



Union County

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Me & Renaldo at the junkyard

I bumped into Reynaldo from Irvington quite literally. My minor fender bender set off in me a chain reaction of thought as to the cultural changes going on in our county.

Irvington and Cranford are about seven minutes apart on the Parkway. Some sections of the county actually border that community. How far or close we are culturally with the changing ethnic patterns will be a new test in the coming years.

Left Out

By Frank Copeco

In a recent essay, the author Haris Susman predicts that within the next five years, Hispanic Americans will outnumber African Americans who are about 13 percent of the U.S. population. More simply, the current white European majority will be barely 50 percent of the population. I will soon, living in the Northeast, be a minority.

The aggressive efforts by Union County urban mayors to have everyone counted for Census purposes has an economic bent. It will also give us a better picture of whom our neighbors really are.

Even with the obvious minority undercount, the 1997 Census update placed the Hispanic population of Union County at 17 percent. Since population movement is not an even flow, the Hispanic population of southern Union County is significantly more.

Back to Reynolds. While we didn't reach the level of Danny Glover and Kevin Kline in "Grand Canyon," we had our moments. While we waited at the auto body shop in Roselle for the repairs, we got to know each other.

I quipped that my initial fear was after the slight hit, he was going to yell whiplash and start litigating. He responded, "Don't feel bad. I thought you were, as a lawyer, going to stick it to me and I would be left with the bent bumper." Our language problems were fading quickly.

As the county starts to implement a light rail transit project, travel distances will shrink even more. The recent addition of the Newark Bears baseball team is another example of the better access between Union County and the neighboring urban centers. My visit last Sunday to the game was a blast.

The baseball players play hard, the staff are extremely kind and the highly visible presence of the police left me feeling very safe in Newark.

Susman concludes that we have to stop labeling people like a "demographic roulette." Maybe so, maybe not. What is clear is that the different ethnic groups better find some common ground, since we will be running into each other more often in the future.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Copeco is an attorney.

Officials preparing for any Y2K mishaps

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

While some people may be making exotic plans to celebrate the biggest party of the millennium Dec. 31, county officials are preparing for whatever might come their way as a result of the Y2K millennium bug.

Year 2000 or Y2K also is known as the millennium bug and is an issue because some old computers use two digits to identify a year when recording dates. This is expected to cause problems when the calendar year switches from 1999 to 2000, if not corrected, because computers will read 00 as 1900 instead of 2000. Experts have warned that if not addressed, the resulting errors or system crashes could have a significant impact on everyday life.

Although Union County plans to have extra staff in various areas on call Dec. 31, it's more of a precautionary measure as the county is Y2K-compliant. "Much work has been done to address Y2K and we are pleased to report all 21 Union County municipalities are ready. We are now focusing on providing public safety," Freeholder Linda Stender said.

"The residents of Union County will look to government for information. It is important for us to keep them informed as to what we're doing and what they can expect," Freeholder Alexander Mirabella said.

Freeholder Chairman Nicholas Scutari said the county and its municipalities are planning a Y2K exercise Sept. 21 to simulate potential scenarios that might likely occur, such as problems with traffic signals. He declined to identify what types of scenarios might be simulated until the exercise. Other counties have tested potential scenarios involving traffic signals and sewer systems.

Frank Dann, acting director of Operational Services for Union County, said Public Works "has received 95 percent of manufacturer's reports saying our equipment will not be impacted by Y2K problems."

The county plans to schedule a small work crew of eight people from 10 p.m. on Dec. 31 to 4 a.m. Jan. 1 that will include sewer, yard and mechanics. In addition, 3,500 gallons of fuel and 2,500 gallons of water will be available if necessary. During last year's Labor Day storm, which knocked out power in several western Union County towns, residents were knocking on the county Public Works complex in Scotch Plains for fuel.

A full-service mechanic truck will be on call if generators are necessary for an extended period of time. Generators tend to run into mechanical difficulties, Dann said, if they are in use too long.

"We've been assured by just about every utility there is a 99 percent chance everything will be okay," said Dann.

"Hopefully, we won't have a storm that night," Dann said, which could complicate a serious situation if Y2K problems do arise. With all the preparations by all the parties involved, however, he said it's unlikely anything will go wrong.

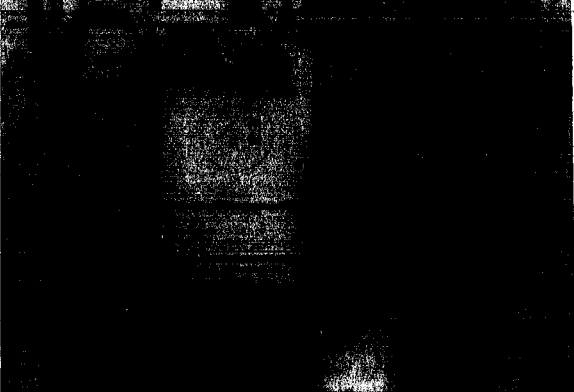
The county's two-way radio system can operate on an emergency system which can allow communication between the county police and public works staff, Dann said.

Scutari said the county's 9-1-1 system has been tested and is in proper working order.

"The public should be aware that December is our busy season because of ice and snow removal so we would be grateful for emergency situations in addition to Y2K problems," Dann said.

In terms of public safety, Executive First Assistant Prosecutor Robert O'Leary, a spokesman for the Prosecutor's Office, said there will be extra police personnel available New Year's Eve.

Staff Writer Philip Sean Curran contributed to this report.



Displaying one of the posters as part of the 'We Check for 21' program are, from left, Detective Sgt. Anthony Bucell Jr. of the New Providence Police Department's Juvenile Bureau, liquor store owner Jim Gibbons and Diane Litterer, executive director of the NCADD of Union County.

Community groups unite to fight underage drinking

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

In an effort to combat underage drinking, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County is joining forces with liquor stores, taverns and community groups throughout the county as part of a public awareness campaign.

"We Check for 21" will distribute materials, such as posters, pins and stickers, aimed at promoting and building a positive relationship among key members of the community.

"Obviously, it's the law and it seems like a no-brainer," said Diane Litterer, executive director of the NCADD, "but it really does make a

difference because we educate store owners that they do have a part in reducing alcohol use in youth."

NCADD received \$67,000 as part of a \$1.5-million state grant to develop a statewide coalition to eventually change parental attitudes about alcohol use.

Packets of materials and pledges were distributed to some store owners during a training session in April. The training focused on emphasizing positives rather than seeming punitive to store owners. "We didn't want it to seem like owners are culprits. We're bringing them in as one of the partners. They can be a stronger partner than an enemy."

There is a big trend to reduce access, Litterer said. The alcohol industry is promoting that it does not want to promote to youth, although ads continue to focus on youth. Approximately two-thirds of teen-agers who drink report that they can buy their own alcoholic beverages, according to the NCADD.

"There is no benefit to serving youth and many feel a responsibility to the community," Litterer said. "We Check" gives owners the tools to show they're responsible.

The second part of the program is changing parental attitudes about alcohol. The suburban attitude of parents, according to Litterer, is "If they're only drinking, it's okay."

When most people say drugs, people think illegal drugs, alcohol is an illegal drug for children under 21, Litterer said. Parents and youth are reminded that it's not just a drunk driving problem; alcohol can lead to promiscuous sex and violence.

Drinking by itself is a problem, according to Litterer, as alcohol is a "gateway" drug to other illegal drugs. "We Check" is a three-year project which Litterer hopes will gain momentum. The key to the program are the materials which store owners use. Kids go in and think twice when they think they'll "put one over on owner."

There are 702 liquor stores outside in

Union County, according to the Alcohol Beverage Control board, Litterer said, and since April, the NCADD has signed on 92 stores for "We Check."

Statewide, 630 stores is the ultimate goal and 30 in year. In just several months, the program has reached 600.

Often the people who come into stores are of legal drinking age and distribute to underage kids, Litterer said. Included in the materials distributed to store owners are bar staffers; fliers detailing laws related to the distribution of alcohol to minors.

Several liquor store owners said they remember underage drinking being a big problem in the early '80s soon after the legal age was increased from 18 to 21.

"No one wants to see anyone hurt by alcohol. It's important to be knowledgeable about IDs. Kids know where the 'easy' stores are," said Jim Gibbons, who has operated M&M Liquors in New Providence for 25 years.

Gibbons, who was among those at the April training session, has always tried to discourage underage kids from attempting to purchase alcohol. He keeps an instant camera at the counter. If he sees a fake ID, he'll take a photo of the customer with their ID. He's never had to use the camera though.

"Few underage people try to buy alcohol lately," said Michael Chmura, owner of Chrono's Tavern in Mountaintop. "It was a big problem in the past." Chrono said it was an underage buyer, but there are very few lately. "Now it's really enforced."

"Someone who's underage walks in, they might think twice" about buying alcohol if they see "We Check" posters, Chrono said. He signed up for the program to "show that we proof people."

The NCADD, a United Way agency, receives approximately 35 percent of its budget from Union County as well as office space. It also is the lead agency for the Union County Coalition Against Drug Abuse.

Union County HSPT scores

High School	1997-98	1998-97	1995-96	1994-95	Avg
New Providence	93.5	92.8	98.8	96.4	95.4
Westfield	95.6	95.3	95.3	90.7	94.2
Governor Livingston	93.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cranford	93.3	89.9	90.9	93.4	91.9
Summit	95.7	86.4	85.1	91.5	89.7
Scotch Plains-Farwood	88.0	89.2	88.5	85.5	87.8
David Brentzley	82.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State average	75.3	74.8	75.6	73.2	74.7
Roselle Park	73.5	68.9	69.8	85.0	74.3
Union	71.6	74.8	78.8	73.6	74.2
County average	69.5	68.4	68.6	68.9	68.4
Rainey	58.3	59.5	62.6	65.2	60.9
Linden	50.2	50.0	59.5	58.7	54.6
Hillside	51.5	48.9	48.8	45.2	48.5
Abraham Clark	38.4	42.2	40.9	48.3	42.5
Plainfield	30.1	36.4	41.8	29.5	34.5
Elizabeth	29.7	23.6	32.6	33.0	31.3
Jonathan Dayton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Arthur L. Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: New Jersey State Report Card, 1997-98

The percentages represent the percentage of students passing all three sections of the High School Proficiency Test: reading, math and writing. The column labeled "Avg" represents the four-year average for each school. Figures for the deregionalized high schools were not available because prior to 1997 the statistics were compiled as one regional district. Due a programming error, a Department of Education spokesman said, statistics were not available in the context of the report card for the deregionalized schools without any scores. The state requires students to pass the HSPT to graduate high school.

Ban on fires in effect

The Union County Division of Parks and Recreation has announced a ban on all fires in Watchung Reservation, its largest park. The ban will be in effect until further notice.

No open fires, grills or barbecues will be allowed in the park throughout the duration of the ban. County Police, who patrol the park regularly, will enforce the ban. The county has posted signs in the park advising users of the ban.

Located in the towns of Berkeley Heights, Mountaintop, Scotch Plains, Summit and Springfield, the 2,000-acre reservation is the largest park in Union County and home to more than 40 miles of hiking trails, 26 miles of bicycle trails, streams and lakes for fishing, a planetarium and museum and the historic Dossert Village of Feltsville.

County chamber elects new chairperson

Patricia Heller, president of Champion Container Corporation in Avenel and the new chairwoman of the board of directors for the Union County Chambers of Commerce, wants to see the chamber continue in the direction it has set in the past year by further increasing membership and developing more specialized groups to address the particular interests and problems of members.

"I would like to work toward having the entire membership of the chamber become more involved with each other and with the chamber," Heller said. "I would like us to have more of a positive impact on local and county government and, on the state-level, we have to continue to pressure the state Department of Transportation to improve Route 22 and make it safer."

"There have been rapid changes in the business environment and in Union County and we welcome those changes," the new chairwoman said. "We as a chamber have to listen to businesses and respond to their needs and the end result will be growth for the chamber. We have been very successful in the past and I want to continue to preserve what we have gained and look for the future."

Heller is the head of a new board that took office July 1. Other new officers on the board are Calvin Sierra, presi-

dent of Imperial Weld Ring in Elizabeth who is the vice chairman; and Andrea Karsian, vice president of Autoland in Springfield, who is the treasurer.

"The chamber provides business owners with an opportunity to work with other business people and to talk to other people involved with the community and the county," Karsian said. "I hope to be able to serve the chamber in such a way that I can help maximize the opportunities for business people to work together."

"It is always important to keep in mind that the Union County Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer organization and it is managed and run by its volunteer board of directors," said Chamber President James Coyle. "Without individuals like Patricia Heller, Calvin Sierra and Andrea Karsian, who are willing to commit tremendous amounts of their time, this organization would not exist."

"They are fortunate to have been preceded by some very dynamic leaders, which has resulted in this chamber being the fastest growing in the state and now one of the largest," he said.

"The board has been very creative in the past in launching new initiatives, which have been the major reason for our outstanding growth," Coyle added.

Blood drives scheduled to battle shortages

The following blood drives are sponsored by the Greater Union County and Plainfield Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Blood Center of New Jersey:

- Today, Clark Volunteer Rescue Squad, 875 Raritan Road, Clark, 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Clark Fire Department, Broadway and Valley roads, Clark, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Friday, Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union, 3 to 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Christ of King Church, 411 Rutgers Ave., Hillside, 8 a.m. to noon; Union Elks Local 1583, 281 Chesnut St., Union, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Waterston St., Westfield.
- Aug. 3, Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, Clark, 3 to 8:30 p.m.
- Aug. 7, Home Depot, 2445 Springfield Ave., Union, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Aug. 12, ARC/Chapter House, 203 W. Jersey St., Elizabeth, 1 to 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 26, Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, 875 Raritan Road, 3 to 8:30 p.m.
- Aug. 31, Money Store, 2840 Morris Ave., Union, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Donors must be 18 years old. Seventeen-year-olds may donate with parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors provided they have donated within the past two years or have a doctor's note. Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed form of identification.

People with cold or flu symptoms should wait until they are feeling better before donating and there is a 72-hour deferral for dental work, including routine teeth cleaning. For those who have traveled outside of the United States recently, call the blood center for eligibility criteria.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Kids rule the kingdom In Rahway River Park

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Elizabethtown Gas have joined forces to present Kids Kingdom Traveling Jubilee. Opening at Warnanco Park in Roselle on June 13, the event also took place Sunday at Rahway River Park in Rahway, and will make its last stop on Aug. 15 at Wachung Reservation. The original Kids Kingdom debuted at last year's "Jersey Jazz by the Lake" at Nonamehan Park in Cranford, and was so successful the Freeholders decided to take the show on the road. The event features theatrical, musical and interactive performances, games and rides, and educational and hands-on activities.

The stage schedule began at noon, with Mystic Vision Players' presentation of "School House Rock, Live." A first-time teacher on his first day of school gets some educational advice from students, musically, of course. Those familiar with the series of television cartoons will recall "Verb: That's What's Happening," "I'm Just a Bill," "Three is a Magic Number," "Interplanet Janet," "Conjunction Junction" and "Interjection." The group used variations of flash cards to help the audience read along, along with gags like demonstrating the meaning of "rainy" during "Unpack Your Adjectives." All the numbers were tremendous fun.

"School House Rock, Live" was followed by interactive storytelling by Brother Saalik Cuevas. Cuevas employed the assistance of members of his young audience to take all present on an imaginary journey, first to Ghana, Africa, and then to Madrid, Spain. Wearing beautifully colored slits to represent their exotic and unusual characters, the children helped Cuevas tell the story of a king who sent a young boy on a wild scavenger hunt to earn the right to learn all the stories in the world, and the story of how the directions on a compass came to be. The children portrayed fairies and forest creatures, as well as wind, fire and water, while Cuevas encouraged the audience to help out with sound effects.

Completing the stage schedule were Kidpro, an improvisational comedy program for kids, and M'Zume and The Mardi Gras Parade. Children and parents were also entertained by a police K-9 demonstration and a reptile demonstration by the staff of Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside. Also featured were a juggler and a still-walking chicken, and a beautifully costumed princess who cheered the children on.

When not taking in the educational shows, kids found more than enough to keep them busy — pie-eating contests, hay rides, pony rides, face-painting, and an arts-and-crafts tent. Among the games and rides were a castle-shaped spacewalk, an inflatable jump and maze, a lizard climb and a rock climb.

"Jersey Jazz by the Lake" will return to Nonamehan Park on Sept. 18 and 19, and will again feature Kids Kingdom.

Mystic Vision Players celebrates a Broadway milestone

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

Since 1992, Mystic Vision Players of Linden has tried to make each successive theater season bigger and better than the last. The theater company is well-known for its expansive musicals, incorporating many young actors, from "A Chorus Line" to last season's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." This year, production coordinator Rita Greco gave long, hard thought to what production should follow.

"Every time I do a show, I always say, 'How the heck am I going to top that one?' Every time," Greco said. The answer is "Gypsy," which first lit up Broadway 40 years ago, directed and choreographed by the late, great Jerome Robbins.

"We had wanted to do this a number of years ago, but thought it was beyond our budget possibilities," Greco said. "And then, we figured, well, this is the time. We did so well with 'Joseph' last year, let's do 'Gypsy,' because if we don't do it now we don't know when we're going to get to do it. Maybe somebody's going to put it back on Broadway, so before they do that — in fact, it just came off at The Paper Mill, so we were lucky that we were in between."

And that is where the luck ends and the hard work begins.

"It's a big extravaganza. I will tell you that," Greco said. "There's an enormous amount of dialogue. The music is outstanding, especially the overture. It's a big costume show. You're in for a treat for that, that's for sure. Everybody's familiar with the songs, the sets, the props. . . It will be very big. It will be very colorful, it will be larger than life. We have a big orchestra," conducted by Keith Kreitzer.

"Big" seems to describe this production perfectly. Luckily, MVP has lots of actors, of all ages, to fill the many roles.

"It's great for all ages because these are little kids in it, teenagers and adults," Greco said. "Our cast ranges from 4 or 5 years old to in the 60s. We have a wide range of people, with a cast of about 35."

The cast will rehearse every weeknight until the show opens — except for time set aside for set construction.

"I always want the set built before we start working on the stage, because that always holds us up," Greco said, explaining that Linden High School recently replaced the floor of the stage. "We had to wait three days before we could use it to build" the set, which will "suggest" many different locations, according to Greco. A set of steps borrowed from Roselle Catholic High School's production of "Little Shop of Horrors," where Greco is an educator and also produces plays, is "going to be the back of the caboose. Then, we'll have a haystack for the farm scene. We're not using that outside proscenium, we're going to have another one inside it that will light up for 'Gypsy,' and of course the runway, and there'll be lights around the runway."

The set will be trafficked by many sets of feet, many of them small, often accompanied by a set of parents.

"Of course, every parent is excited to see their child on stage and to do well and to be spotlighted especially, and they're very helpful," Greco said.



Photo by Milton Altus

Newsboys sing out during a rehearsal of 'Gypsy,' which will be presented by Mystic Vision Players beginning July 29.

"I have a lot of parents who do help. I think my big problem is, I don't ask them to do enough. I think that if I had asked them, they would be happy to be more involved. I'm a little reluctant to ask them because I don't want to assume or push people, but I had said something to one or two parents a couple of weeks ago about doing something, and they jumped at the chance. I said, 'I should have asked them sooner, isn't that nice.' Community theater is a great thing because it does bring the community together."

"The children come to us, first of all, from disciplined backgrounds," she continued. "They either have gone to theater or have wanted to do theater. Some of them in this production are from Celebration Singers. We have kids from Linden High productions in this and kids from Roselle Catholic, and from surrounding towns. Because they're good in their art, they're more likely disciplined also, because in order to be successful in the arts you have to be disciplined, to study dance or to study anything."

In addition to discipline, the children performing in "Gypsy" have an opportunity to "learn" about other aspects of theater.

"I think they learn an enormous amount of things," Greco said. "Some of them learn how to do makeup, how to build sets, not from scratch, though, and some costuming. There are so many aspects. That's what it's all about in community theater. They develop friends. They learn punctuality. When it comes time to learn your part, it's almost like homework. They're respectful. They also have a great opportunity to have something to do in the summer, except hanging out or watching television. They're here, having fun. We have opportunities for parties afterwards. It really is a lot of fun for them; it's fun learning. I know this show has ripple parts to it," she added, "but they're done tastefully, and the children are not affected by that at all. They're enjoying it for the fact that it is theater and is an art form."

Whatever the educational and artistic benefits to producing a show like "Gypsy," one fact remains — musicals are expensive shows to produce. Luckily, MVP's summer shows are supported by Linden Cultural and

Heritage Committee. Another show produced by MVP this year, "School House Rock Live," has become lucrative.

"We did it in the city of Linden for all the elementary schools as an assembly program, then the Freeholders hired us to do it in the parks for three programs," during Kids Kingdom Traveling Jubilee, which took place Sunday at Rahway River Park and will be repeated Aug. 15 at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. "We're going to also be doing the Linden Halloween Parade, the cultural committee is going to sponsor us again, and it's going to be a salute to musical theater. All our shows will be highlighted."

According to Greco, outreach programs are important to the growth of the theater company.

"It's hard to get a venue. It's hard when there's school during the day, because you can't leave things around. We'd love to expand. We'd love to take things on the road like we did with 'School House Rock.' When we did 'Godspell,' our first show, we went all over the state, back and forth. It was wonderful."

And they do it all with only a small core group.

"I wear so many different hats," Greco said. "I'm sewing, I'm painting. I'm putting publicity up. I'm writing letters. I'm networking. I'm the one that writes the 75 thank-you letters that go out. And fine, that's ok, because that's the production coordinator's job, according to me. I can't expect everybody else to do it."

"We have a very minimal group, and 'the people in the group are involved in so many other things,' such as daughter Barbara-Jude, who will play the title role. "Barbara choreographs here, at Roselle Catholic, for Franklin Township, for Celebration Singers."

"We're always looking for new directors, new choreographers, people who want to do things with us," Greco said. "We'd love to do a show in the fall, and we're hoping that somebody will direct a fall show for us, even if none of us are involved. We'll get outside people, like when we did 'Breaking Legs' last season. That was almost an outside group. That was great, because it gave Mystic Vision Players a chance to do something

highlighting other people, instead of the people in the group."

There's nothing wrong, however, with highlighting dedicated members of MVP who return again and again to help with the "big" job of producing a summer musical. One example is Steven Fekalman.

"He's in his 20s now, but when he was 15, a sophomore at Roselle Catholic, we sort of stumbled across him and his beautiful voice, and he played the part of Sky Masterson in 'Guys and Dolls.' He's developed through theater, and gone to Playhouse 22 and done things there, and came back, and now he's helping us on stage crew because he's busy at work, he can't be a by-very rehearsal," Greco explained.

Another example is Patrick Staraga, director and choreographer for "Gypsy."

"He basically was a performer and a choreographer, and he started directing for me at Roselle Catholic, and then we asked him to do this. The first time I saw Patrick, he must have been about 16. I've seen him grow into a wonderful man, and very talented in all areas. There's so many kids here I can say that about," Greco added.

The show will introduce a new "performer," near and dear to Greco's heart — Sir Maxwell of Medcoe, otherwise known as Max, will portray "Chowwie." When not performing, he is Greco's beloved pet dog.

"It was a mistake to put him in the show, as cute as he's going to be," Greco joked. "With all the things I'm running better-steeleer, I have to keep watching where he is, so I don't lose him."

But Greco is used to looking after things and keeping busy — she wouldn't have it any other way.

"If you ever ask me the question, do I ever want to retire from working at Roselle Catholic, no, I never want to retire, because Roselle Catholic is a home, it's not a job. I always want to be doing theater and working at Roselle Catholic."

Although, she wouldn't mind at all if there were more hours in the day to accomplish even more.

"Gypsy" runs July 29 through Aug. 8 at Linden High School, St. Georges Ave., Linden. For information, call (908) 925-9068.

Children's Specialized Hospital presents month-long art exhibit

Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside will present the work of photographer James L. Stachecki and Purnima Ghoshal, along with oil paintings by Sharon Miller during July.

Stachecki, an amateur nature photographer who holds a doctoral degree in physiology and works in a reproductive research lab at St. Barnabas Medical Center, has set a major career objective for himself — to help conserve endangered animals, specifically cats, by utilizing his training as a reproductive physiologist and photographer. He hopes to increase public awareness of endangered animals through his photographs.

Over the past several years, Stachecki has exhibited his photos and received numerous contest awards. His work has been published in magazines including Nature Photography. Most recently, Stachecki was named winner in the "plant life" category in World Wildlife Fund's annual photo contest.

Stachecki teaches photography to both beginner and advanced photo enthusiasts.

Through his photography exhibition at CSH, "Journey to the Source of the Ganges River in the Himalayas," Ghoshal shares her journeys through the most revered symbols of Indian civilization and culture.

Ghoshal was born in Bombay and was encouraged by her family to pursue her interest in the arts and

humanities. After graduating from the University of Bombay with degrees in business and law, she came to New York to study photography at The Fashion Institute of Technology where she graduated magna cum laude. Her photographs and articles have been published in newspapers and periodicals in India.

A student of Indian scriptures and philosophy, Ghoshal has attended spiritual study camps and made three trips through the Himalayan Mountains. Photographs from these journeys are featured in her exhibition.

Miller's CSH exhibition, comprised of portraits and landscapes in oil, will feature work in both small and large format.

Since a recent return to full-time painting after a career as a freelance commercial artist, obtaining her New Jersey Teachers Certification and raising two young children, Miller has shown her work throughout New Jersey and, at present, studies with artist Dorothy Yung.

Children's Specialized Hospital's art exhibitions are open to the public, free of charge, from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., daily. Visitors are requested to enter the hospital through the Ambulance Entry. All of the artists' works are offered for sale. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the hospital.

Children's Specialized Hospital is located at 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

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For Aug. 2 to Aug. 1

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A burst of energy comes early in the week. Plan to be productive. Your partner or associate has a surprise gift for you. Be gracious in your acceptance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You have a mountain to climb in domestic or personal affairs. Step up and claim good health and happiness for you and your family. Establish a practice routine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): All forms of communication are highlighted. Strive for clarity and truth. Get excited about the possibility of romance. Build a magical relationship with someone dear.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Money matters will cause you to think twice. Accept the support of friends or family to get you through barren times. Never waver in your quest toward a goal or dream.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Moderation is your key word this week. Play it safe and look before you leap. Increase your knowledge. Go back to school and study a subject that is mentally stimulating.

VRIGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Decisions to change your lifestyle are timely. Follow through and keep a promise you made to yourself. A jackpot takes the edge off your budgetary problems. Share the wealth!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Your ruling planet Venus starts a backwards journey this week. Review and revise

your beliefs and philosophical outlook. Call a truce with a friend over a financial matter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You are given a chance to rekindle the fire in your soul. Go within, strike a match and rediscover the passion you had for a certain individual or project.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will meet lots of interesting people this week. Make an effort to turn some of them into new friends. Expect negative repercussions from a letter or memo you circulated.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Career opportunities abound. Pay attention to an offer that comes your way through a personal contact. Delay closing the deal until all the details are revealed and explained.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is a positive period for partnerships and change. Enjoy a creative dialogue with loved ones, sharing concepts and discussing matters close to your heart.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Come up with a new plan for getting ahead financially. Putting your money to work for you is a wise move. Check out some of the investment avenues available to you.

If your birthday is this week, be very much aware of the possibility of deception and betrayal during the coming year. In many ways, partnerships fail to meet up to your expectations. You will benefit through creative pursuits or working with children. Get your ego out of the way and take a selfless approach while sharing your time, energy and financial resources.

Also born this week: Helen Mirren, Keenan Wynn, Jerry Van Dyke, Alexandra Paul, Anita Hill, Kate Bush, Dean Cain, Laurence Fishburne, Paul Anka and Iman.

Send it with a classified ad, 1-800-564-8911.

Union County Arts Center honors supporters

Union County Arts Center concluded its most ambitious season with a special ceremony honoring its four major supporters and a performance by Neil Sedaka. Freeholder Vice Chairman Daniel Sullivan and Freeholder Alexander Mirabella were in attendance, and stayed for a dedication ceremony and champagne reception following the concert.

Vice Chairman Sullivan said, "Union County is proud to join Metek Company Foundation, the Rahway Savings Institution and the city of Rahway in supporting the arts center and being able to provide quality entertainment such as The Temptations, The Smothers Brothers and this first appearance in Union County for Neil Sedaka."

UCAC Executive Director Joseph A. Mancuso said, "We set out to produce the arts center's most ambitious season to date using an 'If you build it they will come' philosophy. We built it, they came, and we couldn't be happier about the overwhelming and fantastic response we've gotten from our patrons and supporters!"



The four major supporters of Union County Arts Center recently were honored during a special ceremony. From left, President of UCAC Board Sylvia Rivera stands with honorees Rahway Mayor James Kennedy, Union County Freeholder Vice Chairman Daniel Sullivan, Metek and Company Rahway Plan Manager Lawrence J. Naldi and Rahway Savings Institution Vice President of Finance Robert Currie, with UCAC Executive Director Joseph A. Mancuso.

Community Dining Guide

Jacquie McCarthy, Editor

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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109 Union, New Jersey, 07083.

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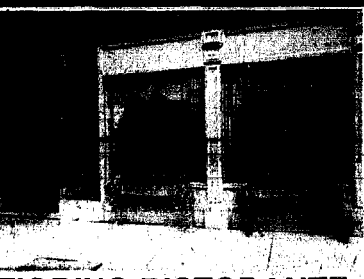
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FIORINO RISTORANTE
By Tim Hayes

Immediately upon entering FIORINO RISTORANTE one is struck by the feeling that this is someplace special. This comes partly as a result of the warm and elegant surroundings inside. Comfortably spaced tables fill the room while the surrounding walls are adorned with an array of richly painted works of original art. In fact, this private art collection is so extensive that they are in the habit of regularly replacing the paintings with something new and different each month. The purpose of this abundance of art is twofold, explains the owner JOHN BIGNI. Not only do these painted canvases please the eye, but they also provide for perfect acoustics allowing you to speak intimately with the person you are with. Even more impressive than the physical surroundings is the fact that Mr. Bigni greets each patron much like you would expect a good friend to welcome you into his home. He does not merely seat you, but rather he ensures your comfort and appears to hold a vested interest in making the time you spend in his restaurant to be as pleasurable as possible.

The real excitement, however, doesn't start until the food begins to arrive. While the expertly prepared food at FIORINO is based on the traditional dishes found in the Tuscany region of Northern Italy, they have undoubtedly succeeded in making each dish uniquely their own. Starting with the antipasti I would recommend the Minestrone Grilled Prawns with White Bean Crostini and Mint (\$2.50). This is an especially difficult dish to prepare for the simple reason that small prawns on the market today are much tougher than many of the smaller and sweeter shrimp. Fiorino's overcomes this obstacle by sparing no expense on each and every ingredient that goes into the food that they prepare. The grilled prawns were hand-sliced and arranged on the plate and they lived up to my highest expectations. Even from the start it was easy to see why the American Academy of Hospitality Science recently awarded FIORINO with the coveted 5-Diamond rating for outstanding food and service.

For many, no evening in a fine Italian restaurant is complete without the requisite dish of pasta and if Fiorino's were to just make it fresh each day, their patrons would surely be happy. Mr. Bigni, however, knows that he can do better than that. As I savored each bite of my Gorgonzola filled Agnoliotti with fresh Tomatoes, Shallots and a touch of Cream (\$14) it became instantly clear that the pasta dough hadn't even been rolled out or cut until just moments before.

If you happen to favor entrees such as fish, chicken, lamb or steak (\$18 to \$28) these too can be found in the rather select yet diverse menu which always changes with the seasons. Master chef Carlos Espinoza has a complete command of his art and the results are quite impressive. That may also be why Fiorino's is a favorite to diners who demand only the best.

Not to be overlooked is the rather small but inviting bar which opens out into the main dining room. Here you can enjoy a glass of wine from their extensive selection of vintages from around the world. FIORINO RISTORANTE is located at 38 Maple Street in Summit. For reservations call (908) 277-1900.

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WYACT's 'Oliver' is wonderful musical theater

With their huge number of characters and convoluted plots, Dickens' novels wouldn't seem likely material to adapt into play form, and his dark emotional themes, from betrayal to abuse and murder, don't, at first glance, lend themselves to the usual song and dance found in musical theater. But "Oliver" uses it all: the rousing songs — "Food, Glorious Food," "Consider Yourself!" — street urchins led by Fagin, and an adorable child

Theater View

By Ruth Ross
Theater Correspondent

hero who tugs at our hearts and opens our minds to the struggles he faces as he bounces from the grim confines of an orphanage to the gritty streets of London, all encased in a blanket of comedy-to-contrast-the-somberness. Based on "Oliver Twist" by Charles Dickens, "Oliver!" music, lyrics and book by Lionel Bart, opened in London in 1960 and then moved to Broadway in 1963. In 1988, it was turned into an award-winning film. Luckily for local audiences, this summer the Westfield Young Artists Cooperative Theatre has brought a production of this wonderful show to NJPAC's Victoria Theater stage through Sunday. "Oliver!" marks WYACT's second joint venture with NJPAC's Summer Youth Performance Workshop. Last July, every performance of WYACT's production of "Carousel" sold out to standing ovations.



Nancy, played by Anne Brummel, and Bet, played by Colleen Kirk, perform in 'Oliver' presented by WYACT at NJ Performing Arts Center through Sunday.

We first meet Oliver Twist in an orphanage where he dares to ask the cold, cruel Mr. Bumble, "Please, sir, I want some more" gruel. Because no workhouse boy has ever asked for more, his fate is sealed by the request, and Mr. Bumble sends Oliver to an undertaker. Escaping Oliver is left to fend for himself until he is befriended by a band of young thieves who quickly train him in their craft. But Oliver is not content to be a thief, for he knows that life holds great joys and true happiness cannot be stolen, but must be earned.

Forty-five cast members and 25 musicians ages 8-21 were selected through open auditions and represent 46 cities and towns throughout New Jersey. Those not selected as cast members were offered technical and/or managerial internships. Participants painted and built scenery, sewed costumes and elected deputies and a junior Executive Board to govern themselves and develop new ideas for events and fundraisers.

The cast assembled for "Oliver!" is truly a talented bunch. Katie Rae Mulvey makes an attractive and sympathetic Oliver Twist, with an angelic face, big eyes and a sweet voice. As Jack Dawkins, The Artful Dodger, Darren Levy looked every inch the conning, through good-natured, scallawag he's supposed to be. His is an "old" face, expressive and wise. His

dancing and singing were admirable; he really manages to project an character separate from the other street urchins. The other workhouse boys, who double as Fagin's gang, are equally appealing and talented singers and dancers. They are so cute that you just want to take one of them home with you.

Among the older actors, standouts include Abigail Sparling as a coy and later much-disappointed Widow Corney; Richard McNanna as an elegant and refined Mr. Brownlow, Oliver's savior; and a sparkling Kassy Ciavelli, she of the lovely voice and great stage presence, who plays Mrs. Sowerberry, the undertaker's nasty wife and Oliver's nemesis at the funeral parlor.

Arion Jackson, who plays Mr. Bumble, the Bessie who sells Oliver to the Sowerberrys, has a good voice, but he doesn't project enough meaning to be really frightening. Likewise, Collin Howard, who plays the very malvolent Bill Sykes, sings well enough, but does not manage to show the audience just how bad he really is. This lack of cruelty undercuts his love of Nancy's big number, "As Long As He Needs Me," sung in response to physical abuse by Bill. This was too bad because Anne Brummel, who plays Nancy, has a magnificent voice, and her loyalty to the face of abuse would have made her death even more poignant. As it

was, her spunky, tender-hearted Nancy reveals for the orphaned, well-bred Oliver a conflicting "motherly" love that redounds her misguided love.

But the act who really steals the show is Marc Borha as Fagin, a man in whom fatherly warmth and shrewd knavery are indissolubly mixed to survive. This role provided Ron Moody with a chance to chew up the scenery on Broadway and on film, but Borha downplays the grotesque — one could say "anti-Semitic" — aspects of Fagin's personality. He becomes a more sympathetic character, and we get the feeling that he really cares for his boys although not as much as for his money and jewels. He sings and dances very well and commands the stage whenever he appears.

Director Cynthia Mergl keeps the pace steady, bringing in the performance in just over two hours although the show doesn't seem rushed. Sherry Alban's choreography is inventive and crisp; Dobra Rod's costumes are colorful and appropriately ragged for the most part. Nancy's dress could be a tad more tailored and torn to reflect her down-at-heels state, and the and the urchins could have worn dirtier makeup to heighten the effect. As it is, they all look a bit too scrubbed to convince us they are living on the dirty streets of Victorian London.

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WEDNESDAY, THE 15TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1999

at 2 o'clock, local time, in the afternoon of said day, at the law office of Marcia Graydon, 100 Park Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey, to be sold is located in the Township of Hillside and City of Newark, County of Union and Essex, County of New Jersey.

Parcel is known as: 48-50 Grumman Avenue, Newark and Township of Hillside, N.J. and more particularly described as follows:
BEGINNING at the corner formed by the intersection of the Southeastern line of Grumman Avenue and the Northeastern line of the property of the Westfield Young Artists Cooperative Theatre, Inc., containing 0.0328 of an acre, containing 0.0328 of an acre as map shown on said beginning point of Parcel; thence along the line of Hillside and Grumman Avenues, 40 degrees, 19 minutes West along said line of Grumman Avenue, 40 degrees, 19 minutes East, 89 minutes West 100 feet; thence along the line of Hillside and Grumman Avenues, 100 feet to the corner of parcel of BEGINNING.

Parcel is known and designated as Lot 102 on aforesaid map. AREAS BLOCK 262, LOT 1 on the tax map of Newark, N.J. AREAS BLOCK 194, LOT 56 on the tax map of Hillside Township, N.J. Parcel is known as 48-50 Grumman Avenue, Newark and Hillside Township, Newark, N.J.

Approx. Dimensions: 50 feet x 100 feet. Interest: Charles Street, Grumman Avenue and Bergen Street. 20% cash down is needed on all sales. In case of no sale, the property will be sold to the highest bidder at the sale for \$67,000.00.

The approximate amount of the Judgment due to be satisfied by the sale is \$67,000.00. The date to adjourn this sale is specifically reserved by the undersigned. Located at the property of Winston Bullivan, taken in execution at the suit of TARI, MARGA GRAYDON, MASTER OF THE DIVISION OF HUDSON COUNTY. DATED: July 22, 1999. William M.E. Powers, Jr., Chartered Accountant, 220 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022-1000 (212) 682-1000.

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ADULT

'Competition nutrition' takes on a whole new meaning

Twenty years ago, "competition nutrition" meant nothing to collegiate gymnast **Patil Milligan**.

No high-energy carbohydrates, no protein and — whom are you kidding? — no fats for two days before a meet.

With nothing in your stomach, you'll feel lighter and perform better, her coach told her. You'll look leaner, too, more aesthetic; the better-to-please the discerning eyes of competition judges.

Such myopia, unfortunately, still has its place in the world of female gymnastics, where performing pixies often seem to be auditioning for future careers as high-fashion models, if not poster girls for eating disorders.

It's enough to make Milligan stew. But if she has her say, the champions of the future and their sometimes overzealous coaches will upgrade their training table manners.

Milligan, an All-American gym-

nast during her days at Southern Illinois University, provides nutritional counseling to Olympic hopefuls at eight annual training camps.

A registered dietitian based at Henry's Marketplaces in San Diego, Milligan was selected in 1996 as the official dietitian for USA Olympic Gymnastics as part of its newly formed Athletic Wellness Forum.

"We want healthy kids who can endure a season of gymnastics," Milligan said. "We want to make sure their well-being is looked after."

For Milligan, there are plenty of myths and misconceptions to undo.

As a nutritional science major from 1977 to 1981 at Southern Illinois University, she led two lives: savvy student and obedient athlete.

"Our coach took several teams to the nationals, so I did exactly that he said," she said. "In the beginning, I was sitting in nutrition class, hearing about all those things that are good for

she body, then I would go to practice at 2 p.m. and throw all that knowledge out the window."

Finally, in her senior year, Milligan's nutritional conscience won out.

She started practicing what she preaches to athletes today:

- Plenty of slow-burning carbohydrates to fuel the brain and body without a spike in insulin — that means a minimum of white-flour products.
- Dense, lean protein, as in turkey and chicken. And vitamin-rich fruits, especially cantaloupes, mangoes, grapes, kiwis and strawberries.

"When we were fasting before a meet," Milligan recalled, "there would always be a couple of injuries. We never correlate it with nutrition. There also would be emotional breakdowns: two or three girls crying, their blood-sugar levels were so low.

"We were trying to mimic the eastern Europeans, who were at the top of

the gymnastics world. Before Mary Lou Retton came along, it was thought that the extremely lean East-European body type, as exemplified by Nadia Comaneci, was the only one that could perform well."

To be sure, there's still plenty dietary natives in the sport. The lean ideal, if not quite so severe, is an endemic to the gymnastics arts as form-fitting uniforms, Mary Lou Retton notwithstanding.

Menstrual dysfunction and premature osteoporosis are risks taken by young female athletes in any sport where leanness and low body fat are desired. "Some coaches have decided that if something worked in the past, it will work the future," Milligan said. "Others are very receptive to change."

What the Athletic Wellness Forum

doesn't want is another Christy Heinrich tragedy.

One of America's top gymnasts, her emaciated body had not reached puberty at age 22. She died in July 1994 from complications from eating disorders.

In 1997, the organization that governs international gymnastics, seeking healthier and more mature female gymnasts, raised the minimum age from 15 to 16 for competition at the senior international level.

Dr. Aurelia Nattiv, a team physician for UCLA professor, has campaigned through the wellness forum to "foster healthier gymnasts by creating a more realistic body figure."

Meanwhile, Milligan will continue to do her part, enlightening those who seemed starved for knowledge.

Breast center passes quality inspection

Each year, the Saint Barnabas Breast Center at the Ambulatory Care Center is inspected by the Food and Drug Administration under strict regulations to monitor the performance quality of mammography. This year, the Saint Barnabas Breast Center passed the inspection without any violations. This success can only be attributed to less than 15 of all facilities in the country.

The report stated that the center received a "no-findings" rating, which means that there were no observed deviations — no noncompliance with the Mammography Quality Standards Act.

The purpose of such an inspection is to support continuous improvement in mammography services. The inspection compared six major areas which included equipment performance, technologist quality control, a medical physicist survey, personnel qualifications, medical reports and outcomes audits. The inspection of the Breast Center showed that all areas reviewed were in compliance with required standards.

This outstanding accomplishment is a non-biased testament to the high-

quality medical services provided at The Breast Center at the Saint Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center. As one of the nation's most sophisticated health care facilities, the center offers women exceptional comprehensive breast and wellness services essential for good health, including complete diagnostic services such as mammography, stereotactic breast biopsies, sonography and breast cyst aspiration, and a team approach to diagnosis and treatment.

At The Breast Center, patients receive the full complement of needed services in one convenient and comfortable location. The goal is to provide all of the information necessary to make informed decisions. This is accomplished through the use of a multidisciplinary approach bringing together physicians and surgeons to determine the best course of treatment. Patients can come to The Breast Center in confidence, knowing what whatever treatment, technology and support services may be needed, they are available here in one location. One of the unique features is the availability of on-site radiologists, which enables women to know the results of their mammograms, and can be seen

by a registered nurse on the same day if necessary.

The Breast Center has taken every opportunity to make the center soothing and comfortable. Private dressing rooms, fresh flowers and relaxing music add to the tranquil ambience. A breast health library is available to anyone looking for education materials including books, pamphlets, videos and anatomical breast models. Ongoing women's health education programs are conducted at the center to help women with their breast health care needs on a continuing basis.

The Breast Center is accredited by the American College of Radiology, and is inspected annually by the Food and Drug Administration under the Mammography Quality Standards Act. The technologists and the mammography staff at The Breast Center are all female to ensure a higher comfort level. Additionally, The Breast Center performs more mammograms than any other facility in the metropolitan area.

Advertisement
HAVING JUST A WILL DOES NOT PROTECT YOUR LIVING INTERESTS & SELF-DIGNITY

At an Elder Law & Estate Planning seminar I recently held, I asked the seminar attendees the following rhetorical questions: 1) Can anyone guarantee he or she will make it to his or her next birthday? 2) Which is more important to you during your lifetime, your health or your money? 3) With respect to your money, is it more important to you during your lifetime or at death?

With regard to question 1, since there are no guarantees in life, no person in the audience could state with certainty that they would be alive for his or her next birthday. Question 2 had more than 90% of the room answering that their health was more important than their money. Finally, the attendees responded to question 3 by saying that their money was more critical to them while alive than at death.

I further questioned the audience by asking how many people had Living Wills and Health Care Proxies? Few people had these documents. What about Power of Attorney? The response to this was also quite low. How about a Letter of Last Instructions? Most attendees had not even heard about this document. What about a Last Will and Testament? Each and every person in the audience raised his or her hand in response to this question.

What I was pointing out was although people are more concerned with their health than their money, and their money is more important during their lifetime than at death, what they were really saying was just the opposite: By only having a Will, they are merely protecting their money at death, leaving no protection for their money during lifetime, and certainly no protection for their medical and health care issues.

Benjamin D. Eckman's practice focuses on Estate Planning and Elder Law/Legal issues facing senior citizens and is located at 1836 Morris Avenue, Union (908) 206-1000.

Senior Contact program reaches out to elderly

Mountainside Hospital's Senior Contact is a free membership program for adults age 60 and older. The program reaches out to members of the community and provides the most up-to-date information on health-related topics for seniors in a relaxed social environment. Becoming a member of the "Senior Contact" program enables one to attend a variety of wellness lectures and social events, which include monthly health promotion and educational activities focused on maintaining good health and a healthy lifestyle.

Offered are special social events, day and overnight trips, guest speakers and refreshments throughout the year. Regular screenings such as prostate cancer, cholesterol, diabetes, breast cancer and glucose help members keep on top of health concerns specific to older men and women.

Members also enjoy receiving a quarterly newsletter which keeps

them updated on hospital and community happenings and features articles of interest on health, travel and lifestyle. A calendar of events will keep one informed of all of the upcoming programs. Another benefit of becoming a member is that Senior Contact offers access to an Elder Care Hotline, which connects one to a counselor who can address questions and concerns about community services and related issues.



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Take precautions when swimming, warn the YMCAs

Millions of Americans will flock to pools, ponds, lakes and seashores this summer. But in addition to sunscreen they should take with them some crucial safety precautions say the YMCAs, because negligence of safety rules can spell danger in places of summer fun and relaxation.

families to play and relax in summer," said Lynne Vaughan, director of programs for the YMCA of the USA, "but the object is to be carefree, not careless. That means making sure your entire family knows how to be safe in and around the water."

the country for more than a hundred years, emphasize five basic precautionary measures to ensure safety in and around the water:

• Children must have proper parental or adult supervision at all times. No child should ever be left alone near water — even for a few seconds.

And no one, not even an adult, should ever swim alone.

• Before heading to the water, know what to do in an emergency. Learn how to perform CPR and make sure you have a first aid kit handy and well-stocked.

• Read and understand all posted rules at pools and beaches.

• Dive only where the water is deep — that means nine feet when diving from the edge of a pool but deeper when diving from any height, and you must know in advance just what's on the bottom of the water.

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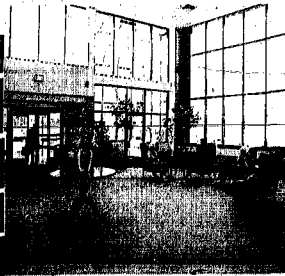


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Excuse #3: What about radiation?

Fact: St. Elizabeth Hospital's state-of-the art equipment provides the highest quality image with the lowest possible radiation exposure.

* St. Elizabeth Hospital's Mammography Services are accredited by the American College of Radiology and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Food & Drug Administration

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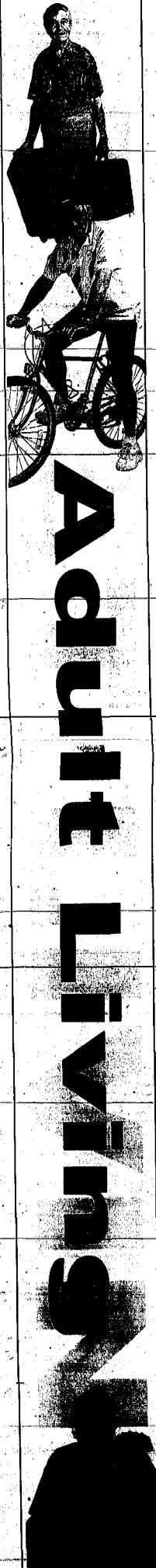
Ask your doctor for a prescription and call St. Elizabeth Hospital's Central Scheduling Department for an appointment at (908) 527-5984.

Need more information?

Call St. Elizabeth Hospital's Radiology Department at (908) 527-5051

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Quite Livings

Local actors might win the Lottery

The New Jersey Theatre Group, the association of professional Equity theaters of New Jersey, conducts combined lottery auditions for actors and actresses twice a year, by appointment only. If you wish to be entered in the lottery, send a picture and resume, a stamped self-addressed business envelope and advise if you would like to sing if chosen. The combined lottery auditions, attended by approximately 25 theaters, are held in New Jersey bi-annually, in late August for two days, and in February for one day for both Equity and non-Equity actors. Notices which detail how to apply for an audition slot are always placed in Backstage and other newspapers, as well as on the Actor's Equity Association Call Board, Playbill on Line and in the New Jersey Star-Ledger six weeks before the event.

NJ Theatre Group announces Actor Search, the new program that will help you seek your resume in front of casting directors year-round. For a registration fee of only \$10 annually, your picture and resume are kept on file and available to casting personnel at all member theaters. Call for further information, or send your picture and resume along with a check for \$10 to Actor Search, c/o New Jersey Theatre Group, 17 Cook Ave., Madison 07911.

Visit the Web site at <http://www.theatre.org> for up-to-date information and special offers from member theaters.

If you have any questions or need any other information, contact NJTG at 17 Cook Ave., Madison 07940 or e-mail njtg@nj.com.

Something to sell? Telephone 1-800-364-8911.

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY
July 25th, 1999 (Rain date July 31st)
EVENT: Flea Market/Clothes/Craft and Antique Show
PLACE: Beautiful Yantow Park, Park Drive between Centre and Chestnut Street, Nutley, NJ
TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm
PRICE: Over 100 quality merchandise dealers in a park like setting under the tree lined oval. For more information call 201-997-9552.
ORGANIZATION: Italian American & Nutley Red Cross

EVERY SATURDAY

EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Factory Marketplace, 390 Nye Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 8am-4pm
PRICE: Lighting and Ceiling Fan Clearance Items wanted, Call for directions, 973-373-0078.
ORGANIZATION: Evangelist Center Baptist Church

SUNDAY
August 1, 1999
EVENT: Flea-Market and Collectible Show
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville, (off Jorhomon, Stearns)
TIME: 8:00am-5:00pm
PRICE: Featuring over 100 quality dealers selling a variety of merchandise including new and used items, baseball cards, memorabilia, toys, leather clothing, jewelry, coins and Beanie Babies galore! For more information call 201-997-9552.
ORGANIZATION: BHS Crew

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is prepared and costs just \$29.00 (for 1000 copies) for Essex County or Union County and just \$20.00 for other counties. You will see it in our August 1999 issue (165 Valley Street) by 4:00 PM on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at 170 Southland Road, Orange, 265 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Sycamore Ave., Union. For more information call 752-8411.

Descriptive videos available at library

Have you ever been watching television and gotten up to do something in another room? Wasn't it frustrating trying to follow the sense of the story when you couldn't see what was happening? You couldn't tell what was going on when all you had to go on were sound effects and music. Until recently, that was how visually impaired people had to watch movies and television.

Now, thanks to descriptive videos, this frustration is eliminated. Described-video fills in the information needed to watch a movie or television program independently. Carefully edited text describes actions, looks, clothing, even facial expression to put the viewer fully in the picture. The descriptions are timed and placed so smoothly between pieces of dialogue that you are hardly aware you are there. They never interfere with the pace of the production.

The New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped has 200 titles of Descriptive Videos in a program called Talking Pictures.

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- Put aboard
- Gush
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- LOUISE
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- Expense
- Rose's swain
- Most recent
- Reduces drastically
- Prepares to dry
- Short-tempered
- Theatrical event
- "The Man"
- BOVARY
- BACH
- Old Greek coin
- ABC, 1-2-3, etc.
- Eternal
- Shock
- Teller-innovator
- Footloose Fred
- LANSBURG
- SWENSON
- Musical collection
- BORODIN
- GORBACHEV
- Exant
- MILLER
- Sidles
- Aeolian-deposit
- Short turns?

DOWN

- Finally!
- Kind-of-concerto
- In-res
- Burmese native
- Point of view
- Pons and Callas
- U.S. unit, in Paris
- CLARK
- Hi-fi
- Mitt
- Escamillo pleaser
- Western Athletic Conf. member

- Hon's dance
- Greeley's way to go
- Inscribed pillars
- Sabbath song
- Regimen
- MOORE
- BOMBECK
- MARTIN
- Craft landings
- Nobelist I.
- Out of sight
- Where some rosters face?
- Smidgens
- Short news staple
- Shua plate
- Neaical position
- Pre-coll. exam
- Andean beast
- Crick
- Ode master of yore
- Silvery
- Gets word
- Coeur d'
- Altos, tenors, sopranos, etc.
- Wide's prison
- LINCOLN
- "You + Love"; Kern
- Tarhune duo
- Tom Hanks film
- Apply
- Old-time farm worker

See ANSWERS on Page D11

Suburban Community Music Center now accepting fall registration

The Suburban Community Music Center, a private, non-profit educational institution entering its 15th year of operations, is now accepting fall registrations for classes and private lessons. A full member of the National Guild of Community Schools in the Area, the center draws its more than 800 students from 69 municipalities in nine north and central New Jersey counties.

The 1999-2000 SCMC Catalogue contains descriptions of classes designed to meet the needs of students of all ages, from very early childhood through senior adult. New this year is Music for Children With Special Needs for elementary school-age students. The class features group musical activities to help children develop social skills, attention span, fine- and gross motor coordination, and speech/language skills.

In response to increased demand for instruction in string instruments, the center has expanded its program by adding two faculty members, Carol Lyon for cello and Halina Listopad for violin. A teacher with 20 years experience at all age and skill levels, Lyon studied with Samuel Mayes and Jacqueline DuPre, Lisitpod, the recipient of a Fulbright Music Research and Study Grant, holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Manhattan School of Music. They join the SCMC professional faculty of 40 instructors, whose biographies and teaching credentials are included in the catalogue. The SCMC classes offer a variety of subjects and learning experiences. A

new series of music classes for the very young, which is based on the latest research into early childhood education and how children learn music, is offered for children newborn through age 7. The classes have purposeful activities that are appealing, musically and developmentally appropriate, and fun, and which instill a love of music in the young child and help make music part of the child's expressive self.

Musicianship Training, grades 1-6, teaches musical skills and concepts through participation in music-making activities that encourage creative expression, development of rhythmic competency, improvisation and ensemble skills. Classes are available for children with or without previous music experience. Suzuki violin, viola and guitar, ages 4 and up, develops ability by repeated listening and imitation in an environment that provides reinforcement and motivation. Fundamentals of Singing, grades

1-8, teaches proper breathing technique, intonation, tone production, diction, phrasing and ear training. Musicianship Training, theory, ear training and sight singing, Recorder Ensemble and Chamber Music Workshop are among the classes for teens and adults.

Private lessons in classical and jazz piano, voice, recorder, saxophone, guitar and most orchestral instruments are offered for older children and adults.

Seniors form musical group

The Golden Light, a seniors musical group from Evangel Church of Scotch Plains, is available to present their concert "The Time of Our Lives Opus" for your group's enjoyment. Community centers, convalescent care facilities, etc. who would like to schedule a presentation of this musical may call Kathleen Deary at (908) 322-9300 to make arrangements.

Woven throughout the familiar musical number is refreshing and at times comical narration that recalls milestones of history and tradition.

There is no charge for this presentation; it is an outreach ministry of the church.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Whatever you say about new models, don't call them 'retro'

Suddenly everything now is old again. Or so would seem a new twist on an old aphorism. The new Volkswagen Beetle is instantly recognizable as kin to the original Beetle; the Chrysler Pronto Cruiser concept car deliberately evokes the image of a 1940s coupe, and just about every car maker around is using terms like "inspired by" and "reminiscent of."

But don't, whatever you do, call them "retro."

"A Thunderbird may have some retro cues in it," said Ford designer J Mays about the new two-seat Ford concept, "(but) we call it 'modern heritage.'" The idea has been expressed as sharing "design DNA with past T-Birds," not cloning the original.

Mays, who left VW-Audi after penning the New Beetle and the 30s-styled Audi TT, calls the Thunderbird concept shape a "reverse wedge," bigger in front and tapering to the rear. "At one time, that's what speed looked like," he explains, noting that while the '55 through '57 Birds were the primary inspiration, "from a rear three-quarter view, you'll see the '61/'62 proportion in the lowness of the rear. So it's really picking up on

several types of vehicles that have been associated with the most successful Thunderbirds."

The New Beetle "isn't retro" either, said VW spokesman Tony Fouldpour. Despite its resemblance to the V-Bug we loved and endured back in the 60s, "it's really about the future, not the past," claimed Fouldpour. "Young people react to it on a fresh basis, especially kids, who here in Michigan may not know what an old Beetle looks like."

Fouldpour doesn't deny the New Beetle's similarity to its predecessor, but asserts that it has "the best elements of the old design (to) create something new that even people who came from Planet X and had never seen an old Beetle could react to."

For Volkswagen, it symbolizes how far the company has come. "We're not the Beetle Company," he says, saying the "design is very futuristic" and the technology equally advanced.

But Volkswagen is not the only company to have a "retro" design in production. The Dodge Viper is a modern interpretation of a certain mid-60s sports car, even to the point of mimicking its herpetological-

moniker. It's not a Cobra, but it occupies the same spiritual space. DaimlerChrysler also makes the Plymouth Prowler, a new incarnation of the classic American street rod. With its cycle-type front fenders and Highboy styling, the Prowler is clearly inspired by the 50s but in a very avant garde expression.

Viper and Prowler had been concept cars — today's term for "show cars" — before being put into production. So one is justified in speculating about the future of the concept Plymouth Pronto Spyder, a Porsche Speedster-esque sports car that tempers its "exotic European," though still retro, styling with a body made from polyethylene terephthalate, the same plastic used to make plastic drinking bottles. The Jeep Jeepster not only borrows shapes from Jeep's early 50s runabout but also the name, while exploring advanced concepts in suspension.

Finally, there's the Chrysler Chronos. "This car really owes its inspiration to the 1953 Chrysler D'Elegance concept vehicle," said Jack Crain, Chrysler Design studio chief, who headed the car's development. "That car had these proportions, but we

updated the surfaces to meet the expectation of today's automotive enthusiast."

The company was hardly resting on its laurels, however, when it introduced the Pronto Cruiser at the Geneva Auto Show. The car flagrantly borrowed from the American coupes from the 40s, but rather than a tame imitation of a specific car of that era, the Pronto looks like the same gang that did the Prowler got hold of it. But the futuristic angle is there too, as the Pronto's body is made from the same material as the Spyder. DaimlerChrysler's statement that the "Cruizer is destined to be a head-turner on the street" sure makes it sound like it will make production.

A concept car that has Nissan insiders pulling for production plans is the Z Concept. Based on the classic Datsun 240Z — one owned by a Nissan designer was used as a reference — the Z Concept was a challenge for the designers at Nissan's California studio.

"Our goal in designing the Z Concept was not to merely update a 30-year design," said Jerry Hirschberg, Nissan design chief, "but to take some of the elements that made the original

car special and integrate them into a totally new design. Sort of a fresh riff on a great old tune."

In other words, new, not retro. Says the company, "A long hood, with sweeping front fenders and characteristic headlight treatment, suggest the lines of the original, but (do) not copy." Yet as much as car makers deny retro, they also embrace it. BMW calls attention to the side louvers on its Z3 sports car, noting how they recall those on the BMW 507 of the 50s. BMW has also announced that last year's Z407 concept will go into production as the Z8 during calendar year 2000, and that two-seater even more strongly resembles the 507.

Similarly, Mercedes-Benz professes that its SLK320 sports car is "looking forward with a hint of retro," pointing out, "Notable design elements linking the SLK with its proud past include the long hood/short deck proportions and the 'power domes' on the hood, a tribute to the original 300SL."

Jaguar's new S-Type borrows not only the name from its compact sedan of the 60s but also its grille. "The S-

Type carries the Jaguar genetic code, so its heritage is evident," said Geoff Lawson, Jaguar's director of styling.

Even the futuristic model year 2000 Pontiac Bonneville harkens back to the 60s. "The car's distinctive Pontiac heritage shows through," the carmaker claimed. "The robust Coke-bottle shape, cat's-eye headlamps, integrated wide body-side sculpting, wide dihedral V shapes and muscular haunches are all signature Pontiac cues."

Chevrolet makes similar claims about the 2000 Monte Carlo. "Designers added deeply sculpted, bold styling lines reminiscent of the Monte Carlo from the 70s and 80s." Well, maybe that's not deep nostalgia or maybe it is, depending on your age!

Perhaps J Mays summed it up best, however, when he said, "It's the old saying, 'Everyone remembers who was the first guy to fly across the Atlantic, but no one remembers the second guy.' If somebody already (has styling them), the last place we want to go is the same place. So we can learn from it, but we don't want to mimic it."

The supercharger family tree has sprouted many branches

Success with boosted engines prompted research into any and every means of pressurizing the intake tract throughout the 1980s. The supercharger tree was sprouted at least eight branches to date:

First, turbocharging uses the engine's exhaust energy to power a fan-like compressor wheel which force-feeds air to the intake passages of the engine. A second approach, called **pressure-wave supercharging**, applies exhaust pressure directly against intake air within the honeycomb-like passages of a rotating drum. A belt from the crankshaft is used to spin the drum. Opel and Mazda both used the Complex approach for diesel models not imported to the United States.

The six remaining approaches

might be considered classical paths to supercharging, since all use a pump of some sort driven by a belt from the engine's crankshaft. In 1980, Bendix attempted to perfect a sliding vane-type pump similar to auxiliary air injection pumps in use since the 1960s. That effort was not successful.

Centrifugal superchargers use a rapidly spinning impeller that looks something like a pinwheel to supercharge air into an engine. In essence, this device is identical to the compressor half of a turbocharger; air enters at the center of the wheel's axis of rotation and is exhausted tangentially. Unlike a turbo, the impeller is rotated by either a belt or shaft-drive from the parent engine. Since this type of compressor is efficient only at very high rpm, some system of gearing must be employed to step up crankshaft rpm to

a speed suitable for the compressor wheel.

Paxton superchargers, still sold in the aftermarket, are of the centrifugal type. Various manufacturers have toyed with rotary-piston compressors invented by Felix Wankel during the 1960s without commercial success.

The sixth type of supercharger neatly defies categorization. Called the G-Lader and used, to date, only by Volkswagen, this device shares certain characteristics with the aforementioned rotary-piston compressors. A moving rotor fits within a fixed housing. Both the rotor and the housing have spiral walls that intermesh to provide a maze-like air passage. The rotor oscillates on an eccentric shaft and the constantly changing internal volumes between the spiral walls provide a pumping effect. Air enters at

the periphery of the spiral walls and is exhausted near the central axis.

Another unusual design is the screw-type compressor patented by Svenska Rotor Maskiner in Sweden in 1936. Two interlocking and counter-rotating screw-shaped rotors move air axially through a housing with a claimed 10 percent efficiency advantage over Roots-type blowers. SRM's sister company, Opcor Autrotor, has developed automotive applications in more than a dozen countries. Whipple Industries of Fresno, Calif., currently imports these superchargers for aftermarket use.

The eighth contender, the Roots-type blower, keeps returning to popularity in spite of all the aforementioned challengers that have arisen over the years. Simple to the extreme, the Roots blower and variations on

that original theme provide a very efficient means of moving high volumes of air.

One of the most common applications of the Roots blower is not for supercharging. Detroit Diesel engines have used the devices for scavenging — flushing out exhaust residue and charging cylinder at atmospheric pressure — for 60 years. Ingenious hot rodders founded the Roots-type blowers to their liking for drag racing and have used the design for decades. Several West Coast companies manufacture copies of the Detroit Diesel blower originally designed by GM.

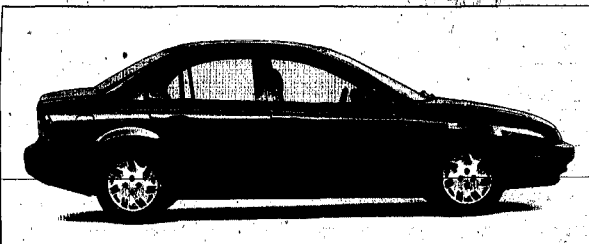
Any under-hood device can be a source of noise, presenting yet another engineering problem to solve. Other than an occasional distant whine, turbos do their work in silence. In sharp contrast, the Roots blower

used by Mercedes automobiles in the 20s and 30s shrieked like tormented banisters.

The still report comes from pressure pulses as air is pumped into the engine and from the gears that keep the two rotors in proper mesh. Turning a supercharger for silent operation is a significant engineering challenge.

Superchargers impose a significant parasitic loss on the engine, since they are turned by power from the crankshaft. The loss may be less than one horsepower while cruising but 50 or more horsepower at full load. This is why bypass systems are provided to route induction air around the supercharger when no boost is demanded — during idle and cruise modes.

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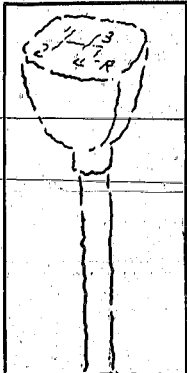
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Volkswagen presents the German definition of value

Volkswagen changed American car culture when it began exporting the Bug and it continues to influence expectations in this market for small cars. Last year it was the New Beetle and the Passat, it's largest sedan. This year it is an all-new Golf, Cabrio convertible Golf and Jetta. One company, five new cars. Five distinct, well-made economical cars with personality. All it needs now is the SUV it is putting together with Porsche and a redesign of the Eurovan, and it will be in business as a one-stop-shopping brand. Volkswagen can make an inexpensive car, but nothing about even the most modest model is cheap. Its trio of redesigned cars for 1999 represent some of the best value, safety features and quality on sale in the United States. The Volkswagen engineers have a unique concept for designing a car. It is not typically a "Fashion Statement" but a transport statement — it must accommodate passengers and all their gear. It is for weekdays and holidays. And it must be fun to drive, said Jetta designer Rudiger Foltien. "The fun of driving starts when I turn off the music so I can hear the engine and the wind flowing at 130 mph," he said. "The fun of driving for many American drivers starts when we pull away from the drive-through, slip in a CD and crank the 340-watt stereo. There aren't many places in this country to enjoy a 130-mph driver, though even the 115-hp four-cylinder Jetta will provide that experience. The design of the new Jetta is "a piece of power, elegantly shaped. Very clean," Foltien said. And each VW design element for space, comfort and speed is just as rewarding as a U.S. interest in the Autobahn. But with this evolution of Jetta comes even more Americanization — more soundproofing, more supportive seats, cup holders and a good stereo. Jetta is VW's best-seller in the United States and a top-seller in Europe, yet the New Beetle is attracting so much attention that some may overlook the handiwork in Jetta, or Golf and Cabrio. In what may have been in defense of his new design versus the New Beetle's gets-have-it adorableness, Foltien said, "The real values of Jetta may take more than a few minutes to be realized."

Perhaps. But anyone doing comparative testing of the Jetta GL can't help but notice the quality of materials and construction. Then, five minutes behind the wheel may help elaborate on the German definition of value. Jetta comes in base GL, GLS and GLX models with four-cylinder, 90 hp, four-cylinder turbo direct injection (turbo) or 2.8-liter, 174-hp V-6 engines. Prices range from \$17,325 for the GL, \$18,620 for the GL TDI and up to

around \$25,000 for GLX with four-speed automatic transmission. The GLX can be a techno showpiece with such extras as an automatic shifter, automatic radio, automatic climate control and automatic Rain Sense wipers. The test car, however, was a modestly equipped GL model, with five-speed manual transmission, crank windows, manually adjusted outside mirrors, four air bags, illuminated and covered vanity mirrors, full-size spare tire, rear cup holders and map lights. But also listed as standard equipment were such worthwhile extras as a tilt and telescoping steering wheel, height adjustable front seats, remote locking, air conditioning, four-wheel disc brakes with ABS, front and rear floor mats, eight-speaker AM-FM cassette stereo and power remote releases for fuel and trunk. Then there are the VW accents, such as:

- The testful use of chrome and the soft-touch finishes to the interior pieces.
- Glove box door and overhead grab handles that are silicon damped so they don't flap open and pinch fingers or bank a knee.
- Outside mirrors and bumpers are painted in the body color.
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- The rear seatback splits and folds, and the trunk has a low lift-over

height and a generous 40-inch width for easy loading. • At night, the gauges glow in a frosty blue illumination with red pointers. It is patterned after the red and blue of airfield landing lights, and the idea is to isolate the instruments and keep the focus on driving. Plus, it looks real cool without being gimmicky. Package all that — and throw in two years of free scheduled maintenance — and the Jetta GL is a real bargain at \$17,325. Prices have gone up from the '98 model, but there also are more standard features, such as air conditioning, a good radio, ABS and side air bags. The test car had the 2.0 liter with five-speed manual transmissions, which was a romp to drive. The five-speed manual is light and easy, with a Teflon-like touch on gear engagement. Visibility for the driver is excellent all around; and getting in and out of the car is very accommodating through doors that open to near-perpendicular angles. The Jetta's poise on the road comes in part from body sections that are laser welded and bonded for precision and structural rigidity. Heavier gauge sheet metal is used at stress points such as in the roof and rear end. The torsional rigidity has been improved to 47 hertz, which is on par with much more expensive European luxury sedans.

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VIN #F02A1922, 4dr, 4 cyl, auto, w/c, p/s, am/fm stereo cassette, r/d, cloth seats, black w/d. A/c, 43,275 mi.
- '90 FORD PROBE LX \$2888
VIN #L318045, 4 cyl, auto, w/c, p/s, air, cassette, r/d/d, cloth buckets, black w/d. A/c, 70,412 mi.
- '95 HYUNDAI ELANTRA \$4988
VIN #F02F0052, auto, 4 cyl, am/fm, cloth int, 30,111 mi.
- '93 DODGE CARAVAN \$5788
VIN #F01P5558, 7 passenger, 4 cyl, auto, w/c, p/s/h/wind/lift/mirrors, cassette, air, cruise, r/d/d, roof rack, city white, running boards, 74,190 mi.
- '96 FORD ESCORT LX \$5988
VIN #F101104, 2dr, 4 cyl, auto, w/c, p/s, r/d, sunroof, cassette, airbag, cloth seats, all season tires, 37,057 mi.
- '93 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4 \$6788
VIN #F05616, auto, 4 cyl, w/c, p/s, air, cassette, blue, VERY NICE! 97,624 mi.

- '91 GMC JIMMY SLE \$6988
VIN #4257067, auto, 4 cyl, w/c/h/wind/lifts, w/c, cassette, air, cruise, 87,000 mi.
- '92 NISSAN MAXIMA \$7788
VIN #N104574, auto, 4 cyl, w/c/h/wind/lifts, w/c, cassette, air, cruise, airbag, leather int, 79,350 mi.
- '90 ACURA LEGEND \$7888
VIN #1020497, 4 DR, auto, w/c, p/s/h/wind/lifts/mirrors/cass, am/fm/cass, air, cruise, r/d/d, sun roof, leather int, all season radials, alarm/cac system, 70,773 mi.
- '97 PLYMOUTH NEON \$7988
VIN #F1T00022, 4 DR, auto, 4 cyl, w/c/h/wind/lifts, w/c, cassette, air, cruise, VERY NICE! MSRP \$22,124 mi.
- '95 FORD CONTOUR \$8788
VIN #1124444, auto, 4 cyl, w/c/h/wind/lifts, air, cruise, airbag, w/c, cassette, 49,800 mi.
- '95 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA \$8888
VIN #F046500, 4 DR, 4 cyl, 5 spd manual, w/c, 77,076 mi. MSRP \$12,995. VERY NICE! Sun roof, cloth int, driver air bag, cloth int, all season, 41,642 mi. MOVE QUICK CAR WON'T BE HERE LONG !!
- '93 FORD WINDSTAR \$10988
VIN #F080975, 4 cyl, w/c/h/wind/lifts/cass, cloth int, seats, 22,553 mi. 20 bag, cloth int, all season, 43,442 mi. MOVE QUICK CAR WON'T BE HERE LONG !!

- '94 LINCOLN MARK VII \$12,788
VIN #0771307, 4 cyl, auto, w/c, p/s, p/s/wind/lifts/mirrors/cass, air, cruise, r/d, sunroof, dual airbags, leather, leather, leather, black w/d tires, 40,835 mi.
- '97 FORD F150 XLT P/U 4X4 \$15,988
VIN #F0A11856, 6 ft bed, non-powwer, leather, r/c, cloth, auto, w/c, p/s, p/s/wind/lifts/mirrors, am/fm stereo cassette, air, cruise, dual airbags, cloth bucket seat, chrome wheels, all season radials, 47,815 mi.
- '97 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL \$17,988
VIN #F0A51510, 4 DR, 4 cyl, auto, w/c, p/s/h/wind/lifts, am/fm stereo, air bags + MORE! 44,420 mi.
- '96 LINCOLN TOWN & COUNTRY \$18,988
VIN #F0A14978, 4 DR, 4 cyl, w/c, p/s/wind/lifts/mirrors/cass, air, cruise, sun roof, dual air bags, leather int., 42,489 mi. CAR RIDES LIKE A DREAM!

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