

INSIDE THE Rahway Progress

- At the Library 4
- Estimates 6
- Point of View 6
- Obituaries 8
- Sports 9
- County news B1
- Entertainment B3
- Classified B13
- Real estate B15
- Automotive B16

How to reach us:
Our offices are located at 1291 Shuysessant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

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Letters to the editor:
The Progress provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

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Drills teams compete in the JROTC competition on Monday. Among the events featured at the day long drills competition at Linden High School were platoon and squad basic, new cadet basic, unit trick, academic knockout, and the individual rifle drills.

Robaina leads ROTC cadets to victory

(Continued from Page 1)
The ROTC team, which scores identification information, implanted beneath the skin and between her shoulder blades. According to McNair, the chip can be scanned by electronic devices in kennels and shelters. When the animal scanned, the name and location of the owner are revealed. McNair's 9-year-old golden retriever, Daisy, participates in the animal-assisted therapy and also has the identification microchip. She has made visits to Cranford Extended Health Care and Rahway Hospital for the animal therapy program.

After the incident, Cinnamon had an electronic microchip which stores identification information, implanted beneath the skin and between her shoulder blades. According to McNair, the chip can be scanned by electronic devices in kennels and shelters. When the animal scanned, the name and location of the owner are revealed. McNair's 9-year-old golden retriever, Daisy, participates in the animal-assisted therapy and also has the identification microchip. She has made visits to Cranford Extended Health Care and Rahway Hospital for the animal therapy program.

Dr. Lawrence Teresi, public affairs representative for the recruiting station in Berlin, the Marine Corps does not expect to see any JROTC cadets make their military life, but they support the positive influence it has on both its members and the school atmosphere in general.

The competition concluded with a former JROTC instructor at Linden, retired Senior Chief Raymond J. Teresi, presenting the trophy to the recently returned in his honor to Rahway.

After serving 23 years in JROTC programs statewide, 10 at Linden, the school cheered both the participants and Teresi's commitment to students as he handed the trophy over to Rahway.

Microchip implant helps recover dogs

(Continued from Page 1)
The Rahway Hospital Pet Therapy Program advertises, "A visit from a furry friend can really brighten the day and aid in the rehabilitation process." Dogs and cats are welcome to visit residents of Care Connection, Rahway Hospital's Skilled Nursing facility. For more information call Christine Perenko, resident activities coordinator, at 499-6012.



A patient at Cranford Extended Health Care makes friends with Daisy, a therapy dog. Pauline McNair, Daisy's owner, recently was forced to conduct a 10-day search for her 7-month-old golden retriever, Cinnamon. McNair received aid from several Rahway residents in the successful effort to recover the dog.

YMCA fitness and child care center celebrates grand opening



Residents and city officials the Rahway YMCA reception and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday. The YMCA opened up several new sections of the recently renovated facility to the public. Above: From left are Antonio Montano, Sandra Ortiz and Krishna Ramsami. Below: From left are Calvin Sierra, Mayor James Kennedy, Judy Duth and Ken Pushko.



The merger was only a start, said...

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer
The Rahway Branch YMCA still has a long way to go with renovations and repairs.
But anyone who came to the grand opening of the facility's new fitness center and child care center on Tuesday were impressed at the progress that has been made.
Mayor James Kennedy probably has the warmest memories of what the YMCA looked like.
"I guess my claim to fame is that I was vice president when the place burned down," he said. "I did not burn down, exactly, but it did damage the facility and roof and forced the closing of the top floor."
"This is great," said City Council President Jim James. "We used to lift weights in there and that little room there. We used to play ball in here. The pool was a piece of junk and the sink from the fire was terrible. We thought this place was dead. Now look at it."
VIPs and visitors were treated to a tour of the new facilities at the YMCA, which is located on Irving Avenue.

Repairs to a number of areas still await the facility. But the renovations began last September have finally seen fruit.
According to G. Kenneth Mayo of the YMCA of Eastern Union County, renovations have been completed to a cardiovascular training section of the facility's health center, which is now housed in a glass enclosure in the lobby and has new or refurbished equipment. The facility still has a free weight room in its old room upstairs from the lobby.
The child care center has also been completed and already has 10 children enrolled. He added that a number of new programs, such as aerobics and self-defense, have been added and that new staff has been added for these programs.
"I'm really excited by the turnout," Mayo said of the grand opening on Tuesday. "This shows what I thought all along: that the YMCA is vital to this community."
The renovations were begun after a merger between the Rahway YMCA and the YMCA of Eastern Union County last March. Tuesday's grand opening was the first result of that merger.

Calvin Sierra, president of the Board of Directors for the YMCA of Eastern Union County. "We realize that we would have to revitalize this building. Today you are here to celebrate the first step in this revitalization."
Kennedy saw more than the renewal of the Rahway Branch YMCA, but the renewal of Rahway alongside it. He pointed out that the renovations are taking place at the same time as renovations to the New Jersey Transit Station in the downtown area.
"I know what it's like to revitalize something," he said. "I've been involved in the town since 1978 and I can say 'Slow timing couldn't be better.' For years we've had the city moving in one direction, now we have a summit that's ready to do some great things."
"I think it shows a spark of life in the town. Obviously, if it increases the business base in the downtown area, the chamber will benefit," said Bill Brenner, president of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce. The chamber held its quarterly general membership meeting in the YMCA after ceremonies were completed there.
According to Mayo, repairs still need to be made to the facility's roof and the pool area. Renovations will also be made to the locker area by the pool to improve access. Mayo added that there will also be new programs added, such as a teen program, and renovations to the gymnasium and basketball court will be explored.
But school officials are already interested in making the city's schools more involved with the facility.

Board prepares for study of districts

(Continued from Page 1)
According to Ruckgaber, its elementary and middle school enrollment is 135 students, not enough to support a high school program. Winfield has about 40 high school students in Rahway this year and has been sending students to the school for more than 20 years.
The Winfield board has approached other districts in the past for similar reasons.
No plans of adding a high school. According to Ruckgaber, its elementary and middle school enrollment is 135 students, not enough to support a high school program. Winfield has about 40 high school students in Rahway this year and has been sending students to the school for more than 20 years.
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HANUKKAH'S BEGINNING
Children in Mrs. Reilly's 2nd grade class at Featherbed Lane School celebrated the beginning of Hanukkah with a lesson on the festival of lights and the many activities of the season.

HANUKKAH PARTY
December 13th, 1996
Featherbed Lane School
801 Featherbed Lane
Clark, N.J. 07063
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Admission Free
Refreshments and Games
Sponsored by Mrs. Reilly and Mrs. Stein

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A NEW YOU! RAHWAY YMCA
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Latest State-of-the-Art Cardio Equipment
New Full-Circuit Nautilus
Weights for Toning
Personalized Training by Professional Staff
Fitness Classes Low impact to total body
Convenient to public transportation
Friendly, trained staff!
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1-Week FREE Trial Membership
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Address _____
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Join us as we celebrate our Grand Opening—Special Events All Week Long!
Thurs. Jan. 23, 11-2pm Sensational Seniors Day
Fri. Jan. 24, 6-11pm Friday Night Spike-Out
Health Screenings, Speaker • Dance Lessons, Gifts for Everyone!
Volleyball Tournament, Food • Music
Sat. Jan. 25, 11-3pm Family Day
Tickle Me Elmo • Food • Goodies, Face Painting • Fun For All, Dance Demos • Contests, Freebies!
Sun. Jan. 26, 11-2pm After Church Superbowl Branch
Food • Music • Fun
Giveaways! & Drawings For FREE Membership!

Opposites attract

With the transfer of power on the Board of Chosen Freeholders complete, maybe the county can resume working toward creating the proposed science-technology magnet school.

The idea was to start such a school within the county Vocational-Technical Schools framework. It would have prepared a select group of motivated, talented students for higher education. Voc-Tech Superintendent Thomas Bistocchi wants the school to open in the fall, but when the time came to appropriate the funds last year, the Democratic freeholders balked.

"They said the county couldn't afford it because of existing debt."

These staunch believers in fiscal conservatism now hold the majority on the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and since the county's balance sheet hasn't changed much since that last vote on the magnet high school, it doesn't look like Bistocchi's deadline will be met.

But it should be met. What sets Union County's government apart from almost every other county government in this state is its repeated talk of its role in the global economy. In addition, the call for job training was heard during the last campaign season, as the Democratic candidates talked of preparing young people for the demands of the job market.

If opposites attract with magnets, maybe there are two opposites that should attract regarding the magnet school: smart decisions and Union-County freeholders.

One of the reasons we opposed the Democratic freeholder ticket last year was our doubt of the candidates' plans on this issue. They talked a good game about "job training," but we suspected they were thinking of a federal program that spends \$16,000 a year to train one teen-ager how to operate a cash register.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders has the solid gold chance to help teen-agers prepare for high skill, high wage jobs. If so much of the education establishment has to be public, then public officials managing a \$255 million annual budget shouldn't fret about bonding \$3 million for this school.

Patrol proves its worth

A Matawan man was indicted recently for a robbery that injured an elderly Clark resident in September. A member of the Rahway Police Department bicycle patrol witnessed the robbery and reported it. This resulted in the indictment of Steven Paul Rinck, 30, who now faces charges of robbery and eluding police in the Sept. 4 incident. He faces up to 20 years in prison if found guilty and still faces charges in two similar robberies in Union and Hillsdale. Rinck is being held at the Union County Jail in Elizabeth and faces more than 50 years of prison time if convicted on all offenses.

The magnitude of this arrest weighs heavily when the crimes are examined. According to police, Rinck robbed a 65-year-old Clark resident while she was getting into her car at the Drug Fair in Rahway and faces more than 50 years of prison time if convicted on all offenses.

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COMMUNITY FORUM



CRAFTY CLASSES — Children and instructors enjoy the Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation Holiday Craft Night. The children, ages 6-12, with the help of Sharon Young and Sandy Gjersten, decorate live evergreen wreaths.

Winter makes us find hidden consolation

"In winter's tedious nights sit by the fire with good old folks and let them tell their tales of wondrous size long ago heard." So advised Shakespeare's hapless King Richard II. I do what I can to keep winter at bay. The dreary seems of the back door are sealed. There are extra bright light bulbs in the lamp and ceiling fixtures. I take two bowls as a time-out of the library and don't wait to finish one before starting the other. I console myself with coffee and phone conversations with friends. Some of these conversations go for hours, past the borders of boredom, into something like a trance in which the day's most trivial details are incardinated upon and dissected.

I also write a lot of letters, a disappearing act. The recipients of these letters become uneasy because they believe a personal letter demands an answer.

Mine don't. I send roughly the same letter dozens to three or four people, using word processing functions to per-

sonalize them. In the longest, darkest winter nights, receiving a letter from me is a bit like getting a message from the lower regions of Dante's Hell, where souls are entombed in eternal ice. Some of these souls, one's even officially dead yet.

Some of my friends come with winter by hosting parties. This upsets me. I don't like parties. I don't like to be around people who are not my friends. I don't like to be around people who are not my friends.

However, the ambient, still wind, the air edge that cuts through clothing and makes the eyes water. Science materialists are used to this torture. I'm not a beach bum. The surfers who

ride the stormy winter waves are plain crazy, but I'm not one to argue about someone else's religion.

Mostly I sit inside and listen to lots of music. To sufferers of cabin fever, I recommend albums of ballads and standards by John Coltrane, Miles Davis and Chet Baker. Also slow jazz like Jane Christy and Chris Connor. I've been burning out on soul recent albums by Trickie, Low, Barry Adamson, and Microstoria.

I'm sorry that I can't offer more substantial and comforting advice to fellow members of the Society of Winter Lovers. But that's why we take our motto from poet Thomas Nashe: "From winter, plague and pestilence, good Lord, deliver us!"

Bob Rixon is a resident of Rahway and columnist for this newspaper. He can be reached at 973-987-9999.

Free Form

By Bob Rixon

Teens must learn about marijuana's dangers

Marijuana and tobacco use increased among eighth and 10th graders between 1995 and 1996, while use of these substances remained level among 12th graders, according to the 23rd annual Monitoring the Future survey, released by the Department of Health and Human Services. The survey also showed an increase in the use of alcohol by eighth graders.

The survey showed increases in the eighth annual survey — use within the past 30 days — and daily use of marijuana by eighth graders. Rates of marijuana use remained high and increased by 10 percent, but for the first time since 1993, showed no significant change in annual, current, or daily use.

Dr. Alan Leshner, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the agency that funded the survey, said, "It is important that young people understand the harm and danger caused by their drug use. Through continuing years of objective, scientific research, this risk has become ever clearer, and it has not changed such as cocaine and heroin, but also marijuana."

Research shows that marijuana is harmful to the brain, heart, lungs and immune system. It limits learning, memory, perception, judgment, and complex motor skills like driving. It has been shown to damage motivation and interest in one's goals and activities. Marijuana cigarette smoke is especially harmful, with more than 400 carcinogenic compounds. In addition, new evidence suggests that marijuana may be addictive and that daily effects on alertness and attention can last more than 24 hours.

Cigarette smoking also remained high among eighth and 10th graders, but decreased among 12th graders, although there were no significant changes in the use of alcohol by eighth graders.

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The survey showed increases in the eighth annual survey — use within the past 30 days — and daily use of marijuana by eighth graders. Rates of marijuana use remained high and increased by 10 percent, but for the first time since 1993, showed no significant change in annual, current, or daily use.

Dr. Alan Leshner, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the agency that funded the survey, said, "It is important that young people understand the harm and danger caused by their drug use. Through continuing years of objective, scientific research, this risk has become ever clearer, and it has not changed such as cocaine and heroin, but also marijuana."

Research shows that marijuana is harmful to the brain, heart, lungs and immune system. It limits learning, memory, perception, judgment, and complex motor skills like driving. It has been shown to damage motivation and interest in one's goals and activities. Marijuana cigarette smoke is especially harmful, with more than 400 carcinogenic compounds. In addition, new evidence suggests that marijuana may be addictive and that daily effects on alertness and attention can last more than 24 hours.

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Free Form

By Bob Rixon

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Grand Opening Celebration
Special offers available at Garwood and Linden Pathmark branches

Bank And Shop In One Stop.

Summit Bank

Full-Service Banking Where You Shop.

Now there's a full service Summit Bank inside the Garwood and Linden Pathmark Supermarkets. And they offer the most convenient banking imaginable. You can open a CD, apply for a loan, and manage all your banking — right where you shop. They're even open weeknights, Saturdays and Sundays to fit your busy schedule.

To celebrate the convenience, please join us for the Grand Opening Celebration. There'll be a sensational Supermarket Sweepstakes and you could win a terrific family vacation.

There are lots of special banking deals, too. Just open a Summit Bank Regular or Interest Checking account and you'll receive a free gift, plus be eligible for the terrific banking offers below. So stop by our Grand Opening Celebration and see how easy it is to bank where you shop. For more information, just give us a call at 1-800-282-BANK.

Reach Higher

Summit Bank

New branch locations inside the Pathmarks at:

10 South Avenue
Garwood, NJ 07027
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(908) 925-2994

Terrific longer banking hours:

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6.25% APY

18-month CD

FAMILY GETAWAY

GRAND PRIZE

\$100 4 FIRST PRIZES

Win Pathmark Gift Certificates

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Would you like to see Nick's bar remodeled and reopened?

CALL (908) 686-9898 and enter #7570 - YES #7571 - NO

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Is the city parking situation causing Rahway to lose residents and business?

NO RESPONSE

LETTERS AND COLUMNS

Worral Community Newspapers welcomes submissions from its readers. For publication, all letters and essays must be received before 9 a.m. Monday at 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

VIEW POINT

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

LETTERS AND COLUMNS

Rahway Progress

Published Weekly Since 1990

Published By
Worral Community Newspapers, Inc.
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Union, N.J. 07083
(908) 686-7700

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Judy McInerney
Regional Editor
Christopher Sutwal
Advertising Director

RECREATION



Children display masks after classes conducted by Supervisor Sarah Young. The winter class still has openings and Rahway children may be enrolled by calling 827-2045.

City division offers activities

The Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation offers a variety of activities for children and adults. Roller skating is available on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Openings are available for winter pre-school, youth, adult and senior citizen programs.

Coordinators sought: The Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation is looking for park and recreation coordinators for all elementary schools from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., January 1997 through March 1997.

Openings available: The Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation announces that there are openings for the following youth programs: Archery, Golf, Tennis, and Badminton.

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EVENTS

Concert scheduled: The Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation announces that there is a concert scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rahway High School.

Diets benefits taught: The Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation announces that there are diet benefits taught for the elderly on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Rahway Senior Center.

Public notice: The Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation announces that there is a public notice regarding the upcoming year-end report.

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Freeholders and vets join for program

Many establishments in Union County have done more than comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, they've taken additional voluntary steps to accommodate people with disabilities and make them feel welcome. The Union County government and a veteran's group will recognize these efforts for a second consecutive year through the Access/Union County Award Program.

RELIGION

Pastor installed

The First Baptist Church of Rahway announced the installation of Pastor James Cyr on Jan. 12. Pastor James Cyr was called as the 25th pastor of the church. James Mathew Cyr was born and raised in Massachusetts. The youngest of three children, his brother is a Methodist chaplain at an institution for mentally retarded adults in North Carolina and his sisters teaches choral art in English in Massachusetts. Cyr's father is retired and lives on Cape Cod in Massachusetts.

Parish weekend

An Inland Boardwalk Weekend will be held on the weekend of Feb. 20 at Saint Agnes Parish, 332 Madison Hill Road. The concept creates a "boardwalk" atmosphere in their parish hall with games, prizes, food and family fun. Freeholders are maintaining the different booths on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Lecture series

Martin Kieren Shapiro, a nationally recognized authority on business law, will present a series of lectures on the theme "Contract Law: Business in the Modern World." The lectures will be held at the Rahway High School on Feb. 23 and 24.

SHARE THE JOY

Born announcements will appear every Thursday in the Union Leader, Rahway Progress and the Clark Eagle. Birth announcements will appear every Thursday in the Union Leader, Rahway Progress and the Clark Eagle.

STORK CLUB

1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109 Union, N.J. 07083 YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT WILL APPEAR FREE OF CHARGE, OUR GIFT TO YOU

Form for birth announcements with fields for name, date, time, location, and parents' names.

UNION COUNTY NEWS

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1997 SECTION B

It's time for yearly deer hunt

If it's January, it must be time for the county's annual deer hunt. Well, of course it is January, and the hunt began almost two weeks ago. There are few issues facing the county government that inspire so much venom from so few people as the plan to reduce the size of the deer herd in the Watchung Reservation.

Common Sense

In favor of controlling the population of the herd, about a dozen county residents filed the hunt to the Holocaust. From our perspective, I must say the relationship is good, natural, and from the obvious — our belief in their right to protest — we welcome their outburst because it's hard to take them seriously.

Open House

Mothers' Seton Regional High School at Valley Road will hold an optional Open House on Monday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. for all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls and their parents.

Hogan's hero

Fanwood resident Lawrence Hogan, a history professor at Union County College, marked Martin Luther King's birthday by teaching how he thinks King's "I Have a Dream" speech is commentary on the origins of man. Hogan teaches a course in African-American history and is known to link aspects of popular culture with historical perspectives.

County Chamber of Commerce honors three local businesses

The Union County Chamber of Commerce marked the completion of its 85th year with a gala celebration on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The annual dinner was held at the Union County Courthouse.

Legislator introduces bill to promote housing plans

In a move that could affect suburban Union County, a state senator has introduced a bill to modify the Fair Housing Act. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Robert Menendez.

State's newest commercial bank opens in Elizabeth

Marked by the cut of a ribbon laden with \$50 bills, the first commercial bank to open in New Jersey in four years celebrated its debut in Elizabeth Jan. 16. With the approval of state and federal banking regulators secured, First BankAmericano became the city's only commercial bank.

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State's newest commercial bank opens in Elizabeth



With the cut of a ribbon laden with \$50 bills, Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage opens First BankAmericano, as state Sen. Ray Lesniak, D-Union, and Rep. Bob Menendez, D-13, look on. The firm, totaling \$1,000, was donated to St. Clare's Home for Children. The bank is the first commercial bank to open in the state in four years, and is the city's only commercial bank.

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In cyberspace, 'Hepcats' aren't of the animal kingdom

I honestly forget how I got to the "Hepcats" World Wide Web site at www.eden.com/hepcats.

I was in an open-minded mood that day. I was following a number of links on alternative and independent comics — after all, indie comics are what hip people do, right? — and one link led to the Eden Matrix, based both in Austin, TX, and in San Francisco.

There were a number of links to independent publishers — Mojo Press, Fantagraphics and such — but I followed the one, standing all alone, that said "Hepcats." I'm glad I did.

"Hepcats," if you don't know, is an anthropomorphic comic about college students at a fictional college.

of the author, Martin Wagner, and grew out of a strip that he drew in the college newspaper, "Anthropomorphic." In this sense, means that the characters are animals that can talk and either walk on two legs or have the bodies of humans; there's a whole genre of comics based on this premise.

I sent for an autographed, hard-bound collection of issues 3 to 10 called "Snowblind" from this site and have since given slightly added to the collection. I've bookmarked the site and keep coming back to it, reading

Cyber Raccoon's Logbooks

By Sean Daily Staff Writer

came in the special re-release of issue 1.

The link from "Cerebus" to "Hepcats" is a nice touch that helps, along with a special issue of No. 2 and copies of "Snowblind" and "Yo: The First Collegiate Edition."

"Probably the thing that really got me about 'Hepcats' is the art detail," the clear line work, all the work that he put into it," she said. "It's true."

Wagner seems to spend as much time on the backgrounds as he does on the main characters.

"What got me, though, and what's in my opinion, is the way he really sees reality, you can believe in the characters," she said. "When they're talking to

each other, it doesn't seem fake or contrived."

Voskuil's like of "Hepcats" lent itself naturally to the World Wide Web, when personal home pages started becoming "the thing to do."

Voskuil, who has been on the Internet for about four years, is better thinking seriously about putting up a "Hepcats" page at about the time that "Snowblind" came out, around June 1995. She said that she was aiming for something with a little more "content" than the usual personal page.

"I started thinking just what to put on it and I just decided during the planning stage where to get it," she said. Where else but from the source, Martin Wagner?

So began their collaboration on the page, with an e-mail request to Wagner for information. "He said he wanted to do one, so I became official even before it was put up," she said.

Wagner was coming into town for a comics convention a couple weeks after that, so they planned to meet each other. I must admit that I was half-reporter, half-fan when I asked her what it was like to work with him.

"We got along real well," in my opinion, she said. "He's really easy to get along with."

It first went up in September of that

Interviews set

The Union County Rape Crisis Center is interviewing for the following groups:

- a group of teenage female survivors of sexual assault.
- a group for young adult survivors age 19 to 30 addressing different kinds of sexual assault.

The Union County Rape Crisis Center is located at 300 North Avenue East, Westfield, 07090.

Arts & Entertainment

Elizabeth Playhouse production is a slice of heaven

Maybe Heaven can wait for responses to the delightful production of "Heaven Can Wait" at the Elizabeth Playhouse, but to theatergoers, it certainly can't wait for the comedic aspects and the talented cast to which Marlow Ferguson has given direction.

Better living through the Internet! Most of the collaboration is done on e-mail, since Wagner lives in Austin, Texas, and Voskuil lives in Chicago. "Since it's a computer item, it seems better to do through e-mail than to do it on the phone or in person," she said.

"Because he doesn't know how to make Web pages, he'll make suggestions that I would think of in the works," she added.

I asked her what kind of work she has put into the site. Surprisingly little, it turns out — "a couple hours" of work a week, including putting up new retailers, selling "Hepcats" that she gets from Wagner and new graphics and news. This despite the fact that the page sometimes changes two or three times a week as new material comes in.

She's been getting more work lately. Take note, retailers — her work on the "Hepcats" site has garnered work from other sources.

Theater View

By Beg Smith Staff Writer

The play, written by Segal, which opened Friday night and will run for five weekends, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Feb. 16, is better known to moviegoers in two versions: the first as "Here Comes Mr. Jordan" and the more recent second, Warren Beatty's version of "Heaven Can Wait."

The original version, as produced in three acts at the Elizabeth Playhouse, is particularly well staged by Randi Bayer-Spittel, who also directs as a very funny maid in a very rich house. Incidentally, she is the former editor of the Elizabeth Gazette and the Hillside Leader and excels in all aspects of her career.

The story is set in 1938 and concerns a boxer, Joe Pendleton, who, while training for the welterweight championship, finds the phone he is on is about to crash, and he is snatched by an apprentice angel who takes him to heaven's meadow. Mr. Jordan — quite by mistake. Actually, Joe would



Unwilling ghost Joe Pendleton and guardian angel Mr. Jordan eavesdrop on a murder plot by Mrs. Farnsworth and secretary Tony Abbott in the Elizabeth Playhouse production of "Heaven Can Wait," being presented Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m., through Feb. 16. From left, Rick Brown, Liz Mahon, Tom Gallison and Alan Benson. For information, call (908) 355-0077.

Crescent Concerts attempts to 'jazz' up your afternoon

By Jacquie McCarthy Associate Editor

Currently celebrating their fifteenth season of choral and musical concerts, Crescent Concerts this Sunday presents an afternoon of "January Jazz," featuring several local jazz artists and ensembles.

The concert, held in the magnificent Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield, opened with the lush and soulful "When the Saints Go Marching In," directed by Chris Fischer. Both excellent musicians, Fred is director of choral music at the Westfield Synagogue, and Chris is an organist and choir director for the United Church of Christ. Congregation in Plainfield, Chris is a proponent of jazz and music for many years, pop, jazz, Latin and R&B recordings. He has recorded with trumpeter John Faddis, percussionist Don Alias and saxophonist Bob Mintzer. Chris tours with classic soul group "The Main Ingredient."

The combination of Fred on piano and Chris on keyboards was a winning formula for an evening of jazz, soul, and blues. The Fischer's selections were low key, and rhythmic, allowing the audience to settle into their seats and just enjoy the music.

Records added enough heat and soul to keep your feet tapping. The evening featured a variety of tunes, mostly a jazz walk, which was meditative and romantic, and a little original piece written by the Vincent

The group performed "When the River Meets the Sea," "Over the Top," "When All is Said and Done," and "The Usual Suspect," all original compositions by group members. The sound was much broader than that of the opening performance, including saxophone, piano, bass and drums. "Aloha" picked up the tempo a bit from the Fischer's slow mood music and kept the audience entertained with energetic and playful sax solos by David Dalton. The group included one of the best scheduled concert, "Silly, As in a Morning Stunt" by S. Romberg and R. Hammerstein, written in 1925.

The close of the afternoon featured "Birds of a Feather," a mother and son team. Chesley Kahmann on piano and

son Ames Parsons on trumpet opened their set with a jazzy version of "When the Saints Go Marching In," and proceeded to entertain with some tunes — from Broadway musicals, including selections from "Show Boat." Joining the duo was vocalist Jennifer Gossett, whose lovely operatic voice was in great form on "The Lady is a Tramp." Gossett is a member of "The Interludes," a female vocal ensemble based in Summit which is directed by Kahmann.

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church's afternoon of "January Jazz" continues a long tradition of musical enjoyment. Monthly concerts were begun not long after the founding of the church in 1844. The church is home to the Crescent Singers and the Plainfield Symphony, and has hosted performances by the New Jersey Youth Symphony, Summit Chorale, Ric Charles Ensemble and others.

The next scheduled concert, "Candles in Darkness," will feature the Crescent Singers. The concert will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23. For further information, contact Marlene Karkpans, publicity manager, at (908) 754-0176.

Jacquie McCarthy, Editor

Special Community Features Editor

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

Teen Arts Festival seeks volunteers

Like working with artists, teachers and students? The Union County Teen Arts Festival has a volunteer position open for volunteers to help with the festival. The position involves setting up, running, and cleaning up the festival. Volunteers are needed to assist artists with workshops, manage performances, and staff information tables.

At the festival, 3000 students participate in performances, creating

seminars, master classes and workshops with staff of 50 professional artists in visual arts, music, creative writing, theater and dance.

Volunteers are needed to assist artists with workshops, manage performances, and staff information tables.

Anyone interested may call (908) 555-2590.

Recent Symphony appearance sponsored in part by The Gap

The Westfield Symphony recently received a \$4,000 check from Jen Suttman, district manager of Gap Kids, for a \$4,000 check to the Westfield Symphony Board of Directors. Jen Suttman is also the sponsor of the Westfield Symphony's First Night Concerts. Joining Gap in presenting the WSO's New Year's Eve concert are the First Night Committee, represented by Lisa Gulmann, third from left, and the Wallace Fund of the Westfield Foundation, represented by Tom Prehan on the

Symphony assistants gain from experience

Music students from Westfield and Linden got an opportunity to learn firsthand about the many facets of a professional orchestral production when they served as Assistants to the Conductor at the premiere of the Westfield Symphony's 1996-97 concert season.

and Springfield will work with guest conductors at concerts. Applications are still being accepted for Assistants to the Conductor to work with Maestro Mary Woodmansee Green for the May 10 Opera-In-Concert production of Bizet's "Carmen."

For information on tickets to Westfield performances or applications to the Assistant to the Conductor program, call the symphony office at (908) 333-8400 or visit the WSO homepage on the Internet at www.westfieldsymphony.com.

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BUISINESS
STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS
4190 Training & Workshops
4191 Starting a Business
4192 Developing a Business Plan
4193 Marketing
4194 Starting a Franchising

CIGAR TALK
3340 Cigar History
3341 How To Select A Cigar
3342 Winesap Types
3343 Size Of The Cigar
3344 Storage Tips

COMMUNITY EVENTS LINE
1654 Musical/Elzaviv Events
1655 Downtown Newark Events
4912 Downtown Events
4913 Downtown Events

COMPUTERS & THE INTERNET
2227 What's New Today
2228 What's New Today
2229 What's New Today
2230 What's New Today
2231 What's New Today
2232 What's New Today
2233 What's New Today
2234 What's New Today

ENTERTAINMENT
3174 What's New Today
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3181 What's New Today
3182 What's New Today

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Buscemi spends his time hanging around 'Trees'

Steve Buscemi has made it clear to the world of film that he has a kinship with independent films. He's worked for the most part, outside mainstream Hollywood and has starred in such inside pictures as "Reservoir Dogs" and "Fargo." In 1996 Buscemi decided to try his hand at directing and the resulting film, "Trees Lounge," is an excellent debut. Just like his reluctance to dive into Hollywood acting roles, he relies much more on character study than plot to tell its effective tale.

The Video Detective

By Jim Riffel

The funeral Tommy is attending is for his uncle, who made a living driving an ice cream truck. A few weeks later, with no other employment opportunities, Tommy takes over the route. As he makes his rounds he's joined by his friend's 17-year-old daughter, Tommy begins to realize that she has a crush on him. Though this age difference would cause major concern in a normal person's mind, Tommy's thinking process is about as clear as a dark lager. This spells trouble. He regains his conscience in the nick of time but other areas of his life are giving him just as much trouble. He regains his conscience in the nick of time but other areas of his life are giving him just as much trouble.



Attending the recent New Jersey Corporate Philanthropy Awards Dinner, from left: Joan Duffy Good, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts; Ed Brakowski, Panasonic Industrial Company; Maureen Heffman, Institute for Arts and Humanities Education, and Jim Kellogg, president of the Community Foundation of New Jersey.

Panasonic receives philanthropy award

At the State Aquarium at Camden in November, The Panasonic Industrial Company received a prestigious Corporate Philanthropy award at the 7th Annual New Jersey Corporate Philanthropy Awards Dinner. The company, which is based in Secaucus, will donate the \$1,500 prize, contributed by the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation, to three nonprofits: One of these is the Association of Retarded Citizens of Union County in Plainfield, which works in conjunction with the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, exploring the benefits of technology, music, and physical challenges people of drawing and painting.

Theater provides for the hearing-impaired

To assist individuals who are profoundly hard of hearing and do not read American Sign Language, Paper Mill Playhouse will now offer open captioning for all of its mainstage productions. This will make Paper Mill the only theater on the East Coast to offer this service to its patrons.

Paper Mill is proud of its commitment to all individuals regardless of economic constraints or physical disability. The theater provides barrier-free access throughout the facility, sign-interpreted performances for individuals who are deaf, infra-red listening enhancement devices for those who are hearing impaired, and...

Playhouse seeks director for next summer season

The Linden Summer Playhouse, a non-profit theater organization, has been teaching children and young adults between the ages of 8-22 the thrill of acting. The Linden Summer Playhouse is currently seeking a director for its July show. This paid position requires experience in community theater, a good working relationship with children, dedication, and a positive attitude. Practices are June 1 through 2.

Three Squares Restaurant

Starting at 5:00 PM on January 27th. New Dinner Menu & Table Service. Freshly Prepared to Order Seafood, Prime Meats & Great Desserts. New Cutting Edge Entrees And Some Old Favorites In Our Casual Atmosphere. Daily Specials • Great Prices. Take Out Always Available. Call Ahead.

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Applications still available for arts achievement awards

Applications are available for the 1997 Very Special Arts New Jersey Achievement Awards. These awards, presented to classified students, maintained excellent self-contained classes or activities, 14-21 years old, who show outstanding achievement in and commitment to the field of the arts. Applications are available in the Arts Awards program to outstanding educators and administrators for establishing high quality arts programs for classified students. The award also recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to arts education for classified students. The competition is a feeder program for the distinguished New Jersey Governor's Awards in Arts Education.

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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

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

DINING REVIEW

Margie's Place. The lunch counter meets casual dining. By Jacquie McGuffin, Associate Editor. Whether this unassuming yet cozy family establishment is a happy accident or a carefully planned endeavor, it's hard to say. The menu is a mix of classic and contemporary, with a focus on comfort food. Margie's Place, featuring both light-American and hearty European cuisine, is located at the corner of Union Avenue and Alder Street in Cranford. For information, call (908) 272-6336.

EDUCATION & CAREER

Vocational school still accepting registrations

There is still room for more students in the wide variety of full- and part-time day and evening classes being offered by the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools. The Spring Semester will get underway with the opening of the Evening Session on Monday, Jan. 20. The Day Session starts on Wednesday.

Dive into a good book



Penina Grossberg, principal of Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union's Cranford Lower School introduces 'Books and Beyond' reading program and encourages students to dive in!

method affords these young men and women the opportunity to learn a valuable trade in addition to earning a secondary school diploma. According to Thomas E. Highsmith, director of Adult Education, among the many Evening Session offerings will be courses not usually listed on a regular basis. Some are being provided due to popular interest and others because of the need of individuals to upgrade their skills to maintain certification requirements. Part-time students who wish to receive and obtain licenses as cosmetologists. The National Electric Code Book for 1996 is for electricians who require familiarity with changes in the Code and rationale for the change.

Courses offered in response to community interest include Auto Body Workshop, Cabinet Making, a day-time Manicuring class, Desk-Top Publishing, including Page Maker and Quark Express, Computer-Aided Design and Preparation for the Automotive A.S.E. exams, Highsmith adds, that enrollment of women will continue to increase in formerly male-dominated courses such as Automotive Repair, Welding, Electricity, Carpentry, Masonry, and Power Tooling. Day Session registrations are being held daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Raritan Room at the Scotch Plains Campus, 1776 Raritan Road. This is also the site of the Evening Session registrations. They are being held Mondays through Thursdays from 11 to 7:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.

English language classes offered at county college

Speakers of foreign languages will be able to hone their English proficiency skills while persons who plan to take the General Education Development high school equivalency examination may prepare for testing through non-credit curricula offered during the spring semester at Union County College. Classes will be held in the Cranford, Elizabeth, and Plainfield campuses for ESL to afford students the opportunity to study during convenient hours and at a nearby location. GED preparation classes will be held in both English and in Spanish at the Cranford and Elizabeth campuses. The ESL curriculum is designed for adults whose language is not English to improve their English skills. Students are placed in classes on one of three levels of English proficiency, so that they may study among people who have similar English language abilities.

The ESL program will begin on Feb. 1 and continue weekly through April 26. Classes will be conducted from 9 a.m. to noon. Meanwhile, the GED Preparation course will be offered in both English and Spanish at the college's campuses in Cranford and Elizabeth. Students will be able to review their test-taking skills, as well as course content in various subject areas. Students may choose from one of the following GED Preparation-time slots, conducted in English: 9-11 a.m. or 6-8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, Feb. 3 through March 31, or at the same times from April 2 through May 28, both at the Cranford campus. Or 9-11:15 a.m. or 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 4 through March 27, or at the same times from April 1 through May 22, both at the Elizabeth campus. In Spanish, students will be able to select from two time slots, 6-8 p.m. on Feb. 4 through March 27, or April 1 through May 22, both at the Elizabeth campus. Those interested in further information should call the college's Department of Continuing Education and Community Services at 709-7600.

Computer design courses offered

Credit and non-credit courses in computer integrated design and manufacturing are being offered by Kean College's Continuing Education Office. Certificate programs start in February and April. Single courses may be taken any time. The following courses will run for eight weeks through February and March. The fee for each course is \$600. 'Computer Aided Design and Graphics II' will include a complete, detailed study of three dimensional drafting and design. Examples used in training include: jet engine turbine, aircraft wing, and more. For further information, contact John Sladecik, Computer Integrated Design and Manufacturing office at 908-527-2062.

Free citizenship classes offered at county college

Free classes for the foreign-born will again be featured during the Spring Semester at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools. Thomas E. Highsmith, director of Adult Education, announced studies in English language skills and civics will be covered and that the program is directed toward preparing participants for the attainment of U.S. citizenship. Computer-integrated classes will be conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 6:30 and 9 p.m. at the UCVC's Campus, 1776 Raritan Road. Flexible hours can be arranged. Registrations are being held in the Raritan Room at the Scotch Plains Campus, 1776 Raritan Road, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 11 and 18. Full details can be obtained by calling 908-598-2922 or 2914. These no-charge classes for the foreign-born are made possible through a grant from the NJ Department of Education, Office of Specialized Programs.

Learn to read Hebrew in five easy weeks

Learn to read Hebrew by Passover. Read the traditional seder text in Hebrew. Temple Beth El of Cranford and Westfield announces a five-week free Hebrew reading course opens to all. The course runs through Feb. 16, at 9:30 a.m. Through the sponsorship of the National Jewish Outreach Program, Leslie Bernstein, a reading specialist, is now offering this program to the community at large. Bernstein has been teaching the Hebrew alphabet to adult congregants of Temple Beth-El for many years. She has seen how students have gone on to celebrate their bar/bat mitzvah, recite their Hallel and even reading the weekly Torah portion. Reading the five books of Moses in Hebrew "is there's no power like that," she said. "It brings being able to read the prayer book at services or the Haggadah at Passover seder, or taking a trip to Israel and actually reading the posters and billboards signs, etc. so easy and convenient to get a local synagogue and learn to read Hebrew in just five short weeks." Lida, further explained.

Scholarships available to county students

The Harold and Debra Stolar Foundation has announced the availability of scholarships to Union County students in college or post-college studies. The scholarship is made possible through a grant from the NJ Department of Education, Office of Specialized Programs. Applications may be obtained by writing to: Harold and Debra Stolar Foundation, 2750-25, the deadline for submission of applications and supporting materials is March 14.

CAREER & EDUCATION

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

ART SHOWS

BARRON ARTS CENTER will present an exhibition of art by members of TAG — The Art Group through Jan. 26.

HOSPITAL EXHIBIT Realistic jungle animals, nature in the abstract and transcendental art subjects are the art of an exhibit on display at Children's Specialized Hospital this month.

WATCHING ARTS CENTER is presenting an unusual exhibit of Polarity emulsions, transferred and related mixed media.

WEATHERPROOF artist Phyllis Johnson's most recent landscape oil paintings spanning all four seasons will be mounted in a solo exhibit through Jan. 31 at Swan Garden in Plainfield.

TEEN ARTS TOURING EXHIBIT is displayed at the Plainfield Public Library through Feb. 3.

THE GRAYN IMAGE art show at Swan Garden in Plainfield is a show of contemporary art by Robert Costa.

SKULSKI ART GALLERY is presenting an exhibit of art by Robert Costa.

AUDITIONS The Union County Arts Center is holding auditions for the 1997-98 season.

RHYTHM AND LIGHT an exhibit by Monica Caballero Bistic is on display at Les Marquis.

WESTFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA will present a concert of music by Beethoven and Brahms.

ANNUAL INVITATIONAL SHOW is presented through Feb. 3 at the Plainfield Public Library.

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Stepping Out

Admission to the gallery is free and open to the public, one hour prior to performances through intermission and Fridays, from noon to 2 p.m.

VIENNA CHOIR BOYS will appear in concert at the Wilkes Theater at Kean College in Union Monday at 8 p.m.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY will present a concert of music by Beethoven and Brahms.

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The year's best movies have something to say

There were thirty really creative movies with something special to say to us during 1996, and still counting. There are influential critics deprecating the year's output in the face of these typical, entertaining, often stunning and challenging movies, with their highly individualist surface performances.

The two best films of the year are the splendidly subtle English language "The English Patient," directed by Anthony Minghella with a strong, controlled performance by Ralph Fiennes and an adult, sensitive Kristen Thomas; and the deeply philosophical and yet distinctly French, storytelling "The Thin Red Line," directed by Andre Techine with carefully crafted ensemble performances by Catherine Deneuve and Daniel Auteuil.

Some other favorites are three diverse Los Angeles style comedies, "Romeo and Juliet," in Verona, west, "The English Patient," in the desert, and "The Thin Red Line," in the mountains.

Finally, there were powerful anti-ideology movies made in an independent style, including a provocative "Sleepers in Hell's Kitchen" in Manhattan, a deeply austere and dramatic "Breaking the Waves" in modern climates; a finely detailed performance by Gene Hackman, played by a male in 1996.

Quite a list. There were, too, some really bad movies that failed, such as "Cable Man" and bad movies that made a lot of money, like "Independence Day," but 1996 was a truly great year for the movies.

Jon Platt is a resident of Summit.

Take your wagon to the Playhouse for lunch

The Elizabeth Playhouse is happy to announce the beginning of its free lunchtime theater series with a production of "The Glass Menagerie" and "A Streetcar Named Desire."

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Be Our Guest

who is unfailingly good in the Broadway-drama "Maurin's Room," Nicole Kidman in Ivan Cameron's adaptation of Henry James' "The Portrait of a Lady," Al Pacino in "Looking for Richard," fourth Shakespeare, and for Winona Ryder and Joan Allen, as well as Daniel Day-Lewis, in "The Crucible."

Then there are the star vehicles which surpass their material to offer a fresh look at someone we think we know quite well, but in a different or provocative role, including "Crucible" with a Malcolm X reading with energy but also talent; "Courage Under Fire" with a more mature Denzel Washington; and "The Chamber" with a fiery and detailed performance by Gene Hackman, played by a male in 1996.

Finally, there were powerful anti-ideology movies made in an independent style, including a provocative "Sleepers in Hell's Kitchen" in Manhattan, a deeply austere and dramatic "Breaking the Waves" in modern climates; a finely detailed performance by Gene Hackman, played by a male in 1996.

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Museum Guide

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

Litell-Lard Farmstead Museum & Farmstead at 31 Honeshoe Road in Berkeley Heights. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month from April through December, or by appointment. Call 262-0961 for more information.

William Rohlfs Plantation Museum at 593 Madison Hill Road in Clark. Hours open: 1-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month from April through December. Call 351-2501 for more information.

Belcher-Ogden Mansion at 104 E. Jersey St. in Elizabeth. Open by appointment only. Call 351-2500 for more information.

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

Drake House Museum at 602 W. Front St. in Plainfield. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on Sundays. Call 755-8581 for more information.

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

Abraham Clark House at 101 West Ninth Ave. in Chesnut Street, in Roselle. Open by appointment only. Call 488-1783 for more information.

Oborn Cannanbush House at 1840 Front St. in Scotch Plains. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month. Call 333-9165 for more information.

Cannonbush House at 125 Morris Ave. in Springfield. Open by appointment only. Call 201-379-2634 for more information.

Benjamin Carter House at 90 Butler Road in Summit. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on Tuesdays, 1:30-4 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 2-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month or by appointment. Call 274-1747 for more information.

Reverend Robert Abbot at 165 Hobart Ave. in Summit. Hours open: grounds are open daily, from dawn to dusk; office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. For more information, call 273-8767.

Calwell Parsonage at 809 Caldwell Ave. in Union. Hours open: 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month, except December and January, or by appointment. Call 687-8129 for more information.

Miller-Cory House Museum at 614 Mountain Ave. in Westfield. Hours open: 2-5 p.m. on Sundays, September through June and 2-4 p.m. on Sundays in January and February, or by appointment. Call 232-4776 for more information.

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Teen Arts exhibit continues touring

The Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Division of Parks & Recreation, announces that the Plainfield Public Library at Park and 8th avenues in Plainfield will host the Union County Teen Arts Exhibit through Feb. 7.

The exhibit consists of pieces of art selected from the 513 visual art works shown at the 1996 Union County Teen Arts Festival held at Union County College. The annual event is sponsored by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Division of Parks and Recreation. The next Union County Teen Arts Festival will be held March 26 & 27.

Students may attend the Festival by registering through their school. The exhibiting students are: Clark — Mary Callahan, Mother Sonia RHIS, Shannon Hall, C. Kampé MS Elizabeth — Sakina Miles, Benedictine Academy Hillsdale — Sherona Freeman, Hillsdale HS Lincoln — Goss Smeleld, Linden HS Mountaintop — Christina Forman, Deerfield MS Rahway — Corinne LaBarre, Rahway HS; Keturah Clark, Rahway MS Springfield — Lisa Neville, F.M. Goodwin MS; Keny Kim, J. Dayton RHIS Summit — Ned Conway, Summit MS Union — Lawrence Q. Wong, Burnet MS; Chorkia Henderson, Kawahine MS; Erin Cook, Union HS

The Union County Teen Arts Program is supported by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, Division of Parks & Recreation, Union County College, Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Program Advisory Board, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Dept. of State, Elizabeth Board of Education, Friends of Teen Arts through a grant from the NJ State Department of Education, NJ Center for Visual Arts, Alliance for Arts Education, NJ and participating schools.

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Rhythm and Light: an exhibit by Monica Caballero Bistic is on display at Les Marquis through Feb. 6

two weary sisters — one an orphan, the other a woman of letters. Features a fine direction and intelligent dialogue. "The Glass Menagerie" is a play by Tennessee Williams. The film programs will be shown in Scotch Plains at 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 23 and 30, and 8 p.m. on Feb. 6.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY Orchestra and Music Director Zdenka Kravtsovich will perform a concert of music by Beethoven and Brahms at the Wilkes Theater at Kean College in Union Monday at 8 p.m.

MUSEUMS MILLER CORY HOUSE will present a production of "The Glass Menagerie" and "A Streetcar Named Desire" at 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 23 and 30, and 8 p.m. on Feb. 6.

KIDS THE UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER will present a series of plays for children at the Wilkes Theater at Kean College in Union.

EDISON'S LABORATORY will present a production of "The Glass Menagerie" and "A Streetcar Named Desire" at 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 23 and 30, and 8 p.m. on Feb. 6.

LECTURES JUST ABOUT ART: The ongoing Thursday night forum of formal talks and discussions with artists and curators will feature the following programs.

LASER CONCERTS are being presented by the New Jersey State Symphony Orchestra at the Wilkes Theater at Kean College in Union.

POETRY CONTESTS SPARROWGRASS POETRY FORUM is offering a grand prize of \$1,000 to its new "Distinguished Poet Award."

SPARROWGRASS POETRY FORUM is offering a grand prize of \$1,000 to its new "Distinguished Poet Award."

Artists weave their visions into reality

Threads: Fiber Art in the 90s, featuring works by 24 leading textile artists from the United States, Australia, Japan, Korea and the United Kingdom will be on exhibit through March 2 in the Palmer Gallery, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts.

Featured in this exhibition are 68 works which demonstrate the ways in which artists of the 90s are using fiber. Materials used include monofilaments, papers, feathers, bones, shells and recycled materials. Results range from flat, hand-woven tapestries to woven, knitted and beaded forms, metal mesh, woven orange peel, painted and gilded fabrics, hand-knitted, quilted, narrative quilt, computer-driven woven fabric and hand-stitchery.

Highlights will give a talk on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. International artist, famous for commissions of heroic proportions, Jack Lenor Larsen writes of her "Of the artists working in tapestry today, she is without peer. She triumphs over limitations to create art form that goes beyond craft without losing its durable virtues."

Presently the editor of Surface Design Journal, Patricia Malcher wrote the catalog essay. Working with fabric since 1960, she was recently presented with an Award for Lifetime Achievement in Crafts.

Other featured artists include: Sara Brennan of the UK and daughter of Anne Brennan has shared her own course in tapestry, focusing on landscapes through her abstract creations.

Liz Cook draws her idea from the history of textiles. "I use detail to expose a moment of touch, the physical presence of cloth and I use the image of cloth to emphasize its both ordinary and extraordinary value."

Nancy Crow led the quilt revolution that began in the mid-70s and changed the perception of quilts as purely functional to authentic art form. "My style of quilting is contemporary. In that I want to express my experiences now and not copy old quilts. They are traditional only in that they are pieced and hand-quilted."

Sizes of works by internationally acclaimed artist Sheila Hicks range from the miniature to the monumental. "Midnight Blue" illustrates her theory that "a small fiber work is a poem, a very tight ball, it contains only the essential, everything that is not necessary has been eliminated."

Kiyomi Iwata's three columns are "meant to embody the different stages of one's development," from the completely covered to the translucent self, and finally emerging from the chrysalis. The works are richly embellished with rice paper, composite gold leaf, brass foil and aluminum mesh.

Glen Kaufman composes collages of photographs abstracted through xerography and other photographic processes, utilizing these to create a photo silk screen. The resulting screen stencil is printed onto woven cloth and heightened through the addition of metal leaf.

Australian artist Sara Lindsay works with gingham fabric interwoven with finely woven detail in cotton, silk and rayon. "Used for its particular metaphorical base which relates directly to the content of the work," says Lindsay.

John McQueen is an important American textile artist who has reinvented and raised the ancient craft of basketry to that of sculpture through his use of natural materials to create woven non-container baskets. This artist often uses negative space to literally "weave" words into the structures. Four works will be shown.

Recently exhibited at the American Craft Museum, Rebecca Model uses knitted threads to make them rigid enough to suspend as geometric, three-dimensional wall reliefs, using Eastern philosophy, architectural history and mathematical theory. "My work is about the spiritual, about other than the physical plane of existence," says Model.

A painter, mixed media sculptor, performance artist, writer and teacher Faith Ringgold combines her talents to create a story in word and image. She calls this unique form a "quilt" although her constructions only vaguely resemble quilts in their traditional sense as craft.

Jane Sauer "I like working with an exterior structure that defines and implies an interior space. This deeper sense of space is rarely seen but always present. I love the sense of control when all else seems out of control. I build knot by knot, row by row."

Laser concerts at planetarium

The New Jersey State Museum Planetarium will present laser concerts through May 11.

"We offered a series of laser concerts in the Planetarium two years ago and it was tremendously popular. In fact, to this day, we get calls from visitors who ask if we're still showing laser concerts. So we decided to bring them back. But this year, we're offering a whole new assortment of show topics — from family favorites to classic rock to alternative music," said Richard Peers, assistant curator of astronomy education for the New Jersey State Museum. "The laser shows are presented in conjunction with Laser Fantasy, an interactive astronomy education program. The schedule of laser concerts are as follows:

Laser Beats — Laser Beats is a 10-minute show featuring a Beatles Laser Anthology that includes "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds," "All Together Now," "Get Back," "Tomorrow Never Knows" and other Beatles tunes. "Laser Beats" showcases the songs that have become classic favorites. It's a show for audiences of all ages.

"Lasपालोवा" at 8:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings is a spectacular collection of music based on the Lullapalooza traveling concert featuring alternative music groups, including Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, Nine Inch Nails, Stone Temple Pilots, Soundgarden, Nirvana and more.

"Laser Smashing Pumpkins" at 9:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings presents such selections as "Smashing Pumpkins," "Tonight, Tonight," "Disarm," "Cherry Rock," and other by the Smashing Pumpkins, a group that burst off the sidelines of the alternative revolution in 1993 with their major label debut, "Siamese Dream."

"Pink Floyd: The Wall" at 10:45 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings is a laser masterpiece constructed from excerpts from Pink Floyd's classic album, "The Wall."

"Laser Show Tunes" at 2 p.m. Sunday and Saturday afternoons features spectacular film scenes, Broadway musicals and television themes that come to life in an entertaining show filled with brilliant light. This show features music from "Phantom of the Opera," "The Sound of Music," "Mary Poppins" and more.

"Laser Motown" at 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday afternoons is a musical tribute to the Motown sound which fused pop, gospel and rhythm and blues. The show includes music by artists such as Diana Ross and the Supremes, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder and others.

Tickets are \$4 per person for Saturday and Sunday matinee shows and \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under for evening shows. Tickets are available at the Temple Pilots, Soundgarden, Nirvana and more.

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WINTER DRIVING '97

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Auto Spotlight

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Recently, I borrowed a new Ultra from Union County Bank of Scotch Plains, located on Route 22, about a half-mile from Blue Star shopping center.

The Ultra, named for the super-charged 3.8 liter V-6 engine under the hood, is in every way a premium luxury car — but with guts. My un-forgotten time from 1935 was less than eight seconds. The whine of the supercharger was barely perceptible, and the feeling it gives you is exciting. But then you ask, "What's a Buick doing with all this power and speed?"

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Whether you drive a hot new sports car, luxury sedan or high-mileage economy car, thieves have probably contemplated stealing it at one time or another. Espionage cars are generally stolen for their resale value, while less expensive models are often stripped for parts or taken for a joyride.

According to the latest FBI statistics, 1.5 million cars were stolen in the U.S. in 1993 — about one every 20 seconds. And with more than 190 million cars cruising the nation's streets and highways, potential thieves have a lot of targets.

"Many motorists erroneously believe that their vehicle is immune from theft because it's not an expensive import," says Dave Chippis, and Ohio auto security expert. "In reality, some older vehicles are even more sought after for their parts than luxury cars. Thieves who are looking for your specific make and model need only one opportunity to steal it."

But frustrated drivers seeking a way to combat such thefts have a new ally in their fight. Chippis recommends a state-of-the-art steering wheel lock called Lockjaw to safeguard autos.

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If you are looking for a comfortable five seat luxury car with a sporty feel and the power to match, then check out the new 1997 Buick Park Avenue Ultra. Then you'll understand why they say in their brochure, "Park Avenue, you've earned it. Now enjoy it."

WINTER DRIVING '97

Forget the new autos, classic car restoration is fulfilling

By Blaine Dilbert
Staff Writer

"So you would like to get into restoring old cars? Well I can tell that for car enthusiasts there is no greater thrill than finding that special old junker and bringing it back to life as an everyday driver or show car."

There are, however, a lot of things to consider when taking on a restoration project before spending what can become serious money depending on the level of the project. First off consider how much time and money you have to spend on the project, this will ultimately determine what type of project it makes sense to undertake. To do a ground up restoration of a classic or semi-classic car is going to take a lot of time and money, especially if you decide to do all of the work yourself. On the other hand, taking an old car and cleaning it up can be rewarding and relatively inexpensive if done correctly, but it all depends on personal taste. Start off by allowing yourself a

certain amount of money you want to spend on the car and stick to it, keeping in mind that when working on a car many unexpected little expenses come up all of the time.

Next comes choosing the right car to restore. Most of the time this decision is based on someone's love of a particular car or model that they have wanted since childhood. Other times it comes because someone stumbles across the "right" car for a restoration job. The most important thing is to not take the first car that you see, since the point is not to buy an already rusted-out vehicle most of what you look for will need work, so look around and try to find something that will need the least amount of work to complete for your budget. The best piece of advice is to start with a "solid" car. Get under the car and look for signs of rot and rust in the floorboards and frame, if there is too much rot, or frame damage then you have already created an enormous amount of work

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2001 3.0i 4dr 26,995	2001 3.0i 4dr 26,995	2001 3.0i 4dr 26,995	2001 3.0i 4dr 26,995	2001 3.0i 4dr 26,995	2001 3.0i 4dr 26,995
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2001 3.5i 4dr 30,995	2001 3.5i 4dr 30,995	2001 3.5i 4dr 30,995	2001 3.5i 4dr 30,995	2001 3.5i 4dr 30,995	2001 3.5i 4dr 30,995
2001 3.7i 4dr 32,995	2001 3.7i 4dr 32,995	2001 3.7i 4dr 32,995	2001 3.7i 4dr 32,995	2001 3.7i 4dr 32,995	2001 3.7i 4dr 32,995
2001 3.9i 4dr 34,995	2001 3.9i 4dr 34,995	2001 3.9i 4dr 34,995	2001 3.9i 4dr 34,995	2001 3.9i 4dr 34,995	2001 3.9i 4dr 34,995
2001 4.0i 4dr 36,995	2001 4.0i 4dr 36,995	2001 4.0i 4dr 36,995	2001 4.0i 4dr 36,995	2001 4.0i 4dr 36,995	2001 4.0i 4dr 36,995
2001 4.2i 4dr 38,995	2001 4.2i 4dr 38,995	2001 4.2i 4dr 38,995	2001 4.2i 4dr 38,995	2001 4.2i 4dr 38,995	2001 4.2i 4dr 38,995
2001 4.4i 4dr 40,995	2001 4.4i 4dr 40,995	2001 4.4i 4dr 40,995	2001 4.4i 4dr 40,995	2001 4.4i 4dr 40,995	2001 4.4i 4dr 40,995
2001 4.6i 4dr 42,995	2001 4.6i 4dr 42,995	2001 4.6i 4dr 42,995	2001 4.6i 4dr 42,995	2001 4.6i 4dr 42,995	2001 4.6i 4dr 42,995
2001 4.8i 4dr 44,995	2001 4.8i 4dr 44,995	2001 4.8i 4dr 44,995	2001 4.8i 4dr 44,995	2001 4.8i 4dr 44,995	2001 4.8i 4dr 44,995
2001 5.0i 4dr 46,995	2001 5.0i 4dr 46,995	2001 5.0i 4dr 46,995	2001 5.0i 4dr 46,995	2001 5.0i 4dr 46,995	2001 5.0i 4dr 46,995
2001 5.2i 4dr 48,995	2001 5.2i 4dr 48,995	2001 5.2i 4dr 48,995	2001 5.2i 4dr 48,995	2001 5.2i 4dr 48,995	2001 5.2i 4dr 48,995
2001 5.4i 4dr 50,995	2001 5.4i 4dr 50,995	2001 5.4i 4dr 50,995	2001 5.4i 4dr 50,995	2001 5.4i 4dr 50,995	2001 5.4i 4dr 50,995
2001 5.6i 4dr 52,995	2001 5.6i 4dr 52,995	2001 5.6i 4dr 52,995	2001 5.6i 4dr 52,995	2001 5.6i 4dr 52,995	2001 5.6i 4dr 52,995
2001 5.8i 4dr 54,995	2001 5.8i 4dr 54,995	2001 5.8i 4dr 54,995	2001 5.8i 4dr 54,995	2001 5.8i 4dr 54,995	2001 5.8i 4dr 54,995
2001 6.0i 4dr 56,995	2001 6.0i 4dr 56,995	2001 6.0i 4dr 56,995	2001 6.0i 4dr 56,995	2001 6.0i 4dr 56,995	2001 6.0i 4dr 56,995
2001 6.2i 4dr 58,995	2001 6.2i 4dr 58,995	2001 6.2i 4dr 58,995	2001 6.2i 4dr 58,995	2001 6.2i 4dr 58,995	2001 6.2i 4dr 58,995
2001 6.4i 4dr 60,995	2001 6.4i 4dr 60,995	2001 6.4i 4dr 60,995	2001 6.4i 4dr 60,995	2001 6.4i 4dr 60,995	2001 6.4i 4dr 60,995
2001 6.6i 4dr 62,995	2001 6.6i 4dr 62,995	2001 6.6i 4dr 62,995	2001 6.6i 4dr 62,995	2001 6.6i 4dr 62,995	2001 6.6i 4dr 62,995
2001 6.8i 4dr 64,995	2001 6.8i 4dr 64,995	2001 6.8i 4dr 64,995	2001 6.8i 4dr 64,995	2001 6.8i 4dr 64,995	2001 6.8i 4dr 64,995
2001 7.0i 4dr 66,995	2001 7.0i 4dr 66,995	2001 7.0i 4dr 66,995	2001 7.0i 4dr 66,995	2001 7.0i 4dr 66,995	2001 7.0i 4dr 66,995
2001 7.2i 4dr 68,995	2001 7.2i 4dr 68,995	2001 7.2i 4dr 68,995	2001 7.2i 4dr 68,995	2001 7.2i 4dr 68,995	2001 7.2i 4dr 68,995
2001 7.4i 4dr 70,995	2001 7.4i 4dr 70,995	2001 7.4i 4dr 70,995	2001 7.4i 4dr 70,995	2001 7.4i 4dr 70,995	2001 7.4i 4dr 70,995
2001 7.6i 4dr 72,995	2001 7.6i 4dr 72,995	2001 7.6i 4dr 72,995	2001 7.6i 4dr 72,995	2001 7.6i 4dr 72,995	2001 7.6i 4dr 72,995
2001 7.8i 4dr 74,995	2001 7.8i 4dr 74,995	2001 7.8i 4dr 74,995	2001 7.8i 4dr 74,995	2001 7.8i 4dr 74,995	2001 7.8i 4dr 74,995
2001 8.0i 4dr 76,995	2001 8.0i 4dr 76,995	2001 8.0i 4dr 76,995	2001 8.0i 4dr 76,995	2001 8.0i 4dr 76,995	2001 8.0i 4dr 76,995
2001 8.2i 4dr 78,995	2001 8.2i 4dr 78,995	2001 8.2i 4dr 78,995	2001 8.2i 4dr 78,995	2001 8.2i 4dr 78,995	2001 8.2i 4dr 78,995
2001 8.4i 4dr 80,995	2001 8.4i 4dr 80,995	2001 8.4i 4dr 80,995	2001 8.4i 4dr 80,995	2001 8.4i 4dr 80,995	2001 8.4i 4dr 80,995
2001 8.6i 4dr 82,995	2001 8.6i 4dr 82,995	2001 8.6i 4dr 82,995	2001 8.6i 4dr 82,995	2001 8.6i 4dr 82,995	2001 8.6i 4dr 82,995
2001 8.8i 4dr 84,995	2001 8.8i 4dr 84,995	2001 8.8i 4dr 84,995	2001 8.8i 4dr 84,995	2001 8.8i 4dr 84,995	2001 8.8i 4dr 84,995
2001 9.0i 4dr 86,995	2001 9.0i 4dr 86,995	2001 9.0i 4dr 86,995	2001 9.0i 4dr 86,995	2001 9.0i 4dr 86,995	2001 9.0i 4dr 86,995
2001 9.2i 4dr 88,995	2001 9.2i 4dr 88,995	2001 9.2i 4dr 88,995	2001 9.2i 4dr 88,995	2001 9.2i 4dr 88,995	2001 9.2i 4dr 88,995
2001 9.4i 4dr 90,995	2001 9.4i 4dr 90,995	2001 9.4i 4dr 90,995	2001 9.4i 4dr 90,995	2001 9.4i 4dr 90,995	2001 9.4i 4dr 90,995
2001 9.6i 4dr 92,995	2001 9.6i 4dr 92,995	2001 9.6i 4dr 92,995	2001 9.6i 4dr 92,995	2001 9.6i 4dr 92,995	2001 9.6i 4dr 92,995
2001 9.8i 4dr 94,995	2001 9.8i 4dr 94,995	2001 9.8i 4dr 94,995	2001 9.8i 4dr 94,995	2001 9.8i 4dr 94,995	2001 9.8i 4dr 94,995
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