire your work of art.



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(NAPSA)-Today's homeowners demand more from their homes' electrical systems. Whether consumers are planning on building a new home or are making upgrades to an existing one, they are all expressing the need to accommodate more and more electronic equipment/conveniences in their homes. In order to do this, changes or upgrades need to be made to the home's electrical wiring system.

To meet this demand, one manufacturer has developed a complete line of luxury electrical products. Not only do these products make homes look better, they make homes work better by incorporating such key benefits as safety, convenience,

increased aesthetics and energy efficiency.

In terms of safety, a home video monitoring system allows parents to check in on the baby in the crib or children playing outside in the yard. When a camera is installed at the front door, it's easy to see who's there from any networked TV in the house.

Other luxury electrical devices that increase safety are tamper-resistant outlets for children's rooms, pathway lighting for stairways and halls, 911 Locator switches that cause outdoor lights to flash on and off continuously-helping emergency personnel quickly locate your residence, and the momentary-contact disposal switch,

which must be held in the "on" position for operation, eliminating accidental injury.

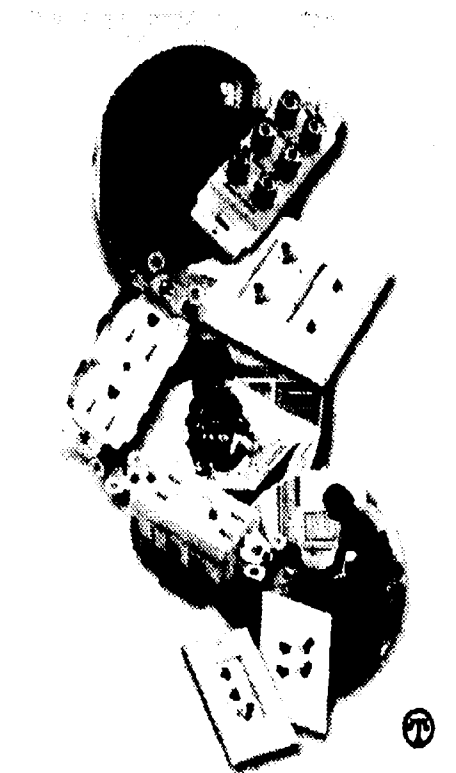
Properly setting up a home office, complete with phone, fax and Internet links is now easier than ever. Homeowners can link multiple computers and peripherals such as scanners and printers, and quickly reassign phone lines to different locations throughout the house if necessary. Also available are in-floor receptacles to power desktop devices, which also add to convenience.

Sophisticated styling makes Pass & Seymour/Legrand's devices pleasing to look at and a pleasure to operate. They are designed to fit every decor, every application-and many

save energy while doing so. For example, motion-activated switches automatically turn lights on and/or off. Dimmers allow adjustment of lighting levels to complement the mood while saving energy. Wall box timers, with energy-saving time delay/off settings, feature whisper-quiet operation as well as attractive aesthetics. Luxury electrical brings an impressive array of practical benefits to anyone's home. Compared to the cost of other luxuries, it is relatively inexpensive and represents a remarkable value.

Lastly, luxury electrical provides homeowners maximum home resale value.

For more information about Pass & Seymour/Legrand lux-



ry electrical products, visit the Web site at www.passandseymour.com.

Luxury electrical products make homes more energy-efficient-and more stylish.

Put Safety And Security First In The Garage

"Recent advances in our garage door opener designs can help homeowners make their garages easier to access and also a safer environment,"

(NAPSA)-Most people don't realize the importance of the garage door opener in their daily lives. The garage is most often the main access point into the house, serving as the "first foot" into your home as well as the "last foot" out. It also serves as a storage area for cars, lawn mowers,

tools, toys and a variety of household products.

"Recent advances in our garage door opener designs can help homeowners make their garages easier to access and also a safer environment," says Sally Anderson, Vice President, Marketing

Communications for The Chamberlain Group, Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of garage door openers and access control products. "Chamberlain's top priority is to continually look for ways to make our products safer for homeowners worldwide."

For instance, the company's Protector System projects an invisible light beam across the garage door opening. Anything obstructing the beam automatically prevents the garage door from closing, by reversing the door while it's going down. This safety feature is particularly important for families with children or pets.

High-tech criminals who gain access by electronically "steal-

ing" an opener's access code can be out-smarted by a Security+ Remote Control with rolling code technology that changes the access code every time the control is used.

With every push of the button, the code automatically rolls over to any one of over 100 billion codes, never to be repeated.

Anderson cites an exclusive Motion-Detecting Control Panel as the firm's latest safety innovation. "Motion-detecting sensors in the control panel 'see' you when you enter the garage.

The opener lights automatically turn on hands-free, and stay on for five minutes, eliminating the frustration of fumbling around for the light switch, or the hazards of walking through a dark garage."

In addition to creating safe products, Chamberlain has created a coloring book designed to teach kids important garage safety tips in a fun, friendly way.



With the help of a playful character named "Tom Cat," kids can have fun coloring the "Tom Cat Discovers Garage Door Opener Safety" book as they learn a variety of garage safety tips.

For a free copy of the "Tom Cat" coloring book, call 877-LIFT MASTER or visit www.lift-master.com to download the coloring book, browse

The Chamberlain Groups family of products or find the nearest retailer or professional installing dealer.

Easy Tip For Saving Energy

The right light bulbs can be up to 75 percent more energy efficient. If half of all U.S. households replace just five of their existing incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star qualified bulbs, the U.S. would save enough energy to light the nation's Capitol for 95 years.

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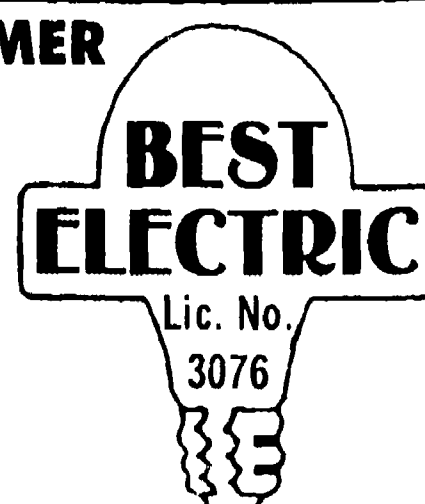
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Lessons In Sunroom Design

(IHIT)-When it comes to room expansions, homeowners are doing their homework, and sunrooms are making the grade.

Sunrooms and solariums are rooms constructed primarily of glass that can create a light-filled home in any climate. These sun-drenched rooms come in many shapes and styles from simple screened enclosures for use during nice weather to insulated sunrooms for year-round use. Sunrooms are an excellent way to expand a home because they not only make the home larger, but also add great value.

If you are thinking about adding a sunroom, here are some 'lessons' to follow for success:

Lesson One: Select the type of

sunroom that best fits your lifestyle. Screened Enclosures let you enjoy the benefits of nature at the most affordable price. Depending on the climate in which you live, screened enclosures can offer extended periods of use. In warmer climates, use them all year for protection from insects, rain and harsh sunrays. In cooler climates, screened enclosures are ideal for spring through late summer.

Seasonal Rooms are constructed with single pane glass windows and screens that can be full-length or built at a knee-wall, to give a more closed-in feel.

While not designed to be heated or air conditioned, natural ventilation, window blinds and

shades add comfort and extend seasonality. For example, in northern climates, seasonal rooms can be generally used during early spring through late fall—when the weather is ideal. In southern climates, however, a seasonal room can often be used year-round.

Year-round Enclosures use insulated glass and can be heated or air-conditioned for year-round use in accordance with local building codes. These, too, can have full-length glass or be constructed with a knee-wall. Solariums are a unique option for the homeowner who desires a panoramic view of their surroundings. These insulated enclosures give the feel of an all-glass room and are constructed with a curved

or straight-eve roof. **Lesson Two:** Consider the room's use. If you simply want an outdoor retreat during nice weather, a screened porch or seasonal room might be right for you.

If you are looking for an expanded family room, kitchen, exercise room or home office to use year-round, select a solarium or insulated enclosure.

Today's higher quality sunrooms come with in-wall wiring as an option, so they can fit nearly any use. For maximum efficiency and privacy, many experts recommend separating the sunroom from the home with a door.

Lesson Three: Consider the room's view. Full-length glass gives homeowners the best view

of nature while knee-walls offer some privacy. Also think about the room's sun exposure. Sun-exposed rooms will require a shading system where rooms facing wooded lots can often be left completely natural.

Lesson Four: Fit the sunroom into your current home structure. There's nothing worse than a room addition that looks like an add-on. Have the company design a room that blends with your home's character, and its natural roofline. This will require a custom manufacturer.

Lesson Five: Aluminum vs. vinyl. Both are practical, economical, energy-efficient and made to last. Base your decision on what looks best with your home.

What Standards To Look For In A Home Inspection?

(HIT)-As if considerations of location, price and the number of bedrooms were not enough of a challenge for homebuyers, consumers are increasingly demanding quality information when the choosing the professionals who will inspect and represent the less obvious aspects of home buying.

Confused about home inspection standards and regulations in your state? You're not alone.

Among a group of a dozen proactive states currently regulating home inspectors, all twelve have adopted formal guidelines that reflect increasing levels of concern among regulators. It makes good sense for homeowners to access these guidelines and become a good deal more informed in the area of standards and regulations.

In Connecticut, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin, licensing officials have addressed such consumer confidence issues as: (1) written pre-inspection agreements between the inspector and consumer; (2) the number and kind of components to be inspected in an individual residence; (3) actual reporting requirements; and (4) the insurability of inspection process. The result for many informed homeowners will be written agreements establishing in advance the inspector's scope, and a substantially more detailed inspection

report which can contribute positively to the prospective homeowner's peace of mind.

One organization that routinely practices and teaches a code of strict standards is the Home Inspection Institute of America, Inc., headquartered in Wallingford, CT. The Institute's published "Standard Of Care For The Home Inspection Profession" requires, "where accessible, the inspector shall visually inspect and report on the various components.

According to David Hetzel, founder and president of the 13 year old Institute, "It's not enough for the consumer to just look at things. They need to know, in writing, about the conditions the inspector observed - whether they be good, bad, or whatever."

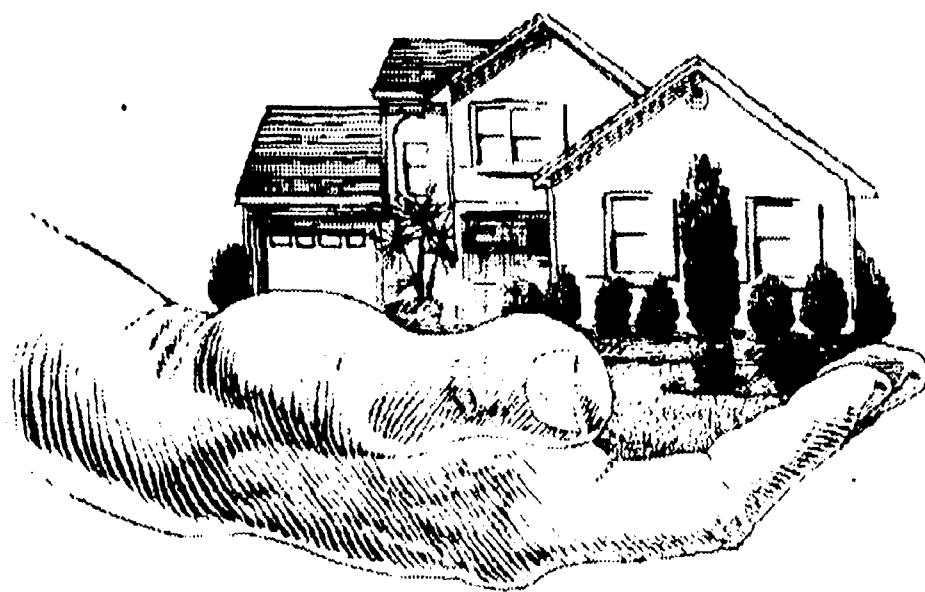
"Supporting this strict position, favorable professional liability insurance premiums have been available for home inspectors who adhere to the "Standard Of Care For The Home Inspection Profession" because of the decreased number of claims," says Hetzel.

"The single most important

aspect of the consumer-inspector relationship," Hetzel continues, "Is the requirement that the inspector provide a pre-inspection agreement spelling out just what the consumer will and will-not receive as a result of the inspection. This agreement needs to be executed by both parties before the inspection."

With Internet access you may visit the institute's handy website: www.inspecthomes.org to view or print your own copy of the "Standard Of Care For The Home Inspection Profession". Links are available for quick access to individual states that offer online regulations for home inspectors.

"Homeowners don't often get a second chance when negotiat-



ing the tremendous investments required to purchase and sell today's homes. A little comparison can go a long way in protecting the parties from undisclosed problems resulting from minimal inspection requirements," Hetzel concludes.

The Home Inspection Institute is located at 314 Main Street, Yalesville, CT 06492, phone 1-203-284-2311.

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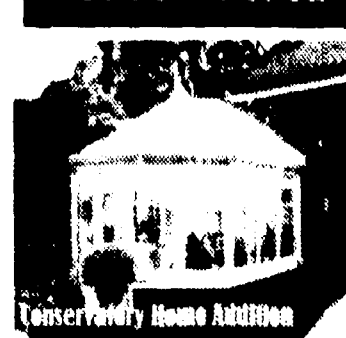
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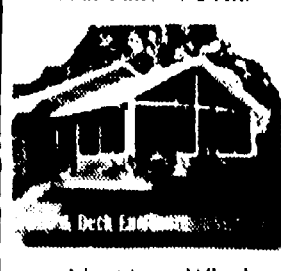
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Aldo Is Your Total Flooring Connection...

For over a quarter of a century, Aldo Carpets has been helping retail and commercial builders bring rooms to life with their incredible selection of brand name products. But products alone are not the only measure of success for a total flooring provider – customer satisfaction has to exceed expectations in today's competitive business environment.

Owned and managed by the Benavides family with showrooms in Carteret and Bayonne, NJ, Albert and his brother Aldo continue to offer their customers unprecedented, hassle-free services, backed-up by a total customer satisfaction program.

Purchasing a beautiful floor for your home or business has to be right, feel good and be installed by professionals who know their trade and treat every floor they install like it were their own.

After all, the floor sets the stage on which you live and work, creating the mood and style you want. That's why the right flooring – from luxurious carpet to dramatic ceramic tile, maintenance-free vinyl, elegant hardwood or durable laminates – is such an

important choice. The flooring properly frames every piece of furniture and helps tie all the decorative elements together into one pleasing interior design.

As part of their unique customer services, Aldo will get what you want, if it's not in stock. But they maintain a full range of flooring grades, in a rainbow of today's colors for the most demanding buyer. And speaking of color, experienced design consultants will help you make those decisions with a state-of-the-art design center to help customers visualize flooring, as well as window treatments, using the latest computerized technology.

Aldo brings technology to flooring

Technology is now part of the carpet buying process in the new, state-of-the-art redesign of Aldo Carpets' 5,000 square foot showroom in Carteret. Two computers, a staff of interior designers and new types of product displays were put into place to simplify the process for customers, according to Aldo Benavides, Jr., customer service manager.

"Many people have diffi-

culty choosing what will work in their home," said Aldo. "It's hard to visualize a whole room by looking at a small sample of flooring. Therefore, we searched for the technology that could help them make more informed decisions."

Aldo explained that with the computer, customers can indicate the specifics of the room: dark or light furniture, room dimensions, number of windows and doors, etc. The program automatically provided a range of colors and flooring options that will work. Another program will even specify the placement and number of seams that will appear in the floor.

Customers then review the extra large samples, displayed and sorted by budget. If they need extra help, there are decorators available.

"It eliminates the doubt," said Aldo who encourages his customers to take home the computer printouts and look at them in the room they're decorating. "You can go home with three or four sure-shot options and know they're going to look good."

The new showroom also includes window treatments

to match the flooring samples. The next step for Aldo Carpets will be to develop a commercial showroom with similar technology for architects and builders.

The Beginning...

All great companies had to start somewhere. In 1972, when Aldo and Maria Benavides opened the first retail outlet, one thing was clear. Only the best quality flooring would be sold. The Aldo Carpet's name had to become synonymous with quality.

The Benavides family started with flooring, but didn't stop there. They added related products such as wallpaper and furniture, as well as savvy design advice from the leading area decorators. In 1976, Aldo Carpets expanded with a design center specializing in room décor.

By the late 1970s, Aldo Carpets was already well known by both contractors and homebuyers in the New York / New Jersey metropolitan area. Aldo was earning a solid reputation and fast becoming recognized by the major home and commercial builders. Soon, the company was setting up strategic

alliances to provide for their flooring needs.

In 1977, the Benavides family initiated a formalized Builders Program, one of the finest in the industry, and became the preferred supplier for K. Hovnanian and other major builders throughout New Jersey. Aldo was now a resource for large volume purchasing, enabling its business customers to save substantial amounts of money as well as purchase quality product. As a result, the builder business grew so much that in 1996, the company opened a 30,000 square foot warehouse and a state-of-the-art 5,000 square foot showroom, to accommodate this new customer base.

Today, Aldo is a total flooring contractor, and home and office design specialist. It is an innovative flooring resource for retail customers, builders, and commercial construction with value-priced products of the highest quality, and an unwavering commitment to its customers. It's no wonder that Aldo is a preferred supplier for residential home and commercial builders and residents of the New York / New Jersey Metropolitan area.

Whether It's Beige Or Bold, Consumers Want Durability Underfoot

(NAPSA)-Does your carpet look like what is in your neighbors' home? According to a

recent survey by Yankelovich Partners, almost 40 percent of Americans have beige or neu-

tral carpet in their homes, most likely because of the belief that these light-brown variations will fit any décor or color scheme.

Colors such as darker-brown, blue or a multicolored carpet were the second most common used in American interiors, while remaining homeowners did not have carpet at all.

Research also revealed that, if you're like 17 percent of America, you look for durabil-

ity first when making your carpet selection. That means durability is as important as fashion, style and color are in carpet selections and purchases.

Durability is an intrinsic value with all DuPont™ Stainmaster® carpet, allowing carpet shoppers to broaden their "design" horizon and focus on fashion with a variety of colors, patterns and textures.

In fact, DuPont™

Stainmaster® offers more than 900 elegant styles to fit any home interior. If you're a homeowner who prefers neutral colors to reflect your own taste, there are hundreds of carpet styles in neutrals alone, such as loop and patterned carpet. With so many choices it's easy to beautifully celebrate your own personal style (and maybe even make your neighbors a bit jealous, too!)

For your next carpet purchase-whether it's beige or something bolder-choose today's most recognized carpet brand.

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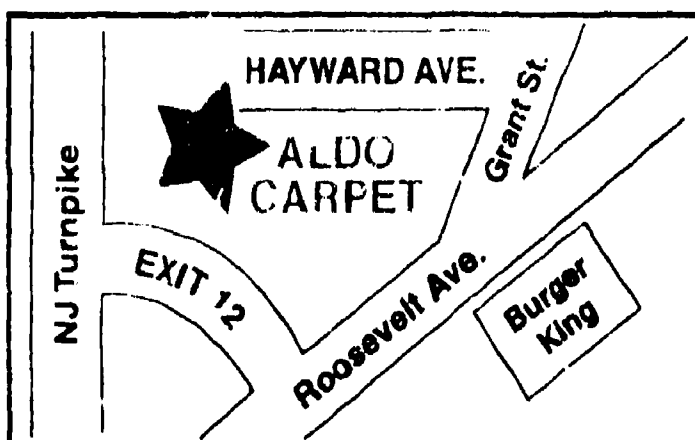
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35 Hayward Avenue, Carteret, NJ 07008, (888) 265-2536. Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 12. After you pay the toll, proceed to the light. Make a left hand turn onto Roosevelt Avenue. Go approximately 3 blocks and at the Burger King, make a left onto Grant Avenue. Go one block and make a left onto Hayward. We are the last building on the left hand side.

Store Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am to 6pm Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 8pm Saturday, 10am to 5pm Closed Sunday

Make Your Home Cozy And Cut Energy Costs

(NUI) - Did you know your home heating and cooling system holds the key to making your home more comfortable while you cut your home energy costs? Try these ideas and see how much money you can save on your energy expenses:

1. Better windows provide better insulation. Install storm windows over single-pane windows, or replace them with double-pane windows for double the insulation of single-pane windows. This also reduces drafts, water condensation and frost formation.
2. Draperies and shades can cut your costs. During the winter, open the draperies on your south-facing windows during the day and close them at night. This allows the warming sunlight to enter your home during the day and keeps the cold night air out. In the summer, close them in the daytime and open them at night.
3. Insulate ducts. When heated air leaks out of ducts and into unheated spaces, it wastes energy and money. By insulating ducts in unconditioned spaces, you can cut your heating bill. If you are buying a new duct system, ask your contractor about ducts with the insulation already installed.
4. Choose the best system for your climate. If you live in a warm climate, choose a heat pump. It is the most efficient form of electric heating - three times as efficient as electric resistance heating. If you live in a cold climate, choose a gas furnace if natural gas is available in your area.
5. Wash your windows. By keeping all south-facing windows clean during the winter months, you allow more heat to enter your home.
6. Keep your system clean. Clean warm-air registers to allow your heating and cooling system to work with less strain. An easy-running unit uses less electricity in the summer and less gas in the winter.
7. Consider an ultra-high-efficiency furnace. If you are in the market for a new furnace, ask your heating contractor about an ultra-high-efficiency gas furnace such as the Heil QuietComfort line of efficient gas furnaces, which have an annual fuel utilization efficiency rating above 90 percent.

For more energy-saving ideas, see the Heil Home Comfort Tip of the Day at www.heil-hvac.com. To find a home comfort contractor near you, check out the dealer locator at the Heil Web site.

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Faux-Finish Painting Adds Decorator Look

By Bob Vila

(NUI) - Faux finishes can turn boring interior paint jobs into dramatic decorating statements. But many homeowners shy away from faux-finish painting because they feel such techniques are too difficult or costly.

Today, anyone who can paint a wall can achieve professional-looking faux finishes easily and inexpensively. Sears Easy Living, for example, has developed a faux-finishes program that encourages do-it-yourselfers to experiment without the fear of making mistakes.

The faux finishes program offers more than 125 color combinations using four basic techniques. Color cards show the techniques applied, materials needed and steps to accomplish the project. The four faux finishing techniques are sponging, dragging, rag rolling and color washing.

Sponging requires a sea sponge to apply two or three accents over a base coat. Effects can range from casual to elegant.



Dragging creates the look and texture of fabric or wallpaper using a specially designed, layered nylon brush.

This faux finish is particularly attractive as an accent above or below chair rail moldings in formal settings, such as living or dining rooms. A semi-gloss base coat is recommended.

Rag rolling uses a rag-rolling roller cover to apply accent colors over a base coat. This special tool replaces the messy job of rolling paint-soaked rags by hand.

In color washing, a layered

nylon brush or four-inch roller is used to apply accent colors over a base coat in a criss-crossing pattern. This technique provides a soft, textured look.

The Easy Living faux finishes program includes clear tintable glaze, as well as gold, silver and pearlescent accents for shimmering metallic effects. Besides the tools and applicators described in the four techniques above, such items as lint-free rags, chamois cloth, plastic bags, and combing or graining tools can be used.

So if you're tired of just painting your home's interior, make a decorating statement with today's easy-to-apply faux finishes.

Bob Vila, who is celebrating 21 years in television, is the producer and host of "Bob Vila's Home Again," sponsored by Sears. He is a spokesperson for Craftsman tools and appears regularly on CBS "The Early Show."

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Choosing A New Front Door: Get Some Curb Appeal

(NUI) - Your front door is the opening statement for your home. It not only fulfills practical needs such as security, insulation and durability, but also provides visitors with a lasting impression of your taste and lifestyle.

But with so many options available, how do you choose a new front door?

Here's some good advice from the experts: Since first impressions mean so much, think about what your home should convey about your style.

Do you want to present contemporary flair or traditional

charm? Do you like a grand and formal look, or one that's more relaxed and "cozy"?

Whatever style suits you best, there's a perfect wood door for your home.

Wood panel doors complement many different homes. You can add elegant charm to a country home with a Morgan wood panel door, especially one with beveled glass and brass details.

Contemporary homes often have bold, clean lines that are best paired with simple, uncluttered doors.

If this is your case, consider a Bend Door Co. entry door

with a full-length glass insert to achieve a Frank Lloyd Wright flavor. If your home suffers from a bleak facade, give it a facelift by including sidelights or a transom when you upgrade your door.

These elements emphasize your home's structural proportions and add ambient light and elegance to your foyer.

Whatever choices you make, remember that it's true what they say: first impressions do last the longest. Make sure your front door makes an impression that is both appealing and memorable.

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Energy Facts

Ninety-nine percent of the natural gas consumed in the United States comes from North America, with 88 percent coming from the lower-48 states.

Chain Saws Make the Cut as Outdoor Work-Savers

by Bob Vila



(NUI) - There's nothing like the aroma of wood burning in a fireplace. And a chain saw is an indispensable, work-saving tool if you're planning to cut firewood, fell trees or clear brush on your property.

Chain saws come in both electric- and gas-powered models to handle a variety of outdoor projects. Electric saws are lighter weight and intended for lighter-duty chores, such as pruning and felling small trees. Because of their cords, electric saws must be used within 100 feet of an electrical outlet. Gas-powered saws provide added mobility and more power for bigger jobs.

Saws with longer guide bars provide a wider diameter of cut. Craftsman chain saws, for example, range from electric and gas-powered models with 14-inch bars, up to gas-powered models with 20-inch bars. More powerful chain saws cut faster and more efficiently. Power output is measured by cubic centimeters (cc.) of engine displacement in gas-powered saws and by amperes in electric saws.

There are several key safety and convenience features you should consider when selecting a chain saw. For example, a chain brake is now a standard feature on all Craftsman gas chain saws.

The inertia-activated brake automatically stops the chain from turning if the saw suddenly kicks back toward the operator. It also can be actuated manually by pushing the brake lever forward.

A new tool-less chain-tensioning device on selected Craftsman saws eliminates the need to

loosen and re-tighten bar lug nuts when adjusting chain tension. With the power off, the operator simply flips up a tensioning handle from its recessed position and turns it counter-clockwise to release pressure on an internal spring. Holding the tip of the bar upward, the handle is then turned clockwise as far as possible to properly adjust chain tension. The flip-up handle is returned to its recessed position, and the saw is ready to cut again. You should check chain tension before each use and adjust it as needed.

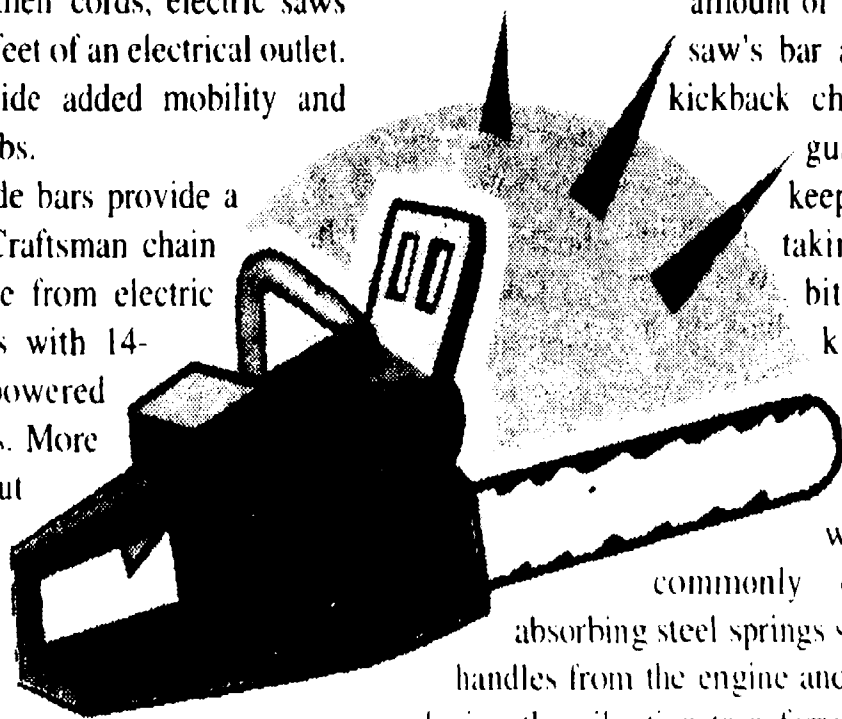
Other important features include a metered bar and chain oiling system that distributes the correct amount of lubrication to the saw's bar and chain. Low-kickback chains have extra guard links that keep the cutters from taking too large a bite. Also, low-kickback bars have narrow tips, limiting the contact area where kickback commonly occurs. Shock-absorbing steel springs separate the tool's handles from the engine and cutting bar, thus reducing the vibration transferred to the user and minimizing fatigue.

When using a chain saw, it's smart to wear long pants and chaps, a long-sleeved shirt, non-slip gloves, work boots, ear protection and safety eye-wear.

Bob Vila, who is celebrating 22 years in television, is the producer and host of "Bob Vila's Home Again," sponsored by Sears.

He is a spokesperson for Craftsman tools and appears regularly on CBS "The Early Show."

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How to Tell If Your Roof Survived Winter

(NUI) - Winter months can be cruel to your roof. Your roof is possibly the most critical element that protects your home. If your roof fails, it can cause great expense, significant damage and waste your time. So, now that the weather is better, it's a good idea to perform a quick checkup - to insure that your home is protected.

Leaking roof systems can result from several sources. The most common leak sources include cracks in flashing around the chimney and vents, worn out or missing shingles, or condensation from inadequate attic ventilation.

Here are some suggested warning signals - that your roof system may be wasting money and leaving your property vulnerable - that you can identify yourself, according to Dave Harrison, vice president of GAF Materials Corporation, North America's largest roofing system manufacturer:

1. Ceiling spots. A warning sign that your roof system needs leak repair.
2. Missing shingles. These should be replaced quickly to avoid structural damage to your roof deck and the interior of your home.
3. Cracked flashing. Should always be replaced.
4. Buckled or curled shingles. Indicate old age or a

problem with the shingle underlayment (i.e., the felts underneath the shingles).

5. Blistered shingles. Typically occurs due to inadequate roof ventilation or application over a wet deck.

6. Granules in the gutter. If excessive they may indicate aging shingles that should be replaced.

7. Peeling of interior or exterior paint/wallpaper. A sign of possibly inadequate attic ventilation.

8. Excessive energy bills. Can be a sign of inadequate attic ventilation, especially air conditioning in the summer.

If you have issues with your roof system, consider utilizing the services of a professional roofing contractor. Most people think roofing is simple and are therefore willing to hire "fly-by-nighters" to perform their roofing services.

This probably is why roofing is one of the top reasons of complaint calls to the Better Business Bureau. Consider checking the Web site www.gaf.com. It contains a great deal of information about roofing problems and solutions, as well as the names of Master roofing contractors located in almost every area of the United States.

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Replace That Leaky Faucet And Sleep Better at Night

Installing a new faucet is a simple, do-it-yourself job.

(NUI) - Have you ever been kept awake at night by the sound of a dripping faucet? You may have figured it was easier to put up with the annoyance than to go to the trouble of trying to fix it. As it turns out, however, installing a new faucet is actually a simple, do-it-yourself job.

There was a time when replacing a faulty faucet was a troublesome and time consuming task. According to Peerless Faucet Company, installing a new faucet these days is an easy three step process. It's just a matter of removing the old faucet, fitting the new faucet through the sink base and connecting the water line.

With today's state of the art kitchen faucets, there are enough finish and handle options to please any style conscious do-it-yourselfer.

Faucets are designed to compliment virtually any kitchen or bath decor, from sleek contemporary to classic traditional. Modern styling incorporates smoother lines and stylishly rounded edges that reduce water spotting and are easier to keep clean.

If you prefer the convenience of a pull-out spray kitchen faucet, Peerless offers a model that is fully assembled at the factory, which means that the

sprayer hose is already connected to the faucet. This eliminates the time consuming task of attaching the hose in the tight area under the sink.

For a worry free home improvement project that is easy, worthwhile and surprisingly inexpensive, you can't go wrong by installing a new faucet. You not only create a decorative addition to your home, but a quiet one, too.

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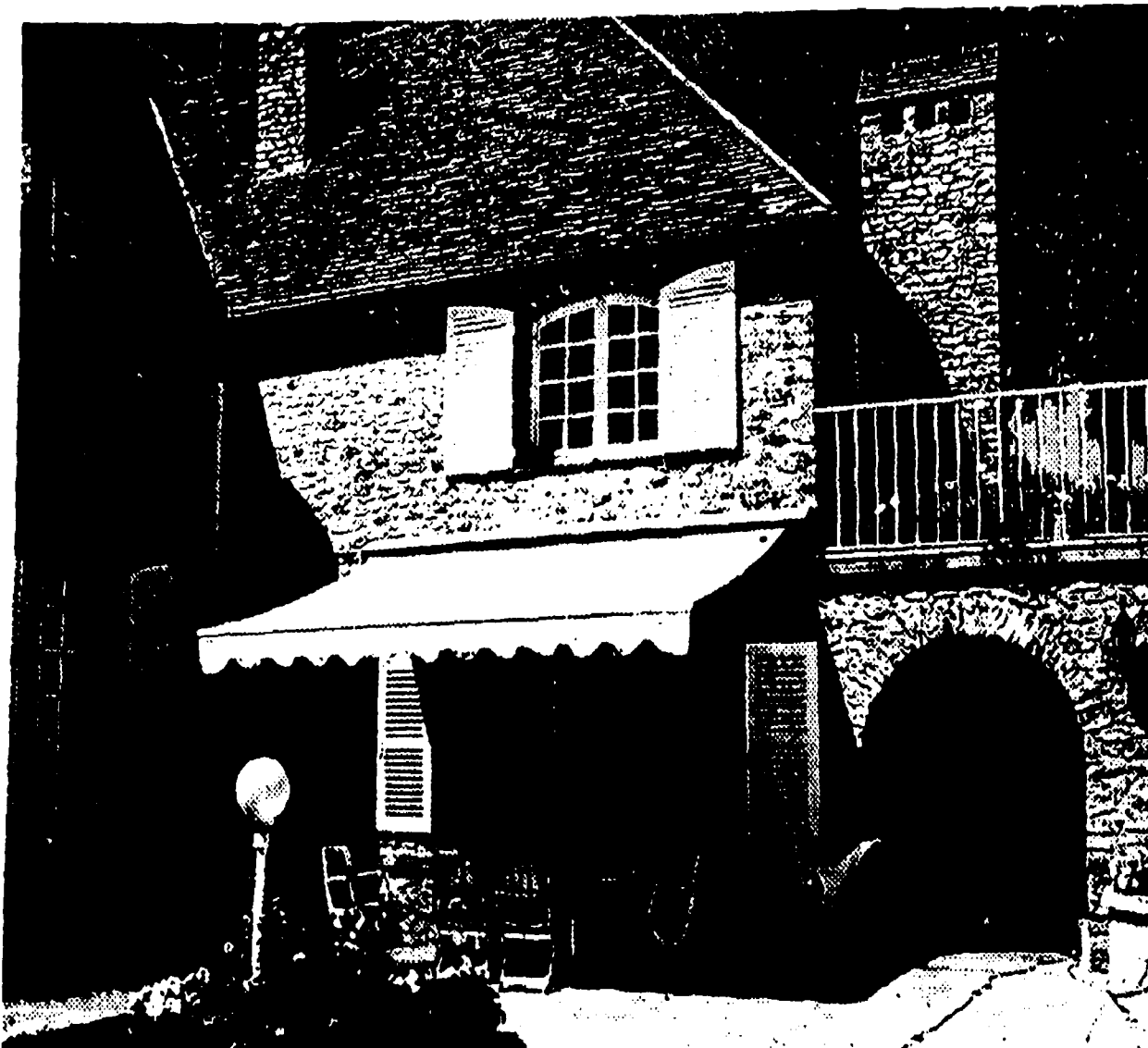
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DeckShade™ Awnings will not block your view like mini-blinds or shades...and although unwanted glare is blocked, most of the available day light will come into your home.

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All of the metal frame parts are constructed of corrosion resistant materials that offer virtually maintenance-free operation and with the addition of an optional motor, your awning becomes the perfect, easy-to-use shading device for your deck or patio.

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Protecting Your Valuables From Fire And Theft

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Making Sure A House Doesn't Become A Money Pit

(NAPSA)-Theft and fire are two of a homeowner's greatest fears. Insurance provides some protection, but what about those things that money can't replace?

One practical solution is a wall safe that can be easily hidden, yet is readily accessible. Choices range from small security safes, about the size of a medicine cabinet, to larger fire safes that offer dual protection.

Installing a large wall safe is best left to a construction professional. However, safes that are no more than 14½ inches wide and eight inches deep can be easily installed by the do-it-yourselfer. Here's how:

1. Select a convenient location where you won't encounter electrical wires or plumbing. If the safe is deeper than four inches, it will protrude through the wall behind it, so choose a spot that is backed by a closet.

2. Using a stud finder, such as the Zircon StudSensor™ SL, locate and mark the placement of two adjacent wall studs, generally about 14½ inches apart from edge to edge.

3. Position the opening template that comes with the safe between the wall

studs so the top shelf inside the safe is at eye level. If the safe is narrower than the space between the studs, position the template flush with one stud.

4. With a utility knife or key hole saw, cut the opening.

5. If the safe opening is smaller than the space between studs, nail plywood or 2 x 4 shims to the far stud so the surface is even with the opening edge.

6. If the safe will protrude through the back wall, use a level to mark a straight line across the wall studs from each corner of the opening to the back wall. Because this is a low-light situation with awkward visibility, the Zircon VideoLevel™, with audio level indicator, is a good choice for this job. Caution: If the safe protrudes more than four inches through the back wall, additional support may be necessary; consult a construction professional.

7. Carefully poke a hole through the back wall in each of the four corners with an awl or ice pick.

8. On the other side of the wall, connect the corner holes and cut the wall. Add shims if necessary. (See step #5.)

9. Insert the safe and anchor to the studs per the manufacturer's instructions.



10. Hang a picture or other object over the safe to obscure it from view.

For more information about Zircon's stud finders, electronic levels and other cutting-edge electronic hand tools, visit the website at www.zircon.com or call toll-free at 800-245-9265.

Finding the studs behind your walls is the essential first step when installing a wall safe.

(NAPSA)-When searching for ways to save money on home repairs, many of the savviest homeowners start at the top.

The Better Business Bureau has ranked roofing as one of the top five areas for prevention of problems or costly repairs faced by consumers. Fortunately, experience shows that some careful investigation and education on your part can help avoid long-term roofing problems.

To start, more than nine out of 10 homes have inadequate attic ventilation. This not only takes years off the life of your shingles, but also causes problems to the interior of your home. An improperly ventilated roof can result in such needed maintenance as premature peeling paint and wallpaper, higher utility bills and additional wear and tear on heating and cooling systems.

To make sure your roof continues to look appealing and protect your home, it's a good idea to work with a professional. Before hiring a contractor, however, check references and ask questions to make sure you're dealing with a reputable firm.

Similarly, homeowners want to be sure they're getting complete roofing systems, including roof deck protection, leak barriers, quality shingles and attic ventilation—all backed by a manufacturer's warranty. Remember, too, that a warranty is only as good as the manufacturer that stands behind it.

For example, GAF Materials Corporation, North America's largest roofing manufacturer—a company in business for more than 100 years—offers a comprehensive warranty called the Golden Pledge. This warranty covers not only defects in materials, but also errors in workmanship—which are responsible for roughly two-thirds of all problems with new roofs.

Want to Lower Your Utility Bills? It May Be Time to "Retire" Your Old Appliances

(NAPSA)-There are simple steps that consumers can take to make their homes more energy efficient. One way to do this is to "retire" older appliances and replace them with energy-efficient models. In fact, a typical household can cut its utility bills by 30 percent simply by using Energy Star appliances (www.energy-star.gov/cutyourcosts).

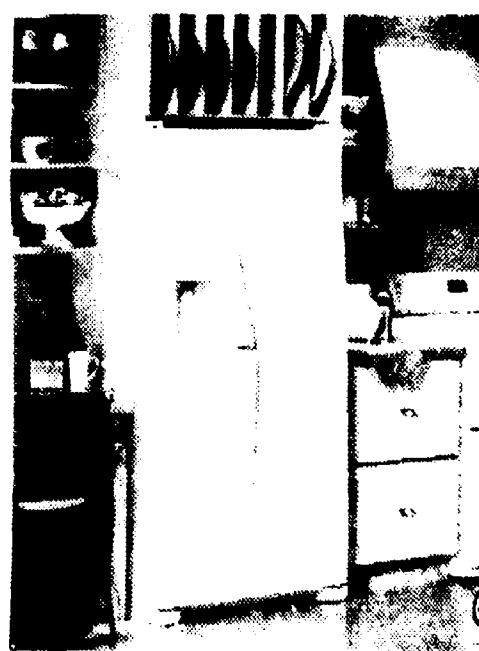
To determine whether an appliance is Energy Star-rated, just look for the Energy Star label, which clearly identifies the most energy efficient appliances in the market. For instance, Energy Star-rated refrigerators must use at least 10 percent less energy than other new refrigerators. In more practical terms, an Energy Star-qualified refrigerator uses less than half the energy of a 10-year-old model. So, if your refrigerator is 10 years old or older, it's probably time to replace it with an energy-efficient model.

These newer models help conserve energy through engineering improvements such as better insulation, new refrigerants and more efficient compressors. As a result, consumers can save approximately \$30 to \$40 annually, more if you have high-energy costs. (Based on the Department

of Energy test method with average electrical rates and annual kWh usage for a 10-year-old refrigerator. Your savings will vary depending on rates and model replaced.)

And don't let common misperceptions, like "buying an energy efficient model means I sacrifice the features that I want," prevent you from purchasing an energy efficient appliance. Maytag manufactures numerous Energy Star appliances, including refrigerators, clothes washers and dishwashers, that incorporate the innovations needed to meet today's demanding lifestyles. Over their lifetimes, these products may even pay for themselves.

Take a closer look at refrigerators. While your existing refrigerator uses the most energy of any appliance in the home, Maytag now produces Energy Star quali-



fied refrigerators that use less electricity than a 75-watt light bulb left on all year. And Energy Star refrigerators can come in a variety of styles (top-mount, side-by-side) and offer numerous features (ice dispensers, crisper drawers with humidity controls).

Even Maytag's newest refrigerator—the Wide-By-Side® refrigerator—is Energy Star rated. Not only does this model boast the widest available refrigerator and

freezer space in a traditional side-by-side refrigerator; it also has Maytag's Dual Cool® freshness design and an Elevator® shelf, built to accommodate tall items.

But if you're thinking about putting that old, energy hogging refrigerator in the garage, think again. Based on replacing a 1972-vintage refrigerator with one that meets the new energy efficiency standards, it may cost you as much as \$120 per year to operate! (www.eren.doe.gov)

In the end, "retiring" your refrigerator not only improves your lifestyle, it saves money and our natural resources.

For more information about energy-efficient appliances, call 1-800-688-9900 or log on to www.maytag.com to purchase an appliance online.

Over their lifetimes, energy-efficient appliances may pay for themselves.

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Search & Destroy:

How To Rid Your Home Of Rodents

(NAPSA)-Is there a mouse in your house? Have you've seen rodent droppings, heard scampering sounds, or recognized signs of recent gnawing? These are all good indications that you have a rodent problem. The question then becomes, what do you do about it? According to Richard Poche, rodent control expert

for the maker of d-Con® rodenticides, the keys to rodent control and elimination are early detection and prompt action.

"Once you've established that there are rodents in your home and have pinpointed possible sources and entry points, the next step is to select the proper rodent control products," says Poche. "Cats, contrary to popular belief, are not the most effective means of ridding your home of rodents. The two most commonly used, and most effective, rodenticide products are baits and traps." Use baits in low human traffic areas such as basements, garages and attics. Baits are an ideal way to avoid contact with rodents because once they've eaten the bait, they leave the area to die.

Multiple baiting is a good rodent control strategy since mice are nibblers by nature and may visit various sites to eat. Check the baits every few days to discard wet, dirty or contaminated bait, replacing what has been consumed. If a large amount of bait has been consumed, indicating a significant rodent population, set out larger portions. Also, baiting areas where there once was a rodent problem will help avoid a recurrence.

Traps are better suited in high rodent traffic areas where you can see or suspect mice. The two most commonly used traps are snap traps and glue traps. Baiting snap traps with peanut butter, nuts or cheese

makes the trap much more appealing to rodents and increases your chances of catching the critters. Check the traps periodically; if mice are not caught in 4-5 days, move the traps to a new location.

The d-con Ultra Set® Covered Mouse Trap features an easy one-touch setting mechanism, making it easy to bait, easy to set and easy to empty. The unique covered design helps you avoid having to look at or touch the dead mouse and also helps protect children, pets and your fingers from getting caught. The trap can be disposed of with the dead mouse or can be emptied, cleaned and reused time and again.

"Set baits and traps close to walls and in dark corners such as behind the stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer," states Poche. "It is also a good idea to set baits and traps simultaneously in various spots in the home to insure better control of the problem. And remember to always keep baits and traps out of the reach of children and pets."

The maker of d-CON rodenticides offers a free brochure that provides tips on spotting, controlling and preventing rodent infestation.

A copy of the brochure is available by calling 1-800-395-3266.

Without proper and prompt use of baits and traps, rodents can become a large-size problem.

Tackling Termites: Advice From The Experts

(NAPSA)-A new video is educating homeowners with prevention tips and treatment options for termite infestation. The video features experts and information from the University of Georgia's Structural Pest Control Training Center.

According to the tape, termites cost Americans approximately \$1.7 billion a year-and your home may be a target.

Most infested homes are attacked by subterranean termites. These highly social insects live in organized colonies. On average there are 13 to 14 subterranean termite colonies per acre, which means that a typical home may easily have three to four colonies situated around it.

Problems arise when homes are constructed on land that has been inhabited by termites for centuries. Termites need to feed on wood for survival and see homes as a feast in their search for the ultimate dining pleasure. Extreme destruction occurs when termites swarm, an effort that perpetuates the species, and results in

the devastation of homes. Dr. Harlan Feese, entomologist and vice president, technical services at Orkin Pest Control applauds the video: "Whether they are building a new home or evaluating their current home treatment, people should be aware of the many kinds of construction practices that perpetuate termites."

To protect your investment, turn to this video for some solid reminders that a determined termite could be eating away at your future."

The video demonstrates some of the following tips:

- Move firewood away from the home;
- Eliminate excessive moisture in and around crawl spaces;
- Investigate concrete slab construction around plumbing areas;
- Beware of the common practice of filling porches with dirt/debris; and
- Consider a bait and monitoring system in addition to barrier treatment.
- When all else fails, call your local pest control service.

The Best Defense Against Cockroaches

(NAPSA)-Learning more about our cockroach enemies may help put them in their place-and out of your home.

Of all the bugs to hate-roaches are it. They're creepy, crawly and downright disgusting. Plus it has been shown that cockroaches can aggravate allergies, trigger asthma attacks and spread disease.

When the mercury rises, roaches literally start coming out of the woodwork and infiltrating people's homes. Cockroaches are prolific breeders, capable of producing hundreds of thousands of offspring every year.

While being extra clean may discourage roaches, it won't get rid of them. A cockroach can survive for a week on the nutrients contained in the glue in a postage stamp. But there's no need to let cockroaches rule your life. There are many things you can do to help eliminate roaches in your home.

For starters:

- Get the roach baits out as soon as the weather starts getting warmer. Roach baits, such as Combat 12 Month, are a simple and effective way to get rid of roaches.
- Take the garbage out regularly
- Caulk cracks, especially around plumbing
- Rinse bathroom sinks and put away toothbrushes-roaches love

toothpaste

- Don't leave pet food or dirty dishes out overnight
 - Regularly vacuum rugs and sweep floors in or near eating areas to get rid of crumbs.
 - If the problem persists, it is probably a good time to let the experts handle the problem. Check your local newspaper for one in your area.
- Most sprays only get rid of the roaches you see. Baits, on the other hand, have the power to kill hundreds of roaches lurking behind the walls. Plus Combat 12 Month, the newest bait on the market, keeps killing roaches for up to 12 months.

To use Combat 12 Month, simply place all the baits in the box in spots where roaches are found, especially in the kitchen and bathroom. Prime roach locations include under sinks and toilets; beneath refrigerators; next to trash containers, stoves and dishwashers; and inside cabinets and storage areas. Be sure to place the Combat 12 Month baits in corners or up against edges where walls meet floors since these are paths commonly traveled by roaches. Do not spray around bait stations as it can detract roaches away from the baits. Combat 12 Month starts working overnight.

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS Free Help For Condo/Homeowner Associations

(NAPSA)-Does your condominium, cooperative or homeowner association have the specialized professional guidance it needs?



75% of Community Associations Hire Professional Management

A free consumer booklet from the Community Associations Institute (CAI), called Degrees of Excellence, provides detailed information on the experience, training, continuing education and ethics requirements for managers, attorneys and others who are experts in serving community associations.

"If you are like most Americans, buying a home is the largest investment you will make in your lifetime. To protect that investment, you should feel confident that your community association has the expert professional guidance necessary to operate and manage its assets effectively," according to the booklet.

CAI is a nonprofit association created in 1973 to educate and represent the nation's 205,000 community associations.

To receive the free booklet, you can call 703-548-8600 or visit CAI's web site at www.caionline.org.

Easy Tip For Saving Energy

Adjust your thermostat dial and turn up the savings. If you set your air conditioner thermostat at 78 degrees F while you're home and 85 degrees while you are away, it can help save you up to 20 percent in cooling costs (depending on your previous thermostat settings).

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How to Beautify Your Home With Flooring

(NUI) - As every designer knows, the most important part of a successful remodel is to reflect the style of the home-



owner. Custom looks can personalize and define a space with subtle messages that speak volumes about a home's overall design and function.

One of the largest surfaces in any home is the floor. Yet custom flooring options are often overlooked in remodeling projects because of budget constraints. But with the wide variety of patterns and styles now available, custom designed laminate floors can create the look of expensive flooring without straining the decorating budget.

"Laminate floors are designed to mix easily," said Michael Lyons, product manager for Bruce Laminate Floors. "Custom designs are relatively easy to install but can add a designer's touch that's durable and inexpensive."

Popular patterns often include designs as simple as alternating colors of wood laminate flooring for a bold striped effect, or creating a wood-toned border around areas with marble or stone patterns.

"With the variety of realistic patterns and colors on the market today, consumers can readily find a pattern and style that will work in their overall

design scheme," said Lyons. "Because flooring makes up such a large percentage of decorated space in a home, it is important for homeowners to consider special flooring treatments when remodeling a space."

Custom designed laminate floors can be used in just about any room in the home but are especially effective in entryways and great rooms. While these spaces are often difficult to define with furniture placement alone, the right border or color accent can change the flow of the space entirely.

Laminate floors are created by laminating an image layer on top of a water-resistant core material, then finishing with a tough top layer of melamine or other scratch and impact-resistant material. Because of this construction, laminate floors can be created to mimic almost any type of hard-surface flooring available. As an added benefit, with finish warranties as long as 25 years, laminate floors are durable enough to stand up to the daily wear and tear of most families.

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Gardening Tips

How to Stop Grubs Before They Kill Your Lawn

by Ashton Ritchie

(NUI) - Grubs are sneaky. There's no way to tell when they invade your lawn, because they do their dirty work underground where you can't see them.

Your lawn can look fine on top, while grubs are eating away at the roots, cutting off the supply of water and nutrients to your lawn.

The visual warning can be too late. Infested lawn areas often turn yellow and then brown after the damage is already done. In severe infestations, the sod can often be peeled back like a carpet. Unfortunately, the entire lawn may then have to be replaced.

Here is how the grub cycle works: In early spring, mature grubs awaken from hibernation and begin to work their way to the grass surface.

In late spring, these grubs change into a pupa stage before turning into beetles that later feed on roses and other shrubs and trees in your landscape.

In summer, beetles burrow into the lawn and lay eggs that will hatch into grubs.

In late summer and early fall, newly hatched grubs feed heavily on grass roots before hibernating for winter. It is during this time that young grubs do the most lawn damage as they gorge themselves prior to hibernation.

The good news is that you can kill grubs before they destroy your lawn. You can easily protect your lawn investment with a single application of Scotts GrubEx, which provides season-long protection.

The ideal application timing is May or June prior to the time when adult beetles lay eggs in your lawn. The GrubEx protection kills newly hatched grubs before they get large enough to damage your lawn.

GrubEx also clears out sod webworms, cutworms and army worms, yet it doesn't harm earthworms, which are so beneficial to your soil.

Ashton Ritchie has been a lawn care expert for The Scotts Co. for 28 years. If you have lawn care questions, call the Scotts Help Line at 1-800-543-TURF or log on to www.askashton.com.

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Design Tips for Couples Ready to Renovate

(NUI) - The nation's decorating dialogue has changed dramatically from yesteryear when an ugly, old recliner was generally at the heart of the debate. Now it's more common to find couples arguing over which countertop color they want: aubergine or sage green.

Today, it often takes two for a "re-do," and men are getting much more involved in the renovation and design process.

A new survey, conducted by Harris Interactive/Yankelovich Partners for EXPO Design Center, found that 71 percent of Americans disagree with their significant others about something when it comes to home decorating.

"The 'Yes, dear, whatever you want!' attitude is definitely on the

decline," said Alison McKenzie, a kitchen designer for EXPO in Atlanta.

Women prefer a relaxed, informal style - colors like light green, yellow and rose, weathered wood, and big, soft furniture, the survey said. Conversely, more men than women embrace a contemporary style, a color scheme dominated by white, black and beige, stainless steel appliances and fixtures, and very simple furnishings.

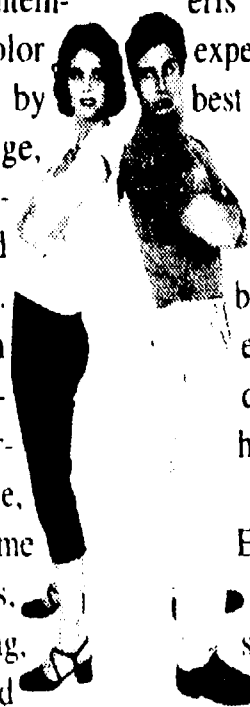
Men and women also differ in their renovation priorities, the survey found. For example, men prefer exterior home renovation projects, such as new landscaping, outdoor lighting and

grilling systems, while women choose kitchens as their highest priority. Couples say their main decorating disagreements focus on color, style and quality.

If you need to get beyond the initial argument in order to come to a collective decision, a designer's professional and neutral expertise can help you make the best choices.

When faced with a difference of opinion, sometimes a literal approach works best. In one situation, for example, a husband had a difficult time understanding his wife's choices.

Diane Lamparter, an EXPO designer in Commack, N.Y., brought samples of the products to the couple's home.



"When he saw how the marble and carpet his wife picked looked in their home, he loved the choices - it was just a matter of seeing them in his own home," Lamparter said.

But although initial arguments are common, when it comes to making the final decorating decision, the survey found 48 percent of couples say they always agree.

While women may dominate the decorating decision-making process, 66 percent of women surveyed said their husband's opinion has an influence on their decision to purchase a decorative item. And 18 percent said their decorating decisions are completely influenced by their partner's opinion.

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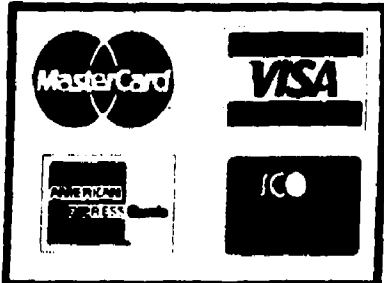
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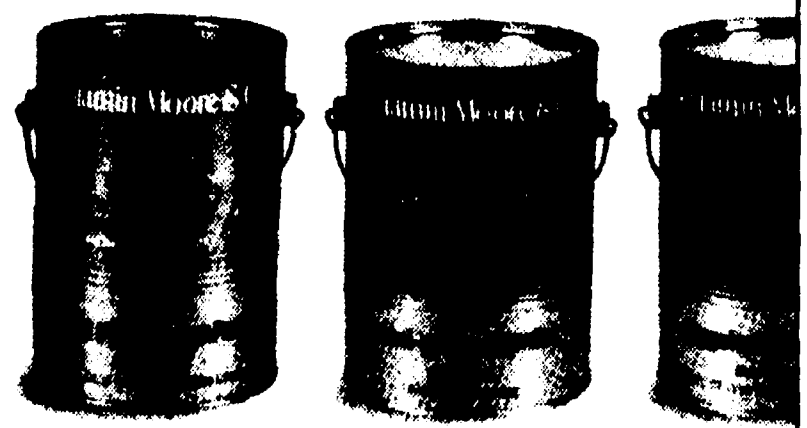


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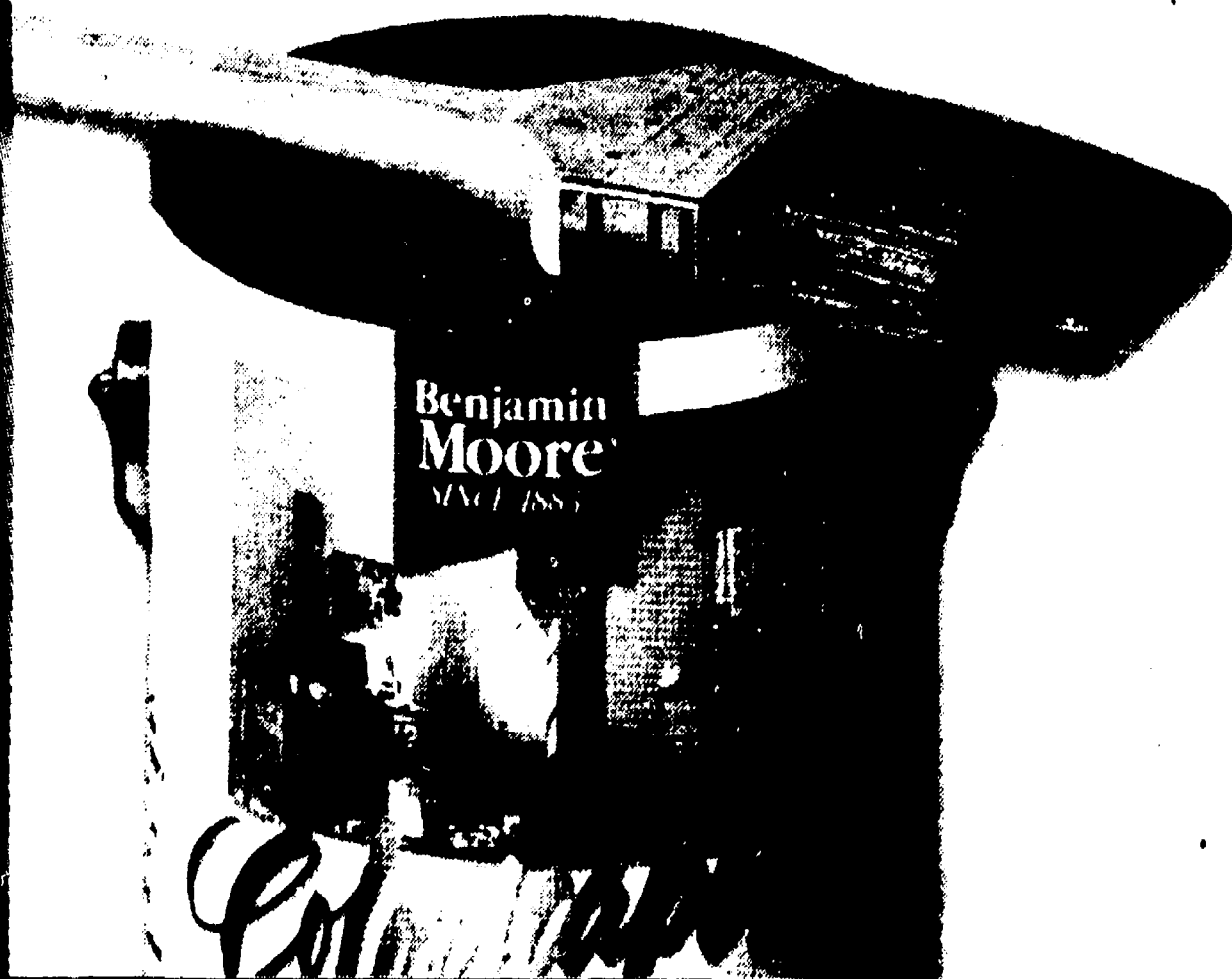
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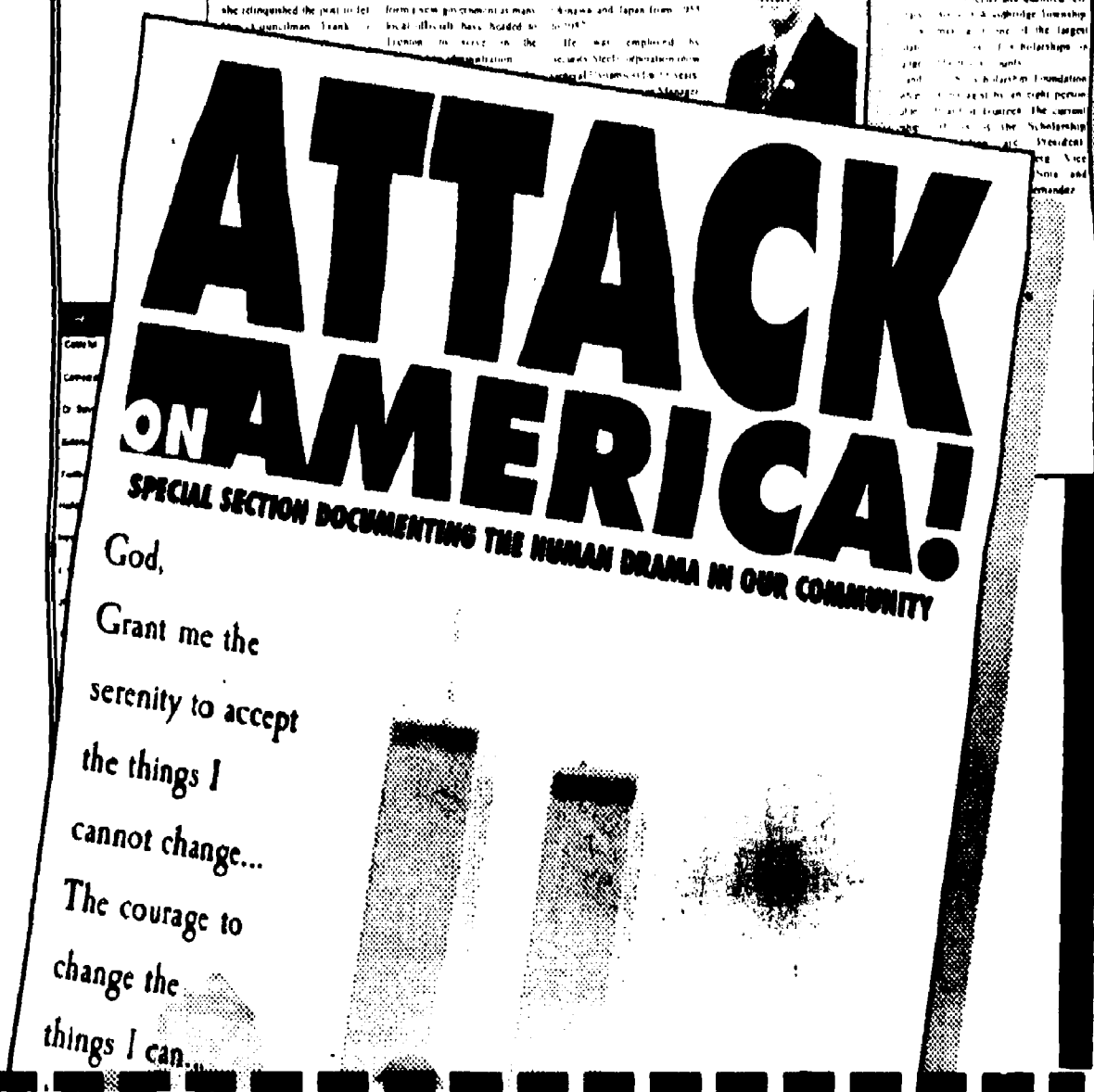
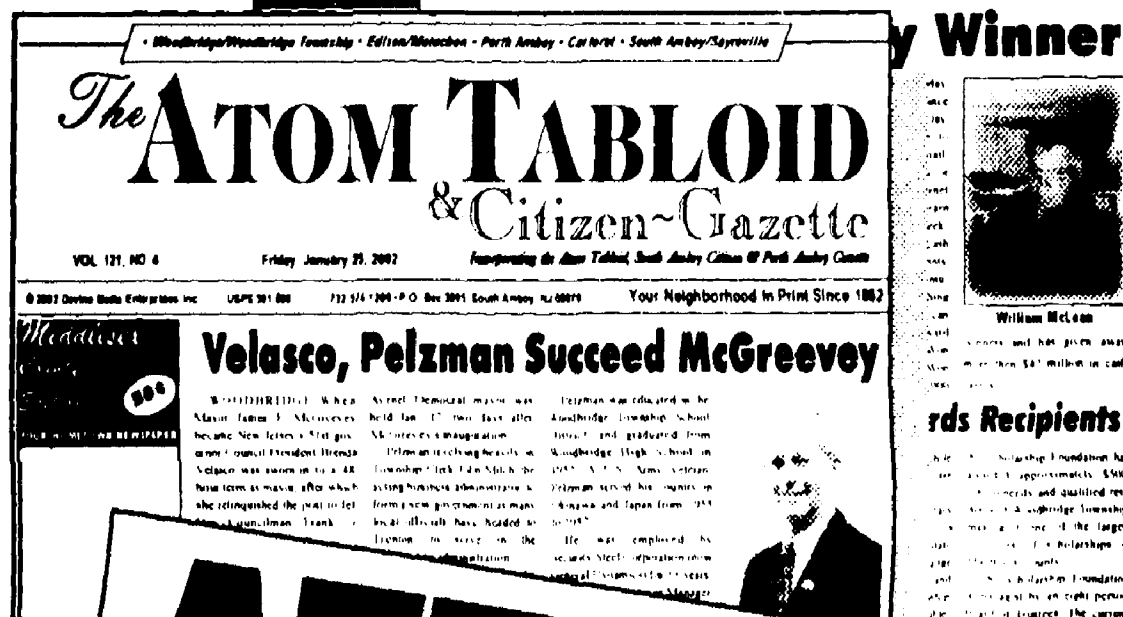
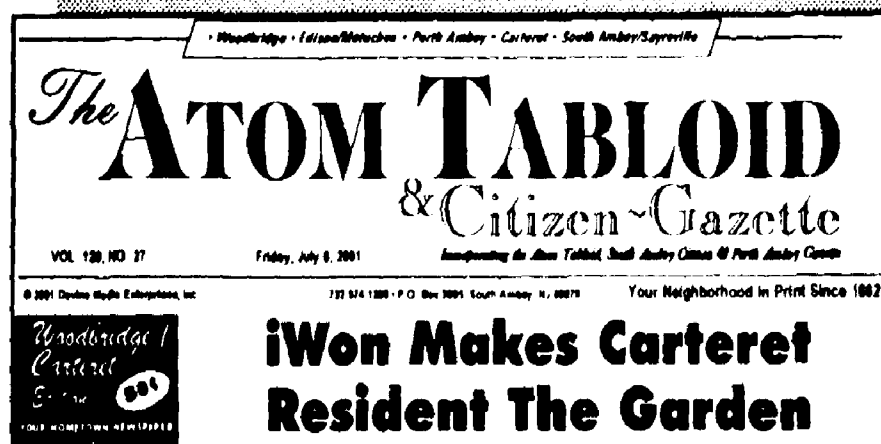
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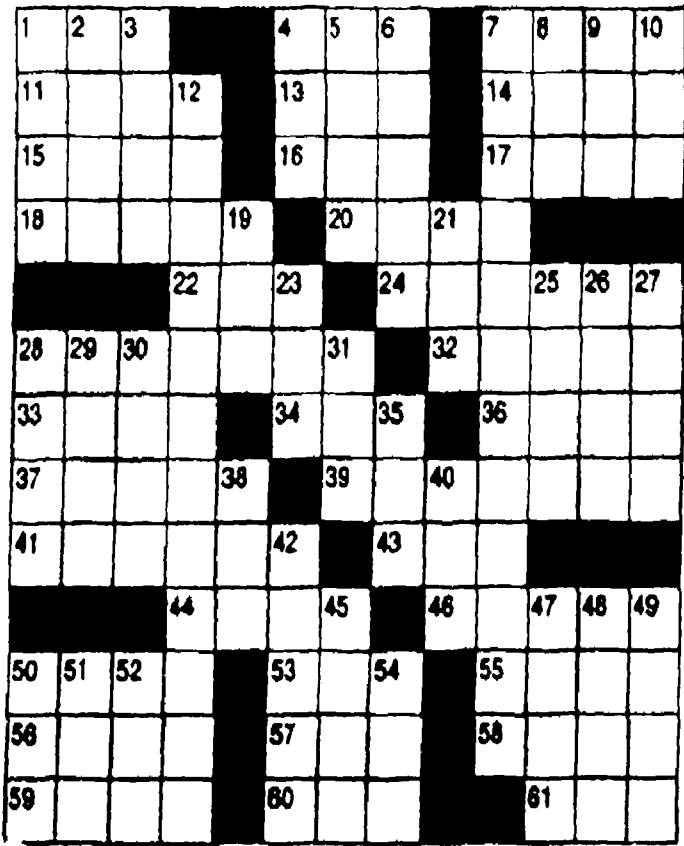
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The SOAPS

ALL MY CHILDREN

Greenlee told Leo she suspected that Vanessa killed Larry and Frankie, prompting Leo to turn the gun on Vanessa. But Jake knocked it out of his hand saying he didn't want Leo to live with the burden of having killed his own mother. Chris was so affected by Ryan's reaction to the story of his (Ryan's) mother that he (Chris) didn't realize he had moved his legs, but Ryan noticed it. Tad tried to get JR to reveal why Dixie left without telling him (Tad). Maggie awoke to find Vanessa coming toward her and fluffing a pillow. Zeke removed a syringe from his bag. Wait to See: Vanessa tells her side of the story.

AS THE WORLD TURNS

Rose managed to make a dramatic escape. Paul realized all his answers went up in smoke. Craig assisted Jack's attacker. Katie went back again into Simon's past. Abigail sought out Brandy for clues. Wait to See: Rose gets a glimpse of her future. Barbara makes a breakthrough with Hal.

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Eric reeled when Massimo said that Ridge and Stephanie would be going with him

(Massimo). Amber's design was a big success with the Forrester cutters. Whip assured his mother that pretending to be the father of Brooke's baby will pay off big for them. Later, Brooke's fears about Whip were realized when he demanded a huge raise, a company car and a house. Whip later warned Deacon to show him more respect or he could regret it. Wait to See: A dinner party becomes an arena.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES:

Shawn's news about "fathering" Jan's baby broke Belle's heart. Jennifer and Brandon turned up the heat in their relationship. Victor assured Nicole of his love for her, while Kate flirted with Roman. A shocked Chloe received the tape of Philip and Cynthia making out. Shawn begged Belle for forgiveness. Sami lashed out at Lucas. Wait to See: Shawn invites Jan to live in his house. Jack and Jennifer get carried away with passion.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Luke was pinned down by a falling beam as he and Laura attempted to escape from the flooding mineshaft. Sarah unnerved Nikolas when she told him she hadn't forgotten about Gia and the accident. Later, Sonny tried to get Elizabeth to tell him the truth about the accident, but she could only repeat what she was told to recall. AJ told Courtney of Sonny's attempt to keep them apart. Wait to See: Sarah meets an unusual doctor.

GUIDING LIGHT

Catalina made a confession to Ray. Marina botched up her father's carefully made plans. Harley decided not to hold back her feelings anymore. Philip realized that the shoe he was looking at offered a significant piece of information. Wait to See: An unwanted suitor puts a move on Ben. Buzz confronts Gus.

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

Todd and Blair remained skeptical of Starr's report of seeing a man (Troy) chained to a wheel at the Funhouse. Meanwhile, Sam was crushed when Nora admitted returning Troy's kiss. Later, Sam confronted Lindsay about Troy. Starr returned to the Funhouse on

her own and tried unsuccessfully to help Troy. When the deadly spider reappeared, Starr captured it in her juice jar. Unaware that she's Jack's real mother, Blair told Sam that Todd got Jack by paying his "birth mother" for him. After a near tragedy caused by the spider falling into Jack's crib, a disconsolate Starr told Sam about the man on the wheel. Jessica offered Roxy \$10,000 to stop drinking. Wait to See: Sam tries to rescue Troy. Niki comes to Viki in her dream. Al impersonates Seth.

PASSIONS

Chad asked Whitney to run away with him. From hell, Julian continued to push Theresa toward the dark side with "advice" about how to get back with Ethan. "Diana" (Sheridan) began waitressing at Liz's Caf in Bermuda. As Luis agonized over Theresa's suicide attempt, she and Ivy tried to outdo each other as the REAL Mrs. Crane. Later, Ivy tried to blackmail Eve to change John's DNA test results. Wait to See: Julian "confronts" Ivy in the ladies' room.

PORT CHARLES

Rafe found Alison unconscious from the leaking gas and called 911, but Frank was unable to revive her, saying that she seemed to be stuck in an altered state. Meanwhile, Alison "dreamed" of her happy times with Rafe. Lucy sensed that the onset of Christina's illness coincided with Paige's arrival in Port Charles. Later, Kevin realized how he should paint his portrait of Paige and asked her if she's an angel. Meanwhile, Amy revealed herself as the dark angel when she flashed back to the night her dying father, Harris, asked her to avenge his death on the man who caused it, Ian Thornhart. Wait to See: Casey makes a terrible discovery.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

Unaware that Diane was not returning to Milan with Kyle, Phyllis told an overjoyed Jack she'd be happy to raise Kyle with him. A bleeding Diego shocked Raul and Sharon when he turned up at the coffee shop after a fight in his rooming house. Nick later offered the newly open, live-in stable hand job to Diego. Victor canceled his date with Nikki to talk to Julia (his first wife) about her business problems, and the two later recalled their shared past. Wait to See: Jack gets more information on Diane. Julia has a shocker for Victor.

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HOCUS-FOCUS

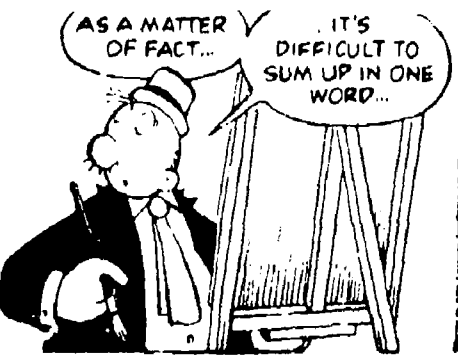
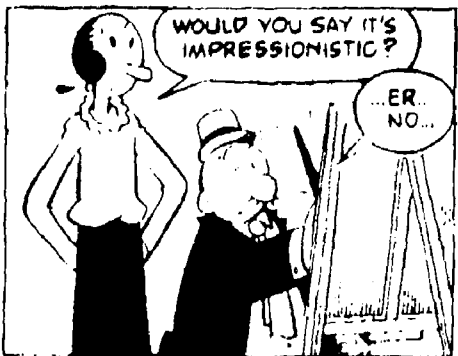
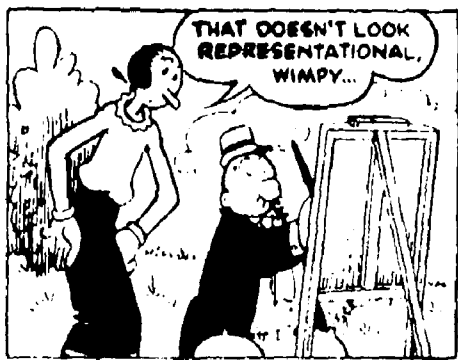
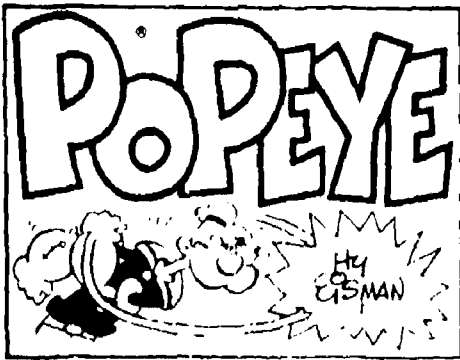
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



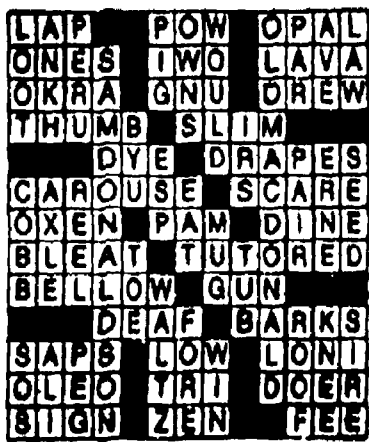
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Dress is different. 2. Man has glasses. 3. Tree is wider. 4. Suitcase is different. 5. House is gone. 6. Dog's collar is missing.



to Puzzle



YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Sophie Muchie, 83 of Carteret

Mrs. Sophie "Sally" Muchie of Freedom, Maine (formerly of Carteret) died February 25 at Thayer Hospital, Waterville, Maine. She was 83.

Born in Wilmington, Del., she came to Carteret at the age of 4 and lived in Carteret for 74 years before moving to Freedom, Maine.

She was a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Union and before retiring in 1983, she worked for the Borough of Carteret, which included serving as a school crossing guard, stationed at the corner of Carteret High School.

She had been a welder at Foster Wheeler during World War II and later worked for RCA in Avenel, L.T. Williams, GATX and Agrico Corp.

Mrs. Muchie was a communicant of Notre Dame R.C. Church, Waterville, Maine.

She was a lifetime member of the Carteret Chapter of Hadassah; past president and chaplain of the Ladies Auxiliary of Elks Lodge 2235 and a former member of Deborah Hospital.

Her husband of 39 years, William, died in 1975. A brother, Michael and two sisters, Julia Fedun and Mary Koval, are also deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Sallyann Hadyniak, a grandson, Chuck; twin grandsons, Tyler and Kyle, all of Freedom, Maine; a sister, Ann Ruby of Titusville, Fla.; and many nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends.

John R. Meyer, 83 of South Amboy

Mr. John R. Meyer of South Amboy died February 21 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy. He was 83.

Born in Perth Amboy, he resided in South Amboy for many years.

Before his retirement, he was a self-employed custodian and maintenance worker in South Amboy.

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

He was predeceased by his wife, Stelia Przybylska.

Surviving are three sons, John R. Jr. of Spotswood, Paul of Franklin Park and Raymond of Hamilton; and his granddaughter, Rachel Sarah Meyer of Hamilton.

Charles Damanski of Edison

Mr. Charles J. Damanski of Edison died February 27 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. He was 77.

Born in Centralia, Pa., he lived in Newark before moving to Edison in 1955.

He was an ironworker with Ironworkers Union Local 11 in Newark for 37 years before retiring in 1987.

He served in the Marine Corps during World War II.

Mr. Damanski was a member of the Knights of Columbus, St. Cecelia's Council #3639, Iselin and was a member of the council's Fourth Degree Assembly. He also belonged to the Knights of Columbus Bowling League, having served as league secretary.

He was a member of the South Plainfield Industrial Bowling League and also served as secretary of that bowling league.

Mr. Damanski was a communicant of St. Helena's R.C. Church, Edison and a member of its Holy Name Society.

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, the former Wanda Zach; two sons, Charles W. Damanski of Freehold and James A. Damanski of Avenel; three daughters, Judy Wieckowski of Edison, Maryanne Mandelbaum of Elizabeth and Sue Goldstone of Franklin Park; six grandchildren, Charles F. and Gennine Damanski, Robert and Amy Wieckowski and Simon and Shayna Mandelbaum.

Ann M. Genova of Colonia

Mrs. Ann M. Genova of Colonia died February 26 in Ashbrook Nursing Home, Scotch Plains.

Born in Elizabeth, she lived in Clark before moving to Colonia nine years ago.

She was a member of the Rosary Society at St. John the Apostle Church, Clark, and the Colonia Senior Citizens Club.

Richard J. Simon of Carteret

Mr. Richard J. Simon of Carteret died February 21 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. He was 65.

Born in Carteret, he was a lifelong borough resident.

He was a minister and full-time pioneer at Carteret Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses for over 30 years, retiring in 1999.

Since he retired, he was a day trader.

Two sons, Aaron, died in 1976 and Judah, died in 1978.

Surviving are his wife, the former Mabel "Cookie" Novak; three sons, Richard of St. Petersburg, Fla., Matthew of Old Bridge and Christian of Woodbridge; and a grandson, Dean Michael Simon of St. Petersburg.

Jeane E. Jones, 89 of Colonia

Mrs. Jeane E. Jones of Colonia died February 21 at home. She was 89.

Born in Jersey City, she lived there until moving to Colonia in 1956.

She was a graduate of St. Paul's Business Academy, Jersey City. She was employed as a secretary for many years at Home Owners Loan Corp. in New York City.

Mrs. Jones was a longtime parishioner of St. John Vianney R.C. Church, Colonia.

She was a member of the Evergreen Seniors Club, Colonia.

Her husband, Luther H. Jones, died in 1984. Three sisters, Susan Barrett, Mildred Perratt and Edythe Thornley and a brother, Theodore Perratt, are all deceased.

Surviving are two sons, Luther D. Jones of Bridgewater and Richard A. Jones of Colonia; a daughter, Dorothy Sealzo of Middletown; and several nieces and nephews.

Andrew Seroka of Edison

Mr. Andrew "Pennsy" Seroka of Edison died February 23 at Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel. He was 93.

Born in Old Forge, Pa., he resided in Edison for the past 75 years.

He was a chemical operator for Heyden Chemical, Woodbridge for 45 years, retiring in 1973.

He raised canaries for most of his life. He owned a horse, "Sinbad," which he used to ride in the Sand Hills section of Edison.

A son, Joseph Seroka and a great-granddaughter, Alyssa Seroka are both deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 73 years, Margaret (Antonides) Seroka; a daughter, Jeanne York of Flanders; six grandchildren, Nancy Seroka LaVigne of Edison, Cynthia Caucino of Toms River, Donna York Fischer of Chester, Susan Shinkle of Amelia, Ohio, Scott York of Hillsborough and Andrew J. Seroka of Monmouth Junction; and six great-grandchildren, Nicole Caucino, Ryan Fischer, Carlee Caucino, Andrew Seroka, Jr., Samantha York and Salvatore Seroka.

Elizabeth Terebush of Fords

Mrs. Elizabeth (Magyar) Terebush of Port Charlotte, Fla. (formerly of Fords) died February 20 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 74.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived in Fords for many years and then she moved to Port Charlotte, Fla. where she resided for the past 13 years.

She was formerly employed by Woodbridge Township as a crossing guard for 19 years.

Mrs. Terebush was a member of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Carteret and belonged to St. Ann's Auxiliary at the church.

A brother, Steven Magyar, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband of 55 years, George Terebush; a daughter, Sandra Baliya of Fords; two sons, George Terebush Jr. and Tod Terebush; two brothers, Alex Magyar and Charles Magyar, both of Perth Amboy; and four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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(1651-1715)



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Memorials Mark Six Months

(continued from front page)

48. Metuchen, independent trader, American Stock Exchange-Confirmed dead;

Marlyn C. Bautista, 46, Iselin, accounts payable, Marsh & McLennan Cos. Inc.-Confirmed dead;

Kevin Sanford Cohen, 28, Edison, eSpeed desktop support person, Cantor Fitzgerald-Confirmed dead;

Cynthia L. Connolly, 40, Metuchen-Confirmed dead;

Jayceryl M. de Chavez, 24, Carteret, portfolio analyst, Fiduciary Trust International-Confirmed dead;

Judy H. Fernandez, 27, Parlin, eSpeed, Cantor Fitzgerald-Confirmed dead;

Gary J. Frank, 35, South Amboy, director of document control, Aon Corp.-Confirmed dead;

Donna Marie Giordano, 44, Parlin, broker, Aon Corp.-Confirmed dead;

Robert T. "Bobby" Hughes Jr., 23, Sayreville, margins clerk, Bank of America-Confirmed dead;

Prem N. Jerath, 57, Edison, structural engineer, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey-Confirmed dead;

Sheldon R. Kanter, 53, Edison, systems vice president, Cantor Fitzgerald-Confirmed dead;

Vincent A. Laieta, 31, Edison, vice president of operations, Aon Corp.-Confirmed dead;

John Adam Larson, 37, Colonia, senior vice president, Aon Corp.-Confirmed dead;

James Francis Lynch, 47, Woodbridge, police officer, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey-Confirmed dead;

Brian E. Martineau, 37, Edison, benefits consultant, Aon Corp.-Confirmed dead;

Kaaria Mbaya, 39, Edison, senior computer analyst, Cantor Fitzgerald-Confirmed dead;

Tonyell McDay, 25, Colonia, computer technician, Marsh Inc.-Confirmed dead;

Narender Nath, 33, Colonia-Confirmed dead;

Vinod K. Parakat, 34, Sayreville, programmer, central development, Cantor Fitzgerald-Confirmed dead;

Manish K. Patel, 29, Edison, Euro Brokers Inc.-Confirmed dead;

Isaias Rivera, 51, Perth Amboy, CBS television technician, who survived the 1993 bombing-Confirmed dead;

Deepika Kumar Sattaluri, 33, Edison, consultant at Marsh & McLennan Cos. Inc.-Confirmed dead;

Scott M. Schertzer, 28, Edison, human resources department, Cantor Fitzgerald-Confirmed dead;

Edward T. Strauss, 44, Edison, chief of World Trade Center operations, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey-Confirmed dead;

Sankara S. Velamuri, 63, Avenel, auditor, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance-Confirmed dead;

Cmdr. Patrick S. Dunn, 39, Fords, surface warfare officer, U.S. Navy-Confirmed dead at the Pentagon.

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