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WORLD COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1998 • SECTION 6

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From The Editor's Notebook

By Tom Canavan
Editor in Chief

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Perhaps residents of other towns in Union County are feeling the same way after hearing a proposal by state education committee that goes one step beyond encouraging regionalization of school districts by suggesting that forced regionalization is the answer to cutting education costs throughout the state.

The residents of the above six communities are probably reeling from this news because less than two years ago, they were engaged in and won a bitter battle to deregionalize the school district of which they all were a part.

Their argument to deregionalize, and it's an argument that can be used for many school funding issues, was that it cost more to operate a regional school district than it would be to operate local kindergarten to grade 12 districts. Maybe on paper, as proposed by this education committee, this does sound good. But put it in practical and watch administrative budgets soar, teachers' salaries skyrocket and spring-water salaries be placed in every faculty lounge. Unfortunately, that's where a good deal of the money is spent, yet district administrators cry each year at budget time that they regret having to raise taxes.

Gov. Christine Whitman and state Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz did not endorse the report, but neither did they say they were against the idea of forced regionalization of school districts. Instead, they encouraged a statewide referendum asking voters to consider the idea of forcing districts to regionalize.

Taxpayers today dig so deeply into their pockets to pay for local education that many would probably vote in favor of the idea — especially if the pitch by our education leaders is that mergers would result in cost savings. That's asking a voter to vote based on emotion and finances, and not what's best for the education of the children.

More than \$500 million may be going to the state's special needs districts to pay for upgrades to school facilities and to compensate for those special needs districts receive the same education as children in wealthy districts. If the state is targeting that money in this direction, what is the state doing about the districts that will see a reduction in the funding they are used to receiving? That \$500 million has to come from somewhere. Unless, of course, the state is expecting that taxpayers will make up the difference.

So here we have the state suggesting how money will be spent on education, and while the proposal may help some districts, it will hurt other districts. How then can the state expect us to have any faith in its proposal to force regionalization of school districts?

Will the state Department of Education tell Kenilworth must send its students to Cranford School District? Union is opening a new school next year because of overcrowded conditions and probably would not want the responsibility of having another school district in its charge? What about bus routes? Will Union students be forced to travel to Harding School in Kenilworth for their education, or will Kenilworth students be forced to travel to Cranford Farms School or the new Commerce Street School in Union?

I could see Kenilworth and Roselle Park, for example, sharing a school district because of where the two municipalities lie in Union County, but I also see the two boards of education reaching out to one another and discussing the matter without being forced to do so. It is my hope that the education committee will not go as far as recommending that we be forced to do so.

See NOTEBOOK on page 12

Magazine gives UCUA low bond rating

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer

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If this is the case, or what exactly the downgrade means, is unclear. McGlade and Howard Spumberg, the S&P analyst who works on the UCUA's bonds, could not be reached for comment; neither could the UCUA's bond counsel Eric Whisler.

But to UCUA opponents, these are

all signs of an unhealthy facility and end industry.

According to Frank Festa, Jr., a one-time contender for the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the UCUA is staying afloat only because of "concocted" freeholders.

The UCUA has proposed an amendment to the county's solid waste disposal plan because of the loss of the state's waste control funds. This includes a \$13.55 Environmental Investment Charge that would be included in the Runway-based incinerator's per-ton garbage disposal fee or "tipping fee" of \$50.

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Kern Blanchard of the Union County Concerned Citizens agreed

with Festa, saying that the county's efforts to keep the UCUA solvent is "money washed." The UCUA is organized "with a statewide coalition" including the New Jersey Environmental Federation to examine the UCUA's finances, according to Blanchard.

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Both Ruotolo and Mingo were appointed unanimously during a Jan. 24 meeting of the Union County Democratic Committee.

They will replace Carol Cohen and Walter McNeil Jr. McNeil resigned Jan. 1 in order to take a job as Plainfield's Business Administrator. Cohen resigned in order to be appointed County Counsel.

Ruotolo and Mingo will finish out McNeil and Cohen's terms, which were to end Dec. 31, and will run for reelection in November along with freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan.

"I am truly honored to stand here as your representative," said Ruotolo, who said that she would "serve you honestly and to take into consideration all opinions." "I will work diligently to improve your way of life in the county," she said.

Mingo echoed Ruotolo after he was sworn in.

"I'm very grateful for this opportunity to work with these chosen freeholders — and I emphasize the word because I want you to know that the people up here have been chosen by you," he told the audience.

Ruotolo and Mingo have different priorities in the coming year.

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In particular, Ruotolo said she wants to seek funding to meet the goal of Access 2000 — putting a computer in every classroom by the end of the year 2000.

She also expressed an interest in working with the county's senior citizens, but did not have any specific programs in mind.

"But I would really like to learn their needs," she said.

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Nilda Rivera, supervisor of the Union County Jail's Social Services, said that inmates frequently request religious counseling.

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In addition to being responsible for providing individual counseling and group worship sessions and coordinating the 26 weekly services, clergy will soon be developing ties to religious and community organizations, Williams said.

"The services, individual counseling and Bible classes we have are very important, but there needs to be linkage, a place for people to go and get help, when they are released," he said. "I'm very excited with the prospect of working more closely with outside organizations."

Jail officials hire clergy for inmates

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After extensive interviews by a three-member committee, Rabbi Moshe Weiblum, Father William Gruyere, Lorne Johnson and Lawrence Finn III are conducting respective Jewish, Catholic, Islamic and Protestant services, while counseling prisoners as part of the jail's expanding pastoral care program.

"Spiritual growth is important to rehabilitation and may contribute to the public's safety," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan. "These gentlemen bring sensitivity and spiritual guidance that inmates need in addition to incarceration."

Dorothy Williams, assistant director of the Union County Division of Correction Services, said pastoral care is an important service of the Union County Jail.

"Our job is not to determine a person's guilt or innocence," she said,

"Because corrections is an integral part of the justice system and part of community service, we must provide opportunities for spiritual growth in an atmosphere that offers self-examination for inmates to help them deal with life when they are no longer in jail," she said.

Union County Freeholder Chester Holmes said that hiring the clergy exemplifies the county's commitment to provide humane care and rehabilitative programs for prisoners in order to reduce recidivism, the return to jail.

"The security of Union County residents is dependent on the efficient running of a facility that emphasizes the incarceration of, and help for, inmates," said Freeholder Holmes, liaison to the Union County Juvenile/Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

A retired police officer, Holmes added that other such programs include education and training, drug and substance abuse, domestic violence prevention, recreation and life-skills training.

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FAA given 90 days to decrease noise

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The Board of Chosen Freeholders voted last Thursday to give the Federal Aviation Administration 90 days to implement the Solberg Mitigation Plan to decrease aircraft noise from Newark International Airport.

The reason Union County residents haven't gotten any relief from aircraft noise, according to county officials, is because the plan has not been followed.

Jerome Feder of the county's Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board, said the FAA has not followed its own noise abatement plan but instead has used the Solberg plan to "do whatever they want."

It is unclear what will happen at the end of the 90-day grace period if the FAA does not comply, because Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan, who sponsored the resolution, could not be reached for comment.

The Solberg Mitigation Plan, which was to have begun in April 1996, is intended to reduce jet aircraft noise from Runway 22 at the airport, which lies near the Newark-Elizabeth border.

Under the Solberg plan, planes leaving Runway 22 are supposed to take an eastward turn toward the Arthur Kill, then turn eastward again and follow the Arthur Kill toward the south-southwest airport.

The intent of the plan is to have planes gain altitude over the relatively unpopulated park. The higher aircraft fly, the less engine noise reaches the ground.

After planes gain altitude over the Arthur Kill, the Solberg Plan calls for them to turn east and toward Solberg Airport.

But Feder said that aircraft controllers at Newark International Airport have been ignoring the Solberg plan and allowing planes leaving the airport to follow a shorter route that almost immediately points them low and toward Solberg Airport.

The planes are still at low altitude at this point, which means that their engines will sound loud to people on the ground.

Feder presented the freeholders last year with a study of less than a day's radar tracks of planes leaving Newark — the most that he could get, he said.

The records showed almost all the planes leaving Runway 22 turning immediately toward Solberg Airport and flying over populated areas of Union County, he said.

According to Arlene Salas of the FAA, her agency is analyzing the Solberg plan and has suggested to local governments in the area disturbed by aircraft noise that they "break" the plan.

This has included a 250-foot-long routing plan, tested and abandoned in July and August, and a proposed but also abandoned 260-foot-long routing plan that was to begin this month.

When asked about Feder's charges, Salas said, "The only thing that we can tell you is that we're back to the original departure plan and we're doing an analysis of it."

But Feder said that there has been "no communication" by the FAA to reduce aircraft noise, citing these altered plans and a lawsuit against the FAA that was brought by the city of Elizabeth.

He added that the Solberg plan eliminated nighttime routing — directing planes into airspace normally used by LaGuardia International Airport after that airport closed down for the evening. This nighttime routing had offered noise relief to Union County residents at night.

"Our hope is that the FAA will receive their notice and that they'll implement it," he said.

Feder said he was not totally satisfied with the Solberg Mitigation Plan. "It provides limited relief to areas that were hardest hit. I believe that there are better long-term solutions," he said.

But, he added, implementing another noise reduction plan would require an Environmental Impact Study, like the six-year one that preceded the Solberg plan, and cooperation in order to study and implement it. Feder said that this makes the Solberg plan the best short-term solution.

College freezes tuition increases through 1999

Crediting recent pledges from Trenton to increase funds for community colleges and the college's own success in holding down operating costs, the Union County College Board of Trustees has determined that there will be no tuition increases for the 1998-99 academic year. At the Jan. 27 board meeting, trustees said that tuition for Union County residents will remain at \$69.50 per credit through the spring semester of 1999.

In announcing the zero increase, Victor M. Richel, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said, "I am pleased that we are able to hold the line with regard to the costs which student must bear to pursue a higher education at Union County College. The excellent programs, committed faculty, and modern facilities available on all four campuses make attendance at UCC an outstanding value."

In order to hold the line on costs and make the educational opportunities which the college offers affordable tuition to the residents of Union County, the College Administration, under the leadership of President Thomas H. Brown, has worked hard to identify and implement efficiencies in its operations," said Richel. "Additionally, at the State House in Trenton, our Union County legislative delegation has been steadfast in its bipartisan support of Union County College." Richel also expressed his belief that this support was an important factor leading to Governor Whitman's inaugural promise of increased state funding for county colleges over the remaining four years of her term in office.



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But Feder said that aircraft controllers at Newark International Airport have been ignoring the Solberg plan and allowing planes leaving the airport to follow a shorter route that almost immediately points them toward Solberg Airport.

The planes are still at low altitude at this point, which means that their engines will sound loud to people on the ground.

Feder presented the freeholders last year with a study of less than a day's radar tracks of planes leaving Newark — the most that he could get, he said.

The records showed almost all the planes leaving Runway 22 turning immediately toward Solberg Airport and flying over populated areas of Union County, he said.

According to Arlene Salac of the FAA, her agency is analyzing the Solberg plan and has suggested to local governments in the area disrupted by aircraft noise that they "twist" the plan.

This has included a 250-heading routing plan, tested and abandoned in July and August, and a proposed but also abandoned 260-heading routing plan that was to begin this month.

When asked about Feder's charges, Salac said, "The only thing that we can tell you is they've been back to the original departure plan and we're doing an analysis of it."

But Feder said that there has been "no commitment" by the FAA to reduce aircraft noise, citing these altered plans and a lawsuit against the FAA that was brought by the city of Elizabeth.

He added that the Solberg plan eliminated nighttime routing — directing planes into airspace normally used by LaGuardia International Airport after that airport closed down for the evening. This nighttime routing had offered noise relief for Union County residents at night.

"Our hope is that the FAA will receive their notice and that they'll implement it," he said.

Feder said he was not totally satisfied with the Solberg Mitigation Plan. "It provides limited relief to areas that were hardest hit. I believe that there are better long-term solutions," he said.

But he added, implementing another noise reduction plan would require an Environmental Impact Study, like the six-year one that preceded the Solberg plan, and cooperation in order to study and implement it. Feder said that this makes the Solberg plan the best short-term solution.

College freezes tuition increases through 1999

Crediting recent pledges from Trenton to increase funds for community colleges and the college's own success in holding down operating costs, the Union County College Board of Trustees has determined that there will be no tuition increase for the 1998-99 academic year. This action, taken at the Jan. 27 board meeting, assures that tuition for Union County residents will remain at \$69.50 per credit through the spring semester of 1999.

In announcing the zero increase, Victor M. Ribchel, chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated, "I am pleased that we are able to hold the line with regard to the costs which a student must bear to pursue a higher education at Union County College. The excellent programs, committed faculty, and modern facilities available on all four campuses make attendance at UCC an outstanding value."

In order to hold the line on costs and make the educational opportunities which the college offers affordable to all, the residents of Union County, the College Administration, under the leadership of President Thomas H. Brown, has worked hard to identify and implement efficiencies in its operations," said Ribchel. "Additionally, at the State House in Trenton, our Union County legislative delegation has been steadfast in its bipartisan support of Union County College." Ribchel also expressed his belief that this support was an important factor leading to Governor Whitman's inaugural promise of increased state funding for county colleges over the remaining four years of her term in office.

Auto Theft Task Force recovers 336 vehicles in 1997

The Essex Union County Auto Theft Task Force recovered 336 stolen vehicles in 1997, and the trends uncovered in a review of the year's total show luxury cars and sport utility vehicles are the top picks of the car thieves.

Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Mahanian said the efforts of the task force, comprised of law enforcement officers from both counties, is paying big dividends.

"The nation's top ten list of places where the most cars thieves took place no longer includes Newark, Elizabeth or Livingston, and we take great pride in that," Mahanian said.

To date, according to the unit commander, Lt. Thomas DeCastro of the Prosecutor's Office, the task force had recovered 2,291 stolen vehicles worth more than \$31 million. Since the task force was established in 1991 by the late Prosecutor Andrew K.

Ruotolo, officers from both counties have arrested 1,401 adults and 726 juveniles for car theft.

"You'd better believe the auto insurance companies are thrilled with the recoveries, plus the fact that repeat car thieves are being given jail and reformatory terms that keep them off the streets," Mahanian said.

The totals for 1997 show 336 cars recovered, with 189 adult arrests and 56 juveniles taken into custody. Executive Officer Louis Carrega, a lieutenant in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, said the 13 officers assigned to the joint task force had a typical month last month with 35 stolen vehicles recovered and 24 persons arrested.

But while the old statistics pointed to Chevrolet Caprice and Z-28 Camaros being among the most popular cars stolen, the emerging trend is

showing a different taste among car thieves.

"Now the cars being stolen the most are Lexus, Acura, BMW cars of all models, and sport utility vehicles," DeCastro said.

A review of this week's cases bears that out. Since last Friday, the task force officers have recovered a 1995 BMW 740i valued at \$42,275 stolen in Woodbridge on Jan. 1, a 1997 Lexus 300 valued at \$29,000 that was stolen in Elizabeth on Jan. 7, a 1989 Toyota Tercel valued at \$3,025 stolen in Newark on Dec. 10, a 1997 Ford F250 Pickup Truck valued at \$31,050 stolen in Wayne on Jan. 8, a 2996 Nissan Pathfinder valued at \$31,525 stolen in East Orange on Jan 7 and a 1995 Acura Integra valued at \$16,075 stolen in Livingston on Jan. 8.

The three adults picked up in connection with these thefts ranged in age from 19 to 21. They were from East

Orange and Livingston. The five juveniles, from Newark and East Orange, ranged in age from 15 to 17.

"These cars are being recovered and returned to their owners, and the thieves are off to jail," Mahanian said.

Lt. DeCastro said most stolen cars are not used for joyriding, cut up for parts, or shipped overseas for resale.

"We find, by and large, that the cars are being used to commit other crimes, then abandoned," he said.

Authorities said insurance companies are strong supporters of the task force effort, but sources expressed fear that funding cutbacks may soon threaten attempts to expand the program.

"The mayors and police chiefs from both Union and Essex Counties realize the tremendous impact this has made," said Mahanian. "We're going to give it our best to keep it moving forward."

Deer hunt nets 79 killed in Reservation

The hunt continues in the Watchung Reservation. As of last Friday, hunters killed 79 deer in the reservation. Chief of Park Operations Dan Bernier said that number may increase because there were still hunters in the reservation when the count came in.

Last Friday marked the ninth day of the hunt. Last week was also the third week of the hunt. It was notable for the number of days hunted — four, the most for any week during this hunt — and the number of deer killed — 44. A total of 35 deer were killed the first two weeks of the hunt.

The aim of the hunt is to reduce the reservation's deer population from about 300 to 60, or 20 per square mile,

over five years. This is the third year of the hunt. The deer have been blamed for destroying shrubbery around homes near the reservation, causing motor vehicle accidents by darting into roadways and endangering the reservation's native vegetation through overgrazing.

The hunt's critics lament the slaying of animals. They say non-lethal methods of controlling the deer population — such as contraception — have not been fully explored.

A contraceptive vaccine being used on deer in the smaller, enclosed Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris County is not suitable for use in the reservation, where rough, wooded terrain makes it difficult to locate and

implicate deer, said Dr. Allen Rutberg of the Humane Society.

The goal this year is to kill at least

120 deer, but no more than 189. The first year of the hunt — 1996 — hunters killed 167 deer.

Notebook

(Continued from Page B2)

taking into consideration the politics of boards of education. Without being more strict with boards of education that pad their budgets and hoard taxpayers' money in surplus accounts, the state should not even presume to tell local districts they must merge.

Perhaps the state should begin by setting stricter guidelines that deter-

mine how much of a district's budget can be held in surplus, how much can be spent on in-state and out-of-state conventions annually, how much of a cap should be placed on teachers' salaries, and anything else that the public sector enjoys that no employee in the private sector would even be able to ask for.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Library plans to celebrate African-American culture

By Jacque McCarthy
Associate Editor

In the past several months, Elizabeth Public Library has earned renown for organizing events exploring and celebrating the arts of many different cultures, such as Hispanic Heritage Month. In February, the library is going all out to present many diverse and exciting events for African-American History Month, sponsored by the Urban League of Union County Guild, and partially funded by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development.

According to Donna Alexander, Urban League vice president, this is the fourth annual African-American History Month at Elizabeth Library. This year's schedule of events officially began yesterday and will run on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, 6 to 8:30 p.m., excepting Ric Charles Ensemble, through Feb. 28.

Opening Night of African-American History Month featured a presentation of historical African-American colleges. Seventeen colleges were presented, including Spellman College, Atlanta, Ga.; Tuskegee University, North Carolina; Voorhees College, South Carolina; Hampton University, Va., and Delaware State University, Dover, N.J., with a representative speaking about the background and growth of each. Also featured was the Elizabeth High School Gospel Choir.

"These Speak Out" open mike session will take place on Saturday. Alexander said the night will consist of readings from people who have written original poetry, as well as readings of the works of famous authors, such as Langston Hughes. Alexander said children will memorize poetry to recite.

"People get excited about the program," she said, adding that a soloist will sing at the end of the evening.

Feb. 11 will feature a musical drama presentation by Winfield Scott Elementary School Choir. The choir, consisting of approximately 22 children from grades four through six, will sing, recite poetry, and act out scenes.

There are no other events scheduled on that evening. "The presentation is so detailed that they are on by themselves," said Alexander.

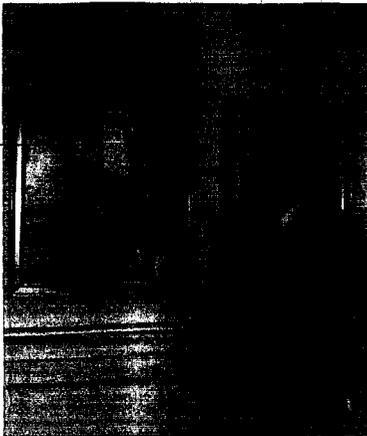
The energy continues to build with Teen Gospel Explosion on Feb. 14. According to Alexander, the choirs from several churches in Elizabeth will join the Kean University Gospel Choir in raising voices in song. Youth Jazz and Classical Concert Night will follow on Feb. 18, featuring piano, drums and dancers.

Wineco — African History Through Music will kick up the theme of celebration of culture through music, along with Karen Williams Dancers, on Feb. 21. "It's one of the best presentations I've ever seen," said Alexander. Italian Cultural Night follows on Feb. 25.

An event which, according to Alexander, is "too big for the library" is Ric Charles Chorale Ensemble Concert, which will be held at Union Baptist Church, East Grand Street and Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, on Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

The month-long celebration will close on Feb. 28 with "A Musical Celebration of Kwanzaa," a new program, Alexander explained.

"We always try to recognize and try to explain about Kwanzaa," she said. The celebration will feature the All-Star Theater Group, a group of talented children sponsored by the Urban League.



Harry Devlin of Mountside was recognized by the Westfield Art Association for his oil painting, 'Gazabo.'

Residents win awards for Westfield exhibit

Top honors in the Westfield Art Association Exhibition were awarded to S. Allyn Schaeffer of Scotch Plains, who received the Kathryn and Denzil Best Award for his oil pastel titled "Paddock, Monmouth Park." Winners from Westfield were Linda Kolar for her oil "Pooping Potatoes," Shirley Ostliso for her sculpture "Touched by Midas," Eileen Willoughby for her oil "Mormonism, Ashburnham" and George Fritz for his acrylic "Serenity."

Other winners were Harry Devlin of Mountside for his oil "Gazabo," Martha Venturo of Roselle Park for her oil "Tuscany, View from the Boboli Gardens" and Burton Longenbach of Clark for his oil "Silu in Afternoon Light."

The member show for oil, pastel, acrylic, sculpture and mixed media gathered 58 entries. The Town Book Store in Westfield has works of the members of the Westfield Art Association for sale.

The Westfield Art Association Inc. is dedicated to promoting the fine arts by providing exhibits and a program of lectures, demonstrations and workshops. For further information, contact president Barbara Schwinn at (908) 232-7058.

Rahway play is a delight for children of all ages

Theater View

By Jacque McCarthy
Associate Editor

The secret was out, both onstage and off. Sunday at Union County Arts Center in Rahway, as Theatreworks/USA's "The Secret Garden" raised the curtain revealing an audience-full of expectant children and adults alike.

This is a charming story about a spoiled young heiress, who, upon being orphaned, is sent to live with her only living relative. Her dependent uncle, perpetually mourning the loss of his wife, has a house to match his gloomy temperament. Young Mary's only escape is the overgrown garden her uncle has boarded up, which she, a friend, and her infirm young cousin work to restore.

As a professional traveling theater company, Theatreworks/USA employed impressive economy in staging and set design. A carefully manipulated billowing white sheet represented the wind, which brought inspiration and messages. The set was changed effectively from the imposing mansion, complete with suit of armor, to the bleak-to-blooming garden.

Amy Looze's excited/complaining portrayal of Mary was done to perfection. Rodney Evan Coe played the traumatized Uncle Archibald. Jonathan Alan was endearing and amusing as perpetually ill Colin. Impressive performances were had from Joey Landwehr and Lauren Wales, Dickon/Montague and

Martha/Medlock. Both actors jumped from the first sweet, endearing characters to the evil conniving Dr. Montague and Mistress Medlock without missing a beat. Dickon's pet squirrel was a cute touch.

Of all the numbers in the musical, most entertaining was "The Gallery of Doom," so much so that audience members specifically commented on it upon leaving the theater. Watching Montague and Medlock using "live" paintings to frighten Mary from snooping about the mansion put smiles on many faces.

Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. Upcoming children's theater production include "MacBeth," Feb. 26 at 10 a.m., and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," March 22 at 3 p.m. For information, call (908) 499-8226.

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Jacque McCarthy, Editor
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Playwrights are invited to join the 'Collective'

A new creative home for playwrights is being formed under the joint auspices of the Union County Arts Center and the newly created Rahway Art Guild. The purpose of the Writers Collective at Union County Arts Center is to offer an environment where playwrights can meet regularly, where they can experiment, justify their craft and explore their art in a safe harbor of like-minded peers. The Collective is not an organization's classroom where the basics of the craft would be taught, but rather a workshop where one-act, full-lengths, children's shows and musicals are created and re-created.

At each session, portions of new work under development will be read and discussed in supportive terms. The writers will be encouraged to create a list of questions that will channel discussion into desired areas. Although reading will be done primarily by members of the Collective, guest talent may be brought in from time-to-time for specific projects.

The Writers Collective will be facilitated by playwright and journalist Lou J. Stalworth. Stalworth holds an M.F.A. in playwright from Rutgers University and is currently artistic director of PinWoods Productions, a company dedicated to fostering new playwrights and introducing audiences to the experience of plays-in-progress. A former theater critic for the Home News, Stalworth is a member of the Dramatists Guild and is a frequent teacher and guest lecturer at Mercer County and Brookdale Community Colleges.

Applications are now being accepted by the Writers Collective at Union County Arts Center for its Spring 1998 Playwrights Workshop. Beginning March 9, the Collective will meet for 10 consecutive Mondays. The fee for this workshop is \$120. Interested parties should send a 20-page writing sample, and a biography/resume to Lou J. Stalworth, Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065.

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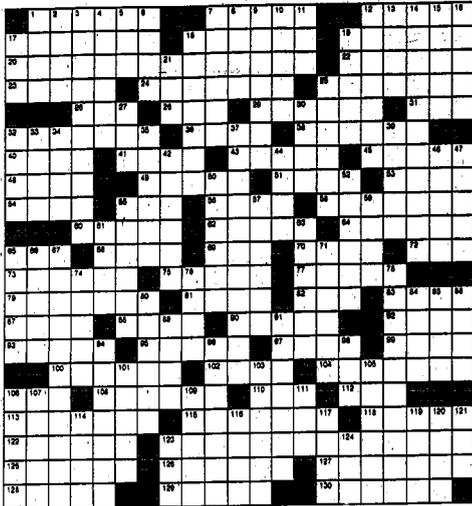
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26 Common article
28 Little, in Little
29 Brought up
31 Explorer Johnson
32 Gardener's tools
35 1975 Wimbledon winner
38 Take umbrage
40 East Indian tree
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42 Church instrument
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9 'The Ugly American'

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11 Before long or now
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13 Not care —
14 Trouble food?
15 Fugard's 'A Lesson from ...'
16 Awe's opposite
17 Chimney accumulation
19 Turkish army corps
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21 Teaching degree
22 Queen Elizabeth II
24 Govt. power org.

(See ANSWERS on Page B13)

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY February 8, 1998
EVENT: Flea Market - Indoors & Outdoors
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville, NJ (off Jor- tain Street)
TIME: 9am-5pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Over 100 Quality Dealers. Contact: For information call 201-997-4935
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by BHS Home and School Association

DINNER-BANQUET

SATURDAY February 21, 1998
EVENT: Mardi Gras Dinner Dance
PLACE: St. Peter and Paul's Parish Hall, 216 Ripley Place, Elizabeth, NJ
TIME: 6:30pm free cocktails, 7:00pm Dinner
PRICE: \$220.00 per person with Reed's Rhythm and all that Brass, 17 piece orchestra, sounds of the swing era: Miller, Dorsey, James, Shaw, etc. For your dancing and listening pleasure. Call 908-245-2271.
ORGANIZATION: St. Peter and Paul's Church.

FRIDAY

EVENT: Flea Market, 1998
PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 9am-1pm
PRICE: Clearance Sale on Winter Clothes, Great buys. Snow date February 15.
ORGANIZATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church. 973-374-8377.

AUCTION

FRIDAY February 20, 1998
EVENT: Annual Auction
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, Raritan Road, Roselle, NJ
TIME: Doors Open 6:00pm, Auction Starts 7:30pm
PRICE: Admission \$10. No children allowed.
ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School Mothers Club. Call 908-246-2360.

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for nonprofit organizations. It is prepared each year just before the start of the winter season. It is available for \$30.00 (incl. tax). The rates must be in a Member office (463 Valley Road) by 4:00 PM on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisements are charged at 17¢ per line per word. Contact: 908-246-2360, 1281 Sycamore Ave., Union, NJ. For more information call 908-246-2360.

To understand Shakespeare, go straight to the source

Wroxton College, in the Cotswold Hills of England and just 15 miles from Stratford-upon-Avon, has announced an extraordinary summer opportunity to study Shakespeare at the source. From June 29-July 24, Dr. Pamela Mason, a Fellow of the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, and a faculty member at Wroxton College, will lead two undergraduates and two graduate courses in Shakespeare that focus on the ways in which plays work in performance. Each week, students will explore and experience plays in the repertoire of the Royal Shakespeare Company with theater tickets included in the course fee. Typically, there is one theater experience for each credit taken. The opportunity to study with Dr. Mason, who has an international reputation for dynamic teaching of Shakespeare, makes this offering extraordinary. She is co-editor of "Shakespeare in Performance" and editor of a casebook on Shakespeare's early comedies. Dr. Mason has contributed a volume on "Much Ado About Nothing" to the Macmillan series on "Text in Performance."

Students live in historic Wroxton Abbey, the fully modernized Jacobean mansion that is Wroxton College. The campus, set on 36 acres of park and woodland, is just outside the thriving market town of Banbury. The college is owned and operated by Fairleigh Dickinson University, using British faculty and the traditional British tutorial system. Enrollment for "Summer Shakespeare" is limited, with some opportunities for flexible study. For information, contact FDU's Wroxton Office for Study Abroad at (973) 443-8066. FDU's website at www.fdu.edu also has further information on Wroxton College.

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For the week of Feb. 8 to 14

Aries March 21-April 20

Watch your finances closely this week. Don't overlook important details. Help is in the wings waiting for the proper moment. Pay attention to your diet and exercise. If you invest wisely right now, it could pay large dividends.

Taurus April 21-May 21

Your work looks very good! This is a time for old friendships to be renewed. Take care not to overextend yourself, though, in arguments with loved ones. Don't make bets you already know can't afford to cover. Any gambles this week are likely to backfire.

Gemini May 22-June 21

Spend a little time alone, but don't be extravagant in your spending. Keep work time and play time in perspective. Don't move on from one project to another unless the first one is finished on your end. Your mate is a good time to plan for the future.

Cancer June 22-July 22

Sometimes following the crowd isn't so bad. This week looks to be one of those times. Trodding along with everyone else may take you somewhere you need to be, but know when to strike out on your own. Don't avoid the problems at home that need attention.

Leo July 23-Aug. 23

Don't lose all those fantastic thoughts you've had recently! Keep paper and pencil handy wherever you go. This is no time to lose sight of the forest for the tree. Step back from a frustrating project and look at it from a new angle. Your direction is going to make or break the goal.

Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Set your priorities early this week and stick to them like glue. Don't let

conflicting duties and desires overwhelm you. Catching up on your reading may provide you with some insight into a problem you've only recently discovered. Your natural abilities are going to shine through in a crowd.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Take a look at your past performance this week. Don't underestimate your strengths and weaknesses. Negative thoughts will lead to negative actions. Avoid taking any extreme actions. Intention to try diet and exercise is unwise this week.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Let someone else act as the lead for now. Watching for the proper moment to make your move will pay off. Stop trying to be right at any cost. Letting others come out ahead now may pay off even bigger for you later. If you take the time to learn more about a problem at home, you'll be better off.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Don't spend money on anything unnecessary this week. This is the time to watch your pennies. What appears to be a bargain now may not be in the long run. Look and listen to those around you. This may not be the right time to make a major life-changing decision.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Don't let the work pile get any bigger this week. Take a few minutes and look at what you have to accomplish by the weekend. A little routine of this week could lead to a great deal of romance this weekend. Ask the right questions and you'll get the answers you're waiting for.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Things could be worse than they seem right now. Try to comfort those around you who are facing trouble. Your support could really make the difference in success or failure. Try not to over-extend your physical activities this week — a little rest can go a long way.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

Romantic entanglements may trip you if you aren't careful. A situation you've been unhappy about may change. Look to a new source for funding of a special project you've had in mind. You are your own best source for ideas right now, so challenge yourself!

Your business can grow with more customers. Reach the potential customers in your newspaper with an ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ms. Nancy Lewis, pro se 20 Mt. and Charles Streets 877 Madison Avenue 2nd Floor New York, NY 10017-1068 201-997-4935

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION DOCKET NO. 01-1193-07

Fast, Effective, Affordable speak spanish, french or italian by spring for \$275

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS MATTER, having been heard in the presence of the Plaintiff, NANCY C. LEWIS, pro se, and the Defendant, Mark A. Lewis, pro se, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, on the 27th day of January, 1998, the Court has rendered its final judgment of divorce and the parties, and each of them, are hereby notified that the said judgment of divorce is hereby made public and is hereby made a part of the public records of the County of Essex, New Jersey.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION DOCKET NO. 01-1193-07

Acquire basic skills in your new language or advance your existing skills in one of our beginning or intermediate groups. One great price - includes tuition, book and fees. Groups meet twice a week for 6 weeks. 8-week programs available for just \$500. Friendly, relaxed groups of 6-8 students. Regular and Intensive English (ISE) Group courses also available. Price based on minimum class size of 6 persons. For groups of 7-12, \$100 a week. For groups of 13-24, \$150 a week. For groups of 25-30, \$200 a week. For groups of 31-40, \$250 a week. For groups of 41-50, \$300 a week. For groups of 51-60, \$350 a week. For groups of 61-70, \$400 a week. For groups of 71-80, \$450 a week. For groups of 81-90, \$500 a week. For groups of 91-100, \$550 a week. For groups of 101-110, \$600 a week. For groups of 111-120, \$650 a week. For groups of 121-130, \$700 a week. For groups of 131-140, \$750 a week. For groups of 141-150, \$800 a week. For groups of 151-160, \$850 a week. For groups of 161-170, \$900 a week. For groups of 171-180, \$950 a week. For groups of 181-190, \$1000 a week. For groups of 191-200, \$1050 a week. For groups of 201-210, \$1100 a week. For groups of 211-220, \$1150 a week. For groups of 221-230, \$1200 a week. For groups of 231-240, \$1250 a week. For groups of 241-250, \$1300 a week. For groups of 251-260, \$1350 a week. For groups of 261-270, \$1400 a week. For groups of 271-280, \$1450 a week. For groups of 281-290, \$1500 a week. For groups of 291-300, \$1550 a week. For groups of 301-310, \$1600 a week. For groups of 311-320, \$1650 a week. For groups of 321-330, \$1700 a week. For groups of 331-340, \$1750 a week. For groups of 341-350, \$1800 a week. For groups of 351-360, \$1850 a week. For groups of 361-370, \$1900 a week. For groups of 371-380, \$1950 a week. For groups of 381-390, \$2000 a week. For groups of 391-400, \$2050 a week. For groups of 401-410, \$2100 a week. For groups of 411-420, \$2150 a week. For groups of 421-430, \$2200 a week. For groups of 431-440, \$2250 a week. For groups of 441-450, \$2300 a week. For groups of 451-460, \$2350 a week. For groups of 461-470, \$2400 a week. For groups of 471-480, \$2450 a week. For groups of 481-490, \$2500 a week. For groups of 491-500, \$2550 a week. For groups of 501-510, \$2600 a week. For groups of 511-520, \$2650 a week. For groups of 521-530, \$2700 a week. For groups of 531-540, \$2750 a week. For groups of 541-550, \$2800 a week. For groups of 551-560, \$2850 a week. For groups of 561-570, \$2900 a week. For groups of 571-580, \$2950 a week. For groups of 581-590, \$3000 a week. For groups of 591-600, \$3050 a week. For groups of 601-610, \$3100 a week. For groups of 611-620, \$3150 a week. For groups of 621-630, \$3200 a week. For groups of 631-640, \$3250 a week. For groups of 641-650, \$3300 a week. For groups of 651-660, \$3350 a week. For groups of 661-670, \$3400 a week. For groups of 671-680, \$3450 a week. For groups of 681-690, \$3500 a week. For groups of 691-700, \$3550 a week. For groups of 701-710, \$3600 a week. For groups of 711-720, \$3650 a week. For groups of 721-730, \$3700 a week. For groups of 731-740, \$3750 a week. For groups of 741-750, \$3800 a week. For groups of 751-760, \$3850 a week. For groups of 761-770, \$3900 a week. For groups of 771-780, \$3950 a week. For groups of 781-790, \$4000 a week. For groups of 791-800, \$4050 a week. For groups of 801-810, \$4100 a week. For groups of 811-820, \$4150 a week. For groups of 821-830, \$4200 a week. For groups of 831-840, \$4250 a week. For groups of 841-850, \$4300 a week. For groups of 851-860, \$4350 a week. For groups of 861-870, \$4400 a week. For groups of 871-880, \$4450 a week. For groups of 881-890, \$4500 a week. For groups of 891-900, \$4550 a week. For groups of 901-910, \$4600 a week. For groups of 911-920, \$4650 a week. For groups of 921-930, \$4700 a week. For groups of 931-940, \$4750 a week. For groups of 941-950, \$4800 a week. For groups of 951-960, \$4850 a week. For groups of 961-970, \$4900 a week. For groups of 971-980, \$4950 a week. For groups of 981-990, \$5000 a week. For groups of 991-1000, \$5050 a week.

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Isn't It Romantic

Directed by Wendy Wasserstein Feb. 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28 - 8 p.m. Feb. 22, Mar. 1 - 3 p.m. Keane University, Wilkins Theatre Public 112, Faculty/Staff/Alumni/Senior Citizens 90, Students 57 Call (908) 527-2337 for further information. Is it possible for a woman to have it all? The painful compromises that accompany growing in a world of men. The most romantic of comedies.

Use a 'Passport' for quality family time

Families looking for quality "together time" and great entertainment need search no further than the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's new "Passport to Culture" FamilyTime Series of performances.

The series will continue through May 1998 with ten outstanding family performances by nationally and internationally acclaimed companies including a variety of "For Kids, By Kids" performances featuring talented young artists.

Sponsored by Bell Atlantic, the performances offer affordable fun at \$7 per child age 12 and under, per ticket, with adult prices ranging from \$12 to \$18. Most performances also take in NJPAC's intimate, 514-seat Victoria Theatre.

NJPAC's SchoolTime Series, which complements the FamilyTime Series by offering daytime performances for school groups, is sold out. Announcement of the SchoolTime tickets reservation deadlines for the 1998-99 academic year will be mailed to schools in February.

The rest of NJPAC's FamilyTime Series performances include the African-American string group Return to the Source performing a revue of gospel, spirituals, blues and jazz; the acclaimed ODC/San Francisco dance ensemble with "The Velvetown Rabbit"; Theatreworks/USA with the play "Paul Robeson"; the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, and the New Jersey Tap Ensemble.

Parents and children can extend the fun of a performance by participating in related workshops preceding selected shows. Workshops are scheduled for March 21, May 23 and June 14. Workshops are free, but enrollment is limited to 30 and advance registration is necessary by calling 642-8989, ext. 3103. NJPAC's Festival of Young Artists "For Kids, By Kids" is an innovative part of the FamilyTime Series for young people. It will feature some of the region's finest young performers, ranging from dance troupes to jazz bands, children's choirs and a special performance by the participants in NJPAC's Youth Orchestra Festival.

NJPAC is located on the Newark Riverfront near Gateway Center, Newark's Penn Station and the Ironbound District. With two theaters — the 2,750-seat Prudential Hall and the intimate 514-seat Victoria Theatre — NJPAC is the largest performing arts center built in the Northeast in the past 30 years. Conceived and equipped for both traditional and popular cultural events, NJPAC stands as a symbol of community, of excellence in artistic expression and of international cultural exchange, serving as host to nationally and internationally celebrated performing artists and as a home to New Jersey's arts communities.

Further information about the FamilyTime Series and tickets may be obtained by calling (888) GO-NJPAC or visit the NJPAC's Web site at www.njpac.org.

Roselle Park High School will hold its 14th annual reunion on Feb. 20-21 at Tampa Westshore Marriott, 1000 North Westshore Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33607-4936. Mail reunion reservation and check for \$50 per person payable to R.P.H.S. Reunion. Deadline for payment is Feb. 7, to Bill

REUNIONS

Bozine, 825 116th Ave., Treasure Island, FL 33706.

Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School Class of 1987 is hosting a 10-year class reunion in March. For information, call Chris Canada at (732) 382-3346.

Hillside High School Class of 1950 will hold a reunion on May 2, 1998.

For information, write to Reunions Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown, NJ 07726, or call (908) 780-8364.

Millburn High School Class of 1967 will hold a reunion on May 2, 1998. For information, write to Reunions International, P.O. Box 6579, Freehold, NJ 07728, or call (732) 845-5200.

SWEDISH STUDENTS

and other Scandinavian, European, South American, Asian, Russian exchange students arriving August. Help out spending money and insurance. You receive room, board and supervision. Call AISE today to become a host family at 1-800-SIBLING or visit our web at <http://www.sibling.org>. American Intercultural Student Exchange non-profit educational foundation

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Foster parents are needed who can provide the individual attention required by children with special emotional and physical needs. These children may suffer from disruptive, emotional problems or have medical conditions that require special skills or equipment, such as a sleep monitor, feeding tube or respiratory aids. Foster parents work as a team with a child welfare and medical professionals, therapists and counselors. If you meet established qualifications, you will be trained in the skills you need to help these children and will be entitled to many support services. To find out, call

1-800-222-0047

N. J. Department of Human Services

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CONTACT We Care Inc. the 24-hour telephone helpline and crisis intervention service, urgently needs volunteers to staff its phone lines.

The next volunteer training class begins February 21.

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The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents casing his amazing versatility with a recital program ranging from classical to modern jazz. CHICK COREA virtually personifies the spectrum of jazz — and often plays beyond jazz. Mr. Corea will be joined by the world famous jazz vibraphone artist, GARY BURTON. They will both celebrate their 25-year collaboration of concert and recording performances with a year-long world tour. Don't miss this exciting event and unique musical experience.

Thursday, February 12 - 8 pm

at NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

1-800 ALLEGRO (1-800-255-3478) Monday - Saturday 11 am - 5 pm

Tickets: \$68, 48, 38, 35, 15



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A Special Pullout Tabloid Section - February 19, 1998

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If your business caters to consumers who are planning weddings or any major event, you'll want to be part of this informative supplement. Each Thursday since 1968 Worrall Community Newspapers have been providing towns in Essex & Union Counties with their local news. Today, 70,000 paid subscriber target mailed households receive these newspapers. It's your opportunity to target an audience that have an average household income exceeding \$76,000 - 34% are 35-49 years old

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STORE HOURS: Mon. & Thurs. 10-6; Tues., Wed., & Fri. 10-4

Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area...

Stepping Out

son program about the visual and performing arts in New Jersey. Each month the viewer is introduced to the creative people and nonprofit organizations directly involved in upcoming cultural events.

ART SHOWS

ELIZABETH LIBRARY will exhibit African-American art and themes by Odetta, Dents throughout February.

KULSKI ART GALLERY of the Polish Cultural Foundation of Clark presents paintings by Andrzej Galicki through tomorrow.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE INVITATIONAL exhibition will be on display through Feb. 15 at Renee Fosness Art Gallery.

DEAD LIFE TALKING, still life paintings by nine regional artists, will be on display through Feb. 19 at Tommaso Art Gallery.

FANTASY LANDSCAPE SERIES by abstract artist Pasquale Cuppari will be on display through Feb. 22 at Eugenio Gallery in Scotch Plains.

STREET SCENES AND OTHER by Leon L. Tadrick will be on display at Les Malamut Gallery in Union through Feb. 23.

MILBURN LIBRARY will display "The Life and Times of Bill Monroe: A Photo Essay" through Feb. 28.

SWAIN GALLERIES will exhibit "Twentieth Century Posters" through Feb. 28.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL will exhibit artwork by local public school students grades K-12 and Haynes Imports of African artwork.

AUDITIONS

GARDEN STATE BALLET will hold spring scholarship tryouts for boys and girls aged 7-12 years. Tryouts will be held on Saturday.

GEMINI GROUP is seeking cameramen and technicians for filming original works for broadcast on cable stations.

RAHWAY VALLEY JERSEYAIRES barbershop quartet rehearses in the First Baptist Church Hall, 170 Elm St., Westfield, every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m.

SANGERCHOIR men's chorus rehearses Friday evenings at 8:30 p.m. at the Deutscher Church in Clark.

UNION HARMONICA BAND holds practice sessions at the Senior Citizens Building, Coldwell and Morris avenues, Union, every Friday from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB invites male singers to come and sing at the Presbyterian Church Parish Building, Assembly Hall, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield.

Interested male singers are invited to call Dale Junilla at (908) 232-0673.

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Admission is \$5. For information, call (908) 766-2469.

MUSIC BOX CAFE of the Donald P. Pelham Museum is located in the Springfield Free Public Library.

Those interested in performing at the Music Box Cafe should submit a resume or letter of introduction to Susan Panthos, Springfield Free Public Library, 86 Mountain Ave., Springfield, 07081.

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Elizabeth Christopherson, executive director of New Jersey Network, will be honored at Ladies Luncheon and Fashion Show on Tuesday at 1 a.m. at the Paper Mill Playhouse.

For grades K-8, NJPAC is located at One Center Drive, Newark. For information, call (888) JO-NJ-PAC.

DUKE THAT PUPPET GUY will perform on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at Elizabeth Library, Union. For information, call (908) 584-6060.

POTPOURRI CRAFT will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m. at Trillium Nature and Science Center.

Fee is \$2 per child. The center is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For information, call (908) 769-3670.

MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM will celebrate Valentine's Day on Sunday from 2-4 p.m. with an Early American Valentine-making demonstration.

Built in 1740, the Miller-Cory House Museum stands on the "top of the mountains" in Westfield. The Miller-Cory House was named in honor of its two pre-Revolutionary owners, both descended from the earliest settlers in this area.

VALENTINE'S DAY Opera Cabaret will be presented Saturday at 8 p.m. by Opera at Flomham.

The concert will take place in The Mansion at Laurel Hill, Fairleigh Dickinson University, 285 Madison Ave., Madison. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for students and seniors and \$15 for children age 16 and under. For information, call (973) 443-8620.

AFTERNOON MUSIC will present a concert of Baroque chamber music on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 3 p.m. at the Union Church in Summit.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$2 for students. The church is located on the corner of Springfield and Waldron avenues in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-3245.

CALVARY CHORALE will present "And Cantain and Friends" on Sunday at 4 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church. The church is located at 31 Woodland Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 277-1547.

CELLO will perform on Sunday at 3 p.m. at New Jersey Symphony Music Center in Murray Hill.

Tickets are \$25. The center is located at 570 Center Ave., Murray Hill. For information, call (908) 771-5644.

KLEZMER CONCERT will be presented on Sunday at 9 p.m. at Temple Shalom in Plainfield.

Admission is \$5. The temple is located at 815 West Seventh St., Plainfield. For information, call (908) 756-8447.

UNION MUNICIPAL BAND will present a Winter Concert on Monday at 7:45 p.m. in Burnet Middle School Auditorium, Union.

Admission is free. The school is located on Caldwell Avenue in Union. For information, call (908) 277-9433.

W MOONRAISERS TRILLIUM CLUB will hold a business meeting Tuesday at 8 a.m. at the Trillium Nature and Science Center. The hotel is located at 5. Herndon Plaza, Secaucus. For information, call (973) 267-3648.

THE CROWN OF DEATHY will be presented by the Trillium Nature and Science Center on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Trillium Nature and Science Center. For information, call (908) 769-3670.

THE ARTS is a half-hour cable series...

calendar. Each program is closed captioned for people who are deaf or have hearing impairments, as well as for those who may need assistance with the English language.

The program is carried in regular linearts on five central New Jersey cable systems throughout the state. For more information about "The Arts" and/or for a broadcast schedule, call (908) 745-4489/3888.

A SITCOM IN TIME will be presented today at 8 p.m. at Kean University.

The production will take place in Wilkins Theater. Tickets are \$6 for students; \$10 for faculty, staff, alumni and senior citizens; and \$14 for the general public. For information, call (908) 527-2337.

JOEL AND JULIA will be presented at Union County College on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and at Kean University on Feb. 12 at 8 p.m.

The production will be staged in the Roy W. Smith Theater, Campus Center. Tickets are \$8 for the general public, and \$5 for senior citizens and students with UCC ID. The college is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 709-7503.

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE will be presented on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Union County Arts Center in Rahway.

UACAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call (908) 732-9121.

YIA-YIWA of Union County will present The Seasoned Citizens Theater Company at noon on Tuesday.

The Y is located at 501 Green Lane, Union. For information, call (908) 289-9112.

BLACK HERITAGE CRAFT SHOW will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield.

The church is located at 825 East Front St., Plainfield. For information, call (908) 759-1894.

UNION TOWNSHIP Historical Society will conduct its next meeting on Sunday at 2 p.m. in the historic James and Hannah Caldwell Parsonage, located at 908 Caldwell Ave., Union.

WATCHING STABLES will be held on Saturday at 7:14 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway.

The stable is located at 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside. For information, call (908) 769-3665.

INTERFAITH SINGLES for adults over age 45 meets Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for continental breakfast at First Baptist Church in Westfield. Movie night will be held on Feb. 18 from 6-10 p.m.

Breakfast on Feb. 18. The church is located at 370 N. Westfield. For information, call (908) 769-3665.

WATCHING STABLES will be held on Saturday at 7:14 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway.

The stable is located at 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside. For information, call (908) 769-3665.

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John Bunnell will direct Union Municipal Band in concert Monday at 7:45 p.m.

Vo-tech allows students to go straight from school-to-work

Union County Vocational-Technical School offers high school students a wide variety of school-to-work experiences to help them prepare for a chosen career. The School-to-Work Program, under the direction of Dr. Deborah Rockafellow, consists of classroom learning, and work-based activities which can be in the form of shadowing, where the student

observes activities in the work place, or as an internship where the student actually works to their chosen career. The benefits of the School-to-Work Program for both the students and the employer parties are great. The student, able to experience the career while in school, gets a preview of what it is like in a particular business or industry. This helps reduce turnover

for the employer. The employer has an opportunity to influence the curriculum development to meet industry needs. This helps to ensure properly trained and qualified employees. Employer partners at UVCTS include The Hilton at Short Hills, Honeywell Controls, Howell Electric Motors, Longo Industries, Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, New-

ark Airport Hilton, Plainfield Police Department and ShopRite Supermarkets Inc. Even though Americans may not know the term "School-to-Work," they support the concept. In a study conducted by Jobs for the Future, 85 percent of respondents said they would support a change "to place more emphasis on all students prepar-

ing for careers and obtaining workforce skills" while in school. If the change affected their children, 91 percent felt such a change was important, whether or not their sons and daughters planned to go to college. For information regarding enrollment or becoming an employer partner, call Dr. Deborah Rockafellow at (908) 889-2985

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- 3. Convenient Location.** Located in the heart of Union County where the Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, Routes 22, 78, and 1 & 9 meet.
- 4. Degrees Connected to Careers.** Kean offers internships and paid co-ops to undergraduate students. Graduate students can take advantage of our graduate assistantship program.
- 5. Student-Focused Programs.** At Kean you'll find small classrooms with student-to-faculty ratios as low as 12:1.
- 6. Talented Faculty Dedicated to Teaching.** At Kean you will be taught by knowledgeable faculty who have a wealth of experience in their fields.
- 7. Intercollegiate Athletics.** Kean has 16 intercollegiate varsity sports, plus new fitness equipment, swimming pools and weight training apparatus.
- 8. A Tradition of Excellence.** Kean is one of the oldest and largest state universities in New Jersey.
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- 10. Attractive Campus.** One hundred and fifty acres of landscaped grounds and surroundings conducive to on-campus living, learning and growing.

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 Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center's Centennial Hall
 SNR01 1031, Thursday, February 20, 1998, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

In addition to a panel discussion, a seminar on financial aid and a credit evaluation workshop will be held. Meet with our faculty and learn about our many programs, including:

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For more information about our health care forum, call (908) 668-2400.

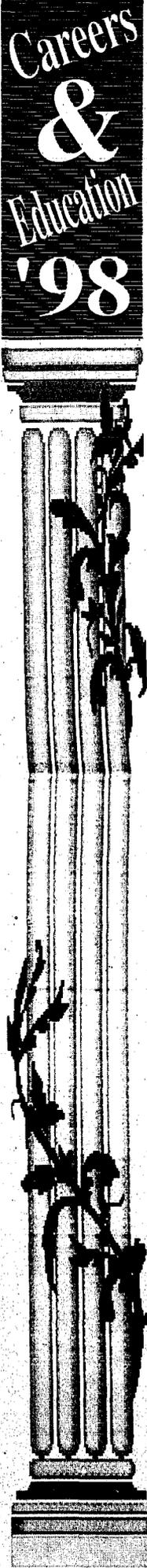
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Careers & Education '98

Host an exchange student

If you've ever thought about sharing your cultural experiences with others, you may be interested in hosting a foreign exchange student.

Pacific Intercultural Exchange is looking for a few more host families for students ages 15 to 18 from countries including Spain, Australia, Germany, Poland, Argentina and Russia.

Families who host the students are eligible to claim a \$50 per month limited deduction on their tax return for each month they host a sponsored student.

The students all have their own spending money, are English-speaking and carry accident and health insurance, according to PIE Executive Director John Doy.

The PIE is a non-profit educational organization that has sponsored more than 18,000 students from 40 countries since its founding in 1975.

For information on the program, call toll-free (800) 631-1818.

Extra attention helps students to make the grade at Kumon

Throughout the year, many parents supplement their child's education with additional math or reading classes. Students of all ages often find that extra practice often ensures success in school. Whether the student needs to build up lagging skills or is highly accelerated, the Kumon Math and Reading Center provide the advantage that makes the difference.

Students of all ages, from Kindergarten through high school, attend Kumon twice a week, enhancing skills needed to build a firm foundation in the rudimentary subject matter. Kumon has been commended by prominent educators for improving math and reading skills, promoting good study habits, developing concentration skills, encouraging independent learning and building self-confidence.

With an emphasis on repetition and gaining speed and accuracy before advancing, the program ensures complete understanding before the next level of math or reading is begun. Although Kumon does not directly address standardized achievement tests, often increases of 20, 30 or even 40 points are realized. Kumon students find that their solid-base skills, in conjunction with concepts taught in school, provide them with an advantage in the classroom. Many high school students are given a diagnostic test to determine placement in the Kumon program. From that point on, they come to the Center twice a week for 30 to 45 minutes, and have short, 10 to 15 minutes assignments to complete every day. These few minutes translate into success.

As Kumon Director Carol Smith stated in a segment for ABC's "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings," "Students have Kumon homework to complete every day. By doing that little bit of homework, students can't help but be successful."

Education reform studies promote strict standards

The reform of education — a major focus of policy makers since 1983 — has resulted in a variety of changes in schools across the country. They include setting learning standards for all students, implementing or expanding assessment programs and raising standards for prospective teachers. Has your school system kept pace?

A study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education examined the education reform taking place in 13 school districts across the nation. The study identified several challenges to implementing systemic reform, including differing visions of what the reform should entail, creating policies that are easy to understand, the involvement level of districts and schools, and the need to address diverse student needs.

States and localities choosing a standards-based approach to instructional improvement should consider the following set of lessons:

- States, districts and schools must have a clear vision of what students should know and be able to do to help focus reforms;
 - That vision must be developed in a way that allows teachers, students and parents to endorse it;
 - At first, reform goals may need to balance current and desired practices;
 - Coherence among the elements of state education policy helps local reformers in districts and schools;
 - Teachers and administrators must have time to plan, learn and work together and with others to improve their schools;
 - It takes time for educators to learn new content and approaches and for institutions to change to make new instruction work.
- The study is called Systemic Reform. It is one of 12 Studies of Education Reform recently completed by the U.S. Department of Education. Educators, parents and others interested in obtaining information from this or other studies in the series can call (800) 424-1616.

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Competitive program helps kids learn that math counts

Although many businesses today need employees with strong math skills, a recent National Assessment of Education Progress Report showed that America's students don't make the grade.

According to the report, 40 percent of almost 250,000 students in grades four, eight and 12 couldn't meet basic math standards at their grade level.

Fortunately, parents can do a lot to help children develop math skills. That's what the winners of the MATHCOUNTS National Competition say. These seventh and eighth grade "mathletes" say they owe some of their winning interest in math to parents who recognized the importance of math and challenged them.

MATHCOUNTS, a national grass roots coaching and competition program, suggests that parents can make math more meaningful by illustrating mathematical principles with everyday activities and events. One easy way to do this might be to steer youngsters to the MATHCOUNTS web site <http://mathcounts.org> where each Monday MATHCOUNTS posts a Problem of the Week that deals with a current event topic or other area relevant to kids' lives. The site also provides a forum for students to talk with each other about math and related interests.

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, MATHCOUNTS promotes student interest in math by making math achievement as challenging, exciting and prestigious as a school sport. The organization's goals are to improve student interest and abilities in mathematics through year-long coaching and competition.

Finance management service offers workshop at college

The Personal Financial Management Workshop, offered by Financial Management Services, satisfies the need for a full range of basic information so that almost anyone can earn more, pay less taxes, and get a head start on an easy retirement. The workshop will be held Thursdays, Feb. 12, 19 and 26, from 7:20 to 9:20 p.m. at the Cranford Campus of Union County College.

Unlike other sessions, Financial Management Services' workshop is in easy-to-understand plain English, with financial advisors Mark A. DiGiacomo and William J. Blumo helping people understand what they need to know in order to make informed decisions. Another big difference with the Personal Financial Management Workshop is the take-away workbook — more than 150 pages worth

of valuable references and worksheets.

Everyone who attends can expect to leave with a solid understanding of six areas essential to any sound financial strategy: Risk management, cash management, investment planning, tax planning, retirement planning and estate planning.

The workshop is expected to be popular. Since seating is limited, Financial Management Services recommends calling Union County College at (908) 709-7500 today and ask for Continuing Education, Course Code: AEF036, as soon as possible for reservations.

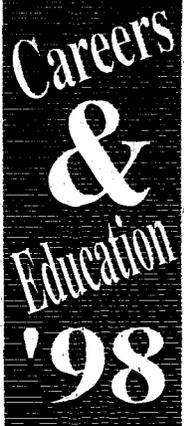
There is a fee of \$50, per person. This fee includes the special workbook. There is no obligation and no specific products will be offered.

Adult high school announces graduates

The following Union County residents have completed requirements from graduation from the Union County Vocational-Technical Adult High School: David Acosta, Roselle; Raymond Billups, Plainfield; Jordan Blackwell, Roselle; Tyrone Brockington, Elizabeth; Ahmik Bryant, Elizabeth; Kathleen Cordeiro, Garwood; John Davey, Roselle; Alicia Dimondi, Elizabeth; John Fullman, Elizabeth; Johanna Garcia, Elizabeth; Adam Glover, Cranford; Daniel Gomez, Roselle Park; Carlos Hernandez, Elizabeth; Jermaine Miller, Plainfield; Larry Rivera, Elizabeth; Alexander Serrano, Elizabeth; LeShane Taylor,

Elizabeth; Steven Thorpe, Winfield; Natasha Valentin, Summit, and Michael Weber, Plainfield.

The Union County Vocational-Technical Adult High School was formed in 1995 enabling students 16 years of age and older to complete requirements for a state-ordered high school diploma. These are currently 200 students from 16 municipalities in Union County enrolled in the Adult High School. For more information about the Adult High School, call John Crowley, director, (908) 889-2904 or visit the web site at www.ucvts.tcc.nj.us.



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- Pick up an application in your high school guidance office or call Judith Welshons at Hollywood Memorial Park, 908-688-4300. We'll send you a list of eligible high schools and an application.

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▶ According to a report* of the National Association of Colleges and Employers:

The shortage of graduates of four-year colleges is leading employers to seek graduates with *associate degrees from community colleges*.

*Jobs Outlook '98, November 1997

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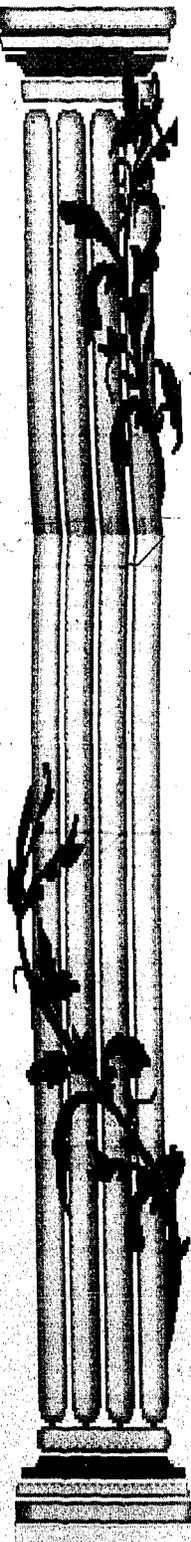
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Careers & Education '98

Students can experience 'Writes of Passage'

Writers of prose and poetry from 12- to 18-year-old often reveal more perception and talent than experience — and so their poems and stories are often ignored by people who mistakenly believe that experience is always the best teacher.

Now there is a new "slack" — in the typographic sense — and sharply edited literary journal that shows to a national audience the serious, funny, cool, well-crafted work of youthful writers.

It's called "Writes of Passage," published twice a year out of New York City by a private, nonprofit company started in 1994 by Laura Hoffman and Wendy Mass, who were college roommates at Tufts University. "Writes of Passage" is edited and read by people who recognize, buy and publish good writing that does not necessarily abide by rules and guidelines. It is distributed nationwide to bookstores — including Barnes & Noble and Waldenbooks — in schools and public libraries, and by subscription.

New York's award-winning "Big Apple Parents" paper says: "Some of the nation's best young writers, the

future Steinbecks and Morrisons, are offered a breakthrough opportunity which is very instrumental and encouraging."

"It's really been so exciting to present teenagers with a productive chance to share their thoughts and allow their literary voices to be heard," said Hoffman. She encourages parents, teachers and friends of good young poetry and prose writers to get them to submit their work for the selection process.

For the second issue of "Writes of Passage," more than 1,000 entries limited to four typewritten pages or less were submitted by junior high and high school students throughout the nation. Thirty submissions were chosen for publication — including a fascinating and pointed poem by 10-year-old Nicholas West-Miles from Colorado called "The Victims." A sample line: "The clothes are knitted with a yarn of lies/And evil lurks in the forest of anger nearby."

And there is a funny and painful fantasy called "Working Through College Applications" written by Shu Shan Loh of New Hampshire. A sample: "As if SAT's college applica-

tions and graduation weren't enough, people expect me to grow up, too."

Contributors can send submissions with name, address, telephone number, a brief bio, school and its address, to: "Writes of Passage," 917 Broadway, 6th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10003.

One quick lesson about writing that "Writes of Passage" teaches: "SASE means, if you want your work sent back, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope."

Preserve your college memories with photos

College memories, from study to football games, can be preserved with photographs, so college students should leave home well-prepared.

To catch all fun student activities, keep a camera with you all the time. Use a lightweight camera that can alternate between close-ups and groups shots, to avoid having to switch cameras for different functions. Some disposable cameras will fit these criteria. Use a film that adjusts to all picture-taking situations, such as indoor and outdoor.

Keeping energy up helps kids learn

During the school year, moms can always use extra clues as to what is popular with their kids.

To help moms, Kraft HandiSnacks commissioned a survey of six- to 12-year-old boys and girls across the country and asked them a few of their favorite things.

The survey results reveal that during the school year, 65 percent of kids play on sports teams, with baseball/softball, soccer and basketball as the top three choices. In addition, 41 percent of kids take music lessons while 32 percent participate in activities such as drawing, painting and pottery. Also, 54 percent of kids participate in both sports and other activities such as singing, scouting and community programs.

Clearly, today's kids are constantly on the move from the time the first school bell rings. So, when it comes to fueling their bodies, they need satisfying meals and on-the-go snacks to keep them going throughout the day. In fact, most kids surveyed say they snack up to two times each day, and 80 percent of parents, who also participated in the survey, say they choose cheese and crackers or fruit for such occasions.

Here are a few more survey findings moms may find interesting:

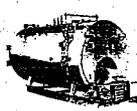
- Eleven to 12-year-old boys are especially likely to be involved in more than one activity at a time.
 - Eighty-five percent of kids surveyed use a computer, usually at school or at home.
 - Boys prefer basketball, slightly more than other sports, while girls like soccer more.
- With these facts in mind, parents can be on top of what their kids are into and help keep them going with simple, good-tasting, wholesome snacks throughout their busy days.

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Camps & Daycare will be a weekly feature throughout the year. We will publish this directory in 3 upcoming special sections.

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May 2000

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Kid-friendly software makes study time fun

School budgets are being cut. Class sizes and course-work requirements are growing. How can parents make these conflicting figures add up to good marks?

Many parents are using computer software to give children the individual attention and skills they need to succeed. Surveys indicate 31 percent of American families now have computers at home.

Some of the most interesting and engaging educational computer software being used is produced by Brighter Child Interactive, an affiliate of American Education Publishing, the industry leader in workbooks and other learning tools. Subjects covered on these IBM diskettes or CD-ROMs include basic educational skills such as math and reading, phonics and spelling for kids from pre-school through elementary.

Save your newspaper for recycling.

Video puts children on the right 'track'

All aboard! A new children's video is right on track offering the kind of wholesome, high quality, fun adventures that parents can use to teach important values.

"Thomas & The Special Letter & Other Stories" is the latest installment in the popular "Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends" home video series. Narrated by George Carlin, the video features all new story lines and episodes exclusive to home video.

In the new video, Thomas meets many new friends, including: George the Steamroller, a grumpy steam machine who loves roads and hates railways; Duncan, who tends to have a mind of his own, which makes him make and do things; and powerful Diesel, who thinks he knows it all. This video also contains Thomas' new music video.

"Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover."

As always, the videos embody important lessons presented in an entertaining way that wins children's hearts. For example:

- Danger literally breaks out in "Rock 'N' Roll," when Duncan ignores Rusty's warning about a broken section of the line and is soon rocking 'n' rolling along the rails.

- In "Steamroller," Sir Handel gets taught a lesson about showing off when Skarley decides to trick him into a race with George the steamroller. Who will be the winner?

- In "Toad Stands By," leaving by trucks goes dire since Oliver and despite his nervousness of trucks, Toad and Oliver plan to teach them a little lesson.

College freezes tuition increases through 1999

Crediting recent pledges from Trenton to increase funds for community colleges and the college's own success in holding down operating costs, the Union County College Board of Trustees has determined that there will be no tuition increase for the 1998-99 academic year. This action, taken at the Jan. 27 board meeting, assures that tuition for Union County residents will remain at \$69.50 per credit through the spring semester of 1999.

In announcing the zero increase, Victor M. Richel, chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated, "I am pleased that we are able to hold the line with regard to the costs which a student must bear to pursue a higher education at Union County College. The excellent programs, committed faculty, and modern facilities available on all four campuses make attendance at UCC an outstanding value."

In order to hold the line on costs and make the educational opportunities which the college offers affordable tuition to the residents of Union County, "the College Administration, under the leadership of President Thomas H. Brown, has worked hard to identify and implement efficiencies in its operations," said Richel. "Additionally, at the State House in Trenton, our Union County legislative delegation has been steadfast in its bipartisan support of Union County College." Richel also expressed his belief that this support was an important factor leading to Governor Whitman's inaugural promise of increased state funding for county colleges over the remaining four years of her term in office.

"Community colleges and the opportunities they provide are more essential than ever to the economic development of our state," said Richel. Though business and industry are optimistic about doing business in New Jersey, recent surveys reveal a growing concern about the availability of qualified workers.

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- ▶ If you attend UCVTs, you will receive 20 credits per school year toward your high school diploma. These credits translate for your technical program 2.5 in related technical math and 2.5 in applied science!
- ▶ If you begin classes at UCVTs as a junior, you will receive two diplomas at the end of your senior year: one from UCVTs and the other from your home high school.
- ▶ Nearly Two percent of UCVTs June, 1997 graduates were placed in well-paying jobs, continued their education at technical schools or went on to attend two or four year colleges!
- ▶ You can earn TUITION FREE college credits while attending UCVTs in one of the following programs: Allied Health, Automotive Technology, Commercial Art, Computer Aided-Drafting & Design, Culinary Arts, Electrical Technology, Electromechanical Technology, Law Enforcement and Office Systems Technology!
- ▶ You can participate in a SCHOOL-TO-WORK program at UCVTs if you are enrolled in Allied Health, Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Electromechanical Technology or Supermarket Technology. This means that you will be given the opportunity to shadow professionals in these fields at their work sites during school hours!
- ▶ UCVTs offers state-of-the-art technology, highly skilled and caring instructors, hands-on experience in all classes and an opportunity to learn life long skills!
- ▶ If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate in a shared-time program at UCVTs beginning to your junior year, ask your guidance counselor or call UCVTs Day Admissions Office at 908-889-2999!

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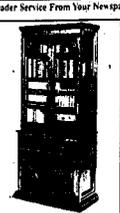
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Real Estate

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Ferreira joins RE/MAX

RE/MAX Union, located at 1961 Morris Ave., across from Town Hall, announced Olga C. Ferreira as a new member of its company.

Ferreira, formerly of RE/MAX Village Center, said she is looking forward to working with all her clients. She resides in Union with her husband, John, and their two children, Justin and Samantha.

For service from a professional Realtor who is an aggressive producer, call Ferreira at (908) 851-2323 or page her at (201) 281-4222.

She is a member of five boards - Union, Essex, Morris, Somerset and Middlesex counties, and speaks English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Ford is president

Michael F. Ford, broker/owner of the Mills Ford Agency in Clark, is president of the New Jersey Association of Realtors for 1998. Ford, who served as president in 1997, was installed for his second term at NJAR's "Let the Good Times Roll" convention in Atlantic City.

A non-profit organization serving the professional needs of more than 35,000 real estate agents in the state, NJAR also installed a new state of senior officers and district vice president for 1998.

A Realtor since 1972, Ford served as NJAR's president-elect in 1996 and as first vice president in 1994. He was a division officer from 1990-94 and has been a member of the NJAR board of directors since 1986. He has served on the Executive Committee since 1990 and chaired NJAR's Environmental, Strategic Planning, Realtor Risk Reduction and Presidents committees. In addition, he has served as a member of the Legislative Committee, President's Group on Technology and the Regional Computer Task Force.

A director of the National Association of Realtors, Ford serves on NAR's Land Use, Property Rights and Environment Committee. He has also served on NAR's Legislative Forum, Environmental, Business

Practice and Computer and Commercial Investment committees.

On the local level, he served as the past director of the Greater Eastern Union County Board of Realtors. Ford served as the local board's president in 1986 and 1988, first vice president in 1987, and was treasurer in 1984 and 1985 and treasurer in 1982 and 1983. He was also the local board's Realtor of the Year in 1985 and 1988.

He and his wife, Mary, have two children.

Other officers elected to lead NJAR in 1998 are:

President-Elect: Gloria Woodward, president and broker of Woodward Realty Group in Middletown and Rumson.

First Vice President: Joseph H. Harrison, President of J.J. Harrison & Company in South Amboy.

Treasurer: Robert Levinson, president of Levinson Associates in Cranbury.

Gwaldis qualifies

Kathleen Gwaldis, a sales associate with Weichert Realtors' Union office, has qualified for the company's 1997 Ambassador's Club.

As a member, she is counted among the top 2 percent of Weichert's 7,500-member sales force. It is an honor she has won repeatedly throughout her association with the company, in addition to membership to the President's Club, comprising the top 1 percent.

Gwaldis was the office listings leader in October, and earned a top sales award. They are the most recent in a growing list of company, region and office awards.

Throughout her 11 years in real estate sales, Gwaldis has been a top producer.

Two join Mangels

Barbara Tona and Debbie Scheinbein, two well-known multi-year NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club members, have recently joined Mangels & Co., Realtors at 967 Chestnut St. in Union. Each had won numerous sales awards with their previous broker.

Born in Elizabeth, Tona has been selling real estate in eastern Union County for more than 10 years. Her approach to the industry has been "You get what you give!" She believes that integrity, detailed service, and knowledge of the market's many nuances have been the keys to her success.

"Throughout my career, I've been known as helping my clients find good value for their money, treating them with respect, and easing the stressful details of their transactions," she says. "My goal is to win customers' loyalty through exceptional service."

Scheinbein is also a longtime resident of Union County. She is known throughout the Elmora section of Elizabeth as an expert on that particular area, where she has had numerous sales throughout her career. She also serves the rest of eastern Union County with expertise. One of the keys to her success has been direct marketing. "I've been very targeted and focused in my service for my clients," she said. "I've found that direct marketing through mailings has led to many suc-

cesses. In fact, people seek me out because of this."

"Both Barbara and Debbie bring strengths to our sales team, and we're very proud to have them with us," said Jim Schoenbo, broker of Mangels & Co. "They've already made positive contributions to our Union office."

Tona and Scheinbein can be reached at Mangels & Co., at 908-688-3000.

Matalana joins Weichert

Javier Matalana has joined the Union office of Weichert Realtors as a sales associate.

A licensed real estate professional since 1994, Javier previously was associated with another local real estate firm where he was a consistent million dollar producer. He earned the Bronze award in the New Jersey State Million Dollar Club in 1994, his first year in real estate sales. In 1995 and 1996, he qualified for silver honors, for closed transactions of at least \$5 million.

A resident of Elizabeth for nine years, Matalana was educated in Peru, where he earned a bachelor's

degree in business from the University of Lima.

For real estate transactions, call Matalana at Weichert's Union office, (908) 687-4800, located at 1307 Stuyvesant Ave.

Four attend conference

Anthony D'Agostino and his broker associates, Peggy Knipfberg, Freddy Rivera and Mary D'Agostino of ERA Villages Green Realtors, recently attended an ERA Real Estate regional conference in Atlantic City.

The three-day conference featured top speakers and educational breakout sessions for ERA member brokers and sales associates in the Northeast region. The "New Year's in November" conference celebrated ERA Real Estate's 25th year in the real estate industry, while concentrating on business planning techniques for next year.

"Technology, excellent customer service and quality products and services are refining ERA Real Estate," D'Agostino said. "The regional conference was an effective way to get a head start on 1998."

The conference highlighted motivational speakers, such as industry expert Bill Barrett and technology expert Rodd Marsh, founder and chief executive officer of Multiple Technology Training Companies. Discussion focused on the latest real estate news and trends, including new tax laws.

Located at 35 Breat Ave., in Clark, ERA Villages Green Realtors has more than 20 sales associates serving home buyers and sellers throughout Union County and northern Middlesex County, and use the latest technologies to provide better services for their clients.

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Automotive



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Mercedes-Benz wins championship race

"Great racing engines need four things: power, fuel economy, reliability and great teams to run them," according to Hal Whitford, vice president, operations for Mercedes-Benz of North America.

On the strength of those four elements, Mercedes-Benz won the 1997 PPG CART World Series Manufacturer's Championship by winning nine races — more than the other manufacturers combined — through power, fuel efficiency, reliability and the hard work of many fine people. "This year we had it all," said Whitford. "We thank and congratulate each of our partner teams and especially our friends at Ilmor Engineering, the race engine-building arm of Mercedes-Benz."

The Mercedes-Benz team showed its speed during the races, with five different Mercedes drivers recording the fastest lap during eight races this season. Six Mercedes drivers led more than 40 percent of the laps run in 1997, and led 15 of the 17 races. At Portland, Ore., Guglielmi's PacWest Racing team beat Blundell's Gave another display of Mercedes power, besting the Honda of Gil de Ferran and the Ford of Raul Boesel in a drag race to the finish line in the closest conclusion in Indy car racing history.

When fuel efficiency was a factor this season, the Mercedes advantage was decisive and dramatic, and usually resulted in a victory for the three-pointed star. At places where pit stop strategy was particularly crucial, like St. Louis and Rio, the only mystery was which Mercedes-powered car would win due to the fuel economy advantage of the IC108D.

"The competition in CART is so fierce that it is rare to

enjoy any kind of an advantage all year long," said Paul Ray, vice president of Ilmor Engineering. "The engine advantages can swing one way or the other from week to week. But with our ongoing development and the use of Mercedes-Benz's transient dynamometer at the factory in Stuttgart (Germany), we were able to maintain the upper hand in the area of fuel economy."

A true gauge of reliability can only be seen over time. Through the course of the 17-race season, Mercedes-powered cars finished second or better in all but one race. And that streak of top-two finishes extends to the last three races of 1996, bringing the total to 19 finishes of second or better in the last 20 races. In addition, Guglielmi proved to not only be a fast qualifier but also a reliable racer, completing more laps and more miles than any other driver this season.

"The key is not just to be fast, which we were, but to be fast and reliable. You will never take the checkered flag if you're not in the race to the very end," said Steve Potter, manager, sports marketing for Mercedes-Benz. "As the competition among engine manufacturers escalates, the pressure sometimes to introduce new developments quickly. Sometimes that means a compromise in reliability. But, we managed that give-and-take relationship very successfully this season and we have the results in race after race to prove it."

Mercedes-Benz has been competing successfully in the motorsport arena for more than 100 years. Mercedes-Benz is the only engine manufacturer to power race wins during 1997 in the PPG CART World Series, FIA GT and Formula One championships.

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Visit the NY Auto Show on the World Wide Web

The New York International Automobile Show's comprehensive and user-friendly 1998 Web Site debuted at the end of January. With updated listings of all the cars scheduled to be displayed, this colorful site is a great way for car enthusiasts to gather information before and after the 1998 show.

The NYIAS Web Site provides extensive vehicle information on the latest models, up-to-date news regarding the cars and trucks unveiled at the show, event schedules and details on this year's collection of exciting interactive family attractions. Internet users simply "click" icons for show news, statistics and photos.

"We are offering enough entertainment and material on our new Web Site to satisfy both automotive enthusiasts and prospective car buyers," said Gary Schinnerling, president of the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association, the entity that owns and manages the show. "Our site provides information on the attractions at the upcoming show and can also help prospective car buyers understand the myriad of new car options available in 1998."

"We communicate with a vast audience," said GNYADA Executive Vice President Mark Schienberg. "When you consider the number of people we want to reach, and the amount of information that we have to offer, the Internet becomes the most efficient vehicle for both tasks. And while we can't duplicate the excitement of actually attending the show, our Web Site is the next best thing."

With more than one million visitors each year, the 1998 New York International Auto Show will be an impressive collection of cutting-edge design and remarkable innovation. Four floors of exhibitors are expected to feature new automobile products, including more than 35 vehicle manufacturers. Over 10,000 cars and trucks will be on display, filling 750,000 square feet of exhibit space. In addition, the 1998 NYIAS expects a record-breaking number of World, National and Regional vehicle debuts.

Opening Day for the Auto Show is April 11.

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