

The ATOM TABLOID

& Citizen-Gazette

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Incorporating the Atom Tabloid, South Amboy Citizen & Perth Amboy Gazette

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County Budget Announced; Tax Rate Lowered

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The freeholders have formally introduced their 2002 budget.

The \$285,825,000 spending plan calls for \$12.5 million more to be raised from taxpayers this year.

Members of the public will have a chance to comment on the budget at a March 11 hearing at the county administration building in New Brunswick.

The hearing is scheduled to

begin at 7 p.m. Despite the increase in the amount to be raised by taxes, Freeholder Director David Crabel says that the county property tax rate will drop a penny per every \$100 of assessed value.

This is possible because of the growth of the county tax base, he said.

The tax base, the value of all taxable property, grew by

\$5 million, to \$54.9 billion.

All county departments were asked to reduce their spending by 10% to help offset the loss of \$4 million in state aid.

The freeholders' budget also calls for the use of \$4.5 million from the county's surplus account to balance the budget.

This number would have been larger, but the county received word that it would receive \$400,000 from the fed-

eral government for housing illegal aliens in the county jail last year.

The 2002 budget shows a record \$13.5 million surplus, which Crabel hopes will convince financial analysts that the county deserves to keep its high bond rating.

A high bond rating enables the county to obtain a low interest rate when it sells taxpayer-guaranteed bonds.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT...



Participating in a ribbon cutting ceremony this weekend at Raritan Bay Federal Credit Union's new Parlin Express branch were John Andrejewski, board member; Tom O'Shea, CEO; Old Bridge Councilman Reggie Butler; Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, of Sayreville; Bob Saab, chairman of the board; Jack Hospidor, board member; Credit Union Man. Standing behind them were RBFCU board members Ed Mandel and Stan Scibek.

Sex Arrest Stuns Bishop Ahr

EDISON - Bishop Ahr High School was shocked last week when a teacher was charged with repeatedly sexually assaulting a 17-year-old female student after school last year.

Robert Wicke, 54, of Edison faces up to 10 years in prison if he is convicted of the second-degree crime.

Wicke surrendered to authorities last week and was released on \$50,000 bail.

Assistant Middlesex County Prosecutor Barbara Stolte said Wicke is accused of sexually assaulting the girl at the school on multiple occasions between

October 2000 and June 2001.

The Diocese of Metuchen suspended Wicke with pay following his arrest, spokeswoman Joanne Ward said.

Wicke's attorney, Steven Altman, said he advised the teacher not to discuss the case.

The alleged victim, who graduated in June, told a priest that while she was a 17-year-old student, Wicke touched and penetrated her on numerous occasions from October 2000 to June 2001.

The priest reported the matter to authorities, who conducted an investigation that led to Wicke's arrest, Stolte said.

Toll Contractor Won't Testify

STATE - The contractor who installed New Jersey's debt-plagued electronic toll system has refused to testify before lawmakers who want to know why its costing taxpayers millions more than expected.

WorldCom staff refused on the advice of their lawyers to speak at a hearing of the Assembly Transportation Committee last week, state Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski said.

Drivers buy a monthly "E-

ZPass" so they can coast through toll areas without stopping to pay or take a ticket. But the system, which was supposed to be financed primarily through fines against toll cheats, will spend its \$300 million fund by the end of this year.

In 2001, E-ZPass collected \$13.3 million in fines but spent \$19.2 million to process them, said Diane Scaccetti, deputy director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

Look for the

Atom Tabloid at these fine stores..

in Fords...

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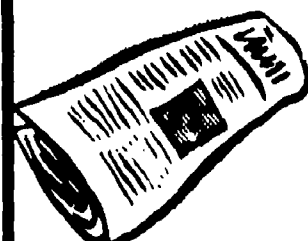
650 King Georges Rd., Fords

in Colonia...

Quick Out Food Stores

1111 St. Georges Ave., Colonia

...for other store locations, see page 13



YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Young At Heart

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—"Young at Heart" is an adult health and social day care center for New Jersey veterans and their eligible family members, located in the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Edison.

The center is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Transportation is free. To schedule a trial visit or for a tour of the facility, call 732-321-1601.

Operation Underwear Drive

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—The Middlesex County Veterans Advisory Council (MCVAC) requests support for their 4th annual "Operation Underwear Drive."

This drive seeks to provide new, packaged undergarments to homeless veterans and their families, indigent veterans in Veterans Administration facilities, and the general homeless population in Middlesex County. Monetary donations are also welcome—checks only, please. Make checks payable to: Treasurer, County of Middlesex.

Collection of items or monetary donations may be coordinated with Dan Hansen, Co-Chairman of the drive, at 732-521-0581 or Carl Asszony at 732-745-4051.

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Fatal Vision Goggles Can Save Lives

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Community partners are making a difference. All over Middlesex County organizations and community groups are showing the public what their perception would be under the influence of alcohol.

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc., maintains a loan bank for their Fatal Vision Goggles. NCADD provides training for the staff who will demonstrate the goggles, as well as educational materials for distribution. Organizations who have recently taken advantage of this service include Middlesex County Vo-Tech High School, New Brunswick High School and South River Municipal Alliance.

When a sober person puts

on the goggles, they can see first-hand what it is like with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of under .10 (the legal limit to operate a vehicle in New Jersey), as well as over that limit. Many people are amazed to learn that even with a BAC of .08, their vision is considerably impaired.

In an effort to raise awareness of underage drinking and the effects that alcohol has on a person's ability to function, NCADD is making the goggles available to any organization, school, or community group in Middlesex County. NCADD will train staff on how to present the goggles to a group and provide brochures, fact sheets and other educational material to accompany the presentation. NCADD also has a video lending library with over 200 videos on vari-

ous topics, including impaired driving that can be used to supplement an awareness program.

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Middlesex County, Inc., founded in 1980, is a private, nonprofit health education agency. Their mission is to promote the health and well-being of individuals and communities in Middlesex County through the reduction or elimination of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use problems. Located in East Brunswick, they provide a Prevention Resource Center, Information & Referral Helpline, community education, professional training, school-based prevention programs, and advocacy.

To schedule a training and reserve the goggles, call NCADD at (732) 254-3344.

Chamber Of Commerce General Membership Meeting

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce announces its General Membership Meeting "Corporate IN-Security." Protect your company from the outside in and inside out.

The program will be held at St. Peter's University Hospital, 254 Easton Avenue, New Brunswick, on Wednesday, March 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

We will welcome speakers Frank Halpin of The Halpin Group to discuss background threats, the employee threat, and John Verry of CQUR-IT to pres-

ent the 10 security steps you need to take immediately to protect yourself and your business.

This program includes dinner and networking. Cost is \$25 for Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce members, and \$35 for non-members. Call (732) 821-1700 for details and registration information.

The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce is the premier business organization in Central New Jersey serving more than 950 local member businesses through access, information and advocacy.

100 Percent Of Nursing Grads Pass National Exam

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—The 25-member class of 2001 of the Middlesex County College/UMDNJ Joint Nursing Program has received the highest ranking in the United States for its 100 percent pass rate on the national board examination. The students will be honored at a reception on March 21.

Recognized by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the class was ranked first among all graduating classes in Associate Degree programs throughout the country, compared to an average of 84 percent pass rate in New Jersey and an 81 percent pass rate for all Associate Degree programs. There are 1,352 nursing programs in the United States.

Although the graduating classes have had a consistently highly pass rate of more than 90 percent on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), this is only the second time in the history of the program that all graduates passed the boards on their first try. Not since 1992, the first year of graduation for the new Joint Nursing Program, did all 18 graduates pass the exam.

This year's graduates, all of whom are employed in the field, include one set of twins and one

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(continues on page...5)

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Music And Entertainment For Senior Citizens

WOODBIDGE — On Tuesday evening, March 12, JFK Memorial High School will offer the senior citizens of Woodbridge Township an evening of music and entertainment.

As part of Service-Learning activities at the high school, students at JFK will offer a complimentary performance of this year's school play, *Anything Goes*, for Woodbridge Township Senior Citizens. In addition to the performance, senior citizens will feast on a wide array of delectable

desserts during the play's intermission. The desserts will be created and served by students in the Foods courses offered through Home Arts Program at JFK.

Service-Learning activities take traditional classroom lessons and apply them to service activities that will benefit the community.

JFK was named a State of New Jersey Service-Learning Leader school in 1999. The following year, JFK was again honored for its exemplary Service-Learning

program as one of only 66 schools in the United States selected as a National Service-Learning Leader School.

Because of JFK's commitment to Service-Learning, the school was named a State of New Jersey "Best Practice" school in 2001.

For further information, regarding this special performance for Woodbridge Township Senior Citizens, contact the school's Main Office at (732) 602-8650.

Two New Special One Police Officers Sworn In

PERTH AMBOY — Mayor Joseph Vas swore in two new officers to Perth Amboy's Special One Police Unit at a ceremony held this afternoon at City Hall. The two new officers will bring the unit's total complement up to ten and enable the city to continue focusing on quality of life related issues.

Both officers bring with them a substantial level of law enforcement experience at the community level. Elvis Arocho, 36, of Chamberlain Avenue, has served as an Auxiliary Police Officer

since 1987. Alfonso Saucedo, 26, of State Street, has served the Auxiliary Police since 1998.

Their addition will enable the Special One Unit to continue supplementing the services of regular police officers by providing additional community policing to address issues such as noise, traffic and loitering violations.

They will also serve as a great asset during the hectic summer months when waterfront activities draw large crowds to the City of Perth Amboy. Working a maximum of 20 hours per week,

Special Ones are allowed to issue summonses and make arrests, however, they differ from regular police officers in that they are not authorized to carry weapons.

Created in December 1999, the Special One Unit has enabled the city to increase its community policing efforts and operate more interactively with residents.

The two new recruits have successfully completed medical and psychological testing, as well as a 92-hour, 17-day training program at the Brick Township Police Academy.



ESSAY CONTEST WINNER—Woodbridge resident Sharmin Abbasi, an eighth grade student at Woodbridge Middle School, was the first place winner in the 7th-9th grade category of Schering-Plough's Martin Luther King Essay Contest. Abbasi's essay focused on Dr. King's philosophy of communication, understanding and acceptance of one another.

Paintings By Dennis Lick, Visual Artist

EDISON—Dennis Lick of Somerset, whose paintings and collages reflect abstraction as well as figurative painting, will be the featured artist in a one-person show at the College Center Art Gallery of Middlesex County College from March 4-22. The gallery is free and open to the public from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Mondays-Fridays.

An associate professor of visual arts since 1976, his current exhibit features acrylics and mixed media on canvas, work completed during his sabbatical year of 2000-01. His ever-evolving body of work juxtaposes unlikely combinations of

elements including photographs, wrapping paper, cardboard and miscellaneous found materials in addition to acrylic paint. Many of these pieces in the current exhibit are for sale.

Works by Lick have appeared in distinguished galleries and shows for the past 27 years and are included in permanent collections of the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Museum, the Newark Museum and various corporate and private collections.

Lick holds a BFA from Miami University (Oxford, OH) and a MFA from the Mason Gross School of the Arts of Rutgers University.

Scrabble Is A Challenge

EDISON—Scrabble games will resume in March at the Dorothy Drwal Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave., on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 7-10 p.m.

Games at the Minnie E. Veal Community Center, 1070 Grove Avenue, North Edison, will be held on the first and

third Tuesdays of the month from 7-10 p.m. Scrabble players regardless of residence are welcome to attend the free game nights.

The official Scrabble 96 two-letter word list will be distributed. For further information, call Walt at (732) 721-9218 or Lois at (732) 906-5496.

Fifth

Annual Seder Meal

PERTH AMBOY—Emmaus House is hosting a Seder, the Jewish ceremonial meal on the first night of Passover. It is at this meal that Jesus instituted the Eucharist on the night before he died. There are four sections to the meal. The third section, which is the main course, will include roasted lamb and root vegetables (potatoes and carrots). This is a great way to begin Holy Week.

The Seder will be on Sunday, March 24 from 5-7:30 p.m. Reservations are required. A donation of \$15 per person is requested. Children under twelve, \$10.

Call Emmaus House at (732) 442-7688 by March 19.

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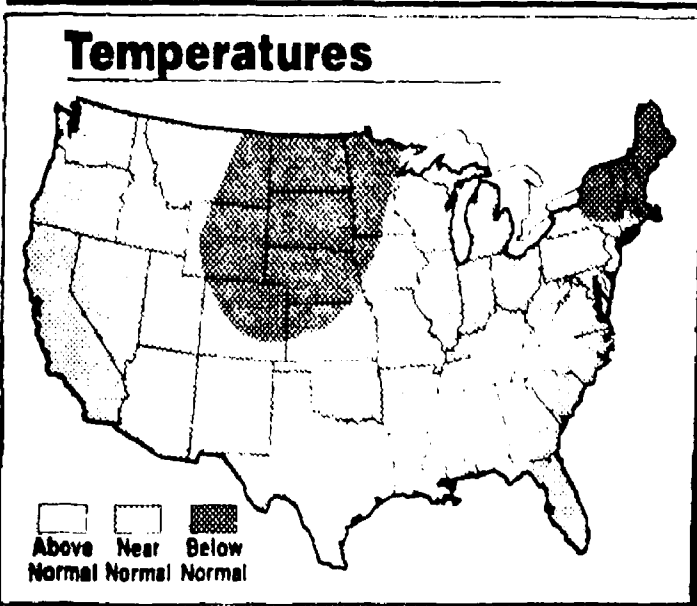
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mild with partial sun.	Patchy clouds.	Cold; snow and rain early.	Cold with partial sun.	Partial sun and cold.	Mostly cloudy and cold.	Cloudy with snow and rain.	Partly sunny.
43	30	37/30	38/25	37/14	38/33	51/34	39/23

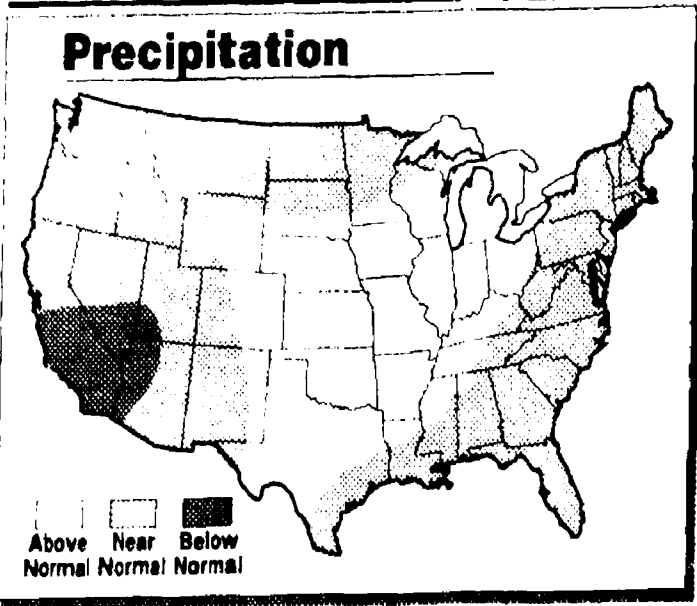
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

The jet stream will guide storms across the Pacific Northwest and into the Plains. South of the jet stream, warm weather is expected across the central and southern Plains. Meanwhile, cold air will chill portions of the Great Lakes, Northeast and Middle Atlantic. Dry weather will cover much of the Southeast and Gulf Coast.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	50 34 pc	54 37 s	50 32 pc	56 32 s
Boston	36 24 c	38 22 c	36 20 sn	32 11 pc
Chicago	36 22 c	30 16 sn	34 24 c	38 28 c
Cleveland	37 23 sf	35 21 c	27 18 c	35 20 c
Denver	46 25 pc	44 24 pc	50 27 pc	49 14 pc
Des Moines	40 20 pc	34 12 c	38 16 pc	38 26 c
Detroit	36 22 sf	32 18 sf	29 16 c	32 19 pc
Houston	66 36 pc	66 40 pc	62 43 s	69 42 pc
Indianapolis	41 25 c	39 22 c	33 20 c	40 28 c
Kansas City	46 28 s	42 18 pc	38 24 c	44 32 pc
Los Angeles	69 45 pc	74 46 pc	73 47 s	71 46 c
Miami	80 60 c	76 60 pc	76 62 pc	77 51 pc
Minn. - St. Paul	28 10 pc	24 8 sn	26 10 sf	30 14 s
New Orleans	62 45 s	64 46 s	60 43 s	66 40 s
New York City	38 32 pc	38 32 c	36 26 c	34 18 pc
Omaha	40 18 pc	34 22 pc	42 20 pc	38 26 pc
Phoenix	72 48 s	70 48 s	74 50 s	75 46 pc
San Francisco	56 43 pc	59 45 pc	63 47 pc	60 43 pc
Seattle	48 38 c	50 38 c	47 30 r	39 25 c
Washington	44 34 sh	44 34 r	42 30 c	46 20 s

SUN & MOON

Sunrise	Sunset
Thu. 7:01 a.m.	5:22 p.m.
Fri. 7:00 a.m.	5:23 p.m.
Moonrise	Moonset
Thu. 3:40 a.m.	1:07 p.m.
Fri. 4:39 a.m.	1:56 p.m.
Moon Phases	
Last	New
Feb 4	Feb 12
20	27
Feb	Feb

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	44 41 c	42 39 pc	44 37 c	45 44 c
Berlin	41 33 pc	41 40 pc	43 33 r	39 36 sn
Buenos Aires	81 66 pc	81 66 pc	82 63 pc	80 66 pc
Cairo	78 53 s	78 55 s	61 46 r	63 50 pc
Jerusalem	68 46 pc	68 46 s	51 40 r	54 41 pc
Johannesburg	88 56 pc	78 56 pc	79 58 pc	82 60 pc
London	49 41 pc	42 41 r	46 39 c	49 45 r
Madrid	56 47 pc	55 40 pc	51 33 c	57 37 pc
Mexico City	69 44 pc	69 45 pc	61 40 sh	63 44 c
Moscow	39 32 c	39 30 c	38 28 c	37 26 sn
Paris	43 42 sh	43 37 sh	40 31 sn	42 41 sn
Rio de Janeiro	77 67 pc	81 74 c	77 70 r	79 73 r
Rome	57 36 pc	56 47 pc	59 42 pc	54 36 pc
San Juan	85 73 pc	85 71 s	84 71 s	83 73 pc
Seoul	46 36 pc	43 15 c	31 21 pc	38 28 pc
Sydney	74 60 r	81 52 s	77 58 pc	79 59 s
Tokyo	52 36 pc	50 39 s	55 35 pc	46 37 c
Toronto	24 7 c	15 12 sn	14 0 sn	22 6 pc
Winnipeg	9 -9 pc	11 -5 pc	16 7 sn	13 3 sn
Zurich	40 39 pc	42 36 sh	39 34 sn	38 37 sn

YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

U.S.S. Sea Coral Reunion

AREA—Crewmen who have served aboard the U.S.S. Coral Sea CVB/CVA/CV-43 are being sought for a mini-reunion on April 27 at Sir John's Restaurant, North Brunswick. Additional information is also available about the U.S.S. Coral Sea CVA-43 Association and its yearly reunion on Oct. 11-13, 2002. Contact Jack Weber at (732) 828-1234, 273 Crestwood Drive, Milltown, NJ 08850-1805.

In Support Of Resolution On Honor Guard Entitlement

STATE—New legislation directing the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase its efforts in informing veterans of their right to funeral services from the military honor guard was approved 76-0 on Feb. 11. This bill instructs the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMAVA) to inform veterans organizations of a federal mandate that honorably discharged veterans are entitled to receive military honor guard services at their funerals.

Federal law requires that two military personnel are present at services for veterans, one of which represents the branch the veteran has served in. The flag is folded and "Taps" is played, either by trumpeter or recorded, in a show of respect for the deceased veteran.

Funeral services are provided by the Department of Defense and can be requested through your funeral director. For more information on military honor guard services visit the Department of Defense's website at www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil or write Military Funeral Honors, 9504 IH-35 North, Suite 320, San Antonio, TX 78299-6635.

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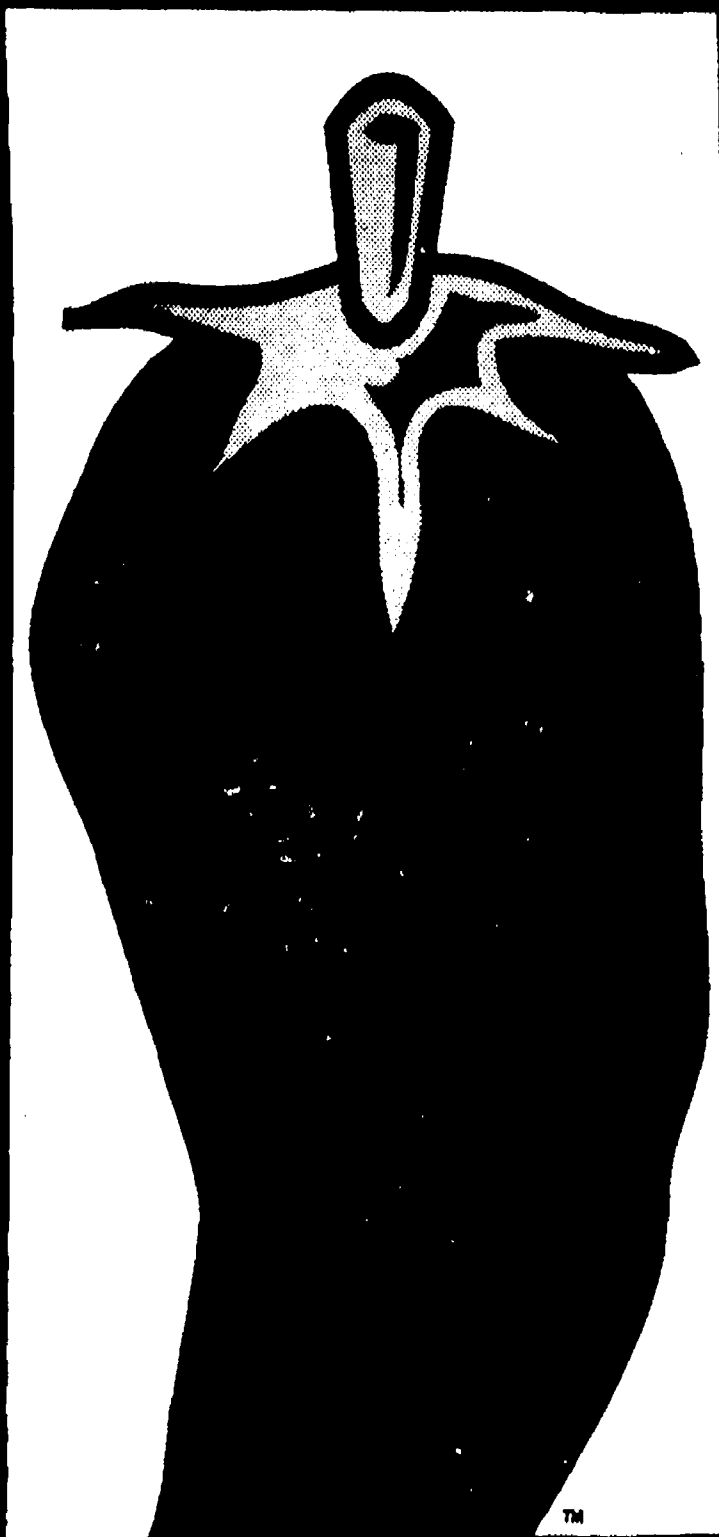
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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Help Feed The Hungry!

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—Jewish Family & Vocational Services of Middlesex County (JFVS), in cooperation with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)—Metro Jersey Section, will be coordinating the community effort to provide Passover food baskets for families in need of assistance in Northern Middlesex County.

Donations of non-perishable food are being sought. The specific items needed include: coffee, borscht, horseradish, grape juice, honey chicken soup, applesauce, macaroons, tea bags, cake mixes, Shabbat candles and Yahrzeit glasses. Anyone with food donations must contact Marnie Barshatky at (732) 777-1940, ext. 121. Donations of money are especially appreciated to augment the food collection and to purchase perishable food items. Tax deductible checks may be made out to JFVS Passover Food Fund and mailed to JFVS, 515 Plainfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08817.

Volunteers are needed to package and deliver food baskets on Sunday, March 24 from 9 a.m.—12 p.m. at the JCC of Middlesex County, Edison.

Nursing Grads continued...

(continued from page...2)

sister and brother. They ranged in age from 20–50 at the time of graduation.

The Middlesex/UMDNJ Joint Nursing Program is able to accept 40 new students each year, all of whom must be residents of New Jersey. Each must have earned a "C" or better in high school laboratory biology and laboratory chemistry and must take the National League of Nursing Exam at the time of application. All courses are held on the Middlesex County College Edison campus where the Middlesex facility teaches all general education courses while the nursing facility of UMDNJ teaches the nursing courses.

For further information on the Joint Nursing Program of Middlesex County College and UMDNJ, contact Professor Patricia Mahoney, MSN, Faculty Administrator, at (732) 906-4660.



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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS**"Cathedrals" Exhibit Evokes Images Of 9/11**

AREA —From Friday, March 15 through Thursday, April 18, Matthias Duwel will have a solo exhibition on display at the Tomasulo Gallery in the Kenneth MacKay Library at Union County College's Cranford campus located at 1033 Springfield Ave. Duwel's exhibition is comprised of many expressive abstract figurative paintings that are from his 2000-2001 "Cathedral" series.

Duwel, who was born, raised, and educated in Germany, has been working on this series of oil paintings for the past two years and explained that they were inspired by an early morning taxi ride through Berlin, which was then under heavy reconstruction. He explains that it was a foggy morning, and as he drove to the airport, he passed an endless array of spotlight construction sites that left an indelible impression of a city of steel and concrete, including the beams and fences, gaping black holes, and empty streets.

In his artist statement, Duwel explains that the "Cathedral" series, "...imagines a universe where out of chaos and decay arise enormous creations that block out the sky and yet let in shafts of light. Large carvenous spaces are illuminated from above by streaks of pink, green, and yellow.

A lone figure is watching and walking, lost and isolated, yet an integral part of this world in his own

making, this Babylon of contrasts, where the small and the large, the high and the low constantly meet and confront each other in different configurations."

In addition, in the wake of the events of Sept. 11, the paintings in the exhibition portray the aftermath of that terrible day also.

He states that "within a terrible landscape, structures loom as remnants in memoriam, the searchers and excavators perform rituals of mourning. We are as them, seeking out meaning within an obliterated terrain."

Duwel will also have his art on display in two group exhibitions this year in New York City, his home away from home. The shows are "The Ides of March," in ABC No Rio Gallery and "Reactions" in Exit Art. Last year he had a solo exhibition at the RLV Gallery in Oracle, Arizona, and in 2000, he participated in a group three different group shows, one in Berlin, Paris, and New York City.

The Tomasulo Gallery exhibit will debut on Friday, March 15, with an opening reception from 7-9 p.m. The Gallery is located on the first floor of the MacKay Library on the campus of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

Gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays. Evening hours



One of the many expressive abstract figurative paintings that are from the artists 2000-2001 "Cathedral" series.

are from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays. For more information please call the Tomasulo Gallery at (908) 709-7155.

POPCORN™ "Dragonfly"

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By Michael S. Goldberger

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When Dr. Joe Darrow (Kevin Costner) begins telling friends and coworkers that his recently deceased wife, Emily (Susanna Thompson), is trying to make contact with him through hospital patients experiencing near-death experiences, they think he's crazy. But he soon has company. Because after about thirty minutes of sitting through director Tom Shadyac's bogus attempt at making like filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense"), you think that surely you'll go crazy.

The combination of incredulity

and boredom that "Dragonfly" is certain to engender in poor unsuspecting viewers is mind-boggling. But it inevitably leads to the real brain teaser: trying to figure out how Kevin Costner is able to continually make movies like this and still maintain a mailing address, let alone a fashionable one.

Few denizens of Hollywood could sustain the career-crushing damage of a "Waterworld" (1995). But that flub was just an appetizer from Mr. Costner. He has since managed to follow it up with "The Postman" (1997) and "3000 Miles to Graceland"

(2001). And yet they're still asking him to make movies. Which can only suggest that the actor has star power and the ever-loyal niche audience that comes with it.

He is a modern take on yesterday's matinee idol, playing a sensitive, hopeless romantic whose specialty is lost causes and the rekindling of old loves. He is a package that arrives with a tacitly implied promise: If this guy loves you, he's not ever leaving. Guaranteed. Possessing such an attribute is not quite like having talent, but it sure comes in handy if your critical successes have of late been far and few between.

And now with "Dragonfly," it appears that director Shadyac would like to parley that heart-throb cachet into a little supernatural hocus-pocus —maybe even cash in on having audiences confuse Kevin Costner with Bruce Willis for a little while. The resulting mishmash is a transparent combining of ideas from the aforementioned "Sixth Sense" (1999) and the dreadfully saccharine "Message In A Bottle" (1999). Of course it doesn't work...artistically, that is. But again, considering Mr. Costner's track record, maybe that's besides

the point. Because if nothing else, Kevin the Romantic rides again.

For gosh sakes, his wife's dead this go-round and he still won't give up. Remember, though, Costner is the Energizer Fantasy. He just keeps on loving. No second marriage for this guy after a respectable period of grieving. No siree. He mates for life, and maybe even death.

Dr. Joe Darrow, though strictly a man of science who poo-pooed any talk of an afterlife prior to his wife's disappearance in the jungles of Venezuela, is now willing to believe practically anything. Ah, but did you catch the use of the word "disappearance," and not "death" this go-round? Yup, right out of the daytime soaps. You see, the bus that was transporting Dr. Emily Darrow and her fellow Red Cross workers on that fateful day six months ago, tragically cascaded down the side of a mountain. And of those victims recovered, there were no survivors. Of course, they never found the pretty humanitarian's body.

Naturally, or maybe supernaturally, that leaves the door wide open for all sorts of conjecture. But evidencing no filmic sleight of hand to intrigue us with, film-

maker Shadyac merely dumps a smorgasbord of haphazard clues on the table and lets us wallow in the possibilities. Thus, while the true fate of Dr. Joe's dearly beloved hangs in the balance, the lack of skillfully crafted suspense leading up to the climactic revelation betrays the very essence of mystery.

Ironically, for all its talk about souls, "Dragonfly" is a mere shell of other movies' concepts, a zombie of a film with no creative animus to call its own. The coming attractions boast of a surprise ending, again a shamefully obvious attempt to associate "Dragonfly" with Shyamalan's superb thriller. And while the twist conclusion actually isn't bad, such fancy footwork in the film's eleventh hour is a proverbial case of too little too late. Some engaging characterization along the way might have helped. But a distractingly overweight Kathy Bates as the ever so logical law professor next door plays like an inconsequential side-bar, and no one else in the cast has a part big enough to warrant discussion.

So that leaves just you, the popcorn and Kevin in a darkened theater. And for some that might very well be enough. As for the rest of us, "Dragonfly" is one love bug whose bite we'd be wise to avoid.

"Dragonfly," rated PG-13, is a Universal Pictures release directed by Tom Shadyac and stars Kevin Costner, Kathy Bates and Susanna Thompson. Running time: 115 minutes

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YOUR HEALTH NEWS**Poison Center Alerts Community To Risks of Hand Sanitizing Gels**

AREA — As the cough and cold season gets into full swing, we look for ways to avoid catching the dreaded winter cold. Hand sanitizing gels are the newest products being marketed to kill these "germs." They come in all sizes and shapes with easy open tops for your convenience, which are often not child resistant. When used as directed on hands, the product is safe and effective. However, the accidental ingestion of a relatively small amount of this

product by children or pets can pose a poisoning risk.

The active ingredient in these hand-sanitizing products is alcohol. Most of these products contain over 60% ethyl alcohol, a stronger alcohol concentration than most hard liquors. A child or pet ingesting any more than a taste of this product could be at risk for alcohol poisoning. Ingestion of as little as an ounce or two by a small child or pet could produce serious effects. Hand sanitizers should be kept

well out of reach of children at all times, and used only with careful adult supervision.

The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) offers these tips on hand sanitizing gels:

- A young child or pet ingesting any more than a taste of this product could be at risk for alcohol poisoning.

- Alcohol poisoning can also result from drinking cologne, mouthwash, perfume, aftershave, rubbing alcohol and alco-

holic beverages.

- The best way to clean hands is hand washing with soap and water. This method also removes most germs from the hands.

- Sanitizers are meant to supplement hand washing, not replace it or they can be used if no running water is available.

- Always store this product well out of reach of children and pets.

- If you suspect your child or pet has ingested this product,

contact the New Jersey Poison Control Center immediately; do not wait for symptoms to develop.

For immediate treatment advice, as well as for prevention information. Call 1-800-222-1222, trained medical professionals will provide you with the most up to date emergency treatment advice, and will answer any drug or poison information question you may have. We are here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year!

Progress In MS Research

AREA — Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a term used to describe scarring on the central nervous system caused by demyelination, the erosion of the system's protective sheath. Symptoms caused by the loss of myelin can include numbness, blurred vision, fatigue, or paralysis. MS researchers have recently been investigating whether or not myelin can be repaired, and on Thursday, March 21, MS

Learn Online, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's quarterly Internet educational program, will feature a discussion of "Progress in the Research of Myelin Repair."

David Coleman, PhD, a researcher at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, will speak on the Myelin Repair Project. After his presentation he will answer questions and will then be joined by

Patricia O'Looney, Director of Biomedical Research at the National MS Society, who will address questions about other topics in MS research. Participants in the hour-long interactive program can e-mail presenters questions for discussion.

An invaluable resource for people with MS as well as their friends and families, MS Learn Online programs are presented

live the third Thursday of March, April, June and September. They can be viewed live at 8:30 PM EST the day of the program or can be accessed anytime from the archive on the National MS Society website, www.nationalmssociety.org (select "Educational Programs"). Free audio software, Media Player, can be easily downloaded from the site.

Since its founding in 1946, the National MS Society has funded more MS research and

served more people with MS than any national voluntary MS organization in the world. The National MS Society is proud to be a source of information about multiple sclerosis, which affects more than a third of a million Americans. To find out more about the programs and resources of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and to find the chapter nearest you, call 1-800 FIGHT MS or log onto nationalmssociety.org.

Popular Author Lectures On Overcoming Alcoholism

AREA — The Center of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers is sponsoring a free lecture to explore various pathways to recovery from alcoholism, a problem that affects nearly 14 million people in the United States. "Sober For Good" presented by best-selling author Anne M. Fletcher, will be held on March 25 at 4 p.m. in the auditorium of the Computing, Research and Education Research Building (CoRE), 96

Frelinghuysen Rd., Busch campus, Piscataway.

The lecture will expand upon Fletcher's book "Sober For Good: New Solutions for Drinking Problems - Advice from Those Who have Succeeded." The book, based on extensive surveys of 222 former problem drinkers, examines recovery options, shatters common myths surrounding alcohol treatment and profiles people who have overcome drinking problems.

Fletcher is an award-winning health and medical journalist and the author of the best-selling books "Thin for Life" and "Eating Thin for Life." She previously served as executive editor of the Tufts University Health & Nutrition Letter and as a contributing editor for Prevention magazine.

The Center of Alcohol Studies (CAS) is a multidisciplinary institute dedicated to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge about the biological, psychological and sociological causes and effects of alcohol and drug use, abuse and dependence. CAS conducts research, develops, implements and

assesses prevention and treatment programs, provides education and training programs, and offers programming for the community. CAS also publishes "The Journal of Studies on Alcohol," an internationally refereed journal concerned with

scientific research related to alcohol and drugs.

For more information about the lecture contact the Center for Alcohol Studies at (732) 445-0903. Visit the CAS Web site <<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cas2/>>.

Blood Drive Scheduled

AREA — There was a tremendous increase in blood donations after the tragic events of Sept. 11. So many caring, concerned Americans volunteered to donate blood that some were asked to defer giving blood until later in the year. Now is the time. "The blood that was donated in September has been used," said Lillian Gatti, recruiting coordinator for the New Brunswick Affiliated Hospitals Blood Center. "We need to continue in our efforts and make sure that there is always an adequate supply in our community."

Donors at the blood drive at Saint Peter's University Hos-

pital will receive tote bags and be entered into a raffle to win tickets for a State Theater performance. The blood drive will take place Tuesday, March 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the hospital's conference center, 254 Easton Ave., New Brunswick.

Gatti added that donor restrictions have been relaxed, so those who may not have been able to donate in the past may now be able to do so. Those interested in becoming a blood donor may call 732-937-8757 for more information or to schedule an appointment. Make an appointment today to give blood.

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YOUR HEALTH NEWS

The Largest Expo Dedicated To People With Diabetes

AREA — The American Diabetes Association (ADA), CVS/pharmacy and Eli Lilly and Company present the first Diabetes Expo for New Jersey residents. The Expo will be held on Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Meadowlands Expo Center in Secaucus. Call 1-888-342-2383 for more information.

The Diabetes Expo is the largest event dedicated to people with diabetes. This highly interactive Expo will include professional speakers — many from area health systems and pharmaceutical companies; free screenings; opportunities to speak directly with medical professionals; and an exhibit area that will feature the latest products,

meters, services, medication, instruction on nutrition and diabetes information.

The ADA's section during the Expo will provide a bookstore offering the latest books and cookbooks for people with diabetes; cooking demonstrations; live website demonstrations; advocacy information; educational programs; and special events.

CVS/pharmacy and Eli Lilly will be providing information and speakers on the latest diabetes drug therapies, the newest diabetes products and a great rewards program.

A Youth Zone will be available for children with diabetes and their families, which will include games, clowns, jugglers,

magicians and face painting.

Additional Diabetes Expo happenings will include:

- **Hope For A Cure** — world-renowned researchers will talk about their search for a cure.

- **Inspirational Speakers** — hear from the personal experi-

ences of others and how they took control of their lives.

- **New Technologies** — dozens of manufacturers demonstrating the latest devices.

- **Cooking Demonstrations** — learn how to eat healthy, while still being able to enjoy your

food! • **Special Offers** — coupons, samples and giveaways at almost every booth!

All funds raised at the Diabetes Expo will help continue the research, information and advocacy efforts of the American Diabetes Association. For additional information on the Diabetes Expo call 1-888-342-2383.

Free Screening During Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

AREA — March 2002 marks the beginning of a national effort to raise public awareness about colorectal cancer. A free colorectal cancer screening is being offered throughout the month of March for adults, ages 40-99, by the Regional Cancer Center at JFK Medical Center. To receive a free kit in the mail, please call the Community Health Improvement hotline at 732-632-1526.

What is colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is a disease in which cells in the colon or rectum become abnormal and divide without control or order, forming a mass called a tumor. Cancer cells can invade and destroy the tissue around them. They can also break away from the tumor and spread to form new tumors in other parts of the body.

Who is at risk? The exact causes of colorectal cancer are not known. However, studies show that certain factors increase a person's chance of developing colorectal cancer:

- **Age:** Colorectal cancer is

more likely to occur as people get older. Most people who develop the disease are over the age of 50. However, the disease can occur at any age.

- **Diet:** The development of colorectal cancer seems to be associated with a diet that is high in fat and calories and low in foods with fiber, such as whole grains, fruits and vegetables.

- **Polyps:** Polyps are benign growths (not cancer) on the inner wall of the colon or rectum. They are relatively common in people over the age of 50. Because most colorectal cancers develop in polyps, detecting and removing these growths may be a way to prevent colorectal cancer.

- **Personal history:** A person who has already had colorectal cancer may develop colorectal cancer a second time. Also, research studies show that women with a history of ovarian, uterine, or breast cancer have a somewhat increased chance of developing colorectal cancer.

- **Family history:** Close relatives (parents, siblings, or children) of a person who has had colorectal cancer are somewhat more likely to develop this type of cancer themselves, especially if the relative developed the cancer at a young age. If many family members have had colorectal cancer, the chances increase even more.

- **Ulcerative colitis:** Ulcerative colitis is a condition in which the lining of the colon becomes inflamed. People who have ulcerative colitis are more likely to develop colorectal cancer.

The American Cancer Society estimates that, in the United States this year, approximately 148,300 men and women will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 56,600 people will die from the disease. Despite its high incidence, colorectal cancer is one of the most detectable, and if found early enough, most treatable form of cancer. Over 90% of those diagnosed while the cancer is still localized survive more than five years. Currently, however, only 37% of colorectal cancers are detected while still localized.

According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in North America. Early detection of colorectal cancer usually results in long-term survival, so the more we raise awareness, the better the chances the cancer will be found early, and the better the chances for survival.

In the absence of symptoms or risk factors, screening should start no later than age 50 and continue routinely — once is not enough. Men and women must make routine colorectal cancer screening a part of their regular healthcare. For more information, call the Regional Cancer Center at 800-261-1404 or 732-632-1526 for a free colorectal cancer screening kit.

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

Workshop To Prepare Family Businesses For Future

AREA — For a family business, learning how to mesh the needs of family members and the business are crucial to the multigenerational success of the company.

The Rutgers Family Business Forum-New Brunswick and the Rutgers Family Business Resource Center-Camden will co-sponsor a workshop March 13 to provide family business owners and operators with guidelines for developing strategies to build stronger family business legacies.

"The Family Business Challenge: Building Value to Shareholders in Difficult Times" will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the National Conference Center at the Ramada Inn, 399 Monmouth St., East Windsor.

Norbert E. Schwarz, principal of The Family Business Consulting Group Inc., Chicago, will be the presenter. He will discuss shaping the future of the family enterprise, developing leading business strategies, sustaining and supporting relationships within the family business

Free Workshop For Small Businesses

AREA — The Internal Revenue Service, together with the New Jersey Division of Taxation and the Small Business Development Centers, will be offering a free Small Business Workshop at Kean University in Union.

"If you are self-employed, a small business owner, an office manager or bookkeeper, you need to know how to handle various tax situations involved in operating a business. This free, informative Small Business Workshop is designed to present an overview of Federal and New Jersey State Tax information and the services available to small business owners," said IRS New Jersey Spokesperson Gregg Semanick.

The IRS Small Business Workshop will be held on Friday, March 22, at Kean University - East Campus located at 215 North Avenue in Union.

This free, all-day workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. in Room 158A.

You must register to attend. To do so, phone 908-301-2114, send a FAX to the Small Business Workshop on 908-301-2109, or send your e-mail to mittie.b.grayson@irs.gov. You can also register by writing to IRS - Small Business Workshop, 200 Sheffield St., Mountaintown, N.J. 07092. Do not contact the workshop location directly for information or to register. You may also call 908-301-2114 and request that the New Jersey Small Business Workshop Schedule is mailed to you.

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system and building long-term value to shareholders.

Schwarz was raised in a family business and has worked with family businesses for more than 30 years. He specializes in strategic financial planning, mergers and acquisitions, succession planning and establishing outside boards of directors.

He holds a MBA in finance from the University of Wisconsin and completed the Executive Program in Strategic Financial Management from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management. He also served as an elected delegate for two White House conferences on small business.

The program cost is \$129 per person and includes all materials, breakfast and lunch. Discounts are available for members of either organizations. To register or for more information, call the Rutgers Family Business Forum at (732) 445-7504, extension 21.

BUSINESS REVIEW

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Key Bail Bonds, Inc. "Your Key To A Quick Release"

No one likes to consider the possibility of ever spending a night in jail, but an unexpected DUI or misunderstanding could result in your having to face two or three days in custody. In the event of such an occurrence, it is comforting to know that a reputable bail bonding service is ready, willing and able to serve you. In this area, people have come to know they can depend on Key Bail Bonds, located in Perth Amboy at 305 Maple Street, phone (732) 826-8200.

Licensed in local, state, district and federal courts, Key Bail Bonds has won the respect of attorneys, judges, police and prosecutors for reputable service at fair prices. The owner of Key Bail Bonds has had many years of experience with bail bonds and is thoroughly competent in every necessary detail. His advice pertaining to bonding is sought after and well respected. He offers the people of this area a 24-hour service and is always available to serve you.

In this day and age, many innocent people are jailed. For this type of emergency, a bail bonding service is an invaluable asset and friend to have. When you need a reputable, professional bail bonding service, remember Key Bail Bonds.

Alliance Plumbing

Patty Weber, Office Manager • Established Over 12 Years Ago

Prompt, expert plumbing work is only a phone call away when you call Alliance Plumbing, located in Woodbridge at 34 Green Street, phone 602-9703. These local professionals have earned an excellent reputation for themselves by serving the residential and commercial plumbing needs of this community.

Alliance Plumbing employs only professionals fully qualified in the plumbing business. Their employees are experienced in all phases of their field. They specialize in installations of hot water heating, sewer and drain cleaning, emergency repairs, and custom bathroom and kitchen remodeling. These experts can handle small residential jobs as well as larger, difficult commercial and industrial accounts.

When you contact Alliance Plumbing, you can be assured that the job will be done right the first time and at most reasonable prices. They are fully licensed, bonded and insured, and they do only the highest quality work. If you are planning any plumbing work, call the professionals at Alliance Plumbing. They'll be glad to help you with your plans and select your fixtures.

Colonia Child Care, Inc. Sandy Nerod, Director

Preparing the young child to be able to successfully begin his/her learning experiences in grade school is the specialty of Colonia Child Care, located in Colonia at 776 Inman Avenue, phone (732) 499-4400.

A child will find there a warm, creative place to learn, play and make new friends as he/she prepares for tomorrow. Qualified, certified teachers present an exciting, well-balanced learning program to your youngster. They are devoted to the finest in early childhood education helping to stimulate your child. Communication skills, perceptual development, music appreciation and recreation are all parts of their well-rounded program.

They are open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and offer full- and half-day programs. They also offer before- and after-care for children who are in kindergarten. Colonia Child Care offers you an affordable, convenient day care that you can rely on and trust in. They accept children from three months to five years of age. Remember, to help your child prepare for tomorrow in a well-balanced program under the guidance of professional, caring teachers, contact Colonia Child Care. You can be assured of the finest in preschool care. Mention or take in this ad and receive 25% off tuition for the first month (new enrollment only).

Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union

Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union, located in Carteret at 265 Washington Avenue, phone (732) 802-0480, offers the people of the area complete financial services. This reliable credit union offers many services at lower rates than are available at other institutions.

Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union was established solely to provide low-cost financial services to its members. As a non-profit organization owned and operated by its members, it offers low interest rates on all types of loans and high interest rates on savings accounts and other savings plans. All accounts are insured up to \$100,000.00 by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. government agency. A wide range of services are offered there including financial counseling, checking services, savings plans, auto and personal loans, home equity loans, Certificates of Deposits, IRA accounts and credit cards. Friendly, personal service is another outstanding feature of Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union. You will never feel like just an account number at this credit union.

The directors and officers are committed to giving their members the best personal and financial service possible. You are invited to call or stop by Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union for information on becoming a member and enjoying all the advantages of their financial services. You will find them to be a reliable financial institution here to serve you. They are available for you Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They are closed Monday.

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Many people have a hearing impairment and may not even realize it. If a friend or family member has had to repeat things for you on more than one occasion, perhaps you should have your hearing checked. The professionals at Audiology Speech & Hearing Aid Dispensing Associates Of NJ, located in Woodbridge at 1 Woodbridge Center, in the Jewelry Exchange Building, can give you or a loved one a free electronic hearing test to determine the extent of hearing loss and if a hearing aid will be beneficial.

If a hearing aid is recommended, the courteous directors at Audiology Speech & Hearing Aid Dispensing Associates Of NJ will expertly fit you with the hearing aids best suited to your needs. They offer programmable and digitally programmable technology and in the ear and behind the ear styles along with many other options. In most cases, a hearing aid can help to restore a large percentage of your hearing, but if medical treatment is necessary, they will not hesitate to recommend it. They offer repairs, loaners, batteries and many accessories.

Don't complain of a hearing problem when it can be easily assisted and improved by Audiology Speech & Hearing Aid Dispensing Associates Of NJ. Phone (732) 636-2645 today for a complete evaluation and start hearing what you have been missing!

DEVINE MEDIA ENTERPRISES, Inc.			
week of: 2/24/02 - 3/02/02			
WINNING PICK-3			
SUNDAY, Feb. 24			
Mid-Day	514	3267	
Evening	120	9265	
MONDAY, Feb. 25			
Mid-Day	230	2394	
Evening	887	3750	
TUESDAY, Feb. 26			
Mid-Day	454	8132	
Evening	348	7858	
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 27			
Mid-Day	160	5291	
Evening	254	0813	
THURSDAY, Feb. 28			
Mid-Day	858	4381	
Evening	505	4006	
FRIDAY, Mar. 1			
Mid-Day	881	6219	
Evening	314	3782	
SATURDAY, Mar. 2			
Mid-Day	745	1710	
Evening	330	7436	
WINNING PICK-4 Numbers			
SUNDAY, Feb. 24			
5-18-26-32-48			
THURSDAY, Mar. 1			
21-22-26-27-41-44			
JERRY CASH-5			
SUNDAY, Feb. 24			
15-22-28-33-35			
MONDAY, Feb. 25			
13-18-22-28-32			
TUESDAY, Feb. 26			
3-4-11-19-27			
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 27			
2-18-25-29-31			
THURSDAY, Feb. 28			
2-3-21-35-38			
FRIDAY, Mar. 1			
2-6-7-19-37			
SATURDAY, Mar. 2			
12-14-23-37-38			
BIG GAME WINNING Numbers			
TUESDAY, Feb. 26			
6-19-22-40-44/27			
FRIDAY, Mar. 1			
13-17-37-49-50/36			
LOTZEE WINNING Numbers			
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 26			
11-42-44-48			
SATURDAY, Mar. 1			
2-5-19-70			

YOUR LOCAL NEWS**Editorial Policy**

The Atom Tabloid & Citizen - Gazette wants to hear from you. Letters to the editor will be published weekly on the editorial page, as space allows.

All letters should be typed and must include a daytime telephone number at which the writer may be reached for

verification. Letters should be as concise as possible.

Letters to the editor must be in our office by noon Friday for consideration for publication the following week.

Keep us informed of your feelings and concerns so we can keep you better informed of the events that are affecting your life.

The Atom Tabloid & Citizen - Gazette reserves the right

to edit all letters and guest columns for grammar, spelling, length and questionable content.

Letters and columns may be mailed to: *The Atom Tabloid & Citizen - Gazette*, P.O. Box 1061, Rahway, NJ 07065. They also may be faxed to (732) 388-4143, Attn: Editor, or reach us via e-mail at editor@devinmedia.com.

THE JEFFREY HART COLUMN**Thinking About Cloning**

It seems to me that President Bush moved much too quickly when he declared our policy on cloning to be, essentially, to work with the existing lines of stem cells but not to create further lines. It would be wrong, the president said, to create human material with the intention of destroying it, even for therapeutic purposes.

The term "cloning" tends to prejudice the argument. It is frightening, or disgusting, if you envision parents ordering up, say, a blond male, if that is what they want. It is not so frightening if we envision a genetically engineered resistance to, for example, cancer. Now that we have mapped the human genome, the DNA that makes us what we are, these questions come into the foreground.

Bush will certainly have to change his original position — that is, against creating new human cells with the intention of destroying them for stem-cell research purposes.

We already create human cell material in connection with in vitro fertilization. The human ova are fertilized in a petri dish, and one or more is implanted in the woman. The rest are destroyed or frozen. I suppose with a limited shelf life. The president did not dare, politically, to deny infertile couples the option of using this procedure. It would not stand, and could not stand — even though the unused fertilized ova are undoubtedly human-cell existences.

Insofar as this layman under-

stands the issues, researchers are interested in the process by which the fertilized ova create "stem cells." That means, very early on, when the evolving ovum is about the size of the period at the end of this sentence, "stem cells" begin to differentiate and become the various organs of the human body.

The hope is that such cells could be used to repair damaged adult organs and perhaps cure ruinous diseases.

But is there some reason why we should block this avenue of research?

The case can be made that the fertilized ovum, even in the petri dish, is in fact an embryo, and that to interfere with it for any purpose is actually homicide.

But is it an embryo? It will not develop, as I understand it, unless it is implanted in a woman. Absent that, it has no future. Perhaps this fertilized ovum should be called "pre-embryo."

And of course, we interfere with nature all the time. We are modifying nature every time we go to a dentist or drive a car, let alone fly in a jet plane.

There is an old New England joke that makes the point: The minister, strolling along the street, sees Silas working in his vegetable garden. The minister says, "Nice garden you and God have there, Silas." Silas replies, "You should have seen it when God was doing it by himself."

It will be very interesting to attend to the emerging debate about stem-cell research. "Profound" would probably be a better word than "interesting."

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Readers Commentary**A Cold Wind Is Blowing— Your Future On Drugs**

Dear Editor,

A cold wind is blowing—a possible omen of your future. It's a crisp winter day. I'm sitting here at the table in my yard contemplating all the possibilities and prospects of the new year that has just recently begun. But, my possibilities and prospects are very, very limited. Why do you think that is? Can you guess who and what I am?

Well, first of all, the difference between my table and yard and the picnic table in your yard is that mine is a cold, hard, metal table in a prison recreation yard. I am number 206653 of the South Woods State Prison in Bridgeton, New Jersey. My name is Frank Robertson and I grew up in New Jersey. I am serving hard time for robbery and to get money for the drugs I needed because I was a drug addict.

Guess what? I started using

drugs as a normal teen in junior high school. So, this letter is a personal plea to you kids and young adults out there to please avoid illegal drugs at all costs because the cost of your freedom and future is priceless. The reason I am telling you this is your age now is the age when my drug use began. Believe me—it can happen to you too. I don't want any of you to end up playing cards at this table in this prison yard with me.

You are now at a point in your lives where serious choices must be made. Number one of those is whether or not you will try drugs. Or, will you continue using them if you have already tried them? Take my word for it, the answer is absolutely "NO"! Believe me—it's not worth it...

It's not worth it...If you use drugs, you will lose. You could wind up like me in prison and

probably will. Or worse—much, much worse...dead or insane. This life in prison is the most miserable, lonely and depraved life in the world. For what? A quick fix to feel good for a little while? That's all a lie, please understand that. A cruel joke on yourself. You do not want to end up in prison. There is so much beauty, wonder and adventure in life. Why waste it in the place like this? Or worse—in a grave.

Please take my word (and experience) for it. This is a true story and I only hope that you take my warning seriously. Those are the cold, hard facts and the truth is not always pretty. But let us hope and work for a drug-free new year and future ahead. Thank you.

**Frank Robertson,
Prisoner
South Woods
State Prison**

SnigLet's

LINT FOR THE BRAIN BY HENRY DAMEN

Camo Terrorists

An animal and wildlife advocacy group demanded that hunting should be banned in New York State because it could increase the threat of terrorism in the wake of 9-11. A representative from Wildlife Watch voiced concerns that armed and camouflaged terrorists could get close to potential targets such as chemical plants, airports or gas pipelines under the guise of being hunters. The group called for a complete suspension of gun and bow hunting deer seasons in New York. Their efforts were unsuccessful. No overreaction here!

And then there's...

Carved In Stone

A new library would ordinarily be cause for celebration. You have the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the dedication of the sculpture in front of the building, and elected officials reaping the rewards for a job well done. Well, that's not quite how it went in Memphis.

According to gomemphis.com, there's a little problem with the sculpture outside the New Central Library. The artwork, resembling a partially unrolled scroll contains quotations and illustrations from various books. So what's the problem? The most prominent quote is from the Communist Manifesto: "Workers of the World Unite!" Yes, that is imbedded in large letters in the sidewalk outside the library's

front door—along with a hammer and sickle.

City Councilman Brent Taylor, concerned that this might be offensive to constituents, has suggested adding artwork symbolizing "the wreckage of communism"—like a chunk of the Berlin Wall. But any hint of official meddling has brought out the Art Defense Brigade, Hedy LaMarr executive director of the (surprise, surprise) ACLU of Tennessee. "It would seem to me that this is a perfect example of why the First Amendment is so important," LaMarr declared. "It ensures government will not pick and choose what is acceptable."

But that is precisely what government has already done, Ms. Hedy LaMarr.

**Hey Folks,
Keep those letters
coming in.
Tell us what's on
your mind.**



YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Iselin Giants Pop Warner Celebrates 40th Year

ISELIN—The Iselin Giants have just celebrated the completion of their 40th year with their annual awards banquet. This prestigious occasion was held at the Pines Manor, Edison, with approximately five hundred guests in attendance.

Helping to celebrate was New York Giants Tight End Howard Cross. These hometown football players and cheerleaders had the opportunity to meet the thirteen-year veteran of the Giants as he signed autographs, took pictures and answered questions

for these aspiring young athletes.

Other guest speakers were Joseph Susan, Rutgers University Offensive Line Coach, Joseph Kirk, John F. Kennedy Memorial High School Head Football Coach and Woodbridge Mayor Frank Pelzman.

With forty years of service, the Giants are the oldest and most experienced Pop Warner team in the area with the most qualified coaches in both cheerleading and football. This team emphasizes fun for all who participate while teaching dedication, commitment, and the skills needed to complete. If your son or daughter is interested in joining the Giants, please contact Wayne Simoneau at (732) 388-1944.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS—Mayor Frank Pelzman and Iselin Giants President Wayne Simoneau attend the Iselin Giants annual awards banquet.

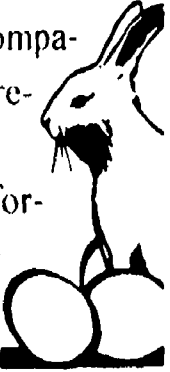
Breakfast And Mini Auction

COLONIA — The Colonia VFW Post 6061 Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring a Breakfast and Mini Auction at the Post Home, 606 Inman Avenue, Colonia, on March 24 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Menu includes pancakes or eggs. Adults \$6; children under 10 years, \$3. Proceeds are for veterans and cancer programs.

Easter At The Library

SOUTH AMBOY—The children's department of the Dowdell Library will hold an Easter craft for children ages 5 and up on Friday, March 22 at 3:30 p.m. Younger children may attend if accompanied by an adult caregiver.

For further information, contact the Dowdell Library at (732) 721-6060.



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SOUTH AMBOY-MANHATTAN FERRY SCHEDULE		
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11:00am	4:30pm	4:15pm
3:10pm	6:45pm	6:30pm
5:25pm		

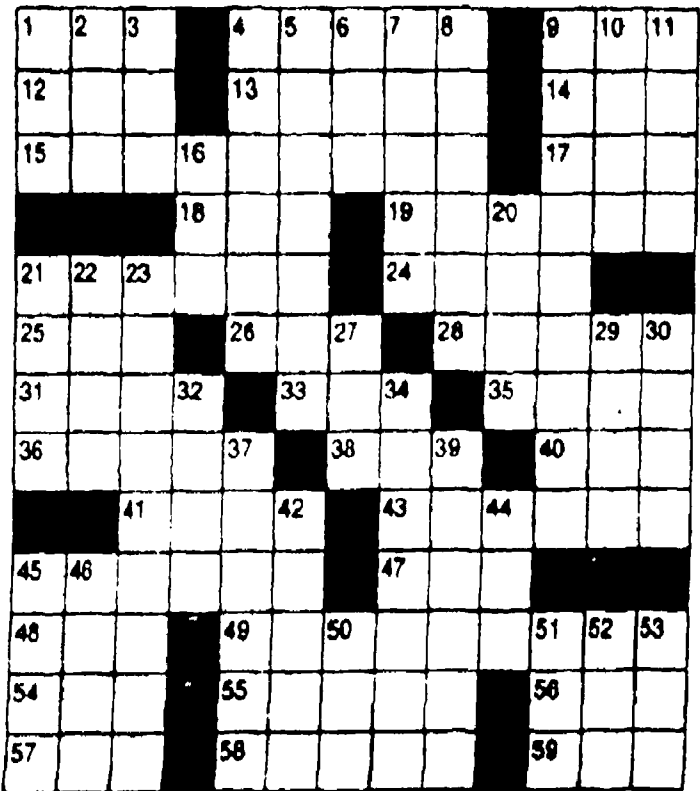
Tickets can be purchased at our South Amboy Ferry Landing, 135 Lower Main St., So. Amboy (site of the Reliant Energy Building) Mon.–Fri.: 5:30am-4:00pm; Sat. & Sun.: 10:00am-2:00pm, or by calling 1-800-BOATRIDE

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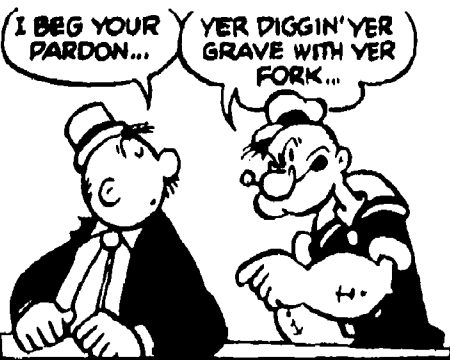
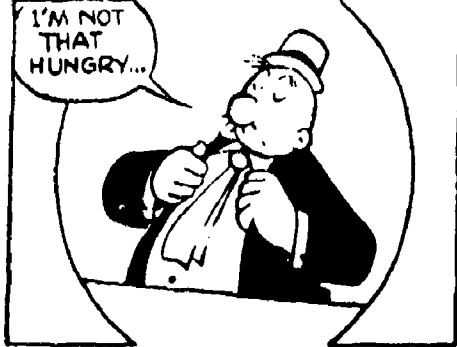
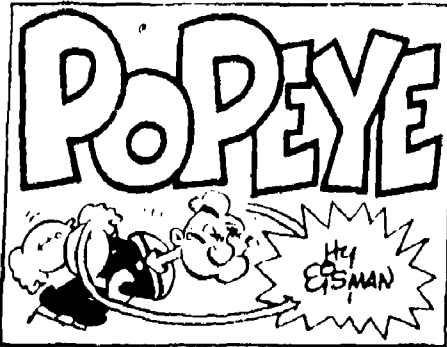
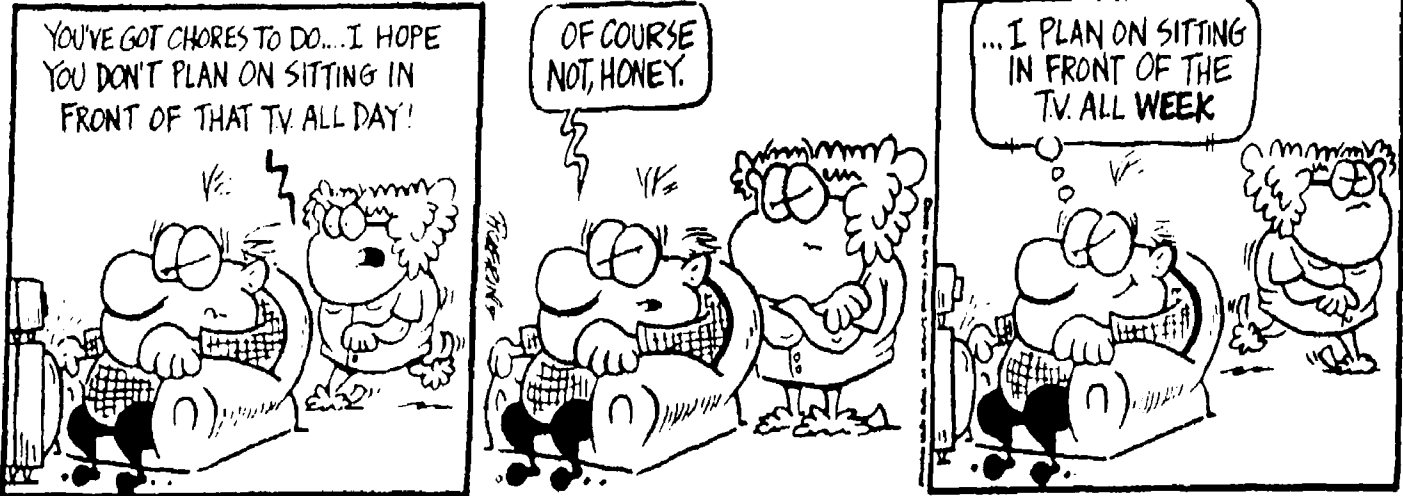
- ACROSS
- 1 Society new-comer
 - 4 Baffle
 - 9 Regis' employer
 - 12 Kayaker's prop
 - 13 Soft-boiling aid
 - 14 Chum
 - 15 Tart fruit used in preserves
 - 17 Expert
 - 18 Early hrs.
 - 19 Brunch entree
 - 21 Seal of approval
 - 24 Actress Campbell
 - 25 So as to emulate
 - 26 Bottom line
 - 28 Sleuths, slangily
 - 31 Angry
 - 33 Staff
 - 35 Highway division
 - 36 Aquarium favorite
 - 38 Energy
 - 40 "Arabian Nights" flier
 - 41 Sommelier's offering
 - 43 Attractive
 - 45 Command
 - 47 Arcing shot
 - 48 Pindaric piece
 - 49 Axle-to-axle measure
 - 54 Candle tally



- 55 On Mom's side
 - 56 DuPont rival
 - 57 Either of AT&T's Ts
 - 58 Memorization methods
 - 59 Dump from the payroll
- DOWN
- 1 Billy Ray Cyrus series
 - 2 Listening device
 - 3 Monokini lack
 - 4 Pollen-bearing organ
 - 5 Tout
 - 6 King of diamonds?
 - 7 Honeydew, for one
 - 8 Intern-to-be's study
 - 9 Upset the (mess up)
 - 10 Naked
 - 11 Coagulate
 - 16 "Humbug!"
 - 20 Satan's specialty
 - 21 Throw
 - 22 Lotion additive
 - 23 Sideways somersault
 - 27 Outdo
 - 29 Gordian puzzle
 - 30 Cabinet member (Abbr.)
 - 32 Pennsylvania port
 - 34 Use up
 - 37 "Jeopardy!" clue
 - 39 Working stiffs
 - 42 Race (Pref.)
 - 44 Period of decline
 - 45 Gravy vessel
 - 46 Move cautiously
 - 50 Pack away
 - 51 Oklahoma city
 - 52 Ferway squad, for short
 - 53 Merino mama

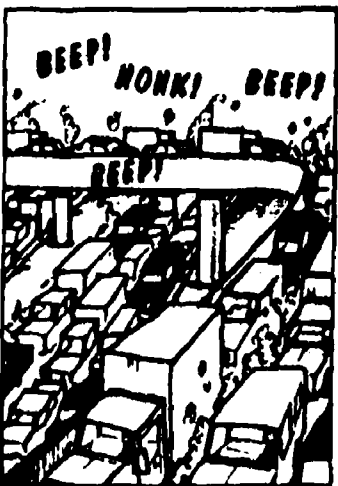
THE SPATS

by JEFF PICKERING



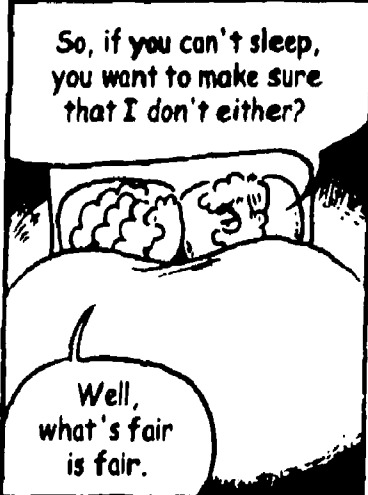
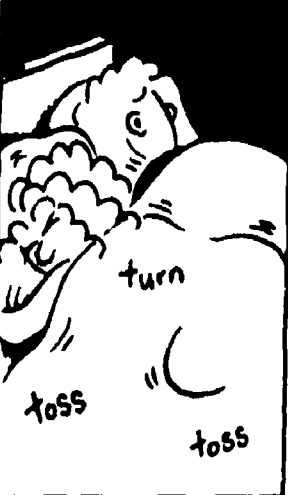
AMBER WAVES

by DAVE T. PHIPPS



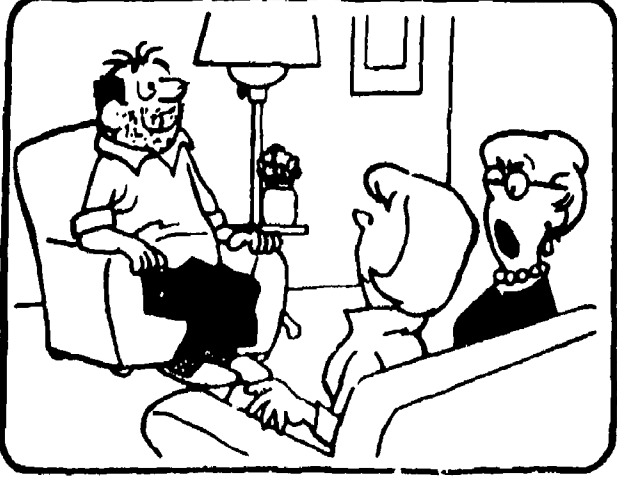
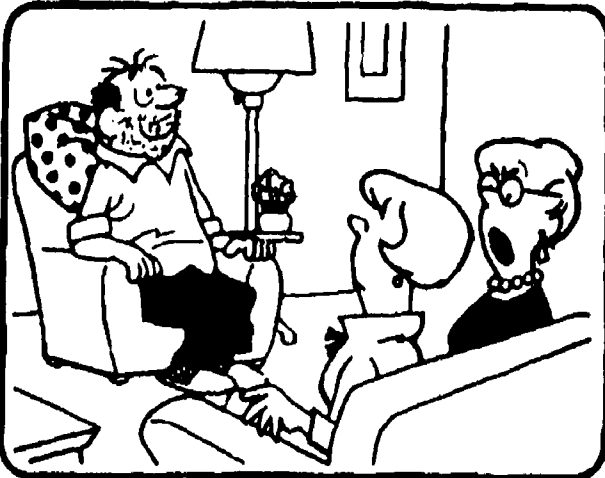
GOT A LIFE

by TERRI DAVIS



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Pillow is missing. 2. Picture is wider. 3. Woman's hair is longer. 4. Bow is missing. 5. Vase is taller. 6. Table is missing.

MAGIC MAZE • ROYAL —

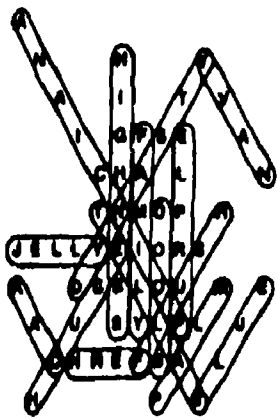
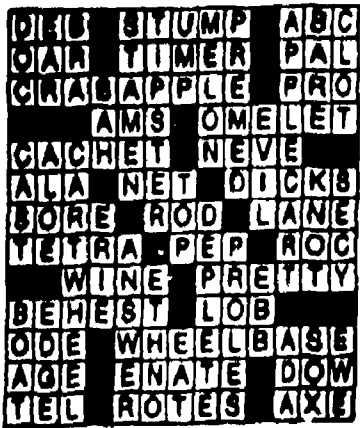
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EJELLYEIORSCAYX
VKUSDS SLOUQMPEN
MKAJUHSYLPFLFUEC
BZYONREFBAXLVUT
RQHPOMLKPIBHGED

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

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-----------|
| Ballet | Family | House | Palm |
| Blood | Fern | Jelly | Poinciana |
| Blue | Flush | Navy | Purple |
| Dynasty | Highness | Oak | |

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to Puzzles



YOUR LOCAL NEWS



ADMITTING CONFUSION... William Hoffman, a senior at Metuchen High School, outside his school's guidance counselor's office, ranked third in his class. Hoffman thought that by applying through early admission he would know where he was going to college by now. He doesn't, illustrating one of the problems critics site with the popular practice.

DEP Deals Edison Developer Another Setback

EDISON—State officials have again shot down a local developer's bid for new construction near the Metropark train station. The proposal, presented by M. Alfieri Co., was for the construction of offices and a parking garage on a tract of land off Evergreen Road, near Oakwood Avenue. The state Department of Environmental Protection rejected the plan because it would have intruded into a flood plain, said DEP Spokeswoman Amy Collings. Alfieri was denied the permit, but told he could reapply, according to Collings. "Once [the berm] is

removed, then we can take another look," Collings said. This latest difficulty was caused because Metroplaza Associates, owners of a neighboring property, added soil on top of an existing earthen berm without a permit in 1997, Collings said. The increased height of the berm effectively keeps more water on adjoining land, extending the flood plain onto the Alfieri site. Alfieri was previously denied a permit in 1999 for a plan that would have filled in 10.8 acres of wetlands for the construction of an office complex and a road.

Elizabeth Man Faces Woodbridge Charges

WOODBIDGE-A 61-year-old Elizabeth resident accused of kidnapping, aggravated assault and robbery was arrested last week, Woodbridge police said.

Eddy Vento was arrested at his home and charged with with the crimes after he threatened an 18-year-old employee of a fast-food restaurant at the Menlo Park Mall on Route 1 in Edison with a steak knife with a 4-inch blade, police said.

The victim told police that he got off work about 4:30 p.m. when Vento, who he recognized as a customer at the mall, offered food court worker a ride home to

New Brunswick after he missed a bus.

Police said Vento turned off Route 1 and drove into Beth Israel Memorial Park Cemetery in Woodbridge when the teenager questioned him about why he was going north on the highway.

Vento pulled out the steak knife, told the victim out of the car and ordered the victim to take off his clothes.

The victim instead ran to a restaurant on the other side of the highway, where he called police who were able to trace the vehicle's license-plate number to Vento.

Residents Want Truck Noise To Stop

EDISON—East Side Avenue residents are still trying to keep wayward trucks out of their neighborhood after 18 months of complaints.

"Those trucks, they roll 24 hours a day. I can't get any sleep at night," says Jay Gupta, who lives across from the Edison Fuel Stop.

Gupta admits that some progress has been made at the truck stop, which fronts on the northbound side of Route 1, just north of Wooding Avenue. Last summer, Gus Leontarakis replaced a fence around the truck stop, but only after being faced with a municipal court order.

Residents say that if

Leontarakis had finished the job by planting shrubs and trees along the fence, it would go a long way toward buffering the truck stop. However, the shrubs stop part of the way along the fence and the trees haven't arrived yet.

Edison Police Chief Edward Costello says that police cars are periodically stationed on East

Side Avenue to catch trucks that head onto the side street. Residents say that this is a deterrent, but realize that police cannot watch the site all the time.

There is a "No Trucks" sign at the entrance of the street, but truckers frequently ignore them. Edison Public Works Director Robert Heck says that they even knocked one down.

Where to get the..

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Donna's Hometown Deli 1018A Amboy Avenue

In Rahway

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In South Amboy

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Chud's Sub Shop Pine Avenue
Quick Pik Pine Avenue
Tarallo's Bordentown Avenue

In Woodbridge

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Garden Deli 37 Gill Lane, Iselin
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Social Security Info

PERTH AMBOY — Members and friends of the Perth Amboy YMHA Senior Club will have as their speaker, Bob Kierner, Field Representative of the local Social Security Office, on Wednesday, March 20.

Kierner will fill you in in the latest Social Security information and will answer any questions you might have.

The program will be preceded by a free, light lunch. Guests are requested to call (732) 442-0365 in advance if they are joining us for lunch.

The program is held at the Y, 316 Madison Avenue.

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OBITUARIES

Elias N. Soueid, 68 of Woodbridge

Mr. Elias N. Soueid of Woodbridge died February 11 at Muhlenberg Regional Hospital, Plainfield. He was 68.

Born in Talacaya, Lebanon he emigrated to the United States in 1988. He resided in North Brunswick before moving to Woodbridge five years ago.

Mr. Soueid was employed by American Security Association for four years as a security officer.

He was a retired Army general in Lebanon.

Mr. Soueid was a communicant of St. Sharbel Maronite Rite Catholic Church, Somerset. He was a church cantor and lector at the church since his emigration to the United States.

His brother, Tony Soueid, died in 1975.

Surviving are his wife of 33 years, the former Violette Baboujian of Woodbridge; two sons, Nassif of Baltimore and Tony of Woodbridge; two daughters, Nadine Khouri of Monmouth Junction and Corrine Helou of New York; two brothers, John of North Brunswick and George of Lebanon; four sisters, Bertha Machalany of Milltown, Olympia Soueid, Georgette Khater and Antionete Dabachri, all of North Brunswick; and two grandchildren, Elie Soueid and Karina Helou.

James S. Kidd, 73 lived in Colonia

Mr. James S. Kidd of Carlisle, Pa., (formerly of Colonia) died February 11 in the Carlisle Regional Medical Center, Carlisle, Pa.

Born in Rahway, he lived in Colonia for 25 years before moving to Carlisle 20 years ago.

He was an independent truck driver before retiring several years ago. Previously, he was a truck driver at the Gulf Co., Linden, K & K Carriers in Cliffwood Beach and Sheaffer Transport, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Kidd was a sergeant in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Surviving are two sons, Jeffrey S. and Randall S.; a daughter, Holly Schmalz; two sisters, Beverly Kaiser and Isabel; and ten grandchildren.

Mary Nevins, 84 of Colonia

Mrs. Mary Nevins of Miami, Fla. (formerly of Colonia) died February 16 in Miami. She was 84.

Her husband, William V. Nevins, died in 1985. A sister, Dorothy Bratnik and a brother, Edward Conisha, are both deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda Jarvis of Miami, Fla.; a son, William Charles Nevins of Old Bridge; a sister, Emily Gaines of Denver, Colo. (formerly of Linden); five grandchildren, Matthew Nevins and Rebecca Nevins, Sara, Maggie and Christopher Jarvis and several nieces and nephews.

Josephine Battilora of Iselin

Miss Josephine M. Battilora of Iselin died February 17 in the Roosevelt Care Center, Woodbridge. She was 78.

Born in Lyndhurst, she moved to Iselin 43 years ago.

She was a production worker for RCA in Harrison before retiring.

Miss Battilora is survived by a sister, Mildred Jacobs.

Joseph D. Figueroa of Carteret

Mr. Joseph D. Figueroa of Carteret died February 17 in Rahway Hospital. He was 44.

Born in Elizabeth, he lived in Linden before moving to Carteret three years ago.

He was a self-employed general contractor.

Mr. Figueroa served in the Marine Corps during peacetime.

Surviving are two sons, Shaun and Joey; his mother, Helen Kiczek; his father, Dominick Figueroa and three grandchildren.

Edward Krystosiak of Carteret

Mr. Edward P. Krystosiak of Naples, Fla. (formerly of Carteret) died February 19 at Naples Community Hospital, Naples, Fla. He was 74.

Born in Carteret, he lived there until moving to Florida eight years ago.

He retired as a hi-low machinist for Hyatts Roller-Bearing Co., Clark, where he worked for 17 years.

He was then employed by St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen, as a custodian for five years.

Mr. Krystosiak was a Navy veteran of World War II.

He was a parishioner of Holy Family R.C. Church, Carteret.

Surviving are his wife Mary (DeRisi) Krystosiak; three sisters, Phyllis Martino of Spotswood, Bernice Erdely of Carteret and Marie Zielenbach of Brick; a brother, Michael Krystosiak of Jackson; and several nieces and nephews.

Franciszka Magryta of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Franciszka Magryta of Perth Amboy died February 21 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 95.

Born in Poland, she emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1950 and has resided in Perth Amboy since then.

She was a parishioner of St. Stephen's R.C. Church, Perth Amboy and a member of the church's Rosary Altar Society and the St. Stephen's Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Mrs. Magryta was also a member of the United Poles in America (ZPA) in Perth Amboy.

Her husband, Karol Magryta, died in 1981. Two daughters, Boleslawa Wojcinski and Halina Stroczyński; two brothers, Jan and Wladyslaw Jelinek and a sister, Maria Klikicka, are all deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Danuta Wyszynski of Perth Amboy; a son, Romuald Magryta of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Ostein Vaughn, 73 of Perth Amboy

Mr. Ostein "Buster" Vaughn of Perth Amboy died February 21 at St. Peter's University Hospital, New Brunswick. He was 73.

Born on Okeechobee, Fla., he resided in Perth Amboy for 31 years.

He formerly lived in the South River and Englishtown areas.

He was a construction worker for Laborers Local 472, Newark, for 30 years, retiring in 1987.

Mr. Vaughn was a member of Victory Revival Temple, Perth Amboy.

Surviving are his wife, Ella Marie Vaughn of Perth Amboy; 12 children; many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Matthew Vaughn, former councilman in South River and Charles Vaughn of Englishtown.

Russell Larsen, 70 of Edison

Mr. Russell William Larsen of Edison died February 18 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. He was 70.

Born in Edison, he resided in New Brunswick before moving to Edison.

He was a postal clerk with the New Brunswick Post Office and later with the Kilmer Postal facility, Edison.

Mr. Larsen was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of the American Legion Clara Barton Post 324, Edison.

He was a member of the Hungarian Reformed Church, Perth Amboy.

His sister, Katherine Boelhower, died in 1982.

Surviving are a brother, Lewis E. Larsen of Edison; two sisters, Edna Ahrens of Fords and Doris Gross of Franklin Park; a brother-in-law, Joseph Gross of Franklin Park; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Wilhelmina Daly of Sayreville

Mrs. Wilhelmina Popp Daly of Sayreville died February 21 at Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune. She was 93.

Born in New Brunswick, she was a lifelong resident of Sayreville.

She was employed for many years as a seamstress through the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Mrs. Daly was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Sayreville, where she served as a church elder and deacon and was past president of the United Polish Workers (UPW).

She was named "Citizen of the Year" in 1975 by Sayreville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4699. She was one of the founding members of the Sayreville Tuesday Club and Sayreville Leisure Club.

Her husband, Thomas E. Daly; three sisters, Anna Weiner, Marjorie Freeman and Erma Conover; and a brother, Harold Popp, are all deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Patricia Michel; two grandchildren, Jill Riley and Peter Michel; and three great-grandchildren, Jennifer, Jacqueline and Thomas Riley.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SWF-60's, petite, seeking professional, (in 60-80yr range) who is an honest man, for marriage. ID# 1077

Recent Widow-Sad and blue, would like to meet a man like you! I am 58, 5'3" 118lbs. Financially secure, kind & generous and pretty also. Love cooking, games, prefer WWD 60 yrs + with a sense of humor. Let's start anew in 2002 ID# 1063

WWF-My New Years resolution is to find a gentle man who is in his early 60's, family oriented, a big heart and needs someone like me. Can you help me out? ID# 1061

DWF 43, -5'3" N/S brown hair, brown eyes and mom to one child. Positive, outgoing, passionate, ISO F/S male for steady relationship. ID# 1060

WWF 57, -slim, attractive, full of life, creative, caring, multi-interests. Looking for a man 50-65 with similar characteristics. ID# 1054

Attractive SWF 49, -5'4", 135 lbs., long hair, affectionate and honest. I am looking for an honest and caring man to share life with. For the good and bad times. ID# 1048

SWF 41, -Enjoys fun times, walks in the country, sight seeing, historic landmarks, dining out, reading. Seeking non-smoking SWM 40-50 for long term relationship. ID# 1045

WWF, widow, seeking a nice man for companionship between 65 and 70yrs of age. I enjoy movies, walking and dining out, TV and reading. I am also an animal lover. ID# 1043

SWF, 50's, 5'1", petite, attractive, romantic, seeking a white tall man 5'8"+ professional 49-56. Someone who is nice so we can both enjoy our time together. ID# 1042

SWF, semi-retired, down to earth, kind and independent, compassionate, homebody but adventurous. Seeking same in senior man. ID# 1044

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

SWM, 37, 6' 210 lbs, brown hair, green eyes, very sports oriented. In search of an attractive woman in the 40's, non smoker, social drinker or non-drinker to have some fun. Pool, dinners, movies etc. ID# 1075

Marriage minded, 50 yr old WWM, F/S, no kids, 6' 180 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, smoker. Enjoys candle-lit dinners, long drives, antiquing, reading novels, and being romantic. Looking for a lady with similar interests, 40-55. ID# 1076

Attractive SBM, 31, 5'10", 180lbs, short black hair, brown eyes, affectionate and honest. I am looking for an honest and caring woman to share life with. Please have a job and a car as I do. No lazy, heavyset or irresponsible women. Seeking serious replies, I am a homeowner and wish a N/S. Include photo if poss. ID# 1073

SWM, 41, 6', 145lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, N/S, likes to hike, sight-see. I am an old fashioned gentleman who is looking for my lady with whom I wish to share a lifetime of happiness and togetherness with. ID# 1072

DWM, 45, N/S, no children, ISO female who like me, enjoys quiet times, hugs, kisses and cuddling. For long-term relationship, possible commitment. ID# 1071

DWCM, ISO short female, 40's-50's, sensitive, kind, down to earth; togetherness, LTR. I'm 5'8", strong 175, young 54, hair, educated, homeowner, F/S, no bad habits, retired. Enjoy nature, shore, dining out, animals, home life. Include phone #, message ID# 1069

Single Black male, seeks single attractive passionate, 30-40 yrs, hispanic female non-smoking, physical and nice appearance. Let's talk. ID# 1068

Single Male 42, of mixed descent, seeks a nice lady. If you like riding the train, CD101.9 radio, watching Jeopardy on TV, or are just curious, send me a letter. Let's talk over a drink. ID# 1067

SWM 46, 6'2, 230 lbs seeking SDWHA 30-50 female, who enjoys movies, New York, Vids, music, travel and walks on the beach. ID# 1065

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

SWM, never-married, 44, 5'9". Seeks black woman 25-50 for dating and relationship. Possible marriage in the future, must be affectionate and love to be cuddled. ID# 1066

Union County Gentleman, starting over. Mid-50's, easy going, secure w/no vices. I'm not looking for the impossible! ISO caring, honest, F/S, affectionate slim lady that appreciates TLC. ID# 1064

DWM 53, 5'10", N/S, no pets, salt & pepper hair, hazel eyes, stocky build, 190lbs. Seeking SWF or DWF to share with me all the fun and excitement Atlantic City casinos have to offer. Movies, ball room dancing, languages are my hobbies. Hispanics, Orientals ok. You won't be sorry ID# 1062

Hi, I am a 34 year old Jewish male, 5'7", who is a college grad and N/S. I'm looking for a single Jewish female, 25-37, for a serious relationship. I'm a big sports fan & have additional interests such as dining out & going to the movies. Give me a try, you'll never know what you'll get! ID# 1058

SWM 48, Athletic build, blue eyes, good looking, N/S, enjoys music (rock, "big hair bands") movies, walking and good times together. Like to meet cute WF who can cook. Teach me! ID# 1059

SWM 45, never married, 5'10", 150 lbs. Kind, considerate, honest, open-minded. Enjoys art, music, movies, reading, traveling and bicycling. Seeks vivacious SWF 30-45 to share life with. ID# 1056

SWM 45, 5'10" 170 lbs, green eyes, brown hair. Enjoys cooking, dining out, good conversation, movies and fun with kids. Looking for a SWW, 40-46, honest,

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

pretty for a LTR & friendship. Good shape and fun loving. ID# 1055

64 yr old, white, widower, seeks white female for honest relationship. I love to travel, dine out, movies etc. I am looking for a woman with a great sense of humor who enjoys the same. ID# 1052

Old Fashioned, Christian man seeking marriage minded christian woman, 35-60. I enjoy bible study, nature, zoos, NYC, water falls, fire places and hugs. Write and include phone number ID# 1049

SWM, 44, N/S, 6'2", eyes of blue, seeks N/S female for a very special relationship. Physical features are not as important as in having a heart of gold. I enjoy movies, dining out, sporting events and taking walks. ID# 1051

Retired WWM, trim, fit, 5'9", 155lbs, blue eyes, hair graying, n/s, artistic nature. Enjoys dining, dancing, music, old movies, theater, beaches, mountains. In search of WF dating partner, 50-60, similar traits and interests, need not bat 1000, in the ball park is fine. ID# 1047

Hi, I am a SWM, 49, 6'1" and 185lbs. I am looking to meet a woman for love and LT relationship. I'm sensitive, easy going, sensuous, very secure and honest. Give me a try-nothing to lose. ID# 1039

DWM, 55, 5'10", NS, no children 185lbs. Seeking SWF 45-65, totally childless, not too thin, NS Loves homelife, movies, music, quiet times and travelling. for friendship first. ID# 1057

SWM, 44, never married, stocky build. Enjoys staying home, oldies and talking sports. Non-smoker, a casual drink while dining out. Seeks SWF same, 40-45 for companionship or more. ID# 1038

FRIENDS

VERY, very old, very erudite gentleman. Have been all things to many, many people. Now a widower. Self taught artist, b/w photographer, currently a writer. Write letters first, then maybe face to face. I will answer all ladies and gentlemen. ID# 1074

SWF 53 -Hi, I enjoy drives to the country, dining out, dancing and traveling. Prefer a man to be between 55-60 years of age. ID# 1053

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

SWM 36 -ISO of other SPM or BM, 21-38 yrs old, enjoys the beach, movies, clubs, smoker/social drinker. Seeking LT relationship, into cuddling, very romantic passionate, seeks same/likes to party, hang out, muscular, send pic w/phone #. ID# 1046

SBF-honest, sincere and loving. Looking for a full figured feminine woman between the ages of 30-40 yrs. Looking for a friendship first, possible relationship. I'm a 38 yr old SBF, petite and straight forward n/s, n/d. No bi's please. ID# 1050

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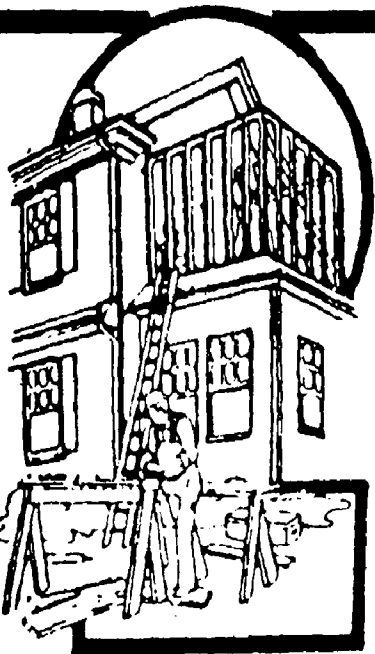
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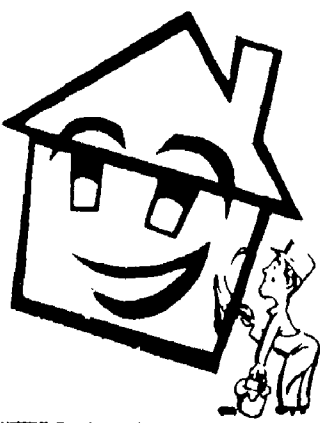
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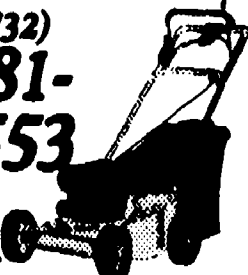
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Ethics Board Holds First Meeting

CARTERET - The newly appointed borough ethics board held its first meeting on Monday, Feb. 25 at the Thomas Deverin Community Center.

The purpose of the meeting was to organize and elect a chairman and vice-chairman and setup procedural rules and bylaws.

The ethics board was created in December as part of a new

municipal ethics ordinance proposed by Councilman Dan Reiman.

The new ordinance will bring the existing ethics law into compliance with state law and also opened up the board for appointments of new members.

"The prior ordinance was more than 30 years old, and was outdated," said Reiman. "This new ordinance allowed the

council to adopt stricter ethics laws and appoint a bipartisan board to act as an enforcement and hearing body."

At the initial organization meeting, former Mayor John "Doc" Fenick was elected as chairman and former Assemblyman and Mayor Thomas Deverin was selected as vice-chairman.

The other members of the

board include Rev. Taras Chubenko, Al Walsh, Fred Gerstler, and former Councilman Frank James.

The board, which has very broad authority under state statute, can fine municipal employees and elected officials for ethics law violations.

The panel may even make recommendations for censure, suspension, and removal of municipal officials to the governing body, but only the borough council can actually

remove or suspend anyone.

The first meeting allowed for open discussion between the members about the ordinance.

The board will hold another meeting to adopt rules, regulations and by-laws. It may also make recommendations to adopt a stricter ethics ordinance or modify the existing laws.

After the procedures are established, the board will only meet as needed. Currently there are no cases scheduled to be heard.

Moody's Upgrades Edison Bond Rating

EDISON - Moody's Investors Service has upgraded Edison's bond rating from A1 to Aa3, which means the township will pay less to borrow money.

The upgrade is welcome news in the wake of a state budget crisis, an overall slowing in the national economy, and announcements of major plant closings according to Mayor George A. Spadaro.

Moody's has assigned an Aa3 rating and stable outlook to Edison's proposed \$29.45 million sale of General Improvement Bonds Series, 2002.

"Since taking office, my administration has been committed to the long term goal of fiscal responsibility," the mayor said. "This conservative approach to budgeting is nothing more than living within our means."

"As individuals we all have to live within our means to sur-

vive financially," said Spadaro. "Governments are no different and should be required to do the same."

In their new issues report, Moody's cited several key factors in Edison's ratings upgrade including projected continued economic stability, a diverse \$7.8 billion tax base, a 1.5% annual growth in the tax base over the last decade, conservative budgeting practices, and a modest debt burden.

Moody's projected no major side effect to Edison's economy resulting from Ford's planned closing of their Route One assembly plant, stating, "The Ford Motor Company accounts for only 1/4 of 1 % of the township's total valuation."

"At my direction the Business Administrator has put together a strict long term plan for financial security while planning for the future," said Spadaro.



GET ON THE BUS-Shanna Gietter, Shiara Seidner and Dori Herskovitz, students at JP Stevens High School in Edison, join Andrea Krich, executive director of Middlesex Interfaith Partners With the Homeless (MIPH) and Jill Millerand, MIPH's volunteer and donation coordinator in front of MIPH's "ClothesLine" Bus. MIPH, a member agency of the United Way of Central Jersey, uses the bus to provide clothing to homeless and needy people in Middlesex County. The students are participating as part of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America Program at their school.

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