

## From The Editor's Notebook

By Tom Canavan  
Editor in Chief



The struggle which standard American English has been enduring could face an uphill battle with the advent of Ebonics.

Ebonics is being introduced in a school district in Oakland, Calif., and entails teaching black English as part of the curriculum.

What is troubling most of mainstream America about Ebonics is that school districts, if enough urban districts across the nation pursue the instruction of the course, are basically saying it is all right for students to be taught improper English and that they can expect to advance in the real world using this kind of language.

The bottom line is that standard American English, which already is in jeopardy, will find itself in further jeopardy if this is allowed to happen.

If a job candidate tries for a position with this newspaper company, and he or she, during a try-out story, returns from a meeting and writes, "The meeting be held," that person will not be hired. It's difficult enough to find candidates who have a command of the English language at all, and as an editor, I already blame our education system for graduating people who can't even conjugate a verb correctly.

"Do you have Spell-Check?" is a frequent question asked by job candidates during interviews, and it makes one wonder if spelling and English is being taught at all in schools. To me, if a person is pursuing a career in journalism, and use of language is a critical component to succeed, your brain should be the automatic Spell-Check and you shouldn't have to rely on a program installed in a computer for accuracy.

Ebonics is just another straw on the camel's back to reduce standards rather than raising them. The standards for Basic Skills tests, HSPTs, SATs, civil service tests, in addition to quota systems are all steps in the dumbing of America. Instead, we should be focusing on ways to make America more intelligent. One of those ways is to be strict with our students, just as my teachers were strict with my classmates and me.

Many students in high school and grammar school in the 1960s and 1970s dreaded the study of grammar, spelling and literature, but we had no choice but to learn the skills. And if we didn't learn, we faced summer school or another year in the same grade.

I hope the effort fails in Oakland, Calif. And I hope no other school district in the nation tries to pursue it.

We received some feedback about an editorial that we published in our Christmas editions wishing our readers a Merry Christmas instead of Happy Holidays. A group of people from Maplewood and South Orange co-wrote a letter to the editor telling us they were offended by the editorial because we live in a multicultural society and we should understand the differences in people.

On the other hand, we received a letter congratulating us "for your courage to print this in your newspaper. You should be aware that there are many people who will also applaud you for your editorial." Another reader sent a card saying "I enjoyed reading your editorial 'Merry Christmas' so much. I agree with you wholeheartedly."

I'd like to take this time to wish our readers and advertisers a healthy, happy and prosperous new year.

## County Christmas spirit



Freeholder Edwin Force throws the switch turning on the county's Christmas tree at the Watchung Stable in Mountainside. More than 2,000 area residents attended the ceremony, which was the seventh annual. The Choral Art Society of Westfield sang Christmas carols; Green Meadow Farms provided a petting zoo; the Watchung Stable Mounted Drill Team performed, as did the sheriff's K-9 unit. In addition, the event served as a charity food and toy drive. More than 500 pounds of food was collected for the Salvation Army of Plainfield and almost 100 toys for St. Clare's Home for Children with AIDS in Elizabeth.

## County clerk asks parties to agree to campaign code

After being made a campaign issue last year when she was not a candidate, County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi has asked both county political parties to agree to a code of campaign ethics.

The pledge is based on "The Code of Ethical Behavior," which was established more than 40 years ago by the defunct Fair Campaign Practices Committee, would have candidates follow truth-in advertising procedures.

"It's morally abhorrent and an insult to voters for candidates to so distort and twist the facts that, in a private-sector environment, would be libel and slander," said Rajoppi, adding that the county GOP was wrong to portray her as a campaign contributor seeking a \$17,000 raise as repayment.

"Fair play, hard-biting campaigns are valid," Rajoppi also said. "Saying I gave the Democratic freeholder candidates \$17,000 last year so they can give it back to me as part of a raise is a blatant distortion that questions the credibility and motivation of those who ran for office."

Rajoppi said the Republicans paid tens of thousands of dollars to cable television carriers, radio stations, newspapers and direct mail advertisers to convey the allegation to the public.

Rajoppi explained her contribution as one that involved a county-wide campaign account to be used on her own behalf as a candidate for county clerk.

"When political candidates so misconstrue the truth for their own ends, everyone loses," Rajoppi said. "Real issues

are buried, the public is bombarded with allegations and good public officials are maligned. It's no wonder the public's perception of politicians is so low. It's my hope that a first step to returning integrity to the process is for candidates to sign this pledge," she said.

"We can mandate comprehensive requirements for financial disclosure for candidates, prohibit specific instances of conflict of interest and mandate and enforce civil and criminal penalties for violations, but we can't address every potential immoral act. The public must demand such behavior and continue to vote violators out of office. Maybe then, the perpetrators of such distortions will get the message," she added.

The code of behavior Rajoppi suggested includes:

- To discuss the real issues before the people and to criticize each other's real positions.
- To reject and repudiate "whispering campaigns" or unsigned literature.
- To not vilify or defame their opponents.
- To neither libel nor slander opponents, to not permit scurrilous attacks on their personal or family lives.
- Not to misrepresent, distort or falsify the facts about opponents.
- To not permit unfounded or malicious accusations of disloyalty.
- To not permit appeals to prejudice based on race, religion or origin.

## Reverend's ministry: 45 years and still going strong

By Bea Smith  
Staff Writer

Every one who has ever met the Rev. Nancy Elizabeth Forsberg of Maplewood, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Union, has admitted that the Godly goodness and kindness that emanates from her envelopes one's heart.

There is something very special about this worldly woman — there is an aura about her — and many have said that God chose her especially to represent Him. Even she, who is affectionately known as "Rev. Nancy" by all who have had the pleasure and experience of meeting the minister, has admitted that she was indeed chosen by God to minister His faith.

"My life is a response to God's call," she said the other afternoon during a visit to the little white church on the corner of Burnet Avenue in Union. The woman, a tall Norwegian type, who walks with crutches because of many painful hip operations, is indeed a monument to the teachings of God. But she's much more than that, and has been a leader in the community, the state and the country in many aspects of faith.

"I celebrated my 45th ordination to the Christian Ministry last year," explained Rev. Nancy. "I feel as I did then, my life is a response to God's call. When I first made up my mind to become a minister, I felt that God was calling me to do this work in response to His work. I believe I was born to be a minister. To me," she smiled warmly, "it's been a lifelong calling. You know," Rev. Nancy reminded, "the ministry involves preaching, teaching and a great deal of caring for people — a love of people, of God's people. I

feel my calling is to all of God's people"

And part of that has been her "participation in community service in all aspects of life. I have served over 6,000 men and women across the whole United States of America."

Born in Jersey City, Nancy Forsberg moved with her parents to Maplewood when she was 3 years old. "My parents met in Jersey City," she said. "My mother was from Norway and my father from Sweden. When we moved to Maplewood, we started to go to a Methodist church — there were no Lutheran churches in Maplewood. And Maplewood was my family home all of these years. I attended Seth Boyden Elementary School, Maplewood Junior High School and Columbia High School. Then I went to Denison University in Ohio.

"After I finished college," Rev. Nancy recalled, "I had one year of teaching at the YMCA in Mechanicsburg, Ohio, which was followed by program director for the YWCA in New Britain, Conn. and then decided to go to seminary school because of my call for the ministry. I needed to make some money to attend the seminary, and much later, I was in the Department of Hebrew Studies at New York University. I worked my way through the Yale Divinity School to supplement my scholarships and completed my theological studies. I did my field work as program director of the West Haven Community House."

Rev. Nancy was ordained at the completion of my theological studies in the First Congregational Church of West Haven, Conn. in June 1951. My



Rev. Nancy E. Forsberg  
Congregation is in Union

major field was "religious leadership in higher education," and upon graduation, I became a Protestant chaplain at the State University of Iowa in Iowa City. This was the field I was preparing for in campus ministry."

Soon after, Rev. Nancy came to Union and "I got involved in the Council of Congregations of Union. I was one of the founders. That was about 27 years ago. I felt that I was responding to God's call. It didn't just mean the building of a congregation. It meant sharing God's love and concern whenever and wherever it is needed. And that's what led me to become a founder of the Council of Congregations, because I believe in the ecumenical movement and inter-religious cooperation."

She was one of the founders of Union Peace Park. "Also, the Rev. Russell Block, who had been pastor of

## UCUA seeks rate cuts in 2 cities Linden, Rahway would benefit

By Sean Daily  
Staff Writer

The UCUA has filed petitions with the state Department of Environmental Protection to change fees at two of its facilities.

According to Comptroller Thomas Brennan, the UCUA filed petitions on Dec. 12 to increase the per-ton charge, or "tipping fee," at J&J Recycling of Linden, a contractor that disposes of materials that cannot be incinerated.

The UCUA has also petitioned the DEP to reduce the Host Community Benefit Surcharge to Rahway from \$5.02 per ton of garbage to \$4.92 per ton. This money, added to the tipping fee of each ton of garbage disposed at the incinerator, is compensation to Rahway, site of the incinerator.

Public comment will be taken on these issues at the UCUA offices on Route 1 in Rahway on Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

According to Brennan, the reduction in the Host Community Benefits Surcharge to Rahway will mean the UCUA will save \$47,000 in host community fees. According to Rahway officials, host community fees are worth a grand total of about \$2 million per year.

The reason this is being done, he said, is because Rahway has entered into an agreement with an outside company, ARTS, to handle the city's recycling, a service, Brennan said the UCUA still pays for.

It is not related to a recent decision by federal court Judge Joseph Irenas on New Jersey's waste flow laws, he said. Irenas' decision, which strikes down the laws as unconstitutional, will mean the UCUA's monopoly on trash disposal in Union County could end in less than two years. If this happens, municipalities could send their trash elsewhere and leave the UCUA without enough business to pay off its bonds.

This has led to a number of cost-saving and cost-cutting measures at the UCUA of late to make the incinerator more competitive. Brennan said the reduction in the Host Community Benefits Surcharge is not one of them.

The increases in rates at the Linden facility are also related to host community fees, but in this case Brennan said the fees to Linden will increase.

Four different types of materials are affected by this petition, said Brennan: all of them are materials that can't be taken at the Rahway incinerator and all will have their tipping fees at J&J Recycling increased.

Materials from demolition projects will have their tipping fees at the Linden facility increased from \$79.28 to \$87.13. Residue from these materials will be increased from \$91.33 to \$99.56.

Construction materials will be increased from \$91.55 to \$99.77 and the residue from those materials will be increased from \$100.59 per ton to \$108.81 per ton.

This will not be paid by the communities sending these materials to J&J Recycling, but will be paid by the haulers. Brennan estimated that this would result in the haulers paying an extra \$6 or \$7 per ton of materials shipped to the facility.

According to Brennan, this is not an increase in Linden's host community fees for J&J Recycling, but added that it will end in more money going to the Linden government. Linden is paid about \$1.50 per ton of materials disposed of at J&J Recycling.

J&J Recycling declined such an increase two years ago, even though they are allowed an increase based on the Consumer Price Index. Brennan said that no petition was made last year to keep the facility as competitive as possible. This year's petition is retroactive to that year.

Brennan stressed that the UCUA is not increasing any of its municipal waste disposal rates; none of the municipalities that are customers of the UCUA will pay more to have their garbage disposed.

"The UCUA is not increasing any rates," he said. "We're holding fast and will hopefully save the communities money and stay as competitive as we are now."

The UCUA has already filed a petition with the DEP not to increase or decrease its garbage tipping fee of \$80.22 per ton. The DEP has yet to take action on this petition.

Connecticut Farms Church, worked with me in the founding and establishment of the Peace Park. Russ and I worked to establish the Peace Park and to create the Council of Congregations which would bring together representatives of churches and synagogues to address community concerns. Later, I worked with the Rev. George Sheridan to establish the Interfaith Community of Holocaust Awareness."

Her church also runs a nursery school.

How did Rev. Nancy's famous "Trip of the Month with a Spiritual Emphasis" come about?

"It started back in 1970 or 1971," the minister said. "It was meant to create a meaningful program. I planned multiple experiences and one day trips later became two and three-day trips in religious conferences across the country. I was and still am just very excited about bring God's word to all His people. And we felt we could carry out our role here in Union when the families could go to new and exciting places — and to eat out. They just love to eat out," she grinned.

At the beginning, Rev. Nancy said she "prayed and asked God how can I make this ministry, and I could hear very clearly. God was answering my prayer by giving me the idea of planning special trips to explore places of beauty and interest in his world. And each trip would include a very nice meal. The very first trip was in October of 1951, and our motto was 'Finding God on Mountain Tops.' I took the trip up to Mohawk Mountain House in New Paltz, N.Y., with about 35 members, essentially, church members. I had visited the site when I was a child and my parents took me

there to visit Norwegian friends. Then when I became minister here, I was invited to become the chaplain and to work up there for the Smiley family, who founded the house.

"Everyone found that first trip beautiful. There was a glacial lake up in Shawangunk. We also took a guided tour of the Victorian furnishings and we were invited to spend a couple of hours appreciating the beauty of the lake from the main parlor with a wall of windows. While Aunt Rachel Smiley played the organ — she came from a Quaker family — I talked about the various experiences in the Bible. You know, the whole Bible is full of mountaintop experiences, from Moses to Jesus. And the people loved it," Rev. Nancy declared. "Before long, we were having other trips, and people didn't necessarily have to be members of our church to participate."

How does she get her ideas?

"I find out all about these things, and I write to ask about trips. Over the years, we started trips to Israel and in alternating years to Alaska, Scandinavia, the British Isles. In fact, this year we're going to the Canadian Rockies. It's not a ride; it's an experience. And word of mouth brings lots of people. It's an experience to help people grow in their knowledge and understanding in God's world and the various people and places that have significance. That's why it's a mainstream."

Rev. Nancy has been honored by every religious organization throughout the world.

And even though she is 74 years old, she is anxious to continue all of her activities.

"I can't even think of slowing down," Rev. Nancy announced. "I'm 74 and still raring to go."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local talents team up to make audiences laugh — and think

By Jacquie McCarthy  
Associate Editor

Worrall Community Newspapers recently presented a feature story about Union resident Agustin Fernandez, a young man who shows great promise as an actor and director. Fernandez has joined forces with another talented young man from Union, Ron Yacovetti, and the two have put together an innovative and entertaining production at The Grove Street Playhouse in New York City. Anyone in search of an alternative to yet another weary night of television should get out to see this entertaining yet thought-provoking double feature, "Nice Dog" and "The Drone Age."

The first half of the show, "Nice Dog," is a play written, directed and starring Agustin Fernandez. Fernandez portrays a "good boy" on a date with a very sexy girl, who finds herself vying for her attention with her roommate, "Spotty."

The play makes many pertinent observations about the nature of sexual relationships. Fernandez's date, played by Lara Cove, is quite loquacious, prattling on about her views on everything from gun control to abortion. Fernandez's desperate attempts to appear attentive are constantly upstaged by "Spotty," hilariously played by Hiram Reve. As Cove fusses over the "animal" while continuing her tirade, the audience gets to listen to Fernandez's mind drift to the only issue which is meaningful to him — he wishes she would pay attention to him rather than to her dog.

The play uses what some would consider indelicate language, but the effect of the double entendres and explicit references are necessary to the point. Fernandez's complaints about the dog's behavior present the paradox that, although the vulgarity of

Fernandez's sexual comments are taboo, seeing a dog or even an actor playing a dog who feels free to act on those comments is somehow acceptable. The only thing keeping Fernandez from panting after this girl is society's code of conduct.

The play is very well-acted and genuinely funny. Cove is a great tease, and her timing when interrupting Fernandez's mental tirade is right on. Fernandez is very real as the sexually frustrated date, using body language and voice inflection, pitch and volume to build intensity in his psychological monologue, which, incidentally, is wordy and complicated. Fernandez pulls it off masterfully.

The best part of the show, however, is Hiram Reve as Woman's Best Friend "Spotty." It is worth the price of admission to see him riding Fernandez's leg.

The second half of Fernandez and Yacovetti's double feature is just as humorous and insightful. If Pulitzer Prizes came in crackerjack boxes, "The Drone Age" would still come out ahead of the crowd. This "crackerjack" new production, written and performed by Yacovetti, is an innovative and profound look into the mind of an every-guy-next-door who realizes that the building blocks of "progress" in today's world are sealing him into a tomb of his own laziness.

Between the baby boomers and the Generation X crowd lies Ron, agitated over the passing of an elderly neighbor who seemed to get a lot more out of life than this young actor ever did. Ron relates seeing his neighbor doing work around his house, never letting an opportunity for activity pass him by. Ron's daily workout consists of working his television remote control and activating his highly complicated telephonic voicemail system.



Union resident Ron Yacovetti stars in "The Drone Age," a play based on his stand-up comedy routine. For information about the next production, call (212) 604-4188.

As if the audience were some friends stopping by, Ron bursts onstage and, between fielding phone calls and making futile attempts to clean his bedroom, talks about his fears that the "drone" of the television will eventually reduce him to a worker-bee mentality.

According to Yacovetti, this one-man, one-act play is based upon outtakes from Yacovetti's stand-up comedy act. Director Fernandez has adroitly injected action into the monologue, allowing Yacovetti to deliver his message in an animated style. As

he rushes around doing nothing, nothing is safe in this diatribe about what Ron refers to as "ignorance—modified items," like cash registers and street signs with pictures on them, books on tape, computerized maps, and exercise equipment untouched by human hands. He describes modern dating as an advertising campaign and the latest line dance craze, "The Macarena," as a Latino plot to subjugate the masses.

Several of Ron's epiphanies are precipitated by his ever-ringing phone, answered in hilarious style by

veteran radio personality Sean "Hollywood" Hamilton as Ron's voicemail. Among other things, the voicemail tells callers to "press 4 if you have a rotary phone." Armchair prophet Ron foresees the day when Pulitzer Prizes will actually come in crackerjack boxes, and makes valid observations about the senselessness of speakerphones, Chia pets, and child-proof lighters.

Yacovetti and Fernandez endeavor to use humor to avoid a preachy aftertaste, and succeed for the most part. For all intents and purposes, "The Drone Age" is not meant to be a laugh riot, but instead a continuous "drone" of chuckles inspired by thought-provoking witticisms about the nature of the human beast from the point of view of youth. After all, it was a child who pointed out that the Emperor was not wearing any clothes. Speaking of shorts, the Beavis and Butthead shorts are a nice touch.

The fact that Yacovetti avoids "droning" his way through the message of the play leads to the conclusion that his stand-up act must be just as good. His "Drone Age" persona lives in mortal fear of being reduced to a computer-generated non-entity. Judging from the success of this endeavor, that will never happen to Ron Yacovetti.

Novice director Fernandez paid great attention to detail in both productions, from the music played prior to the show to a surprise twist at the end. Both pieces are refreshing and insightful, and portend great things from these budding talents.

So if you've ever felt trapped somewhere between The Flintstones and The Jetsons, turn off your television and get out to see "Nice Dog" and "The Drone Age," running monthly at The Grove Street Playhouse. 39

Grove St. in New York City. The next show will be presented the last weekend in January. For further information, call (212) 604-4188.

Local student performs with famous choir

Meredith Polak of Cranford, NJ, a senior majoring in management at Guilford College, was among the talented students who performed this fall with the highly acclaimed Guilford College Choir. Polak is the daughter of Charles Polak of Cranford and Barbara Polak of Plainfield, NJ.

Established in 1931, the Guilford College Choir is composed of students of all different majors. During the Fall 1996 semester, the choir performed before several community organizations and at many college events, including Family and Homecoming weekends. The choir's fall season culminated on Dec. 8 with "An Offering of Song," an annual holiday concert held in Guilford's Dana Auditorium. More than 700 residents from the greater Greensboro community attended the event, which included some of the most beloved seasonal choral music drawn from the works of such composers as Poulenc, Britten, Handel and Rutter, as well as arrangements of carols from other countries.

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Think about seeing new hospital exhibit

What do realistic jungle animals, nature in the abstract and transcendentalism have in common?

They're all thought-provoking subjects of the art exhibit on display at Children's Specialized Hospital through this month.

The CSH exhibit, which has become one of the more popular community venues for area artists of note, will feature the works of Kat Block, Gail Smiler Steinberg and Stephen D'Amato during December and January.

A Livingston resident, Block has won numerous awards including the J. Kendall Joy III Memorial Awards for excellence in the Millburn-Short Hills Arts Center Juried Show. Her exhibited works, which will include drawings, paintings and collages, will not focus on specific subject matter, but rather will seek to evoke a state of mind, she explained.

"Art is a pathway linking Earth and Heaven, space and time. It is my most sincere desire to offer transcendence," Block said.

Block said she has sent requests to those who have purchased her works in the past to bring a mylar balloon to the exhibit, for distribution to the hospitalized children. "I thought it would be nice if the kids could benefit directly from the show being there. Since it's during the holidays, they could get something out of it right then," she said.

Steinberg, who resides in Edison, is also the recipient of many awards. She says of herself, "I have a long-

held love of animals and concern for their care and preservation." The result is a collection of paintings that have been highly praised for their stark and penetrating realism. Her exhibit includes paintings of leopards, tigers, domestic cats, zebras, elephants, deer, African cranes, and a variety of popular breeds of dogs.

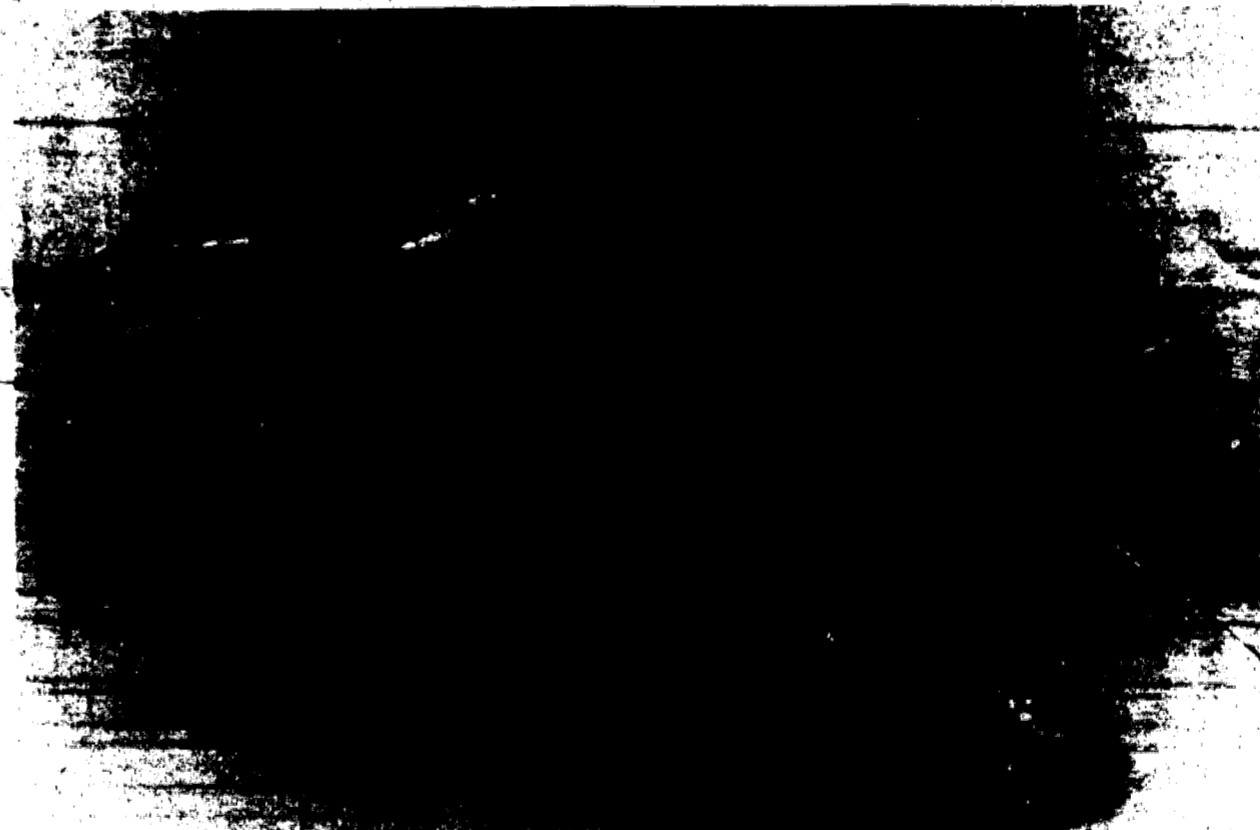
D'Amato, a Cranford resident, has seen his style and approach toward art change in the past three years. "I used to be overly concerned with having a very realistic, tight painting which became very tedious and boring to paint. I noticed the result rather than the creating gave me more pleasure. Now my work is moving in a more expressive direction. The freedom to try different styles is what I value most at this time."

The works on display will encompass those created throughout the past decade. "The exhibit starts out with landscapes and realistic watercolors, and moves more into an expressive nature through abstract expressionism and self portraits." D'Amato said.

The exhibit at Children's Specialized Hospital, 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside, is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Visitors may use the hospital's ambulance entrance.

The artist's works are for sale, and portion of the proceeds will benefit the hospital.

Further information may be obtained by calling Janet Weston, director of volunteer services, at (908) 233-3720, ext. 379.



Sculptor Elaine Lopez's 'The Dead Can Dance,' composed of tree roots, steel mesh and wax, can be seen in the Palmer Gallery at New Jersey Center for Visual Arts as a part of the "Sculpture From New Jersey — Part 2" exhibit. The exhibit runs through Sunday. For further information, call (908) 273-9121. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit.

Last chance to tune in for Part 2

Continuing its commitment to New Jersey talent, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts is featuring Part 2 of the exhibition "Sculpture From New Jersey" in the Palmer Gallery through Sunday. Works by eight established and emerging New Jersey artists will be featured.

Other NJ artists who will be featured include Richard Dobra of Westfield; Betty Megeehan of Chatham; Carol Rosen of Califon; Janet Taylor Pickett of Monclair; Tyler Smith of Hoboken and Elaine Lorenz of Cliffside Park. Documented tours are available by appointment; receptions, discussions and exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, noon - 4 p.m., Thursday evening from 7 - 9 p.m. and weekends from 2 - 4 p.m. The Center is located at 68 Elm St. in Summit. Funding for this exhibition has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State.

Theater calendar available

The New Jersey Theatre Group, the alliance of New Jersey's professional, not-for-profit theaters, offers a free calendar highlighting the upcoming fall and winter professional theater season. The calendar includes descriptions of more than fifty productions and box office phone numbers for the state's nineteen professional theaters. For a free copy of the 1996-97 Professional Theater Season Calendar call (201) 593-0189.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## The year's best videos in review

It's the end of another production year for the film industry. Although the bulk of the picture came from Hollywood, some of the best films were made outside of Tinseltown. Here now is my list of the ten best independent films of 1996:

### The Video Detective

By Jim Riffel

10 "Palookaville" Sid, Russ and Jerry would like to be successful criminals but haven't got the intelligence, guts or the drive. They are a cross between The Three Musketeers and The Three Stooges. Unlike the slew of crime movies that have been released since Quentin Tarantino gave the genre an adrenaline shot with "Reservoir Dogs," this movie has a heart and a pulse that makes it real.

9 "Trees Lounge" Steve Buscemi, the star of independent hits like "Reservoir Dogs" and "Fargo," makes his directorial debut with this story about a 30ish unemployed barfly whose attempts at making something of his life are hindered by pit stops at the local bar. Buscemi also stars.

8 "Shine" A gripping true story which details the life of Australian pianist David Helfgott and how he overcame the brutal relationship with his father which almost destroys his career as well as his life.

7 "Secrets and Lies" A young black woman finds her real mother, who turns out to be white. The conflict their relationship causes to those around them makes for a powerful story about truth and love. Winner of the top prize at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival.

6 "Breaking the Waves" An innocent young lady from a small village in Scotland suffers a severe tragedy when an accident leaves her husband in a state of paralysis. But she now believes that, by performing a certain act, she can rescue him. Newcomer Emily Watson gives one of the best performances of the year.

5 "Big Night" Two brothers own a restaurant, one concerned with making a profit, the other with making gourmet dishes the customers will remember forever. When their business is in trouble they decide to try to save it by putting on a feast for a world famous singer.

4 "Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead" Andy Garcia plays "Jimmy The Saint," a reformed thug who is forced back into the business by "The Man With A Plan," played by Christopher Walken. Garcia recruits his old gang, including "Critical Bill" and "Pieces." When the "situation" they needed to take care of goes awry, "The Man With A Plan" calls in "Mr. Shhh" to take care of Garcia and his pals. What results is not your typical gangster film ending.

3 "Bottle Rocket" Dignan, Bob and Anthony are three suburban twentysomethings who decide on a life of crime. Unfortunately, none have a killer instinct. Dignan apologizes as he's taking the money, Anthony doesn't want to rob anymore because he's fallen in love with a Spanish-speaking chambermaid and Bob, who is wealthy, only joined the gang because Dignan and Anthony are his friends.

2 "Hate" Three youths roam the riot-ridden streets of France with a gun stolen from the police. He vows to kill an officer if his friend, who lies in a coma from a police beating, dies. Just before dawn the friends stumble into an empty mall and watch as a big screen television reports the news of their friend's death.

1 "Fargo" This is, by far, the best film of the year. It's the true story of a Minnesota car salesman with money problems who hires two thugs to kidnap his wife, hoping her wealthy father will quickly pay the ransom. Greed, fear and stupidity fly in with equal force to turn the simple plan into a major nightmare.

A resident of Mountainside, Jim Riffel is the author of "The Video Detective's Guide to the Top 100 Films of All Time."

## Museum Guide

The Museum Guide is compiled by Worrall Community Newspapers. It is a list of museums and historic sites in Union County and the surrounding area. To add to the list, send the relevant information to Worrall Community Newspapers at 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

• Littel-Lord Farmhouse Museum & Farmstead at 31 Horseshoe Road in Berkeley Heights. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month from April through December, or by appointment. Call 464-0961 for more information.

• Dr. William Robinson Plantation Museum at 593 Madison Hill Road in Clark. Hours open: 1-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month from April through December. Call 381-3081 for more information.

• Crane-Phillips House Museum at 124 Union Ave. N. in Cranford. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. Sundays from September through June, or by appointment. Call 276-0082 for more information.

• Belcher-Ogden Mansion at 1046 E. Jersey St. in Elizabeth. Open by appointment only. Call 351-2500 for more information.

• Boxwood Hall at 1073 E. Jersey St. in Elizabeth. Hours open: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Call (201) 648-4540 for more information.

• Woodruff House/Eaton Store Museum at 111 Conant St. in Hillside. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month, or by appointment. Call 352-9270 for more information.

• Deacon Andrew Hetfield House on Constitution Plaza, off Route 22 West, in Mountainside. Open by appointment only. Call 232-8608 for more information.

• The Saltbox Museum at 1350 Springfield Ave. in New Providence. Hours open: 1-3 p.m. on the first and third Sundays, and 10 a.m. to noon on each Thursday of each month. Call 464-0163 for more information.

• Drake House Museum at 602 W. Front St. in Plainfield. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on Sundays. Call 755-5831 for more information.

• Merchants and Drivers Tavern at 1632 St. Georges Ave. in Rahway. Open by appointment only. Call 381-0441 for more information.

• Abraham Clark House at 101 West Ninth Ave., at Chestnut Street, in Roselle. Open by appointment only. Call 486-1783 for more information.

• Osborn Cannonball House at 1840 Front St. in Scotch Plains. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month. Call 233-9165 for more information.

• The Cannonball House at 126 Morris Ave. in Springfield. Open by appointment only. Call (201) 379-2634 for more information.

• Benjamin Carter House at 90 Butler Parkway in Summit. Hours open: 9:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays; 1:30-4 p.m. on Wednesdays; and 2-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month or by appointment. Call 277-1747 for more information.

• Reeves-Reed Arboretum at 165 Hobart Ave. in Summit. Hours open: grounds are open daily, from dawn to dusk; office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. For more information, call 273-8787.

• Caldwell Parsonage at 909 Caldwell Ave. in Union. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month, except December and January, or by appointment. Call 687-8129 for more information.

• Miller-Cory House Museum 614 Mountain Ave. in Westfield. Hours open: 2-5 p.m. on Sundays, September through June; and 2-4 p.m. on Sundays in January and February, or by appointment. Call 232-1776 for more information.

• Edison's Laboratory on Main Street, at Lakeside Avenue, in West Orange. Hours open: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Admission is \$2; seniors and children are admitted free. Call (201) 736-5050 for more information.

## Take a seat at the arts center

There is a theater seat waiting for you at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. It has been utilized by generations of audiences who visited the Old Rahway Theatre since 1928 — and it needs fixing, with the help of a \$250 gift!

The theater is undergoing a transformation to a beautiful and glittering performing arts center that the people of Union County and central New Jersey can be proud of and enjoy.

The theater has a new marquee, a refurbished lobby, modern restroom facilities, new sidewalks, upgraded lighting and sound systems, and, under contract, the renovation of the auditorium.

Opportunities to play a significant role in the continued renovation of the theater are available. With your tax-deductible gift, an inscription of up to 30 characters will be displayed on the back of your seat. Your inscription can honor a friend or loved one, or express your lasting concern for the future of the arts.

With your help, every seat in the theater can be "the best seat in the house!" For information on how to get involved, call the arts center at (908) 499-8226, or send your donation and inscription request to UCAC, P. O. Box 775-D, Rahway, NJ 07065.

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## WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Union Leader, Kenilworth Leader, Roselle Park Leader, Summit Observer, Springfield Leader, Mountainside Echo., Elizabeth Gazette, Roselle Spectator, Rahway Progress, Clark Eagle, Hillside Leader, Linden Leader

### DINING REVIEW

January 3, 1996

#### ORCHID KITCHEN

Great food and a smile to match

By Jacquie McCarthy  
Associate Editor  
Lan Chen, owner of Orchid Kitchen, has good reason to smile. Her establishment has become very successful since opening in May, and after tasting the cuisine from her newly opened Chinese restaurant, you will understand why.  
The menu contains the standards in Mandarin, Szechuan, Cantonese and Hunan cooking, but as any connoisseur of Eastern delicacies knows, the same food isn't the same everywhere you go. This is definitely true of Orchid Kitchen, as was discovered upon taking in some of their standard fare.  
I opted for my all-time favorite, House Special Mei Fun, which is delicately steamed, extra thin and light noodles mixed with just about everything. The meal did not disappoint — it was full of fresh and perfectly prepared beef, pork, vegetables, seafood and egg, in a sauce which was flavorful with just an extra hint of spice to give it a punch.  
Another favorite is wonton soup,

which my dinner companion agreed was delicious. Almost everyone enjoys a good egg roll, and Orchid Kitchen served one which was distinctly crisp outside and full of juicy meat and vegetable morsels inside.

You will be greeted by a pleasant smile when you visit this fine establishment, conveniently located at the corner of Oakland and Liberty streets in Hillside. Food is prepared to take out or eat in, and a large dining area awaits you if you choose the latter. If you opt for delivery, Orchid Kitchen has no minimum dollar amount, but does charge \$1 for orders under \$10. Delivery is available in Hillside and sections of Irvington. The restaurant offers daily specials, and Lan Chen takes special pride in the preparation of General Tso's Chicken and all combinations of Mei Fun.

Orchid Kitchen is open 7 days a week — Monday - Thursday from 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. - midnight and Sunday from noon - 11 p.m. The restaurant is located at 1455



Orchid Kitchen is located at 1455 Liberty Street in Hillside. For great Chinese food to eat in or out, call (201) 926-2120.

Liberty Ave., Hillside. To order, call (201) 926-2120/2190 or fax (201) 926-2190. This column is intended to inform our readers about dining opportunities in the area

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**WINTER DINING**

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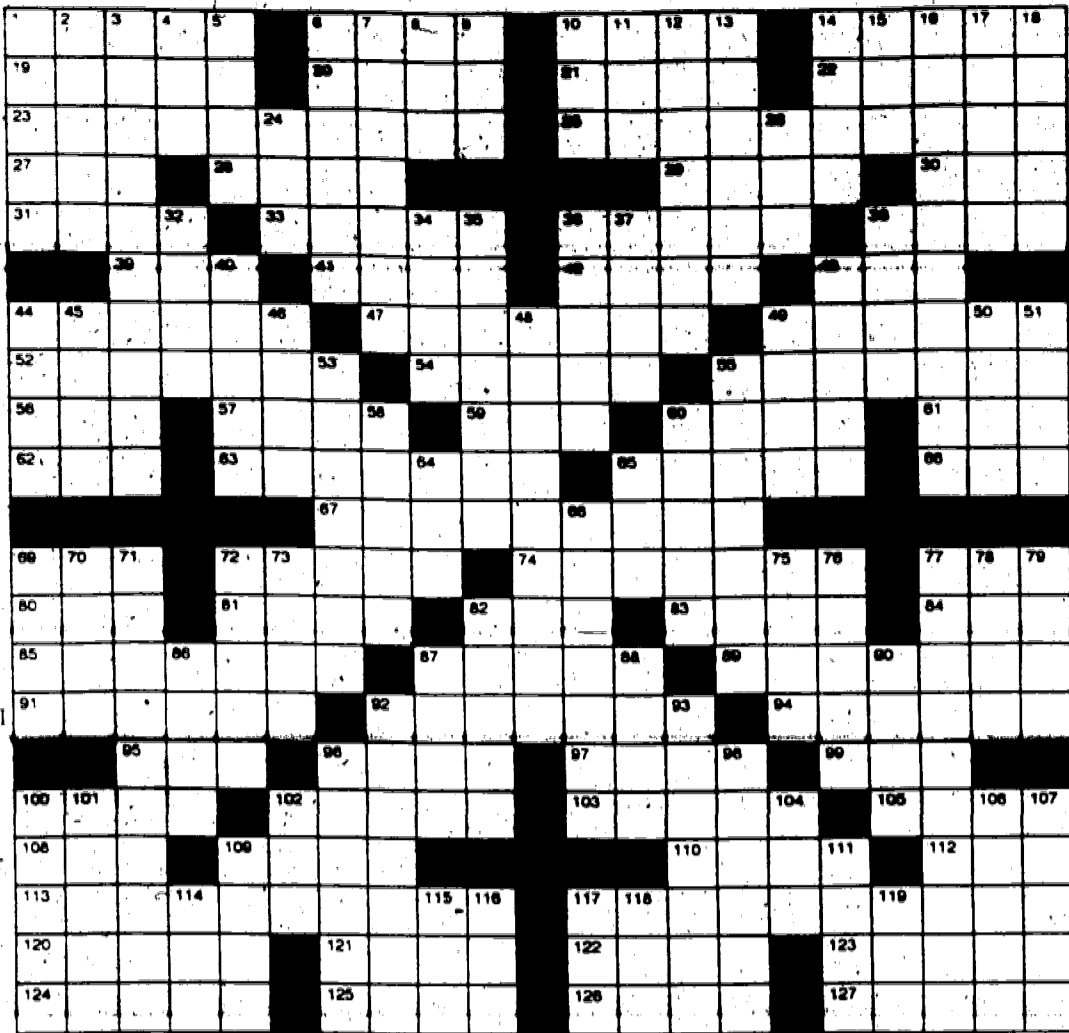




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42 Franchot
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110 Exacerbates
112 Letter
113 Ancient African country
117 African capital
120 Jargon
121 High-pitched sound
122 Asian land
123 Fortification
124 Exigencies
125 Interest
126 Iron —
127 English poet

DOWN

- 1 Welland —
2 Fragrance
3 English county
4 Greek letter
5 Try out
6 Puzzling thing
7 Clad
8 Greek letter
9 — Wild Rose
10 River of western Canada
11 Barbary —
12 Abrogate
13 Chant
14 Printing direction
15 — pockets
16 New York City locale
17 Of a geological epoch
18 Chain of peaks
24 Machine part
26 Night flyer

(See Answers on Page B9)

FLEA MARKET

FRIDAY JANUARY 10, 1997
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington
TIME: 10AM to 1PM (Snow date January 18th)
PRICE: Great buys, clothes, jewelry, books, housewares.

OTHER

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY JANUARY 9, 10, 11
EVENT: Furniture Sale
PLACE: Community United Methodist Church, Chestnut Street and Grant Avenue, Roselle Park
TIME: Thursday and Friday, 3pm-8pm; Saturday, 9am-2pm
PRICE: For Sale Lowry organ, dining room set, dinette set, bedroom suite, two electric beds, couch. Items in good condition. Net from sale will benefit Mission and Ministry of Community Church.
ORGANIZATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church.

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both. Your notice must be in our Maplewood office (463 Valley Street) by 4:30 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at 170 Scotland Road, Orange, 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stayvesant Ave., Union. For more information call 763-9411.

REUNIONS

Class reunions are being organized for the following:
Westfield 1971, March 22, 1997.
Susan Wagner 1987, June 6, 1997.
Linden 1971, June 28, 1997.
Summit 1987, July 18, 1997.
Westfield 1977, August 2, 1997.
Plainfield 1957, October 4, 1997.
Cranford 1967, Nov. 8, 1997.
Columbia Senior 1987, Nov. 28, 1997.
Union 1977, November 28, 1997.
Union 1987, November 28, 1997.
Westfield 1987, November 28, 1997.
Scotch Plains/Fanwood 1977, November 29, 1997.
Union 1967, November 29, 1997.
Bloomfield 1977, 1997.
Bloomfield 1987, 1997.
Columbia Senior 1977, 1997.
Livingston 1987, 1997.
Summit 1977, 1997.
If you are a member of one of these classes, write to: Reunions Unlimited, Inc., P.O. Box 150, Elizabethtown, NJ 07726; or call 780-8364.
The search is on
Jonathan Dayton Regional High School Class of 1946 search committee is seeking classmates for its 50th reunion, the date of which has not been determined. To contact the committee, contact Rose Culmone Tabor at 530 Fourth Ave., Garwood, NJ, 07027 or Anne Graziano at PO Box 2051, Springfield, NJ 07081.
South Side High School, Class of June 1946; and Bergen Street School Class of June 1942 are seeking classmates for a 50th reunion. Contact Sam Sporn, 8 Crescent Dr., Parsippany, NJ 07054, or call (201) 335-6611.
Linden High School Class of 1987 seeks volunteers and information on classmates for a 10th reunion scheduled for November 1997. Contact Joann Caravano at (908) 862-0994, Beata Lipinski at (908) 862-5732 or Lizzy James at (908) 925-2912.

HEALTH/FITNESS & MEDICINE

Resolve to be fit this year

A limited number of spaces are available in the upcoming session of Rahway Hospital's Focus on Fitness class, formerly Body Recall, a safe program of gentle exercise and movement designed for adults over age 55. The ten-week session begins Monday. Classes will be held three days a week between 8-9 a.m. and 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the hospital's main conference room.

The fee for this unique program is \$40. For more information and to register, call the Rahway Hospital Physical Therapy Department at 499-6012, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Bring kids together to help them cope with bereavement

On Jan. 15th, The Mental Health Association of Union County will be starting another round of "Kids Coping Together" for children who have lost a loved one. "Kids Coping Together" began in 1985 as a support for children of divorced and separated parents. Since then it has grown to meet the needs of other children under stress. The bereavement groups were added to the children's program in Oct. 1995 due to several requests

from parents and professionals who were familiar with the unique Art Therapy program. Vicki Annesse, director of "Kids Coping Together," explains, "Children grieve differently than adults. Initially, children express feelings of grief more in behavior than in words. One child might act out in misbehavior, another might become withdrawn. The death of a loved one is such an overwhelming experience for children that they

often don't have the words to verbally express their emotions, or the images in their minds. Art therapy is an effective approach because children communicate naturally through play and art." If you are interested, or would like more information about "Kids Coping Together," call The Mental Health Association at (908) 272-0300 for an information packet.

Cancer Society offers support group

The Union County Unit of the American Cancer Society is offering a professionally-led support group for individuals coping with Hodgkin's disease and lymphomas. The group is held on the third Monday of each month at St. Bartholomew Church library, 2032 Westfield Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ. The group meets at 7 p.m. Individuals coping with cancer as well as their family members and friends are welcome to attend. For additional information and registration, contact the American Cancer Society at (908) 354-7373.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health program preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

Do you need to get in shape... Or just start exercising... call GREG BISHOP Certified Personal Trainer 908-851-0164

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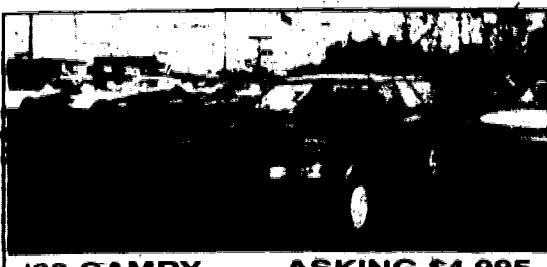
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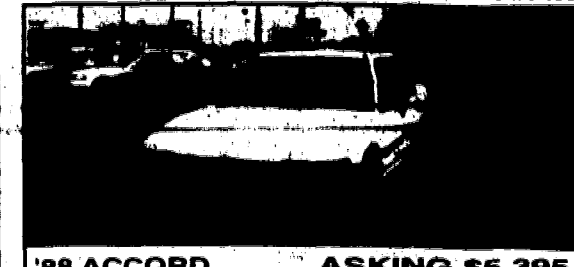
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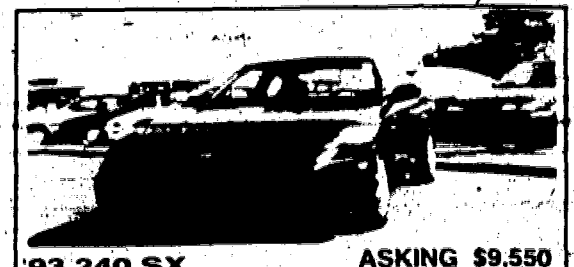
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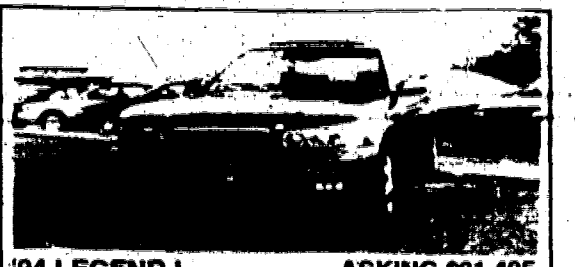
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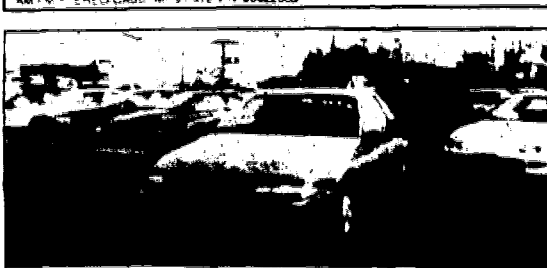
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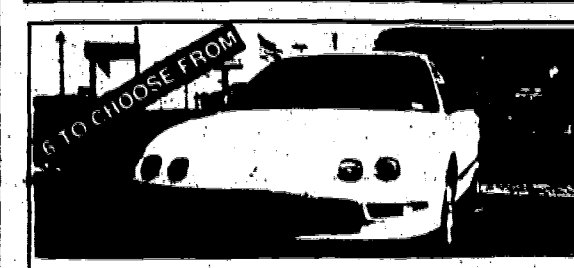
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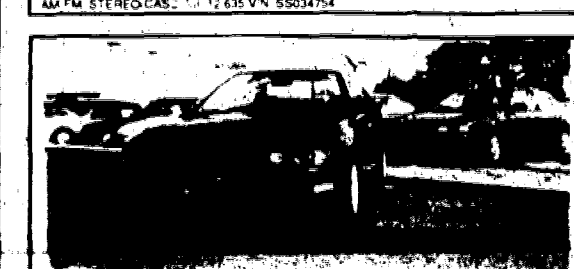
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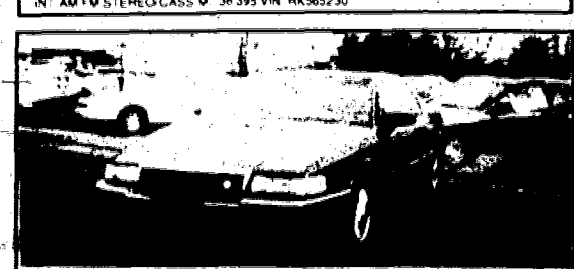
**'93 OLDSMOBILE ASKING \$12,495**  
CHEVY 2-DR. 4-CYL. 5-SPD. MAN. P.S.B. AC. BENCH SEATS. SPT. WGR. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



**'92 JETTA G.L. ASKING \$7,990**  
VOLVO 4-DR. 4-CYL. AUTO. TRANS. P.S.B. AC. T.G.LASS. BUCKETS. CLOTH. INT. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



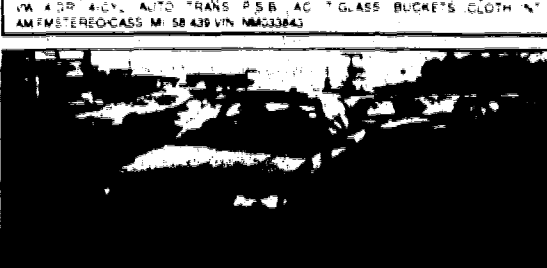
**'94 INTEGRA LS ASKING \$12,495**  
ACURA 3-DR. 4-CYL. AUTO. TRANS. P.S.B. AC. CLOTH. INT. T.G.LASS. CRUISE. CONSOLE. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



**'92 ELDERADO ASKING \$13,995**  
CADILLAC 2-DR. 8-CYL. AUTO. TRANS. P.S.B. AC. CRUISE. LEATHER. INT. T.G.LASS. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



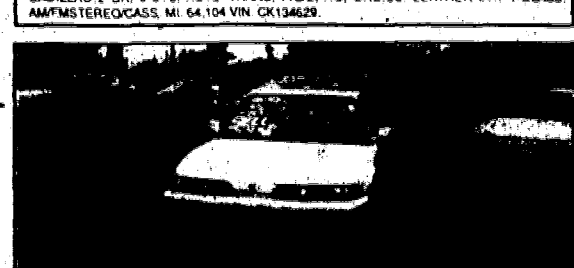
**'94 VILLAGER MINI VAN ASKING \$14,795**  
ACURA 2-DR. 4-CYL. 5-SPD. MAN. P.S.B. AC. CRUISE. LEATHER. INT. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



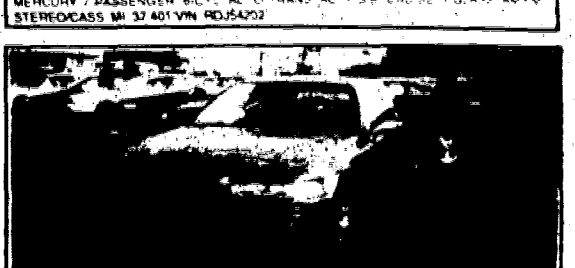
**'93 PROTAGE LX ASKING \$8,444**  
MAZDA 4-DR. 4-CYL. AUTO. TRANS. P.S.B. AC. SUN. ROOF. CLOTH. INT. T.G.LASS. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



**'93 CELICA GT ASKING \$13,495**  
TOYOTA 2-DR. 4-CYL. AUTO. TRANS. P.S.B. AC. CLOTH. INT. T.G.LASS. CRUISE. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



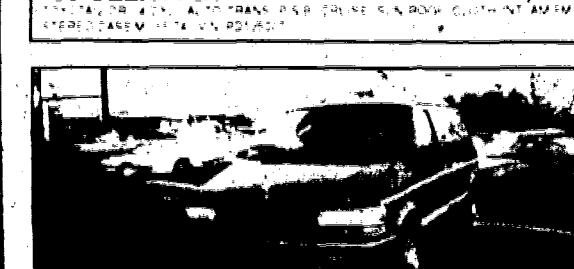
**'93 INTEGRA GS ASKING \$12,990**  
ACURA 3-DR. 4-CYL. AUTO. TRANS. P.S.B. AC. MOON ROOF. CRUISE. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



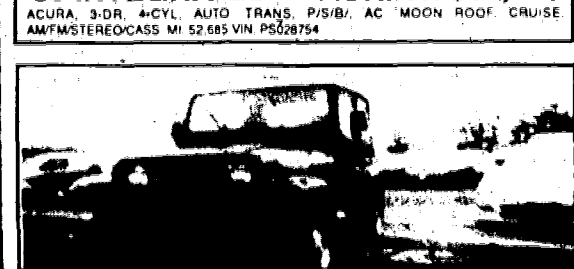
**'92 INTEGRA LS ASKING \$16,888**  
ACURA 2-DR. 4-CYL. 5-SPD. MAN. P.S.B. AC. CRUISE. LEATHER. INT. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



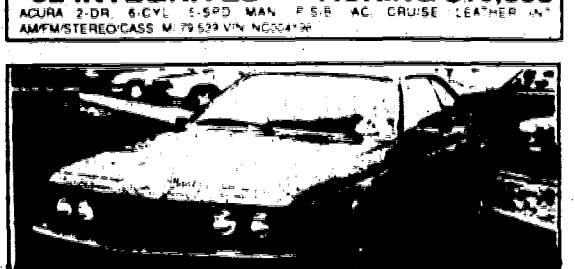
**'93 MAXIMA GXE ASKING \$12,888**  
NISSAN 4-DR. 4-CYL. AUTO. TRANS. P.S.B. AC. T.G.LASS. CR. SEAT. CLOTH. INT. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



**'92 VOYAGER LE ASKING \$10,990**  
PLYMOUTH VAN 8-CYL. AUTO. TRANS. P.S.B. AC. CLOTH. INT. 7-PASSENGER. IS TO CHOOSE FROM. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



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JEEP 4X4 2-DR. 6-CYL. 5-SPD. MAN. P.S.B. AC. SPT. MRR. AM/FM STEREO. VIN # 1H4BD12H1JA14917



**'88 635 CSI ASKING \$10,995**  
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  - '91 LEGEND L 4 DR PEARL
  - '92 LEGEND 4 DR BLACK
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  - '92 VIGOR GS 4 DR BLACK
  - '92 LEGEND LS 4 DR GRANITE
  - '93 INTEGRA LS 3 DR RED
  - '93 LEGEND L 4 DR BLACK
  - '93 INTEGRA LS 3 DR SILVER
  - '94 VIGOR GS 4 DR TEAL
  - '94 LEGEND L 4 DR CASHMERE
  - '94 LEGEND LS 4 DR BLACK
  - '94 INTEGRA LS 3 DR GRANITE
  - '95 NSX 2 DR BLACK
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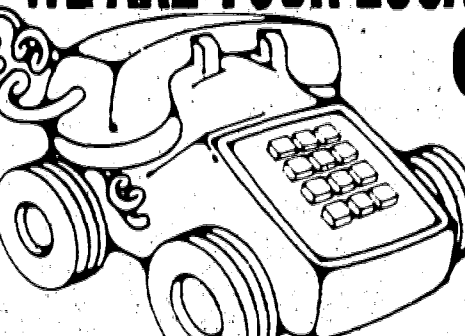
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