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Remember Mom On Her Day
May 14th

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Paper Mill's 'Student Prince' is indeed a family affair

It's an age-old axiom: get 'em while they're young!
The Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn has taken this advice to heart and, during the week of May 17 to 21, will open its doors for what organizers call "a celebration of theater for young people and their families."

Family Fare

By Bill Van Sant
Associated Editor

During this week, one free ticket will be provided to any child between the ages of 10 and 18 when an adult ticket is purchased for the same performance of the current offering, Sigismund Romberg's operetta "The Student Prince."

But "The Student Prince" for teens? Especially with the style, edge and sassiness of "Pippin" right around the corner? Would today's kids really go for a 19th-century operetta?
To find out, I packed my two children — Tori, 7, and Reid, 5, — into the minivan and headed to Millburn Sunday afternoon. It may be argued that, growing up in an arts-oriented household, my children might not make a good "acid test" but, trust me, a 5-year-old's attention span defines the boundaries of culture and erudition! So, off we set for Heidelberg.

For myself, I can't remember the last time I was so transported by a piece of theater. There are those theater critics who would contend that the overdose of romance and love is unrealistic and more than they can bear. Well, if so, give me their share because I counter-argued that there is not enough romance and love in this jaded, "been there done that" age of ours. A first-hand word to the bitter naysayers: People do fall in love in real life, complete with all the sappy trimmings. To see it glorified on stage is an all-too-rare treat, one we could use more often.

But an adult can glean more from a trip to the theater than a child, and the purpose of this particular visit was to determine just how much a child would get out of this show.

My two "guest critics" were transfixed, albeit to varying degrees, with

their fascination being triggered by different elements of the experience.
As the curtain rose on the silent pre-show, Reid whispered to me — and, yes, we covered the concept of whispering on the ride — "This show is great," and nothing had happened other than the revelation of the magnificent setpiece set by the gifted Michael Aniano.

It might be because he's a boy or perhaps because he's the younger of the two, but Reid's interest was more caught by some of the technical aspects such as the props and the lighting. He took note of the video monitors broadcasting the conductor to the singers on stage, the lights which created the shadow of window frames on the backdrop, and the steam which poured out of a serving dist, prompting him to ask, "Is that real steam?" — again, in his well-rehearsed whisper.

However, the story itself wasn't lost on my little guy, especially if something funny was happening. Reid took particular delight in the shenanigans of Herr Lutz and his valet, Hubert, — hilariously played by Bill Bateman and Bill Bowers — and was able to follow a plot point involving Lutz from Act I to Act II — he's tossed into the offshore river just before intermission. When Act II began, Reid made two immediate observations on setting and the Lutz plot: "It's a different place!" and "He got out of the water!"

Also to his liking were the students. Whether they were gloriously singing "Drinking Song" or taking part in The Salamander, their traditional toast, I could tell that Reid really wanted to



Tori and Reid Van Sant, 'Guest critics'

"play with the big boys."
Tor, on the other hand, brought an older, feminine sensibility to the proceedings: "I like the girl," were the first words out of her mouth at intermission, referring to Kathie, luminously brought to life by the breathtaking Christiane Nell. Through Tor's observations, I noticed a correlation to the ever-popular, ever-present Disney: a beautiful peasant girl, a handsome prince and an old-Europe story-book setting. Of course she was going to like it!

Like her brother, she revelled in the comic moments, but picked up on some other things as well. "The moon is pretty cool," she commented on a particularly effective touch. "And I liked the part where there was a big giant sunset!"

There were some confusions, though. Because of the uniforms, Reid thought the students were "soldiers," and Tor mistook the exterior of the Inn of the Three Golden Apples to be Kathie's house.

Although we lost Reid to an unplanned nap in the postlunatic scene, he roused himself to clap enthusiastically with his sister when the final curtain rang down. Daddy joined them in their enthusiasm, by the way, and was proud to be part of a

well-deserved standing ovation.
On the way home, I deduced that an operetta is indeed an excellent choice for children. I remember as a child attending the theater that I would anxiously wait for the next song. Well, in an operetta, the wait is never that long. Furthermore, the grandness and "old worldy" charm lend themselves to a certain magical quality.

That evening, I wanted to see just how much of the story made sense to them so I put them with a list of basic questions, and I was both surprised and amused by their answers.

Tori's favorite characters were Kathie and Prince Karl Franz, played to perfection by Brandon Jovanovich, while Reid preferred "the soldiers." The costume which most caught my little girl's eye was the purple gown and stunning tiara worn by the lovely Glory Crampton as Princess Margaret, and Reid stuck with the blue tunics and snazzy sashes worn by "the soldiers." The exterior of the Inn of the Three Golden Apples was Tori's pick for favorite set, and Reid chose the interior of the palace.

Lutz and Hubert were the unanimous choice for favorite moment, but the kids picked differently: Tori loved their "cameo/flags" with "tree branches," and Reid said, "When the boy said, 'Chick, cheke, I jumped out of the water!'"

As for the music, Kathie won Tori's heart, and Reid went back to his buddies, "the soldiers," for "Drinking Song." The only negative vote on the whole experience came from Tor, who said it "made me angry that Kathie and the Prince couldn't marry at the end since she wasn't a princess." Tori wasn't alone in that. I agreed!

While Reid didn't bring home any particular point from the show, Tor observed that the "lesson" was that "princes can only marry princesses." Reid, however, did synopsitize thus: "It starts out with guys with swords. Later, all the 'soldiers' held the man



Brandon Jovanovich and Christiane Nell bask in the glow of their forbidden love in 'The Student Prince' at the Paper Mill Playhouse, which will open its doors to children and teenagers May 17 to 21.

up and put him in the water."
Congratulations to the Paper Mill Playhouse, not only for this exquisite operetta, on stage through May 27, but for the insight to bring to our children a deeper appreciation of theater and its glorious history.
For me, I'd take the kids back, but I'll be too busy finding Tori a prince

without the "princesses only" clause, and getting Reid into the University of Heidelberg!

For information on tickets and show times, see the "Theater" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B6. "Kids Go Free" Week is May 17 to 21.

Cranford readies for its annual street festival this Sunday

Residents are invited to enjoy good food, good friends, and meet their neighbors downtown at Cranford's 11th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival Sunday.

Cranford's Chamber of Commerce is again hosting the lively spring street fair that features lots of food, beautiful crafts and all day stage entertainment. Downtown Cranford will host 150 exhibitors at the festival. The business district near the train station, Eastman Plaza, and North and South Union Avenue will be detoured of traffic. The festival will also feature many children's activities and a variety of retail merchandise.

Professional crafters will sell hand-made jewelry, doll clothes, decorative floral creations, original clothing designs and furniture accessories pieces. Lou Quigley of Tom's River crafts clocks and lamps made of colorful, exotic woods. Other crafted items include wicker items, wooden birdhouses, stained glass and functional and decorative accessories for the home. Barbara Weir from Syosset, N.Y., wraps sterling silver wire into fanciful fresh-pearl jewelry creations.

The festival marketplace will also feature demonstrating craftsperson Patricia Devries from Germantown, Pa. She weaves intricate and delicately beautiful items made of wheat. Among the New Jersey artists at the Cranford 11th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival are Flemington watercolorist Phyllis Newman and Bin Jiang of New Milford.

And then there's ...
This festival is famous for its tasty menu selection. This year 16 food vendors will serve grilled shrimp kebabs, Italian hot dogs, sausage sandwiches, calzones and gourmet wrapped sandwiches. Gyros and other Greek foods and some tasty Italian specialties will also be served. Zappos, fresh strawberry smoothies, homemade fudge, fresh-roasted kettle corn and Pennsylvania Dutch funnel cakes will satisfy those with a sweet tooth.

Especially for the children are pony rides, a moonwalk, sand-art creations, temporary tattoos and storytelling at the clock on North Avenue. Pony rides and a petting zoo will be on North Alden Street that features more

than a dozen friendly critters for young children to observe, pet and feed.

Musical and street entertainment is scheduled throughout the day. Stage performances near The Cranford Hotel are hosted by Bob Mele, a versatile popular singer; the popular '50s retro group Class; The Girls Next Door; and the 12-member Somerset group, The Gospel Shepherds, perform at 1:30 p.m.

Cranford's 11th Arts and Crafts Festival will take place near Eastman Plaza Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission and parking are free, and the raindate May 28. Cranford is easily reached from the Garden State Parkway Exit 137 or 136. Some exhibit space is still available. For more information contact the event's promoter, The Advertising Alliance Inc., at (908) 996-3036.

Performing artists

• Al Madison, blues singer/songwriter, 11 a.m. to noon.
Madison has played guitar, keyboard and harmonica since he was 12. He now plays at corporate benefits,

coffeehouses, clubs and restaurants throughout New Jersey, such as The Crossroads in Garwood and Highway's The Back Porch. Madison's acoustic and electric full-band sound is a diverse mixture of classic blues and urban folk-rock, including poetic and powerful originals.

Madison has opened for many of the big-name blues bands in New Jersey, most notably for Hall of Famer Roger McGuinn of The Birds.

• Class: "The Girls Next Door," noon to 1 p.m.

A fun, extemporized, retro music group, the girls of Class have performed for rock 'n' roll acts from Boston to Orlando and in the casinos of Atlantic City and Las Vegas. Most recently, they performed in the famous Mel's Diner at Universal Studios in Florida. They are crowd-rousers who dress in the style of the era: be it full Army uniform for a unique routine of the Andrews Sisters "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy From Company B" or poodle skirts while singing the '50s classic "Da Do Ron Ron."

• Bob Mele, singer and entertainment host, 1 to 1:30 p.m.

An entertainer for more than two decades, Mele sings the standards, Big Band favorites, Broadway show tunes, folk and country classics. His smooth baritone and easy crooning style blend well with the ballads of the '50s and '60s. He is the entertainment host and coordinator at the Stage Area.

• Tom Klimechuck, country singer, 2:30 to 3 p.m.

Klimechuck's strong vocals enhance his powerful ballads and country love songs. His music is easy to listen to and sometimes includes the influence of Christian music, as well. Klimechuck's appeal extends to a wide audience range.

• The Gospel Shepherds, gospel band, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

A lively gospel group formed in 1997, these brothers deliver strong harmony with rhythm. The Gospel Shepherds have a powerful rhythm section that includes lead guitar George Roberts, bass guitar Robert McCoy, Oziel Mickens on keyboard and bass, Edward Shivery playing keyboards and percussionists Jerome Tyus and Eugene Whitten. The

smooth vocal harmonies include the talents of Thomas Council, Kevin Proctor, Richard Tyus and George Roberts.

• Perception, Jazz Group, 3 to 4 p.m.

Perception has been together for six years. They are often a quintet — guitar, saxophone, keyboard, bass and drums — and sometimes augmented by vocals, flute or percussion. Their repertoire includes standards by Gershwin and Ellington, the bebop classics of Parker and Gillespie, and the progressive works of Coltrane and Shorter.

• Dean Schott and Extra Large, "Blues With a Big Sound," 4 to 5 p.m.

Hailing from the Newark area, Schott has spent much of his young life working with legendary blues artists Hubert Sumlin, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, James Cotton, Koko Taylor, and Danny Russo. He has also performed with some local legends, such as Roadside Louis and The Doctors, Desk Harp, Filthy Rich and The Poor Boys, and Chicago Carl Snyder and Jimmy Lawrence.

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Police officers complete safety course



Local law enforcement officers recently completed the Pedestrian/Bicycle Accident Investigation course sponsored by the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club Foundation for Safety and Education and the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. With Pam Fischer, assistant vice president of public and government relations, are from left, Officer Steven Mykyka of the Union County Police Department, Detective Joseph Van Bergen of the Cranford Police Department, Sgt. Richard Trigo of the Fanwood Police Department, Officer Mark Cierpial of the Westfield Police Department and Investigator David Manganiello of the Linden Police Department. The 40-hour course consisted of classroom instruction and practical field exercises on a variety of investigation topics, including reconstruction techniques for both pedestrian and bicycle accidents, speed analysis and reaction time/human factors.

Two Hundred Club plans annual luncheon May 12

Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan will be the guest speaker at this year's Two Hundred Club luncheon to be May 12 at L'Affaire in Mountainside. Each year the Two Hundred Club honors police and firefighters from Union County municipalities who have performed above and beyond the call of duty.

More than 400 people from all over the county are expected to attend the annual event held each spring, this year will mark the 31st luncheon. On July 2, 1997, Manahan took the oath of office for a five-year term as

prosecutor of Union County. Manahan formerly served as an assistant Union County prosecutor from 1979 to 1983. Before becoming Union County prosecutor, Manahan was a partner with the law firm of Satterlee Stephens Burke & Burke LLP, LLP, Summit and New York City, where he specialized in commercial litigation and employment law.

Manahan is admitted to practice before the New Jersey and New York State Bar and the United States District Court, District of New Jersey and Southern District of New York, the

Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of the Union County and New Jersey State Bar Associations, a former Chair of the District XII Ethics Committee, and has been appointed by the Supreme Court as a Special Ethics Master. Manahan earned his undergraduate degree from Mount St. Mary's College and his law degree from Seton Hall University. Tickets to this year's luncheon are available by calling The Two Hundred Club office at (908) 322-2422. Tickets are \$45 per person.

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To some people sin is just an old-fashioned word from a bygone era, but a close look at our world today reveals the horrible effects of sin - in nations, and in individual lives. Every broken family, alcohol ruined home or drug addict's life testifies to the results of sin. What is sin? Simply put, it is a rejection of God's authority over our life, and a self-sufficiency in "our own way" rather than His. God's Word declares, "All have sinned. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." Sin can be forgiven and its consequences reversed. It requires honesty with ourselves and God. Jesus said, "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

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COUNTY NEWS

ID program Saturday

The Union County Sheriff's Office will sponsor a Children's ID Program Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Atlas Pithagoras Lodge, 1011 Central Ave., Westfield.

Each child will be fingerprinted, photographed, and video taped. They also will be given a Photo ID card. Parents will be given all of these to keep at no cost.

Senior citizens are welcomed to the I.D. program.

Grant targets groups in Union County

The Association for Children of New Jersey is accepting nominations for the year 2000 S. Whitney Landon Friend of Children Award to honor a program which has made an outstanding and/or innovative contribution to the betterment of children.

The \$25,000 award is sponsored by the Turrell Fund in memory of S. Whitney Landon, the former Chairman of the Fund. This is the fifth year for this award and this year's award is being targeted to organizations in Union and Passaic counties. Last year's winner was the Rescue House of Prayer Youth Orchestra in Plainfield. The deadline for applications is May 15.

The award seeks to honor nonprofit organizations whose program:

- enhanced the quality of life for babies, children, or adolescents, and their families in their neighborhood, community or county through programs designed to meet the growing challenges facing these individuals; and
- involved their community in efforts to make a positive impact on the lives of families with children, who are attempting to become self-sufficient, through programs in child care, education, nutrition, recreation or health.

"There are numerous 'unsung hero' programs in these counties that are doing excellent work for children and families," said ACNJ Executive Director Ciro Scaleria. "This grant will not only recognize their efforts but will make a significant difference in their ability to further enhance their programs."

For more information or applications, call Cheryl at ACNJ at (973) 643-3576.

Technology training center open house

The Union County Educational Technology Training Center will be open to visitors today from 2 to 6 p.m. Located in Room 207 of Mancuso Hall on the 1776 Raritan Road Campus of the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools, the center provides vital staff development for kindergarten through grade 12 educators, public and non-public, using the newest high-tech advances in computer hardware, software and peripherals.

Classes also are open to all members of the community. During the open house, there will be exhibits and demonstrations of satellite communications, interactive television, video conferencing, Office 2000, networking as well as high-speed Internet. Technology and resource vendors will be on hand to dispense information and answer questions. Get-acquainted workshops also are on the program.

There will be drawings held to win a Microtech Scanner, software and/or

an external Zip Drive. Refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes. The expansive campus offers more than ample parking.

For more information regarding the May 4 visitations on the Technology Training Center, call Lisa Greenberg, coordinator, at (908) 889-3810.

Blood Center has drives

The Blood Center of New Jersey will sponsor the following blood drives:

Donors must be 18 years of age, or 17 with parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors provided they have donated within the last 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 the United States recently, call the blood center for eligibility criteria.

For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, call the blood center at (800) BLOOD-NJ.

The American Red Cross Greater Union County and Plainfield Area Chapter will sponsor the following blood drives:

• Tuesday, 3 to 8:30 p.m., Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, Clark.

For information call (908) 353-2500 or (908) 756-7190.

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Summit Playhouse's 'April' is truly enchanting

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Well, fortunately for those of us without the means to journey abroad, the Playhouse Association of Summit has made all the travel arrangements in the current offering, "Enchanted

On the Boards

By Bill Van Sant
Associate Editor

"April" by Kane Campbell, on stage through May 13.

Originally a 1920s novel by Elizabeth Von Arnim, many theatergoers may perhaps be familiar with the title from the magnificent 1992 film version starring Miranda Richardson and Joan Plowright. However, the only real advantage the film has over the play is the option of location shooting. As for the rest, head to Summit.

To encapsulate, the story is of four Englishwomen in 1926, each for different reasons desparately, needing the restorative effect of a month in San Salvatore, the restored medieval castle overlooking the Mediterranean, each finds answers they didn't expect to questions they couldn't admit they had, or didn't even know were nagging at them. Before the visit is over, though, the magical locale has worked its enchantment on all involved.

Director Joann Scanlon has, for the most part, put together a relatively seamless package. Of particular note are two elements which often prove to be the Achilles' heel of a community theater production: pacing and accents, the latter of which often give away amateur status in less than a sentence. However, in this case, the pacing is natural and very much alive, and the accents, under the tutelage of dialect coach Carol Mancini, are practically flawless.

The four women in question here, all relative strangers at the outset, are wonderfully played by Lori Balzano, Nancy Hubley, Elizabeth Messineo, and Harriet Trangucci, and the varying relationships between these ladies — and the polished manner in which the actresses handle them — pack enough fodder for a few evenings of theater, both laugh-filled and tenderly touching.

As Lotty Wilkins, the impressively optimistic instigator of this jaunt, Trangucci comes onto the stage with an energy, focus and presence that more than fill the intimate theater occupied by the Association. Even before she works her wiles on her three would-be traveling companions, we are packing our bags just to stay in the company of this fascinating woman. Each gesture, facial expression, and line delivery is rooted in the reality of this lady who knows there is more to life than what she's seen and is determined to experience it. Her



The fascinating ladies of 'Enchanted April' relax in their Italian villa, beautifully rendered by Summit Playhouse Association set designer Rhoda Roper. From left are Lori Balzano, Nancy Hubley and Robbi Curtis.

wonder at the magic of Italy perfectly captures Von Arnim's words when she wrote of Lotty in the novel, "Such beauty; and she's there to see it. Such beauty; and she's there to feel it." Thanks to this wonderful actress, we feel it, too.

But Trangucci is not alone in this impressive accomplishment. Messineo invests a fragility and painful indecision, with an intriguing dose of steely resolve, in Rose Arbutnot, torn between what she thinks she should want and what, in actuality, she does want. As the impetuous dowager, Mrs. Fisher, Hubley lords over the proceedings only to find her determined hold on "the way things should be" giving way to an openness to experience life in all it's unexpected glory. Her metamorphosis is particularly rewarding. And the protective, aloof walls Balzano builds around her Lady Caroline Dester prove as engrossing as the women hidden behind them, a lady we finally meet when Lady Caroline herself falls prey to the enchantment and dares to journey out of the shallow end of the romance pool.

The dramatic strength of this production — as well as the script — lies in the hands of the actresses embodying these roles, and Summit audiences will not be let down. However, there are weaknesses to be found here, and this critic is hard-pressed to isolate the exact source.

Primarily, these weaknesses are in the characters of the men. Whether the shortcoming is in the actors' approach, the director's vision or the actual construction of the script, I found that after spending nearly an hour in the company of these marvelous women, the arrival of the men was something of an intrusion on the production, both the fictitious vacation on stage and the play itself. Mrs. Fisher comments that the men have improved the atmosphere; this critic was not of the same mind.

To put it bluntly, I didn't believe the men. They weren't bad at their respective jobs, but with the marginal exception of Orin Tempin as Thomas Briggs, the men — Patrick Field as Frederick Arbutnot and Mark Szabo as Mellers Wilkins — relied on mugging and over-the-top line deliveries, resulting in burlesqued, unbelievable characterizations. Granted, this is a comedy, but not a farce, and the utterly enchanting and believable work done by the women had a certain amount of rug pulled out from under it with the arrival of the husbands, who each of whom make an excellent reason for an extended vacation alone, and I was a little puzzled that the ladies would miss them so very much.

Again, this could have been either an acting or directorial choice, perhaps to establish that the men are not on the same wavelength as the women. But even if it was a choice, it didn't translate. Furthermore, with the arrival of the men, the script mutates from a comically amusing examination of four women who don't realize they are kindred spirits to something of a bedroom farce. In any event, these men represent very little benefit to either the script or the ladies involved.

Special note must be made of Robbi Curtis — who shares her role with Jo Ray — and Mario G. Vignoli,

who, as servants Francesca and Domenico, perform their entire roles in fluent, fluid Italian, further adding to the reality of this oasis by the sea. In technical terms, this show is on a par with the excellent work done by the four leading ladies. Rhoda Roper's exquisite set design and scenic art take us from a dreary, rainy day in England in the prologue to the sumptuous villa — and, yes, there is wisteria, just like the ad in the *London Times* promised! Aided by the wonderfully atmospheric lighting design by Bill Roome and the beautiful costumes by Frances Harrison, this production is a visual smorgasbord.

Despite the unevenness with the men's arrivals in Act II, this production is indeed enchanting, and audiences will have to exert quite a bit of effort to remain impervious to the magic. April 2000 may be a memory now, but April 1926 — with all its enchantment — is only a short ride away!

Further adding to the travelogue feel of the evening is an exhibit of beautiful photography in the lounge, shot by Playhouse member John Becker in his travels.

For information on tickets and show times, see the "Theater" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B6.

Olde Mill's Curmin earns honors

Thomas J. Curmin of the Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge is the co-recipient of the 2000 Hospitality and Travel Good Scout Award presented by the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The award is given to individuals who, in their everyday lives, exemplify the ideals of the Boy Scouts as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.

Curmin is the managing partner of the Olde Mill Inn and serves on the board of directors of the New Jersey Hotel and Motel Association. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with Bronze and Gold Palms from Troop 1 in Larchmont, N.Y., where he grew up. He is also a Brotherhood Member for the Order of the Arrow and a recipient of the Baden Powell Scout Spirit Award.

In 1999, Curmin was cited by Business News NJ as one of New Jersey's business leaders and was named one of the "40 under 40."

Rahway Guild will present folk singer Litwin Friday

On Friday at 8 p.m., the Arts Guild of Rahway continues the "Millennium Music" Series with the acoustic folk group of Ralph Litwin and The Trio With 1,000 Names. All seats are \$8, payable at the door. Seating is limited. Call (732) 381-7511 for information and reservations. The Arts Guild is located at 1670 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of Seminary Avenue, and is accessible from Route 1 & S, the Garden State Parkway, the New Jersey Turnpike, and Route 27/St. Georges Avenue.

When people today think about folk music, if they do at all, they are probably reminded of the soulful protest songs of the '60s and the likes of Peter, Paul and Mary or Joan Baez. Today, acoustic folk music is a form with roots in many styles of music, presenting traditional songs and original material. Ralph Litwin and The Trio With 1,000 Names have developed a style they call "good-time music."

"These vaudevillean frolics are delivered with such sheer joy and exuberance, it reminds you why you like music in the first place," wrote one reviewer describing the 1998 live-to-tape disc, "Ralph Litwin and The Band with a Thousand Names", in *Dirty Linen*. Litwin was twice named New Jersey Banjo Champion and has won awards for his free-wheeling style and harmonica playing.

Joining him in The Trio with 1,000 Names is Al Pober, a founding member of Delaware Water Gap, a band that had two LPs in the '70s and toured extensively in the United States and overseas. He plays mandolin, guitar and sings harmonies. Litwin and Pober have been playing together since 1983. They cover a wide range of "good-time American music," including ragtime, blues, jugband, Dixieland, western, swing, country, rock and roll, oldies, calypso and more.

Completing The Trio is Bob Saech on tuba and bass saxophone. Litwin's "good-time music" is pure fun and entertainment for the whole family. For those who want to sit back and experience something unforgettable, visit The Arts Guild Friday for some "good-time music." This program is made possible in part by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. Additional funding has been generously supplied by the Tesco Bayway Refinery of Linden.

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Sharing Network reports rise in organ donation consent

The New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network — The Sharing Network — reported recently the number of organ and tissue donors was higher last year than in the 10 previous years, a record breaker.

The network recovered 134 organ donors, a 28-percent increase over 1998. A total of 444 transplants were performed in New Jersey, representing a 31-percent increase in transplants over 1998. Over a 10-year period, from 1990 to 1999, the actual number of life-saving transplants performed in New Jersey increased 195 percent.

Joseph Roth, president and chief executive officer of The Sharing Network, said there was a total of 27,817 hospital referrals reported in 1999, a 43-percent increase over the 19,341 hospital referrals reported in 1998. Roth attributed the substantial increase in organ donations and hospital referrals, in part, to:

- Additional staffing of specialized hospital services personnel at The Sharing Network.
- Increased donor-awareness educational programs, and a special

emphasis on minority outreach.

- A recent Medicare rule that requires hospitals to report all deaths or imminent deaths to their organ procurement organization.

These efforts resulted in a 51-percent overall consent rate for organ donation, an increase of 3 percent over the 48-percent consent rate reported in 1998.

"We are pleased that the donor family consent rate is slowly but surely rising, and we will continue our efforts to educate the public on the importance of not only registering to become an organ donor, but discussing the subject with your family as well," said Roth.

All New Jersey hospitals within The Sharing Network's service area participated with referrals and 63 out of 70 hospitals had an organ, tissue or eye donor, representing more cooperation by hospitals than ever before.

"However," said Roth, "the sad fact of the matter is that even with this success, there are still not enough organs donated to meet the need. We have a very diverse population in the state of New Jersey and some groups are not

contributing enough to meet the demand."

He pointed out that 1,800 people in New Jersey are on waiting lists with more than 70,000 people nationally. "The shortage of organs is at crisis levels," Roth said.

The Sharing Network stated that New Jersey statistics helped to dispel a myth that African-Americans are not the recipients of transplanted organs. New Jersey provides for minority transplants in proportion to the population. Of the transplants performed in New Jersey last year, 21 percent were received by African-Americans, 8 percent by Latino-Americans, 3 percent by Asian-Americans, 65 percent by Caucasians, and 3 percent by other races.

The Network also recovered record numbers for life-enhancing tissue donations with 105 bone donors, 72 hearts for valves, 67 skin and 320 eye donors.

"We are grateful to the donor families who made it possible for so many people to receive a second chance at life," said Roth, "and we will continue to work throughout 2000 to spread the

word about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation."

The Sharing Network is a non-profit, federally-certified, state-approved procurement organization responsible for the recovery of organs and tissue of transplant in New Jersey. If you are interested in becoming an organ donor, it's very important to make your wishes known to your family. For more information on how to become an organ donor or to join the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, call The Sharing Network at (800) SHARE-NJ or visit the website at www.sharingnj.org

The Sharing Network
Statistical Highlights

- Recovered 134 organ donors, a 28-percent increase over 1998.
- 444 life-saving transplants were performed in New Jersey last year, a 31-percent increase over 1998.
- Over the past 10 years, the actual number of life-saving transplants performed in New Jersey increased 195 percent.
- There were a total of 27,817 hospital referrals reported in 1999, a 43-percent increase over the 19,341 hospital referrals reported in 1998.
- In 1999, there was an overall

organ donor consent rate of 51 percent, up 3 percent from 1998.

- All hospitals within The Sharing Network's service area participated with referrals and 63 out of 70 hospitals had an organ, tissue or eye donor.
- 1,800 people remain on waiting lists in New Jersey for life-saving transplant operations. Nationally, the figure is 70,000.
- Record number of life-enhancing tissue donations were recovered in 1999 with 105 bone donors, 72 hearts for valves, 67 skin and 320 eye donors.

Initiative views pain as 'fifth vital sign'

"Pain is no longer an option" was one way to sum up the message from staff at Overlook Hospital who lectured at seminars conducted by the New Jersey Pain Initiative, supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The seminars were designed to help improve pain services and increase the standards of care throughout New Jersey, by educating hospitals and other health-care facilities about the most current, best practices in pain management.

The topics included barriers to effective pain management, classifying and assessing pain, pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic management of pain, and the needs of special populations. The information is timely now, because new Joint Commission standards for pain management become effective in 2001.

Because of its advanced work in pain management, Overlook Hospital is in a unique position to help in this statewide effort. "We're not just talking to help in our own neck of the woods, we're trying to effect change everywhere," said Dr. Andrew Kaufman, director of Summit Pain Management and Palliative Care. The acute pain management service was established at Overlook Hospital in 1997 to establish protocols and procedures for pain assessment and treatment. Inpatients suffering acute and chronic pain are referred to pain specialists to develop a plan of care. Overlook Hospital routinely treats pain as a fifth vital sign.

Dr. Kaufman heads the community Education and Advocacy Committee of the New Jersey Pain Initiative, and was on the seminar faculty along with Clinical Nurse Specialist Kathleen Boreale, who is on the Education Committee. Another pain specialist from Overlook, Nurse Practitioner Moira Kendra, also gives educational talks on

pain at health care facilities around the region.

The seminars served as a networking tool to engage health care facilities to work with the New Jersey Pain Initiative on starting up or improving their pain management programs. Almost 40 institutions around the state have already signed or submitted agreements with NJIP that call for concrete changes in their protocols and practices.

Under the agreement, the New Jersey Pain Initiative will send pain specialists to the facilities to educate core groups of physicians and nurses, who will then be responsible for ensuring that their entire staff understands and implements the new program. The specialists will follow the facilities' progress and serve as an ongoing information resource for them.

For more information on Overlook Hospital's Pain Management and Palliative Care Program, call (908) 598-0196.

Winner of the 1999 New Jersey Governor's Award for Performance Excellence — the highest state honor an organization can receive for quality and performance — Overlook Hospital is an Atlantic Health System 490-bed major teaching hospital in Summit. Home of New Jersey's first stereotactic radiosurgery program for the treatment of cancer, Overlook's specialty services include the Neuroscience Institute and Brain Tumor Center of New Jersey; the Valerie Center, a pediatric oncology cancer program; The Children's Medical Center of Atlantic Health System; a Chest Pain Center; the Same Day Surgery Center and Herma Center; and a Wound Care Center. Overlook also provides a Medicare-certified home care and hospice program, as well as maternity services and critical services to high-risk newborns at the new Frank and Mimi Walsh Maternity Center.

An outstanding volunteer



Shirley Higgins Bowers, vice president of Human Resources at Solaris Health System, right, congratulates Sophie Dickson, a volunteer at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, on achieving 15,500 hours during the facility's recent Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Dickson, 91, volunteers four days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., then returning to volunteer from 7 to 9 p.m. Offering additional congratulations are, from left, Mary Ann Keyes, vice president, Patient Care Services at Solaris Health System, and Patricia Stilo, director of Volunteer Services at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

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Accepting a check from the Union County Freeholders to the United Youth of New Jersey Inc. and African Community Together Inc. are Kenneth Brown, left, co-founder of the King and Queen Pageant together with Clara Goodridge, second from left; Charlotte V. Brown, fourth from left, president and co-founder of the United Youth of New Jersey Inc. and co-founder of the First African Heritage Day Parade in Elizabeth; and Georgia Jones-Orr, fourth from right, president of the African Community Together Inc. and co-founder of the parade committee. Freeholder Angel Estrada, third from left, Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella, second from right, and Freeholder Chester Holmes, right, represented the Union County Freeholders in presenting the check. Also on hand for the check presentation was Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, third from right.

Sunday's parade has Freeholders' support

Union County Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Freeholders Chester Holmes and Angel Estrada took the advice of the parade committee for the First African Heritage Day Parade, deciding to "be a part of the history in the making."

On behalf of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, they presented a check in the amount of \$7,500 to the United Youth of New Jersey Inc. and African Community Together Inc., at the King and Queen Ball, held at the Windfield Scott Ballroom. The organizations received funding for acting as hosts of this historic event in Elizabeth.

"The parade on Sunday, May 7, will highlight African heritage and cultures," said Mirabella. "The roster of participants is expected to include more than 3,000 individuals from our in-state area and as far away as Connecticut."

The parade will include:

- Marching bands from Weequahic and Malcolm X Shabazz high schools in Newark; Plainfield High School, and Jackie Robinson Marching Band, Brooklyn to name a few.
- Drill teams including those from Lafayette School 6 of Elizabeth and

the Forces of Triumph Step Team of Piscataway.

- Praise dancers from Elizabeth's Shiloh Baptist Church and New Generation.

- Marching units which include Elizabeth's M.O.C.H.A. Black Fire Fighters; City of Elizabeth SOAR and Elizabethport Little League.

- A mounted unit, known as The Black Heritage Riders.

"The most exciting group in the parade is the inclusion of four of the world famous Tuskegee Airmen," noted Estrada. "The Airmen are the only detachment never to lose a bomber that they escorted into the Jakk-filled skies of Europe and Africa during the Second World War."

In addition to the parade, WDL5-107.5 FM will be in front of Elizabeth City Hall playing music and featuring giveaways for the crowd.

The funds donated by the Freeholders are earmarked to pay for the parade-related expenses of youth groups which will be participating in the parade," stated Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan. "I'd like to express my congratulations to Joulaine Jean Paul, a student at Elizabeth High School, and Kedar Khalid

Ismail, a student at Matawan Regional High School, winners of the King and Queen Pageant, who will be waving to everyone from a float in the parade."

Chester Holmes, Freeholder liaison to the Union County Advisory Board on the Status of Minorities, said that presenting a resolution from the Freeholder Board honoring the United Youth of New Jersey Inc. and African Community Together Inc. at the King and Queen Ball was a special moment to him.

"Vice Chairman Mirabella and I were happy to present the check and resolution from the Freeholder Board at the ball," said Holmes. "Accepting them were Georgia Jones-Orr, president of the African Community Together Inc. and co-founder of the parade committee; Charlotte V. Brown, president and one of the founders of the United Youth of New Jersey and co-founder of the First African Heritage Day Parade; Clara Goodridge, A.C.T.'s treasurer and co-founder of the King and Queen Pageant together with Kenneth Brown."

Comcast Cable of Elizabeth will be videotaping the parade in its entirety.

Students' artwork tours area schools

Have residents been wondering where their children's artwork is? The Springfield School District is hosting a touring art show of student work. The compiled work is a sample of the best painting, printing, drawing, computer graphics, and multimedia within

a variety of classes per each grade level. The show includes work from Pre-K to high school and will be touring all of the schools and the board offices. The schedule is as follows:

- Jonathan Dayton High School, now to May 19.

— Springfield Board of Education Offices, May 22 to June 2.

Participating teachers are Holly Callahan, coordinator; Marilyn Schneider; Barbara Delkaris, and Suzanne Dobrowski.

Exhibit offers look at NJ buildings

The Member's Gallery of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit will be the site of an exhibition of recent paintings and digital prints by artist Liz Demaree.

The show runs from Sunday through June 9. An opening reception for the show will take place Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. The artist will be at the reception, which is free and open to the public.

In Demaree's words: "Buildings, especially houses, have their own stories." "Forgotten Places" are paintings and prints that reveal "the momentary capsule of an alternate reality." These works record stirring fragments of imagined passages observed in particular houses or buildings. Demaree's subjects, which are often rural structures in the path of urban sprawl, are recorded with photographs. She then transmits her quick "aide memoirs" — often shot from a moving car — into oil on canvas or computer-manipulated prints on rice paper. Representational in approach, Demaree's work combines a sensual use of paint with a haunting sense of place. These depictions evoke a mystery and wonder that only silent houses, brimming with their innumerable stories, can claim.

Demaree received a bachelor's degree from Ohio University and studied painting at the School of Visual Arts

and the Art Students League in New York City. Last year, her work was exhibited in 20 group shows around the country. She currently lives and works in South Orange.

Founded in 1933 by a dedicated group of local artists, NJCVA has evolved into a major regional art center. It has a full-scale art school taught by award-winning faculty. Recently cited by the *New York Times* as having "One of the Best" exhibits of the 1999 season, there are two interior galleries and an outdoor exhibition space/sculpture garden. NJCVA is the largest visual art center in the state, and is especially devoted to contemporary art. Programs include Artists with Disabilities, docent tours, lectures, demonstrations, art trips, workshops and other activities. The non-profit New Jersey Center for Visual Arts is wheelchair-accessible and is funded in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

The gallery is open Mondays to Fridays from noon to 4 p.m., Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information, call (908) 273-9121.



'Scenic Drive-by,' an oil on canvas, is among the works by South Orange artist Liz Demaree in 'Forgotten Places,' an exhibit Sunday through June 9 at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Auto show attendance breaks million

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

Some of the almost 1,000 motor vehicles presented at the recent New York International Auto Show garnered more attention than others by a near-record crowd.

Show organizers at the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association are tabulating attendance figures since the show's closing Sunday night. They are nevertheless confident that more than 1.2 million spectators passed through the turnstiles over a nine-day period.

Those who entered the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan between April 22 and Sunday came away with impressions of what the world's auto makers have to offer. Some vehicles, according to product specialists on the exhibit floor, left more lasting impressions than others.

"We've been getting a lot of interest in our new 2001 MDX sports utility vehicle," said Acura product specialist Karl Fischer. "The frame is all-new—the 2000 and previous models shared the same platform with the Honda Odyssey."

Auto product specialist Steven Ruffo said attendees have been asking them about the 2000 TT sports sedan. The distinctive front wheel drive vehicle is powered by a 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine and has room for the optional quattro all-wheel-drive system.

"A lot of attention is being paid to our all-new DeVille," said Cadillac product specialist Cliff Marston. "The DeVille has an infrared vision system which improves driving at night." Dodge had two models—the Viper GTSR concept car and 2000 Durango on separate floors.

On the main floor, product specialist Tiffany Jones pointed out the aerodynamic improvements, lighter weight and more horsepower on the latest version of the car which won the 24 Hours of Daytona endurance race last February. Downstairs, one of Jones' colleagues prefers to compare the Durango to the Chevrolet Blazer and Ford Explorer in size and power.

A car and an engine were Mazda's head-turners. The sports luxury Millennia 2000, with its Miller-cycle V6, has prompted inquiries from the show's start. Mazda announced during the show that it will bring back its latest version of the Wankel rotary engine in a production car by 2003, a two-door, 1.3-liter edition was housed in the RX-150 concept sports car at the show.

"We've been getting questions of our V70 and Cross Country models," said Volvo floor spokesman Cliff Marston. "The 2000 V70 has been redesigned and the Cross Country is an all-new all-wheel-drive sportswagon."

Things New Beetle still grab attention at Volkswagen. Exhibit visitors may learn about the second-generation 2-liter front-wheel-drive production model and the all-wheel-drive Dune concept car while waiting to pick up freshly-made 1/24th-scale plastic replicas.

Some visitors voted the New Beetle in a Poll Automotive poll as the top trend setter in the small car category and the Dodge Viper in the sports car category. In the nine-day poll conducted by Polk, the Dodge Viper GTSR came in second by the public in the concept category and VW's Passat and Jetta reigned second and third among the midsize and large cars.

BMW debuts its 330xi at New York Auto Show

The BMW 330xi made its world debut at the New York Auto Show signifying two important milestones.

This marks the reintroduction of an all-wheel-drive sedan to the BMW line-up and the introduction of the all-new 3.0-liter six-cylinder engine first seen in the X5 3.0i to the 3 Series line.

New York was also the site of three North American debuts: an all-new M3 coupe; the Z9 Gran Turismo concept car; and the 2001 7 Series.

Using technology borrowed from the X5 3.0i, the 330xi combines the traction of all-wheel-drive with the driving spirit of the 3 Series. Traction is enhanced with a version of Dynamic Stability Control, known as DSC-X, developed specifically for all-wheel-drives. BMW is the first and only manufacturer in the segment to offer the combination of all-wheel-drive and an electronic stability control program. With the all-new 3.0-liter in-line six-cylinder engine producing 225 hp — a 17-percent increase

over the 2.8 — the 330xi's performance will approach that of the previous M3.

The all-new M3 blends technological innovation and truly mind-boggling performance. The new 3.3-liter engine offers an estimated 330 horsepower, up a staggering 37 percent, and 255 lb-ft of torque, up 8 percent. Mated to a six-speed manual transmission, the M3 will reach 60 mph in approximately five seconds. With its M Style front spoiler, flared fenders, M trademark four-core exhaust tips and aluminum hood with "power dome," the performance potential of the new M3 immediately catches the eye.

The Z9 Gran Turismo concept car features the long hood and short rear deck that have become hallmarks of BMW's sport car design. Beneath the elegant carbon fiber body panels resides an aluminum spaceframe chassis offering both extraordinary rigidity and light weight. The full-

length gull-wing doors, which have conventional front-opening doors built in, open to a masterfully simple, uncluttered driving environment. Instead of the usual array of buttons, switches and levers, the dashboard houses only the starter button and light switches. A unique control knob — with corresponding in-dash TV monitor — resides in the center console and operates several hundred separate functions for both the driver and passenger.

BMW entered the U.S. market in 1975. Since then, the company has grown to include marketing, sales and financial service organizations in the United States; a South Carolina manufacturing operation; a design firm in California; a technology office in Palo Alto, and various other operations throughout the country. BMW is represented in the United States through a network of more than 340 car, 300 Sports Activity Vehicle and 160 motorcycle retailers.

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LeSabre enjoys a rich history

The 1950s were a decade for expressive style by American automakers. General Motors was the styling leader, and the 1951 LeSabre concept car exemplified that role. This "dream car" embodied GM's capacity for exciting styling and breakthrough engineering. Although many features from the show car never made it into family sedans, the LeSabre name would live on.

As the 1950s came to a close, Buick introduced a completely restyled line of vehicles. The 1959 model year featured the all-new LeSabre. Invents, Electra and Electra 225. In the first year of production, Buick sold 165,577 LeSabres, nearly 60 percent of the total vehicles sold by the division. Styling on the 1959 car was not quite as exciting as the 1951 dream car, but huge tail fins were dramatic for a family vehicle and a sign of the times. A more sculptured appearance, with the sharp fins of 1959 trimmed and rounded, was offered for 1960.

With that auspicious start, LeSabre became a mainstay at Buick. In many years, it has been the division's number-one selling line. In the 40 years since its introduction, LeSabre has rolled up an impressive sales total exceeding six million. In fact, it has been the number-one selling full-sized car in the United States for the last six years.

LeSabre's performance in independent studies helped spark the resurgence of Buick's quality reputation beginning in the late 1980s.

In 1989, J.D. Power and Associates, a California-based market research firm, gave LeSabre — and Buick — a big boost. It ranked LeSabre No. 1 domestic and No. 2 among 154 domestic and import models sold in the United States in terms of fewest customer-reported problems in the first 90 days of ownership. In Power's Initial Quality Study,

By 1991, Buick could boast that only two automakers in the world had finished in the top 10 in all J.D. Power quality, customer satisfaction and sales satisfaction studies over three straight years — Buick and Mercedes-Benz.

Over the years, LeSabre has been offered in many models: coupes, sedans, convertibles and station wagons. The model was rear-wheel drive through 1985 and became front drive in the 1986 model year. But the consistent themes across the models and across the years have been comfort and versatile, roomy interiors, numerous

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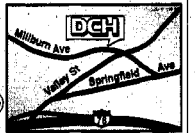
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