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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1999 - SECTION B

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Responsibility of a generation

The movie "Tea with Mussolini" paints a romantic view of the beauty of Florence Singer Andrea Buccelli is so hot that his songs in the native tongue are featured on TV and in commercials.

Frustration as a form of painting is back in vogue. "Nostalgia with the father's country is running high. Did my grandfather make a mistake coming to this country? Should I have been a lawyer in Basilicata? I don't think so."

Left Out

By Frank Caprice

Mountaineer Major Robert Vigilant was gracious last week in sharing memories with me on the immediate experience. He shares the appreciation that both coming to the shores by our forefathers was both and wonderful. His father's family grew up outside of Rome.

"They owned a farm, but times were so hard that they did without themselves to self-feed. When his parents came to America, Vigilant's father worked in a shop, so that his uncles could be educated.

"They truly followed the dream that they would all work hard so that their kids would be better off than they were."

But like so many, the dream came with a price. The mayor speaks sadly of the overt prejudice, the vicious names his parents and his many others faced. But almost in hammer home the results, he points to the educational accomplishments of his brothers and many others of the second generation.

Peter Macri of Westfield is active in UNICO activities. Though he has visited the homeland five times, he says, "family working America, that's what is home."

I asked these men about the HBO show "The Sopranos." It is becoming something of a line in the sand for Italo-Americans, with their portrayals of gangsters. Vigilant concluded he had watched the show, but he really started to dislike it when I told him it was a crime. Macri used the word like "offensive and terrible."

I like better the words of Anthony Marignetti, a national chairman of UNICO, who wrote that Italo-Americans have a "special duty" indeed, a special obligation to assure that those sacrifices will never again be offered at the sacrificial lamb-upon the altar of the demagogues.

Jean-Marie of Roselle Park recently reminded me that we get older, some of the first generations have passed away. Not only should we make it.

See MAKE, Page B2



Photo by Barbara Kooklin

U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., center, speaks to seniors about telemarketing scams during a visit to the Pelierstown Community Center in Elizabeth. Loidy, Freeholder George Stender, left, and Louis Melillo, president of the Retired Men and Ladies Club of Elizabeth, look on.

Senator speaks to seniors

By Mark Hyman, Regional Editor

You fill out an application form, hoping to win an all-expense-paid trip to the Caribbean on a brand new car. Your next phone bill arrives and, without notification, you realize your long-distance company has been changed and the new is charging you substantially higher rates.

It's called scamming. Many people fill out contest forms and unknowingly give authorization to scammers. These and other schemes were discussed Monday when U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., visited with senior citizens at the Pelierstown Community Center in Elizabeth. Seniors and elected officials shared stories and solutions to telemarketing schemes and other crimes aimed at duping seniors.

Torricelli described new legislation he has introduced — the Seniors Safety Act of 1999 — aimed at curbing crimes against seniors in the health care and telemarketing fields.

While crime rates in general are falling in most of the U.S., crimes against seniors in some categories are increasing, said Torricelli. These are

not crimes that meet you on the street.

The senator spoke to about 30 seniors and a handful of city and county officials about how to get the word out to seniors to be aware of these types of crimes.

"It used to be a fun-fun on the streets," said Elizabeth Police Chief Jack Simon. "You could walk out for 10 min. in the streets, but these days there are using any means they can including phones and the Internet."

Torricelli's legislation will allow the U.S. Department of Justice to require common carriers to block and terminate the phone services of numbers being used for telemarketing fraud.

"People receive phone calls and are offered deals 'too good to be true' or 'something for nothing,' the senator said. In some instances, callers use credit card numbers or request money to be forwarded in order to claim a prize. Torricelli stressed that there is no reason to give personal information such as credit card or Social Security numbers over the phone.

Elizabeth Police Officers Dennis Canale, who oversees the city neighborhood watch program,

demonstrated a device which attaches to a phone and can deal with unwanted telemarketers. When the phone is answered, the push of a button initiates a recording which notifies the telemarketer that the number they dialed does not accept telemarketing calls and advises the caller to remove the number from their database.

Another scheme involves a phony phone company representing calling and requesting to accept the bills. People are asked to hang up and dial "9" and the "9" button. This technology can allow access to a person's long distance service.

"We don't want people to be afraid in their own homes," Torricelli said. "We just want them to be alert."

Several seniors shared stories of receiving collect calls daily from state prisons. Officials also warned of people who receive pages from international phone numbers. When the person paged dials the phone number that appeared, they are charged as much as \$23 for making an international call.

The Seniors Safety Act of 1999 includes other measures, as well, including neighborhood watch programs and fraud in the health care field, particularly at during home care.

Other initiatives included in the legislation are:

- Creating new federal criminal and civil penalties for nursing home operators or companies using federal funds that engage in a pattern of health and safety violations in care of individuals in nursing homes.
- Directing the Attorney General of the United States to examine crimes against seniors to carry in the development of new crime fighting strategies.

Torricelli also has proposed legislation that would provide grant of up to \$1,050 to assist in purchasing equipment such as cellular phones, bagels, and radios needed to start a neighborhood watch group.

New signage on tap

By Mark Hyman, Regional Editor

People traveling throughout Union County can expect to see some new signage along county paths, roads and other services, possibly by the end of the year. The Board of Local Freeholders is expected to approve a six-month, \$45,000 agreement with Media Squared to implement a new graphic and thematic image devoted to protecting a new identity for the county.

Representatives from Media Squared presented the preliminary design of new signage during a meeting earlier this month. The company aims to create a cohesive theme for the county through graphics and a color palette to "give a sense of pride," said Brian Casner, vice president of Media Squared. The signage, which will appear on all county vehicles, signs, and other services, will be implemented by the end of the year. The company's design and branding manager said design standards for county signage have been laid out.

Freeholder Chairman Scott said he hopes new signs may be installed by the fall.

Lawrence said it is important to have a branding when entering the county, to represent "toward looking county that has a very obvious uniform and respect to you. The flexibility of the logo was important in order to be visible in the future and to evolve and grow over time."

According to Casner, according to Frank Stenberg of Media Squared, the fact that the public still does not know what a freeholder or freeholder board is.

The campaign aims to convey the value of county government and to make it more visible to the community, said Casner.

Stenberg said there is still much coordination to be done. Some of the things to be done include identifying the county's colors, identifying the county's logo, and identifying the county's theme. The county's branding manager said the county's logo will be used for different purposes, such as blue for county police and red for county college. County signs will be consistent throughout the county, said Casner.

In addition to consistent signage, there can be what freeholder Linda Stender called "sign pollution." There seems to be an attached feeling to many signs that a county puts signs with signs looking people don't stop with the signs. She suggested the possibility of placing one sign on a call containing all signs.

When Freeholder Dan Sullivan first started on the freeholder board, he was trying to design signs that we're doing. We had the idea of having a sign that we're doing. We had the idea of having a sign that we're doing. We had the idea of having a sign that we're doing.

"This is the type of thing that can get called to death," said Sullivan.

The problem in the past said Sullivan was having the freeholders decide on designs. That is the reason why it hasn't been done in 30 years.

"We need to do these things for people to understand what county government does," said Freeholder Lewis Mungo.

During the implementation phase, which will begin in the summer, the county will work with county departments and other agencies to identify signs that are needed in different departments and then design signs. The county sign shop will produce the signs which take approximately 45 minutes to construct.

During phase three, said Devaney, the county will expand and standardize phase one and two. He actually is planning to expand the program to include all constitutional offices under one umbrella.

Design work to be authorized

By Mark Hyman, Regional Editor

More than \$1.5 million in engineering services contracts will be awarded by the Board of Local Freeholders to design work and traffic signage on several county roads.

Freeholder Don Devaney expressed his concern last week over awarding professional service contracts without getting some type of competitive bid from other vendors. Professional service contracts do not have to be legally bid. Several of the companies were the sole bidders for a particular job. Engineering officials said they were confident in the selected companies' abilities, and prices.

"I think we will all in agreement when we decide to move construction projects, along in the county," Freeholder Vice-Chairman Dan Sullivan said. He said the county has never gone out to "give bids" on professional services contracts.

Professional services contracts for engineering design services are expected to be awarded to the following companies:

- Louis Berger & Associates of East Orange, \$93,041 for design and improvements at the intersection of the South Avenue, Central Ave. and Convent.
- Keller and Kirkpatrick Inc. of Parsippany, \$58,065 for traffic analysis and intersection design at Broad/McClellens, Broad Street and Ashwood and Morris avenues, and Summit/DeForest avenues in Summit.
- A Maine Group of Mount Holly, \$119,286 for engineering design services for the construction of the Springfield Avenue bridge in Cranford.
- JCA Associates Inc. of Clark, \$130,010 for engineering design services for Union Avenue Bridge over Greenbrook in Stockton Plains.
- Harbor Consultants of Cranford, \$52,400 for engineering design services for reconstruction of

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Police target unbuckled kids

Beginning Monday, police departments throughout Union County joined thousands of agencies nationwide in the next wave of the Operation ABC Mobilization — **Amend Buckles Up Children** — declaring zero tolerance for drivers with unbuckled kids. Throughout the week leading up to Memorial Day, drivers who don't buckle up children will be stopped and enforcement action will be taken.

"It's time for zero tolerance because despite laws requiring children to ride buckled up in New Jersey and in every state, six out of 10 children killed in crashes are unbuckled," said Union County Police Lt. Jeff Koullos, county traffic safety coordinator.

"Tragically 28 children died in traffic crashes last year in New Jersey and of that number 19 were unrestrained. Many of these deaths would have been prevented if the driver had just seen to it that the child was buckled up.

More than 2,000 children die in traffic crashes nationwide each year, making it the leading cause of death for children. Another 300,000 children are injured in crashes.

See POLICE, Page B2

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COUNTY NEWS

PTA Council to conduct information meeting

The Union County PTA Council will hold an information meeting...

FEMALE to explore part-time employment

Ms. [Name] is exploring part-time employment opportunities...

Union County Board of Education... The Board of Education...

At the meeting, several speakers... The meeting was held...

County council of PTAs conduct annual dinner

The annual meeting of the PTA Council was held...

Blood drives scheduled

The American Red Cross is sponsoring blood drives...

Police launch Operation ABC

Operation ABC is a program to reduce alcohol-related incidents...

YM-YWHA plans summer trip to Los Angeles

The YM and YWHA are planning a summer trip to Los Angeles...



The Victim Witness Advocacy Unit of the Union County Prosecutor's Office hosted an open house...

Design work to begin on various roads

Design work is set to begin on several roads in Union County...

Miskiewicz to fill term on board of UCA

Mr. Miskiewicz will be filling the term on the board of UCA...

Make sure they're laughing with you. A President of Cranford, Frank Caprice is an attorney.

Art Crafts Nomahegan Park, Cranford. Springfield Ave, across from Union County College. June 5-6.

Shield Raingutter System. Spend your time doing the things that count. Not countless things. 20% OFF any complete Shield or conventional gutter installation.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Singer's voice hits Springfield like a breath of spring

By Dea Smith
Staff Writer

A number of years ago, the internationally famous Leonard Bernstein approached diva Jeannette Paglia, now of Springfield, who had just completed a concert, and gave her one of the most thrilling compliments of her life. He said: "Your voice is like a breath of spring that hit Broadway." And then he presented her with a bouquet of roses.

Paglia, whose beauty still sparkles at the age of 90, and whose operatic voice still causes tremors throughout her home whenever she reaches a high note, performs now only when the stars feature operatic and musical stars. There is a vast world of her home in Springfield which reads "The Jeannette Paglia Voice Culture Studio," and she tours international opera, concert and musical comedy.

"I teach everything including how to dress, how to sit, how to walk — I give my students culture, explained Paglia in a firm, melodic voice, during a visit to her extraordinarily lovely home, in which famous paintings and photographs adorn the walls and concert memorabilia overtake all the rooms in her home. "With the aid of a walker, she manages to find her way, particularly to her piano, from which she offered some excerpts from familiar airs to the delight of her two-week audience. "I've studied all 'my life," she said. "I got a scholarship to Vassar School of Music in Manhattan and took lessons from the biggest professors in New York. I remember one of my professors said, 'You have a voice better than Rosa Ponselle,' who, herself, was a diva in her day."

Recently, Paglia, who had been dubbed "The Angel of Song" many years ago, was honored at a ceremony in "The Italian Music Festival" in New York, and she also was acclaimed during her summer stock performance of "The Nightingale." "I've done a lot of concert work in



Jeannette Paglia still singing in her Springfield home. Photo by Milton Miles

my life — more than opera. Work, work, work! You don't get anything for nothing, and I happen to love it of course," Paglia grinned. "Also, I happened to have a mother who was very influential."

Born in Altoona, Pa., Paglia is the daughter of the late well-known Shakespearean actor F. A. DeBorja, and her mother, Carmella Cuzzolin, was a prominent civic figure in Altoona. "She was the Pearl Mustie of the town," said Paglia. "She was very active — talking care of the citizens. And that's how it started. She began showing the gift to all the prominent people when I was a child. And he helped to know that the attorney general of Pennsylvania was godfather to my brother, Anthony. Charles DiMarmata.

"I had studied privately with meisters and a French teacher, who was quite fond of me," Paglia recalled. "She used to hear me sing and she

would say, 'I never got enough of your voice.' She took me under her wing. Soon, I was a prima donna on the radio. Every Friday night the Italian Princess would sing. One night my accompanist couldn't get there because of a snow storm, so I sat down, and I played the piano, and I accompanied myself."

Paglia said that "I met an awful lot of people in my life — as a professional. And some of them were very influential. I remember once a friend of mine who had written an opera, wanted me to present his opera, and she invited Leonard Bernstein to the Plaza Hotel in New York City, and during the performance, her friend looked at me and said, 'Who did that job on your throat?' and I answered, 'God did.'"

Paglia explained that after "I sang in Lullaby, at the Met for famous, famous, I started to get a name for myself. And pretty soon had a lot of

concert work, more than opera. During that time, I lived in Boston for a long time."

U. Arto Plamondon has listed Paglia in his "Who's Who of the Italian of America." Her concerts include a Command Performance before Cardinal Bojardis of Rome; the Forum of the Muses in the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, where Paglia received "The Forum of the Muses Award" for the Best Concert Singer of the Year. And she also appeared at the International Public Relations Forum at the Overseas Press Club, at Town Hall and Carnegie Hall.

"I made my debut at Town Hall," she said. "And when I hit a high note at Carnegie Hall," Paglia exclaimed, "the note touched the chandelier, and they said I broke the chandelier at Carnegie Hall."

Paglia has performed in Canada,



Jeannette Paglia in her heyday. Courtesy of Capital Records

Brazil and Australia, and she has contributed to television, radio and charitable events. Among her recent albums is "The Cappuccino's" which Jeannette Paglia has recorded in Celestial Dramatic Songs. Among the musical numbers in the album are "Viva D'Arto," from "Tosca," "Love Here Is My Heart," "L'Edicola," "Because," "Un Bel Di Vedremo" from "Madame Butterfly," "Non Ti Scurdar Di Me," "Be My Love" and "Ave Maria" from "Gounod."

"One Christmas Eve, while she was in the hospital, a choir sang in the hallway "Oh, Holy Night." I sang along with them. And the head nurse called me up and asked me to sing every Christmas Carol that I knew. And everyone, patients, nurses, doctors, they all gathered around me. What a night that was."

"I'm 90 years old," she said proudly, "and still going strong."

"Ave Maria," in church. And all you would see were the handkerchiefs going up. And I can't tell you," Paglia finished her special smile. "Nobody sings Ave Maria like me. Nobody."

Paglia, who has resided in Springfield for the past 12 years, said that there has always been a waiting list, among her students. "I was very patient with a lot of students. I had more than I could handle, and to this day, I'm still saying 'I'll put you on the waiting list. I have taught children of royalty. I have taught children of some of my students, and I still have the sign that says 'Houses Sold Out.' And many of them had become professionals in opera, theater and concert. That makes me very proud. A lot of wonderful things have happened to me throughout my life. And they are still happening."

"I'm 90 years old," she said proudly, "and still going strong."

Playful Mandy Patinkin returns to NJ Performing Arts Center

By Ruth Kiss
Correspondent

At a few minutes past 8 o'clock on Saturday evening, the chandelier in Presidential Hall began its ascent and the bright lights faded to black. Suddenly, on stage, a single light bulb went on and a disembodied voice, accompanied by a lone pianist, floated through the vast auditorium.

Then, for a full two-and-a-half hours, Tony and Emmy Award-winning actor and Broadway's master singer Mandy Patinkin, held the attention of the entire hall. Accompanied by his longtime collaborator Paul Furber, Patinkin presented a tribute to some of America's greatest composers and lyrics and, as always, threw in a few surprises.

Patinkin is probably best known to audiences as most of Jeffrey Geiger on the television series, "Chicago Hope," to which has recently returned after a hiatus of several years. On the

season's cliff-hanger finale, he assumed the reins of Chicago Hope and promptly fired almost everybody on the staff!

Last seen at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in December, 1997, last summer Patinkin debuted "Mandelstam," a program of traditional, classic and contemporary songs sung in Yiddish, in a sold-out off-Broadway engagement which was followed by an acclaimed Broadway run and, finally, his appearance at NIPAC's 15th weekend with the tenth of a 12-concert national tour.

Patinkin regaled his adoring audience with a wide variety of music, from Eddie Cantor-like "Sam, You Made Me the Paris Too Long" and "When the Red, Red Robin Comes Rubbing" to "Along" to Al Jolson-like renditions of "Rock-a-Bye Your Baby With a Dixie Melody," "Swanee" and "Mammy." He also performed songs from "Into the Woods" and "Sunday in the Park with George." Stephen Sondheim musicals in which he starred.

"An' t'ing Patinkin sang really first in Chopin's 'Minute Waltz' and had the audience up on its feet to dance the 'Hockey Puck' to his accompaniment in Yiddish. And his rendition of 'Trouble' from 'The Music Man' was no less than masterful as he got his tongue around the words at a very fast tempo. He slowed down proceedings with a beautiful rendition of 'If I Loved You' from 'Carousel' and a lovely melody that included 'Where or When' and 'You Are Things in Chalkboard' from 'The House and Reminded everyone what a wonderful Jean Valjean he could be in movie producers like show."

"A few funny moments ensued with Patinkin, singing a funny Chaplin song, pressed up some of the lyrics. The audience probably didn't notice, but he rubbed his hands together to go back to the place where he made the mistake and to sing it correctly. Then, after he finished up another song, three times, he said, 'I gave the audience a lesson that it's all right to make a mistake!'"

The surprise Patinkin had up his sleeve was a performance of several songs from an album he set to record which was for release in October, "Wind, Kithula" — a combination of "Wind" and "Kithula" — the album will be an assortment of songs that will appeal to children of all ages, of all ages. Stephen Sondheim put it, "the kid in every adult."

One interesting combination he performed was "Japanese Sandman" and Harry Chapin's "Sandman." "Cat in the Hat" and "Swingin' in the Stars" and "Nothing's Gonna Happen You" into from the album. He concluded his show with "Over the

Rainbow" and "Puffin' on the Ritz." The audience Patinkin received from the audience was returned in spirits. He seemed touched by the warm reception he got, especially several standing ovations in response to his performance. Patinkin's way with a lyric is unparalleled. He really "feels" a song and communicates its meaning to his listeners by both the body English and his first-class mastery of a voice. "Just as he did his spoken dialogue, he has a sense of rhythm and he is able to make the lower notes better. He managed to spit out lyrics at such a rapid rate and with clarity, that it was as surprising that he ever said, 'God bless you,' to an audience member who sneezed while he was singing."

Motivated by the horrific events in Kosovo and Littleton, Colo., Patinkin made a plea to his audience at the end of the concert for funds to be donated to organizations: the international relief organization Doctors Without Borders and PAX — The Latin word for "peace" — a group of entrepreneurs, businessmen and politicians determined to stop gun violence. After reading some information about the two organizations, he brought out a cardboard box and announced that he would spend in the lobby any personally thank everyone who contributed. There he did: for over an hour, as the 2,150 ticket-holders dropped money for the cause and shook his hand. To date, his pitch has collected over \$100,000 to be divided between the two organizations.

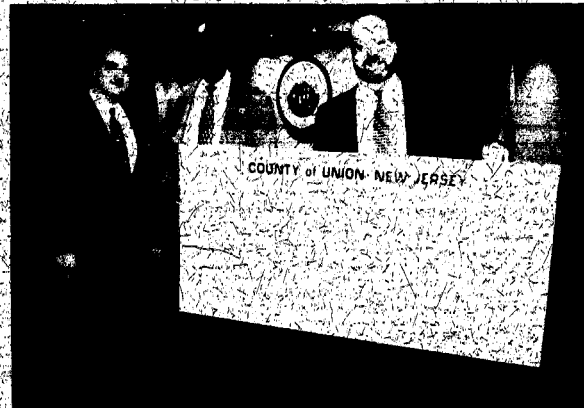
Such a generous gesture on the part of the audience members was a very small contribution to make for a wonderful evening of song! And Mandy Patinkin's special performance was the icing on the cake of a great night. What a winning combination on the part of both!

Freeholders show support for arts center

Countless individuals love the theater. Concerts featuring their favorite rock and roll bands or the latest country and western singer, or revivals of some of the most popular shows ever to hit the Great White Way make many an individual want to stop off for a night at the theater. Before the Union County Arts Center in Rahway opened, there were few options for mostly professional theater. You could take the car, spend on gas, tolls and parking, most likely in Manhattan, or perhaps stand in the heat or cold, rain or shine at a train station or bus stop for the theater trip. Add to that the cost of things like cab rides and more for the theater after because you had a longer trip home and you have one expensive evening, and that's before you figure in the cost of commercial theater tickets.

The Union County Board of Chaperons is dedicated to keeping the arts alive, well and affordable in Union County. They demonstrate their commitment through donations, including their latest check, which was in the amount of \$75,000 to the Union County Arts Center. Financial assistance such as this enables the arts center to raise a corporation which is dedicated to presenting the best in the performing arts, to aim for the highest level of art programming, to attract the best in Union County and the entire region.

"The money, which will go into the arts center's general operating fund, will keep the arts accessible to as large a percentage of our people



From left, Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari and Freeholder Chester Holmes present a copy of the real check for Union County Arts Center in Rahway to UCAC Executive Director Joseph A. Manduca.

and, indeed, Freeholder Chester Holmes, said. "This donation from the Freeholder Board (for fiscal year 1998-99) will enable the arts center to provide the best in the performing arts, to aim for the highest level of art programming, to attract the best in Union County and the entire region."

"The money, which will go into the arts center's general operating fund, will keep the arts accessible to as large a percentage of our people

as possible. The Union County Arts Center for the past 50,000 people into Union County annually. Due to part of the generosity of the Freeholders, the programming of the center, presently by the county, has grown from a few shows to an increase in attendance of the arts center."

The Freeholder Board gave the funding to the arts center and a Board

which recognized that many individuals in the Rahway and Littleton, Colo., areas who had to be evacuated from their homes. "I believe that you are the best of the best," said Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari. "Whether you enjoy the arts, the Union County Arts Center is a place where you can enjoy the arts. The Union County Arts Center is a place where you can enjoy the arts. The Union County Arts Center is a place where you can enjoy the arts."

Audiobooks appeal to a busy literary audience

With the endless demands of work and family, it's difficult to find the time to read a good book. That is one of the reasons why so many Americans have turned to audiobooks while traveling, jogging or working out.

In 11 years, the Audio Publishers Association membership has grown from 12 companies to 200, and audiobooks have grown from a \$250 million industry to nearly \$2 billion.

The basic concept of recorded books goes all the way back to 1877. Among Thomas Edison's many patented inventions was the inked phonograph — he listed "phonograph books which will speak to blind people" as one of the more significant uses of his innovation.

However, Edison's phonograph was especially practical, it used 78 rpm records, which held only four minutes per side of recorded material. Since the average Talking Book is 15 hours long, a listener would have to contend with 90 of the 78 rpm records to read just one book!

In 1933, engineers working for the American Foundation for the Blind created a more durable and practical long playing record — the Talking Book. Interestingly, while blind people had access to this improved technology almost immediately, the long-playing record was not introduced to the general public until after World War II when the materials used in the manufacturing process were no longer needed for the war effort.

Today, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress oversees the entire Talking Book program, which now includes several organizations around the country that "copy and duplicate books, onto cassette tapes."

Sixty-five years after introducing what was then a groundbreaking invention, the Talking Books program is again looking toward the future, setting in motion a plan to replace traditional analog recording with digital technology. In fact, AFB's Talking Books studio in New York City, has already turned to digital recording technology to produce audiobooks and other materials for the commercial market and non-profit organizations.

"As a blind person, I know the impact that Talking Books have had in my life," says AFB President Carl B. Anderson. "I understand whether it's long hours of listening in a small hall or 25 years ago, but the impact that work would have on how many people throughout the world would benefit from their vision."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Museum Guide

The Museum Guide is compiled by Worrall Community Newspapers. It is a list of museums and historic sites in Union County and the surrounding area. To add to the list, send the relevant information to Worrall Community Newspapers, c/o Post-Dispatch, 1200 N. 7th St., Union, N.J. 07085.

- Little Lord Fauntleroy Museum & Farmstead, 34 Horseshoe Road, Berkeley Heights. Open 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month from April through December. Or by appointment. Call (908) 464-0961.
- Dr. William Robinson Plantation Museum, 593 Madison Hill Road, Clark. Open 1-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month from April through December. Call (732) 341-3081.
- Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 Union Ave. N., Cranford. Open 2-4 p.m. Sundays from September through June, or by appointment. Call (908) 276-0682.
- Belcher-Olden Mansion, 1046 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. By appointment only. Call (908) 351-2500.
- Boxwood Hall, 1078 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (201) 684-2540.
- Woodcraft Home and Studio Museum, 11 Grant St., Hillsdale. Open 1-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month or by appointment. Call (908) 352-4270.
- Decatur Andrew Higfield House, Constitution Plaza, 1385 Route 22, Monticello. By appointment only. Call (908) 232-8608.
- Fralishie Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Monticello. Call (908) 704-3070.
- The Saltbush House, 1358 Springfield Ave., New Providence. Open 1-3 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of the month, and 10 a.m. to noon on each Thursday of the month. Call (908) 464-0163.
- Drake House Museum, 602 W. Front St., Plainfield. Open 2-4 p.m. on Sundays. Call (908) 758-5811.
- Merchants and Drivers Tavern, 1632 St. Georges Ave., Rahway. By appointment only. Call (908) 271-2811.
- Abraham Clark House, 10 West Ninth Street at Chestnut Street, Roselle. By appointment only. Call (908) 486-1383.
- Roselle Park Museum, 9 West Grant Ave. and Chestnut Street, Roselle. Park is open Mondays from 7 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (908) 245-1276.
- Osborn Cannonball House, 1840 Front St., Scotch Plains. Open 2-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. Call (908) 233-9165.
- The Cannonball House, 126 Klump Ave., Springfield. By appointment only. Call (201) 379-2634.
- Donfield B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. Open 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday. Call (201) 376-4930.
- Benjamin Carter House, 90 Butler Park Way, Summit. Open 9:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays, 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 2-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. Or by appointment. Call (908) 277-1247.
- Hayes-Rood Arboretum, 265 Hobart Ave., Summit. Grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk. Office is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Call (908) 278-8787.
- Caldwell-Parsagona, 909 Caldwell Ave., Union. Open 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month or by appointment. Closed December and January. Call (908) 687-8129.
- Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. Open 2-5 p.m. on Sundays from September through June and 2-4 p.m. on Sundays in January and February, or by appointment. Call (908) 232-1776.
- Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenstone Park. By appointment only. Call (908) 527-4911.

Be mindful of the present in 'The Phantom Menace'

Sixteen years ago, writer/director George Lucas gave us 'Return of the Jedi,' the third part of the 'Star Wars' trilogy, but actually Episode Six of the overall 'Star Wars' saga. The popularity of 'Star Wars' died down for a while, only to break again with the release of new novels, new action figures and eventually new specially enhanced versions of all three 'Star Wars' movies.

All that was really left for Lucas to do was get on the ball and make Episodes One, Two and Three of the 'Star Wars' saga, telling how Luke's father became the evil Darth Vader and how the evil Empire took over a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

Has it been worth the wait? Of course, Lucas finally has access to the computer-effects technology he didn't have for the other movies. The special effects are all amazing and fine eye and ear candy.

Two Jedi Knights, Qui-Gon Jinn, played by Liam Neeson, and Obi-Wan Kenobi, played by Ewan McGregor, have to save the peaceful planet Naboo, which has been annexed by the evil Trade Federation. They rescue the young Queen Amidala, portrayed by Natalie Portman, and meet up with Anakin Skywalker, portrayed by Jake Lloyd, a nine-year-old child genius who may be The One prophesied to bring balance to the Force.

Popular characters from the other movies, such as the plucky R2-D2, the nervous C-3PO, the wise Yoda and the gargantuan Jabba the Hutt, all only have brief cameos in the movie.

Jar Jar Binks, a completely computer-generated character invented by Ahmed Best. He speaks in what sounds like a mix of Pig Latin and Jamaican accent, and does his over-the-top humor to appeal to the little kids in the audience. He constantly saying "How-ru?" reminded this reviewer of Stephanie Tanner from the sitcom "Full House."

Unlike the other parts, this time the good guys are only fighting for the freedom of one planet instead of the whole galaxy. Despite this rather limited scope, however, Lucas, who wrote, and directed for the first time since the

Fade In

By Robert Cockley Staff Writer

original 'Star Wars' gives us some amazing scenes that will probably go down in movie history.

An incredibly fast-pod race happens in the middle of the movie, where various aliens and only one human, Anakin, race for their freedom. Think "Ben-Hur" with turbo-chargers.

Also, the lightsaber duel at the end of the movie is amazing. Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan must battle Darth Maul, played by Ray Park, a sleek but deadly Sith Lord, with a double-bladed lightsaber and a face that looks like a cross between Marilyn Manson and Gene Simmons of Kiss. The three-way duel, complete with opera-like music, batonless fists and appropriate cries of "NO!" is so far the best of all the lightsaber duels throughout 'Star Wars.'

The movie isn't quite perfect. Casting the nine-year-old Lloyd as Anakin seems to have been done just to appeal to the nine-year-olds. His Marjorie-Jane sweetness overshadows the fore-shadowing that he is supposed to grow up to become the evil Darth Vader.

Portman does double duty as both the regal queen and a humble farm maiden, giving a nod to the literary classic, "The Prince and the Pauper." While Portman also is sweet, both her characters lack the sarcastic snark Carrie Fisher gave Princess Leia.

As Qui-Gon says at the beginning of the movie, "Be mindful of the present, not the future." Lucas obviously wants us to focus on the movie, not what is to come. There is the slightly annoying feeling that all the really stuff isn't going to happen until Episodes Two and Three, but 'The Phantom Menace' is a shining star in the 'Star Wars' galaxy. It seems we may have to wait until 2002, the year 'Episode Two' comes out, to see a supernova.



Jason Malletman Taylor

The 'Malletman' produces another 'Vibrafunk' hit

Music Notes

Jason Malletman Taylor of Hillsdale is back in the groove with a new two-track CD release, "Vibrafunk," dedicated to his 16th birthday celebrating a special anniversary.

Fresh from a 1998 Grammy nomination for his Christmas release, featuring "The Christmas Song" and "Natas Jan," Taylor's newest Mallet Records release, recorded at DML Studios in East Orange includes the title track and "Happy Anniversary," dedicated to his 16th birthday celebrating a special anniversary," according to Malletman.

By Jocque McCarthy Associate Editor

Justin Weeks, who says of anniversaries, "You only get one of these, like once every year, so live it up."

Unfortunately, once a year is about all we hear from Malletman. Hopefully, this talented musician will soon grace record stores with more evidence of his unique style.

Taylor recently performed at Sam Goody on Route 22 in Springfield. He will be featured in the July 1999 issue of Just For Black Men magazine. "Vibrafunk" is available at Sam Goody's and Compact Disc World.

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Artists determined to create, tour 'The Digital Canvas'

Through June 24, Union County College's Tomasso Gallery will be host to "The Digital Canvas." The exhibit consists of the work of 12 different artists who have each produced computer-generated paintings. The final display is mixed media and the mission of the project was to demonstrate what professional artists who worked with the digital process, as well as painters, printmakers and photographers, could produce with the digital art process. Thus, all the pieces in the exhibit were printed on a Hewlett Packard by Epson printer.

"The Digital Canvas" has been traveling since October 1997 to galleries at Kent State, Trumbull College, Cape Fear Community College, The Berk School, Greenfield Community College, Mass.; Sison Gallery, York College, Penn.; and currently Ben Shafer Galleries, William Paterson University.

After the show closes at the Tomasso Gallery, it will be shipped back to

the Boston area for one of two additional shows in Massachusetts where it was originally organized by Dorothy Simpson Krause at the Massachusetts College of Art. The participating artists brought digital files to be printed on site and Krause arranged for an Iris and ENCAD printer and operator/technicians to help with the understanding of the printing process.

At that point, print was normally done by an outside service bureau. Twelve of the original 20 artists were determined to establish a traveling exhibit. It was Bob West, a participating artist, who initiated the organization of the exhibit, which ultimately was self-organized by the artists involved.

The 12 artists in the show are: Barbra A. DeBayo, Krause, Jan Kuba, Suzanne Joanne M. Kinzo, Sherry Mann, John Mohrany, Nancy Ego, Nikal, Maxine Olson, Christy Park, Sylvia Stagg-Giuliano, Christine Stuecher, and West.

Alumni association to develop a comprehensive class directory

The Plainfield High School Alumni Association is pleased to announce the development of an alumni directory. The Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc. is working with Marie Cox, president of the alumni association, in cooperation with Plainfield High Schools to ensure that the production of the alumni directory is of the highest quality.

The purpose of the Plainfield High School Alumni Directory project is to connect graduates personally and professionally within their local communities, nationally and internationally. Alumni directories have proven to be valuable communications tools, ultimately benefiting 'enlist' communities.

The alumni directory will represent all class years and will list up-to-date residential and professional information for each Plainfield High School graduate. Harris Publishing's Graduate Connections is presently compiling the alumni directory and needs your assistance. Please provide your current name, address and phone number. In addition, reunion lists, class newsletters and any other residence containing information has been released since your graduation will be an invaluable contribution to the project.

Contact Harris Publishing's Graduate Connection by calling (800) 654-4548, faxing information to (800) 862-9085, or e-mailing information to alumni@Echocorp.com.

Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 1-800-964-9917.

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Union Music School announces registration for summer session

The Union Music School announces that registration for its sixth annual summer session. Before and after care is also available at 7:45-8:55 a.m. and 12:00-1:30 p.m. daily for a nominal charge.

Examples of courses offered to children in grades Pre-K through 12 are: Piping, Musical Theater, Comedy, Music Lessons, Ceramics, Dance, Jazz, Drama, Creative Writing, Bands, Orchestras.

The grade 3-7 musical theater production planned for 1999 will be a Broadway musical. Tickets for a new script by Michael Altman. The high

school theater division production is dependent on enrollment. Either "Daddy Yankee's" or "Little Mix" can directed by Sam and Candy Cappozzi.

The musical productions, an exhibit and all dance, music and drama performances, for students in grades 3-12 will be held at Union High School. Classes run through July 30. For a brochure with complete information, contact Union Music School, P.O. Box 3566, Union, NJ 07083-1895. Tuition is \$275 per child with family discounts. Phone (908) 851-6476.

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Incubator debut takes refreshing approach to 'The Bard'

With a pace that makes gaudy lighting look like a snail headed for the gallows, The Arts Trust has put together a one-hour Shakespeare program geared towards secondary school students consisting of the following ingredients:

• Irrelevant narration; tastelessly bawdy Bardian humor; anfrictly complete, condensed versions of three comedies; slices of contemporary life and love; a man begging live chickens — love; five actors playing a dozen characters; and fairly sharp slapstick. Okay, I lied about the chickens. Last week at its East Campus Kean College Arts Incubator Project, presented "3 Faces of Love," which is all the above, sans poultry, and more.

Playwright and actor Laura MacMillan has written a script that is completely devoid of the usual, "But this is a good for you" tone endemic

Theater View

By Dennis Freedland
Correspondent

to most teen-oriented-introductions to classic works. On the surface, it appears to be a very loosely structured collection of "greatest hits," interspersed with schtick between the actors and good-natured asides to the audience.

Yeah, it's got that. But, its improv group jocularity is held together by a script that is tight as a drum, missing a dizzying amount of exposition — this IS Shakespeare — by connecting scenes from each play together into near complete adaptations, not just a string of scenes.

"Taming of the Shrew" is intriguing

like a WWF title bout. The cast engages in its own "title bout" with MacMillan over "The Twelfth Night, or What You Will" — told the, can "Call it what you will," she ups for "Who's On First," fenny. We're given a "then-and-now" look at Declaration of Love, a lyrical, Shakespearean verbal bouquet "then," now," consisting of two words: "You're hot."

The interplay between actors is very much in the spirit of "Goldspiel" or Paul Sills' "Story Theater." Admirably, MacMillan doesn't fall into their trap of letting contemporary language clash with the formal tone of St. Matthew or Aescop. Scenes are played without one-liners or fourth-wall breakage — full-out lyrical, funny and splendidly acted.

Instead, MacMillan uses her wicked sense of humor to walk the audience through eye-crossing chunks

of plot, making the journey a lot of fun. Between scenes in her condensed "12th-Night," MacMillan — playing the cross-dressing Viola — is told by her fellow players that things are going great. She's a woman dressed as a guy, and a woman is in love with her.

"But, I'm a girl!" she protests. "And it's the WH," they answer in unison.

TAT Artistic Director Sam Statton has done a splendid job of working a crew of five gifted actors into one well-orchestrated ensemble. His blocking of the physical comedy in "Taming of the Shrew" is clever. Almost brutal — and Diana Ross' performance makes it all seem as easy as well as falling down.

MacMillan added-cast reminds even the most Nitendo-addicted that these are old plays and comedies — and darned funny ones at that.

Visual arts center offers birthday alternatives

Celebrate your child's birthday, or any other occasion at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts. Each party will start with an art and craft project or show for the first hour, then cakes, drinks (if provided by the parents) and favors may be served in the last half-hour. An overnight art party cost will make this a day to remember.

There is a theme for every age, range and taste. All materials are provided. Choose from among the following:

- Puppet shows — Ages 3/6
- Children will enjoy a puppet show featuring glove puppets and a ventriloquist dummy. There will also be magic tricks, featuring the birthday child. Everyone will make an Origami

band puppet to take home.

- Colored sand bottles — Ages 5 and up
- Each child will fill a tall stretched bottle with multi-colored sand, either layering or swirling the colors.

Earnings — Ages 6 and up

Each child will make three pairs of either slip-on or pierced earrings. Children will be able to choose from

hundreds of different beads and semi-precious stones.

- Seed bead necklaces — Ages 7 and up
- Each child will make a seed bead necklace from found glass beads.

For further information and requirements, call NICVA at (908) 273-9121. NICVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit.

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Upon arriving at the Windsor Diner/Restaurant with my companions, we were promptly seated & greeted by Margie, our waitress who was very courteous and attentive throughout our meal. The Windsor is always adding new items to the menu and my companions and I were eager to try some of the new selections. To start off the evening we enjoyed the salad bar which featured over 20 choices, including shrimp cocktail. Everything was fresh, pleasing to the eye and palate. For appetizers, we selected potato skins with cheddar and bacon and buffalo wings. Both choices were excellent. The soup served was pasta fagioli which was absolutely delicious and freshly made. For the main course I chose the Roast Prime Rib of Beef. Au Jus served with mashed potato and broccoli, one of my companions the Fisherman's Platter with shrimps, scallops, filet of flounder and salmon, the other companion a chop dish. The Prime Rib was fork tender the absolute best I have ever had. The Fisherman's Platter was fit for a King. When the chop dish arrived it consisted of 2 pork chops, 2 lamb chops served with garlic pureed potatoes. It was a true delight for those who have a heavy appetite.

The portions at the Windsor are huge and the prices are very reasonable. For dessert, expresso, cappuccino and cheesecake. The coffee was served steaming hot and the cheesecake was decadent. Throughout the meal, I noticed Adam Elhaska, the General manager at the Windsor being very attentive to all in the dining room, making sure everything ran smoothly.

The Windsor possesses a successful formula: delicious food, great staff, reasonable prices. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit at the Windsor, hats off to the owners.

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issues, she has been carefully checking the market to offer the best possible products to her clients at a reasonable price.

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Whether the "natural weight" or the old fashioned but effective way, Postashnik and her trained staff are always ready to assist.

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NEWS CLIPS

The following free support groups are available at St. Barnabas Medical Center.

Parenting Insights
This informational gathering is an opportunity for new parents to meet, compare ideas about baby care and

ask St. Barnabas' Pediatric Nursing Unit a series of parenting questions. Meetings are held every Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the South Plainfield Unit 3340 at SBMC. Newborns in 26 seats or strollers are welcome and refreshments will be served. For reservations and confirmation, call Maternal Child Health at (973) 322-5000 ext. 2584.

Children of Aging Parents
If you are caring for an elderly parent, experiencing the demands of the "sandwich generation" and would like the opportunity to talk with others who face the same issues, the first Tuesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 109 of the East Wing. To register, call (973) 322-2448 or (973) 322-5829.

Breast Cancer
This group is open to women currently receiving treatment for breast cancer. The group provides a supportive atmosphere in which to gain emotional support and practical information about issues specific to breast cancer. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cancer Center Conference Room located on the second floor of the East Wing Building. For more information call (973) 322-8414.

Better Breathers Club
This group is open to all persons interested in helping themselves or a friend who has one with lung disease. The group offers an opportunity to share your experiences and self-help techniques with others who have similar concerns. Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month in a classroom C on the ground floor of the medical center. For more information call (973) 322-8900.

Renal Support Group
This group offers education, information and mutual support for dialysis/renal patients, their families and friends. Meet the first Sunday of each month in Classroom C of the SBMC from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call (201) 325-6246 for additional information.

Breast Cancer Support Group
This group is open to women currently receiving treatment for breast cancer. The group provides a supportive atmosphere in which to gain emotional support and practical information about issues specific to breast cancer. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cancer Center Conference Room located on the second floor of the East Wing Building. For more information call (201) 325-8414.

Growing Through Loss/Bereavement
This support group offers a caring and supportive environment for persons grieving the loss of a loved one. Some topics of discussion include "Why Does It Hurt So Much?", "Dealing With Feelings of Anger" and "Changing Perspectives on Life and Living On." The average group meets on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The ad hoc group meets on Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. For further information or to register, visit the Pastoral Care Department at (201) 325-5016.

The following programs are available for a fee at St. Barnabas Medical Center.

Body-Lite Support Courses
The basics of life support and cardiopulmonary resuscitation are taught in this six-hour course for the layperson. The course includes adult one-man CPR and Adult Foreign Body Airway Obstruction Management Heimlich Maneuver for choking victims. Offered once a month either in two three-hour evening sessions or one six-hour day session. Pre-insurance is required. Call (201) 325-5023 for further information.

Editional deadlines

Following are deadlines for news, Church, Club and Social, Business, Sport, Monday through Thursday.

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Health & Beauty Aids, Books, Herbal Teas, & much more!

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- WITH THIS COUPON** **WORLDWIDE SPORTS Pure Protein Bars** Box of 12 \$23.99. Reg. Retail \$35.99. Exp. 6/16/99
- WITH THIS COUPON** **EAS Myoplex Deluxe** 20 gals. \$42.99. Reg. Retail \$64.99. Exp. 6/16/99
- WITH THIS COUPON** **Thompson Cellasene** 30 caps. \$29.99. Reg. Retail \$49.99. Exp. 6/16/99

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Ask about our frequent buyers club

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

Stepping Out

Donation: # 82. The church is located at 170 Elm St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-9278.

TELEVISION

TV-35 Cranford public access channel will air a special program featuring...

ART SHOWS

SKULSKI ART GALLERY of the Post-Industrial Cultural Foundation in Clark will present an exhibit of paintings and drawings by Robert Smith Johnson...

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED Hospital in Summit will present an exhibit of photographic work by award-winning photographers...

ACTING INTERNSHIPS are available at Messer Theater of Union College. Juniors and seniors preferred, but not required...

LANDSCAPE IN STENO will be displayed through June 4 at Swan Galleries in Plainfield.

EVOLVING TRADITIONS, featuring four Native American artists, will be displayed through June 5 at Adobe East Gallery in Summit.

CLOTH DOLLS TO LOVE will be exhibited through June 18 at Donald B. Pappier Museum of Springfield Library.

DREAMS: Planes of Reality by Patricia M. Schmitt will be on display through June 20 at the Arts Guild of Rahway.

THE LIVELY ARTS: Fifty Years of American Craft will be on display through June 20 at the Center for Visual Arts in Summit.

THE DIGITAL CANVAS will be on display through June 24 at Union County College in Pomona. Gallery.

ARTS EDUCATORS of New Jersey exhibit will be on display through June 27 at NJ Performing Arts Center in Newark.

EARLY MEETS WEST will be on display through June at Eugene Gabery in Scotch Plains.

ELIZABETH LIBRARY will feature "Bridges of New Jersey" photographs by Jay Smith through July.

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CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED Hospital in Summit will present an exhibit of photographic work by award-winning photographers...

CLUBS
SHLO PUB sports-bar-and-grill will feature the following entertainment: Saturday, Avastrosche...

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED Hospital in Summit will present an exhibit of photographic work by award-winning photographers...

COVE LOUNGE presents live music by alternative bands every weekend. The tavern is located at 114 Chestnut St., Roselle.

SHOUT! presents live musical entertainment on weekends. The tavern is located at 116 Watchung Ave., Plainfield.

JOE'S BASEMENT at Tavern in the Park in Roselle Park features HBO comedians on Fridays.

CASUAL TIMES restaurant features comedians on Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

NU POPS ORCHESTRA will present "A Salute to the Armed Forces and America" on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Theresa in Kenilworth.

THE ESSEX CHORALE OF SHORT HILLS seeks singers in all voice ranges. It is a small group ensemble with a wide repertoire of sacred and secular music.

SUMMIT CHORALE rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings from 7:45 to 10:15 p.m. at Bromer's Chapel on Drew University Campus in Madison.

RAYWAY VALLEY REHEARSALS barbershop chorus rehearses in the First Baptist Church Hall, 170 Elm St., Westfield, every Monday at 7:30 p.m.

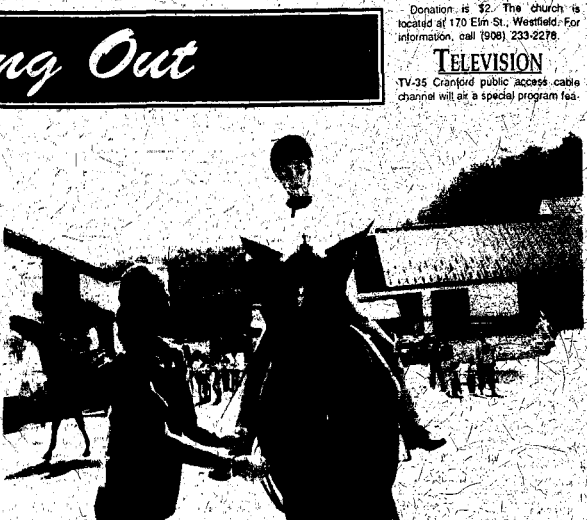
THE PHILANTHOPHS of FAIRWOOD need technical help for singing session. For information, call Dennis Eason at (908) 317-5793 or (908) 322-9866.

SANGERCHOIR men's chorus rehearses Fridays at 8:30 p.m. at Schwab's Church in Scotch Plains.

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

WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB invites male singers to come and sing at rehearsals on Mondays at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield.

REHEARSALS on Mondays at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield.



Enn O'Callahan of Roselle Park received assistance from Diana Schaefer, an instructor at Union County Equestrian Camp at Watchung Stable in Mountainside.

GOLF
CRANFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Golf Club will take place June 14 at Roselle Golf Club.

PITCH AND PUTT is available at Ash Brook and Gallop Hill golf courses. Practice areas are well-lit for beginning golfers, ages 8 and up.

TRAINING EXPLORERS program is conducted on alternate Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:45 p.m. at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

GOLF COURSES: Ash Brook in Scotch Plains, Gallop Hill in Kenilworth and Oak Ridge in Clark will be open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and weekends from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., through July 25.

GOLF COURSES: Ash Brook in Scotch Plains, Gallop Hill in Kenilworth and Oak Ridge in Clark will be open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and weekends from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., through July 25.

WARM AND FUZZY nature hike will take place Friday from 9:30 to 4:45 p.m. at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

DEEP SKY WONDERS planetarium show will take place Sunday at 8 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

EAITHO WILD program will take place Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

DEACON ANDREW HETFIELD House of Constitution Plaza in Mountainside will be open on the third Sunday of the month, March through June and September through November.

WWW.ACC-CAMPS.ORG by American Camping Association accredits all types of camps across the U.S.

WWW.PARTYMAKERS.COM helps parents plan perfect age-appropriate theme parties.

WWW.EBLAST.COM classifies, rates and reviews informational Web sites.

WWW.IEB.COM by Encyclopaedia Britannica features 29 volumes, 72,000 articles and 12,000 images.

WWW.MESCUSSIONS.GOV/BUTTERFLY.HTML dedicated to the beauty of the butterfly.

WWW.CHICAGOHS.ORG/PRE/INDEX.HTML is dedicated to firsthand accounts of The Great Chicago Fire.

WWW.CONGRESS.ORG tracks events on Capitol Hill.

WWW.TVPLEX.COM/BUENAVISTA/SISKELANDREBT reviews movie titles.

WWW.AMERICAN_GIRL.COM features American Girl magazine, books and collectibles.

RADIO
WBGO Jazz 88 FM will present the following shows on the week of June 7-13:

STUDY HALL will take place Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Elizabeth Library, La Crosse branch.

MAGIC CARPET program will take place Tuesday in June at 12:45 p.m. at Elizabeth Library, La Crosse branch.

STUDY HALL will take place Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Elizabeth Library, La Crosse branch.

MAGIC CARPET program will take place Tuesday in June at 12:45 p.m. at Elizabeth Library, La Crosse branch.

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE - The Songs of Leiber and Stoller will be presented from Wednesday through June 5 at NJ Performing Arts Center in Newark.

CRAZY FOR YOU will be presented through Sunday at Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn.

THE PLAYHOUSE is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information, call 376-4343.

SUMMER AND SMOKE will be presented through Sunday at Elizabeth Playhouse.

THE PLAYHOUSE is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 355-0077.

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE will be presented through June 12 at Westfield Community Playhouse.

Tickets are \$12. All performances are at 8 p.m. WCP is located at 1000 North Ave., West in Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-1221.

WATCHING STABLE Troop Show will take place tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL '99 will take place Wednesday and June 3 at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church in Union.

Tickets are \$4.50; \$2.25 for children in grade 6 and under. The church is located at 588 Sycamore Avenue in Chester in Union. For information, call (908) 688-9164.

SPRINGFIELD GARDEN CLUB will feature in June a speaker on landscaping and wildlife, and trips to Colonial Park Arboretum and Van Der Boeg Rose Garden. For information, call (973) 379-6789.

EGOTV, a diverse comedy show based in Scotch Plains, will air its newest show on Comcast Channel 57 on Saturday at 10 p.m.

STATE OF THE ARTS programming is aired, Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. on New Jersey Network.

THE ARTS is a half-hour cable television program about the visual and performing arts in New Jersey.

WBGO Jazz 88 FM will present the following shows on the week of June 7-13:

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MAGIC CARPET program will take place Tuesday in June at 12:45 p.m. at Elizabeth Library, La Crosse branch.



David Johnson relinquishes the role of Judson T. Compson from 111 Abbey for Discovery Festival IV, Wednesday and June 3 at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church Parish House in Union.

SINGLES

INTERACTIVELY SINGLES for age 45 and up will meet for complimentary drinks and dancing at the New Jersey State Center at 1000 North Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-1221.

What's Going On?

Here comes the brides' dresses

FLEA MARKET
EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Factory Marketplace 1350 Nya Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 9 am - 4 pm
PRICE: Lighting and Ceiling Fan Close out. Dealers wanted. Call for discounts. 973-973-0078

FRIDAY
 June 4th, 1989
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Redemptor Lutheran Church, 134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 10 am - 1 pm
PRICE: How and Used Clothes, Shoes, Records, Housewares, Books, etc. Call 973-973-9377

SUNDAY
 June 5th, 1989
EVENT: Flea Market and Collectible Show, Outdoor (Indoor if Rain)
PLACE: Redemptor Lutheran Church, 134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
PRICE: Featuring over 100 quality dealers selling a variety of merchandise including new and used items: baseball caps, memorabilia, toys, fashion clothing, shoes, books, records and collectibles galore. For more information call 261-997-8255

ORGANIZATION: Redemptor Lutheran Church
SUNDAY
 June 13th, 1989
EVENT: Flea Market, Dealers Wanted
PLACE: The Church of the Saint Catherine of Siena School, North Broad & King Streets, Newark, NJ
TIME: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
PRICE: One Space \$15.00, Two Spaces \$25.00, Additional Spaces \$10.00. For more information call 908-351-1515
ORGANIZATION: HOME/SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

RUIMMAGE SALE
SATURDAY
 May 22nd/29th, 1989
EVENT: Ruimimage Sale
PLACE: St. Joseph's Polish National Catholic Church, corner of Porter Road and Stanley Terrace, Union, NJ
TIME: May 22nd, 9 am - 6 pm; May 29th, 9 am - 1 pm
PRICE: Free Admission
ORGANIZATION: A & S Society

FRIDAY, SATURDAY
 June 4th, 5th, 1989
EVENT: Bummalo
PLACE: Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Avenue, Summit, NJ
TIME: Friday, 9 am - 4 pm; Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Furniture, Clothing, Toys, 1st edition books, 1st price, 8 am at 12 noon on Saturday
ORGANIZATION: Calvary Episcopal Church

WORKSHOPS EDUCATIONAL
FRIDAY
 June 4, 1989
EVENT: Open House/Seminar/Topic: Domestic Violence: Effective Ways of Reducing Aggressive Energy
PLACE: The Psychanalytic Center of Northern New Jersey (PCNJ), 769 Northfield Avenue, Suite LL2 West Orange, New Jersey
TIME: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
PRICE: Free. For further information call 973-736-7600
ORGANIZATION: The Psychanalytic Center of Northern New Jersey (PCNJ)

OTHER
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY
 June 4th, 5th, and 6th, 1989
EVENT: Grecian Holiday Festival
PLACE: 510 Linden Place, Orange, NJ
TIME: Friday, 4 pm - midnight; Saturday, 9 pm - midnight; Sunday, noon - 6 pm
PRICE: Donation \$1.00. Live music, Greek dancing, live drum music and outdoor grills, home baked deserts, bouliques, games for children, free shuttle service to Sumas Community School, 510 Linden Place, Orange, NJ 07066
ORGANIZATION: Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church

What's Going On is a profit directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is free to non-profit organizations. It is available for Essex, Orange, Union, and Warren Counties and just \$30.00 for both. Your notice must be in our Maplewood office, 1463 Valley Street, by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication in the following Thursday advertisement may also be placed at 170 Seward Road, Orange, 288 Liberty St., Bluefield or 1281 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For more information call 763-9411

The Cranford Historical Society's outstanding wedding dress collection, on display at the Crane-Phillips House Museum through June, is being featured in a special program on TV-15, Cranford's public access cable TV channel.

The show, titled "Here Comes the Bride" - An Antique Wedding Dress Display, will air for the next few weeks. It features six beautiful antique gowns and a handsome man's tuxedo. Maribeth Larnock and Kathy Thompson, director and assistant director respectively, of the historical society's costume department show case the gowns, which range in age from 1810 to 1933; and the 1920's era man's suit. The show is hosted by Nancy Price of the museum's publicity department.

The program, filmed in the museum, highlights the varying time periods and styles of the dresses and also provides a background of each gown and the history of wedding celebrations in general.

The show exhibits just a small part of the historical society's extensive costume collection, which is among the largest antique clothing and accessories collections in the entire state. "Here Comes the Bride - An Antique Wedding Dress Display" will air at 10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 11 p.m. and 3:30 a.m. for the next few weeks.

The Crane-Phillips House: Living Museum is open Sundays, 2-4 p.m.; September through June. The Victoria Shop, the museum's gift shop, is open Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, 2-4 p.m. The museum is located at 124 Union Ave., North in Cranford.

STREET TALK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65

(See ANSWERS on Page B11)

For May 31 to June 6
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look to improve communication in a close relationship. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. Take advantage of sudden opportunities that come up at work.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Speak out concerning financial matters. On the job, you're labeled as an "ideas" person. Put on your thinking cap and tap into your creative center.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Travel opens your mind and allows you to put your problems in the proper perspective. All of your financial needs are met. Make a budget that reflects your priorities.
CANCER (June 22-July 22): Your self-confidence is at an all-time high. Try your hand at something new and exciting. A Gemini or Virgo steps forward with the answers to a perplexing dilemma.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Enjoy a cycle of luck and good fortune and make a conscious decision to live life to its fullest. Grab on to an unexpected opportunity that appears out of nowhere.
VIROO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Practice caution in financial matters and avoid impulsive spending. Friends play an important role in helping you make a decision. Allow them honest input.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Get ready for

DOWN
 1. Comedian Peggy
 2. Petroleum cartel
 3. Cote d'Ivoire port
 4. Amble
 5. Pinnacle
 6. Eloquentness
 7. Letters on a clock
 8. Lync poem
 9. Ecstasy
 10. Romaine mystery
 11. Gen. Robal
 12. Gen. Robal
 13. Red ink entry

18 Sounding like an oboe
22 Optimistic
24 Certain sector members
25 Colliers
26 Expanse of land
27 Aegean country
28 Wheelie's hold
29 Beets
31 Boss or Rigg
32 The common people
37 Summertime
40 Mischievous prank

41 Miss Teasdale's namesakes
42 Door adjunct
47 Choir members
48 Euphonia
49 Comedian
50 Shanding
51 Inter
52 Factual
53 Writer-Amber
54 Union strike
57 Nyoma
58 Eggs

HOROSCOPE

It's never too soon to prepare for First Night

Performers and emcees are currently being sought to add to the list of talent for Westfield's 54th annual First Night. The New Year's Eve celebration of the arts will feature music, dance, theater, storytelling, magic, arts and crafts, puppets and much more.
 Those interested in performing should submit a detailed proposal, including a detailed description of the program, the length of time it takes, the number of times it can be repeated, space requirements, technical requirements and rehearsal/availability requirements.
 Individuals submitting proposals should also provide materials such as cassette tapes, press photos, scripts, photographs, drawings, models, slides, or half-inch videotape.
 According to First Night Officials, a list of performers or demonstrators which evaluation can be reviewed would also be helpful.
 The proposals will be submitted to Alfred Borand or Barbara Karp care of The Westfield "Y", 220 Clark St., Westfield, Oregon. For more information, call The First Night Office at (908) 518-2983.
 First Night is a multi-cultural and multi-dimensional alcohol-free evening celebrating the arts and music, and is designed for all ages. It is possible in large part by The Westfield "Y," The Westfield Foundation, and The Town of Westfield as well as many local organizations and private donations.

ment, coordination and self-discipline. Dance workshops and private voice lessons are also available.
Youth Theatre Ensemble, age 12-14
 A variety of class offerings help students focus their studies on specific theater skills including improvisation, acting, scene work, character study, movement, playwriting and musical theater performance skills.
Adult Classes
 A wide range of training opportunities, designed for both the professional and non-professional performer.
 For more information, call Susan Spadoni, director of education, at (717) 379-3626, ext. 2795

Outstanding county history students are recognized

Six seniors from six high schools in Union County will be honored at 2:30 p.m. June 8, as outstanding history students in ceremonies conducted by the Union Historical Society in the Abraham-Clark House, West Ninth Street at Chesnut Street in Roselle.
 The students were selected by the chairman of the history department, guidance directors or principals of their respective high schools.
 The seniors of the school are drawn each February at the UCHS meeting. Recipients will be from Union County Catholic High School, Scotch Plains-Moher Senior Regional High School, Clark Jonathan Dayton High School, Springfield, Linden High School, Union High School and St. Patrick's High School, Elizabeth. Families and school personnel are invited to attend. The ceremony is open to the public.
 The Abraham-Clark House stands on the property once owned by Clark, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. It features historic objects. The house is a replica of the famous one owned by Clark. It serves as the headquarters for the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

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- * Camp Funshine, 3, 4, & 5 year olds (June 14-Aug. 13)
- * Discover, Grades 1-8 (June 28-Aug. 6)
- * Summer School, Grades 6-12 (June 28-Aug. 6)
- * E.S.L., Ages 7-17 (June 28-Aug. 6)

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170 Scotland Road, Orange
266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield

UNION COUNTY
1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union

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Additional 10 words \$4.00 per insertion
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Contract Rates Available
Blind Box Number \$12.00 per insertion

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Ad appears in all 19 newspapers
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Display Rates \$47.50 per column inch
Contract Rates Available

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Union Leader • Echo Leader
Clark Eagle • The Leader
Secretary Leader • Gazette Leader
Railway Progress • Sunlight Observer
ESSEX COUNTY
News Record of Maplewood & South Orange
West Orange Chronicle • East Orange Record
Orange Transcript • The Glen Ridge Paper
Nuttley Journal • Belleville Post
Mylington Herald • Valisburg Leader
The Independent Press, of Bloomfield

DEADLINES

Business Directory 4 PM Thursday
Display • Space reservation 5 PM Friday
Ad Copy 12 noon Monday
In-column 3 PM Tuesday

ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments: We make every effort to avoid mistakes in your classified advertisement. Please check your ad each time it appears; should an error occur please notify the classified department within seven days of publication. Worral Community Newspapers, Inc. shall not be liable for errors or omissions in postal or actual space occupied by item in which error or omissions occurred. We can not be held liable for failure, for any cause, to insert an ad. Worral Community Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to reject, revise or reclassify any advertisement at any time.

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GARAGE SALES

25 words \$21.00 or \$28.00 combo
Garage Sale signs, price stickers, balloons, helpful hints, inventory sheet and Rain Insurance

ECONOMY CLASS

20 words \$7.00 or \$11.00 combo items for sale under \$100.00 One item per ad price must appear.

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20 words - 10 weeks \$31.00 or \$44.00
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Photo of your car plus 20 words
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Call now 1-800-564-8911

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AVON PRODUCTS

BABYSITTER

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REASONABLE RATES ... 908-686-7415

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AUTOMOTIVE

1999 GMC Yukon Denali reaches new heights in luxury

GMC's new vision for premium full-size sport utility vehicles is a reality with the introduction of the luxurious 1999 Yukon Denali.

With the Denali, GMC is taking premium sport utility to new heights in luxury and refinement. "The Denali is a luxury SUV," said Yukon brand manager Danny O'Donnell. "It's an adequately appealing vehicle with the strong truck attributes GMC drivers demand, combined with the refinements of a luxury sedan. Denali is proof of GMC heritage and gives the driver the feeling of mastery of the road, not a squishy ride that feels in the driver's seat."

From Yukon Denali's distinctive front end features a dominating hoodline and bold rectangular letter grille that hint at the classic leading-edge grille of the classic GMC truck. Speaking through a chrome grille, with a distinctive grille of open lettering, a distinctive richness and well-incorporated headlamps and fog lamps are integrated into the grille. Fog lamps are controlled by an automatic Twilight Sentinel system, which includes daytime running lamps.

Two fog-free hood rails are recessed and the front fascia is a prominent horizontal bar. The clean lines of the front fascia are further preserved by a bold, integrated license plate holder and recessed projector beam halogen fog lamps.

Yukon Denali's clean and confident

side stance features a high-mounted upper body and strong protective lower body. Body-colored exterior trim, including the roof rails, is finished with a chrome trim. The horizontal lower body color contrast flows to the rear of the vehicle where the function of a step bumper, elevates a standard trailer hitch.

Textured body color door handles, outside rearview mirrors and color-keyed longitudinal rails on the luggage rack complete Denali's luxury and distinctive exterior theme. The luxury theme is further accentuated by Denali-specific 16-inch six-spoke aluminum wheels, which roll into the center cap.

Emotionally driven by the Yukon Denali's bold, Day's Black, Emerald Green, Dark Teardrop Red, Smoke Caramel, Silvermist and Stratus Green.

Heard outside, the Denali's chrome trim, roof rails, fog lamps, and fog-free hood rails, are all silver features that improve visibility.

Denali's Premium P265/70R16 tires, with their off-road tread pattern, are a further nod to the ruggedness and off-road capability of the Denali. The Denali's fog-free hood rails, are a further nod to the ruggedness and off-road capability of the Denali.

to the Denali's new heights in luxury. The Denali's new heights in luxury are achieved through a combination of exterior and interior refinements. The Denali's new heights in luxury are achieved through a combination of exterior and interior refinements.

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Roadside assistance with location. • Route support. • OnStar also automatically alerts advisors when an air bag has been deployed. Advisors then immediately call the driver and send emergency help if necessary.

Driver and front passenger New Generation air bags are standard on the Yukon Denali.

Front and rear seats are trimmed in soft synthetic leather and have features with two settings. Headrests are located on the outboard side of the front seats and on the floor console of the front bucket seat. The front bucket seat has a two-position reclining feature and a two-position reclining feature. The front bucket seat has a two-position reclining feature and a two-position reclining feature.

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Denali's powertrain begins with a specifically-tuned 2500-cu-in. 4-cylinder V6. The V6's 2500-cu-in. 4-cylinder V6 is specifically-tuned to provide 130-hp of torque. The V6's 2500-cu-in. 4-cylinder V6 is specifically-tuned to provide 130-hp of torque.

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isuzu Rodeo meets the challenge, going 'whenever, wherever, forever'

Rodeo was introduced to America in 1990 as a '91 model. It quickly attracted the attention of thousands of customers and by 1993 it became the segment leader. The success of the first generation Rodeo was built upon the concept of a vehicle providing outstanding on- and off-highway performance, with high utility and excellent fuel economy. It was a sporty, powerful body.

Since the introduction of Rodeo in 1990, the SUV market has changed. SUV interiors are more demanding

and what they expect from an SUV. Rodeo's versatility, excellent fuel economy, attributes, affordability, good looks. With more than twice as many competitors in the marketplace, an SUV market came into existence.

Rodeo's challenge was to improve upon the existing Rodeo, without sacrificing those attributes that make America's number one best seller in the import segment.

Planning began five years ago when U.S. and Japanese planners met

to decide what requirements would need to be met for an SUV. The concept for the new vehicle was to create an SUV that would embrace the idea of 'whenever, wherever, forever.' The goals to meet this concept were determined to be: improved performance, increased utility, car-like drivability and a more sophisticated look and feel.

It was determined that in order to meet these criteria, a new platform would be needed to improve handling and accommodate a full-sized interior

mounted spare tire option. The Rodeo's wheel track is an example of the cooperation between Japan and the U.S. The new Rodeo doesn't meet Japan's dimensional requirements for lower taxes at 50.0 inches, but the first priority is the satisfaction of U.S. consumers and was deemed an individual element in satisfying the demand for improved off-highway handling.

Multiple wheel well mud exterior and interior design, the affordable, the "blades" fenders were changed and

the wheel, capable has four adjustable reading lamps, and storage for small portable items such as sunglasses and a telephone. The three-channel ABS system is standard on the Denali. The Denali's new heights in luxury are achieved through a combination of exterior and interior refinements.

The Denali's new heights in luxury are achieved through a combination of exterior and interior refinements. The Denali's new heights in luxury are achieved through a combination of exterior and interior refinements.

which include exterior styling that makes it look like the key to unlock the door of luxury. Light, bright, prevention and retained accessory power.

Denali's powertrain begins with a specifically-tuned 2500-cu-in. 4-cylinder V6. The V6's 2500-cu-in. 4-cylinder V6 is specifically-tuned to provide 130-hp of torque. The V6's 2500-cu-in. 4-cylinder V6 is specifically-tuned to provide 130-hp of torque.

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Talk about safety features. The window sticker is even designed to keep you from going through the roof.

If you think the safety provided by a Saturn window sticker is something to behold, wait until you see our car with its standard Reduced Force Air Bags!

New 1999 Saturn SL

\$149 per month/39-mo. lease \$995 due at signing

New 1999 Saturn SL I

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New 1999 Saturn SC I

\$199 per month/39-mo. lease \$995 due at signing

1999 SL Colors Available

- 1999 SL Dark Blue
- 1999 SL Silver
- 1999 SL White
- 1999 SL Medium Red

1999 SL I Colors Available

- 1999 SL I Gold
- 1999 SL I White
- 1999 SL I Medium Red
- 1999 SL I Dark Blue
- 1999 SL I Blackberry

1999 SC I Colors Available

- 1999 SC I Dark Blue
- 1999 SC I Blackberry
- 1999 SC I White
- 1999 SC I Bright Red

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SATURN OF GREEN BROOK
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Lexus High Performance Sedan concept vehicle, redefines the classic performance chassis layout of front engine/rear wheel drive. With wheel, cabin and trunk space normally reserved for prestige luxury models, the HPS occupies the nimble footprint of a small sport sedan, resulting in minimized weight and enhanced aerodynamic properties to benefit performance and handling.

Convertibles top the list of summer fun vehicles

Back in 1976, Cadillac advertised the Eldorado Convertible as "the last convertible made in America." Openly acknowledging that these would be the '77 model year editions, it was 27 years "in the future." There are more convertibles on the market now than there have been in decades, and more are all things you can expect a second-generation convertibles are cleaner, more efficient, and safer than ever.

can retract into the well with the top nearly closing over it. Push the button the other way and the top is reinstalled all by itself. The ST's little brother, the Slak320, folds its handtop into its trunk, combining convenient fun with the top down and the peace and quiet of a coupe when the top is raised.

great-handling independent rear suspension. If you prefer the rumble of a GM small-block V8, pick from the Chevrolet Camaro Z28 or Pontiac Trans-Am Convertibles at \$28,365 and \$30,720 respectively, and each with 315-horsepower. The SS and WS6 options add even more power, and of course there's a V6 version for those of a more-tender build.

turbobarged inline-five mounted crosswise, driving the front wheel. Also from the land of the endless blondes is the Saab 900 Convertible. Like its cousin, Saabs are an acquired taste. With this, we'll see it in black at \$38,545, depending on how fast you want to go. flush Swedish seat four.

Well, a funny thing happened on the way to the future. There are more convertibles on the market now than there have been in decades, and more are all things you can expect a second-generation convertibles are cleaner, more efficient, and safer than ever.

At the other end of the price spectrum, GM's budget convertibles from Chevrolet and Pontiac, the Cavalier and Sunfire, list for a little over \$20,000 but have a unique handle at the center of the windshield header that functions as a latch and a control for the power top.

Those willing to part with more shenny can have America's sports car in a timeless format for the first time since the 1963-1967 Stingray era. The 315-horsepower Corvette Convertible lists for \$45,579, and it's worth it for the exhaust rumble alone.

BMW has a pair of droptops, offering a choice of four or two seats. The 3-Series convertibles come with a back seat, while the Z3 Roadsters are pure two-seaters. Two seats or four, the BMW's can be powered by inline sixes of 2.3 liters, 2.8 liters or 3.0 liters.

The new convertibles also have a trickier top than ever before, many with one-touch operation, the whole process automated. The exclusive big two-seaters from Mercedes-Benz, the SL500 and SL600, for example, require pressure-actuated mold-shaped red buttons that latch up the top from the windshield header and the rear deck. Lift the rear of the top while a hand conceals cover rises so that the whole shebang

can retract into the well with the top nearly closing over it. Push the button the other way and the top is reinstalled all by itself. The ST's little brother, the Slak320, folds its handtop into its trunk, combining convenient fun with the top down and the peace and quiet of a coupe when the top is raised.

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