

6A

COURIER-POST, Sunday, April 28, 2002

FROM PAGE 1A



Joanne Montecarlo was an 'American Bandstand' regular along with Mike Montes (left) and Eddie 'Tex' Connor. Montecarlo also got to dance with actor Jeff Chandler, a guest star.



At her Blackwood home, Joanne Montecarlo shows she can still do the twist. Montecarlo has served for years as the alumni coordinator for the original 'Bandstand' dancers.

Bandstand/Area dancers achieved a degree of fame

Continued from Page 1A

go off the air until 1980. Dancers, who had to be at least 14, got to be on the show just by showing up and waiting in line. That regular dancers received membership cards that got them right in. Members of the "Committee," they were among the first to discover the power of television to make national celebrities out of everyday people.

Once the show went national, the dancers received some 15,000 pieces of fan mail a week, according to Clark, who took over hosting duties from show creator Horne after Horne's late drunken-driving arrest.

"I'd get letters, 'We'd like to come see you.' We'd like to dance with you," said Santiago Marti, 54, of Cherry Hill, who attended the broadcasts in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

"When I'd come back to the neighborhood, the girls would say, 'I saw you on TV. When are you gonna take me out?' They'd be knocking on my door all the time."

Being the subject of such adoration was difficult to comprehend at times, said Furman Wilson, 62, of Audubon.

"It was pretty surreal," said Wilson, whose maiden name was Marston. "It was like you were in a dream world. It really didn't hit me until years later how popular and important *Bandstand* was."

Even before the program went national, those who danced on the show achieved a degree of regional fame. Maple Shade's Don Altabelli, 64, recalled an invitation to appear at an event at Atlantic City High School. Were they treated as stars?

"I'll say we were," said Altabelli, who was a dancer during the Bob Horn era. "It was great."

Of course, Hollywood and recording stars were an important ingredient in the *Bandstand* formula. Many dancers spoke of hobnobbing with the big names of the day.

I got to dance with (actor) Jeff Chandler, which was really, really exciting, because you never knew who Dick was going to select to dance with the guest star," said Joanne Montecarlo, 62, of Blackwood, who for years has served as the alumni coordinator for the original *Bandstand* dancers.



Elvis has left the building and Dick Clark has left for Los Angeles, but Santiago Marti has scrapbooks and other memorabilia about 'American Bandstand' in Philadelphia. Santiago danced on shows in the 1950s and 1960s.

"That part was very exciting and mysterious."

Santiago spoke of the day he was in the studio's men's room, "and in walked Pat Boone, Bobby Darin and Sam Cooke."

But perhaps the best celebrity story belongs to Dee (Patty) Bailey, 60, of Westmont, whose *Bandstand* career stretched from 1964 through 1980. While she admitted to being somewhat jaded by her almost-daily interaction with stars, she did have one memorable encounter.

"My friend and I missed the train (to the studio) and were late," she explained. "When we got there, we went to Pop's (the West Philadelphia drug store that was the dancers' hangout)."

"Andy Williams was one of the guests that day. We left Pop's to go see our friends on the show. We went around to the back door, and we saw Andy Williams coming out."

"We said to him, 'We missed you. Can we have your autograph?' He said, 'I'll do you one better. I'll sing to you.' He sang 'Morn River.' That overwhelmed us."

While a generally unknown part of the *Bandstand* story, Pop's — whose actual name was Singer's — figured prominently in some dancers' recollections.

"Pop's was great," said Mount Laurel's Rosemary (Ferguson) Serrino, 61. She danced on the show between 1962 and 1966 and was better known as "Little Bo."

"We had a ball there. Some of us went before the show. Everyone got their hair

cut. No short skirts. They used to make the best hamburgers and hot dogs. We'd talk and dance around, and then take the 32 home."

Many of the Horn-era dancers were upset when he was forced off the show. Local radio legend Jerry Horne, to whom Horne was something of a mentor, went so far as to pick "Horned in protest." But Dick Clark was remembered fondly by those interviewed.

According to Anna May (Ferry) Landgraf, 63, of Marlton, a *Bandstand* dancer in 1955 and 1956, Clark was always concerned about his young charges.

"He'd say to the regulars, 'Make sure everyone gets on the floor. If you see a strange face, you have to ask them to tell you the truth.'"

Nor, he continued, were they particularly civil.

"I bumped into a girl and got from Philly while I was dancing. I said, 'I'm sorry,' and the girl used such profanity that I never heard of her."

For those fortunate enough to have experienced the *Bandstand* phenomenon from the other side of the camera, the show was equally life-defining.

Getting the dance record, "The Brat's Stomp," played on the program caused its national sales to explode, said Cherry Hill's Jerry Gross, 61, an original member of The Doozies, who subsequently became a pet

group of Clark's.

"It was a great time, and Dick was a really nice guy. And when we were on, the girls would be screaming. For an 18-year-old kid, it was amazing."

The only bad part was you couldn't go home and watch yourself, because the show was live, and there were no VCRs."

While *Bandstand* is just a memory for most former dancers, one has discovered her time on the show is a gift that keeps on giving.

For me, *American Bandstand* played Cupid," said Danny (Gibson) Tinschel, 54, a longtime Cherry Hill resident now living in Los Angeles.

Forty years ago, she explained, a teenage gang member incarcerated in the Kansas City Boys Home became a big fan of hers. Ten months ago, that Kansas fan wrote her an e-mail. To day, she and Duke Tinschel are married.

Danny Tinschel, who appeared between 1959 and 1962, was one of just three Philly-area dancers who attended the recent taping of *American Bandstand's 50th* in Los Angeles. She said Clark hasn't forgotten his roots, or the kids who helped him become a show business institution.

"It was touching," she said. "He had tears in his eyes, and he thanked the Philadelphia regulars. He said we were the ones who made the show."

'Bandstand' at a glance

- Debut of Bob Horn's *Bandstand*: Philadelphia's WFL-TV (Channel 6), Oct. 7, 1952.
- Debut of *American Bandstand*: ABC-TV, Aug. 5, 1957; broadcast from Philadelphia until 1963, when it moved to Los Angeles.
- On ABC through Sept. 5, 1967.
- In syndication, late 1967-early 1969.
- On USA cable until October 1985.

Hosts:

- Bob Horn (Oct. 7, 1952-June 21, 1956)
- Dick Clark (June 22, 1956-July 1989)
- David Hirsch (April 8, 1969-Oct. 7, 1989)

Some acts that appeared here:

- Little Richard, Bobby Darin, Fabian, Frankie Avalon, The Doozies, Chubby Checker, The Beach Boys, The Doors, Jefferson Airplane, Cher, Tony Orlando, The Village People, John Travolta, The Bee Gees, Rod Stewart, Robert Hazard, Pat LaBelle, Madonna, Prince, Whitney

Some acts that never appeared here:

- Elvis Presley, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones.

(Source: dick clark productions; www.history-of-rock.com)



'American Bandstand' regular Santiago Marti, now of Cherry Hill, sits in the second row, far right, as Dick Clark interviews guest Roger Smith of '77 Sunset Strip.'

Opera/Work composed by students to debut Thursday

Continued from Page 1A

people face in life and their consequences.

The idea for the opera came from the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Creating Original Opera Teaching Program, which goes to elementary and secondary schools in the United States and 16 countries.

Kershaw music teacher Beth Egan and math/science teacher Ann Conley attended a workshop for teachers last summer and decided to stage a production.

The work started Sept. 1. Egan said while students buzzed around her making final preparations to the set and practicing their parts, Peter Hoyle, the Met's

teaching artist, also was on hand to give advice.

Whether the students join the evening gown and tuxedo-clad crowd and learn to appreciate the artistry of opera isn't the point.

The real goal, Hoyle said, is for students to learn what goes into building an opera production and how interdependent each person's role is.

If the sets aren't built or the costumes aren't prepared, the show can't go on. It's a lesson in responsibility that can translate to other areas of life.

Students also get a dose of academics disguised as theater.

Building sets, for example, required them to determine how many wooden

If you go

■ Raymond W. Kershaw School students will stage two free performances of their original opera, "New Mary Doozies: How Does It Taste?" Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday for the general public and 10 a.m. Friday for students.

The performances will be in the auditorium of the school, 125 S. Black Horse Pike.

How many wooden

boards would fit on the stage and what size they needed to be. "They use a reason to do a perimeter problem or

an area problem," Conley said.

The opera production cuts across much of the curriculum in the elementary grades, Egan said.

"It integrates language arts, it integrates math, it integrates music, it integrates technology, it integrates art," she said.

For Renee Britton, 10, one of the scriptwriters and performers, opera at first was "just like a whole bunch of singing and dumb stuff."

Nick Eggert, Mike McHugh and Gary Blagovitch, all 11 years old, worked primarily behind the scenes. All three said they learned and had fun in the process.

In Gary's case, perhaps

too much fun.

"It's like really cool being the head of the thing. You get to boss around people," he said.

Each student had to audition for a job. Among them were writers, composers, historians, public relations reps, carpenters, and costume and set designers.

Learning how to produce an opera helps erase the stereotype of the singing lady in the horned helmet, Hoyle said.

"They really had the impression that opera was a soprano singing lady, but they've learned otherwise," Egan said.



The Met's Peter Hoyle (left) helps Kershaw School students (from left) Thomas McGillicuddy, Clifford Hall and Victor Mariano create music for a fight scene.

6D

COURIER-POST, Tuesday, June 17, 2003

your schools

post-its



Photo courtesy of Paper Mill Theater
Robert J. Weaver, Cherry Hill High School East, accepts his Paper Mill Theater Rising Star award for outstanding actor in a leading role for his performance in the school's production of 'Les Misérables'.

Cherry Hill East sweeps drama award program

Cherry Hill High School East has received high honors at Paper Mill's eighth annual Rising Star Awards.

The school's *Les Misérables* led with 10 nominations.

The award program was created by the Millburn theater's nationally recognized education department to recognize excellence in performance and technical achievement in high school musical theater.

A total of 117 schools representing more than 20 percent of all public and private schools in the state were entered in the competition this year.

Following an extensive judging process, 77 different schools received nominations in one or more of the 20 categories.

300 Paper Mill Rising Star South Jersey award recipients are:

Outstanding overall production of a musical — Cherry Hill High School East, *Les Misérables*; Outstanding actor in a leading role — Robert J. Weaver, Cherry Hill High School East, *Les Misérables*; Outstanding child actor — Mat-



ROBERT D. NATION

thew Bennett, Cherry Hill High School East, *Les Misérables*; outstanding chorus, Clearview Regional High School, *The Pirates of Penzance*; outstanding musical director — Jack Hill, Clearview Regional High School, *The Pirates of Penzance*; outstanding direction — Robert D. Nation, Cherry Hill High School East, *Les Misérables*; student achievement — Tim Barnes, stage manager, Cherry Hill High School East, *Les Misérables*; Kristen Corbi and Amanda Sugalski, co-choreographers, Shawnee High School, West Side Story.

Cherry Hill West students honored

By SCOTT WILLIAMSON
Staff Writer

At this time of year, there are numerous awards given out for academics and sports, but a group of "unsung heroes" at Cherry Hill High School West recently were honored.

A total of 14 Cherry Hill High School West students recently received PTA Enrichment Awards for their commitment to the school and their service to the community.

These awards are not given to the smartest student or the best football player; they are given to the students who dedicate their time to their school.

Award recipients were nominated by their teachers.

Categories included theater production (stage, sound and lighting, business, and costumes and make-up); special interest (nonacademic); Air Force Junior ROTC; Service Organizations (off-duty and service aides); technology; publications and music (nonperforming).

Awards were given for such services as sound and lighting for theater production.

Scott Williamson is a sophomore at Cherry Hill High School West. E-mail: Statistat@courierpostonline.com

Jazzed



CHRIS LACOMME/Courier-Post
Tanelia Council, 16, a sophomore at Camden's Creative Arts High School, warms up on her tenor sax prior to performing at a recital at the Walt Whitman center in Camden. The school's jazz ensemble played with George 'Butter' Ballard, a jazz drummer who has played with Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

Special-needs students write, perform in opera

Bancroft School students with developmental disabilities performed an original opera titled *Dancing with Friends* last week at Haddonfield Plays and Players.

A total of 16 students from the school's Student Troupe of Awesome Row-Weed Singers participated in the project, for which they wrote the story and songs, designed the set and performed.

The students auditioned to determine who would write the story, design the set and act in the production.

When creating the opera, the students made all decisions as a group.

The opera centers on two girls and two boys on a train heading west.

The girls are determined to take the east coast version of dance to the west coast. Along the way, they meet two boys and all become friends.

Two Bancroft staff members modified the curriculum of Metropolitan Opera Guild's Creating Original Opera program to meet the special needs of students at the Bancroft School, and trained other staff members to support the students through the creative process.

Under the auspices of the Gertrude R. Dodge Foundation, the Metropolitan Opera Guild provides technical assistance through teaching artists who worked with



CHRIS J. ORT/Courier-Post
Bancroft School students (from left) Carmen Ward, 16; Megan Smetona, 16; Tyler Handcock, 13; and Todd King, 15, rehearse at Haddonfield Plays and Players, where teams performed in an original opera.

the students and Bancroft staff on performance and production details.

Bancroft School has sites across South Jersey.

Programs include education, rehabilitation and vocational, residential and treatment services.

Seniors to rule school next year

By MARLOU KEEFER
Staff Writer

Less than a month from the movie *Grease* summing it up in its simple words, "We're going to rule the school."

That's how it feels to me knowing that I am finished with my junior year and will start fresh in September as a senior.

We are officially the "big, bad seniors."

No more carrying the water jug for sports. Thank goodness, they are heavy.

We're now called first for the pep rallies and assemblies, which is good because I hated waiting.

I learned this year that though senior year is supposed to be all good times and laughter, that there are a lot of decisions you have to make.

What college do you want to go to? What career will you choose?

Many of us have thought about it a lot through the years.

I know I have, but when it comes down to it, are you ready to make these huge decisions?

Then spring comes around, and tears are shed. Your last prom, your last bus ride with the team, and your last game.

You've made lifelong friends along the way and memories to share for a lifetime.

You know, though, that when you receive your diploma and walk the halls for that last time that you will not see most of these people again.

Class of 2004, take full advantage of your senior year.

Have fun, work hard and make memories. Remember these are the best years of our lives, so go, and, as Hans said, "Rule the school."

Marlou Keefe is a junior at Maple Shade High School. E-mail: Statistat@courierpostonline.com

Inside
Lacking evidence,
murder trial to hinge
on credibility of
witnesses.
Page 3B

Driver in 2-car crash is charged with DUI

BERLIN BOROUGH—A Berlin Township man involved in a two-car accident in which two people were seriously hurt was charged with driving under the influence, police said.

Robert McAndrew, 41, also was charged with refusing to take a breath test, reckless driving, careless driving and making an improper left turn, police said.

The crash happened around 6:30 p.m. Monday on the White Horse Pike at Park Drive. A full-size pickup truck driven by McAndrew collided with a small pickup driven by Joshua Marzullo, 25, of Voorhees, police said.

Marshall and a passenger, Jessie Chappell, 22, of Berlin Borough, were admitted to the trauma unit at Cooper University Hospital in Camden. Their conditions were not available. McAndrew refused medical treatment, police said.

Woodbury boys suffer smoke inhalation

WOODBURY—Two boys ages 4 and 14 were treated for smoke inhalation after an air conditioner caught fire and filled the second floor of their home with smoke.

The fire happened around 6:30 p.m. Monday in the first block of Crescent Avenue.

Six people, including five children, were home when the blaze started. The two victims were in an upstairs bedroom when the fire started in a window air conditioning unit.

The children, with the help of their father, were able to flee the home. They were taken to Underwood Memorial Hospital in Woodbury for treatment.

Woodstown woman critical after crash

EAST GREENWICH—A Salem County woman injured in a three-car accident on Mantua Road was in critical condition Tuesday at Cooper University Hospital in Camden.

Phyllis Steiner, 56, of Woodstown, lost control of her car at 8:25 a.m., crossed the center lane and collided with a dump truck, police said. Steiner's car spun around and was broadsided by an eastbound pickup.

The driver of the dump truck — Louis Granato, 40, age or address available — was treated for a head injury. His truck was registered to Granato's Nursery in Mantua.

The driver of the eastbound pickup — Randy Huff, 33, of Haddon, Pa., and his mother, Jean Huff, 58, were taken to area hospitals for treatment.

Teen critically injured in Medford car crash

MEDFORD—Two people were hurt, one of them critically, in an accident on Route 70 at Street Road.

The crash happened shortly after 8 a.m. Monday when an eastbound car driven by Harvey Hoffman, 64, of Windmoor, Pa., collided with a car making a left turn onto Street Road.

The second car was driven by a 17-year-old girl from Tabernack. A 16-year-old male passenger from Pemberton Township was taken to Cooper University Hospital in Camden for treatment of facial injuries.

Hoffman, who was charged with failing to obey a traffic signal, was treated for a shoulder injury.

— *Courier-Post staff*

Tomorrow

Camden students take samples to learn about pollution and the environment.

South Jersey

N.J. prostitution ring cracked

Of 42 arrested, 14 are in South Jersey

By TOM LOUNSBERRY
and A. SCOTT
FERGUSON

An investigation into a prostitution ring at 13 locations around New Jersey resulted in 42 arrests, including 14 in South Jersey, authorities said.

On Tuesday, members of the state police Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau posted back the layers

on "Operation Risky Business," a three-month investigation into more than 150 massage parlors and escort services that allegedly had ties to organized crime and to human trafficking and virtual slavery for some women.

The 13 raids took place over the past few weeks, three of them at the shore.

Escort services named Heavenly Bodies in Cherry Hill, Man Sells De Paris in Gloucester Township and August Playmates in Lindenwold, all in Camden County, were among the targets.

Also raided were massage parlors in Neptune City and Dover Township as well as an escort service run out of a house in Eatontown.

"Prostitution has been around since biblical times, and it will continue to be here forever," said Lt. Jeff Smolkins, who oversees the bureau. "We haven't done an operation like this in a long time, and once we started, it started to snowball."

All state and local

police charged 42 people, confiscated a number of records, including client lists and videotapes, and seized more than \$51,000 in cash and a bank account worth nearly \$20,000.

"We started our investigation with over 100 possible targets. Many operated out of the same address under five or six different names and we still have others to look at," said New Jersey State Police Sgt. Jim Puh of

the Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau.

"Most significant was that we also confiscated voluminous records, including client lists, employee lists that may deal with human trafficking and hidden videotapes taken of clients," Puh said.

"We are in the course of analyzing this information and we have no idea at this time."

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Bancroft students stage musical



Students (from left) Grant Rusabolt, Megan Smolons and Kimberly Friend perform in "Starting Over: A Magical Mexican Miracle."

Kids write, score, produce original show at Ritz Theatre

By LAVINIA DECASTRO

HADDON TWP.—The Ritz Theatre's most recent production is original in more ways than one. The opera, *Starting Over: A Magical Mexican Miracle*, was entirely written, scored and produced by students at Bancroft Neighborhood School for people with developmental disabilities, neurological impairments and brain injuries.

"I thought it was wonderful," said Randi Freedman of Moorestown, who was among the nearly 200 people who attended a Tuesday evening performance at the Ritz.

Freedman said Bancroft is a great creative outlet for her 10-year-old son Zachary, who played Street Luis in the production.

"The show tells the story of Crystal and Bruce, two Cherry Hill teenagers trying to adapt to life in a foreign country. Thanks to the mischievous interference of Street Luis, an in-

IF YOU GO

Bancroft students will perform *Starting Over: A Magical Mexican Miracle* at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Ritz Theatre, 975 White Horse Pike, Camden. The performance is free and open to the public.

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Bryant law firm expected to get agency contract

By ALAN GUENTHER

CAMDEN—The path appears to be clear for the Housing Authority of the City of Camden to award a lucrative legal services contract to state Sen. Wayne Bryant's law firm, even though federal officials said his firm was improperly paid \$753,381 under its last contract.

Two firms have submitted bids to perform legal work for the housing authority, but the other, who supports a political opponent of Bryant, D-Lewiside.

Bryant's firm has already been given a \$270,000 contract by city council to begin eminent domain proceedings to take homes

IF YOU GO

The Housing Authority of the City of Camden will meet in public session at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Camden City Council Chambers, 1300 Admiral Wilson Blvd., Camden.

away from residents who won't cooperate with development plans. If he wins tonight's bid, valued at roughly \$185,000, he

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ON THE WEB

Legislators' disclosure statements can be viewed at www.njleg.state.nj.us/ethics/FinancialDisclosureForm.asp

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MORRIS COUNTY

Mt. Olive to get help in picking chief

Township will spend \$7,000 for company to aid in process

By JOE NADLO

Staff Writer

MOUNT OLIVE TWP. — Mayor Paul Licita says the township is spending \$7,000 to make sure politics are left out of choosing a new township police chief.

The council has approved Licita's plan to spend \$7,000 to hire Jersey Professional Service of South Orange to provide three police experts to help decide who should be chief.

Licita said yesterday that he intends to appoint a new chief from the ranks of the township force within the next six weeks.

He has given the department's top-ranking officers 30 days to submit their resumes for consideration by a five-member police assessment committee that will be made up of two township officials and the three hired professionals.

"I don't want people to think this is going to be a political, good old boy decision. I want to give the perception that this is about how to create the committee it will assume."

what take it out of my hands," said Licita. "I truly believe the chief we choose should be a policeman's policeman, someone that can relate to the officers."

The township has been without a top lawman since December, when former Chief Charles Brown, who had a rare form of leukemia, died. Brown stepped down from the position last summer after being diagnosed with the disease. Capt. Edward Katona was appointed acting chief in December. When Brown left the position he was earning \$87,000 a year.

In January, the council hired the same company to find a replacement for the township's vacant business administrator post. Jersey Professional Service consultant Bob Casey has been serving as acting business administrator since January.

Superior officers on the force who include Katona and lieutenants John Glisko, Mark Spitzer, and Andy Agnew, Katona and Glisko have been on the force for 20 years.

Mount Olive has been without a top lawman since December, when Chief Charles Brown, who had a rare form of leukemia, died.

Agnew has served for 23 years and Spitzer for 15.

Katona said yesterday he had just learned of the mayor's plan and wasn't in a position to comment.

Some township officials recently speculated that Katona didn't get the job automatically because he supported Licita's challenger for the mayoral nomination, Bob Gold, in last year's Republican primary. But Licita said he doesn't hold grudges, and if the committee determines that Katona is best for the job he would endorse his decision.

Licita said he plans to appoint one councilman to the committee and another township resident with nearly 40 years' experience in law enforcement. He said it was too early to release their names.

Licita said choosing a new chief would mean having to promote a sergeant to lieutenant or a lieutenant to captain.

For Home Delivery of the Daily Record Call 1-800-398-8990

Man gets probation in attack on co-worker

By PEGGY WRIGHT

Staff Writer

A longtime employee of the Morris Township Department of Public Works was put on probation for a year and agreed to resign his job as a driver yesterday to resolve a charge of hitting and pushing a co-worker last year.

Richard F. Rhodes, 47, of Morristown was admitted into Morris County's pretrial intervention program for first-time offenders, and a charge of aggravated assault will be dismissed against him if he successfully completes one year of supervision.

Authorities said Rhodes got into an argument with a co-worker that escalated into a physical fight on Nov. 12. The other worker, whose name was not released and who was not charged or disciplined, was "kicked, struck in the ribs and missed a period of work after the altercation."

Rhodes was suspended after the fight and was formally charged with

aggravated assault on Nov. 23.

As a condition of his PFI enrollment, Rhodes — who made no admission of wrongdoing to get into PFI — must pay the co-worker \$180 for out-of-pocket medical expenses he incurred. He also was ordered to undergo an evaluation by an anger management counselor to see if he should receive treatment.

Township attorney John M. Mills III was in the process yesterday of completing paperwork for Rhodes' resignation.

Defense lawyer William G. Johnson said Rhodes has worked for the public works department for close to 30 years. His client has no immediate prospects for a new career but will receive payment for some sick time he has accumulated in the department, Johnson said.

Rhodes also was ordered to have no contact with the former co-worker.

PEGGY WRIGHT can be reached at (973) 287-1142.

SCHOOL NEWS

■ Twenty-eight pupils in Heather O'Connor's fifth-grade language arts class at the Fernbrook Elementary School in Randolph are putting together their own opera. The project is part of the "Creating Original Opera" program designed by the Metropolitan Opera Guild to challenge students and teachers to write, produce and perform an opera in the course of a single school year.

By composing an in-house opera, each youngster in class was assigned a specific duty within his or her amateur production company, which is titled "Unlimited OPERA: Attitudes." Class members voted on the name and created a shouting star logo. The opera will be performed June 1 and 2. Various fundraising events are being held to raise a minimum of \$1,500 required for the student-operated project. Corporate donations can be sent in care of Heather O'Connor, Fernbrook Elementary School, Quaker Church Road, Randolph, N.J. 07090.

■ Whippay Fork High School students Frank Melchiorre, Zach LeBassie and Billy Williams have advanced to the statewide Future Business Leaders of America Competition Event to take place in March in Cherry Hill by placing in the top 10 in their events in a recent regional competition. Melchiorre earned second-place honors in business math. LeBassie placed second in computer applications. Hung placed third in technology concepts. Williams placed fourth in business procedures, and Hatfield placed eighth in technology concepts.

■ Fourth graders at the William Mason School in Montville have been exploring the history of New Jersey. Working in groups, the youngsters created posters to share their knowledge of the Lenape Indians with the rest of the school.

■ Two Parsippany High School students have received honorable mention in the American Literary Council Writing Contest. Anna

Yanofsky's and Daniella Shoshan's poems were selected from 86,000 entries and will be published in the council's annual anthology.

■ The Parsippany Hills Math Team placed among the top four in the PFI Division at the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey's 23rd Annual Contest. The school will receive a trophy and certificate in recognition of the accomplishments of team members Yan Choi, Brian Lau, Cindy Lee, Richard Ho and Corey Sanders.

■ Members of the Parsippany Hills High School Key Club purchased and donated 53 toys to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Morris County as part of a holiday community service project.

■ Matthew Harper and Donna Bellomo, Whippay Fork High School students, participated in the recent Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6351's Voice of Democracy Contest. The students wrote essays titled "America's Role in the Next Century," which then were entered in the regional contest.

■ Valerie Seale, a student at Lenape Valley Regional High School, took part in the recent Presidential Classroom's Science, Technology and Public Policy Program in Washington, D.C., a leading civic education program that gives scholars a firsthand look at political responses to change brought about by scientific advances.

■ Pupils at the Hardington Township School in Franklin were recognized winners in a billboard contest, "Reading & Me... Perfect Together," sponsored by the Northeast Jersey Reading Council. Stephanie Donnelly, a fourth-grader, placed first, and Lauren Sweller, also a fourth-grader, was a finalist.

INFORMATION FOR THIS COLUMN should be sent to Ann McNeil, Daily Record Features Department, 800 Jefferson Road, Parsippany, N.J. 07054 or fax to (973) 428-6622.

No kidding!

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"HUGE STORE WORTH THE TRIP"

40 DETROIT FREE PRESS/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1991

Wixom class make opera an elementary project

OPERA, from Page 1G
audition where they had to construct something related to the position they were seeking — the carpenter candidates were asked to design a replica of a tool box to scale, for instance — and submit it to the faculty supervisors.

It's a moving message

Their work is the fruit of a project called "Creating Original Opera for Children," sponsored by Education at the Met, a division of New York's Metropolitan Opera.

Wixom Elementary is one of 200 schools in the country — and only three in Michigan — involved in the program. The other two state schools are in Boston Harbor and Escondido.

The activities I witnessed in Wixom Elementary during my two-hour visit solidified my hope for the future of music education in our country.

I listened as the student groups gave progress reports. (Sample from the performers' group: "We've been doing body and vocal warmups and breathing exercises. And we've been lifting each other above our heads so we'll have trust in each other.")

I heard a member of the writers group give a synopsis of the plot, which is based on the traditional play-within-a-play device and involves Cinderella, a ringer named Karen who brings about her 520 socks that play music and a Fairy Godmother who carries a boom-box on her shoulder.

I heard the performers read through the four-page first scene, which the writers had been frantically stapling together in the meeting before.

The opera opens in the midst of a rehearsal. Sample from the opening lines:

Janice: "All right, everybody, place!"
Corey: "My feet hurt. Can't we take a break?"
Elizabeth: "I agree!"



Music teacher Marc Meyers and members of the cast and crew talk about the play and their characters. The students will present their opera, "The Big Squeeze," Feb. 6-8 at Wixom Elementary School.

Karen, loudly: "Aren't these cool clothes? My mom bought them just for me, and they're really expensive."

I was especially touched by the aria that ends the scene, in which Karen sings about what she wants most of all: to see her divorced parents reunited.

"I wish they'd stop giving me all these gifts," Karen sings. "I want my parents back the way they used to be. A family — that's what I want most of all."

Teachers give students room

I watched as the company drew rough sketches of ideas for the opera's publicity posters, and then I watched them decide by voice-vote ("Toss 'Save!'" which ones were worth considering.

Then, 10-year-old production man-

ager Sara Camacho escorted me to Haywood's classroom. Here the writers were working out ideas for the next scene under Haywood's supervision, referring to poster boards on which they had listed distinctive character traits for each of the seven performers.

Through all the activities, I was as impressed with Meyers and Haywood as with the students. Both teachers served primarily as catalysts, nudging the students' ideas, making suggestions, steering them in the right direction but never imposing their own decisions.

They are clearly master mentors who know what some teachers never learn: The best education takes place when students discover knowledge, not

when it's crammed down their throats.

The session was to end at 5 p.m. Shortly before that, Sara took me back to the music room. As we walked down the hallway she became a bit distracted when she noticed the students leaving the building.

"They shouldn't be doing that on their own," she told me very seriously. "They're supposed to wait until I dismiss them. That's one of my duties."

Music teacher Meyers defused the potential crisis instantly. "No problem, Sara," he said. "Since you were in the other room, your assistant dismissed the company."

I congratulated Sara on being able to do what so many leaders can't: delegate authority. She smiled.

Met program sets strict guidelines for schools

By John Guinn

Free Press Staff Writer

The Creating Original Opera project being used in Wixom Elementary School was developed over a period of years by the Metropolitan Opera Guild's education department.

The project is based on the premise that arts education in general, and opera education in particular, must be provided for all children, not just the gifted and talented or vocationally oriented.

In purpose it is to provide music and classroom teachers with the necessary skills, information and methods to guide their students through the process of developing, producing and creating original opera/music theater in the schools.

The Met began holding workshops for teachers interested in the project in New York City in 1983. Two years later the Met expanded the workshops to include New Jersey teachers and began a similar program for British teachers at London's Royal Opera House.

The first national workshop was held at the Met in 1989. In 1991, regional workshops were established in the southern and midwestern United States. The midwestern workshops are funded by General Electric Foundation, which recently equaled its commitment to the program.

Wixom teachers Marc Meyers and Kathy Haywood participated in a 10-day workshop at the Milwaukee campus of the University of Wisconsin in June.

The workshop included sessions on auditions, writing, music composition,

Principals must make a tangible commitment to the teachers involved.

social production, blocking and movement, acting, costume and set design, and makeup and lighting design. An extensive resource notebook, "Creating Original Opera," was also provided.

There are strict guidelines for participating in the program. Among them:

■ School principals must identify two teachers, one a classroom teacher and the other a music specialist, who volunteer to work as a team. Principals must also make a tangible commitment to their teachers by providing release-time, supervisory support and funds for supplies, and must participate fully in project orientation and evaluation meetings.

■ Teachers must attend and participate in all workshop sessions, guide students in creating an original production, participate fully in the evaluation process and provide the Met's education department with copies of the script, music, program and public relations materials.

For further information, write: Metropolitan Opera Guild Education Dept., 70 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York 10023, or call 212-769-7023, 9-5 weekdays.

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8F DETROIT FREE PRESS/WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1992

Right: Theresa Jasko, sings during a rehearsal of the Young Beethovens' Opera Company, which consists of fifth-graders at Wixom Elementary School. Below: Don Koenig, left, waits to have his makeup applied. Meanwhile, Tammy Babula applies makeup to Alex Koester.



Opera for little masses

Kids at Wixom Elementary School put on a show



PHOTOS BY PAULINE LUBENS AND HUGH GRANNUM

It's called "The Big Squeeze," and it's an opera. Calling themselves the Young Beethovens' Opera Company, a group of Wixom Elementary School fifth-graders wrote the libretto and the music, stitched the costumes and constructed the sets. They also promoted the show, to be performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the school's auditorium. Supervised by music teacher Marc Meyers and fifth-grade teacher Kathy Hayward, the program is part of the New York Metropolitan Opera's project called "Creating Original Opera for Children." Wixom Elementary is one of 200 schools in the country participating in the program. Two other Michigan schools, in Essexville and Benton Harbor, are included.



Above: Set designer Jeremy Kuttukun walks behind the scenes. Left: Teacher Marc Meyers leads cast members in song.



Above: Theresa Jasko, right, and Betty Allen, center, check out their makeup while a crew member watches. Right: Teacher Marc Meyers leads cast members in song.

JIM FITZGERALD IS ON VACATION

NAMES AND FACES

Princess bashed for dumping her Jag

Not only Americans get upset about foreign cars. A union leader criticized Princess Diana on Tuesday for selling her British-made car to lease a German one. "At best insensitive and at worst deeply unpatriotic," said Jimmy Airlie, of the engineering union. "Surely at a time of a major depression, the royal family should be encouraging Britain's manufacturing industry wherever possible," Airlie said. The British national news agency said Diana had sold her Jaguar XJS sedan to lease a \$129,600 Mercedes-Benz. Buckingham Palace later said Diana leased the Mercedes for personal use but would continue to attend public engagements in her official Jaguar XJ6.



Rampe: Huffed. Diana: Unpatriotic?

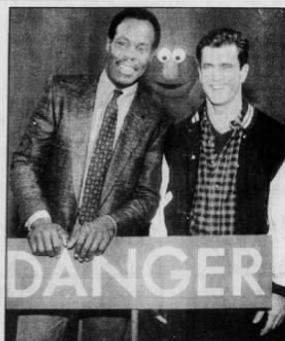
MOTHER TERESA may have been tired but she smiled and looked cheerful upon her arrival in Rome Tuesday, five weeks after heart surgery in La Jolla, Calif. The 81-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner had urged doctors to let her go to Rome as soon as possible to keep an appointment with Pope John Paul II. Throngs of airport workers and many members

of the Sisters of Charity, the missionary order she founded in Calcutta, India, crowded around her as she arrived. "I feel quite well," Mother Teresa said.

McIntyre, Eddie Murphy, Julia Roberts, Queen Elizabeth, George Burns, Norman Schwarzkopf and a couple of deceased people — Marilyn Monroe and John F. Kennedy.

FRENCH FLUTIST Jean-Pierre Rampal celebrated his 70th birthday belatedly, performing chamber music with violinist Isaac Stern and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. The concert at New York's Avery Fisher Hall nearly a month after Rampal's Jan. 7 birthday, began with inadvertent slapstick — Rampal's music stand fell over — and ended with a birthday cake. At the concert's end, Stern, Rostropovich and pianist John Steele Ritter played "Happy Birthday" and the audience sang. Rampal blew out all his candles in one puff.

WILLIE NELSON has selected Texas Stadium in the Dallas suburb of Irving as the site of his Farm Aid V concert. More than 30 acts have signed up for the March 14 show, including John Mellencamp, Neil Young, the Black Crowes, Don Henley, the Kentucky Headhunters, Ricky Van Shelton and Tracy Chapman.



NONLETHAL PUBLICITY SHOT

Actors Danny Glover (left) and Mel Gibson, who costar in the "Lethal Weapon" movies, pose with Elmo, of TV's "Sesame Street." Glover and Gibson recently taped a skit for the show on guess wha word.

BRIEFLY

■ **Reportedly wed:** Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, 60, to Soha Tawil, 28, a Jerusalem-born Palestinian he met three years ago at P.O. offices in Paris. Relatives of the bride in Paris said Arafat got married because he wants to have a son.

■ **Infatigating:** Kelly LeBrock, title star of the 1984 movie, "The Woman in Red," and macho movie star Steven Seagal, their third child.

■ **To be honored:** Attorney Dennis Archer, U.M. grinder Desmond Howard and others, at the "Sportmen On and Off the Field Awards Banquet" March 6 at the Novi Hilton to benefit Wolverine Human Services.

■ **Appearing:** Gila Amador, Israel's "actress of the decade," Thursday at 8 p.m. at Bloomfield Hills' Temple Beth El in her one-woman play, "The Summer of Aiyah." Call 851-1100, 9-5 weekdays.

■ **To be staged:** The Legal Aid and Defender Association of Detroit's annual open house, 4-6:30 Thursday at 2400 Penobscot Bldg. Call 964-4111, ext. 230, 9-5 weekdays.

■ **Scheduled:** Folk duo story Jonatha Brooke and Jennifer Kimball, 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Ark in Ann Arbor. The free concert is sponsored by Schoolkids' Records.

Edited by Martin F. Kohn from staff and wire reports

THE SPACE COAST'S NEWSPAPER

FLORIDA TODAY

PUBLISHED IN BREVARD COUNTY

LOCAL NEWS INSIDE

- Two men injured slightly when tractor-trailer overturns on I-95, 2B.
- News from communities Across the Space Coast, 5B.

SUNDAY, March 13, 1994

SECTION B

STATE NEWS INSIDE

- Lawmakers hail victories, lick wounds at mid-session, 10B.
- Hotel developers vie to build huge beachfront hotel in Miami Beach, 10B.

Bus system shows its colors

By Dennis Thompson Jr.
FLORIDA TODAY

Although it's been around for years, Brevard County's bus system has proved easy to miss and hard to utilize.

"I think they need a more aggressive media campaign. A lot of people don't know that the buses run all over the county," said Trevor Barker, a Palm Bay man whose epilepsy recently forced him to start riding a bus to his job in Indian Harbour Beach.

Now, the county's transit agency — Space Coast Area Transit — has made some colorful changes to overcome its anonymity and help people understand Brevard's sometimes complicated bus system.

■ SCAT's second illustrated bus — a vehicle completely covered by an advertisement — will be unveiled Friday in Titusville.

■ South Brevard's seven bus routes have been featured on a new, full-color system map.

"When you're looking at five or six

What's next

To get a copy of the Space Coast Area Transit system map and bus schedules, call 633-1878.

schedules, it's hard to imagine how they all connect," transit planner Jim Lisenfeld said. "With the system map, people can see where the bus routes cross."

The map is accompanied by new, easier-to-read bus schedules for each route. SCAT Director Don Lusk said the map and schedules cost \$4,000 to develop.

About 15,000 copies of the map and 3,000 copies of each schedule have been printed, Lisenfeld said.

"Most folks like them," he said. "We've had people going out and placing them in stores and city halls. It could do nothing but help ridership."

Barbara Dillabaugh, a Melbourne-area

transit activist, praised the system map and new schedules as "very easy to read."

"It's the best way they could have done it to show us where to go," she said.

Barker also likes the new map schedules, although he said he thinks printing them on glossy paper was a waste of money.

"I thought they could get their point across with less expensive paper," he said.

The illustrated bus to be unveiled in Titusville will feature an advertisement for Quality Inn Kennedy Space Center and the hotel's restaurant, Muggers' English Pub and American Eatery.

SCAT's first illustrated bus is based in Melbourne and features an advertisement for The Oaks Shopping Center. The agency receives \$500 each month from the businesses "renting" the buses' exterior for their ads.

"I've always been a big supporter of outdoor advertising, and this is outdoor advertising personified," said Ben Parry, general manager of the Quality Inn.

See BUS, Next Page

Few steps ahead of St. Patrick



SPRIT 76 members from Titusville observe St. Patrick's Day early at the Melbourne parade Saturday in downtown Melbourne. From left are Chris Marquis, Brevard County Ancient Order of Hibernians, and Drew Amici.

ENVIRONMENT

Lagoon in line for money

By Lou Misselhorn
FLORIDA TODAY

The Indian River Lagoon restoration program, which is using federal money to map out a cleanup plan, might get more money under a bill in Congress.

The federal government pays the cost of the waterway's five-year cleanup plan, which is expected to be complete in 1996.

But specific projects, such as finding ways to prevent stormwater runoff into the lagoon, must be paid by the state and local municipalities.

The lagoon is one of 21 bodies of water that are part of the National Estuary Program. The goal is to save threatened waterways, including Tampa and Sarasota bays.

"This is taking the next step" to try to secure money, said Darrell Brown, who oversees the project for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington.

"It won't solve all the problems, but any money is good."

Other officials agree.

"The feeling is that EPA isn't going to pick up the whole ball of wax," said Amy Hart, water resources planner for the Indian River Lagoon. "But I think the federal government realizes it can't just pull out. They're giving a gradual push."

Under the bill, federal financing of the National Estuary Program would reach as much as \$23 million annually for the rest of the decade. The program is getting \$12 million this year. The lagoon is getting about \$1 million of that total this year.

The legislation before the Senate environmental committee is aimed at strengthening the Clean Water Act.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., also is proposing other legislation that could help the lagoon.

For instance, one financing measure would guarantee Florida millions of dollars in loans to pay for wastewater treatment plants. The bill could reach the Senate floor by late April.

The EPA also has proposed distributing \$100 million among the states to pay for programs to prevent stormwater runoff, which is a major threat to the Indian River Lagoon.

Rain carries such pollutants as fertilizers and sewage from leaky septic tanks into the Indian River Lagoon, which stretches 155 miles from Volusia County to Martin County.

The \$100 million would double the allocation given to the states two years ago.

Honoring American history



UNION ARMY re-enactors fire a gun salute Saturday in honor of Cpl. Uriah Pontius, who served in the Civil War and came to Brevard County in his senior years. Pontius is buried in the Melbourne Cemetery. Among other events at Honor America's celebration at the Liberty Bell Memorial Museum were music, food, folk and square dancing, games and vintage automobiles. At right, Union re-enactor Gary Haas of Cocoa shows Aaron Richter of Indian Harbour Beach how to fire a Civil War rifle.

Students perform their original opera

Opera not only is being studied at Port Malabar Elementary School in Palm Bay, it's being created.

Sixth-graders in Judy Barker's class performed the school's first original opera, "Have a Friend — Be a Friend," last week after months of study, writing and practice.

The 23 students formed Port Malabar's First Opera Company in September.

They took a survey of plot ideas and discussed the tasks they would have to perform.

"We found there were two things that nearly everyone thought about — having to move and leave their friends, and being kidnapped — two themes in the opera," said music teacher Esther Shott, who shared in guiding the budding opera company.

"We wrote the lyrics, and the

music just seemed to flow."

"We got to do everything and it was a lot of fun," said Ch a r l i e B o d y 12.

The production and acting jobs were filled. Rebekah, 11, said she became a producer because "I was a good manager."

Port Malabar Elementary was selected by the Metropolitan Opera Guild's education department to participate in the Creating Original Opera program.

Said Barker: "It's wonderful, because the learning involves reading, writing, music, science, art and math — just everything."

and tell people to talk louder."

The students practiced daily after school and on the weekends.

"We owe a lot of thanks to the sixth-grade teachers, the art teacher, and, actually, to the whole school and our parents," said Michael Maine, 12.

The opera experience was one none of the students will forget.

Alvin Waite, 12, said the experience has won him new friends.

"The whole class got closer," admitted Alvin's classmate, Tony Talbott. "But, we got close when we all worked together."

Port Malabar Elementary was selected by the Metropolitan Opera Guild's education department to participate in the Creating Original Opera program.

Said Barker: "It's wonderful, because the learning involves reading, writing, music, science, art and math — just everything."

Rabies encounters teach costly lessons

By Dennis Thompson Jr.
FLORIDA TODAY

Brian Lacey, 5, never had anything but good will toward animals.

"He doesn't want us to kill cockroaches or ants or anything," said his father, Paul Lacey.

But Brian never realized the sick bat he picked up with a stick and placed in a cage could carry a deadly disease. Or that it could bite him — possibly passing the disease along — when he reached in to release the bat.

Now, several shots into the mandatory five-shot treatment for people exposed to rabies, Brian knows better.

"He feels tired and a little bit irritable after taking the shots, but there's no bad side effects," Paul Lacey said. Brian is receiving the shots in his thigh and leg.

Lacey said he also has learned from the experience. He saw the bat flapping around in the street, but thought nothing of his son picking it up.

"I had no thought of rabies. That was the farthest thing from my mind. I thought the bat had been hit by a car or dazzled by the sunlight," he said.

Lacey's lesson also is a financial one. The shots his son has received so far total \$604, and he has more to go.

"What are you going to do?" Lacey asked. "With the shots, there's a 100 percent chance you won't get rabies. Without the shots, there's a 100 percent chance you will, and you'll die."

In Brevard County, rabies is an ever-present threat, especially prevalent in raccoons, bats and foxes. It is spread through blood or mucus.

"Rabies occurs naturally in wild animals here," said Hedar Hies-

What to do

Any person with an injury caused by a wild or domestic animal should seek medical care and report it to the Consumer Health Services at 633-2100 or Brevard County Animal Control at 633-2024 as soon as possible.

mat, director of community health for the BHS Brevard Public Health Unit. "It exists in the environment here."

Two sections of Brevard are under rabies quarantine — central Merritt Island and southeast Melbourne through northern Palm Bay.

One resulted from Brian Lacey's bat attack, the other from a 15-year-old's encounter with a rabid fox. Both quarantines will end in May.

But Brevard is far from having a rabies epidemic.

■ The county's last human rabies death was in 1920.

■ The number of rabies quarantines called by officials has remained about seven each year.

■ Bob Griswold, the county's Animal Control director, says no rabid animals have been located in an area where a rabies quarantine has been called.

Rabies occurs naturally, why aren't there more deaths and quarantines?

Rabies treatments have improved. People are having their dogs vaccinated. They are obeying leash laws, keeping their pets away from wildlife.

See RABIES, Next Page

SPACE COAST SPOTLIGHT

Teresa Bowman

- Teacher at: Challenger 7 Elementary School in Cocoa.
- Teaches: Fifth grade, all subjects.
- Best part: "Being chosen the school's teacher of the year."

working with a supportive administration and staff and the super kids.

■ Hopes students learn: "Never stop learning; always do your best."

■ Role model: "My sixth-grade teacher who pushed me to work hard and inspired me."

BRIEFLY

On the agenda

- Palm Bay Moose Lodge hosts breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. today. Spaghetti dinner is scheduled from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday. Call 726-1770.
- Senior's defensive driving Course is offered from noon to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Anderson Senior Center in Rockledge. Call 452-8613. For a Merritt Island class, call 452-8613.

What to do

- Exotic bird auction Auction begins at 11 a.m. today at the Greater Palm Bay Senior Center. Admission is \$1 for adults.
- The Golden Steppers Dance troupe of 24 Brevard seniors will present a stage production at 2 p.m. today at Florida Tech's Gleason Auditorium. Tickets are \$6. Call 784-1454.

Lottery winners

Saturday, March 12
Cash 3: 4-4-8
Play 4: 6-1-4-8
Lotto
7-10-17-35-46-49
Today's drawings on WFTV Ch 9
■ Cash 3: Play 4: 7:57 p.m.

LOCAL EXTRA

2 educators could face suspension

By BILL HIRSCHMAN
Education Writer

Seminole Middle School guidance counselor James Freeman has been accused by more than 30 students and adults of repeated use of extreme profanity, offensive sexual remarks, sexual harassment, threats and racial slurs.

In an unrelated case, Park Ridge Elementary teacher Ernest Sellers is accused of disciplining second-grade students by routinely putting them inside toilet cabinets and closets, leaving them inside a podium's storage area the size of a suitcase and routinely hollering children on the head with a closed fist.

The School Board will consider sus-

pending both men without pay on Tuesday as a step toward firing them.

A live-page complaint filed against Freeman outlines 13 allegations occurring during the 1994-95 school year, most citing the repeated use of language and sexual references.

Freeman has been on administrative leave with pay since June. He was a Broward County elementary teacher for four years and a middle school guidance counselor for 22 years. He has worked eight years with suspended students and dropout prevention classes at Seminole Middle in Plantation.

On Tuesday, Freeman denied the charges.

"I was totally outraged... They're a bunch of lies," he said. "People are trying to destroy me. The principal has

a vendetta against me."

Students and colleagues charged that Freeman:

- Boasted to them about his sex life, discussing his wife's body and his own.
- Reprimanded students by using profanity.
- Left sexually harassing notes to employees, stating he would see one in his dreams, and telling another that he wanted to hold her and kiss her all over because she was beautiful.
- Told students about slipping something into a girl's drink to sexually arouse her.
- Said some female students have sexually transmitted diseases and some students are getting what they deserve.

A single complaint last spring

sparked the investigation, said Ron Wright, director of the Professional Standards Division. Each witness named another student or employee who added allegations, Wright said.

A few allegations were witnessed by two or three people, but one was witnessed by 11 people, Wright said.

Contacted away from his office, Wright said there were about 27 student and five adult witnesses.

Sellers, the Pompano teacher accused of improperly disciplining students, could not be reached.

Representatives for both men have told Wright that they will seek a hearing before an administrative officer provided by the state. If the hearing officer upholds the complaints, the school board can fire them.

DIGEST

Children's agency sued

A former houseparent for troubled teenagers has filed a lawsuit saying the Broward-based CHARLEE program discriminated against him and fired him after he reported child abuse allegations to a state Whistle Blower Hot Line.

Charles Rhodes, of Hollywood, is asking U.S. District Judge Stanley Marcus to award him \$4 million in damages from the private social services agency.

CHARLEE officials said they would have no comment on the suit until they had an opportunity to review the charges.

A child abuse investigator with the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services said he was forbidden by law to comment on such charges.

Rhodes said he reported a case in which a 17-year-old boy with a history of molesting girls is being housed in a home with other girls. Two of them, Rhodes said, have been molested by the youth.

Rhodes filed the 16-page complaint one day after he was fired as an alternate houseparent at CHARLEE.

The complaint names as defendants CHARLEE executive director Laura Levy and program director Lisa Otto.

Man charged in shooting

A North Lauderdale man wanted in the shooting of his wife has turned himself in to police.

Police say Edward O. Eddy Sr., 35, chased a U-Haul truck his wife was driving on Sunday, then shot her three times after the truck hit a tree. Eddy fired a 380 semi-automatic

into the passenger window from about 10 feet away, police said. The woman survived. The shooting occurred at 3 p.m. on Rock Island Road just north of McNab Road.

Vivian Eddy, 31, who had the couple's three sons and a nephew in the truck with her, was shot twice in her right arm and once in her right shoulder, police said. She also suffered a broken shoulder and a grazed right jaw from a ricocheting bullet. She remains in stable condition at Broward County Medical Center, police said.

Police have charged Edward Eddy with five counts of attempted murder and two lesser charges.

Eddy is being held in the Broward County jail without bail.

Police ID man hit by car

PORT LAUDERDALE — Police on Tuesday identified the man who was killed while crossing State Road A1A a day earlier.

Anthony S. Christensen, 31, of Fort Lauderdale, was struck by a car while trying to walk across State Road A1A at Palmistree Street at 9:30 a.m. Monday. Police said William Van Siclen, 86, also of Fort Lauderdale, was driving the car that hit Christensen.

Police are still investigating.

Victim's family sought

Pompano Beach police on Tuesday were continuing to look for the family of an 80-year-old woman killed late Sunday when she walked in front of a minivan on Federal Highway.

The woman, who has not been identified pending notification of her family, was walking across the 500 block of North Federal Highway when she stepped into the path of the van driven by Barbara Lawrence, 40, of Fort Lauderdale, about 11 p.m., said police spokeswoman Sandra King.

The woman, who was not in a crosswalk, died at the scene, King said. Lawrence was not charged in the accident, she said.

Crash kills woman, 83

A Margate woman died Monday night from injuries sustained during an accident earlier that morning.

Mary Carrencia, 83, was a passenger in an Interpud with her daughter, Dolores Marchese. They were headed south on Rock Island Road and at the intersection of Northwest 18th Street about 10 a.m. when another vehicle made a left turn, colliding with Carrencia and her daughter almost head-on. Dotti Heller, also of Margate, was driving the second car, a white Buick.

Police are still investigating.

Bridge plans on display

PORT LAUDERDALE — The state is proceeding with plans to replace the Southeast 17th Street Causeway bridge, and officials are holding an informal open house this week to answer questions.

The open house will be between 5 and 8 p.m. Thursday at Harborbelle Elementary School, 900 SE 15th St.

Drawings of the new bridge will be on display and officials from the state Department of Transportation will be on hand.

For more information, call 481-4317.

Hospital plan on ice

Florida health officials may indefinitely delay deciding whether Weston should get a hospital, after one of three interested firms took the issue to state appeals court.

Cleveland Clinic appealed a state hearing examiner's Nov. 21 ruling, which ordered a more lengthy review of the hospital's request to build in Weston. The new center would have replaced the company's old hospital on Fort Lauderdale beach.

The court appeal will block the state Agency for Health Care Administration from deciding the issue until the case is over, at least in March or April, agency spokeswoman Sandy Berger said on Tuesday.

DRAMATIC FEAT



ABOVE: Flamingo Elementary students rehearse on stage for their opera *The Shaving of Love* while teacher Frank Theriault and others students watch. BELOW: Theriault directs the opera. Students created the Operation Opera Company, wrote a script and built sets.



By SARAH TALALAY
Education Writer

There's no fat lady singing in Italian, but it is opera.

Called *The Shaving of Love*, it is the work of 60 fifth-graders at Flamingo Elementary School in Davie.

Under the direction of teacher Frank Theriault, the students created the Operation Opera Company, came up with a story idea, wrote a script and built sets.

They are even stage-managing the performance, which is similar to a musical play.

In the opera, Angel, a homeless girl, is befriended by another girl, Dee Dee. She invites Angel to spend Christmas with her family, but Dee Dee's brother Darren and bratty sister Devin don't want any part of the

arrangement and seek to undermine it.

"I thought opera had to have a big fat lady singing," said Heather Ford, 11, who plays Dee Dee. "This is sort of different. It's got a lot of songs and it seems like a play and songs mixed in together."

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight and Thursday at the school, at 1130 SW 133rd Ave. Tickets are \$3.

This is the fourth time Theriault has produced an opera at the school as part of the Creating Original Opera program, established by the Metropolitan Opera Guild in New York.

Theriault and another teacher were accepted four years ago to the Opera Guild's training program to learn how to create opera in the classroom. The program is aimed at

teaching students responsibility and cooperation. It also teaches them to use their language skills for writing the opera and math skills to build the sets.

Theriault said:

"It's the notion of cooperative learning — everybody has a piece of this."

For instance, Kristi McCord, 11, is the assistant stage manager.

"I have to tell [the actors] when to go on, and if they forget a part I have a clipboard and script I read as they are saying their lines," Kristi said.

Erica Ramirez, 10, is an electrician who helps control the footlights.

"I never liked opera. I was never interested in it," Erica said. "It was a fat lady singing. I never understood a word she said. But Mr. Theriault explained it and tried not to let a lot of people feel left out."

Study says Hollywood needs pricey restaurants

By DAVID PLESA
Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD — Build more high-end restaurants and they will come. Or so goes the theory behind a new economic analysis that officials hope will help kick-start development on Hollywood Beach.

The just-completed analysis is the latest in a long series of studies suggesting ways to get the most out of the city's prime seaside property.

I think it gives us a credible point of departure as we now go out to build the business base on Hollywood Beach," said Chuck D'Apris, president of the Hollywood Economic Growth Corp., a nonprofit, pro-growth group that sponsored the study.

The analysis recommends devising a strategy to attract several more upscale restaurants to the beach to serve as an economic anchor. Once they are in place, high-end retail shops will follow, the study says.

To attract more eateries, the analysis suggests a mix of low-interest loans, marketing plans aimed just at restaurants, and programs to help first-time restaurateurs.

If pricey restaurants move in, more residents, including those who now live at the beach but shop elsewhere, will spend more dollars there, the study said.

The key is to use restaurants as anchors," City Planning Director Jud Kurland said. "Large numbers of people will come down to eat and then walk around and shop."

Kurland said the marketing analysis fits well with strategies outlined in a new master plan for Hollywood Beach. The plan, developed recently by a committee of property owners, merchants and residents, calls for \$27.8 million in public improvements over eight years to help spur private development.

The economic analysis also found:

- A viable market exists for redevelopment of the Casino property, a city-owned, vintage-1940s Johnson Street building that houses an array of shops and bars.

The site, at the heart of the beach tourist district, could house a 150- to 200-room hotel, plus swanky shops that could demand \$40 average sales versus the \$15 sales now averaged at beach retail stores.

■ The market remains strong for a major resort hotel such as the shuttered Diplomat. But the big question is how structurally sound the oceanfront hotel is after being closed for 4½ years.

The study suggests that a consultant should be hired to conduct a structural analysis, which would be vital in persuading developers to revamp the property.

■ Beach property owners must be persuaded to reinvest in their properties. If not, D'Apris said, "the city's efforts won't have as much impact."

Burned cops' children get scholarships

By SALLIE JAMES
Staff Writer

Plantation police officers Joe Ali Jr. and James O'Hara will always live with the pain and suffering of their burn injuries, but they won't have to worry about putting their children through college.

The Florida Sheriff's Advisory Council announced Tuesday night it will pay the college tuition for each of Ali's three children and O'Hara's two children through the Florida prepaid college fund.

The scholarships come in addition to about \$300,000 that has been raised for the two families through trust funds and dozens of fund-raising events.

The Florida Sheriff's Advisory Council, formed in 1985 and comprised of 50 private citizens, presented the scholarships at its annual Christmas party at

Bart & Jack's Restaurant in Port Everglades.

"This is like a dream for us," said Sheila Ali said before the presentation at the annual party.

She could not accompany her husband to accept the scholarships because she was attending their daughter's school Christmas program.

"I wish Jim could get the ovation for this," said O'Hara's brother-in-law Mark Perio, who accepted the scholarships on behalf of O'Hara.

The beneficiaries are the Ali's daughter, Christina, 4; Joe Ali's two children by a previous marriage — Samantha, 9, and Dominic, 10; O'Hara's daughter, Kelsey, 10, and son Brett, 9, 4½ months old.

Advisory council members pay \$5,000 to join the group.

Council chairman Nick Navarro, a former Broward County sheriff, said the

council is contributing \$28,000. With the interest that will accumulate over the years, the money will cover two years at a community college and two years at any state university for each child when they are old enough to attend, he said.

Ali and O'Hara were injured in a July 25 explosion at a house where a man with a gas can was holding two teen-age girls hostage. The man set off a fiery blast, killing himself and the girls, and severely burning O'Hara and Ali.

Ali is recovering at home and is undergoing physical therapy to regain the use of his hands and arms.

O'Hara remains in critical condition at the Ryder Trauma Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

Staff Writer Donna Pandora contributed to this report.

Page 4A Sunday, June 18, 2000

Los Alamos lab security struggles date back to the creation of the atom bomb

By Chris Roberts
Associated Press

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. — Reports of security breaches and missing computers have thrust the Los Alamos National Laboratory into an unwanted spotlight. But guarding the nation's nuclear secrets has been a daunting task for the lab since it's scientists began working on the atomic bomb more than half a century ago.

Experts say it was a clash of cultures — scientific vs. military — that made security difficult from the lab's earliest days during World War II.

Manhattan Project scientists, cloistered in the remote New Mexico foothills, insisted they needed to share information with colleagues to advance their work. Military security officers had other ideas, seeking to keep scientists from knowing how the individual work fit into the mission of creating an immensely destructive weapon that might help shorten the war.



Smoke settles in a canyon behind the Los Alamos National Laboratory May 16. The lab's most recent security lapse involved the disappearance of top-secret computer drives.

Security quickly became a problem as the scope of the Manhattan Project grew. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the top civilian on the project, had envisioned a cohort of a couple dozen scientists, but that number grew to between 1,000 and 2,000 by 1945.

Eventually, atom bomb secrets were stolen by spies who passed the information to Soviet countries.

"By 1944, it was breaking down," Richard Meizer, a University of New Mexico history professor, said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "They just couldn't keep up."

The ultimate proof of how bad it was is that the spies who stole the atom bomb secrets were amateurs.

During those early days, Brig. Gen. Leslie Groves, the commanding officer at Los Alamos, was obsessed with scientists who vocally advocated freedom of academic speech.

Security measures bordered on paranoia. Microphones were hidden

in scientists' offices and homes, and other methods of Army surveillance were so "dishonorable" that they still haven't been disclosed, according to Meizer's new book, "Breakdown: How the Secret of the Atomic Bomb was Stolen during World War II."

Richard P. Feynman, a Nobel laureate in physics, arrived at Los Alamos during the war years before the complex was completed. He took delight in finding holes in the security system — easy-to-crack safes, for example — and challenging the censors who edited incoming and outgoing mail.

At one point, Feynman wrote in his book, "Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!" that he had found a hole in one of the security fences. He left through a well-guarded gate and returned through the hole, retracing his route a number of times before a guard got suspicious and called his superior with the intent of throwing Feynman in jail.

Meizer quotes Groves as saying, "If this were a country like Germany — there were a dozen (scientists) we should have shot right off. And another dozen we could have shot for suspicion and carelessness."

More than 50 years later, the issue facing the lab have a similar ring. According to a presidential intelligence panel report released last year, "Organizational disorder, managerial neglect and a culture of arrogance — both at DOE headquarters and the labs themselves — conspired to create an espionage scandal waiting to happen."

That report came on the heels of an alleged security breach involving former Los Alamos scientist Wen Ho Lee. Lee is accused of mismanaging nuclear weapons secrets by putting them on an unsecured computer and downloading them onto portable tapes. He is in jail awaiting trial.

Last week, the lab became the target of more criticism after reports that

two computer hard drives containing information used to disarm nuclear warheads had been lost. The drives were found Friday behind a copier in a secure area of the lab.

At least a half-dozen Los Alamos scientists — among 26 people with access to the vault where the drives had been kept — have been given polygraph tests and some answers have raised suspicions among investigators, according to government sources. Six Los Alamos managers already have been put on leave with pay pending completion of the investigations.

In response to the troubles, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has promised to centralize control over security under a single "security czar" and beef up computer security at the national labs.

But Chris Meichels, a former Los Alamos scientist who had the highest security clearance before he retired in 1994, says there's another problem to overcome: Everything nuclear is "born classified."

He said less information should be classified and the protection of it items that remain classified should be intensified.

Others say lab security will always come down to a simple bottom line: Can you trust the people who work there?

"We could put the best physical security envelope in place today, but if the individuals don't live up to the authority and responsibility they were given, there can be a breach," said Gene Tucker, deputy director of security at Los Alamos.

Korean accord fails to stall U.S. missile plan

By Steven Lee Myers
and Eric Schmitt
N.Y. Times News Service

WASHINGTON — The remarkable summit meeting between the Korean leaders last week has left the Clinton administration widely divided over North Korea's intentions, but has not so far diminished its resolve to move ahead with a missile defense, administration and defense officials say.

Despite recent diplomatic gains that culminated in a general agreement between the Korean leaders to work for peace and unity on their divided peninsula, North Korea has not stopped work on the long-range missile program that has helped provoke proposals for the United States to build a defense shield, officials said.

Indeed, a highly classified intelligence report

being prepared for President Clinton will conclude that, if the current pace of development remains unchanged, North Korea could still build a missile capable of striking the United States by 2005, officials said.

Without more concrete agreements and changes in North Korea's behavior, officials said, it would not be prudent to back away from plans to build the missile defense now, despite the fact that the proposal has strained relations with Russia, China and even America's European allies. Three days of smiles and toasts, they emphasized, do not erase years of effort by North Korea to build nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them.

Not from the summit and not from any of the other things have we seen any signs that they are changing their program to develop missiles,"

Walter Slocombe, the undersecretary of defense for policy, said in an interview.

At the same time, officials acknowledge that they will face even greater diplomatic pressure after the summit meeting to forswear the shield.

And they say that the striking scenes of the Korean leaders warmly embracing, holding hands and clinking champagne glasses have underscored divisions within the administration over how — and how quickly — to proceed with a defensive shield.

Moreover, officials acknowledge that the summit meeting has helped fuel some doubts over much of the rationale for a missile defense, which is that the North Korean government was so irrational and unpredictable that it would not respond to normal threats of deterrence.

Educator honored for bringing Metropolitan Opera to the state

By Bob Johnson
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Betty Perdue remembered the strange looks and comments she received when she first had the idea of bringing a program of New York's prestigious Metropolitan Opera to Alabama.

"The opera is coming to town, and I don't mean opy," was one of the comments Perdue remembered Tuesday as she was honored by the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

Perdue is the retired music director for the State Board of Education. Ten years ago she was sitting at her desk in Montgomery and came across a brochure for the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Creating Original Opera program. The program is designed to teach children by getting them to write and create their own operas.

Perdue went to the Metropolitan Opera in 1989 and participated in a program aimed at showing teachers how to get their students to create opera.

"When I graduated from high school, the yearbook said 'she'll make it to the Met.' I figured this was the only way I would get there," Perdue said.

She liked what she learned in the Big Apple and encouraged the guild to bring their program to Montgomery.

"I said this has got to happen in Alabama."

Thanks to Perdue, for the past 10 summers the guild has held a training session for southern teachers at Auburn University at Montgomery.

The 18 teachers participating this year on Tuesday performed a short opera they had written and produced in one day. They finished the production by surprising Perdue with a song about her.

Metropolitan Opera Guild program director Shellie Bradford presented Perdue with a certificate of



Betty Perdue, a National Education Advisor of the Creating Original Opera Council, addresses friends and members of the media June 13 in Montgomery. Perdue spoke about her efforts in bringing awareness of teaching opera to Alabama. Perdue was honored with an award from the New York City Mayor's office for her contributions.

appreciation from New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Perdue said she hopes school children in Alabama and across the South have benefited from the exposure to opera.

"It's absolutely phenomenal to see children take responsibility for their own learning. The teachers are not even allowed back stage when they put on their operas," she said.

Particularly in the South, the word "opera" sometimes invokes

fear and makes folks say "no way," she said.

Playwright Marge Duffield, who has come to Montgomery from New York for nine years to help teach the program, said one goal is to help students get beyond their phobias, especially the fear of opera.

"This requires children to challenge themselves. It was the same for the teachers this week," Duffield said. "Most of them thought they could never do this, because we

were asking them to do something they had never done before."

First-grade teacher Susan Lyons of Boone, N.C., was lead singer in Tuesday's opera about a somewhat awkward summer picnic. She also worked on lighting the home-made stage.

"I learned so much from this. I was so excited when the first light that I made actually came on," Lyons said. She said she can't wait to see students at her school try their hands at producing opera.

Maybe this will give them the confidence that kids need these days," Lyons said. "It will let them use parts of the mind they are not using and get their creative juices flowing."

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*Rain Location - Lenlock Community Center

Page 6B □ Thursday, January 14, 1993 □ The Bismarck Tribune

Minot students doing all the work, singing for opera

MINOT (AP) — A class of fifth graders is lacking an opera. The Cool Kids Opera Company at the Minot Elementary School has done more than practice songs and blocking on stage. The youngsters built the set, rigged the lighting, wrote the script, made costumes. The students have even worked to sell their show to the public. The

opera company's public relations department designed posters to hang around Minot, distributed flyers and have taken reservations over the phone for eight shows later this month. Guiding the students are music teacher Glenda Berry and fifth-grade instructor Rob Anderson. Anderson and Berry learned the

DAKOTA

fundamentals of putting together an opera through the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Creating Original Opera program. Both instructors have spent the past two summers in Milwaukee

and New York City training. While the Cool Kids exhibition of "Changing Thoughts" was "a performance by opera great Luciano Pavarotti, it's not meant to be a performance by opera great Luciano Pavarotti," Berry said. "What we are calling opera is really musical theater," Berry said. "But opera in the United States is really musical theater."

In addition, the project teaches the children to work as a group, use language skills taught in class, use science and mathematics skills in constructing stage lights and props and use organizational skills.

"This is a total learning experience for the kids, teachers and everyone in the building," Berry said. "This is the best experience I've had in my 22 years of teaching."

Farm show draws crowd

FARGO (AP) — The first Fargo Farm Show was attracting thousands of people, organizers said. The three-day show, which began Tuesday, is being held in the new Fargodome.

Tuesday's crowd was estimated at between 6,000 and 8,000. "It really went well," said Jeff Knause, director of operations for the Fargodome. "The exhibitors seemed to be busy with buying and selling."

The newest in farm technology proved to be the magnet for farmers and ranchers from a wide area, despite 6 inches of new snow.

Exhibitors were generally enthusiastic about the crowd and the facility. Their biggest complaint was that only six pay telephones were available to contact home offices.

A \$30,000 English-made grain stripper was among the items on display.

Kevin Ohaus, sales manager of A&H Implement Co. of Graton, displayed a Shetland horse brand combine header that removes the heads of grain before they go into the combine. Conventional headers cut the straw at the base and run it through the machine.

County officers sue over wages

GRAND FORKS (AP) — Twenty-four Grand Forks County corrections officers have filed a lawsuit asking for more than \$100,000 in back wages and interest going back six years.

The lawsuit says the officers worked 10 more hours per year than other county employees because of their required schedule.

County Commissioner Keith Berger, who is on the commission's personnel committee, had not seen the lawsuit and was surprised at the employees' claim.

"We pay overtime every month," Berger said.



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JANUARY IS NATIONAL EYE HEALTH CARE MONTH

Most of us take our gift of sight for granted because we use it every day without really thinking about how essential it is or how easily it can be lost. At this time of the year when we celebrate NATIONAL EYE HEALTH CARE MONTH, it is a good time to remember that our gift of sight is very important to us and we need to take care of it. How can we do this? Parents with preschool children should be sure that the children's eyes are normal BEFORE they begin school. It is important to uncover any problems they might have with sight before they begin school. Young adults need to have regular checkups to make sure that their eyesight is not causing poor schoolwork. Children need to be eye checked after

age 20. It is important to check them regularly. In addition, regular glaucoma checkups can help keep that sight sharp from taking one's sight. It is good to have regular checkups at your life-long as prescribed by your doctor. They pay for themselves!

20/20 Vision

20/20 vision is a term used to express normal visual acuity. The clarity or sharpness of vision measured at a distance of 20 feet. If you have 20/20 vision, you can see clearly at 20 feet what should normally be seen at that distance. If you have 20/10 vision, it means that you must be as close as 10 feet to see what a person with normal vision can see at 20 feet.

Does 20/20 mean perfect vision? No. 20/20 vision only indicates the sharpness or clarity of vision at a distance. There are other important vision skills, among them: peripheral awareness or side vision, eye coordination, depth perception, focusing ability and color vision that contribute to your overall vision ability.

In 15/15 vision

No. 15/15 means normal sharpness of vision at 15 feet or 15/15 vision. It means you can see clearly at 15 feet what should normally be seen at that distance. For consistency, measurements in the U.S. use 20 feet as the standard to express sharpness of vision. Your coordination, focusing, visual acuity in their own way. In Britain, for example, optometrists express visual acuity in meters (M) is considered normal.

Why do some people have less than 20/20 vision?

Visual acuity is affected by many factors. Less than optimum clarity may result from vision conditions like nearsightedness, farsightedness or astigmatism of the eye lens.

Will clarity of vision vary with distance?

Some people can see well at a distance, but are unable to bring nearby objects into focus. This condition can be caused by farsightedness or presbyopia, a loss of focusing ability. Others can see things that are close, but cannot see things that are far away. This condition may be caused by nearsightedness.

If my vision is less than optimum, what do I do?

A comprehensive eye examination by a doctor of optometry should identify these reasons, if any, that are affecting your ability to see well. In most cases, your optometrist can prescribe glasses, contact lenses or a vision therapy program that will help improve your vision. The reduced vision is due to an eye disease, the use of ocular medication or other treatment may be needed.

Eye Coordination

Eye coordination is the ability of both eyes to work together as a team. Each of your eyes sees an ever so slightly different image and your brain, by a process called fusion, blends these two

images into one three-dimensional picture. Good eye coordination keeps the eyes in proper alignment.

What causes poor eye coordination?

Eye coordination is a skill that must be learned. Poor eye coordination results from a lack of adequate vision, eye muscle control, although rare, an injury, a disease or other trauma that causes poor eye coordination.

How does poor eye coordination affect vision?

Since the images sent to each eye must be virtually the same, a person usually compensates for poor eye muscle control by subconsciously exerting extra effort on the muscles to maintain proper alignment of the eyes. In some severe cases, the muscle cannot adjust the eyes so that the same image is seen and double vision occurs. Since the brain will try to avoid seeing double, it eventually learns to ignore the image sent by one eye. This can result in amblyopia, a serious vision condition commonly known as lazy eye.

What are signs/symptoms of poor eye coordination?

Some signs/symptoms that may indicate poor eye coordination include: double vision, headaches, eye and body fatigue, irritability, dizziness and difficulty in reading and concentrating. Children may also display characteristics that may indicate poor eye coordination including: covering one eye, skipping lines or losing the place while reading, poor sports performance, avoiding tasks that require close work and tiring easily.

How is poor eye coordination diagnosed?

Since poor eye coordination is often difficult to detect, periodic optometric examinations beginning at age 3 are recommended. A comprehensive examination by a doctor of optometry will determine the extent, if any, of poor eye coordination.

How is poor eye coordination treated?

Poor eye coordination is often successfully treated through vision therapy, contact lenses and/or other optical aids. If detected early enough, the success rate for achieving proper eye coordination is quite high.

In some cases, eye coordination will improve when other vision conditions like nearsightedness or farsightedness are corrected. In some cases, surgery may be necessary.

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FEBRUARY 17, 1997

THE HOME NEWS-TRIBUNE

PAGE B4

NEIGHBORS

Neighborhood activities
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Kids learn to work in harmony

Operas created, start to finish, by students alone

By VALERIE DRACH WEIDMANN
CORRESPONDENT

The 40-member Lights Camera Action Opera Production Company was taking a critical secret vote that would decide the writing of their May opera.

Putting heads down on desks or in-solo shirts and raising hands, the secret ballot was tallied by Lenore Hall and Heather O'Connor, their fourth-grade teachers, and the opera production was under way.

The opera company is one of two at Highland Park's Bartle School in the six years it has participated in the Metropolitan Opera Guild's "Creating Original Opera" program. The students in the two fourth-grade classes that make up the Lights Camera Action company and those in the fourth- and fifth-grade classes that make up A Trill Minute are completely responsible for their production.

Artistic professionals from the Metropolitan Opera Guild have been training teachers from throughout the world during 10-day intensive summer programs since 1983. Five Bartle School teachers have been through the training.

Ann Rollins, Bartle School's vocal-music teacher, discovered the program in a flier sent to her from the Met and suggested to the principal that the school participate. Rollins and Barbara Broggi, now a fifth-grade teacher, attended Columbia University to receive the training in summer 1991 and have helped their students produce opera ever since.

Rollins has helped every opera company at Bartle School compose their music and understand the meaning of the word "opera."

"We think of opera as something written 200 years ago and performed by then wearing horns," Rollins said. "But the children learn that opera is being written today and that they can write one about their own feelings and lives. Musical moments define opera. They convey emotions and, in some cases, a specific character, and most importantly, they move the plot along."

The Metropolitan Opera Guild gives the teachers strict guidelines for the children to follow. The most important rule is that teachers can only instruct and cannot do any of the public-facing work, writing, composing or even backstage jobs such as handling scenery, making costumes or doing electrical work.

"The children take ownership of the whole project from the inception of an idea to the completion of the production," explained Broggi. "This is the best-designed program I have ever gotten involved in; it is everything they want education to be. It impacts on everything else we do in class including the way students interpret literature and write. They also learn to take responsibility and rely on each other."

Each student is responsible for one job only throughout the production. In September, each child must earn his



● Bartle School fourth-grader Ananya Kasireddy writes down a few story-line ideas during a classroom discussion about her class opera, above. At left, fourth-grader Annalissa Bravo contemplates story lines being offered during the opera production meeting.

TARA BREEN
Staff photographer

or her own job in the production by filling out applications and undergoing an interview with the two teachers involved in the production and then signing contracts. If they don't fulfill their contract terms, they can be dismissed.

The jobs include production manager, stage manager, assistant stage manager, performer, composer, writer, makeup artist, public relations, costume designer, electrician, set designer and carpenter.

Production manager Ben Cohen from Lights Camera Action had to create a call board and write what he thought was the most important requirement of the job.

"I'm sort of amazed that I got picked because there are so many good people in our company," Cohen admitted. "I'm here to do all kinds of different stuff, but most of all I think I should influence people to do a good job."

Michelle Hunt, a petite girl with a full singing voice, auditioned for the part of performer. She had to memorize and recite a poem before the opera company to show that she could remember lines and act.

"You got to pick your own name for the opera," Martina Prybeck, another performer said. "They don't pick a story for us — we write it. It's not like performing someone else's work like Handel and Grotto."

"I auditioned for the lead role and got it," said Nicholas Gileman, from A Trill Minute. "Performers get to

choose their own name when they're picked."

Richard Bercham, a composer from the same company, was excited about a piece of music he was going to write the upcoming weekend.

"I have an idea for a piece of music that I think will work for one of the characters," he said.

The members of each opera company discuss and vote in secret ballots about the theme, their character development, setting, conflict and plot of their production. Student writers and composers take the ideas and put them in script form. The theme is a specific topic, and the thesis is usually a statement of the plot and conflict.

Hall and O'Connor's classes already have developed eight characters. The method the teachers convey to the children is to create a character by combining five different emotional adjectives. The Met rule is that each character must not be either all good or all bad.

"The first two characters take the longest to develop, then they get the hang of it," observed fourth-grade teacher Hillary Corbin who works with Broggi. "Students get a sense of the writing process. They experience how a professional writer takes the beginning of an idea and builds on it."

The cost of the opera varies according to building and costume materials, but each year the productions generate a profit that is used for future operas. Children also hold bake sales and sell items to raise money.



Baker

Youth Honors

Business, education pair publish teaching tool

Leigh Russ, a sixth-grade teacher at South River Middle School, has published a science teaching module entitled "Am I It Really There?" The module was prepared under the auspices of Science Alliance, a business and education partnership. Russ, a resident of South River, was paired with Matt Thier, an engineer with Hilti Inc., in preparing the module, which is one of 50 available to science teachers.

Patriotic Arts Contest has 3 young winners

The following youths were winners in the Patriotic Arts Contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4589.

Spetswood: Charles Holbrook, first place; James Newton, second place, and Julie Serman, third place. The winners will be honored at 2 p.m. Feb. 23 at the post home, 33 Daniel Road.

Church member earns Eagle Scout badge

The first Eagle Scout badge in the United States was awarded in 1912 to Arthur Elder of Boy Scout Troop 1, Rockville Center, Long Island, N.Y., and the very next year, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints became the first church to fully adopt Scouting and the sponsoring of troops. On Dec. 22, 16-year-old Steven Baker became the 11st Eagle Scout of Troop 600 of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of East Brunswick. Baker, an East Brunswick native, is

a junior at East Brunswick High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, enjoys sports and is a member of the school track team. In addition to his merit badges, he also has earned the Helman Award, World Conservation Award and Outstanding Senior Patrol Leader at the summer-camp program.

Baker's Eagle Scout community project was the planting of donated trees at the East Brunswick Baseball Diamond and East Brunswick Recreation Park. The majority of the trees are near the baseball diamond parking area on Dunham Corner Road. Scoutmaster Jeff Rubin, a Rutgers College professor, congratulated Baker, stating, "You are one of our Eagle Scouts. As trees grow upward and simultaneously spread branches more widely, you have chosen an upward path which will lead to ever-widening circles of influence for good."

Tomorrow

Middlesex County

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS: Board of Chosen Freeholders, meeting, 6 p.m., board offices, John F. Kennedy Square, New Brunswick. ■ Central Jersey Bicycle Club, meeting, 7:30 p.m., Edison Main Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., Edison. ■ Mosquito Extermination Commission, meeting, 8 p.m., MEC offices, 200 Parsonage Road, Edison.

CARTERT: Local Assistance Board, reorganization meeting, 7 p.m., Borough Hall, 41 Cooke Ave. ■ Seafarers Organization of Active Retirees, meeting, 2 p.m., SOAR offices, 237 Roosevelt Ave.

CRANBURY: Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 8, Old School, 23A N. Main St.

DUNELLEN: Board of Education, meeting, 7:30 p.m., high school. ■ Borough Council, meeting, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building.

EAST BRUNSWICK: Local Assistance Board, meeting, 4:15 p.m., Nature Center, 234 Dunham Corner Road. ■ Cable Television Advisory Committee, meeting, 7:30 p.m., public library, municipal complex, 2 Civic Center Drive. ■ Library Board, meeting, 7:30 p.m., library. ■ Township Council, special action meeting, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building. ■ Library book discussion group, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., library.

HIGHLAND PARK: Borough Council, agenda meeting, 7 p.m., regular meeting, 8 p.m., Borough Hall, 221 S. Fifth Ave.

METUCHEN: Borough Council, budget work session, 6:30 p.m., senior center. ■ Parking Authority, meeting, 8 p.m., authority offices.

MIDDLESEX: Borough Council, agenda meeting, 7:30 p.m., Borough Hall.

MILLTOWN: Board of Education, meeting, 7 p.m., Parkview School. ■ Borough Council Finance Committee, meeting, 5:30 p.m., Borough Hall.

NEW BRUNSWICK: Board of Education, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Paul Robeson School. ■ City Council, agenda meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall.

NORTH BRUNSWICK: Board of Education, budget workshop, 7 p.m., board offices, Old Georges Road. ■ Board of Health Advisory Committee, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Building, 710 Hermann Road. ■ Zoning Board, regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building. ■ Emergency Management Council, regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building.

OLD BRIDGE: Township Council, meeting, 8 p.m., Municipal Building.

PERTH AMBOY: Local Assistance Board, reorganization meeting, 7 p.m., Welfare Office, Patten Center, Fayette and Road streets. ■ Kiwanis Club, meeting, 12:15 p.m., Portuguese Manor, 310 Elm St.

PISCATAWAY: Zoning Board, agenda meeting, 7 p.m., special meeting, 7:30 p.m., Public Works Center, municipal complex, 455 Hoes Lane.

PLAINSBORO: Board of Education, closed meeting, 6:30 p.m., agenda meeting, 8 p.m., middle school library.

SOUTH BRUNSWICK: Township Committee, special meeting, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting, Municipal Building. ■ Board of Education, action meeting, 8 p.m., Municipal Building. ■ Brunswick Acres School Parent Teacher Organization, used-book sale to raise funds for Joel Johnson's bone marrow transplant, 3:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m., school atrium, 41 Kory Drive.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD: Board of Education, special meeting, 7 p.m., board offices. ■ Zoning Board, meeting, 8 p.m., Municipal Building.

WOODBURGE: Township Council, meeting, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building, 1 Main St. ■ Ladies Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1352, meeting, 7:30 p.m., post home, 113 James St., Hopewell section.

Somerset County

BOUND BROOK: Borough Council, workshop, 7:30 p.m., Borough Hall.

FRANKLIN: New Brunswick Business and Professional Women, dinner meeting, 6 p.m., McKee's, Easton Avenue, Somerset section. ■ Township Council, Land-use Properties Subcommittee, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK: Recreation Advisory Committee, meeting, 7 p.m., Nelsie K. Brumling School Library. ■ Planning and Zoning board, joint meeting, 8 p.m., council chambers, Borough Hall.

Union County

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS: Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education, meeting, 7:30 p.m., Instructional Media Center, Jonathan Dayton Regional High School, Mountain Avenue, Springfield.

ELIZABETH: Polish Legion of American Veterans Post 91, monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m., St. Hedwig's Parish Hall.

CRANFORD: Township Council, meeting, 8 p.m., Municipal Building.

HILLSIDE: Township Council, caucus meeting, 6:30 p.m., agenda meeting, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting, 8 p.m., council room, Municipal Building.

LINDEN: City Council, conference meeting, 5:30 p.m., regular meeting, 7 p.m., council room, City Hall, North Wood Avenue.

ROSSELLE PARK: Board of Education, meeting, 7:30 p.m., board offices.

Coming Events

Discussion group picks two books to tackle

The Book Discussion Group of The Library, East Brunswick, will examine Martin Amis' novel, "The Information," tomorrow, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., at the library, 2 Civic Center Drive. Claudia Link, adult services librarian, is the discussion leader. Copies of the book are available at the library's reference desk.

Richard Ford's "Independence Day" is the next book to be discussed on March 18, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., at The Library. Call (908) 390-4772.

Club meeting's topic to be 'Yoga and the Bicycle'

Francine Thomas will discuss "Yoga and the Bicycle" tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. at the membership meeting of The Central Jersey Bicycle Club at the Main Edison Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., Edison. For information call (908) 225-4827.

Professionals' group to hear presentation on weight

"How Our Lives Affect Our Weight and How Our Weight Affects Our Lives" will be the topic of the New Brunswick Business and Professional Women Inc. tomorrow at 6 p.m. at McKee's, Easton Avenue, Somerset section of Franklin. Bonnie Kuehn will be the presenter. Call Kay Boloy (908) 257-4077.

Veterans Alliance to install officers at dinner

The Veterans Alliance of the Bartram Valley installation dinner is Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Job Corps Center in Edison. Call (908) 846-2783.

For other calendars see: BUSINESS (Monday); HEALTH (Tuesday); KID STUFF (Wednesday); RELIGION & ETHICS (Thursday); ON THE GO (Friday); GARDEN (Saturday).

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1997

THE HOME NEWS-TRIBUNE

SECTION D

MARQUEE



HELLO GORGEOUS!
Barbra's big. How big? There's even a museum dedicated to her career in film and song. **D7**



HOLLY, JOLLY?
The nine-month marriage of Lauren Holly and \$20 million man Jim Carrey is not all-righty, say sources. **CELEBS/D10**

Worth the Trip **D2**
Silver Screen **D3-4**
Atlantic City **D5**
Dining Out **D6**
Books **D8-9**

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By LOCH ADAMSON
CORRESPONDENT

Before identity became a hot topic in contemporary art, photographer Cindy Sherman was transforming herself, slowing her own image to explore cultural clichés of femininity. In the overview of her early "Untitled Film Stills," now on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, she reveals an uncanny, almost precocious ability to fuse concept and carnality — to play upon viewers' expectations with an intellectual's sang-froid.

Looking back over the entire array of images, it's almost hard to believe that Sherman was only 23 when she began the series in 1977. Newly arrived in New York from Buffalo with her boyfriend, artist Robert Longo, she was then a struggling young photographer, trying to find her way in an art world that was still largely a boy's domain.

As myth would have it, Longo actually had a small role in inspiring Sherman to begin this series: He told her that she spent so much time getting dressed and checking her reflection in the mirror that she ought to photograph herself. So she did.

But the images Sherman created were not mere self-portraits. Instead, they delicately sampled the stock roles of women in film: innocent ingenue, sex kitten, career girl, social sophisticate.

Please see **Camera**, page **D4**



Photographs by Cindy Sherman from "The Complete Untitled Film Stills" are courtesy of the Museum of Modern Art.

In children's opera those who can, teach

By JEFF MILGRAM
STAFF WRITER

With rapt attention, the 12 women and two men listen as Bruce Taylor explains the facts of life in an opera company.

First, Taylor says, "This program is not just about the arts. It's about living." Then he explains that the most important person in the opera company isn't the star or the director, it's the production manager. And thirdly, he warns, don't let parents do anything — they'll take over.

Clearly, Taylor, 51, of Lawrence, a former fish and game officer in Alaska and a former cryptographer in the U.S. Navy, is not talking about the Metropolitan Opera Company. He is speaking to a group of elementary and middle school teachers who will go back to their schools and set up opera companies of 10-year-old Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and Beverly Sills.

Well, not really. The group defines opera rather broadly. There will be no prima donnas, no superstar tenors in these school productions. The kids will use their love of music to learn about team work, professionalism and responsibility. In other words, life.

Taylor is uniquely qualified to teach the course. A director of the Metropolitan Opera Guild, Taylor has worked with the Seattle Opera Company, the Opera Company of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Opera Theater. He has done everything except conduct the orchestra and escort people to their seats.

The eight-day course, Creating Original Opera, is being conducted at Princeton University. It is run by the Metropolitan Opera Guild, the educational wing of the Met, and is funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the General Electric Fund. Participants pay \$165, which includes room and board and all course materials.

Please see **Opera**, page **D4**

For stage manager, Taylor advises finding a student who gets along well with the teacher-director and the actors. This young paragon also must stay calm during the performance.

For Kartik Seshadri, raga is a tune with many moods



KARTIK SESHADRI
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By MONIQUE PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

When Kartik Seshadri speaks of maintaining integrity, keeping an open mind and finding freedom despite limitations, it's easy to believe he is talking about life.

He is actually talking about music. But for the 39-year-old sitar virtuoso, the foremost disciple of the famed Ravi Shankar, the lessons of music and life are often the same.

The type of Indian classical music Seshadri has been playing since the age of 5, a genre known as raga sangit, emerged 2,000 years ago in the sacred hymns of Hindu priests. Although the 20-stringed sitar can now be heard in secular concert halls, on compact discs and even on recent pop music albums by Beck and the British band Kula Shaker, its roots are never far from Seshadri's mind.

"Music to me is the ultimate prayer," Seshadri said in a telephone interview from his home in Encinitas, Calif. "It's not possible to perform Indian classical music without having that outlook. This music really grew out of the temples in India, and I think the creative challenge for the artist is to keep that spirituality intact."

Seshadri will perform his New Jersey debut concert 8 p.m. Wednesday in Nicholas Music Center, New Brunswick. The performance is part of the Rutgers SummerFest 1997.

Every piece of Indian classical music is based on a raga, an intricate melody based on one of 72 musical scales. Thousands of ragas have evolved over time, and each one aims to communicate one of nine distinct moods: romance, humor, pathos, anger, heroism, fear, disgust, amazement or peace.

Please see **Sitar**, page **D4**

LOCAL REPORT

H. Park students to create opera

By DIANNE L. FORD
Home News Staff Writer

HIGHLAND PARK — While many schools around the country fear losing their arts programs to budgetary pressures, the borough's H. Park School is enhancing its by participating for the third year in a row in a Metropolitan Opera Guild program that gives students a chance to produce an original opera.

Today, two H. Park School teachers who are new to the program, Lenore Hall and Lois Brown, concluded a nine-day workshop of the program, Creating Original Opera, held at Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

Earlier this summer, fifth-grade teacher Barbara Braggi and fourth-grade teacher Hillary Corbun participated in an advanced work-

shop held at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City for teachers who are furthering their skills in the program.

"More and more we're realizing that kids can't be taught in just one way," said David Dik, the program director of Creating Original Opera.

"In a lot of ways, we're trying to provide some positive advocacy for the arts to continue in schools," Dik said of the program, which will bring the art of opera production to four H. Park School classes equalling about 100 students.

Armed with their opera training, the teachers will guide their students through the process of putting together an opera during the school year.

The students create the work from start to finish, from writing

the script and scores to creating the set and preparing lighting. Because a production wouldn't be much good without an audience, students are also in charge of public relations and promotions to make sure the house is packed come opening night.

The H. Park School teachers are among 32 elementary-school teachers and music specialists in the Northeast who have been selected to participate in the program.

Metropolitan Opera Guild officials made their selections from a pool of more than 300 interested schools by choosing those that expressed the most enthusiasm about the program and dedication to its successful execution.

"The youngsters get a real inside view of what it takes to work together to get a product out ...

and they have a lot of fun doing it," said H. Park School Principal Frank Fehn.

The skills the students learn by producing the opera also flow over into other academic areas. Fehn said, which makes the project a positive learning experience in a broader sense.

This past school year, about 50 of the elementary school's students created and performed Goats, an opera with a sports theme that centered on a girl who wanted to join a soccer team.

In 1994, newcomers to the program will be able to interact with teachers from American schools around the world when the Metropolitan Opera Guild holds its first international school program.

The Creating Original Opera program is funded by the GE Foundation and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Phone firms still seek tower

By DYNA MAASARANI
Home News Staff Writer

OLD BRIDGE — Officials from NYNEX Mobile Communications Co. and Bell Atlantic Mobile Co. will ask the Zoning Board to re-instate an application to build a 150-foot communications tower in the township, a spokeswoman for Bell Atlantic said yesterday.

The original application, was denied by the Zoning Board "without prejudice," meaning that the application could be re-instituted.

The unanimous denial of the application came after Michael Bruno, attorney for NYNEX, asked for a continuance of the hearing until August because only six of seven board members were present.

Expecting to be granted the continuance, Bruno did not bring witnesses to the meeting and was not prepared to proceed with the hearing when the board denied his request for an adjournment. Nearly 300 residents at the meeting applauded the board's denial of the application.

Laurel Card, a network implementation project manager at Bell Atlantic, which would build the tower in partnership with NYNEX, said yesterday that Bruno is drafting a letter to the board requesting the reinstatement.

"We're going to request a special meeting where we would be the only item on the agenda," Card said yesterday, adding that she hopes the board makes a decision on reinstating the application at its Aug. 5 meeting.

"We'd also like to have it moved to a bigger place," she said.

Residents opposed to the tower have in the past asked the Zoning Board to schedule a special meeting since the board's regular meetings are usually just packed.

Residents also have suggested that the meetings be moved to more than 100 people have turned out for the meetings. There was standing room only at last of the township's meeting, and the township chambers were

left open so people outside the room could at least hear the meeting.

NYNEX was seeking a height variance to build the tower adjacent to Foxborough Village, a development of about 500 homes off Ferry Road near the junctions of Routes 9 and 18.

Fearing the tower would damage health, property values and the environment, residents of Foxborough and surrounding communities have been steadfast in their opposition.

Residents have also been vocal critics of the Old Bridge Elix, who agreed to lease a tract of land adjacent to their lodge on Old Ambury Road near Foxborough to NYNEX. Several Zoning Board members agreed to abstain from hearing or voting on the application because they were either affiliated with the Elix or residents of Foxborough. Three Planning Board members submitted for the absent Zoning Board members.

Rita Gallagher, acting board chairman for the NYNEX application, could not be reached for comment yesterday, but board attorney Andre Gruber has said that reinstatement of an old application could take three to four months.

"We just can't walk away from Old Bridge," said Card, adding that the company would appeal if the board rejected its application in the future.

"We do have to proceed with something in Old Bridge because we have a terrible service problem there," he said.

NYNEX officials have said that the strength of electromagnetic fields emitted by the tower falls well below state-accepted standards, but residents remain fearful that the tower's high tension lines and emissions could induce or exacerbate certain cancers.

Lorraine Ziegler, a Roxborough resident and a founding member of the Committee Against Nynex Towers (CANT), said she has gathered over 2,000 signatures from across the state opposing the tower.

Jamesburg restructures its police

By WENDI B. LEVY
Home News Staff Writer

JAMESBURG — Police Chief Victor Knowles is restructuring his department by creating a detective position and promoting a patrolman to sergeant.

Knowles' reorganization, which was approved by the Borough Council Tuesday night, will promote Kevin McCarthy to sergeant and will make Paul Karloska the department's first detective.

Also as part of the reorganization, Patrolman Robert Tonkery, grandson of Mayor Joseph Tonkery, will be taken off probation one month early.

Knowles said a detective is needed primarily to alleviate the drug problem in the borough, particularly in the Triangle Park area. According to Knowles, drug arrests so far in 1992 are more than double those in all of 1993.

Knowles said Karloska, one of two DARE officers in the borough, has been doing the bulk of the investigative work inside the borough's drug activity. "He is my point man," he designated narcotics officers," Knowles said.

Both Karloska and McCarthy worked their way up the ranks of the department by starting out as "special" volunteer officers.

Karloska, 34, worked for the department part time for four years before being appointed a full-time patrolman in 1986. A lifelong borough resident, he is married and has two children.

Officer in charge
McCarthy, a full-time officer for seven years, worked as a special officer for five years before that. McCarthy, 39, will be the officer in charge during the evening and night hours.

"I think he will be an adequate and capable supervisor. I have the utmost faith in him," Knowles said.

Knowles said Tonkery's upgrade had nothing to do with other promotions. "It was restructuring the department and I received a favorable response by the bipartisan mayor and council," Knowles said.

"I felt that as long as we were going through the restructuring I wanted to present Robert (Tonkery) also."

Knowles said the promotion means job security for Tonkery. Probationary officers can be dismissed by the council at any time for virtually any reason, Knowles said. Tonkery, who became a member of the PBA union, Local 166.

The promotions will cost the borough an additional \$3,200 per year, with McCarthy receiving an extra \$2,800 and Karloska earning \$1,400 more.

Councilman James Main, who serves as the chairman of the police committee, said a strong police force is needed in Jamesburg, which ranks third among Middlesex County municipalities in its violence-crime index, behind the cities of Perth Amboy and New Brunswick.

'Tough little town'

"We have a tough little town here," Main said of the 3-square-mile borough. "If you watch 'Cops' every night, you'll get an idea what our officers deal with."

After the promotions were approved, Tonkery said the chief would like to see two off-

icers on patrol at all times. Currently, only one officer is on duty between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Although Knowles said he agrees with the mayor, he said the size of his forces makes that ideal because more men are needed on patrol during the "power shift" of 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., when the majority of crimes are committed.

"There's always a danger permitting a police officer to work by himself," Knowles conceded. "Obviously I would certainly prefer to have a two-man patrol on a continual basis. Unfortunately, the Borough of Jamesburg does not have the luxury at this time."

Knowles said, however, that he has applied for a state grant that would appropriate money for additional officers. If the grant comes through, Knowles said, he will use the additional officer to institute two-knockman patrols around the clock.

The force currently consists of five patrolmen, two sergeants, a detective and the chief. The department has eight special police officers.

Edison to repave, expand lots at 5 schools

By STEVE KLEIN
Home News Staff Writer

EDISON — The Township Council last night promised to complete long-awaited parking-lot expansion and repaving projects at five schools before classes begin in September.

Work at three other schools will begin after school begins Sept. 8. A ninth project, at Herbert Hoover Middle School, has been delayed for further study.

The money for the projects was included in a \$136 million bond issue passed last year. The Board of Education agreed to pay for the construction materials. The township agreed to provide the labor and equipment.

The bond issue provides \$86,000 for parking-lot expansion and repaving and \$42,000 for bus-lane installation.

The council introduced an interlocal agreement with the board last night. The board is scheduled to vote on the agreement at its Aug. 31 meeting, following a public hearing. The Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the project Aug. 9.

School officials and parents had worried a busy township road repair schedule would prevent school projects from being completed during the summer.

Superintendent of Schools Joseph Kresley said before the council meeting last night that he is pleased with the township's help, even though not all of the projects will be finished by the time classes start.

"The ones they're doing right away are the major projects,"

Kresley said. "I can understand why they can't get them all done."

Mayor Samuel V. Convery Jr. said the township may have to delay some road repaving until the fall in order to complete the school projects.

"We'll have to realize some priorities, but we're committed to doing what's necessary to make the schools safe and ready for when school opens."

The projects scheduled to be completed by September 3 include repaving and expansion at Benjamin Franklin School, installation of bus lanes at James Madison School, resurfacing of the parking lot and play area at Washington School, installation of additional parking spaces at Lincoln School and resurfacing of the teacher parking lot at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

The Board of School Estimates, which was succeeded earlier this year by an elected board, originally passed a \$2.58 million bond issue for school improvements on June 4, 1992.

After the council asked for cuts, the bond reduced that to \$1.96 million on July 15, 1992. The council approved the plan on Aug. 12, 1992, which was too late for any work to begin before school started.

However, Fleeger reiterated assurances given at the July 14 hearing that the tower would not pose a health hazard to borough residents. Quoting the comments of Robert Petersen, a representative of AT&T Bell Laboratories, from the hearing transcript, she said that microwave emissions from similar towers have never been found to be greater than 5,000 times less than state-mandated limits.

Bob Cook, a Highland Drive resident, raised at Monday's meeting the appearance of preferential treatment of Comcast over such similar companies as NYNEX.

But NYNEX Network Implementation Project Official Laurel Card said referring to "Nynex" officials' comments that they plan to build a number of towers along the roadway, said that she expected NYNEX to get a piece of the pie also.

"We may be able to benefit also," Card said. "I'm pretty sure that when the deal goes through we will be able to build also."

By LEO REISBERG
and BERNARD WARNER
Home News Staff Writers

EDISON — A New Brunswick man being sought in Monday's shooting of a 20-year-old Newark resident turned himself in to authorities last night upon the advice of an attorney he consulted, police said.

The suspect was identified by police as Bryant Brunson, 21, of 15 Quentin Ave. He faces charges of attempted murder, aggravated assault and possession of a weapon. Detective Richard Buck said.

Ann Brunson, an attorney with the firm of Rupp and Brunson in East Brunswick, who is representing Brunson, contacted police yesterday afternoon and told them her client would surrender, Buck said.

Sgt. Kenneth Zawroniak said Detective Mario Severino and Patrolman Michael Kelly transported Brunson from the Ramp and Renault firm, located near Court to police headquarters, where he was processed and detained as of 6:39 p.m. yesterday.

Joe L. Rouse was shot Monday afternoon outside the Edison Buses condominium complex, Buck said. Rouse was in a subtle condition at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, according to a hospital spokeswoman. Buck said Rouse was paralyzed from the waist down.

Chinese

Continued from page B1

month. Oskovsky said the township is taking the matter very seriously and is taking special steps to protect local Asian-Americans, including beefed-up patrols.

"We want to make sure if we get a call, we have sufficient manpower out there," he said, explaining that for security reasons, he did not want to give further details.

The latest letter so far has been received by only one family, according to police, but Lai said residents are nonetheless fearful because of its violent threats.

"The letter is unique in the sense that it was very specific on the things it would do," said Lai, who as a member of the township's Human Relations Council helped fellow council members on the issue Monday night.

Capt. John Jensen, police liaison to the Human Relations Council and one of the officers handling the bias incident, told Lai he does not believe the threat of violence in the letter would actually be carried out, but he said township po-

lice are very concerned.

"It's a very serious matter to us," Jensen said. "But I don't believe what I'm reading. I believe this was done by one individual."

The letter, which insulted Chinese-Americans in a variety of ways, was signed "The Ping Pong Exterminators."

Lai said that since the incident, reported publicly last week, area Chinese-Americans have become much more aware of the potential for racist threats and violence and are ready to react.

"From now on, I think people will be more careful and will report any other incidents," Lai said, adding that because of their culture and past experience, Asian immigrants are often hesitant to bring complaints to the police, because they may "feel intimidated."

Since the letter was publicized, said Lai, a local Asian-American had been approached at a supermarket by a white person who asked if he were Chinese.

When the Asian said yes, the white person said, "You go home," according to Lai.

Lai said this was the sort of "cops-out" event he feared would occur if the anti-Chinese letter were publicized.

Tomorrow: Fixing traffic
► Mount Healthy is trying to solve a troublesome left-turn lane on Hamilton Avenue.

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

YOUR TOWN

Kindergarten registration set

ELMWOOD PLACE — Incoming kindergartners may register for the 1995-96 school year at Elmwood Place Elementary School on Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. Parents or guardians must bring their child's birth certificate and immunization record.

To identify all resident 3- and 4-year-old children who will be eligible for preschool this fall, the school also will hold preschool roundups March 21 and March 23, from noon to 8 p.m., and March 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Parents or guardians are required to bring their child's birth certificate and verification of total household income, such as a pay stub or tax forms.

Waste ordinance is topic

ELMWOOD PLACE — Village Council will hold a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. today to discuss a proposed waste-collection ordinance.

Details of the ordinance, which may assess some owners of rental property for garbage collection, will be revealed at the meeting. The village's current waste-collection ordinance expired in November.

Mayor Richard Ellison said appointments of recreation commission members may also be accomplished during the meeting. Three of the five positions on the board are open.

Council will also discuss the 1995 appropriations ordinance.

The meeting will be in council chambers, 6118 Vine St.

Coaches clinic scheduled

FOREST PARK — The recreation department is taking registration for a general session baseball and softball coaches clinic scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. March 31 at the municipal building, 1201 W. Kemper Road.

The general session must be attended to go to the softball-specific clinic from 7 to 9 p.m. April 4 or the baseball-specific clinic from 7 to 9 p.m. April 6.

The National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) clinic will allow coaches to talk to colleagues to learn techniques. Each coach will also receive \$500,000 in liability insurance, a NYSCA membership card, a handbook and accreditation patch.

The cost is \$15; registration deadline is Friday.

To register, call Ken Peters at 595-5252. Coaches can also register in person at the municipal building.

Auxiliary spring social today

GROESBECK — The annual spring social for the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hamilton County Council of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is set for 7:30 p.m. today. The event will be at the Pvt. Charles R. Galtley Post No. 7340, 8320 Brownsway Lane in Groesbeck.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call Sylvia Pipher at 321-1256 or Pearl Maupin at 417-0715.

DAYBOOK

Government & schools

Colerain Township: Trustees 7 p.m., 4300 Springfield Road.

Milwate: Community council 5 p.m., 1901 Milwate Court.

Pine Hill: Community council 7:30 p.m., 1631 Queen City Ave.

South Fairmont: Community council 7:30 p.m., 1631 Queen City Ave.

Springfield Township: Trustees 8 p.m., 8375 Wilton Road.

Winton Place: Community council 7:30 p.m., St. Bernard Church annex, 2015 Avenue of Winton Road.

Woodlawn: Village Council 8 p.m., 10141 Woodlawn Blvd.

Community events

North College Hill: A Carnegie Support Group for those assisting an aging relative is set for 7:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church, 1830 W. Galbraith. Call 241-7745.

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Law Moore: 860-7113

Covers Colerain Township, Hamilton, Elmwood Place, Springfield, Crosby and Harrison Townships: 860-7113

Perrett Sellers: 860-7100

Government and school board meetings: 860-7100

SUBURBS/WEST

COVERING HAMILTON COUNTY WEST OF I-75

News tips:

► Editor Nancy Berlier
768-8395, Fax 768-8340

W TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1995 B3

Chiefs opposed to paramedic fee

Pitching levy to area voters is alternative

BY ANNA GUIDO FAIRBANKS
Enquirer Contributor

Fire chiefs in the newly formed Western Hamilton County Joint Paramedic District are opposed to charging residents per call for emergency paramedic care.

The chiefs would rather see the costs shared equally with funds generated from a voter-approved levy.

"We know that billing per run

will discourage people from calling for help—particularly people on fixed incomes," said Alan Kinnett, fire chief for Harrison and Harrison Townships.

Whitewater and Crosby townships and the village of Cleves also are part of the new paramedic district.

The paramedic district was formed early this year after Cincinnati's Health System of Cincinnati Area (FHSC) announced in September that it would begin billing for the free paramedic service it has provided the community since 1986.

Most insurers, including Medicare and Medicaid, cover the cost of emergency medical care. If the

district chooses the pay-per-run option, uninsured residents would have to pay their own way.

On the other hand, the cost per household of an estimated \$300,000-a-year levy needed to operate the paramedic district would amount to "pennies a day" per household, according to Kinnett.

"We want to protect all of our citizens, and we believe the best way to do it is to spread the costs out evenly with a levy," he said. Both funding options are being considered by the paramedic district's five-member board of directors, which will meet for the first time March 25.

"A tax levy would certainly be

the easiest way to fund it," said board member Debbie Acra, vice mayor of Harrison.

The board also must decide whether to contract out for the paramedic service or to staff it from within.

Each fire department in the paramedic district provides basic life support. Some have emergency medical technicians (who can provide intermediate life support), but none have paramedics (who provide the most advanced level of emergency life support).

The board's March 25 meeting will be held at noon at the Whitewater Township Fire Department's Hoover Station, 311 Ohio Ave.

Acra said the paramedic district's fire chiefs have been asked to attend the meeting and will be asked to serve as executive advisors to the board.

In the meantime, FHSC will continue to provide free paramedic service through June, having already extended the date of termination twice.

FHSC began offering paramedic care as a community service and decided to institute billing to compensate for financial losses.

When billing was announced, the communities served were given the option of maintaining the service at a cost of about \$450 per run.

Pupils pitch in to stage opera

Story and music created by kids

BY KATHLEEN HILLENMEYER
The Cincinnati Enquirer

SHARONVILLE — When his classmates at Robert E. Lucas Intermediate School planned to create their own opera, fifth-grader David Sommer didn't expect to be included.

"I thought it was just for really high graders... and APT (academically talented) students," said David, 11, as he videotaped rehearsal of *Sticks and Stones*.

The 48 children who are producing the opera — the story of a girl who has been abused by her stepfather — include gifted students and those with learning disabilities. Performances next week will mark the first time such a large and diverse company has staged an original opera at Lucas, teacher Beverly Kinney said.

Since January, student teams have worked from scratch developing each component — from songs the four-member orchestra composed to footlights the electricians wired themselves.

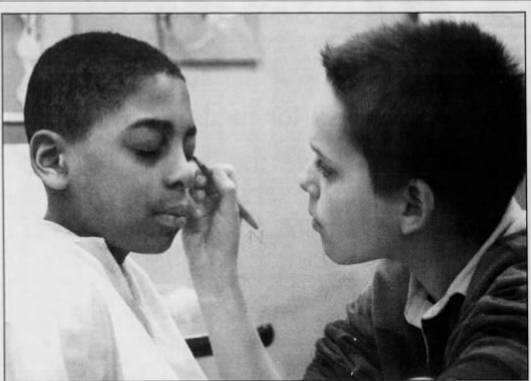
By involving students in every task from carpentry to costume design, "we were trying to play down the fact that the performers are the most important," Kinney said. "Without a good technical crew or good writers, you don't have a good production."

Before supervising the production, Kinney and Lucas music teacher Becky Brown trained in New York with the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

More than 25 elementary and middle-school teachers from 13 countries participated in this year's Creating Original Opera program, director David Dik said. The program, devised by the Metropolitan Opera Guild, is funded by corporate sponsors. In the Midwest, the sponsor is General Electric.

"The idea is to integrate the arts into the general curriculum and... to look at things that are creative rather than imitative," Dik said.

For example, pianist Laura Webb, 11, will play music she helped compose for the opera. Just a few months ago, that achievement seemed slightly out of reach. "You hear a song on the radio and it sounds so neat, you wonder how they



ABOVE: Adam Kleinherm, right, practices his role in the production with fellow makeup artist Tyequan Dumas. BELOW: Orchestra teacher Pam Carroll listens to Lizzy Hemme rehearse on the cello and Kellan Simmons the violin.

If you go

Sticks and Stones will be performed at Robert E. Lucas Intermediate School, 2600 Cottingham Drive, at 1:30 p.m. March 21-22, and 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. March 23. Admission is free. For more information, call 563-4020.

came up with such a great tune," she said.

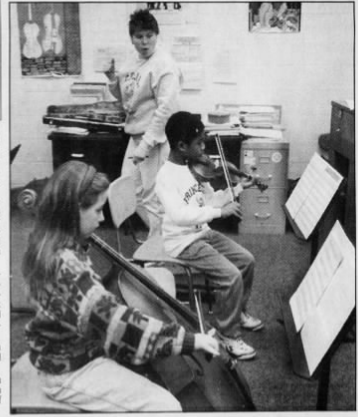
Secondarily, the guild aims to broaden students' definition of opera. Dik said, "We're trying to break down stereotypes about the art form — that there's always loud singing, they're not sung in English, and it's socially acceptable to fall asleep."

As students applied for acting, set-production, writing and other jobs, Adam Kleinherm saw a chance to dispel another stereotype. The 10-year-old, who is practicing makeup artistry on his sister, said he wanted the job "to prove that men can do things that women can do."

The fifth-graders' perspectives distinguish *Sticks and Stones* from most Great- or Cincinnati operas, said Tyequan Dumas, 11. "Some of those big words that parents put in, kids don't understand this."

Still, viewers of all ages will get a message from Lucas' opera, 10-year-old script writer Eunja Yang predicted.

"If you want really good friends, you don't have to lie," she said. "You shouldn't be about anything, especially if it's something as serious as abuse."



Three Rivers board asked to not reduce teacher force

BY KATHLEEN HILLENMEYER

NORTH BEND — Residents urged Three Rivers school board members Monday not to make budget reductions that would increase the number of students per teacher.

In a closed session Monday, the school board began reviewing 1995-96 budget cuts. More than 100 residents attended an open meeting at Taylor High School before the closed session.

"I don't think they should cut teachers because that would add more students," said Katy Hines, 11, of North Bend, one of 34 sixth-graders in her class at Three Rivers Middle School. "If there are discipline problems, that takes away from our learning... And there's not enough time for teachers to answer all students' questions."

Katy was among students of all ages

who expressed worries about their schools.

By June 30, the district will face a \$1.3 million deficit, the result of voters' November 1993 decision to rescind a 7.34-mill levy. Voters approved the rollback 2,217 to 2,000.

Residents, such as Paul Drennan, a member of the district's advisory committee, had hoped the board would return a modified levy before spring.

Drennan proposed the board place a 7-mill levy — which he said would cost the owner of an \$85,000 home 50 cents in daily taxes on the August ballot. That would be \$182.50 a year.

Board members' recent disagreements about the need for a levy and the required millage "are sending a message that kids aren't worth 50 cents a day," he said.

In the closed session, the board considered the first in a series of options to reduce the deficit. Superintendent Richard Scherer said he'll recommend by April, Scherer declined to discuss details of the cuts, but he said he limited his initial recommendations to services — such as busing.

"We've tried to make as many cuts as possible without harming the quality of education, and we're getting to the point now where we will," Terry McCabe, board vice president, said earlier Monday.

Domestic violence policy heavy on help, solutions

BY TANYA ALBERT

The Cincinnati Enquirer

DELHI TOWNSHIP — Police say their new domestic violence policy should result in more arrests and involve more people in counseling.

On March 6, officers began enforcing an eight-page policy that Delhi Police created.

"The rationale is that domestic violence is a crime and the involvement of a family member doesn't lessen the injury," said Capt. Tom Bauer.

A preferred policy of arrest. In most cases, an offender will be arrested when an officer responds to a domestic violence call.

All calls will be assigned to an investigator, who will make follow-up calls.

Those who violate a temporary restraining order will be arrested at the scene.

The police officer will sign the charges rather than the victim. "It's designed to take the pressure off the victim," Bauer said. "It prevents someone from putting pressure on the victim to not pursue the case."

In 1994, Delhi police made 84 domestic violence runs. In about half of the cases, the

"Police... see that they have a role to let both members of the partnership know that violence is wrong."

— Ann MacDonald, director of Women Helping Women

victims did not pursue charges.

In the first three days of the new policy, Delhi had three domestic violence calls and made arrests in all three cases, he said.

Allowing the police to sign charges and get more people into the court system sends a strong message that abusers are breaking the law, said Ann MacDonald, executive director of Women Helping Women (Police) see that they have a role to let both members of the partnership know that violence is wrong."

Organizations that can help are: Women Helping Women, 381 S. 5th St., 241-2767; YWCA, 241-2767; YWCA Amend (Batterers' Treatment) 221-6363.

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

COVERING HAMILTON COUNTY EAST OF I-75 AND WESTERN CLERMONT COUNTY

E WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1997 \$3

HOMETOWN

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CONGRATS

ACHIEVEMENTS

Students pick favorite teacher

Gary Wright has been named "Favorite Teacher of the Year" by Deer Park High School students who attend Sciart Oaks Vocational School. Mr. Wright is chairman of the health and physical education department for Deer Park Junior-Senior High School and the high school's health and driver's education teacher.

Latin students from Seven Hills Upper School in Madisonville took first place recently in a citywide Latin competition at Fenwick High School in Middletown.

Members of the team:
• Ben Halkus of Madeira, Charlie Black of Indian Hill, Isabelle Kahala of Anderson Township and Walter Sullivan of Montgomery.

The students' Latin teacher is Hugh Hinrich of Anderson Township.

Brandon Snider is attending New College in Northampton, England, through an exchange program with Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina. Mr. Snider, a 1995 graduate of Marcum High School, is a theater major and the son of Jean and Terry Snider of Terrace Park.

HONORS

Senior makes dean's list

Jennifer Wood has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester with a 4.0 grade-point average at Miami University. Ms. Wood, a senior social work/biology major, is a 1993 graduate of Madeira High School.

She is the daughter of Diane and Larry Wood of Madeira.

Lara J. Brencle has been named to the dean's list for the fall quarter at Ohio University in Athens. Ms. Brencle is a freshman journalism major and a member of the school's Society of Professional Journalists. The 1996 honors graduate of Ursuline Academy in Blue Ash is the daughter of Patricia and Dennis Brencle of Symmes Township.

Please send announcements and photos of community honors, achievements, promotions and activities to Fred Bender, Enquirer, Eastgate Barren, 831-A Eastgate South Drive, Cincinnati 45245. Or call 752-6500.

YOUR TOWN

Madeira OKs tower controls

MADERA — City council unanimously approved regulations Monday to control the use of wireless telecommunications towers and related facilities, such as cellular telephone towers.

The regulations, effective immediately, require two or more companies to use the same tower whenever possible.

Under Federal Communications Commission rules, the city cannot prevent construction of towers, but can control them. The city wants to keep towers to a minimum, probably two, which could be used by four or more companies.

All residents, property owners or people who own a business in the city must file a return if they have an earned income. Some may owe no taxes, but must file. The tax is 1.5 percent, and credit up to that amount is given to those who work in another community where they pay an earnings tax.

Taxes not filed by the April 30 deadline or postmarked by midnight of that date are late and subject to a \$50 late filing fee. Tax office employees are available to help people fill out returns at the office, 4250 Mason Ave. Call 794-6863 with questions.

DAYBOOK

Government & schools
• **Baptist:** Central Church, 1200 N. Main St., 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
• **United Methodist:** 1200 N. Main St., 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
• **United Methodist:** 1200 N. Main St., 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
• **United Methodist:** 1200 N. Main St., 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Community events
• **Deacons:** The great feast of Lenten will be 7:30 p.m. in the church.

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Silverton faces \$220,000 deficit

City clerk: Eliminate tax office to cut costs

By BERNIE MIXON

SILVERTON — Faced with a \$220,000 deficit and a Monday deadline, city council will meet Thursday to find ways to close the gap in the 1997 spending plan.

City Clerk Rob Fredericks has said the city can save at least \$40,000 this year and more than double that next year by eliminating the city's tax office and replacing it with a non-profit government agency.

Ultimately, it is up to council to decide where to trim expenses. To do that, council has called a special meeting for 7 p.m. Thursday at the Silverton Municipal Building, 6860 Plainfield Road.

Mr. Fredericks said the city is facing a \$220,000 deficit, blamed in part on \$110,000 in recurring expenses, \$50,000 for a 1994 workers' compensation bill that went unpaid in 1995, a \$10,000 drop in revenue, and \$50,000 in payroll and benefits increases.

"All of our expected revenues are shrinking, and our expected expenses are increasing," he said.

Mr. Fredericks proposed utilizing the Regional Income Tax Agency, a non-profit governmental agency that does tax collection for municipalities. The cost to collect Silverton taxes would be about \$10,000, Mr. Fredericks said.

While council could dip into a reserve account, Mr. Fredericks said the city is required to keep \$200,000 in the account. At the end of February, the account stood at \$325,000.

"If the reserve drops under \$200,000, the city could fall under a fiscal emergency provision of the Ohio Revised Code," he said. "It is possible the auditor could send someone to Silverton — at our expense — to balance the budget the way the state would do it, not the way city council would like to do it."

Time is running out. The state allows municipalities until March 31 to submit revised appropriations for 1997. "If council doesn't balance the budget, we are out of compliance with state law," Mr. Fredericks said.

Currently, the city pays \$97,000 in salaries and benefits for two employees, plus operating expenses to run the tax office, he said.

"That's one of the small ways we can do it," Mr. Fredericks said. "We could close the pool. We could by off fire and police, but we don't want to do that."

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City clerk: Eliminate tax office to cut costs

By BERNIE MIXON

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Homegrown opera sung at school

By GINA GENTRY-FLETCHER

SHARONVILLE — The singers huddled in the barely lit corner near the orchestra, warming up with scales.

Scrambling nearly around a dark stage, student helpers dressed in black arranged sets and carried props.

An important event at Robert E. Lucas Intermediate School (RELIS) was about to take place, evidenced by the transformation of the school gym into an opera house.

This week, RELIS sixth-graders in the Academic Program for the Talented introduced *Too Human*, a student-produced opera.

Preparation began Jan. 3. The company Student Opera Dramatic Arts (SODA) was formed, and students bonded themselves writing the scripts and composing the music and lyrics.

The children also designed and built the sets and selected costumes and lighting. Rehearsals were during class, after school and on weekends.

said Angela Hoxley of SODA's public relations committee.

"From this we learned that a whole bunch of people can be very responsible," said Angela, a Symmes Township resident.

The opera tells the story of six children attending a NASA space camp where technology abounds. When an "android" disguised as a new camper arrives, the others immediately gravitate to him. What they don't know is his plan to take over the camp.

The school was encouraged to produce an opera after teachers Beverly Kinney and Rebecca Brown attended workshops over two summers funded by the Metropolitan Opera Guild as part of the Creating Original Opera Program.

The Princeton City School District is a sponsor, teacher Sue Hester said.

Tanika Ford beamed as visitors from Lincoln Heights Elementary School pointed to the SODA T-shirts emblazoned with musical notes and a soda can.

Tanika, a dancer in the opera, designed the shirts.

Production manager Megan Shale said because students took the company and production seriously, the endeavor was a success. "The most important thing was that we worked on this as a team."

co-chairman of Madeira school district's tax levy campaign in 1993 and the school bond issue campaign last fall.

He said he had been approached earlier about running for city council.

"I was on the verge of saying I would run when this opportunity arose," Mr. Shaw said. "It was an easy choice because it gives me an opportunity to become familiar with the issues and see what all is involved before I'm going to do."

Mr. Perez said he resigned with regret, but has many involvements forced him to "make some decisions about what I'm going to do."

In addition to his private law practice and council duties, Mr. Shaw said he has been an adjunct associate professor at the University of Cincinnati about 13 years, is organizing a national litigation group on health care financing through the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and on July 1 will become chairman of the insurance section of that group.

"I spent two years on Mount

The Academy is a challenge to Clinton students

Page 12 — Strictly Hunterdon, March 20, 1997

The Clinton Public School has an interesting self-study program for its eighth-graders called the Academy which is in its second year at the K-8 school.

The program is open to all 43 of the students in the grade but, due to the additional workload of the program, attracted only 22 children this year, says Cathy Ahart, the school's librarian and coordinator of the Academy.

"It is a lot of work," says Ahart adding that only 13 students remain out of the original group. "The Clinton School is very rigorous," in its requirements for its students, she says, making the added workload of the Academy a deterrent for some kids.

The program requires the students to complete extra reading outside the curriculum, includes a 20-hour community service component, a commitment to the arts, as well as requiring the young adults to participate in a wellness program and complete a special project.

The students also prepare a personal mission statement that helps to define their place in society, in school, in the home and in the world.

"It's not just reading a lot of books," said Jennifer Nanni, one of the Academy students.

The program, with its heavy work load and lofty mission statements can have a certain air about it. Something Matt DeTura, one of three young men working on a study of comedy for his Academy

project, was quick to deflate. "It doesn't have to sound so stuck-up," DeTura says. "It can be fun, too."

Expanding horizons

The goal of the program is to prepare students for the more competitive environment of high school and to broaden their horizons.

"We want to expose them to things that they might not seek out on their own," says Ahart.

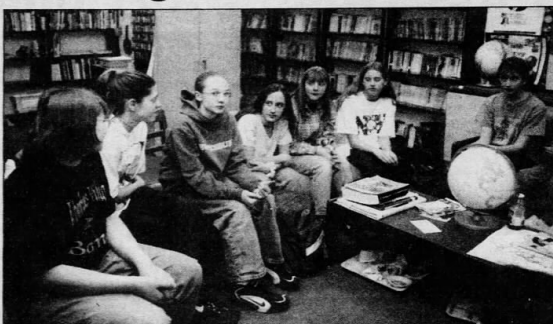
The Academy, says Ahart, prepares the kids in many ways. One is through their individual projects. The student's projects are in an area of special interest to them — like flying a small airplane, creating a cheerleading clinic or applying for a government grant to create a wildlife habitat.

Working on the project exposes the students to the process of taking an idea, discussing its possibilities, planning their project based on those ideas, then delivering it on time, says Ahart.

The students then present the findings, results or the finished product of the project in front of their peers, families and friends at an assembly. This year's Academy assembly is being held at the school on March 20 at 7 p.m.

"They work through it from start to finish," says Ahart.

Ahart says the program is well received by the community and Academy parents. She hopes to see seventh-graders and their parents at the March 20 assembly so they



Photos by Matthew Hannan
Students in eighth grade in Clinton Public School may take part in a special program called the Academy.

can see the program in action and decide if its for them when they enter eighth-grade next year.

— By Matthew J. Hannan
Courier-News Writer

In Our Schools appears Thursdays in Strictly Hunterdon. To have your item included, submit it to: In Our Schools, The Courier-News Features Department, P.O. Box 6600, Bridgewater, N.J. 08807. Or fax us at (908) 707-3113.

IN OUR SCHOOLS



College entrance exams to be explained

The Scholastic Assessment Tests are something parents as well as students often worry about. Dave Petersen, a consultant with the College Board, will give a presentation on preparing for college admission exams at North Hunterdon High School on Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The presentation is part of Sophomore Parents Night, a program that is being sponsored by the high school to help acquaint students and parents with the college entrance tests. According to Susan Yates, supervisor of the school Guidance Department, Petersen will be discussing National Merit Testing, PSAT, and SAT, as well as scoring, how colleges use scores, how PSATs predict success on SATs, and coaching programs designed to help students.

Yates says that helping students succeed on college admission testing is part of the overall responsibility of the Guidance Department. She added that tutoring in mathematics and English is also available to interested students at the high school. While coaching and preparing for the SATs can definitely help, Yates believes that such aids can only familiarize students with the test itself.

It is not "meant to be a substitute for what a student should know at that point in his or her academic development," says Yates, stressing that the best way to prepare for both college and the tests is for a student to develop "good study habits, self-discipline, and a solid academic record."

Dr. Linda Palumbo, the principal at North Hunterdon High School, says that while doing well on SAT testing is important, it is "only one indicator of a student's potential for college success." In making admission decisions, colleges look at many different factors, such as SAT scoring, grade point average, club membership, athletics, and other extra-curricular activities.

"College are looking for well-balanced students, not just high SAT scores," Dr. Palumbo says.

She also says that high scores on the SAT are not necessarily a guarantee that a student will be accept-

ed into a college or university.

"Students who do well on the SAT, but who have poor, or average grades, show a prospective college that this student is smart, but not a particularly hard worker." Good grade point averages and good SAT scores are equally important, according to Dr. Palumbo.

Dr. Palumbo explains that the SAT can only try to predict the academic success in a student's first year at college, not their whole scholastic careers.

— By Robert Scardaci
Courier-News Writer

Youngsters to present their opera

The third graders at Clinton Public School have formed the 8 to 3 Opera Company and written the opera, "Trouble Makes More Trouble." The performances are on March 25 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. and on March 26 at 7 p.m. in the All-Purpose Room of Clinton

Public School. This program is a result of training received at the Metropolitan Opera Guild Teacher Workshop Series on creating original operas, which is funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Prudential Foundation.

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The Courier-News

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COMMUNITY LIFE

French contest drew state students to LHS

GRAND RAPIDS — Lincoln High School was transformed temporarily into a miniature France on Saturday, when 190 junior high and high school French students met for the state French-speaking contest.

Students and teachers from all of Wisconsin traveled to Grand Rapids to test their skill. Amidst sounds of "oui" and "merci," students prepared to compete in four basic categories of oral presentation — the pronunciation and interpretation of French poetry, prose, conversation or theater.

To qualify for the state competition, these students first worked their way through local contests and one of 10 regional competitions. Selections of French prose, poetry and theater were chosen to familiarize students with well-known French authors.

In theater competition, 10 plays were presented. French teachers selected the plays according to their students' ability in French, then prepared their students to perform for the contest judges.

The contest, sponsored by the Wisconsin American Association of Teachers of French, was coordinated by Cecil Seider, LHS French teacher, and Bonnie McCoy, who teaches at East and West junior high schools. They were joined by teachers, students and several community members who served as judges and workers.

Students participating from Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools were Molly McCoy, Nicole Korlin, Kyle Corliss, Tim Aron and Stephanie Holberg. Miss McCoy, a second-year French student, earned a starred gold medal rating for her interpretation of poetry. Miss Corliss and Miss Korlin, first-year French students, also participated in the poetry category and received silver medal ratings.

Both Miss Aron and Miss Holberg participated in the prose reading category, with Miss Aron, a fifth-year French student, winning a silver medal rating, and Miss Holberg, a first-year student, winning a bronze medal rating.

Week celebrates comics, activities are suggested

By KAREN LOPARCO
Daily Tribune Representative
Newspapers in Education

WIS. RAPIDS — The third week in May has been designated as National Cartoon Art Appreciation Week. Cartoons can be silly, intended only to make us laugh, or they can contain a serious message within the humor. Newspapers have always been an important medium for cartoons. So they're political cartoons or comic strips.

Celebrate National Cartoon Art Appreciation Week with your children with the following activities using the newspaper.

For very young children, ask your children to tell you what they think a particular comic strip is about just by looking at the pic-

NIE corner

tures. Be sure to select a strip with as much action as possible. Then read the dialogue to them so they can see how close their guess was.

Elementary age children can pick out a comic strip, cover up the conversation balloons, and write new captions.

Middle school and older children can read the political cartoon on the editorial page. Then, using information from articles in the newspaper, they can create their own political cartoon related to an issue of local, state, national or world importance.

Astrograph

Thursday, May 19, 1994

Take advantage of any opportunities you get in the year ahead to increase your knowledge in your chosen field of endeavor. Finding time to study might be difficult, but it will prove worth your efforts.

AURUS (April 20-May 20) Your perceptions might not be as crystal clear as usual today. There's a chance you may take things too seriously and treat serious things too lightly. Try to get a better balance between the two.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The Astro-Graph Almanac can help you to understand what it's like to make the relationship work. Mail \$2 and a long, well-addressed, stamped envelope to: Almanac, P.O. Box 4465, New York, N.Y. 10163.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) In order to achieve your objectives today you might have to be a lot more thick-skinned than usual. If you're just an old "softy" you may not cut it.

CANCER (June 21-July 21) You won't appreciate being told what to do today, so it's best you avoid associates who always try to impose their ideas and opinions on others.

LEO (July 22-Aug. 22) Someone you know and like socially could turn out to be a pretty tough customer today when doing business. Limit your expectations regarding the good deal you're hoping to get.

VIRO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) If you're negotiating a matter of importance today it might be wise to have someone function as a buffer. One-to-one you may not do as well.

Duck stamp contest winners named
NECEDAH — Necedah National Wildlife Refuge was the site of the first Wisconsin Federal Junior Duck Stamp contest April 19. The event, which was sponsored by the refuge and the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association Inc., received 190 entries from across the state.

Local winners include: Shannon Strang, 12, and Jason Chipley-Tradeau, 11, Nekoma; first Honorable mention went to Corrin Carlton, 8, Oxford; Megan Carter, 10, Necedah; James Lockman, 18, Necedah; Lindsey Meiser, 9, Wisconsin Rapids; and Jennifer

Wohlert, 8, Oxford.
The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design program is a dynamic, active, arts curriculum to teach wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in grades K-12.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today if arrangements and responsibilities are being rearranged where your work is concerned, don't volunteer to take more than you can handle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Try to avoid a clique whose members make you feel uneasy. The root cause for this discomfort has not yet been understood. In fact, today's developments could result in a.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Don't rely too heavily upon Lady Luck today to bail you out of rough spots. Instead of rooting for you, she might try to trip you up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Forge friendships today to boost or exaggerate. Instead of making you look good in the eyes of others, it might accomplish just the opposite.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Business mistakes could carry a heavier than usual price tag today, so be extremely careful in your commercial affairs. Don't pretend to understand things you don't.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Usually you're a person who appreciates the workings of compromise and concessions. Today, however, you might not yield on a position upon which you feel strongly.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Extend a helping hand to others today, but be careful your gesture isn't used to your disadvantage by a manipulator. Time must be devoted to your interests as well.

These astrological forecasts should be read for entertainment value; some predictions have no relation to scientific fact.



Castle Rock Grade School music instructor Sandy Pfeiffer bangs out a song on the piano during a rehearsal for the student-run opera "Big Expectations," which runs tomorrow and Friday at the school.

The Daily Tribune, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Wednesday, May 18, 1994 2C

Big Expectations

By ANN BARNES
Assistant Lifestyle Editor

EASTON TOWNSHIP —

Sixth-grader Drew Smith surveyed the actors rehearsing on a newly erected stage in back of the Castle Rock Grade School gym.

"It's exciting for us, and it's exciting for them," he said. "It's not every day you find kids that are able to express themselves through something like this."

Drew is co-manager of the student-run opera company Taking Care of Business, Inc.

The company will present "Big Expectations," — a 30-minute opera staged, directed, written and produced by 28 Castle Rock fourth-through sixth-graders — Thursday and Friday at the school.

Last Wednesday afternoon, the eight-member cast behind the production's finale: "It's people who care who I get you there, headin' down the road of life."

As they sang, set designers painted cafeteria and bedroom drops. Two members of the lighting crew tinkered with a set of blue and white footlights on one corner of the stage. Makeup artists watched from the opposite side of the stage.

For the third sixth-grade student co-managers — Drew, Dustin Blosky and Alex Heitman — handling the production is a real-life responsibility.

Dustin said, "I've learned that we're going to have some rocky points on the road there. We've got our share of chewing out, too."

Drew said when problems arise, the managers are expected to deal with the students and teachers involved. "The title sums it up,"

"Big Expectations" deals with the expectations placed upon students by their peers, family members and teachers.

Sixth-grader Rachel Goe plays Paula, a character who is physically abused by her alcoholic parents. In the opera, Paula tries to get help, but doesn't know where to turn. For her, school is a safe haven.

Alan Bradford (left) and Drew Smith check the student-made lighting system last Wednesday.



Alan Bradford (left) and Drew Smith check the student-made lighting system last Wednesday.



Kelly Magnuson, 11, paints a drop for a scene in the opera "Big Expectations" on the school gym floor.

Additional support comes from the GE Corp., the Adams-Friendship School District and the company stockholders.
This week's production will be the third annual student-run opera staged at Castle Rock. Performances are set for 1 and 6 p.m. Thursday, and 7 p.m. Friday. Admission costs \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students for performances only. The Thursday evening dinner theater will cost \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students.
For more information, or to make reservations, call the school at (608) 339-3602.



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Haircut & Style	\$6.50	Facials	\$4.50
Shampoo & Set	\$4.50	Archives (Wax)	\$1.50/\$2.00
Permanents	\$15.00-\$23.00	Manicure	\$3.50/\$4.00
Tints	\$8.50-\$15.00+	Sculptured Nails (set)	\$25.00
		Beauty Package	\$10.00

Nexus, Paul Mitchell and Redken Products are available for purchase.

Call 422-5531 for an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome! Monday through Friday.....7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (The Clinic will be closed May 30, July 4, July 25 and 26.)

Cosmetology and Barbering Department
Room E-113 (E-Building, Southwest end of campus.) 500 32nd Street North Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54484

The Herald-Palladium

FOCUS

ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday Feb. 16, 1992 Page 1F

JILL RAUH

Don't feel guilty for gorging

So, did you get CANDY for Valentine's Day? Did you get a LOT of it? Feeling a little GUILTY because you ate it all in one day? Well, don't, because:

A) Guilt contains more calories from fat than chocolate.

B) Guilt stimulates the craving for more chocolate, creating a vicious cycle wherein the guiltier you feel the more chocolate you eat and the guiltier you feel the more chocolate you eat... well, you get the idea.

C) In moderate doses taken under a chocolate therapist's care, chocolate stimulates brain activity — which comes in handy when your boss is running busy little circles around your desk wondering why that project you were working on isn't done. Of course after you eat the chocolate she'll holler at you for getting muddled go all over your keyboard, but that's life. Compromises, compromises.

D) Although chocolate is addictive, it is also a great common denominator, uniting people of all cultures and backgrounds. Chocolate lovers may disagree on politics, but there's never been an argument over the merits of a Grand Marnier chocolate truffle.

I rest my case.

■ HAIR TODAY — So we've all heard of haircuts, right? Someone told me you can get a haircut today. No kidding! Instant hair gratification! An innovative idea, but one must ask oneself: Is this a good character-building practice? Isn't it better to earn long hair through time and patience? Doesn't growing long hair foster a true appreciation of hair? Are these questions getting a little absurd?

■ WHO'S WHO — Match the actors and actresses in this section with their stage names in the following segment: 1) Elizabeth Goldenberg 2) Gladys Smith 3) William Henry Pratt 4) Lily Rood 5) Reginald Alfred Truitt 6) Jones 7) Jane Danekovich 8) Virginia Katherine McKish 9) Lillian Loewenstein.

■ ALIAS — A) Peter Leroy B) Ray Kelland C) Ginger Rogers D) Edward G. Robinson E) Mary Pickford F) Boris Karloff G) Kirk Douglas H) Cyril Charles.

■ SOCIAL CALENDAR — Speaking of uniting forces, don't forget to mark down June 29 on your social calendar. That's the day of the Hands Across the Bridge Picnic, where a good time is always had by all. Be there!

■ MOVIE TRIVIA — This one is for the VERY observant and trivia-minded movie goer: What two well-known actors appeared in both "JFK" and "Animal House"?

■ OLYMPIC ANSWER — The colors of the Olympic flag, from left to right and top to bottom are blue, black and red, yellow and green. Remember that for the quiz you'll get in two years.

■ SPEAKING OF — The Olympics, have you watched the huge competition? Does anyone else think those guys might be a little, um, odd? When interviewed, several of them said they sleep with their sleds. One said he got up at 3 a.m. to, um, visit it.

Jill Rauh's columns appear Sundays in The Herald-Palladium.

'Color Blind'

Creative Arts Academy students tackle the issue of racism while taking on the challenge of producing an opera

By MICHELE MAY
H-P Focus Editor

At the Creative Arts Academy in Benton Harbor, about 40 pupils are getting ready to stage an original opera.

The Number One Opera Made by Kids company is using the opera to tackle the subject of racism.

Called "Color Blind," the story is about what happens when the Brown family buys the house next door to the White family. Crystal White is thrilled that she can now play with her best friend from school, Josh Brown, all the time — or at least until Crystal's prepubescent mother sings "Black is Bad."

The writers and the composers were brainstorming early in the fall semester, after their teachers had them to find an emotional issue that they could use as the subject of their story. Their assignment was to talk about "what moves you."

For a while, they talked about the environment, but teacher Carolyn Dargelo said. A few wanted to set the play in outer space.

"And then one quiet girl said, 'racism,'" Dargelo said.

The children in the company are all in grades 4 through 6. They applied for committee assignments in early September, filling out applications and doing projects to show their skills in certain areas. They had to solve hypothetical problems to show their management abilities.

For instance, Michelle Jones had to tell how she would deal with a disruptive student if she were production manager.

"I would tell him that he has to cooperate or be removed from the show because we have no time to put up with that kind of behavior," she said. She got the job.

"I would talk to them. If that didn't work, I'd replace them," Dargelo said. He was chosen to be the stage manager.

When the company meets Wednesday mornings, the children work on their various assignments. The set designers build scale models.

els, the electricians build footlights and the actors learn their lines.

Their teachers, Dargelo and Kathleen Spahr, participated in the Education at The Mot program last summer, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the General Electric Foundation. Dargelo and Spahr were one of 10 teaching teams selected from a field of 160 for the 10-day training session, Creating Original Opera for Children.

Two other Michigan schools participated, Wixom Elementary School and Hughes Elementary School in Eastville.

For their purposes, Spahr defines opera as a drama with music. The students won't sing the entire script, but their play will include musical moments and about 10 original songs.

"There are certain points in the play where they really needed songs," she said.

The opera will be performed May 13-14 at the school, admission will be free.

To get a taste of opera, the class went to Chicago Jan. 29 to tour the Lyric Opera building. They had the chance to see everything from the backstage to the orchestra pit. In the prep room, they saw castle trapdoors made to look like gold. They got to stand on the stage and look out into the huge auditorium.

"Usually only members of the Lyric Opera Guild, who donate big bucks get the four backstage," Dargelo told her students.

The kids were so thrilled about the trip, they were on the bus and ready to go by 7 a.m. And unlike most field trips when the students would be sleeping on the bus on the return trip, these kids talked about all the exciting things they had seen all the way home, Dargelo said.

The children also watched videos of "Hansel and the Night Visitor" and "The Metropolitan Opera's production of 'Hansel and Gretel'."

What's the most fun part of staging an opera?

"The funnest part? Mostly all of it," said Krista Palmer.

COMPOSING: Musicians Natalie Singer and Tanisha Drake match tunes to lyrics as they polish a scene from "Color Blind," the original opera being put together by the Creative Arts Academy's Number One Opera Made by Kids company.

Everyone has a job

By MICHELE MAY
H-P Focus Editor

Students at the Creative Arts Academy are learning how many jobs go into producing an opera.

The writers started brainstorming early in the fall semester, trying to find an emotional subject for their story. Once they had decided to deal with racism and how it affects friendship, the kids spent the next three weeks refining their ideas and working out the story line. The writers named the play's 11 characters and charted their positive and negative characteristics.

The writers said they had learned that it takes about an hour to write a minute of dialogue. They also learned how hard it is to make written dialogue sound like real conversation. If they disagree about how an incident should turn out, they either discuss it and take a vote or call in the managers to decide. Most of their work is revision. Now the writers are polishing the first draft.

The writers are Beverly Morgan, Tanisha Drake, Marty Dahn, Bruce Wade, Jessica Kent, Kelly Powell, Debra Parrnell, Michelle Jones, Darin Anderson and Jason Bucklin.

The three composers worked with the writers to come up with the lyrics. They start with melodies, then elaborate on them. Early in the semester, they checked the vocal ranges of cast members so they would know how many notes to use in each character's songs.

"We can't put it too high if the people can't sing too high," said composer Kelly Powell. They've been relying on the piano in their work so far, but plan to use drums and solo violas for special effects during the show. Kelly Powell, Debra Parrnell and Natalie Singer are the composers.

The four-person stage crew managed the stage, and later see OPERA, page 2F.

REHEARSING: Cast members Jessica Kent, Chuckly Weand and Kelly Powell portray the White family in "Color Blind," an original opera written by students at the Creative Arts Academy in Benton Harbor.

FOOD

Broccoli Cheese Chicken is an easy family dish for four that takes just 30 minutes to prepare.

Cook 4 skinless chicken halves in 1 tablespoon of hot margarine for 10 minutes in a 10-inch skillet over medium heat, browning both sides of the chicken. Drain off all fat.

Sit in a can of Campbell's condensed broccoli cheese soup, 1/2 cup milk, 2 cups broccoli florets and 1/4 teaspoon pepper.

Heat to boiling, then reduce heat to low. Simmer, covered, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes or until chicken and broccoli are done. (A 10-ounce package of frozen spaghetti can be substituted for the broccoli.)

FASHION

Ready for spring?

That's when girls will wear cool outfits such as the new cotton classic. It comes in sunshaded shades of cool azure accented with white.

A black and white floral print cotton vest casually is layered over a white cotton T-shirt traced with delicate floral embroidery.

The combo is paired with a sweeping long with a button-front and deep front waist yoke in a companion stripe of chime blue, navy and white.

Her fashions come from the spring line, Mediterranean Reflections collection by Neutics.

The navy and white mix will be big in boys' fashions this spring too.

FUN

People now look at their watches for more than the time.

The fun of collecting vintage timepieces is being combined with the thrill of a sensitive machine that will tell you everything from the moon's phase to the time of the tide.

Seen here are (from lower left) Casio's classic Fanta, the Gucci Timepieces in gold with sapphire crystal and crocodile strap, the Fendi gold-plated watch with link chain and mother of pearl dial, the reassured designer Accutron Empire, and Friend designer Alan Silvestri's Koru 2 with sweep second-hand, moon-phase, chronograph and a see-through crystal back.

Weekend

Entertainment

Thursday, May 12, 1994

The Herald-Palladium

Section D

WHAT'S HOT



'Lightning Jack'
more than
a box office hit
for Paul Hogan

— page 5D

MUSIC

The Violent Femmes
take control
for 'New Times'

— page 3D

ARTS

Southwest Michigan
Symphony goes
to the movies

— page 4D

VIDEO

'Addams Family
Values' funny
but predictable

— page 8D



ON STAGE: Students of Benton Harbor's Creative Arts Academy present their original opera, "Is There a Difference?," to members of the Twin City Players Monday.

H-P photos by Jim Matthews

By MICHELE MAY
H-P Special Correspondent

Another opening at Benton Harbor's Creative Arts Academy attracted a full-house audience as *The Lights, Camera, Opera Company* presented the latest in a series of operas written and produced by elementary school children.

"This is the day we've all been waiting for, for a long time," principal Pat Neuman said at the opening performance Wednesday morning. "This is our show written, managed and produced by students."

Teachers Carolyn Dorgelo and Kathleen Spohr coached the company members as they went through the steps in the creation process. In October, the writers began brainstorming for ideas. "We were looking for ideas that really moved us in one way or another," Dorgelo said.

In previous years, pupils wrote about racism and pollution. This year's opera, called "Is There a Difference?," follows the theme that different gangs offer both positive and negative aspects.

The conflict is set up early as gang members from the poor side of town meet the rich club members while playing video games on neutral turf in an arcade at the mall.

"The club is the thing if you have lots of money," the rich kids sing. "In order to belong, you can't dress funny. We wear designer clothes, in fancy cars we ride. Doesn't it sound better to belong to our side?"

But the other kids see benefits in their gang.

"We may be poor but we can survive on the streets to stay alive," they sing. "So we do the best we can to survive. Our friendship and our bond is what keeps us alive."

Will the kids get together in the end and blend their two ways of life or will a silly squabble over whether to call the larger group "club" or "gang" prevent peace forever?

The writers worked on the script until January when the composers and lyricists began inserting songs. In February, the company was ready to start rehearsing. Meanwhile, the carpenters were working on scenic aspects and the publicists prepared to promote the show.

This year's company consists of pupils in fifth and sixth grade, smaller than previous years when 4th-graders also were included. In this way, each participant gets to do more, Dorgelo said. For example, writers

Gang Story

Benton Harbor students tackle
a serious subject in original opera



CONFLICT: Amanda Janssen (center, seated) and Gary Jones (right) play rivals in the opera "Is There a Difference?"

"Is There a Difference?" uses choreography, sound effects, rap songs, realistic fights showing mastery of stage combat principles to great advantage in getting their ideas across and entertaining the children in the audience. Cast members were Damon Travis,

Amanda Janssen, Tiffany Haygood, Michelle Stacy, William Lilly, Patrice Holton and Gary Jones.

Although some children in the audience wondered whether the kids on stage were really playing video games, the games at the arcade were only painted cardboard boxes.

"In acting, we pretend to play and use our imaginations," Spohr said.

Company members learned a lot about acting.

Travis described his character, DeVantae, as pivotal to the plot.

He said that some gangs can do some good. Haygood said her character, who is the leader of the gang, "is a very hard part to play since she does terrible stuff and I'm not really like that."

If you go

"Is There a Difference?" will be presented 10 a.m. Friday at the Lafayette Creative Arts Academy, 885 North Shore Drive, Benton Harbor. Admission is free.

A dinner and theater combination also will be offered Friday, with dinner at 6 p.m. and the show at 7 p.m. Orders will be accepted today until 4 p.m. Admission is \$7.95 for adults, \$5 for children ages 4-12, and free for younger children.

For information or reservations, call the school at 927-0687.

But sometimes acting draws on real life experience. "My character is very snobby," Stacy said. "In real life, I'm a little like that too."

Other company members include composers Toerika Broyles, Yodanis Holmes, Patrice Holton and Emery Varrie; carpenters Allen Kyles, Ryan Smith, Arin Neal and Katrina Walker; publicists Dana Olapay, Jessica Kelley and Jessica Pullins.

A dinner and theater combination will be offered Friday at 6 p.m. Donations from Bit of Swiss Pastry Shop, Schneek's, Jewel, Harding's Market, McDonald's, Burger King, Popeye's Famous Chicken, Grand Mere Inn and Red Lobster. The menu features a fresh garden salad, Italian bread sticks, and a lasagna entrée "smothered in a creamy red marinara meat sauce that even Chef Boy-ah-dee might be jealous of" plus "an assortment of tempting mini-desserts."

The Creating Original Opera program is sponsored by the Education Department of the New York Metropolitan Opera Company. This year's production was made possible by a grant from the General Electric Foundation.

A few company members have now participated all three years: Gracia Meyers, Tiffany Haygood, Amanda Janssen and William Lilly.

Members of the Detroit-based Michigan Opera Company visited the school earlier this year to perform in an assembly and to coach participants in the school's opera company, Dorgelo said.

The teachers don't need to go back to New York this summer to study, Dorgelo said, but will teach the kids how to stage another opera next year.

THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

B

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Robbery case to go to grand jury

A case involving a 25-year-old charged with especially aggravated robbery has been brought over to the Montgomery County grand jury.

Christopher Wilson Davis, who gave a 602 Fort Ridge Drive address, was arrested in April in connection with an April 4 shooting and home invasion.

Police said during the investigation, an 18-year-old man called 911 and reported he'd been shot. According to police reports, he suffered three gunshot wounds.

A Sony Handycam II was reportedly taken from the home but was later recovered by police. Police are also seeking 20-year-old Dallon Roberts in connection with the incident.

Mother's Day fashion show, brunch scheduled

Lacy Lynn Temple 266 will sponsor a Mother's Day Brunch and Fashion Show from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Elks Lodge, 165 Franklin St. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Clothes will be available for purchase after the show in sizes 10 to 30X. For information, call 647-6234 or 748-0442.

Car show planned

The Memory Lane Cruisers of Clarksville will have its sixth annual car show Saturday at Veterans Plaza on Baggett Lane. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and ends at noon. Award presentations will start at 2:30 p.m.

For information, call show chairman Bill Baggett at 798-0786 or club president Jeff Norris at 906-9955.

CAA to distribute commodities

Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Action Agency will offer commodity distribution from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at the Alex Turner Senior Citizen Center, 933 Clark St.

Any household that has not received a commodity card will be expected to provide proof of their gross monthly income or provide proof of eligibility for food stamps, Family First, Supplemental Security Income, residence in public housing or Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in order to receive commodities. Commodities are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis with one distribution per household.

The commodity distribution is in need of volunteers. For information or to volunteer, call 648-5774.

Humane Society Pet Walk scheduled

The Clarksville-Montgomery County Humane Society of the Animals will be Saturday at the Wilma Rudolph Pavilion at the Fairgrounds. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 10:30 a.m. Registration is \$25. For information, call 720-3500 or 648-4042.

TO REACH US

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LOCAL

House panel advises BEST suspension

By CAMERON COLLINS

The Leaf-Chronicle

ON THE NET

www.theleaf-chronicle.com

money into this plan, Adams

State Treasurer Steve

Adams said he didn't want

to close the program but need

it cannot continue to function

on its original premise if na-

tion cost continues to climb

as it has in recent years.

"If we keep going like we're

going, sooner or later the

state would have to put some

that tuition would increase by

an average of 6 percent a year,

and that earnings from the

investments would average

7.5 percent a year.

Therein lies the flaw, said

Charles Richards, professor

of finance at Austin Peay

State University.

"I think it's a good idea for

the state to have a program

where parents can plan ahead

and pay tuition in advance,"

he said. "Remember it places

the entire risk of providing

college for children on the

parents under the guise of

saving the state money.

"It strikes me as ridiculous

anybody can predict the fu-

ture. If they can, then tell me

how much a gallon of gas will

cost one month from now. No

one can do that, let alone

years down the road."

Based on the 2003-04

average of four-year public in-

stitutions in Tennessee, 229

units, or about \$6,400, is

needed for a year's tuition,

room and board. At APSU,

that annual cost is about

\$7,200, tied for second lowest

in the state with UT-Martin.

Each year, the program de-

termines the average cost of

a year's tuition and mandator-

ily fees at all four-year public

universities in Tennessee.

The average is adjusted based

on attendance at each school

to derive a weighted average.

That figure is divided by

100 to create a unit equal to

1 percent.

Each unit between Jan. 1

and July 31 is \$6.68 for APSU.

See BEST, B4

It's curtain time for opera at Lucas Elementary School

By CAMERON COLLINS

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See BEST, B4



Jake Horseman, Maria Brownell and Victoria Johnson are part of a fourth-grade class to write, produce and act out their own production at Fort Campbell's Lucas Elementary School.

Greg Williams/The Leaf-Chronicle

IF YOU GO

The Severely Engaged Opera Company is presenting "Coriolanus" at the Clarksville Community Center, 1000 N. Main St., 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday at Fort Campbell's Lucas Elementary School. Tickets are \$2 and reservations are required.

Cumberland River and used the historic backdrop to address jealousy and individuality.

Every opera has to have a message, said Napolitano after Tuesday's dress rehearsal. "You have to do something that makes the audience relate. We talk about sinners and metaphors and their importance in terms of the script and the lyrics."

Using keyboards, costumes and props, the children believe character-

izes a scene, and once the pieces are compiled, they become the opera's score.

"It's really amazing to see the kids print out their pieces for the orchestra and say, 'I did that,'" said Ber-

nhard. "Kids come up with much more creative ideas than I could. We keep reminding them to write lines

in all schools," Archer said. Since 1993, Memphis schools have been permitted to decide for themselves if students should wear uniforms, but parents could exempt their children from those dress codes.

In general, Memphis schools already using uniforms use khaki dark slacks with solid colored shirts for boys and similar wear for girls with the addition of skirts and jumpers.

Wendland told Point and

See County, B4

State's largest school system to require uniforms

By WOODY BARD

Associated Press

MEMPHIS — Beginning next fall, students in Tennessee's largest public school system will be wearing uniforms.

Educators say mandatory uniforms for the 170,000 students in Memphis schools will reduce gang activity, improve discipline and generally create a better environment for learning.

But how the new policy will be enforced and what

will happen to students if they refuse to wear uniforms is still unclear. Bob Archer, associate superintendent of schools, said Tuesday.

School administrators were told to come up with a new dress policy Monday night when the Memphis Board of Education voted 8-1 to require the uniforms.

A committee of school administrators, principals and parents will be organized soon to discuss the kinds of

uniforms to be required and how the new policy will be carried out.

In Montgomery County, a committee spent 18 months researching and compiling a standardized dress code but Director of Schools Sandra Husk called implementation in September for the 2003-2004 school year. More study was needed because of opposition and the school system had more pressing issues ahead, she said.

In Memphis, Archer said some parents may regard mandatory uniforms as an infringement on students' right to free expression.

Ernest Kelly, a legal adviser for the Memphis School Board, said a state attorney general ruling in 1999 said public schools have the authority to require uniforms.

The board vote "directs the administrative staff to develop a policy regarding mandatory uniforms for all students

but after hearing some of the performances that were top-notch and seeing those get an excellent rating gave it validity."

"I knew we had good enough players. I was just hoping they would do well, not embarrass themselves, and it turned out to be a really positive experience for them."

Though it's only fledgling in its first year, Roseview High band has already established a reputation.

"The kids I've got understand that to make it work, they have to work together," said Tapscott.

"When they announced we'd won at Six Flags over Georgia Saturday night, our group was the leader."

"Now they've established a

but the judges are looking for

Good News

FOR TODAY

We're always on the lookout for some good news. If you have a suggestion, call (615) 253-1100 or e-mail news@theleaf-chronicle.com.

the two senior band members and Tapscott, along with 49 other school musicians recently won their division in the 2002 FiestaVal band competition in Atlanta.

The competition drew high schools, middle schools and even an elementary school from across the Southeast.

Roseview High, in its first year, received a superior rating in the AA category. Categories were based on band size.

"It was the most fun experience I've ever had," said Vo-

lupton. "We were just so in tune

with what we were playing and then to look up and see his expression told me he truly wanted us to do our best."

she said. "I was just trying not to be too nervous so my fingers would do what I wanted of them to do."

Tapscott said the band's performance was impressive by any measure but even more so for a first-year band.

Tapscott, a nine-year North-east High band director, transferred to Roseview.

Some of his former students from Northeast were named to the new high school, some were named from Clarksville High and some came directly to Roseview High from Roseview Middle.

"You never know what level the judges are looking for

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Visit us on the Internet at www.theleaf-chronicle.com.

County to balance current budget

By TCOO DEFOE

The Leaf-Chronicle

ON THE NET

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12A THE MADISON COUNTY HERALD SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2005

MCHERALD.COM

Our Classrooms

Educators to explore art forms during Whole School Institute

From staff reports

"Integrating the arts into the curriculum brings to life subject matter. Students become more aware of how to apply what they learn and they become more enthused about learning itself."

Judi Holfield

The role it can play in teaching history or telling stories truly adds an additional layer of richness to what the teachers will take back to their schools from this institute. Other special guests and presenters include Kathleen Gaffney, the president and co-founder of Artsgame, and the education-based Waveheight theater company's hilarious production of "Musical Staff." DreamYard returns this year to present "Integrating Theatre into the Classroom" and the Metropolitan Opera Guild is back with its very popular "Creating Original Opera." The WSI, which is open to grades kindergarten through 12, works toward increasing and inte-

grating the arts thoughtfully into existing school curricula and reform initiatives. All members of the school community play a role in this initiative: the superintendent, the principal, arts and classroom teachers, students, parents, community organizations and businesses.

Integrating the arts into the curriculum brings to life subject matter," Holfield said. "Students become more aware of how to apply what they learn and they become more enthused about learning itself."

Currently 23 schools are a part of the WSI network, including Madison Middle School and Madison Elementary. Other schools within Mississippi and as far away as New Mexico and Florida have either expressed an interest in implementing the model or have begun implementation of the initiative.

For more information on WSI and the annual institute, visit www.mswholechools.org. For more information about the Mississippi Arts Commission, visit www.arts.state.ms.us.



Prep elects officers for next year

Jackson Prep recently held elections for the 2005-06 junior student body officers. Officers for next year are pictured (from left) James Ward, president; Katherine Lindell, vice president; Mary Katherine Kerse, secretary; and Connor King, treasurer. King is a resident of Madison County.



RHS selects Wittiest, Friendliest

Chosen as Wittiest at Ridgeland High are (from left) Chappell Givens and David Webb, and Jayson Newell and Ashley Plummer were voted Friendliest.

JA names Most Intellectual

During Jackson Academy's annual Features Pageant, seniors Jeremy Smith and Brittany Smith were named Most Intellectual. Jeremy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Smith and Brittany is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith. Both students reside in Madison County.



Ragland receives Lott scholarship to Ole Miss

Special to The Herald

Emily Ragland of Madison is one of the first recipients of the \$40,000 Patricia Thompson Lott Scholarship available to incoming freshmen at the University of Mississippi with demonstrated leadership abilities. The scholarship endowment was established last year with gifts from Bill and Donna Gottlieb, Guy and Sue Davis, and Gary and Mary Sue Davis to honor Patricia Lott, wife of U.S. Sen. Trent Lott. "We are grateful to Mrs. Lott for her continued support of Ole Miss and are thankful to those friends who created this scholarship in her honor," said Chancellor Robert Khayat. "The Lott Scholarship ensures that Ole Miss will continue its long tradition of nurturing strong leaders for our state and nation, and the caliber of the inaugural recipients proves that point."

The 10 recipients will participate in the Lott Leadership Institute, and the caliber of the inaugural recipients proves that point. The 10 recipients will participate in the Lott Leadership Institute, and the caliber of the inaugural recipients proves that point. The 10 recipients will participate in the Lott Leadership Institute, and the caliber of the inaugural recipients proves that point.

government and was editor of JA's newspaper and an editor of the literary magazine. Ragland participated in the Lott Leadership Institute for High School Students at UM and the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference. Her community service work includes volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, March of Dimes' Chain Reaction, her church, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children, Ragland plans to major in English and Southern Studies at UM, where she will be a member of the Sally McComb Barakodas Honors College.

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RESEARCHERS

RESEARCHERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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- Researcher - \$80,000 - \$100,000
- Researcher - \$60,000 - \$80,000
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Sunday Montgomery Advertiser

JUNE 2, 1991

BOOK REVIEWS

Author examines America heading into new century

THE NEXT CENTURY. By David Halberstam. 126 pages. \$16.95.

Reviewed by ANNA PAGE

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and foremost analyst of the contemporary scene David Halberstam offers an ominous view of America's economic, social and political state as it heads into the 21st century. Persons concerned with America's past, present and future will not want to miss reading *The Next Century*. Things do not appear well.

Drawing on his experience as a New York Times reporter in Eastern Europe in the 50s and recent visits back there, in Vietnam in the 60s and in Japan in the 80s, the author postulates that America's era of quick and easy affluence is over, that the policies pursued in the post-World War II period are no longer relevant or valid. He argues that America is politically paralyzed with a weak infrastructure, low education standards, excessive spending and undisciplined workers.

The country's passiveness about its problems is disturbing to him. He suggests we look at our shortcomings and judge ourselves not only by the standards of competition but, more importantly, by the "norms of a harmonious and decent society."

Mr. Halberstam faults President Reagan's "voodoo economics," mainly cutting of taxes — "the most irresponsible decision in American fiscal history" — for much of America's deterioration on the economic front. Other contributing factors were the spending binge of the 80s, the borrowing of a trillion dollars from the Japanese, the excessive cost of keeping Communist ideol-

ogy in check following World War II, and, the mood of pessimism and cynicism created by the Cold War. While we were so preoccupied the Japanese were dominating technologies, demanding high education standards, saving at a rate four times greater than ours, and mastering industrial and consumer markets.

The rise of Japan's economic power is epitomized by the author's excellent intimate portrait of one of its greatest industrialists, 58-year-old Kazuo Inamori, a man who rose from poverty to found the highly successful ceramics company, Kyocera (now Kyocera). Mr.

Inamori has experienced stunning progress in the last 25 years, including the establishment of five factories in the United States. He perceives himself a creative thinker and dreamer, stating he is lucky since "most industrialists don't dream and most dreamers don't manufacture things."

The Japanese strive to turn out quality products, for in their country making things has a higher social value than in the United States. Mr. Halberstam also blames America's focus on financing and marketing for much of its economic decline. He writes, "The purpose of our capitalism is to make money; theirs (the Japanese) is to make products of excellence, which, if they do well, will also, they are sure, make them money."

He is continued, in the final analysis, it's their education system that is central to their success. They believe if they educate their people well, if

the education system works, then all else will take care of itself.

Success breeds success. The Japanese are surging with confidence which generates optimism which in turn generates personal and social strength. However, a retired Japanese official observes that Japan is now facing a dilemma similar to America's: what to do with its wealth, strength and benefits? He asks, "What is our purpose in life?"

His country, he complains, is producing workers rather than full citizens and "it is a great deal easier to produce a good car than it is to produce a good human being."

Additional factors the author cites as responsible for a gloomy outlook are: the de facto class system which divides individuals who ran the country during the Vietnam War and who used power

over truth; poor buying habits involving excessive credit; a government discouraging saving; mass communications, especially television, which distorts the national agenda.

In the final analysis Mr. Halberstam scores the educational system as the major factor contributing to the country's deterioration; that our level of literacy lags compared with other developed nations. He strongly urges much higher standards of work, education and competence.

The Next Century is a compelling, discerning book of serious introspection. If past is prologue, we had better get a grip on ourselves, roll up our sleeves and go to work. According to the dismal and tough assessments in this book we have crucial choices to make.

The reviewer is a retired educator who lives in Montgomery.



Complete rotation

Jill Tanner and Greg Thornton rehearse a scene from the upcoming production of "The Cherry Orchard" at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" and Richard Brinsley Sheridan's "The Rivals" are the final shows to be added to ASF's rotating repertory season. "The Cherry Orchard" opens June 5 and runs through July 28 in the Octagon.

It will be directed by ASF Artistic Director Kent Thompson. The play is a humorous and poignant look at the crumbling aristocracy in pre-Revolutionary Russia and follows one family's struggles. Tickets range from \$17 to \$19 and are available by contacting the ASF box office at 277-BARD. Special rates and group rates are available.



Fired up

This alkaline-glazed stoneware face jug, created between 1840 and 1880, is attributed to African Americans at a factory at Kinston's Crossroads, S.C. It will be on display at the Columbus Museum in Columbus, Ga., as a part of "Crossroads of Clay: The Southern Alkaline-Glazed Stoneware Tradition." The Columbus showing will offer the only opportunity to see this exhibition during its national tour. The exhibit begins today and runs through July 28.

'Aging Well' is a guidebook for people 20 years old, older

Reviewed by CAROL ANN RHA

Assistant Book Reviewer

PORTLAND, Ore. — Recovering one's youth may be a universal pursuit, but the reality is that people get older.

In making that reality the basis for *Aging Well*, authors Thomas Hager and Lauren Kessler have produced a lifestyle guidebook for anyone over 20.

Yes, over 20. "We start, to age the second we're born," Ms. Kessler said. "The aging and dying of cells in our body is constant. A 20-year-old or 80-year-old thinks they're immortal, but in fact, that person is in the process of aging."

Mr. Hager and Ms. Kessler describe the physiological effects of aging on the body in detail, from bone loss to the shrinking size of the brain.

"We did an complete a survey as it is humanly possible of the medical literature, meaning what was published in medical journals in the last 20 years and the scientific papers that came out of conferences," Ms. Kessler said.

It took the couple a year to gather, read and evaluate the research.

The manuscript was reviewed by a team of doctors.

There are many fad books on the market full of "quick stuff, strange diets, miracle foods," Ms. Kessler said.

"The whole focus of those books is that you should fight aging, that someday we'll find a miracle cure for this aging," she added.

Mr. Hager and Ms. Kessler suggest aging might not be so bad.

In fact, many conditions thought to be the normal trappings of old age can be traced to environment and lifestyle: inactivity and bad habits.

"Do you say, 'Lots of wrinkles and lines and bags are a natural part of aging'?" Another way of looking at it is, "What percentage of the aging of skin has to do with overexposure to the sun?"

Ms. Kessler said.

"That's not aging. That's damage that we cause ourselves," she said.

The book describes the normal effects of aging: Your hair becomes drier and gray, your skin wrinkles and loses pigment, your hearing becomes less acute, your spine compresses, your immune system doesn't fight as well, your brain mass shrinks.

But there's no reason for your joints to stiffen or hurt unless you have arthritis or are inactive.

And heart disease is caused not solely by age, but rather by a combination of poor diet and inactivity and is promoted by habits such as smoking.

"I would hope to empower people with the book, to make

them understand that much of the aging process is within their power to control," Ms. Kessler said.

Basically, if you live well, you'll age well.

If you have healthy habits, you'll have a better chance of staying healthy as you grow older.

It's plain good sense you've heard before: Stop smoking, don't abuse alcohol, stay out of the sun, turn the volume down on your stereo, brush and floss your teeth daily, stay on a proper diet, and get plenty of rest and exercise.

"Personally, I think that it's not nutrition, but exercise that is the one thing that we discovered that has the most impact on aging well," Ms. Kessler said.

"If you had to choose what to eat that would be my No. 1 choice," she said.

Ms. Kessler, 40, is an author and journalist professor at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Her husband Mr. Hager, 37, is a free-lance writer on medical topics and edits the university magazine *Old Oregon*.

The couple started talking about the concept after Mr. Hager's 30th birthday.

"It was born of a number of specific conversations over a period of a few years that had to do with the kind of interests anybody has about growing older," Ms. Kessler said.

Teachers opera workshop series scheduled at AUM

The Metropolitan Opera Guild's Teacher Workshop Series for elementary schools is planned for June 3-13 at Auburn University in Montgomery.

The workshop will train 40 elementary classroom teachers and music specialists from 24 southern schools, including Carver Elementary.

The series offers teachers the skills and knowledge necessary

to create, with their students, original works of music they can perform.

"It is a high honor for the State of Alabama to host the Teacher Workshop Series on Creating Original Opera."

In providing ways for teachers to bring together several disciplines, the workshop is an excellent example of the kind of training that teachers need in order to give greater depth to the education of their student," said

Wayne Teague, Alabama's State Superintendent of Education.

The program is made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Alabama State Council for the Arts and private foundations.

The Metropolitan Opera Guild Education Department also offers the seminars in New York City, New Jersey and Great Britain, as well as regional programs throughout the United States.

Exhibition on Broadway musicals

NEW YORK (AP) — Theater artifacts, more than 350 of them, are on display to tell the story of "Broadway: 125 Years of Musical Theater," at the IEM Gallery of Science and Art through July 13.

The show tells the story of the Broadway musical from the first blockbuster hit of 1866, "The Black Crook," to today's "The Phantom of the Opera."

One unique exhibit is Irving Berlin's first royalty check, issued in 1906 — for \$120 from the sale of 120 copies of "Marie from Sunny Italy." Also on display are George Gershwin's silent practice keyboard and Oscar Hammerstein's Tony Award for "South Pacific."

There'll also be original costumes from shows including "Peter Pan," "Annie Get Your Gun," "The King and I," "My Fair Lady" and "Cabaret." Other items in the show are recordings from many productions, as well as set models, drawings, posters, sheet music, programs, scripts, prompt books, paintings and sculpture from more than 75 musicals.



Zoo do

The Maxwell Air Force Base Maxwellsaires, above, in a performance at the zoo last year, will perform at 6 p.m. June 5 at the Montgomery Zoo. The concert is part of the zoo's celebration of Zoo and Aquarium Month. Box dinners, \$4 adults, \$2 children, can be reserved by calling 240-4588.

Best-Selling Books

FICTION

1. LOVES MUSIC, LOVES TO DANCE, by Mary Higgins Clark.
2. OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO, by Dr. Seuss.
3. AS THE CROW FLIES, by Jeffrey Archer.
4. THE FIRM, by John Grisham.
5. "IT" IS FOR HOMICIDE, by Sue Grafton.
6. HEIR TO THE EMPIRE, by Timothy Zahn.
7. HEARTBEAT, by Danielle Steel.
8. THE SEERESS OF KELL, by David Edinburg.
9. BRIGHT CAPTIVITY, by Eugenia Price.
10. THE CROWN OF COLUMBUS, by Michael Dorris and Louise Erdrich.

NON-FICTION

1. THE COMMANDERS, by Bob Woodward.
2. NANCY REAGAN, by Kitty Kelley.
3. IRON JOHN, by Robert Bly.
4. YOU'LL NEVER EAT LUNCH IN THIS TOWN AGAIN, by Julia Phillips.
5. IF YOU REALLY LOVED ME, by Ann Runtz.
6. FIRE IN THE BELLY, by Sam Keen.
7. THERE ARE NO CHILDREN HERE, by Alex Kotlowitz.
8. ILLIBERAL EDUCATION, by Dinesh D'Souza.
9. A HISTORY OF THE ARAB PEOPLES, by Albert Hourani.
10. THE NEXT CENTURY, by David Halberstam.

— Compiled by The New York Times.

6H June 14, 1998

Sunday Montgomery Advertiser

Metropolitan Opera workshop revisits Montgomery

With its dramatic productions, elaborate costumes and songs sung in foreign languages, opera is a musical form that many find difficult to understand.

"People think it's highfalutin," said Betty Perdue of Montgomery. Now retired from the Alabama Department of Education, where she was state supervisor of music, Betty said she's never sung opera herself, but certainly appreciates it and enjoys listening to the broadcasts on WTSU on Saturday afternoons.

Opera can be more accessible, Betty says, and to prove it, she persuaded officials at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City to include Montgomery in its first education outreach program. That was in 1981 when the opera expanded its workshops for elementary and middle school educators to extend beyond the boundaries of the Big Apple.

Montgomery was the first city to be included in the "Creating Original Opera" program, and Betty said it is the smallest city of the five where the workshops are now held. More than 500 schools throughout the United States and American Dependent Schools throughout the world now benefit from the program, which originated in New York City schools in 1963.

This week, 20 educators for the



Elizabeth Via Brown

Southwest have been in town and are staying in the dorms at Auburn University Montgomery to participate in the eighth annual workshop. The series is also supported by the Blount Foundation. David Dik, newly appointed director of education, Shelle Bradford, director of the series, Greg Pliska, a composer, and Margie Duffield, staff members at the Met, are the instructors. Participants spend all day in the workshops, but the evenings have been devoted to having fun. There was an old-fashioned burlesque supper greeting them Tuesday evening on their first night in town, and then on Wednesday there had a mini tour of downtown while the group was on the way to a wine and cheese reception staged by the Chamber of Commerce.

At Martin's Place, where a Southern-style supper followed the



Betty Perdue of Montgomery, right, helms herself to baroque Tuesday along with Red Garcia and Shirley Ashabramer, both of New Braunfels, Texas, at the AUM Student Center. They are participating in the Metropolitan Opera's "Creating Original Opera" program.

renewed, the group burst into song, performing traditional gospel and spirituals with folks at the restaurant.

Supper followed a tour of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts on Thursday, which left time to see the production of "The King and I" at Faulkner University. Friday night, there was shopping at the mall, and this afternoon, the group will have a backstage tour of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival before seeing "Taming of the Shrew."

While in the seminar, the group has been divided into two working groups and Monday afternoon, they will receive their assignments for creating original opera to be presented Tuesday afternoon before the workshop comes to an end. Betty said each group will spend most of the night preparing



From left, Jack Galassini, Laurie Well, Jeanne Leighton Hackman, Lee Holmes of WVTV Radio, and Charles Colvin chat Monday at the United Way media reception.

volunteer officer and Charles Colvin is the executive director.

Harold Culver, who was the campaign chairman this year, was on hand to pass along all his hints, and joining him from WSPA-TV were Russ Bradley, the new assistant editor, Mark Wilder, Lucy Riley and Bobby Richardson.

Bonnie Bodine, a member of the communications and marketing committee, and Mike Wyatt, both of Knoxville, were there along with Darryl Gates, chairman of the marketing committee, George Singleton, WAKA-TV, Bob Brummer of WHOA-TV and others.

Marty Watson, Ann Muscarelli, Roy Selgo, Rudolph Oshes, Emerson Johnson, Sarah Spear, Jim Conway and Jackie Annis were among the board members who stopped by. From the United Way office, Kerry Crane, campaign director, Jeff Casleton, director of finance and administration, Chuck Raynick, communications director, and Cynthia Tyner, community council director, were there.

Family affair

Education is a family affair for Tom and Bettye Garlington and their sons Brent and Andy. Wednesday evening, Bettye was among the more than 30 graduates who received their diplomas during commencement exercises at Troy State University Montgomery. Just two weeks ago, Brent graduated from Jefferson Davis High School and Andy is set to graduate from Auburn University in December with a degree in architecture. Both brothers will be college seniors for a quarter, when Brent enters the university this

fall. After more than 30 years of being away from a classroom, Bettye decided it was time to complete her degree. With the encouragement of Helen Bern, the former executive director of the TSUM Davis Theatre for the Performing Arts, where Bettye works, she returned to college and graduated at the top in her class. Nominated for the United States Achievement Academy as All-American Scholar, she is a member of Gamma Beta Phi and Alpha Sigma Lambda honorary societies.

Andy has received some honors, as well, and was among the students who were awarded educational scholarships from the Alabama Power Foundation for children of employees. Courtney Byrd, daughter of Peggie Byrd, Lendell Townsend, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Townsend, Ashley Cagle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Cagle, and Adrian Myrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Myrick, all received scholarships at a special luncheon last week at the Capital City Club.

The Garlingtons have been honored at a round of parties celebrating their graduations. Helen and her husband, Irving Bern, treated Bettye and her husband to lunch and gave her a gift of silver. Andy celebrated with his family and friends with a party in the Garlingtons' home.

Following TSUM's graduation, Bettye celebrated with her classmates.

Elizabeth Via Brown writes about social and community events. For information about this column, call the Life department, 262-1611.

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Group wants girls involved in comics

KNIGHT-RIDDER TRIBUNE

The world of comics is largely a boys' club — but the Friends of Lulu is knocking hard on the clubhouse door.

The Friends of Lulu is a nonprofit organization devoted to getting more women and girls involved in comics. That goal, says Jackie Estrada, the group's president, is one

that could provide a shot in the arm of an ailing comics industry.

Estrada, of San Diego, is also the administrator of the Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards and co-publisher, with husband, Barton Lash, of Exhibit A Press. She says there are plenty of comic books to recommend to young girls, and to women readers. But there's a gap, she says. "They can start off reading things like 'Looney Tunes' or 'Pinky and the Brain,' and other stuff aimed at younger kids, and then they can read 'Archie.'"

But there's little, she says, aimed at teen girls. "They lose interest because there's nothing to challenge them."

That's despite the fact that the hottest market segment these days seems to be teen-age girls. Look at all the magazines aimed at teen girls. Look at the growing number of software titles aimed at teen girls. Look at the staggering success of "Titanic" — a success attributed in no small part to teenage girls who have seen the movie over and over again.

Yet mainstream comics publishers, focused largely on high-flying superheroes and on luring "fanboys" with mammoth crossovers, seem oblivious to that segment, Estrada says.

It wasn't always that way. In the late 1940s and into the '50s, Estrada says, girls and women made up about half the comics readership. It was an era when comics publishers were experimenting with all types of genres: crime, romance, Westerns, science-fiction and funny animals.

Since then, newsstand comics of all kinds have dwindled in the face of the direct market — comic-book specialty shops.

So what's to be done?

"Stores have to be more inviting to a general audience," Estrada says. Owners need to rid them of the attitude that "We don't get many girls in here so we don't have anything for girls."

Publishers, meanwhile, should worry less about mega-crossovers and more about story and character, she says. "If you want new readers, you've got to have free-standing stories with a beginning, middle and end."

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ArtsLine

PAINTINGS



Special to the Advertiser

The paintings of Florida State University professor Mark Messersmith will be on display at the University of Alabama at Birmingham from June 27 to July 15.

Messersmith received Southern Arts Federation National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship for Emerging Artists in 1988 and 1994. The UAB Visual Arts Gallery, 900 S. 13th St., is open from 2 to 6 p.m. Sundays and from 1 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Call (205) 904-4941.

LITERATURE



Special to the Advertiser

Key West, Fla., the one-time home of Ernest Hemingway, will put on a series of events during its 10-day Key West Hemingway Days Festival.

The Key West Hemingway Days Festival will be July 16-25.

The celebration on the island where Nobel Prize-winning author Ernest Hemingway once lived includes a three-day Hemingway Days Writers' Workshop and Conference and the awarding of the Conch Republic Prize for Literature to the writer whose life works best exemplify the Hemingway spirit. It also includes such popular non-literary events as the Hemingway look-alike contest and the Key West version of Porgy and Bess.

For a free festival schedule, event entry forms and other information, call (205) 268-4440 or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Hemingway Days Festival, P.O. Box 4045, Key West, Fla. 33941.

OPERA

Teachers learn to create music

Saturday teachers completed a 10-day Metropolitan Opera Guild National Teacher Workshop on Creating Original Operas, at Auburn University Montgomery.

For the ninth consecutive year, teachers have attended the workshop at ALM where directors and performers from the Met have trained educators to guide elementary school students through composing, producing and performing an original opera.

This fall, the teachers will show their students how to write a libretto, compose a score and stage a production, complete with set design, costumes, electronics and makeup artists.



Special to the Advertiser

Callaway Gardens is offering a money-saving package that gives families an opportunity to enjoy attractions such as Robin Lake Beach at reduced prices.

Montgomery Advertiser

Arts & Travel

H
Sunday
June 20, 1999

Travel 2H
Arts calendar 3-4H
Books 5H



Courtesy Black Belt Press

Nora McKeown Ezell, who will celebrate her 82nd birthday Thursday, says she will continue to create quilts as long as she is able.

Quite a quilter

New book spotlights Tuscaloosa area artist

By Robyn Bradley Lischfield
Montgomery Advertiser

Nora McKeown Ezell, who will be at Birmingham's City Stages on Sunday, stitches pieces of her personality into each of the colorful blocks in her quilts.

"It's got to be a part of you," said the Tuscaloosa area quilter, who will celebrate her 82nd birthday Thursday. "You've got to put so much into them. A quilt is a labor of love."

Ezell and her quilts are spotlighted in the book "My Quilts and Me: The Diary of an American Quilter," published this year by Black Belt Press. Photographs of her work are scattered throughout the pages, which feature notes Ezell wrote about her work, her health and her life in general as well as information about Ezell from experts on quilting.

The book was developed from a manuscript Ezell compiled as a keepsake for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"I had saved newspaper clippings, magazine clippings, my sayings and other things for those little fellows (great-grandchildren) because they won't remember me when I'm gone," said Ezell, who was named a National Endowment for the Arts fellow in 1992.

Mary Johnson Huff of Montgomery edited the book, coordinated the art and fell in love with Ezell's work.

"Mrs. Ezell is an artist who appreciates fabric as she would paint. She makes pictures with fabric," Huff said. She grew up working with fabric, and she knows it. She knows what it will do, how to get the effect she wants.

Ezell has achieved a national reputation for her work, which includes patchwork pattern quilts as well as story quilts like "Tribute to the Civil Rights Quilt, 1954-1968" featuring blocks such as the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham and the Eugene "Bull" Connor jail cell.

Bordering the blocks are the names of people instrumental in the struggle for civil rights.

By the time she finished the quilt in June 1989, she had put in more than 800 hours — 414 hours, 30 minutes piecing it; 121 hours, 30 minutes quilting it; 14 hours, 30 minutes hemming and finishing it.

A few days ago, Ezell completed a quilt for Montgomery artist Wiley White, who requested a quilt of her house. While took several photographs of her house to give

GETTING THE BOOK

■ **What:** "My Quilts and Me: The Diary of an American Quilter," by Nora McKeown Ezell

■ **Publisher:** Black Belt Press, Montgomery

■ **Cost:** \$45

■ **Information:** 834-6869
■ **To purchase a quilt:** Information can be obtained from the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, 245-3601; Alabama Artists Gallery, 242-4076; and the Birmingham Museum of Art, (205) 254-2565. Ezell does not have an agent. She also participates in a number of festivals like today's City Stages in Birmingham.



Courtesy Black Belt Press

Nora McKeown Ezell spent more than 500 hours on "A Tribute to the Civil Rights of Alabama," above. Though she charges \$3 per hour, prices on the quilts vary greatly and depend on how much detail work there is.

Quilter Page 6H

Hotels, resorts make traveling easier with summer discounts

TRAVEL

the United States and Canada. They are offering a Can't Beat Friday rate, available through August. Can't Beat Friday offers up to 20 percent savings on regularly priced weekend rates when a Friday night is included in the stay. Many of the Marriott properties in the Southeast are included in this special rate arrangement, including Birmingham, Fort Lauderdale Marina, Tampa Airport, Boca Raton, Orlando Airport and Orlando Downtown, and 7 Marriott locations in Atlanta. Call (800) 380-7770.

And here is more good vacation rate reduction news — from New Orleans. The Le Meridien, right on Canal Street, tells me that a special summer rate of \$100 per night

for single or double occupancy for superior rooms and \$120 per night for single or double occupancy for deluxe rooms is now available. These rates will be in effect through August 31 and include the famous 8th floor outdoor, rooftop swimming pool and the full-service health club. The Four Diamond Le Meridien is directly across Canal from the French Quarter and two blocks from the river front and Aquarium of the Americas.

The Degas Exhibition is in New Orleans through August 29 and Meridien's marketing director, Janice Guido, says, "Our summer vacation packages, especially the Degas Package, are designed to give our visitors a taste of France during their New Orleans experience. The Meridien is a French-owned hotel. Call:

(504) 525-6000.

This news is worth a special trip to Palm Beach. The world-famous Breakers Hotel is offering a Romantic Sunset Getaway, or Family Plan. This applies to couples and/or families. There is the Family Sesside Breakaway (2 nights, 3 days), the Island Pleasure (2 nights, 3 days), Indulgence by The Sea (3 nights 4 days). The Breakers, one of my favorites, is a Five Star Five Diamond ocean-front resort, offering an expanded array of amenities for both adults and children as well as a new Mediterranean-style beach club and luxury spa. Call: (561) 655-6611.

Starr Smith is an international journalist, author, photographer, and award-winning travel writer whose column appears Sunday



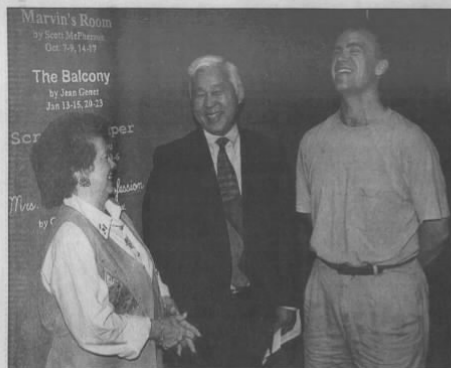
Starr Smith's South

vacation deal. It runs through September 7. Call: (800) 225-5292.

In addition, you get a 50 percent discount on tennis court fees, bike rentals, green fees (including cart fees), boat rentals, casting lessons and skeet and sporting clays. And, use of the Callaway Fitness Center and admission to Callaway Gardens and Robin Lake Beach is also included in this money-saving family

26 June 26, 1994

Sunday Montgomery Advertiser



Sharing a laugh with Betty Perdue at the New York Metropolitan Opera Guild's "Creating Original Opera" workshop are AUM chancellor Roy Salgo, center, and David Dix, the Guild's program director.



At a fish fry at the home of Cecile Brendle, second from right, that entertained the 1994 Gathering of Eagles participants are, from left, Maj. Gen. Dietrich Hrabak, retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, Loretta Grove, Mr. Brendle and Jessie Woods.

Metropolitan Opera Guild brings workshop to city

For the fourth consecutive year, the education department of the Metropolitan Opera Guild of New York chose to bring its national teacher workshop, "Creating Original Opera" to Montgomery. And that is quite a coup by all accounts since many other Southern cities compete for the privilege of hosting the event.

The workshop was held at Auburn University at Montgomery where 35 elementary classroom teachers and music specialists, selected from a field of hundreds of applicants from nine states, learned to create and stage their own operas. Now they will take their experience and knowledge back to the classroom and be able to instruct their students in the creation of their own original operas.

Betty Perdue, who was then a music specialist for the Alabama State Department of Education, is credited with convincing the group to come to Montgomery the first time in 1991. It was the first time the workshop had been conducted in the Southeast and Montgomery was one of only three cities, worldwide, where it was held that year. The other locations were the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and the Royal Opera House in London.

Though now retired, Betty continues, as she has each year, to serve as coordinator. The workshop was sponsored this year by the Blount Foundation, the Alabama Power Company Foundation and AUM. Leading it was David Dix, the opera guild's workshop program coordinator, who has been here each year and assisting were three resident artists from the guild.

Each year the Montgomery Business Committee for the Arts has planned after-hour entertainment for those workshop leaders and participants that Montgomery truly is the "Center Stage of the South" through a display of its wealth of attractions and community hospitality.

This year's entertainment began with the opening reception of the Business Committee-sponsored "On My Own Time" employee art show at the Alabama Artists Gallery. There the group was introduced and officially welcomed to the city by Jim Scott, the co-chairman of the MICA board, and Margy Darnelle, its executive director. And it was there that they and many others met AUM's new chancellor, Roy Salgo, who attended a number of the workshop activities.

Afterward, Mary Ann Norley took the visitors on a tour of the city and then there was a dinner at the historic Young House Restaurant in Old Alabama Town.

A late afternoon high tea catered by Marshall St. Clair at the Carolyn Blount Theatre preceded an Alabama Shakespeare Festival performance and Kevin Matfield, who will become AUM's outgoing director next month, and Barry Collett, the marketing director, were on hand to welcome them.

During a cruise aboard the Riverboat Betty Ann, the visitors heard music by Henry Peck and enjoyed box suppers by AUM's Carolyn Bowden.

Animals were the entertainment and Jimmy Lisenby's "soul food" was the menu when the group visited the Montgomery Zoo. And finally, on the night before their departure, the workshop staff dined at the Magnolia Cafe with Betty and her



Chrys Robbins

SOCIALLY SPEAKING

husband, Glenn Perdue, who had shared host duties with her throughout the 10-day event.

Eagles gather

Red, white and blue balloons floated in the early evening breeze at the Pontalula home of Cecile Brendle as he and Loretta Grove welcomed guests to a fish fry honoring the participants in the 1994 Gathering of Eagles.

Cecil is president of the Air Command and Staff College Foundation which has for 13 years sponsored the annual event that welcomes 20 men and women from all over the world who are credited with noteworthy accomplishments in the field of aviation, both military and civilian.

The Thursday-through-Saturday schedule for the participants included a number of official events that culminated in a black-tie dinner and the Class of 1994 AUM Graduation Ball where the Eagles were formally introduced.

The Pontalula party was to entertain the early arrivals and each of the 20 Eagles were there. Among them were retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, America's most famous living aviator whose accomplishments are many but who is best known as the first man to break the sound barrier.

With him was Betty Moses. Another visitor was 85-year-old Jessie Woods who married a barnstormer in 1928, learned to fly and became a wing-walker. She flew actively until 1974 and as late as 1991, at the age of 82, she proved she could still wing-walk by doing it at an air show in Lakeland, Fla.

Another guest, Maj. Gen. Dietrich Hrabak, who was accompanied by his daughter, Petra, was a key architect in rebuilding the modern German Air Force.

Other Eagles included Hungarian Daniel Hokezy and his wife, Nancy; Col. Arnold Franklin of Maxwell Air Force Base, and his wife, Mickie; Gerhard Thylen, a German who emigrated to South America, and his son, Gerhard Thylen Jr.; Thomas P. Poberny and his wife, Sharon, of Wisconsin; and Jack Smith of Panama City, Fla.

Inside the house, Loretta's arrangements of hydrangeas, roses, magnolias and gardenias, all from the home's gardens, were gorgeous. Cecile's extensive fitting for the occasion collection of eagles that fill an entire wall of a room were impressive.

But it was a lovely night and the party moved outside where the catfish fillets and hush puppies were being cooked. There was poolside music by Al Stringer and fishing available in the two ponds where torches cast shimmering reflections in the water.

Among others enjoying the hospitality were Maj. Gen. Charles Cooper and his wife, Ann Cooper, the author of "On the Wings," a biography of wing-

walker Jessie Woods; Maj. Pat Burkhardt; Maj. Tom Finkner; Gladys and Ed Visser; Ben and Phil Oswald; Barry Dees; Bill Fiere; Patricia and Joe Howell from Greenville, S.C.; Conale and Ed Bowlin and Trish and Sam Bass, all from Griffin, Ga.; Kelly Dorey from Barnsville, Ga.; and Dan Bowlin from Memphis.

Night of mystery

It was a night of mystery and intrigue but more than that, it was a night of fun. And even more important, it was the Montgomery Masters' annual fundraiser, the proceeds of which would purchase a historical photograph for the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts' permanent collection.

The Montgomery Masters is the museum's support group whose members are young professionals interested in learning more about art and in meeting other art enthusiasts through the museum's volunteer programs.

The invitation to this year's event that was designed by McBrien Design and supplied by Composites Inc., revealed that a "beloved piece of art" was missing from the museum and help was being sought to solve the mystery of its whereabouts.

Janet Loebe chaired the party sponsored by Compass Bank that attracted more than 200 would-be sleuths. And it was Susan Starr and Gage Franklin who came up with the clues that led to various works of art and the eventual solution. As it turned out, the missing art piece — the rabbit from Frank Fensholt's "The Magic Hoop" — was not missing at all. It had simply been sent out for repairs.

Tables were set up on the festive balloon-decorated lakeland terrace where the Jim Bell Jazz Trio entertained. A buffet dinner prepared by Masters member Stacie Burkett was served along with beer and wine contributed by Montgomery Beverage Co.

Anne Elizabeth McGowan, president of the Montgomery Masters, was among those enjoying the curried chicken brochettes, skewered tortellini, antipasto, cucumber rounds with smoked salmon mousse, herb roasted potatoes on a bed of fresh green beans in vinaigrette, strawberries and cream fraiche, almond chocolate cake and even more.

Wanda Marshall, of the sponsoring Compass Bank, was there and among many others were some of those who helped put the successful evening together including Ashley Handlett, Robert Garner, Lawrence Oakley, Kathy Brown, Marie Perdue, Frances McBrien, Shelly Hickman and David Burkett.

Gracie Hancock, the museum's acting director, was there with her husband, Jack, and some other from the staff were the new membership coordinator Beth Bohannon, Cathleen Owens and Kelly Turner.

Season announced

The invitation to the annual meeting of the Montgomery Ballet at Blount Inc. promised pizza and prosecco. Jeff Bringer of Domino's saw to it that the invitation lived up to its commitment as far as pizza was concerned; Al Watson arranged for Caciopella's to provide the prosecco.

Outgoing board president Detye Hanson presided; Lynn Beashear presented the new slate of



Among the more than 200 guests enjoying 'A Night of Mystery,' the Montgomery Masters' fundraiser, were, from left, Wanda Marshall, Anne Elizabeth McGowan, Janet Loebe and Beth Bohannon.

officers and Jan Hodgson announced the formation of an exciting new Montgomery Ballet Guild, a community volunteer support organization.

Montgomery Ballet has come a long way since Don Stuffy, the artistic director and his wife, Marjorie Hume, the associate artistic director, arrived here 10 years ago. Some of the highlights, including the addition of a professional ensemble of dancers and a growth in the annual budget from less than \$100,000 to more than half a million dollars were discussed as Don recalled the years.

Pete Dimaggio of Sterne, Ague and Leach Inc. and Blake Jeffcoat of CIZM Hill, sponsors of the 1994-95 subscription drive for Montgomery Ballet's "A Season for Lovers," were introduced at the meeting and the co-chairs of the drive, Peggy Joseph and Chris Vaughan, were announced.

Curtis Jones will serve as president of the Montgomery Ballet board during the 1994-95 year; Jan Hodgson will serve as president-elect; Claude Thiele and Ann McRae as vice presidents; Wanda Marshall as secretary; and Paul Perdue as treasurer.

New Montgomery Ballet board members include Jenny Andrusch, Dickie Hall, Anna Bishop, Bill Drinkard, Edwin Hicks, Jennifer McConnell, Ann McRae, John Pacholik, Bob Ramsey and Larry Stephens. For information about "A Season for Lovers" or about the new guild, call the Montgomery Ballet office, 285-310 or 285-3022.

Theaters meet

The Theatrical Club, one of Montgomery's oldest literary clubs, ended its first year with a luncheon and installation of officers at the Partridge Fine Restaurant.

Organized in 1931 by the Athenian Club under the sponsorship of Mrs. Lewis Lassiter, the club continues its purpose established at the time, which is the promotion of a broader culture among its members through the study of art, music and travel and the promotion of education and social ideals.

According to information in the club's yearbook, Mrs. Lassiter was added by Nell Alderton in the selection of the charter members. Among them was Sarah Brown, who continues as an honorary member.

Each year the Theatrical Club makes a contribution to the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and, this year, under the leadership of its president, Betty Westcott, a gift also was given to the new genealogical library at Auburn University at Montgomery.

Maryann Brown, Jane Russell and Diane Williams planned the luncheon and it was Maryann



Ensemble dancer Tammy Barberich-Meadows, center, poses as Juliet at the Montgomery Ballet's annual meeting announcing its 1994-95 'A Season for Lovers.' Sharing the spotlight, from left, are Jan Hodgson, Blake Jeffcoat, Chris Vaughan and Rolanne Frith.



Outgoing president Betty Westcott, left, passes the gavel to the new Theatrical Club president, Virginia Perkins, during the installation of officers conducted by Rena Underwood, right.

who, with the use of colorful scarves and baskets of spring flowers, created the table centerpieces which became door prizes.

Rena Underwood, a past president, installed the officers for 1994-95 including Virginia Perkins, president; Jane Wheeler, vice president; Catherine Lender, treasurer; Jane Russell, recording secretary; and Margaret Garrett, corresponding secretary.

Sunday morning

March 14, 1993

Arts & Entertainment 5G

■ Picasso Bill

■ Calendar

■ Books

■ Crossword

SUNDAY MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

A marriage made in Hollywood

■ The best of both partners can be seen in the movie "Rich In Love," which is soon to be released.

By RICK HARMON

When Alfred met Josephine, they realized their mutual love. They made a commitment, and they decided they would bring a new and wonderful entity into the world that would combine the best both of them had to give.

But this was no romance. It was a marriage made in Hollywood.

Alfred is Atlanta-born Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and Oscar-winning screenplay adapter Alfred Uhry.

Josephine is South Carolina writer Josephine Humphreys, winner of the 1985 Ernest Hemingway Foundation Award and author of three well-received novels.

The love they shared was for her second novel, "Rich In Love," which details the love and survival of a Southern family after a woman abandons her husband and two daughters.

The pair's commitment was to its characters, its color and its depth. The new and wonderful entity the two writers hoped would be a combination of the best of both their abilities was the movie "Rich In Love," which stars Albert Finney, Kathryn Erbe, Kyle MacLachlan and Jill Clayburgh.

But birth do not come without pain. Newborns sometimes fail to live up to expectations, and the marriage between author-playwright and screenplay writer often ends in bitterness.

Even before "Pygmalion" was made into the musical and movie "My Fair Lady," which exercised George Bernard Shaw's purposeful ambiguous ending and substituted a happy one, the well-known playwright had been critical of another screenplay writer's attempt that he said cut the play to bits.

Who was the writer Shaw said was hacking apart his work in an attempt to create a workable screenplay? None other than Shaw himself.

During an interview in Atlanta, both Mr. Uhry and Ms. Humphreys said they were happy with both their artistic marriage and the soon-to-be-released movie of "Rich In Love."

But part of the reason for their satisfaction is that both writers realized making a novel into a movie is usually impossible — that instead one must make bits of a novel into a movie.

"I am pleased the film sticks so closely to the novel," Ms. Humphreys said. "In fact, I can't think of a movie that stuck closer to a novel than this one. Still, you have to realize there is only so much that can make it into a movie."

She said as pleased as she is with the adaptation of her book, the movie "Rich In Love," is no exception to that.

It hurts to see entire portions of your novel left out, portions that you liked or you wouldn't have put them in the novel in the first place," she said. "In this case, there was a whole storyline involving a black family in the book that had to be cut out in the movie."

"But there's no way around it. There simply was not enough film to be able to include the entire novel unless people were willing to spend an entire day in a movie theater."

"It's having to compress and delete the much larger expanse of a novel that makes creating a movie from it 'such hard work,'" says Mr. Uhry, who won an Oscar for adapting the film "Driving Miss Daisy" from his own Pulitzer-winning play.

"In this case there was so much I liked about the book, so much that I would have wanted to retain, but you just can't do it," he said.



Josephine Humphreys, the book's author



Alfred Uhry, the book's screenplay adapter



Albert Finney and Jill Clayburgh star as Warren and Helen Odum in "Rich In Love"

The process began when Mr. Uhry visited the author before he ever started the adaptation.

Together they discussed the book, and she showed him some of the people and places around her South Carolina home that had served as general inspiration for her writing.

Then, Mr. Uhry locked himself away with the novel for several weeks, analyzing it and reanalyzing it.

"Choosing what to keep and what not to keep is easier said than done," he said. "You deconstruct the novel and reconstruct it, time after time, until you think you have pared it down to its essence."

Winning an Oscar and a Pulitzer haven't made him any better at this process, but it has made it a little easier.

"I trust myself more," he said. "Writing is hard work. Everyday you write, there is self-doubt. Is this the right decision? Is this any good?"

A Pulitzer and an Oscar don't end these doubts, but they help



Kathryn Erbe and Ethan Hawke star as friends whose young romance is disrupted by turmoil in her family in MGM's "Rich In Love"

"I am pleased the film sticks so closely to the novel. In fact, I can't think of a movie that stuck closer to a novel than this one."

— Josephine Humphreys, Author of "Rich In Love"

■ UPDATE

WITH M.P. WILKERSON
Arts Editor

■ Opera from scratch:

Children are at work at Alabama Christian Academy.

Sixty-two third-graders are writing and producing an opera called "Lost in the Woods," which will be performed March 17 and 18.

"They have done everything from start to finish. They have had guidance, but it has been their participation," said co-director Roberta Atkinson, who is the music teacher and elementary school principal at the academy. She is helping direct the show with Karen Kilpatrick.

Alabama Christian Academy was selected by New York's Metropolitan Opera Guild to be one of two Alabama schools to participate in the Creating Original Opera Program. "Lost in the Woods" is the result of this program.

One of the things that we learned in the workshop is that in this writing process they have, you insist they (the third-graders) write about themselves. It is not about a make-believe character or adult characters."

Another thing the workshop leaders advised was that when the pupils perform, they portray third-graders, and not pretend to be someone else, "which makes it more realistic and makes them able to be more believable," she said.

The third-graders formed a production company — Kodak at Work — and the children audited for various jobs that included costumes, makeup, lighting, set design, carpenters, writers, composers, performers, stage manager, production manager and public relations.

Then the work began. "Writers got together and started to talk about what they cared about. They worked together for a month coming up with the entire writing process," said Ms. Atkinson about the plot of the opera.

"The things they came up with were fear and loss of security. As they worked through it, they talked about certain situations when you would feel this way and talked about getting lost."

That is how the idea came

for "Lost in the Woods."

"They decided to set the scene in the woods on a camping trip and one person gets lost. The boy who gets lost had made fun of a boy who had a (security) teddy bear, but the boy with the teddy bear is the one who finds him," she said.

Ms. Atkinson said the children gained a great deal of self-confidence in creating the opera because they could see how many things they could do.

"Each group learned a lot about its particular job. We don't give them enough credit for what they are able to do," she said.

"It has been a unique and interesting experience for them to go through."

The opera will be performed for the public March 18 at 7 p.m. at Alabama Christian Academy, 4700 Wares Ferry Road. Tickets are \$2. For information, call 277-1965.

■ Winning combination:

The Montgomery Symphony Orchestra has had a month of winners.

First, it was the winner of the national competition for the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra Fellowship program. Now, the winner of the finals of the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra's Young Artists Concert Competition held this past weekend has been announced.

The winner is Ashley Gibbons, a pianist from Prattville who is at 10th grade at Montgomery Academy. She studies with Barbara Shim who is on the music faculty at Huntingdon College.

Miss Gibbons' winning per-

formance was the MacDowell's second piano concerto in D minor, which she will play with the symphony in the spring. She also won \$2,000, \$1,000 in cash and \$1,000 is for a music education opportunity she would like to explore.

Helen Steinkjer, the symphony's administrative manager, said there were more than 40 competitors from all over the South.

"This competition draws the cream of the crop in relationship to performers because the prizes are so good for this area," she said. "It is a tough competition."

She also said Miss Gibbons was the only concerto contestant on crutches.

"She takes jazz and tap at the (Armory Learning Arts Center) and pulled something in her leg. I asked if it bothered her playing with having to reach for the pedals, and she said no, she just puts her foot back further."

The second prize winner was Yu-chi Wang, a pianist who studies with Ronda Shim also of the Huntingdon College faculty. Miss Wang goes to Brewbaker Junior High School. She also entered on cello, but did not place on that instrument.

The third prize was awarded to pianist Amanda Roggero who goes to Lanier High School and studies with Beverly Shaffer, also on the faculty at Huntingdon.

The fourth-prize winner was Ashley Thomas who plays the viola and lives in Haxton. She studies with Col. Charles Waid.

Please see UPDATE, 9G



Alabama Christian Academy pupils rehearse their opera, "Lost in the Woods"

■ THIS WEEK



Invisible friend
An invisible friend makes a debut at a local theater.



Brush with art
A new exhibit of a painter and a teacher opens this week.



Showing off
A school show-off is creativity in a special performance.

MARCH 17, 1991

THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

PAGE 7F

Stafford to speak, read poetry



Mr. Stafford is known for his unique method of composition, his soft-spoken voice and his independence from social and literary expectations.

Nationally recognized poet, Mr. Stafford will speak at a poetry reading at 7:30 p.m. in the same day in Smith Hall at Huntington College as part of the free Stallworth Chair of Lectureship series.

"If you have been wondering where the articulate, readable poems have gone in the last third of the 20th century, you might start with Stafford," wrote Victor Hovde of the *Christian Science Monitor*.

A pacifist and one of "the quiet of the land," as he often

describes himself, Mr. Stafford is known for his unique method of composition, his soft-spoken voice and his independence from social and literary expectations.

Born in Kansas in 1914, he received his doctorate from the State University of Iowa. He has served on the faculties of Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore., Manchester College and California's San Jose State University.

Mr. Stafford is, according to James Dickey in his book, "Babel to Byzantium," "a real poet, a born poet," whose "natural mode of speech is a gentle, mystical half-mocking and highly personal idiosyncrasy about the western United States."

Among his awards are: Yaddo Foundation fellow, National Book Award for poetry, National Endowment for the Arts grant, Guggenheim Foundation

Update

Continued from 7F
during its Eighth Annual Spring Festival can call 278-8113 or 272-8622. The arts and crafts show is May 11.

Applications are also being taken for vending spaces at the festival which will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Say cheese... Contemporary documentary photographers are invited to submit their work for consideration in "Southern Documents," an exhibition scheduled for May 1-June 19 at North Georgia College in Dahlonega, Ga. Deadline for entries is March 22.

"Southern Documents" is the name of the fourth annual North Georgia National Art show which is sponsored by the North Georgia College Department of Fine Arts.

Entries selected for the show will have themes and subjects from the South.

Interested photographers should submit 12 to 20 slides. From the submissions, seven photographers will be invited to show up to 10 photographs.

An entry fee of \$20 should accompany each photographer's work. These photographers chosen for the show will be notified by April 5.

For more information, contact Hank Margeson, Department of Fine Arts, North Georgia College, Dahlonega, Ga. 30597 or call (404) 864-1123.

Update on the Arts is compiled by Maria Merriman.

Opera workshop planned

Montgomery has been chosen by the New York Metropolitan Opera Guild for an opera workshop for teachers this summer.

Montgomery is one of two sites in the country selected by the guild for regional expansion of the Creating Original Opera Program. Teachers from 24 elementary schools across the southeast will gather at Auburn University at Montgomery in June to participate in the two-week workshop.

The workshop will be conducted by a group of artists from New York and will consist of sessions on music composition, vocal production, acting, costume and set design, make-up, lighting and other aspects of opera.

Teachers will return to their schools where they will guide students in the production of an original opera.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Alabama," said state School Superintendent Wayne Teague. "Alabama will get national exposure as a leader in creative approaches to teaching music and other subjects."

Creating an opera instructs students in areas other than music such as using the principles of science to construct lighting, math to design sets and language to write the text of the opera.

Schools can submit applications to the Metropolitan Opera Guild to qualify for full scholarships for two teachers—a music teacher and a classroom teacher from fourth, fifth or sixth grade.

Deadline for applications is April 15. For more information, contact Betty Perdue, state Department of Education, 50 N. Ripley St., Montgomery, Ala. 36130.

With just one call you can subscribe to The Montgomery Advertiser and The Alabama Journal. Call 258-0819 or toll-free 1-800-828-3863.

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Sissy Spacek is excellent. Whoopi Goldberg plays her part with strength and quiet dignity. A fine film!
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81 May 24, 1998

ARTS

Sunday Montgomery Advertiser

Betty Purdue brings opera home to Alabama's children

In the person of Betty Purdue, Montgomery and this state have something to brag about. The kind of person the state might designate a national treasure. If you can imagine a pretty, caring, tornado, you have Betty. Perhaps it's that interesting combination — a gentle soul who wouldn't harm the proverbial fly and yet leaves no standing obstacle in her crusading path — that makes her such a fascinating person. Although retired as music supervisor for the State Board of Education, this natural force does not lack targets for her energy.

Recently I spoke with Joe



Alan Swafford

McKaugham of the Metropolitan Opera Guild's division of Education at the Met. Joe had just that

week met our local, genteel tornado and he at once began to sing a paean of praise for Betty. Here's a recent Betty story. Her music club scheduled a program on opera. So Betty offered to bring them one, fully staged act of an opera. Now from what corner's hat in Montgomery was she planning to pull a fully staged opera? The answer to that question is an important part of my story, but for the moment let's go back to why I was talking to someone at the Metropolitan Opera.

McKaugham wanted to tell me that for the eighth consecutive year the personnel of Education at the Met would convene at Auburn University in Montgomery to hold a workshop June 10-13 for more than two dozen teachers from 12 Southern states. Eight years ago these folks brought their program, called "Creating Original Opera,"

out of New York for the first time. On that maiden voyage its destination was Montgomery. And that first voyage was Betty's doing. Begun in 1981 and aimed at New York's public elementary schools, it has to date exposed some 300,000 youngsters to opera. But we're not talking "Carmen" or "Götterdämmerung." These children, led by two teachers in each school, compose their own music, write its libretto and in nine weeks create an original opera, down to its last detail. To do this the students form their own opera company. Within the company each student has a specific position from ticket seller or stage or costume designer to a stage manager, musician or director. Literally every position of a Met or La Scala is duplicated. While their teachers do supervise, they do not intervene. On opening night the teachers are

even barred from backstage. Down to the last detail this work is the children's opera. An opera lover, Betty tells me that eight years ago while still an supervisor of music for the state "I got a little thing in the mail about the workshop they were going to host at the Met and, of course, that tickled the daylight out of me." Although the workshop was intended for classroom teachers, she called to ask about people in her position. The Guild folks liked the idea. They not only invited her but the 30 other supervisors across the country. But only Betty came. She remembers, "Once there, I was so overwhelmed by the program I felt we've just got to have this for Alabama. We started a dialog." Familiar with Betty's dialogues, I suspect the Met people did a lot of listening to enthusiastic ideas. At the time the MOG had not

considered what to do with the program, already so successful in New York City's public schools. So Betty's dialog came opportunely, and as they talked the plans expanded to include many Southern states. "They used us as their guinea pig in establishing a regional," she says. Since, both Midwest and Northeast Regions have emerged, a Western Region starts this year and the program has spread worldwide to American military base schools. But, thanks to Betty, we were the first program established outside New York. Oh, here I am out of space and I still haven't told you where Betty found a completely staged opera in Montgomery for her music club. Next week I'll take a look at that.

Alan Swafford has reviewed local theater for more than 15 years

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CONTINUED FROM 11

ASF

from Page 11

Towers is very attuned to the play and bringing out wonderful things in our characters," he said. "He becomes more complex — less noble but more understandable." Foots is very good at showing the interconnectedness of community, Thompson said. His works remind Thompson of those of Anton Chekov. There is a kind of understanding of how human beings and at the responsibilities one has in life, whether to family, spouse, children or community, but he is also compassionate. "The brilliance of the play is the audience gets a strong image of Early from other people, said Kent Thompson, artistic director of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Horton Foots visits Montgomery Tuesday

By M.P. Wilkinson

SPECIAL TO THE ADVERTISER

Not every theater gets a chance to be the first to produce a new play by a Pulitzer prize and Academy Award-winning playwright.

That's the opportunity the Alabama Shakespeare Festival has with "Vernon Early," which has its official debut Friday. Being offered a play by such a famous playwright was the result of last year's production of Foots' "The Traveling Lady," Thompson said.

Season schedules are made far in advance, and last year's season was to include the premiere of "The Coming of Rain," an original play by Richard Martin.

"But I felt it was being rushed into production and needed more time," Thompson said. Now he had a scheduling problem and a hole to fill. Whatever he filled it with needed to be a Southern play, had to meet the cast size of "Rain," and to have good roles for certain actors, he said.

Agents are always submitting plays to theaters, and Foots' agent was no exception. "I read 17 plays by Foots and fell in love with 'The Traveling Lady,'" a successful '80s Broadway play, and it worked with the numbers," Thompson said.

Although Foots, 82, did not come to see ASF's acclaimed production of his play, he heard about it from many different people. "It resonated with the audiences even though it was southern. Texas, as not southern Alabama," Thompson said.

He even received a letter from Foots. Soon after this, Foots' agent asked if the ASF would be interested in doing a new theater piece, "Vernon Early" that was an expansion of an earlier, shorter radio play.

This play was written 45 years after "The Traveling Lady," but set in the same time, the 1930s, and in the same town, Harrison, Texas. "I was flattered and also taken with the play," Thompson said.

The play is more tragic and darker than "The Traveling Lady," he said. It is about a man realizing the mistakes in his life. "I found it more touching than depressing," Thompson said. "From my vantage point, the ability to realize mistakes is what is enabling about human beings, no matter how painful it is at the moment."

Since this was a new play, as yet unproduced, and dealing with the

South, it was put under the umbrella of the Southern Writers' Project.

"With the maturity and expertise of a writer like Foots, who has had a long career of writing for the theater, we don't need the same level of workshop expertise because he has done it so long," Thompson said.

"The play did not need any changes," Thompson said. "It is so compact, nothing is wasted."

With "Vernon Early," which Thompson said had probably gone through several drafts before it was offered to ASF, the process began with bringing together the right team to work on the play.

"We are letting our company take it and run with it," Thompson said.

Instead the project concentrated on finding the right director and cast for the production.

The development of "Vernon Early" involved the director, Charles Towner, going to Wharton, Texas, Foots' hometown, to talk with Foots and walk around his town. Wharton is the model for Harrison, Texas, where "Vernon Early" is set.

Jennifer Hobbethwaite, a literary associate at ASF who, with Thompson, runs the Southern Writers' Project, said Foots spent three days at ASF when the play first went into rehearsal. He talked with the cast about the play's characters and the play's background and answered the cast and director's questions.

He returns for the play's previews and for opening night and will be the featured speaker at the Theater in the Mind program at noon on Saturday.

WANT TO GO?

- **What:** Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Theater in the Mind lecture/discussion with Horton Foots
- **When:** noon Saturday
- **Where:** Alabama Shakespeare Festival
- **Admission:** Free, but reservations are required
- **Information:** 271-5353 or (800) 841-4273

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Starring: Kevin Costner, Faye Dunaway, Dan Aykroyd
Western
SAT. 12:00 (3:30 @ 7:00) 7:00 10:30
SUN. THURS. 1:00 (4:30 @ 7:00) 8:00

"EXCITING AND ENCHANTING."

Warner Bros.
Quest for Camelot
G
12:15 2:30 (4:45 @ 7:00) 7:15 12:15 2:30 (4:45 @ 7:00) 7:15 9:30

FROM THE CREATORS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

GODZILLA
PG-13
Directed by Roland Emmerich
Starring: Matt Jansen, Maria Bello, Julian Sands
Science Fiction
12:00 12:45 1:15 2:00 3:00 4:00 4:15 5:00 6:00 6:15 7:00 8:00 9:00 10:15 11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45 2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45 4:00 4:15 4:30 4:45 5:00 5:15 5:30 5:45 6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45 7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45 8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45 2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45 4:00 4:15 4:30 4:45 5:00 5:15 5:30 5:45 6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45 7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45 8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45 2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45 4:00 4:15 4:30 4:45 5:00 5:15 5:30 5:45 6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45 7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45 8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45 2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45 4:00 4:15 4:30 4:45 5:00 5:15 5:30 5:45 6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45 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61 May 31, 1998

Picasso Bill's Alley



Hey young artist! Drawings about 8x10 on plain paper, include your name, age (12 and under), school, and a telephone number and a photograph of yourself. Send to: Picasso Bill, Montgomery Advertiser, P.O. Box 1000, Montgomery, AL 36101-1000.

Sarah Browne
New Life Christian Academy
Age 7
"Mouse Family Picnic"

ARTS

Youth operas create intelligent audiences

Last week I wrote about "Creating Original Opera," a program of the Metropolitan Opera Guild's education wing. In 1980 the program enjoyed enormous success in New York City's public schools. In 1990 Montgomery's Betty Perdue, at the time music supervisor for the state department of education, attended a COO workshop and became so excited over it that she convinced the Guild to expand the program.

The premiere workshop outside New York City occurred eight years ago in Montgomery. That event inaugurated a Southern Region for the program, which has since grown to four regions in the country and a fifth international region for American dependent schools around the world.

Why am I so interested in this activity? Of course, it is a theater program and, as such, in my bailiwick. But I don't expect the program to produce a lot of little Verdis and Wagners. Great stage designers or even competent theater managers. Its main contribution is to the growth of an appreciative, perceptive audience. Good theater cannot flourish without such an audience. Before looking more at the program's benefits for students, let's look at what makes



Alan Swafford

it possible and its effects outside the classroom.

Betty Perdue tells me the MOG folks have called her by various titles as she has organized the annual Montgomery workshop over the past eight years.

But she says, "I'm really just their grandmother. The workshop's just one of those things I continue doing since I retired."

In those eight years, some 200 Southern teachers have come to Montgomery along with numerous MOG staff members. Betty is most interested in their reactions to the city and state.

"They know Montgomery's history," she says. "They think they know where we're been racially and educationally. They come here and see a progressive city. For

eight years they've received a grand welcome from Chairman Bill Joseph of the county commission and Mayor Polmar. The Chamber of Commerce, the Housat Foundation and Auburn University Montgomery have all aided in making this visit successful." So new participants come here with preconceptions and leave with changed attitudes.

David Dik, the Guild's director of COO, tells Betty that his staff, already familiar with the city, is so anxious to return here — as opposed to regional meetings at Yale, Princeton and Case Western Reserve, yet — that they have a name drawing for the privilege. "Everybody fights to come," Betty quotes the director as saying.

How about COO's effect on students? I spoke with Robert Atkinson, retired principal of Alabama Christian Academy where she still teaches music. ACA's third-graders have created four operas in the past seven years. As such it is the program's most active participant within the city, though Perdue cites Head School as another.

Atkinson notes that ACA uses nearly twice the recommended number of students in its approach. She includes all third-grade classes — about 70 students — whereas the MOG suggests a maximum of about 40.

The experience rewards both the teacher and the student, according to Atkinson. Tish Housley, an ACA teacher, attended last year's workshop and overcame the writing and directing aspects of this year's opera.

Atkinson reports that Housley told her the teacher had never had so much fun teaching. That it was simply the most fun she'd ever had. And she cites a child, "marginal in academic areas," whose expertise at the lightboard left him with new confidence. She said it was just as if he lit up himself.

Atkinson summarizes the impact: "It is really a practical program. It is so meaningful. The kids will always be more open-minded. When we take them to the school performances at ASF (the Alabama Shakespeare Festival) you can watch third-graders looking at all sorts of things they would never have noticed before. And they ask questions. They try to figure out how effects are done on stage."

That last bit really explains my fascination with the program. It creates intelligent, aware, young theatergoers. Such theatergoers demand and get better theater.

Alan Swafford has been reviewing local theater for more than 15 years.

CONTINUED FROM 11

THIS MOVIE IS A SCANDAL. AN OUTRAGE AND IRRESISTIBLY ENTERTAINING!

BULWORTH

WINNING 10 1:30 (4:20 @ \$3.00) 7:10 9:40

"IT'S A MOVIE TO SHOUT ABOUT!"

THE HORSE WHISPERER

WINNING 10 SAT. 1:30 (5:00 @ \$3.00) 8:30
SUN.-THURS. 1:00 (4:30 @ \$3.00) 8:00

FROM THE CREATORS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

GODZILLA

WINNING 10 12:00 12:45 1:15 3:00 3:45 (4:15 @ \$3.00)
6:00 8:45 7:15 9:00 9:45 10:15

"SANDRA BULLOCK'S FINEST PERFORMANCE EVER. EMOTIONS SOAR IN 'HOPE FLOATS'."

HOPE FLOATS

NEW THIS WEEK! A FEAST FOR SERIOUS MOVIE FANS

WINNING 10 1:20 (4:25 @ \$3.00) 7:20 9:55

CHRIS FARLEY **MATTHEW PERRY**

ALMOST HEROES

Mostly Ridiculous...

1:25 (4:10 @ \$3.00) 7:25 9:45

FESTIVAL

Song, who perform silly songs, and Philomena Brown, who presents

WINNING 10 \$3.00

Eastdale 5 277-5164

Comet 5 272-6421

Twins 271-6778

Monroe 2 361-0707

master p at Johnson

I got the hook-up

DEEP IMPACT

BIG ADVENTURE!

music of the court and countryside on the barge.

This year's entertainment slate also includes Birds of Prey, which features different types of birds from around the world; the Zucchini Brothers, a juggling duo; Hack and Slash, a comic duo skilled with swords; John the Adequate, a magician; and Brothers in Arms, a sword-fighting duo.

More than 50 people will be involved in entertaining the crowd, Thurman said. Another act will be the Troll.

"It's just 14. Three letters is just too much for 14 to spell," said Thurman, who will be Enrique En Rigo.

Enrique is a funny Frenchman who draws a crowd with his acrobatic stunts, knife juggling and skedaddle walking above the audience, he said.

"My background includes several Renaissance festivals," said Thurman, who is based in Atlanta. When Thurman was 11, his artist mother was participating in a Renaissance festival in Bristol, Wis.

"For seven weeks, I strolled around and met some of the acts," he said. "The juggling taught me how to do it, and it just became a way of life."

There will be a juggling school at this year's festival at ASF, and Thurman encourages people of all ages to give it a try.

And don't forget Mid Theater, which will require audience participation, Thurman said. But plan to start each day right by attending the opening ceremonies, he said.

"The story they'll set up there will be played throughout the day with strolling characters," said Laura Powers, ASF managing manager and festival coordinator. "Everything during the two days is from the Renaissance period (between the 14th and 16th centuries) musicians, comedy acts, sword fighting and juggling acts."

A new attraction this year is the dragon in the lake, she said. It will make three appearances throughout each of the two days.

"We're going to have a Name the Dragon contest," she said. "The winner will get 14 tickets to Anthony and Cleopatra."

Another attraction is the Kids Kingdom, where children of all ages can play different games. There will be about 14 activities in the Kingdom, including juggling, still walking, crown making, puppet shows by the Alabama Center for Puppetry Arts, face painting with different styles and designs from the Renaissance, pony rides, a dart throw and an area called Knowledge Nook.

All this activity is sure to build an appetite, which is where the Garden of Eatin' food court comes into play.

"We will have turkey legs, roasted corn on the cob, and we will be roasting peanuts on the grill," Powers said. "And there we'll have traditional festival foods like sandwiches as well."

Guests also may want to stop by Palstaff's Pub, the kingdom's beer garden.

fruits and chocolate and caramel dipping sauce, Powers said.

There also will be a market place with vendors from around the Southeast.

"They'll have (Renaissance) period items with everything from costume rentals to drapery sculptures, swords, masks, daggers and specialty books on the period," Powers said.

Although Theodore Seend, one of ASF's master of fine arts students, will be spending most of the time working at the fair, he plans to take a few breaks to enjoy the activities.

"I'll be working both days, but I hope to get an hour or so each day to have some fun," he said. "Last year, I had fun watching all the kids enjoy the games and activities, particularly the jousting."

Booster, too, noticed everyone having a good time. One attraction had both a man and his granddaughter entranced, he said. The quality of entertainment makes it easy for everyone to have a good time, he said.

"This is what we have come to expect from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival," Booster said. Thurman agrees.

"The Renaissance Faire gives visitors a chance to see many different things — and there's no way they'll ever be bored," he said.

Dali, Warhol museums exchange art

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Salvador Dali and Andy Warhol both lived very much in the public eye, but to miss as innovators and personalities.

And they had much in common as artists, in the creative fields where their lives and work overlapped. Those links are revived in exchange exhibitions at the two one-person museums which celebrate each artist's work: Warhol's have been loaned to the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, and Dali's works are to be shown at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh.

At the Salvador Dali Museum, "Andy Warhol at the Dali" runs through Aug. 8. It's an exhibition of more than 20 works from the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh.

Returning the compliment, the Pittsburgh museum is presenting "Salvador Dali," works loaned by St. Petersburg museum. June 19-Sept. 20.

Men will joust to see who is worthy to be personal guard to Queen Elizabeth I, overseer of the Renaissance Faire.



Jousting on horseback is among the events at the festival.



Musicians playing music reminiscent of the Renaissance will wander throughout the ASF grounds during the two-day festival.



Musicians playing music reminiscent of the Renaissance will wander throughout the ASF grounds during the two-day festival.

montgomeryadvertiser.com

Sunday, October 12, 2003 ARTS & TRAVEL 3H

Opera: Children eager to participate

From Page 1H

The kids were getting there at 3:15, and they wanted to be there (in the program) the whole time.

Within the first few weeks of meeting the 17 children, Patterson and Williams had established a bond with the youngsters. They have worked with the group on learning the exercises and explained the various facets of staging an opera.

Ten-year-old Morgan Jackson is among the young group and looks forward to weeks of work ahead.

"I like it because I can learn about opera. I like singing and want to be an opera teacher," she said.

Her cousin Rodmon Jackson, 11, also is having fun learning about this new form of art. Rodmon's favorite style of music is rap, but he is developing an appreciation for opera.

Each child has a job — electrician, stage manager, public relations officers, composer/musicians, historians, performers and more. And each was required to sign a contract, which sealed his or her commitment to the project.

Handoff said, the program gives children an idea of what a real job is like and how important it is to focus and stay committed. They learn, if I don't do my job, others will suffer, she said.

Glass added that opera comes from a company that works to produce, in fact, he said, "the word 'opera' is Italian for 'work'."

During the first month of



Davis Elementary fifth-graders Antionette Cunningham, left, and Jasmine Dorsey write down their suggestions for the theme of the opera their company will perform.

Cecilia B. Lane Advertiser

And this is more than trying to sing or follow out — so much more," he said.

Still, opera fans shouldn't expect to see "Carmen," "La Traviata," "Don Giovanni," "Aida" or any other classic opera. The children are creating something from scratch.

The Amazing Temptations Company will present an original opera about "Faith in Others" in January 2004.

And Pechua can't wait.

"This is a fabulous program, and it is great to see kids doing all the work themselves. You see them building their own spotlight and everything," she said.

"I look forward to seeing them perform."

Robyn Bradley Litchfield, who covers food and arts for the Montgomery Advertiser, can be reached by calling 240-6102 or faxing 261-1548 or e-mailing rblitchfield@montgomeryadvertiser.com.

West Virginia: Covered bridge among scenic attractions

From Page 1H

October. Cattle can be seen grazing in the fields year-round, and farmers cut feed corn for them into November.

Other nearby attractions include the Indian Creek Covered Bridge, constructed in the early 1800s, and Old Bohannon Church outside Union, a log structure built in 1796 that is considered the oldest church building west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Farmers also can be spotted working their fields, and they'll graciously stop when they're doing for a bit to chat with the curious.

"It's beautiful here, a laid-back way of life," said Stanley Ashbury as he tried to coax a balky hay baler to run.

Ashbury, a 52-year-old former coal miner, left the coalfields of his native McDowell County to become a farmer. His family owns more than 140 acres near Forest Hill in neighboring Summers County, which the byway crosses for a few miles before turning back into Monroe County.

"It's a nice place, no rat race," Ashbury said. "It's a good place to raise my grandchildren."

The Farm Heritage Road also passes remnants of a bygone era, when well-to-do Northerners came to the villages of Red Sulphur Springs, Sweet Springs and Salt Sulphur Springs in the 1890s.

That's all that's left of the old miner-

bridge water spa in Red Sulphur Springs is a stone spring enclosure, but the hotel and cottages at Sweet Springs still stand. Several structures also remain at Salt Sulphur Springs, including part of the old hotel. Today, not far from the byway route, The Greenbrier luxury resort in White Sulphur Springs continues that tradition, winning honors as one of the top spas in the country from the October issue of *Travel + Leisure* magazine.

There is some industry in this picturesque country, but reminders of its farming roots are all around. At Pickaway, bales of hay sit in a field beside a Goodrich Corp. plant.

The county recently formed the Farmstead Protection Board to oversee conservation easements, a program that allows landowners to forever forfeit their development rights in exchange for cash.

Monroe County's proximity to manufacturing plants in neighboring Virginia allows residents to work in good-paying jobs while preserving their rural lifestyle, said Bill Shuffert, a Union businessman and former state legislator. The county had one of the lowest unemployment rates in West Virginia in August with 5 percent.

People from the Washington, D.C. area and other states, including Florida and Georgia, are starting to move into Monroe County, attracted by its bucolic beauty, Shuffert said.

"Our biggest problem today is we're being discovered," he said.

IF YOU GO...

■ **What:** The Farm Heritage Road

■ **Route:** From Peterstown, take state Route 12 north to Forest Hill. At Forest Hill, take state Route 122 to Raines Corner, then U.S. 219 to Union. At Union, take State Route 3 to Sweet Springs, then state Route 311 either north or south to the Virginia line.

■ **Length:** 55 miles

■ **Points of interest:** Red Sulphur Springs, Cook's Mill, Inverness, Creek Covered Bridge, Salt Sulphur Springs, Old Redbooth Church, Monocove Lake State Park, Eastern Continental Divide, Old Sweet Springs.

■ **Nearby attractions:** Alle-

gheny Mountains; caves and caverns like Organ Cave, Roncove, a National Natural Landmark. (204) 645-7000. www.organcave.com, daily tours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Thanksgiving, and The Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs. www.greenbrier.com, (304) 453-4658.

■ **Information:** Visit www.byways.org and search for West Virginia. For help with accommodations, contact the state's tourism office at (800) 225-5982 or via www.visitva.com.

TRAVEL Guide

Radisson Beach Resort Fort Walton Beach/Destin

Offseason Special - \$88 per night. *Fragrant room with beautiful view. Includes: breakfast, swimming pool, tennis, and more. New Low 7.99 per night. *Taxes and fees extra. *Three night minimum. Based on availability. Price varies by room type. 1-800-323-3233 or visit our site at www.radisson.com/Florida

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make it an autumn to remember...

fall into nashville!

Looking for that one-of-a-kind fall weekend getaway?

There's nowhere to compare with Nashville — musical happenings, sporting events and cultural activities at every turn. Plan now to take in the colorful sights and sounds of THE Music City before the warm weather slips away. From bruising sports action and exciting entertainment and attractions to world-class shopping and dining, the Nashville heat never slows down. For more information, check out www.musiccityusa.com/ingy or call 877.259.4715.

Nashville THE Music City

For an afternoon day trip, drive to Lynchburg and tour the Jack Daniel's Distillery where Jack has been making sour mash whiskey for almost 140 years.

NHL Nashville Predators vs. Columbus Blue Jackets — October 18
Comcast Arena — October 18
Columbus Jackets — October 20
Dallas Stars — November 1
Chicago Blackhawks — November 7

Wynonna, Kimberley Locke and Leah
Celtic Events Center at Belmont University
October 20

Broadway in Nashville at TPAC
"Thoroughly Modern Mollie"
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
October 21

15th Annual Jack Daniel's World Championship Invitational Barbecue
Wynn Park - Lynchburg, TN
October 25

Full Circle: Rosanne Cash and Friends
Ryman Auditorium
October 25

Ghosts at Grassmere
Nashville Zoo at Grassmere
October 25 - 31

Widespread Panic and The Wallers
Anderson Amphitheatre
October 25

Nashville Symphony presents
Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
November 1-4

Blue Man Group, Tracy Bonham and Venus Han
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
November 9

NFL Tennessee Titans vs. Miami Dolphins — November 9
Jacksonville Jaguars — November 18

Tony Hawk's Boom Boom Huck Jam
Gaylord Entertainment Center
November 12

Nashville Symphony presents An Evening with
Olivia Newton-John
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
November 14

Harry Connick Jr.
Ryman Auditorium
November 17

Broadway in Nashville at TPAC
"The Full Monty"
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
November 18, 23

Isle Lovett
Ryman Auditorium
November 19

Wayne Newton
Ryman Auditorium
December 8

Inside
Ask the expert
Festivals
Calendar
Books

1 Man hopes giant tornado model will attract Kansas tourists. 2H

Montgomery Advertiser

Arts & Travel

H
Sunday
Oct. 12, 2003

Rick Harmon
Features editor
Phone (205) 261-1151 • Fax 261-1148
421 Motion Street Montgomery, AL 36104

Artsline

BOOKS

Simpkins to sign new book Tuesday

Daphne Simpkins, who teaches writing at Auburn University, Montgomery, will sign copies of her book "The Long Goodnight: My Father's Journey Into Alzheimer's," from 8 to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Simpkins wrote "The Long Goodnight: My Father's Journey Into Alzheimer's," published as part of the African American Biographies for Young Readers Series by Montgomery's Jannet Press. She has also been published in such publications as the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Miami Herald*.

ARTS FESTIVAL

Kentuck Festival opens Saturday

The 32nd Annual Kentuck Festival, featuring more than 300 exhibiting artists, will be held Saturday and Oct. 19 in Northport.

There also will be two stages of musicians, including C.J. Chenier, Steve Riley, Kate Campbell, Steve Furbert and the Hot Club of Cowtown.

Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for the festival in Kentuck Park. Call (205) 798-1257 for more information.

THEATER

Troy State University presents Greek classic

Your final chance to see Troy State University's production of "Antigone" will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Trojan Center Theatre.

Tickets are \$5 for general admission. Students get in free with a valid TSU ID. Tickets may be purchased at the Trojan Center Box Office. For more information, call (334) 670-3714.

The production of the classic Sophocles tragedy includes a score composed by TSU student Thomas Newman of Hawkinsville, Ga., and will be performed by a live orchestra composed mostly of TSU music students.

The costumes were designed by Jessica Culp, a TSU student from Montgomery. The play also features a full-scale war scene choreographed by TSU adjunct professor Mike Rhyns, who specializes in combat scenes.

Page edited and designed by Michelle Jones

By Robyn Bradley Lichfield Montgomery Advertiser

A group of children teemed with enthusiasm as they gathered Monday in the Cleveland Avenue YMCA gymnasium. After launching into a sing-song series of chants, the circle of adolescents added movement, rhythmically waving their arms, stomping their feet and making other moves.

"Yes, yes, yes," instructor Lydia Patterson chanted.

"Yes, yes, yes," the group echoed.

"No, no, no," Patterson said.

"No, no, no," the children cried. Within a few minutes, the activity began to resemble a cross between a game of Duck, Duck, Goose and a Native American rain dance.

Actually, the 10- to 12-year-olds were warming up their voices and muscles as part of a new program at the Cleveland Avenue Y. For almost a month, the children have met twice a week for "Creating Original Opera."

Jessica Perkins, 10, left, shows the group her parents' reaction to the creation of the opera, as Jalyssa Jackson, 11, watches.

It is an after-school program sponsored by the Y branch, Huntingdon College and the world-renowned Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Shelley Bransford of the Metropolitan Opera Guild's education department said the program was created in 1980 and is taught in schools around the world.

But this particular program is unique, she said.

ARTS

"This is the first time we have had students from a university or college working with schoolchildren," she said.

And both James W. Glass of Huntingdon and Betty Perdue, a Montgomery resident on the guild board, were instrumental in getting this new version going.

In other programs in such places as Alabama Christian Academy in Montgomery, School of Discovery in Selma and Venevia West Elementary in Vado, teachers trained by Bransford and her staff teach children.

Here, Patterson and fellow instructor Milton E. Williams, both junior music majors at Huntingdon, are teaching the children, said James W. Glass, chairman of Huntingdon's music, dance and fine arts department.

The idea for the current program stemmed from Huntingdon's three-year-old summer camp for high school singers. During that time, the campers have worked with children from this Y branch, and the past two years, they have helped the little ones create short operas based on fairy tales or nursery rhymes, Glass said.

When Glass and Perdue began working on the after-school project, Glass said he selected Patterson and Williams. They then attended an intensive weeklong training this past summer in Columbus, Ga.

"They had the art of skills needed for this project," he said.

They both have enjoyed the experience.

Williams, who was introduced to opera when he came to Huntingdon, said he has been impressed with the children.

"They are so willing to work with us. And they really like opera, which is rare these days," he said.

Patterson agreed about the children's eagerness to learn.

"Originally, we said we would start at 4 o'clock and end at 5," said Patterson, who also was introduced to opera her freshman year at Huntingdon. "But then

Eleven-year-olds Jerica Talley, left, and Adrian McEmore join other members of the newly formed Amazing Temptations opera company Monday in racing to get their guidebooks. The children, who had just finished their warmup exercises, meet at the Cleveland Avenue YMCA each week for "Creating Original Opera." The company will present their production in January 2004.

Davis Elementary fifth-grader Adrian McEmore, 11, right, grasps the knee of Antionette Cunningham, 10, whose fist is clenched. They are preparing for an exercise in trust. Cunningham, whose eyes are shut, will be lifted by the rest of the troupe and then set back down again.

WANT TO GO?

- **What:** "Creating Original Opera," a partnership between the Cleveland Avenue YMCA, Huntingdon College and the Metropolitan Opera in New York.
- **Performance:** The original opera should be completed by late December and performed in January 2004.
- **Where:** Cleveland Avenue YMCA, 265-0566, 1201 Rosa Parks Ave.

Photos by Claudia B. Laws
Montgomery Advertiser

TRAVEL

Resist plowing through West Virginia's scenic highway

Spot fall foliage, friendly farmers along leisurely October drive

By Pam Ramsey
The Associated Press

PICKAWAY, W.Va. — Farming has been a fixture in southern West Virginia's Monroe County since the 1700s, so when talk began of creating a national scenic byway to lure tourists, it wasn't hard to choose what to promote.

Established in 1996, the Farm Heritage Road winds 58 miles from Peterstown to the Virginia state line near Sweet Springs, through verdant valleys and rolling hills filled with cows and cornfields, barns and balers.

Around any given bend, a traveler is likely to see something related to agriculture, including the historic Cook's Mill near Greenville. The restored mill was built in 1867 on the site of an earlier mill constructed in the 1700s.

One of the historic farmsteads along the byway is the Estill block house, built on Indian Creek near Union by Wallace Estill in the 1700s and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The three-story stone structure's 18-inch thick walls served as protection against Indian raids.

Seasonal attractions include fall foliage, which peaks in mid to late

Landscapes along the Farm Heritage Road reflect the region's agricultural heritage such as this farm, near Forest Hill, W.Va. Established in 1996, the Farm Heritage Road winds 58 miles from Peterstown to the Virginia state line near Sweet Springs.

West Virginia Page 3H

Dan E. Way
Metrowriter
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425 Molton St.
Montgomery AL 36104

Tri-County

COVERING MONTGOMERY, AUTAUGA AND ELMORE COUNTIES

Thursday
April 22, 2004
FY Alabama 28
Obituaries 48

MORE TRI-COUNTY NEWS PAGE 1A

A Montgomery County jury on Wednesday finds Calvin Coolidge Dixon Jr. guilty of raping and abusing four family members.

Art on the Avenue is changing addresses. It is moving from Highland Avenue to Oak Park.

St. James and Elmore County high schools advance in the Class 4A state baseball playoffs; they will play each other next.

Authenticity is the name of the game when Americans get together to relieve the pain, and the Battle of Selma is no exception.

YOU SAID IT
"I didn't know nothing about it 'til the DA came and busted up my house. I moved in with my mother when I found out about it."
— Wade Dixon, who is charged with aiding and abetting husband Calvin Coolidge Dixon Jr. in sex crimes, commenting after her husband's conviction on rape and abuse charges. See story on page 1A.

GIFTED STUDENTS
Has your second-grader been tested for gifted programs at his or her school? All Alabama schools are required to screen students for gifted programs by the second grade, and we'd like to hear about your experiences.
— good or bad, if you'd like to be included in a story about gifted education, call Ken L. Spear at (334) 240-0122 or e-mail him at kspear@montgomeryadvertiser.com.

DATEBOOK
Today
The Montgomery Capital City Golf Club Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be 11:30 a.m. today at the Emerald Mountain Golf Club in Wetumpka. The tournament will benefit the Partners in Education program. Entry fees are \$150 per player or \$500 per team. Cash prizes will be awarded for the best score in five category levels, and the high-in-one contest will earn the winner a trip for two to the 2005 Masters in Augusta, Ga. (334) 277-7471.
The Montgomery Planning Commission will meet at 5 p.m. today at City Hall, 101 N. Perry St.
The Mental Health Association in Montgomery Roundtable Discussion will have Christine Palmer presenting, "Obsessive Compulsive Disorder" from 1 p.m. today at the Mental Health Association offices, 1116 S. Hull St. (334) 262-5500.
—Montgomery Advertiser

FOOD INSPECTIONS

HIGHEST	Rating
The Last Supper 378 Woodburn Blvd.	99
Karaoke Kountry 106 Columbia Blvd.	99
McDonald's 1925 East Blvd.	99
Subway 501 N. Union Street	98
Brunch with her 918 Exchange Parkway	98
LOWEST	Rating
The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant 2700 East Blvd.	85
KFC #76066 111 W. Lawrence Ave.	84

Source: Montgomery County Health Department.
Full list Page 28

Officer in shooting set to return

By Marty Roney
Montgomery Advertiser
The Prattville police lieutenant who accidentally shot and killed a fellow officer Jan. 11 in a training accident will return to work Monday.
Lt. Dan Jones will be on "restricted" duty handling

administrative chores, Prattville Mayor Jim Byard said. Jones shot officer Clinton Earl Walker once in the abdomen. Walker, a third-year patrol officer on second shift, later died in a Montgomery hospital. He was the first Prattville officer to die in the line of duty. Jones was the supervisor of the second shift.

20-year veteran, of any criminal wrongdoing in the case two weeks ago to an Elmore County grand jury. The grand jury cleared Jones, a

Danny Jones and we felt Danny's returning to work was proper," the mayor said. "He has been cleared by the grand jury."

Event offers public insight

The program allows residents to see what public school administrators do

By Deidra M. Lemons
Montgomery Advertiser
MONTGOMERY — "You can do it, I know you can," Jaeson Lowe, Pinfish Elementary School principal, said to a third-grader as they read together Thursday morning.
Lowe was one of more than two dozen Montgomery public school administrators who were followed by a community, civic leader or Montgomery County resident as part of the 2004 Shadowing Program.
The program, which is sponsored by the Montgomery Education Foundation and the school system, was designed to allow members of the community to experience a day in the shoes of a system administrator, schools superintendent, or a principal.
This year, one of the main focuses of the program was the Alabama Reading Initiative, said Caroline Montgomery.
"People don't realize all the personal and home issues educators and administrators must deal with before the day even begins," she said.
This was the first year, Shanetha Patterson, E.D.

3rd-graders' team effort creates unique opera

Photos by Mickey Webb Advertiser

Alabama Christian Academy third-graders Leana Davis, standing, and Taylor Norman perform Tuesday during a dress rehearsal of their self-written and produced opera, "The Competition," at the school in Montgomery.

All 54 third-graders worked on the production, including writing, acting and working backstage.

Teachers help, but show belongs to the students

By Mike Gilliland
Montgomery Advertiser

It took one short recess period for Anna Hatcher, 8, and Alexandra Ashcraft, 9, to write their first song. "The Alabama Christian Academy third-graders composed, "What Cha' Made Of" for their grade's original opera, "The Competition," before the script was even finished. They were pleasantly surprised when the song made it into the production.
"We didn't think it was that good," Alexander said. "Since Mrs. (Tisha) Housley, a music teacher at the school, is the director of the opera, we had every third-grader — 54 in all — to work, whether it be writing, acting or one of the many backstage jobs. This is the 10th year the school's third-graders have produced their own opera, a project that Housley said helps students learn life lessons.
"It's a team effort," Housley said. "They have to learn cooperation, and how to work together."
The opera is an offshoot of the Metropolitan Opera.

Breia Sanders, left, and Hannah Merren go over their lines during a rehearsal. The third-graders will have two performances of their opera today.

Sewage technology doesn't go to waste

By Marty Roney
Montgomery Advertiser
Sewage is going high-tech in Millbrook.
The city is investing about \$1.4 million for a system that will cut the production of sewage sludge to almost nothing. The so-called cannibal system uses micro-organisms to destroy the sludge, a byproduct of the sewage treatment process. The city now applies the sludge to a landfill, where it acts as fertilizer. The treatment plant produces about 600,000 gallons of sludge a month.

HOW THE PLANT WILL WORK
Millbrook's wastewater treatment plant treats a million gallons of sewage per day, producing about 600,000 gallons of sludge per month. The cannibal system to which the city soon will convert will reduce the sludge production through a process that removes a portion of sewage, enabling naturally occurring micro-organisms to be grown in a culture-like atmosphere. Once the cooking process is completed, the "bugs" are pumped into the remaining sewage in a highly oxygenated environment, and the resulting chemical process destroys the sewage and sludge.
gins can be grown in a culture-like atmosphere. Once the cooking process is completed, the "bugs" are pumped into the remaining

Early morning blaze destroys home

PRATTVILLE — A home at 1054 Alabama St., west of Prattville, was destroyed in an early Wednesday morning fire.
The fire was reported at 7:30 a.m. with the first unit from Booth Volunteer Fire Department arriving at 7:30 a.m., dispatch records show. Volunteer fire departments from Booth and Pine Level were dispatched. After arriving, the volunteer units requested Prattville Fire Department respond in a mutual aid request.
The home suffered heavy smoke and fire damage throughout, PFD Capt. Don Johnson said. No one was at home at the time and no firefighters were injured. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Lloyd Galloway Advertiser

Firefighters put out an early-morning fire Wednesday that destroyed this home west of Prattville on 1054 Alabama St. No one was home at the time of the fire and there were no injuries reported.

Tri-Countyline

Speaker stresses dangers of sex
MONTGOMERY — Kenna Thomas recalls her high school days and her dream about becoming an athlete and smart. But she also learned that she was having sex with a lot of guys.
Thomas, a health educator with the Gift of Life Foundation, used a frank discussion with the students at Houston Hill Junior High School about sexually transmitted diseases.
"You can't look at someone and tell if someone has an STD," she said.
Thomas used a demonstration with water in which students poured water from their cups into an inverted cup and then tried to remember who they "shared" it with.

Youth arts show concludes Friday

PRATTVILLE — The Prattville Performing Arts Center will conclude the Prattville youth arts show today and Friday.
The Performing Arts Center is located in downtown Prattville at 200 West 10th St. The show has been running since Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The art show features works from students in grades K-12 in schools in Autauga and Elmore counties. The show began with a reception April 18.
The Department of Leisure Services and the Prattville Creative and Performing Arts Council sponsored the event. For more information, call (334) 361-3660.

Bond revoked after two DUIs

PRATTVILLE — An Autauga County woman charged with a DUI-related murder had her bond revoked by a judge Wednesday after it came to light she had been convicted of two DUIs while out on bond.
Mary Kristina Jackson, 33, of County Road 33 in Jones, surrendered shortly before 4 p.m. Wednesday. The delay allowed Jackson to get medical records her attorney needs for her murder trial on the week of May 10.
Circuit Judge John Bush said he hoped to prevent a delay in Jackson's murder trial.
The subsequent DUI convictions are in Dallas County, court records show.

10F The Montgomery Advertiser

COVER STORY

Thursday, March 19, 1998 11F

Oscar ballot

Here's a shortened Oscar ballot in case you want to have an Oscar pool. Our predicted winners are marked.

Best Picture

- ☐ As Good As It Gets
- ☐ The Full Monty
- ☐ Good Will Hunting
- ☐ L.A. Confidential
- ☐ Titanic

Best Actor

- ☐ Matt Damon
- ☐ Good Will Hunting
- ☐ Robert Duvall
- ☐ The Apostle
- ☐ Peter Fonda
- ☐ L.A. Confidential
- ☐ Dustin Hoffman
- ☐ The Full Monty
- ☐ Jack Nicholson
- ☐ As Good As It Gets

Best Actress

- ☐ Helena Bonham Carter
- ☐ The Wings of the Dove
- ☐ Julie Christie
- ☐ The English Patient
- ☐ Judi Dench
- ☐ Mrs. Brown
- ☐ Helen Hunt
- ☐ As Good As It Gets
- ☐ Kate Winslet
- ☐ Titanic

Best Supporting Actor

- ☐ Robert Fuster
- ☐ L.A. Confidential
- ☐ Anthony Hopkins
- ☐ The English Patient
- ☐ Greg Kinnear
- ☐ Good As It Gets
- ☐ Best Reynolds
- ☐ Robin Williams
- ☐ Good Will Hunting

Best Supporting Actress

- ☐ Kim Basinger
- ☐ L.A. Confidential
- ☐ Jean-Claude
- ☐ As a Coy
- ☐ Nicole Driver
- ☐ Good Will Hunting
- ☐ Helena Bonham Carter
- ☐ The English Patient
- ☐ L.A. Confidential
- ☐ Cameron

Best Director

- ☐ Peter Jackson
- ☐ The Full Monty
- ☐ The Full Monty
- ☐ Good Will Hunting
- ☐ L.A. Confidential
- ☐ Cameron
- ☐ The English Patient
- ☐ L.A. Confidential
- ☐ Cameron

Original screenplay

- ☐ Mark Andrus
- ☐ James L. Brooks
- ☐ As Good As It Gets
- ☐ Paul Thomas Anderson
- ☐ The English Patient
- ☐ Woody Allen
- ☐ Deconstructing Harry
- ☐ Simon Braddy
- ☐ The Full Monty
- ☐ Ben Affleck & Matt Damon
- ☐ Good Will Hunting

Oscar casts its net for best of the best

'Titanic' likely to sink while carrying away its statuettes

By Rick Harmon
MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

Those serious about winning their Oscar pools should remember two things: "The Titanic" is a behemoth that cannot be stopped, and that some of the words that said these same words almost 80 years ago, not with disease.

"If last year was the year of independence, this year will be the year to sink with a long shot, which Hollywood makes sure everyone realizes it is still king. When independent films dominated all the major Oscar categories last year, it led to a deluge of 'Is Hollywood dead?' stories. How do you think Hollywood voters are going to vote this year? Let's go from generalizations to specifics.

First, let's make it clear that while "The Titanic" may not have smooth sailing, it is too big not to carry off plenty of Oscars. The best picture and best director Oscars will almost certainly go to "The Titanic" and its director James Cameron. Part of this is because it is a wonderful story. Initially even Paramount officials were reported to be saying that there was about as much chance of a teen-age girl turning down a date with Leonardo DiCaprio as of the film turning a profit. Also, looking at one big thing, you can expect Hollywood voters to realize that last year's time age of "You can make great films down to a two-performer team, this time between Robin Williams, L.A. Confidential" and "Titanic" for best picture and best director.

That leads to best actor: I guarantee "Titanic" won't win this one. DiCaprio wasn't nominated. As always, this is one of the most highly contested categories, but everyone seems to believe that it will lead down to a battle between Robert Duvall for "The Apostle" and Jack Nicholson for "The English Patient."

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Robin Williams, right, is a favorite for Best Supporting Actor for 'Good Will Hunting.' The film also stars Matt Damon, who is nominated for Best Actor.

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Helen Hunt and Jack Nicholson, center, are favored for Oscars for 'As Good As It Gets.' Greg Kinnear also was nominated.

TEST YOUR OSCAR KNOWLEDGE

"Titanic" deals with parents trying to get from one place to another. Here are a few trivia questions about other films of transportation.

1) What was the last movie to win best picture in which a large portion of the action took place on ships?

2) What transportation was Helen Hayes taking when she won her Oscar?

3) What transportation was Helen Hayes taking when she won her Oscar?

4) Which best picture ever dealt with a reporter and socialite on a bus ride?

5) Which best picture featured transportation on the ground, on the sea and in the air?

6) Which best picture featured transportation on the ground, on the sea and in the air?

7) What mode of transportation was Thomas Mitchell taking in the film for which he won his Oscar?

ANSWERS, 12F

1) As Good As It Gets. 2) A trolley. 3) A trolley. 4) The Apartment. 5) The Hustler. 6) The Hustler. 7) The Hustler.



Gloria Stuart, center, is up for Best Supporting Actress for her role in 'Titanic.'

Also, this is one of the most highly contested categories, but everyone seems to believe that it will lead down to a battle between Robert Duvall for "The Apostle" and Jack Nicholson for "The English Patient."



THE SOUTHEASTERN LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

begins Friday at Montgomery's Garrett Coliseum. See Page 3F for details.

VIN RECORDS RECORDING ARTISTS

Brother Came will perform a 10 p.m. Friday concert at Sports Rock Cafe. See Page 15F; music best bets, for details.

THE BORDEN QUARTET PERFORMS A 3 P.M. SUNDAY CONCERT

at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts as part of the Montgomery/Chamber Music Organization series. See Page 15F; music best bets, for details.

PEARL CLEAGE, AN AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT, ESSAYIST AND NOVELIST, WILL READ FROM HER WORKS AND HAVE A BOOK-SIGNING AT 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY AT ROOTS & WINGS. IT'S FREE. Call 262-1700.

THE MONTGOMERY BALLET WILL PERFORM "SLEEPING BEAUTY ACT 1" AND "SCHNEIZELADE" AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY AND 2 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M. SATURDAY AT THE DAVIS THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS. TICKETS ARE \$10-\$15 WITH \$25 FOR CHOICE SEATS AND \$50 FOR SELECT SEATS AND CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION. Call 409-0522.

ACA JAM, A PRODUCTION COMPANY OF 65 THIRD-GRADERS AT ALABAMA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, WILL PERFORM "I CAN'T ... WE CAN," AN OPERA, WHICH THEY WROTE AND PRODUCED, AT 7 P.M. TODAY IN THE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM OF ALABAMA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, 4700 WILSON FERRY ROAD. ADMISSION TO THE PRODUCTION, WHICH IS PART OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA GUILD'S CREATING ORIGINAL OPERA PROGRAM, IS \$2. 277-1965.

OR PICK YOUR OWN BEST BETS:

GETTING AWAY	4F
DINING	6F
MUSIC	7F
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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1992

The Montgomery Advertiser

PAGE 3B

Brother says nothing, delays trial

By MARY ORNDORFF
Staff Writer

The brother of a man on trial for murder was scheduled to testify Wednesday, but elected to consult an attorney before he spoke because he is charged in the same slaying.

Roy Vernon Smithman, 55, took the stand at the request of his brother's defense attorney.

However, when the judge reminded Mr. Smithman of his rights, he opted to keep quiet. Montgomery Circuit Judge William Gordon suspended the murder trial of Robert Donald Smithman, 44, Wednesday afternoon to allow the brother to obtain an attorney.

Testimony resumes at 9 a.m. today.

The brothers, both of Shelby Lane, were indicted by the same Montgomery County grand jury in March in the January shooting death of Jerry Carter at Jimmy's Lounge on Congressman William L. Dickinson Drive.

A delay caused Roy Vernon Smithman not to be served with his indictment until last week and he had not yet been appointed counsel or entered a plea in the case, attorneys said.

Prosecutors are alleging the pair beat Mr. Carter during an argument over a pool game and Robert Donald Smithman pulled a .32-caliber pistol, shooting Mr. Carter, 36, of Hope Hill.

Deputy District Attorney John Gibbs said Roy Vernon Smithman is charged with aiding and abetting in the slaying.

Mr. Carter was pronounced dead on the scene from a single gunshot wound just below his left ear.

A state medical examiner testified the weapon had to have been "a few inches and probably closer" to the victim when the trigger was pulled.

Robert Donald Smithman's attorney, Benjamin Pool, argued earlier in the trial that Mr. Carter attacked his client.

Mr. Pool said Mr. Carter was drunk, carrying a pool cue and a knife. Prosecutors allege the brothers planted the knife on Mr. Carter's body to "make it look like self-defense."

A verdict is expected by the end of the day.



On stage

Tiffany Robinson, left, and Cliff Weatherly pick up trash to be recycled during "Save Our Earth," an original opera written, produced and performed by Head Elementary School pupils Tuesday night. Tiffany had the role of Sasashita Evergreen and Cliff was Logan Evergreen in the performance. The project, partly funded by a mini-grant from the Montgomery Public Schools, is part of the "Creating Original Opera" series of the Metropolitan Opera of New York.

Elmore BOE gears up for improvement project

Staff Report

WETUMPKA — The Elmore County Board of Education, gearing up for a \$3 million school improvement project, plans a feasibility study at each of the county's 13 schools.

The school board Tuesday night unanimously approved hiring architects to study classroom needs at each school in anticipation of the building program.

The board is seeking a bond issue for the improvements, said Superintendent Roberta Pilcher. The bond would be paid off over a 12-year period using revenue from the county's 7-mill property tax earmarked for schools.

The school system collects about \$19 million in property taxes, but because of other school debts allocates only a portion of that each year to pay off the bond.

Meanwhile, the school board approved the purchase of up to five portable classrooms for students in grades four through six at Wetumpka Elementary School.

The 2-year-old, doublewide building, which the Elba school system is selling for \$18,000 each, are intended as a stop-gap solution for overcrowding, Mrs. Pilcher said.

The school board is awaiting a feasibility study on whether a new school should be constructed in the Redland community. Construction would help ease overcrowding at Wetumpka Elementary and also would eliminate the need for additional classrooms there, Mrs. Pilcher said.

A bill exempting lawmakers from Economic and Community Affairs that will assist the laid-off workers in looking for new jobs and new career opportunities.

"We are looking to them for help in obtaining new contracts for them (Hughes) or for help in converting part of the jobs to civilian type production work," Mayor Slade said. "Hughes has a good track record for helping their employees. They are committed to their employees and to the community."

Mr. Gaffery said the plant opened in Fafala in October 1982 and is a subsidiary of Hughes Aircraft. The plant produces wiring harnesses for missiles, he said.

PREPAID AFFORDABLE COLLEGE TUITION 1992 CONTRACT PRICES

Current grade/age	Enrollment year	Single payment	Extended payment	5-year payment
8th	1996-97	\$7,253	\$185	N/A
7th	1997-98	7,133	151	N/A
6th	1998-99	6,891	127	143
5th	1999-2000	6,765	111	140
4th	2000-01	6,494	97	135
3rd	2001-02	6,364	88	133
2nd	2002-03	6,069	79	127
1st	2003-04	5,936	73	125
6	2004-05	5,625	67	119
5	2005-06	5,492	63	116
4	2006-07	5,171	58	110
3	2007-08	5,038	55	107
2	2008-09	4,714	51	101
1	2009-10	4,584	48	98
0	2010-11	4,458	46	96

Tuition plan deadline is May 31

Staff Report

Parents who want to begin paying for their children's college education this year may do so by joining the state's Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Program by May 31.

The program provides a shelter against rising college tuition by allowing parents to pay for college based on current tuition rates.

The program allows parents to pay one of three ways — in one lump sum, in monthly payments until the child reaches college or in monthly payments over five years.

A PACT contract guarantees tuition to one of the state's public colleges or universities and can be applied toward tuition to a private or out-of-state school.

The plan's \$70 million trust fund grew at a 12.5 percent rate last year through earnings from its investments.

More than 20,000 students-to-be are signed up for the program.

Sign-up forms are available at most area banks.

People needing information may call 1-800-ALA-PACT.

ALABAMA GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

New water standards will cost cities more

By KATHERINE BOUMA
Staff Writer

The State Committee of Public Health approved new drinking water standards that will require testing for more chemicals and quicker notification of problems.

"It is possible for a contaminant to be out of line for a full 12-month period of time before we would be notified of the violation," Dr. Earl Fox, state health officer, said at Wednesday's committee meeting.

Local water systems will be required to register and pay for the tests, while the Alabama Department of Environmental Management will have to monitor the testing.

ADEM officials said it's too early to guess the cost of the program.

"I'll all would depend if they find something to trigger the continuing need for these things," ADEM spokeswoman Catherine Lamar said. "That's where the real costs come in."

The committee adopted an amendment to the drinking water standards that would require ADEM to notify the Health Department within 10 days of finding elevated levels of a contaminant.

The new contaminants, for which drinking water must be tested because of new federal regulations include antimony, asbestos, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cyanide, lead, nickel, polychlorinated biphenyls, styrene, toluene, and several other organochlorines.

Later in Wednesday's meeting, Dr. Fox told the committee he plans to change the state's eight health areas, each of which includes several counties and a group of administrative agencies.

He said he plans to expand to about 16 three- to five-county areas while reducing the number of administrators and increasing the number of staff working directly with patients.

Dr. Fox also told the committee he hopes to get a bill on the Legislature's special order calendar Monday to allow birth certificates and other vital statistics to be filed outside Montgomery.

"We'll have the ace. No. 1 vital statistics program in the country if this happens, and I think the odds are going to favor it," Dr. Fox said.

In other action, the committee gave preliminary approval to a plan to test newborns for cystic fibrosis, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, which is a genetic disease causing ambiguous genitalia in girls and salt-losing crises, and galactosemia, an inherited metabolic disorder that is usually fatal if not treated.

Dr. Fox said cystic fibrosis is the most common of the diseases to be screened. However, cystic fibrosis tests also have high rates of inaccuracy, he said.

Bank boss should remain despite rejection, lawyer says

By PAUL NEWBERY
Associated Press Writer

An attorney for Zack Thompson argued Wednesday that the state banking superintendent should be allowed to remain in office even though his nomination was rejected by the Alabama Senate.

"He's the most qualified man for this job in the state of Alabama," said Perry Hooper Sr., an attorney for Mr. Thompson and Gov. Guy Hunt. "He should be confirmed and if the full Senate gets a chance to vote on it, he will be."

The five-member Senate Confirmations Committee voted unanimously last year to reject Thompson's nomination. But the governor has not made another nomination, and the administration claims Mr. Thompson can remain in the \$61,000-a-year job.

"The law says he may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified," Mr. Hooper told Montgomery County Circuit Judge Joseph Field.

Mr. Hooper also argued that Mr. Thompson's appointment must be acted on by the full Senate, not just a committee.

"The nomination is not killed until the entire Senate kills it," the attorney said. "We should not let five men reject someone."

But Bill Knight, a Birmingham lawyer representing Thompson in Gov. Hunt's first term, said the judge told the attorneys, "I've just got to see which one of you has the most problems."

Another hearing was scheduled for May 28.

The Senate confirmed Mr. Thompson in Gov. Hunt's first term, but in last year's legislative session, the Confirmations Committee questioned whether Mr. Thompson had the banking experience required by state law.

Mr. Hooper said Mr. Thompson has been in the banking business for 28 years, so the experience argument was a disqualifier. Mr. Thompson said some bankers might have lined up against him because he lowered the amount state-chartered institutions could charge for credit insurance from \$1 per \$100 to 80 cents per \$100.

"Our rate was one of the highest in the country," he said. "It seemed like the logical thing to do."

Lawmaker exemption may be contested

By DAN MORSE
Staff Writer

A bill exempting lawmakers from continuing education courses could be contested in court, Gov. Guy Hunt said this week.

The governor signed the bill last month, although he hinted Tuesday he didn't know about the exemption, which is only one sentence in the middle of the 30-page bill.

"We try not to let things like that go through," Gov. Hunt said.

Terry Abbott, Gov. Hunt's spokesman, later said he didn't know if the governor was aware of the one-sentence exemption before signing the bill.

"There are times when things can be missed," Mr. Abbott said. The bill continues the existence of the Alabama Real Estate Commission and establishes criteria for holding a real estate license.

One requirement is 12 hours of continuing education, unless the broker is a legislator.

The bill's sponsor, state Sen.

Danny Corbett, D-Phenix City, is a real estate broker. He also chairs the Legislature's Sunset Committee, which reviews state agencies. He said the exemption wasn't his idea.

Speaking of Sunset Committee bills, Gov. Hunt said to prevent something controversial that might stir up opposition, they've attempted to slip a few things in those bills. And we've watched them, and we've sent them back and tried to clean them up."

Of the state's 140 legislators, 15 have real estate licenses.

Oil lease sale attracts little interest

Associated Press Report

NEW ORLEANS — A federal lease sale for offshore oil and gas properties in the Gulf of Mexico, a hot item during the oil boom days of the 1980s, drew mostly yawns Wednesday as the government took in only \$56 million.

Although the sale could have involved up to 5,200 blocks, or 28 million acres, only 151 blocks were actually leased.

The head of the federal Mineral Management Service, Scott Sewell, said the sale results "graphically demonstrate the current state of this industry."

Depressed natural gas prices were cited for the lack of interest in the leases on waterbottoms in the central Gulf offshore from Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi.

In 1985, the last year before the oil boom ended with collapse of oil prices and near-depression in oil-belt states, the federal government collected \$1.7 billion from a similar lease sale.

Family Car of the Year

For the Second Consecutive Year!

1992 marks the third year in a row of Chevrolet's premier full-size sport luxury model, Lumina, has earned many headlines since its introduction, and most recently named FAMILY CAR OF THE YEAR by the Automobile News. For the second year in a row, Lumina has been named the Family Car of the Year award for the second year in a row. Reasons for such high honors may be attributed to the safety features built in the design, including available 4-wheel anti-lock braking system (ABS), self-aligning steering wheel, and many other safety features. More strong values include a hefty 3.1 Liter V6, ANAFM Stereo Cassette, 60/40 split folding bench seat, a 3x25,000 mi. bumper to bumper factory warranty with a zero dollar deductible, and a price that is very affordable in today's car market.

For Best-Selling values and quality you can depend on, we urge you to make the '92 Lumina your car of the year.

Once again, Montgomery's Domestic 'Car of the Year' has our name all over it: **CAPITOL**

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INSIDE BC

Classifieds

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery

Wednesday
June 14, 2000

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Cityline

BRIEFLY

Means first black to lead trial lawyers

Montgomery attorney Tyronne Means will be sworn in as president of the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association on Friday, becoming the first black to head the statewide group.

Means said Tuesday he hopes his one-year term "will mark a time of growth for the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association and a time where the public better understands the vital work of the members of my association."

Means, 46, is managing partner of Thomas, Means, Gills, Irwin, Robinson and Seay, a Montgomery-based firm that also has offices in Birmingham and Atlanta. He has practiced law in Alabama for 23 years and previously served as treasurer, secretary and vice president of the organization.

The Alabama Trial Lawyers Association has about 2,000 members and is active in state politics.

Agencies to present budget proposals

Seven agencies receiving funds from the city of Montgomery and Montgomery County will present their proposed budgets today for next fiscal year before Montgomery County Commissioners.

Commissioners will see the proposals for the first time beginning at 9 this morning, said Jackie Annis, spokeswoman for the commissioners.

The departments get money from the city and county because they provide services to both.

The commission is not expected to act on the proposals at the meeting. The regular county budget hearing will be in July, Annis said. The county budget will be adopted in September.

The fiscal year is from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

Meals-on-Wheels needs volunteers

The Meals-on-Wheels Program, sponsored by the Montgomery Area Council on Aging, needs volunteers to deliver meals to homebound seniors one week, every other week, or once a month.

Routes take about one hour to deliver.

Call Esther Miller at 263-0202 to volunteer.

YOU SAID IT

"Not everybody's had their butt in National Geographic."

—Billy Missilline, who helps maintain flags flying on and around Alabama's Capitol. See story on page 1A.

DATEBOOK

Thursday

Montgomery Board of Adjustment: 5 p.m., Thursday at City Hall, 103 N. Perry St., 241-2096.

Architects: Food for Thought: Noon Thursday at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Ave. Alan Rabe will speak about "Aunt Bessie, Uncle Sam and the origins of Highway 31." 242-4363.

Friday

Last day to register to vote in runoff: Friday.

ELECTIONS

Here are the races that will be on the ballot during the June 27 runoff in Montgomery County. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Democrats

■ **County Commission, District 4:** Lillian Jackson-Jefferson (I) and Jiles Williams (I)

■ **County Commission, District 2:** Elton Dean and James Brown (I)

■ **District Court Judge, Place 2:** Bill Addison and Maryanne Prince

■ **State Board of Education, Place 3:** Ella B. Bell and Latasha Brown

Republicans

■ **Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 1:** Tony Riley and Greg Shaw

■ **Court of Civil Appeals, Place 1:** Ralph Long and Craig Pittman

■ **Note:** The general election will be Nov. 7.

—Montgomery Advertiser

www.montgomeryadvertiser.com

Man charged in homicide

Timothy Lamon Parker was arrested and charged in the death of Willie Clarence Dickerson

By Ken Roedl
Montgomery Advertiser

A 19-year-old Montgomery man was arrested Tuesday afternoon and charged in a Monday night shooting death that police say stemmed from an argument.

Willie Clarence Dickerson, 23, was killed outside Mitchell's Champagne Disco Lounge, 444 Mobile St. The business is located less than a block from Dickerson's home, and within two blocks

of the Montgomery Police Department Police Academy on Midland Street.

The Montgomery Police Department arrested Timothy Lamon Parker, of Midland Street, shortly after 3 p.m. Tuesday in connection with the homicide — Montgomery's 11th this year.

Dickerson was described as a "good guy who didn't bother nobody" Monday by his mother, Jessie Dickerson. He liked to play basketball and shoot pool when he wasn't with his girlfriend, she said.

"He left home last night (Monday) to go up the street to play pool. He wasn't gone 10 minutes before someone came down and said he was shot."



Dickerson



Parker

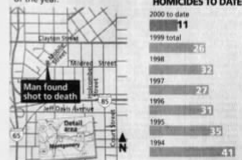
He was charged with first-degree murder and was held Tuesday in the Montgomery County Detention Facility on a \$50,000 bond.

Dickerson said her son and his cousin often played basketball with Parker. He had even been to their house on several occasions, she said.

"It hurts even more because they did know each other, and because he (her son) didn't feel with anybody," she said Tuesday night.

The area near the shooting site is not really a bad one, said George Williams, who works at an Alcohol Beverage Control Board Store within

MONDAY HOMICIDE
Willie Clarence Dickerson, 23, was found shot to death in the street Monday night. His homicide is Montgomery's 11th of the year.



HOMICIDES TO DATE

Year	Total
1999	11
1998	7
1997	7
1996	3
1995	3
1994	4

Wendy Sullivan Staff

Cyclers pedal for fun, recognition of sport

By Alvin Benn
Montgomery Advertiser

Nothing seemed to faze Atlanta's Mikee Walsh Tuesday morning as he methodically pedaled his way along U.S. 90 between Selma and Montgomery.

Car, trucks, vans and tractor-trailers whizzed by, providing brief wind relief as he rounded a curve and headed up a steep hill toward the Collier community in Lowndes County.

By mid-morning, he and those in his group of cyclists were looking forward to arriving at Jefferson Davis High School in Montgomery to complete the latest leg of their long trip.

"We all ride at our own pace," said Mikee, who lives in Lithonia, Ga., and was supervising three teenagers on the trip. "We've trained for a month to get ready."

More than 300 riders are taking part in a five-week, 2,000-mile bicycle ride from Tallahassee, Fla., to Charlottesville, Va., and Montgomery was one of several stops along the way.

The trip is dubbed Bike South 2000 and is as much an effort to raise awareness about the popularity of bicycles as it is to complete the long ride.

By the time the riders arrive in Charlottesville, Va. July 7, they will have pedaled their way through Florida, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and part of Virginia.

Each state has a group of avid cyclists and those courses were mapped out with precision. In Alabama, the riders visited Florida, Evergreen, Camden, Selma and Montgomery by Tuesday.

They head to Troy today and will ride through Eufaula on their way to Georgia.

Morton Archibald of Huntsville and John Peck, Montgomery bureau chief of the Huntsville Times, helped create BAMA, Inc., which stands for "Bicycle Across Magnificent Alabama." Archibald said, during a stop at the U.S. Corps of Engineers building in White Hall on Tuesday morning.

"That's a pretty good name, considering John and I are



Todd Van Emst Staff

From left, Tessa McKinley of Raleigh, N.C., Linda Atkinson of Clearwater, Fla., Lee McDonald of Brewton and Rory Callahan of Oxford, Md., prepare to make a left turn before finishing Tuesday's leg of their 2,000-mile bike trek.



Mikee Walsh Staff

Alan Rupe of Wichita, Kan., talks with fellow rider Maya Sigard of Atlanta as they settle in for the night at Jefferson Davis High School in Montgomery.

both Auburn graduates," said Archibald, with a big smile. "We're doing our best to promote cycling and this is a good way to do it."

The event has been nearly incident free since it began in



Matthew Mease Staff

Educator honored for bringing opera to state

By Bob Johnson
The Associated Press

Betty Perdue remembered the strange looks and comments she received when she first had the idea of bringing a program of New York's prestigious Metropolitan Opera to Alabama.

"The opera is coming to town and I don't mean cry," was one of the comments Perdue remembered Tuesday as she was honored by the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

Perdue is the retired music director for the State Board of Education. Two years ago she was sitting at her desk in Montgomery and came across a brochure for the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Creative Original Opera program. The program is designed to teach children by getting them to create their own opera.

Perdue went to the Metropolitan Opera in 1980 and participated in a program

"It's absolutely phenomenal to see children take responsibility for their own learning. The teachers are not even allowed back stage when they put on their operas."

—Betty Perdue, retired educator who brought the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Creative Original Opera program to Alabama.

aimed at showing teachers how to get their students to create opera.

"When I graduated from high school, the yearbook said, 'she'll make it to the Met.' I figured this was the only way I would get there," Perdue said.

She liked what she learned in the Big Apple and encouraged the guild to bring their program to Montgomery.

"I said this has got to happen in Alabama."

Thanks to Perdue, for the past 10 summers the guild has held a training session for teachers at Auburn University Montgomery.

Metropolitan Opera Guild program director Shellie Bransford presented Perdue with a certificate of appreciation from New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Perdue said she hopes schoolchildren in Alabama and across the South have benefited from the exposure to opera.

"It's absolutely phenomenal to see children take responsibility for their own learning. The teachers are not even allowed back stage when they put on their operas," she said.



The Associated Press

Betty Perdue, left, accepts a certificate of appreciation from Shellie Bransford, program director of the Metropolitan Opera Guild. The certificate is from New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Perdue is a former music director for the State Board of Education.

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MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

LOCAL

SECTION
WEDNESDAY
March 16, 1994

Car wreck kills 2-year-old girl

■ **Fatal accident:** The girl, who was riding in a child-safety seat, was killed instantly

STAFF REPORT

A 2-year-old Elmore County girl was killed and her parents injured Monday in a single-vehicle accident just south of Wetumpka.

Alexandria Lane Britt, who was riding in a child-safety seat, was killed instantly in the accident, Alabama State Troopers said.

Her father, Virgil Warren Britt, 25, 580 Sewell Road in Titus, was driving when the

car veered off the highway and ran into a culvert, troopers said.

The accident occurred at 4:25 p.m. Monday on U.S. 231, one-tenth of a mile south of Wetumpka.

Kelli Britt, Mr. Britt's wife and the child's mother, also was riding in the car,

troopers said.

Mrs. Britt was taken to Elmore Community Hospital immediately after the accident and later transferred to Baptist Medical Center, a spokeswoman for Elmore Community Hospital said Tuesday.

Mrs. Britt was listed in serious condition

Tuesday at Baptist Medical Center, said spokesman Rick Derrick.

Mr. Britt suffered minor injuries in the accident and was treated and released Monday from Elmore Community Hospital, a spokeswoman said.

Troopers said that both Mr. Britt and Mrs. Britt were wearing seatbelts.

Titus, the small community in north Elmore county where the Britt's live, is about 15 miles from the site of the accident.

The cause of the fatal accident remains under investigation, troopers said.

Ragan Ingram My HOMETOWN

Business suits airport operator

It's a far cry from Atlanta's Hartsfield International, where it appears 747s will plop on top of your hood as you drive nearby on Interstate 85.

And it's quite different from Dannelly Field, where Air National Guard planes zip down the runway when those from Delta, Northwest and USAir aren't occupying the area.

There's no imposing tower at Wetumpka Municipal Airport. Instead, James Dunn, operator of the airport, sat under a canopy tent at a wrought iron table.

On a Tuesday morning, business was slow at Wetumpka Municipal, which is a slight misnomer. The airport is owned by the city of Wetumpka, but is operated by Mr. Dunn, who leases six acres of the airport land to run his own business of renting hangars and arranging lessons. The airport is located in Elmore, which is a lot closer to Millbrook than it is to Wetumpka.

But those are minor issues to Mr. Dunn, who at age 62 considers this "sort of a retirement job." He's a certified pilot, mechanic and inspector, but more than that, he just loves airplanes and airports.

"With this and my Social Security, I pay the bills," Mr. Dunn said. "But if I were out to make a lot of money, I'd do something else."

About 55 planes are housed at the airport, most in Mr. Dunn's hangars. There are other businesses at the airport — aircraft repair shops, parts shops, an ultralight training center and airplane paint shop.

A few friends stopped by Tuesday morning, but he realized it was bound to be a quiet day.

"The crowds are here on the weekends — Saturdays and Sundays," he said. "And some show up in the late afternoon when we get to daylight-savings time."

"We've got a pretty good crowd here. It's like the old barber shop where men gather to talk. We sit around and talk about planes, then some will go up for a while then come back in. It's a good community spot. It's better than going to a bar."

Mr. Dunn says the airport is almost strictly for "pleasure planes." Almost all the planes in the hangars are single-engine planes with two seats.

"There's only a couple of business planes out here," he said. "Most of our folks do it because they love to fly. And we've got a pretty good little airport out here."

The airport was created as an auxiliary field for Maxwell Air Field during World War II and was purchased by the city of Wetumpka following the war.

Mr. Dunn has been operating his business, Pro-Aero, since 1986. For the most part, he describes it as fun. Currently, he has no plane of his own.

"I buy and sell them all the time," he said. "I'll buy one, then someone will come along and want it more than I do, and they'll buy it."

His main complaint about the business is the cost of liability insurance, which has put a damper on the business of renting out planes.

"I pay about \$1,000 a year for insurance for myself," he said. "But it triples if I want to rent a plane out. That makes it tough to do business."

This column appears Sunday through Thursday.

SHARING THE LIMELIGHT



Thomas Hinds, conductor of the Montgomery Symphony, watches as Kwana Mosley, a sixth-grader at Davis Elementary School, leads the orchestra Tuesday. The symphony played two concerts for at least 3,500 schoolchildren in the Joe L. Reed Academe at Alabama State University in Montgomery. Twelve children conducted the concert's final selection, a march by John Philip Sousa.

Neighborhoods to start recycling

By Anne Seider
ADVERTISER STAFF WRITER

Fourteen Montgomery neighborhoods will join the city's curbside recycling program in early April, bringing to 48,000 the number of homes that participate.

Residents who are designated to join the recycling program have received a letter and flyer explaining the program and an orange bag in which to place materials for collection.

People living in Brookview Manor, Park Manor, Sheridan Heights, Bayside, Chisholm and Garden Square will begin recycling aluminum cans, glass, newspaper and paper bags on April 4. Homes in the Cloverdale area will be added to the service April 5, and Montgomeryans living in Warrenwood Estates, Regency Forest, Regency Park, Pine Forest Estates, Mosswood, Cross Creek and Spring Park will begin recycling April 7.

In his address to the City Council at Tuesday night's meeting Mayor Emory Folmar said the city's goal is to provide curbside recycling service to every house in Montgomery by the end of 1995. All indications are that the goal will be met, he said.

In other business:

■ The Council approved unanimously a resolution allowing the city to accept money from the Alabama Department of Transportation to fund the widening of Dairada Road.

The first phase of the project, for which \$500,000 in budgeted, will stretch from Atlanta Highway to Dairada Parkway. The second phase, from Dairada Parkway to the Maxwell Air Force Base Gunter Annex gate, will cost about \$1 million and will be funded from federal coffers at a later date, Mayor Folmar said.

■ Councilman Joe Reed proposed an ordinance to tighten controls on enter-

tainment and amusement licenses after he was reported to the council that a Montgomery man is siphoning city law by using an entertainment license to hold night-time parties at which alcohol is served.

To operate what is, in effect, a nightclub, the owner should have a liquor license. "He's just doing with the left hand what he knew he couldn't do with the right," Mayor Folmar said.

Mr. Reed drafted the ordinance during the last minutes of the meeting and submitted it to the clerk on the back of an envelope from a stack of mail he had brought with him to read during the meeting.

Submitting the ordinance at Tuesday night's meeting allows the council to take action on it at the next meeting on April 5.

■ Council President Joe Dickerson announced that April will be District Five Clean-Up Month.

Crackdown brings rise in violence

■ **Foretold:** Police predicted in February that drug-related violence would get worse before it gets better

By Carla Crowder
ADVERTISER STAFF WRITER

Crack-cocaine is often linked to crime, but a recent rash in street violence might be traced to a lack of crack.

In late February, when authorities shattered a drug ring they say supplied half of Montgomery's cocaine, police predicted drug-related violence would get worse before it got better.

That's because crack would be harder to find, spurring more robberies and assaults as people fight over the supply, they said.

"We did make that prediction and it has come to pass," Montgomery Police Chief John Wilson said Tuesday.

Since late February, at least five people have been shot in robberies, including a holdup Tuesday morning on Oak Street in which \$300 was taken and the victim was shot in the left foot.

Police haven't said yet whether that robbery-shooting is drug-related.

But the other four incidents from the last three weeks have been, police say.

The dearth in drugs might be responsible for the spike in robbery-shootings, but Chief Wilson said he can't guarantee the violence is connected to the drug bust.

As always, police will keep tabs on who's getting shot and why. The increase is no big shock and should level off as the positive effects of the drug bust — less crack on the streets to attract potential addicts — set in.

Authorities say they broke up an interstate drug ring led by a Miami man responsible for shipping hundreds of pounds of cocaine into Montgomery. On Feb. 19, a federal grand jury indicted 19 people on drug charges in the case.

"Already crack is harder to come by," Chief Wilson said. Some of the street corners notorious for crack sales have been stripped of their source, he said.

So far, the robbery-shootings scattered through town haven't been fatal.

On Tuesday, 21-year-old Sanford Sharpe was shot in the left foot when two men entered 4038 Oak St. and robbed him of \$300 cash, said Capt. Wyatt Gantt, a police spokesman.

Mr. Sharpe, who lives at 721 Iris Lane, told police he knew one of his attackers, police said.

No one reached at the Oak Street house would comment about the shooting or why Mr. Sharpe was there. Police had no arrests in the case late Tuesday.

Last week, a man was critically wounded after a drug-related shooting in Tulane Court. Thorin Edward Shamby, 30, remained hospitalized in stable condition Tuesday after suffering a shot to the chest.

Please turn to VIOLENCE, 2B

Pupils write, produce opera

By Angela K. Mann
ADVERTISER STAFF WRITER

Spurred by the success of last year's original opera, Alabama Christian Academy teachers are having this year's third-graders write and produce an opera as well.

And are the pupils up for it?

"I think this should be play of the year," said Josh Mosley, who plays Adam in the opera. "It's bringing tears to someone's eyes."

Abby Orr agreed. She said she thinks the high school students at Alabama Christian will be surprised at how well the third-graders do.

"We can do more than ten-agers because we have more courage," she said.

Two summers ago, some Alabama Christian teachers attended the New York Metropolitan Opera's summer workshop, Creating Original Opera. The teachers brought what they learned into the classroom and successfully staged an opera last year. They decided to give this year's class the chal-

lenge of creating an opera, too, said Karen Kilpatrick, teacher and director of the play.

The 62 third-graders have formed a production company called Kids in Action. While there are only eight people in the cast, all 62 pupils are involved in some way — as writers, composers, carpenters, electricians, stage managers, production managers, costumers or public-relations personnel.

"They auditioned for their three favorite parts," Ms. Kilpatrick said. After the auditions, the teachers decided which pupils were best suited for what positions. Some pulled double duty as performer and composer or writer and stage manager.

Because several pupils fill each production role, it is difficult at times to decide whose idea to follow, said Lindsey Hines, one of the stage managers.

Everything is being done by the pupils. The adults' role is as enabler, Ms. Kilpatrick said.

"The night of the performance only the kids will be backstage," she said.



Alabama Christian Academy third-graders performing in "Secrets in the Attic" are, from left, Hillary Karvin, Kayla Hamilton, Heather Bailey, Josh Mosley, Josh Lucas, Ashley Andrews, Parker Bentley and Abby Orr.

Please turn to OPERA, 2B

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THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2003 · THE NEWS JOURNAL RC5

Learning

An opera all their own

St. Anne's students write the story, compose the music

By SUSAN FRANKLIN MAPHIS
Special to The News Journal

Younger children are usually not associated with opera.

That is changing, however. Third- and fourth-grade students at St. Anne's Episcopal School in Middletown will present the original opera, "Tails Never Fails."

Jo Harney is the music teacher at St. Anne's and the impetus behind the school's All-Star Opera Company. Harney trained at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1989 to learn to teach students how to produce their own opera, from start to finish. This is her 13th year working on opera with students, but her first in Delaware, as St. Anne's is in its first year. Nancy Bennett, a third-grade teacher, is helping Harney with the opera.

"I attended three summer trainings at the Met, and Nancy trained there last summer," Harney said. "They train teachers the skills and tools to teach students to present an original opera. It also teaches students how to love opera."

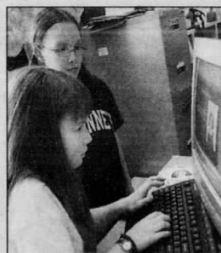
Harney is the mid-Atlantic regional coordinator for the Met's Creating Original Opera Council. COO is a process of creating, producing and performing an original opera with a group of students from any grade. The students write a script, compose music, design costumes and makeup, build sets, lights, and props and manage, promote, assess and perform an original opera. The COO Teacher Training Course provides music and classroom teachers of elementary and middle schools with the necessary skills, information, and methodology to guide their students through the Creating Original Opera process. As a result of this program, participating teachers develop an in-school opera with their students and incorporate the COO program into their school curriculum.

The opera program at St. Anne's is funded by the GE Fund and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Although the entire third and fourth grades at St. Anne's are participating in the opera this year, Harney said each stu-



Alexis Cochran applies makeup to Tyler Jenkins in Jo Harney's music class at St. Anne's Episcopal School.



Sarah Kemer (left) and Amanda Yanez work on a computer slide show for the school's opera.

dent still had to audition for a part.

"Everyone who auditioned got a job in the company," she said. "We told them to choose three jobs to audition for."

Auditions were held in September, and the writing team was in place by October. They finished writing the opera in late January. Students composed the music for the opera as well.

"They aren't bound by the same rules of Western composition," Harney said, laughing. "They use multiple time signatures and multiple key signatures in the same piece."

For the theme of the opera, each student was asked to write down what was important in life to him or her, something that affects everyone. All students' ideas were examined, and a common theme seemed to run through them: sports.

"Sports is a big part of their

IF YOU GO

Tails Never Fails

Who: Third- and fourth-grade students at St. Anne's Episcopal School in Middletown

When: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday; 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. March 13

Admission: Free
Information: 378-3179



The News Journal/ROBERT CRAIG
Fourth-grader Zac Smierka helps paint a piece of scenery for the opera "Tails Never Fails," to be performed next week.

lives," Harney said. The story of the opera focuses on a baseball game in which children learn to practice, to respect others and to treat each other with courtesy.

Harney said that creating an opera is the perfect learning tool because it's cross-curriculum.

Students learn and put into use science, math, language arts skills and much more.

"Parents have certain expectations to what the program will be like," Harney said. "The end result is always far above everyone's expectations."

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Thursday, February 27, 1992, THE DAILY LEDGER - Page 85

School

Presidents take center stage at Forest Hill, North

U.S. presidents from Washington to Bush went on parade at Forest Hill and North elementary schools as third graders from each school celebrated President's Day.

The students shared information about the 40 men who have held the nation's top office, but what they shared wasn't the typical biographical information gleaned from elementary school history books. Their information was less well known and more personal.

For instance, most people know that George Washington had falter teeth. But, who knows the kinds of materials used in search of a set that was comfortable? Washington had wooden teeth, whale bone teeth, teeth made from deer antlers, and a set made from rhinoceros ivory.

John Adams had the longest lifespan of presidents to date. He lived to be 90. He was the first president to live in the White House.

Thomas Jefferson kept a mockingbird in his study so he could hear it sing.

When the British were burning Washington, James Madison's wife Dolley would not leave the White House because the meal she had just prepared was still hot. The British ate the meal and then destroyed the White House.

It is said that James Monroe was once so unhappy with the Secretary of the Treasury that he chased him out of the White House with fire.

John Quincy Adams wore the same hat for more than 10 years. He was the only president who was a published poet.

Although Andrew Jackson was famous being tough and getting into fights, he loved children and raised 11 — none of them his own.

Martin Van Buren hired a chef from London to cook his meals.

William Henry Harrison was the first president to die in office. He became ill on inauguration day and died 31 days later.

The president with the most children was John Tyler who had 15. It is said he was playing marbles with his children when he learned he had been elected president.

James Knox Polk worked 14 hours a day as president. It is said that he was so tired from his job that he died just three months after leaving office.

When Zachary Taylor was president for just 16 months, the doctors thought he died because he drank cold milk after eating cherries on a hot day.

Millard Fillmore bought the first stove and bathtub for the White House.

The White House was dark when Franklin Pierce arrived to begin his presidential term. He had to find his way to his room by candlelight.

James Buchanan was the only president who never married, but he had a niece who helped him with White House life. The song "Listen to the Mockingbird" was written about her.

Abraham Lincoln didn't like to wear gloves and whenever his wife Mary gave him a pair, he studied them into his pockets. One day he found seven pairs in his coat.

Andrew Jackson never went to school. He learned the alphabet at the tailor shop where he worked, he taught himself to read and a friend taught him to write.

The next president, Ulysses S. Grant, was stopped by a spy for speeding in his carriage. Although the officer was hesitant to give the president a ticket, Grant insisted he do his job and issue the ticket.

The first phone for the White House was bought by Rutherford B. Hayes. The first person he called was Alexander Graham Bell.

James Garfield could write with both hands at one time — and he could write Greek with one hand while writing Latin with the other.

When Chester Arthur was president, he owned 60 pairs of pants and 25 coats.

Grover Cleveland was the only president who served two separate terms and he was the first use fireworks at his inauguration. A carry bar, Baby Bath, was named for his child.

Electric lights were installed in the White House when Benjamin Harrison was president.

William McKinley's wife hated yellow so no yellow flowers were planted on the White House lawn while McKinley was president.

The teddy bear was named for Theodore Roosevelt who at age 42, was the youngest man ever to take the office of president.

William Howard Taft weighed more than 300 pounds and one day got stuck in the White House bathtub.

During World War I, Woodrow Wilson had a shortage of staff and he used sheep to trim the White House lawn.

Warren G. Harding was the first president for whom women could vote and he was the first to drive to his inauguration in an automobile.

The White House cook quit when he couldn't convince Calvin Coolidge that it would take six hours to feed 60



Portraying presidents are North Elementary third graders (left photo, front from left) John James as William McKinley, Rebecca Jennings as Benjamin Harrison, Peter Huff as Grover Cleveland, Samantha Sloderback as Chester Arthur, (back row, from left) Ricky Thomas as Ronald Reagan; Morgan Morrison as Jimmy



Third graders at Forest Hill Elementary School line the stage (left photo) as each takes a turn talking about the president he

couldn't draw, so he had pictures drawn and he filled in the spaces. Although dogs, cats, ponies and birds lived in the White House when John F. Kennedy was the chief executive, the president was allergic to fur.

The family of Lyndon B. Johnson all had LBJ for initials. The president once said it made monogramming cheaper.

Richard M. Nixon entered politics by answering an ad in the newspaper that asked for a candidate to run for Congress.

"Paint-by-number" became a fad when Dwight D. Eisenhower was president. He loved to paint but he

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Cartier, Rusten Smith as John F. Kennedy, Stephen Smith as Lyndon Johnson; (right photo, front from left) Justin Strohm as Calvin Coolidge, Lisa Gaber as Warren Harding, (back, from left) Ben McCoy as Franklin D. Roosevelt and Zach Wilkinson as Herbert Hoover.



portrays, and salute the United States (right photo) with flags and song.

A former "most valuable player" at the University of Michigan was Gerald R. Ford.

A giant peanut-shaped balloon was part of the inauguration Day parade for Jimmy Carter who was a peanut farmer in Georgia.

Ronald Reagan liked Jelly Bellies so much, he received 500 pounds of them once during a hospital stay.

The nickname of George Bush is "Poppy." All his children and grandchildren stayed at the White House on the night of his inauguration.

friends involved in a race. It's a very important race and the story deals with the tension that competition can cause between friends.

"It's not a complex story," Barker said. "Oddly enough, it's between a boy and a girl. It's truly their story and their words. I think the kids wrote it because the kids around here really feel that. There's a lot of pressure here to succeed and be the best, to get involved with everything. The community here really backs the kids and they want them to succeed. But it is pressure and the story reflects that."

"The kids feel the pressure and sometimes they do have to compete against friends. They've been put in that position — it feels uncomfortable," Barker continued.

Barker said one of the best things about the students forming their own company is that, they have to solve problems and technically handle everything themselves. "The students are actually required to do all of the work themselves, from writing scripts to wiring lighting."

Tickets for the production are \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students.

photo of Fishers paints the face of fourth grader Russ Stapleton and fourth grader Marlene Hess (right photo, left) and third grader Bobbie Province spend some time painting their hands. Organizers Carolyn Kirschick and Jenny Meier hope the lock-in will become an annual event.



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Opera company ready for debut performance

By ALY CERVINO

Ledger correspondent

You may have heard the rumors that opera is coming to Fishers. They're all true.

But if you're looking for a traditional opera troupe and going to hear the fat lady sing, you're out of luck. The opera coming to town is anything but traditional.

This one is written, directed, produced and performed by fourth grade students at New Britton Elementary School. The students have created their original opera, "The Race to Friendship," to be presented at 7 p.m. Feb. 27 and 28 at New Britton Elementary School.

The program began when two teachers from New Britton were chosen to participate in the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Teacher Workshop on Creating Original Opera. New Britton was selected as one of only 20 schools in the Midwest to participate. The program is funded by the GE Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Music teacher Martha Dafnos and fourth grade teacher Arlene Barker attended workshops this summer at the University of Wisconsin where they learned the skills necessary to assist their students in creating the opera.

Barker outlines the goal of the program as "just forming a production company, having the students understand that in a company each person has a special job."

"I think it's important that they learn how a company of any type functions. It takes work. Each person has to do his own job and live up to his own responsibility. It's not necessarily the end product that's important, it's the process."

Dafnos said another plus for the program is that, "Students are showing that in test scores, kids who are involved in music in school, and things like this, are doing better on tests than children who are not involved."

The teachers stress an interdisciplinary program while doing the opera. That is, the students are given the English language, history, color, style and more. There's even some science involved as the stu-

"At first, I didn't really want to do it. I thought it would be boring, just singing and stuff. But I found out that we don't have to sing every word, we can just talk regular. I've learned that opera isn't boring, it's really neat and fun."

—Jennifer Williams, performer

students learn the work of electricians.

The students formed the company at the beginning of the year and have been working since then on different aspects of the opera. The company consists of much more than just performers. It includes managers, writers, electricians, carpenters, makeup people, costumers and set designers.

The students began by brainstorming story ideas. It took seven writers more than 10 hours to write the story. Students also wrote the lyrics to the music and the melody lines. Dafnos added the rest.

She says, "The true definition of an opera is just a story with music. Music helps the story move. And that's what this opera will be. It's a contemporary story, with contemporary characters. It's not the picture most people have of an opera."

The story is about two good

Scholarship finalists

Noblesville High School students who have been named National Merit Scholarship finalists are (front, from left) Adam Brooks, Jim Dolan, Brian Rosenkoetter, (back, from left) Heather Clark and Chris Cooper. Winners are expected to be selected in March.

'Dollars for Scholars' drive starts Saturday

The Hamilton Southeastern High School Dollars for Scholars organization is thinking big — as in big bucks — as it prepares for a fundraising drive to collect scholarships for this year's graduating seniors.

Rhea Spear, chairperson of the phone-a-thon, and Marilyn Muselman, dollars for scholars president, and the rest of the committee hope to raise the money through a phone-a-thon campaign scheduled for Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

At least 100 students from HSE's Student Council, National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes will make the calls to residents of the school district. Coach Jim O'Hara and parent Jane Huser will organize the drive which will originate from the Fishers Ameritrust Bank.

The Fishers Town Council has proclaimed this week "Dollars for Scholars Week" and the Fishers Youth Soccer League has already donated \$600 for establishment of two soccer-related scholarships to be given to seniors this spring.

Dollars for Scholars is a nonprofit organization with the goal of providing scholarships and encouragement to graduating seniors who are pursuing post high school education. It is an affiliate chapter of the Citizens Scholarship Foundation of America.

Funds are raised through local campaigns involving individuals, clubs, businesses and industry. Memorials, trusts and grants for enduring foundations are also accepted. Scholarships of \$500 or more are presented in the name of the donor. All other contributions are placed in the general fund with contributions listed.

Any student determined to study at an accredited, post-secondary college, university, vocational school or trade school is eligible to apply for the scholarships. Some post-secondary schools provide matching funds for these scholarships, thus doubling their value. Recipients are selected by the local awards committee using guidelines provided by the Citizens Scholarship Foundation of America.

This year, the organization has set a goal of \$10,000.

Staying all night at school

About 25 Dublin Elementary School students spent the night at school Friday night as participants in the school's first Dublin Reading Lock-In. Students who have read at least 40 books this school year were invited to the event and then were invited to bring a friend for games and activities. Bonnie Anderson (left



photo of Fishers paints the face of fourth grader Russ Stapleton and fourth grader Marlene Hess (right photo, left) and third grader Bobbie Province spend some time painting their hands. Organizers Carolyn Kirschick and Jenny Meier hope the lock-in will become an annual event.

Friday, May 6, 1994

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

MD11

Campaign '94

166th's think-alike candidates leaving voters little choice

The 3 GOP campaigners agree on issues. The only contention seems over one's age and another's home.

By Robert F. O'Neill
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

Haverford — Republican voters in the 166th District are not getting a lot of help in deciding which candidate to support. The three GOP candidates for state representative in Tuesday's primary, all three embrace conservative positions on major issues, such as crime, taxes, abortion and welfare reform. And their only point of contention is a debate over one's age and another's home.

With so little contention on the issues, the candidates' personal traits — including age, residency and family — have taken center stage. **Freind**, the 23-year-old son of former State Rep. Stephen Freind, and **Breslin**, a 46-year-old retiree, live in Haverford and are independent candidates. **Marks**, 54, the endorsed party candidate, lives in the Rosemont section of Radnor Township. The two independents hope to attract home-town votes. Haverford makes up about 90 percent of the 166th and has never elected a non-resident state representative.

Even the incumbent, Democrat Greg Vitale, can claim Haverford roots. He Marks was Tuesday, residency could again be an issue in November.

Marks does not view his home address as a major issue, but he has campaigned heavily in Haverford since January.

"That's where the votes are," said Marks, whose efforts have been bolstered by the township's strong GOP committee and party volunteers from neighboring communities.

"It's party policy to help out in critical elections, to send workers where the battle is," Delaware County GOP chairman Tom Judge explained recently.

As far as county Republicans are concerned, the only battle is in Haverford. With the current balance of power in the State House at 100 Republicans and 102 Democrats, a victory over Vitale would equal a two-year swing. So, though the GOP organization is pulling for Marks, it likely will support whoever wins the 166th District's nomination.

Marks said Wednesday night that he had visited close to 1,000 homes since January, most of them in Haverford.

"When the vote tally is in and I've declared the winner," he said, laughing, "I'm going to hold up the two pairs of shoes I've worn today."

Freind claims to have knocked on 11,000 doors since the race began.

"That leaves only 1,000 more to go in the 166th," he said Wednesday.

According to Freind, a candidate's residency is a strong issue in a campaign waiting for issue.

Haverford residents just are not going to give it the 166th seat away," he predicted.

Freind also lashed out at Marks for attacks on his age and on his father. Strongly, though, neither Marks nor Freind has mentioned Breslin in campaign statements, apparently

feeling that a candidate who has no organization, literature, street signs or workers is just a factor.

Marks shrugs off the age issue, but offers he sent to Freind on the question of a debate, referred to the younger candidate's "lack of maturity" and inexperience.

As for Freind's father, who held the 166th House seat for 18 years until 1992, "the greatest villainous around your neck," Marks wrote his opponent, "is Stephen Freind's record and his many irresponsible, hostile and divisive public pronouncements."

Breslin, meanwhile, said Marks and Freind were intentionally avoiding him because he was "a seasoned campaigner" with few vulnerabilities.

At president of the Haverford Township Taxpayers Association, he believes that he has the ear of most voters, especially longtime residents on fixed incomes.

"I have accepted no contributions, spent no money, mailed out no fliers, and eschewed street signs," Breslin said Tuesday. "I want to be sure I'll go to Harrisburg unafraid of no baggage, no debts in special interests, and no commitments beyond the voter."

Freind, however, believes his name recognition will be valuable in the polling booth, where his father's name appeared nine times. A random telephone sampling of voter preference last week, Freind said, had him ahead of Marks by eight points.

He added that his campaign had cost him about \$20,000 so far.

"I want to know I'm the only candidate among the three who has never been a Democrat. I've been a lifelong Republican," Freind said, referring to the fact that Marks and Breslin are former registered Democrats.

Sheehan mailing says that Vagnozzi is soft on crime

The source of her accusation? A newspaper report that as a public defender, Vagnozzi questioned some rape victims' credibility in one case.

By James Cordrey
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

Cullen Sheehan, who last week criticized opponent Flore Vagnozzi for attacking her voting record, yesterday lashed out at Vagnozzi for attacking her own, calling the Montgomery County public defender "soft on crime."

In a mailing to constituents, Sheehan, a candidate for the Republican nomination for state representative in the 140th District, criticized Vagnozzi for his defense in court of a man who pleaded guilty to rape.

"This is a total cheap shot," Vagnozzi said yesterday. "I was just soft on crime is amine."

Sheehan's campaign literature refers to two articles in the *Narratives Times Herald* that described Vagnozzi's cross-examination of three witnesses, in which he "attacked the girl's credibility." After the initial testimony, Vagnozzi's client pleaded guilty.

The conclusion that Sheehan, a political science professor at Villanova University, draws in the campaign flier is this: "There Vagnozzi is tough on victims and soft on crime."

In a telephone interview yesterday, Sheehan said, "These girls were victimized twice — once when they were raped, the second when Vagnozzi browbeat them on the stand."

Reached by telephone yesterday, Vagnozzi balked at the accusation. "I am a public defender. I take the cases that are assigned to me," he said. "I am not who I represent. As a political science professor, Sheehan should know how the process works."

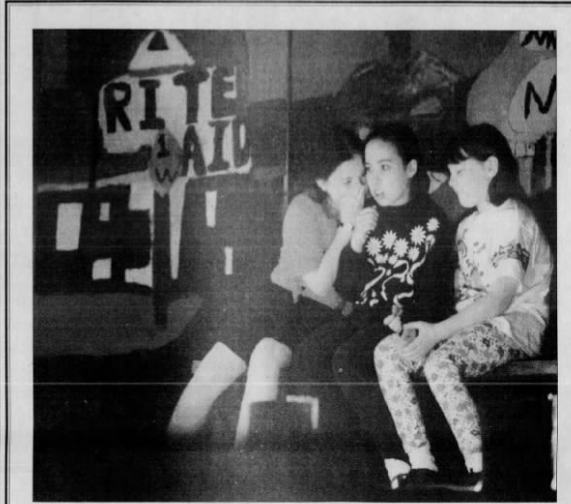
Sheehan's attack came only days after she lamented that the *Narratives Times Herald* had taken the campaign away from her.

Sheehan insisted yesterday that she was not straying from the issues because Vagnozzi has billed himself as tough on crime.

Vagnozzi said that as an officer of the court, he had sworn to defend his clients as best he could, which he said had no bearing on his stance on crime.

Montgomery County Assistant District Attorney Karen G. Ricci agreed. "To say that Vagnozzi is soft on crime is wrong," she said. "He is tough in cross-examination because he's doing his job. Anyone familiar with the U.S. Constitution knows that."

The primary is Tuesday. Mac Boucher, a Bryn Mawr committee man and chief executive officer of Boucher & Singer, and Angelo Gall, a Lower Merion businessman, are also in the race in the 140th District. The district covers Upper Merion Township, West Conshohocken Borough and the southwestern portion of Lower Merion.



Grand opera in elementary school? Well, it was opera, of sorts, and it was grand, definitely. Fourth graders — including (from left) Erin Hogan, Kalya Goldsternko and Rachel Pederson — at Ardmore Avenue Elementary in Lansdowne (with help from their teachers) wrote and produced an opera titled "A Kid With an Attitude," then performed it this week. The school was selected by the Metropolitan Opera Guild Education Department to participate in the Creating Original Opera Program.

Prospect Park is celebrating its first century. A local teenager's tune will lead the parade.

Writing a march of time for borough

By Claire Farris
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

PROSPECT PARK — Christopher Vogel is only 17, but he has packed 100 years of borough history into his Tenth Street March.

That's the march Interboro High School's band will perform tomorrow in Prospect Park, where a throng of residents, former residents and dignitaries is expected to take part in the borough's centennial celebration.

The centennial parade is being touted as the largest in the borough's history. It will feature 1,000 marchers from area bands, churches and schools, who will proceed from the high school in Chester Pike to Park Square.

Along the way, the marchers will pass by a reviewing stand on Lincoln Avenue to be occupied by Borough Council members, Mayor Donald Cook, U.S. Rep. Curt Weldon, State Sen. Clarence Bell, State Rep. Ben Raymond and other notables.

They and those along the way will be treated to the premiere of Vogel's march.

It is a veritable musical history lesson. Vogel explained that the up-bat segments that introduced and ended the piece reflected the joy of Prospect Park's incorporation as a borough on May 7, 1894 and of its achieving its 100th birthday.

The march's somber middle section corresponds with borough life during the Great Depression, said the Interboro junior, who plays the



Interboro's Christopher Vogel at work in his electronic nest. His music teacher calls him a local Mozart.

trumpet and piano.

"It's sounding better than I thought it would," Vogel said. "It's the first thing I wrote for a band that's been played for a band."

Vogel said he had become involved with the planning of Centennial Day many months ago, at the suggestion of a former teacher, and had been granted permission to compose the Centennial march by the Centennial Day Committee, a group that has been planning tomorrow's events for about three years.

The town parade will begin tomorrow's festivities and activities in Park Square, which will include a Victorian fashion show, children's games, an antique automobile that was manufactured in the borough

and numerous historic exhibits. Frank Winner, who founded the borough's youth athletic program in 1948, is expected to be among the band's guests.

Winner, 74, which was named after the man, will be the site for a Centennial singing and piano concert to be run by Vogel tomorrow evening. The Park Square event. The field is at Fourth and Lafayette Avenues.

Vogel, who hopes someday to have his music published, said that he planned to play a couple of his 15 original compositions on the keyboard at the concert, and that he would lead residents in songs he had selected from that decade since the 1890s.

It will not be the first time Vogel has undertaken such a task. He is organist and director of the Prospect United Methodist Church choir and is often called on by his music teacher, Donna Webb, to run high school choir rehearsals. He also was chosen to be in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 12 Chorus earlier this year, Webb said.

"He's extremely qualified and talented. Everybody knows him here," said Webb, who has been Vogel's music teacher for 11 years — first at the Prospect Park School and then at Interboro. "They have, in my opinion, people with his music ability since fourth or fifth grade."

"He's always surprising us with something," Webb said. "It's like having a Mozart live near you."

Ensuring that a boon is equal-opportunity

By Dan Hardy
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

CHESTER — With millions of construction dollars scheduled to pour into Chester over the next few years, two city officials and several dozen contractors have formed an organization to ensure that local minorities and women snag a large portion of the work.

At a meeting Wednesday night attended by about 30 contractors, City Councilman William "Rocky" Brown and City Treasurer Muhammad Ahmed announced the creation of the Chester Task Force for Minority Economic Development.

The group will work to make certain that local minority-owned businesses and city residents benefit from a building boom that is about to hit Chester. The organization will meet monthly at the Chester municipal building to hear speakers and to plan activities, Ahmed and Brown said.

An estimated \$200 million in federal, state and city-funded construction work will take place in Chester over the next five years, including the construction of a new office building and a state prison, the renovation of the city's five public housing projects, and the widening of Route 201 through the city.

That does not mean, however, that Chester residents are automatically in line for the construction contracts to be awarded, Brown and Ahmed said.

The large general contracting firms that get rich snubbing underlings have few, if any, ties to Chester and "no intention of hiring me," Ahmed told the contractors. There, he said, "we need a plan to get these jobs."

That plan, those at the meeting agreed, must include strengthening city affirmative-action and local-hiring ordinances, stopping job compliance enforcement, and researching and printing a minority-business directory, a by-product of which will be given

to contractors coming into the city.

In addition, the task force wants to eliminate contract-bidding language that requires contractors to "pre-qualify" before being allowed to bid. To prequalify, contractors must show that they have previous experience in a particular specialty.

Such language, the group said, is routinely used to prevent minority contractors from bidding, even if they have done other contracting work successfully.

Also in the works, Ahmed and Brown said, is a plan to bring a branch office of the black-owned United Bank of Philadelphia to Chester. The organization will meet monthly at the Chester municipal building to hear speakers and to plan activities, Ahmed and Brown said.

"We have people who are capable of doing all the contracting work in Chester," Ahmed said. "All we need is the financing."

Ahmed, the city's affirmative-action compliance officer, vowed to deny construction permits to companies that do not live up to the guidelines.

"I'm your junkyard dog," he told the assembled contractors. "If you don't hurt them in the pocketbook, you can't get any changes."

In response to contractors' complaints that the affirmative-action ordinances contain weak compliance measures, Brown offered, in proposed changes endorsed by the task force, to do so five up to the guidelines.

"I'm your junkyard dog," he told the assembled contractors. "If you don't hurt them in the pocketbook, you can't get any changes."

Death on a dirt bike

Marlton man dies after accident in Burlington County. \$3.

A strong year for distance runners

The track season opens this week with a lot of attention on two sets of brothers. \$7.

South Jersey

The Inquirer

Monday, March 29, 1993

Section 5

Transit corridor proposed

The line could connect Mt. Holly and Glassboro. It might have high-speed, rail and bus links.

By Eddie Olsen
Inquirer Staff Writer

Planners will recommend a mass transportation system of up to 36.7 miles along the Burlington-Glassboro Corridor, from Mount Holly to Glassboro, in a study that's expected to be released next month.

The study is also expected to recommend a 16-mile rail or bus link between Cherry Hill and Burlington Township.

The estimated cost for the transportation network ranges from \$300 million to \$1.5 billion, officials said. In its final form, the transit system would likely include a combination of high-speed, railroad and bus lines, officials added.

James Schwarzwald, manager of area studies with New Jersey Transit and project manager of the two-year study, stressed that its recommendations will be subject to revision by county planners in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties.

"We took a broad-brush approach in doing the study," Schwarzwald said. "It provides a number of alternatives and doesn't advocate a particular alignment or technology at this point. Most notably, the study concludes that an investment for a mass-transit system is warranted."

The study was conducted by New Jersey Transit, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and a private consulting firm, Hill International Inc. of Willingboro, PATCO, the New Jersey Department of Transportation and county officials from Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Philadelphia also participated in the study. It takes into account South Jersey population and ridership forecasts through the year 2010.

Schwarzwald said the study will recommend the use of railroad property owned by Conrail and New Jersey Transit as well as Interstate 26 and Routes 42 and 55 or land adjacent to those roadways.

"The next phase is to make an environmental impact statement that we can submit to the federal government," Schwarzwald said. "This may take up to two years, and would be a private any application TRANSIT on 54



Music teacher Jane Paulishak holds practice with students at the William Allen Middle School in Moorestown before they perform "Why Me?" Students wrote the lyrics, composed the music and directed the original 45-minute production.

Students do opera their own way

In their work, the Moorestown youths deal with peer pressure and alcohol.

By Galina Eplonova
Inquirer Contributor

There were several signs that this was not going to be your typical opera crowd. Plastic straws lined the aisles. Battered bookbags stretched across the seats. And the sign outside the theater door announced, "Kids Under 2 - FREE."

But then, little about this opera was typical, which was precisely the point. In the eyes of kids, opera looks a serious image change. So exit tuxedos and fancy costumes singing in Italian.

Enter the Opera People Production Company — a group of 121 students at the William Allen Middle School in Moorestown — singing in language taken from school hallways, in their original opera "Why Me?"

"What's so big about beer these days?" sings Gabriella Iannoli, who plays the Erin, pressured by her friends to drink.

Clanging green and brown beer bottles by the throat, the small group of girls standing behind her snicker and jeer, their arms crossed and their hips cocked to one side. No avoid chorine here. The orchestra pounds out short, harsh notes.

When Erin tries to escape by curling up in bed with her plush white body bear, her head resting against a red and pink pillow, she is snatched by her fears — in the guise of masked dancers who crowd the stage in black outwards



Anne Campbell (left), Rebecca Kurik (center) and Joanne Fyran get their electric candles ready to use in their parts in the opera. The production is being performed by 121 students.

and capes made from thin, white gauze.

It sounds like an opera that could only have come from the mind of a child. And it did. Every aspect of this opera — from the writing of the lyrics to the composition of the music to

the direction — was handled by students.

"You think to yourself there's no way they could make this whole thing up," said sixth grader Jon Warner, sitting in the

back row.

OPERA on 55

Inside South Jersey



Ron Rameriz leads a grounder. Last year, his Cherry Hill West team was the best in the nation. \$5.

The scene \$2
South Jersey Deaths \$4
South Jersey News in Brief \$2
South Jersey Sports \$5

Elsewhere in today's Inquirer

- Six killed in plane crash. B2.
- Talk of maritime enterprise zones. D1.
- A 'new' Martin Marietta Corp. D1.

Last of Last Man's Club breaking out the cognac

He went to the "Great War" on a dreadnought. Now he sails alone. But he'll toast his comrades.

By Edward Collamore
Inquirer Staff Writer

HADDONFIELD — More than a half-century ago, its club members sailed a bottle of Hennessy cognac in a glass canister and vowed not to open it — not until all but one of them had died.

The last man, they said, would have the honor of toasting his departed comrades and remembering them to a world that had changed many times over since they went to war in 1918.

One hundred and eight veterans of the "Great War" formed the Last Man's Club at American Legion Post

38. They have held dinners every year since 1940, their numbers dwindling. Now, one is left: Robert Wright, a former Navy seaman who sailed on a battleship, one of the so-called dreadnoughts of World War I.

Next Monday, Wright, according to the wishes of his buddies, will raise a glass to them at the club's annual dinner, which is being sponsored and attended by other veterans. The dinner will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Tarnack Country Club, Tarnack.

"I didn't think I'd ever make it," said Wright, 94, of Cherry Hill. "But I'll be there."

Then the sub-opera, white-haired veterans smiled wryly and added: "At least I think I will."

Wright and three other World War I veterans took a few sips from the cognac in 1967. They had won the years take their toll on the group and



One hundred and eight veterans of World War I founded the Last Man's Club in Haddonfield in 1940. Robert Wright, a seaman's mate on the USS Neke York during the war, is the only one left.

Disabled fireman's claim is probed

The former Camden firefighter won \$50,000 plus in 1991. Officials are checking a report that the claim was phony.

By Maureen Graham
and Dwight Ott
Inquirer Staff Writers

In 1991, a Camden firefighter filed a claim for an on-the-job injury that netted him \$51,794 from the city and a \$2,800 monthly disability check from the state.

The firefighter, Larry Carey, 33, claimed he was lifting a heavy box on a fire station's parking lot when a parked motor scooter fell over, crushing the toes on his left foot.

Last month, another firefighter came forward, contending that Carey had filed a phony claim.

Now the Camden County Prosecutor's Office and Camden city police reportedly are trying to determine whether Carey was injured the way he said or was "pleasure-riding" on the motor scooter in the parking lot at fire headquarters, at the other firefighter claimed.

"We have begun an investigation," acknowledged Camden Police Lt. Joseph Richardson. "We cannot comment further."

City Business Administrator Patrick Keating said the inquiry focuses on Carey's claim that he was injured in a work-related accident at the fire company at Third and Federal Streets on June 29, 1991.

Keating said he had been instructed not to discuss the case further while it was under investigation.

Other sources said the investigation also would examine whether various fire officials had provided the city with all the information they had at the time of the accident claim.

Carey, who has been out on disability since the accident, could not be reached for comment. His lawyer, Saul Gruber of Cherry Hill, said that Carey was unaware of any investigation and that Carey may wish to comment later.

City officials said that Carey had moved since going on disability and that they had been unable to contact him.

According to city and state records, Carey said that he was carrying a heavy box into fire headquarters when he slipped on engine grease and fell against a scooter in the parking lot.

Carey was taken to Cooper Medical Center and treated for injuries that included a broken ankle, according to Fire Chief Robert Lapp. The chief said he could not comment further.

In a claim filed with the state Department of Labor, Carey said the scooter fell on him and crushed his left foot, causing "searing and possible deformity of toes."

SEE FIREFIGHTER on 57

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THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Monday, March 29, 1993

The Scene in South Jersey



They do nails and physician referrals

You've probably seen the ads for physician-referral services. It seems everybody's getting in the business.

Even Valentino's. That's a hair salon in Washington Township. The employees and customers have started their own list of area physicians to consult.

For example, when one employee needed glasses, she checked the list and headed to an eye doctor in Mount Holly.

"That seems a haul to go to an eye doctor," she said.

But they're enjoying a rebirth. Back, they proliferate by the day in one unlikely place, the Camden County Courthouse.

They're more like underground newsletters, but employees are cracking them out like crazy and taping them to walls, posting them on bulletin boards and slipping them under doors and into mailboxes.

Anonymous authors include union members who are mad at the

doctor, they add his name. The list includes a chiropractor from Philadelphia, a foot doctor in Washington Township, a gynecologist in Cherry Hill and a gynecologist in Mount Holly.

And doctors on the list don't have the same problems other doctors have.

Their patients are in no way reluctant to schedule appointments. The other day, one woman was wondering which ache or pain should prompt a visit to the Philadelphia chiropractor.

"I'll tell him I'm tense because of my divorce," she said.

OK.

"Think about it," said an employee. "It's cheaper than going to a clinic. You spend \$40—and it goes toward your deductible."

Runnings from the underground

Some folks think underground newsletters went out with Nehru jackets. But they're enjoying a rebirth. Back, they proliferate by the day in one unlikely place, the Camden County Courthouse.

They're more like underground newsletters, but employees are cracking them out like crazy and taping them to walls, posting them on bulletin boards and slipping them under doors and into mailboxes.

Anonymous authors include union members who are mad at the

Democratic administration. Republicans who are mad at the Democratic administration. Democrats who are mad at the Democratic administration and unaligned folks who are simply having a hell making fun of the doctor's or dentist's thing the Democratic administration might do each day.

With improvements in desktop publishing, employees are using personal computers to make printer-quality newsletters, complete with graphics.

Lee Benich, the county's chief operating officer, has questioned the expense in materials and employee time for such endeavors.

The employees, in turn, questioned why Benich, who makes about \$92,000 a year, would charge the county \$147 for his subscription to Success magazine.

Benich, in turn, canceled their newspaper subscriptions.

The employees, in turn, questioned why Benich would be the county's new Cadillac copiers (which they had questioned earlier) to make more than \$60,000 a year for a letter to the county's 17 mayors.

It's his move.

But Benich isn't the only one who feels the heat of the county's underground press. The five Democratic freethinkers and their party boss, George Norcross, are popular themes, as are other county officials.

A recent edition of *Newlines*



Signs of the times near Atlantic City High School. Wonder what will trigger our fears next?

encouraged employees to pass the hat for Serrano Maria Greenwald's office to pay for her "new carpet, draper and a new private bathroom. Cost \$6,000."

Ken Shurtlewirth, the county's director of public information, also has been a target, and more than once.

Employees want to know why Shurtlewirth, who lives in Delran, makes \$76,863 a year and they,

who live in the county, are being laid off.

Hey, wherever he lives, he's got to be worth what he's paid. Benichally, he's the county's PR guy, and look at all the good PR Camden County has enjoyed under his tenure.

The twist in the county's underground-newsletter saga is the Democratic administration that hears the brunt of the attacks. It supports the ammunition.

The newsletters are produced on county computers and copied, sent and efficiently, on the county's fleet — make that armada — of Cadillac copiers.

A word about March before it marches on

I almost missed it. March is a very special month, and I almost let it go by without mention.

I would have felt foolish. A little bit like the town last year that recognized February as Black History Month — in March.

But a store in Primus reminded me of the extraordinary significance of the month that runs in like a lion.

It's holding a drawing for thousands of dollars in trips and merchandise to honor the occasion.

By now, you've probably had all your festivities, and know what I'm belatedly talking about.

You're absolutely right. March is National Vacuum Month.

I hope you and your vacuum cleaners have enjoyed it so far.

South Jersey News in Brief

Two are charged with theft in credit card purchases

Two Camden residents have been arrested and charged with theft and conspiracy after Oaklyn police said they bought more than \$12,000 worth of merchandise on fraudulent credit cards.

Robert David, 38, of the 1500 block of Thorne Street, and Deborah Heavens, 36, of the same address, were arrested Thursday afternoon by Detective Lt. Chris Ferrari as they were about to use the credit cards again, police said.

They were being held in the Camden County jail during the weekend after not posting bail.

Ferrari said the pair befriended an Oaklyn man in October and got his Social Security number and other identification. Credit cards were obtained through the use of the Oaklyn man's name and the pair's address, police said.

Chiropractor who hit letter to pay \$500,000 for fraud

A Lawrenceville chiropractor, who recently claimed a \$12 million Pick-6 Lotto jackpot in December, has agreed to pay a recent \$500,000 in fines and restitution for cheating a number of insurance companies.

Bruce Brillantine, 60, pleaded guilty to theft and filing fraudulent documents. The state agreed to drop eight remaining charges in two separate indictments. State Superior Court Judge Maria M. Sykes accepted the plea agreement Friday. Brillantine has agreed to pay restitution totaling \$78,968 for charging insurers for office visits that never took place and filing false personal disability claims. In addition, the state Department of Insurance Fraud Prevention fined Brillantine \$421,032. Officials said this was the largest civil fine in the department's history.

Brillantine faces up to 5 years in prison, but the state Attorney General's Office has recommended a maximum 3-month prison stay. He remains free on bail pending sentencing May 28. His letter with winnings will not be taken away because of the guilty plea, but his earnings could be attached if he does not pay the fines, officials said.

\$11 million bail set for man accused in Union City rape

A \$11 million cash-only bail has been set for Allan Tuttle, a rape suspect whom authorities said was so dangerous that no airline would transport him back from Florida to face charges in New Jersey. He made his first appearance Friday, cuffed at the hands and feet, before state Superior Court Judge Patricia Costello in Jersey City.

On parole since December 1991 after serving 13 years in several sexual assault cases in New York City, Tuttle had been scheduled to fly to New Jersey with guards. But airlines would not allow him aboard after they learned he had concealed knife-like devices in his rectum while being prepared for extradition in Florida, said Hudson County Prosecutor Carmine Mentore.

Instead, Tuttle, 37, of Bayonne, was driven back to New Jersey with investigators from the prosecutor's office. He was charged with sexually assaulting a Union City woman at knifepoint in her home Jan. 11.

4 at large after \$10,000 bank robbery in Paramus

Four men, who escaped with more than \$10,000 after a Paramus bank robbery in which a teller was slightly injured by a bullet fragment, were still being sought yesterday, police said.

The men switched getaway cars at a nearby street after Friday's robbery of the Chemical Bank branch on Midland Avenue. Police Chief Joseph Delaney said. They then disappeared in heavy traffic on Route 17 north. "The bait was definitely planned," Delaney told *The Record of Hackensack*.

The teller, a Paramus woman whom police would not identify, informed a branch manager when a bullet fragment from one of three shots fired at locked cash boxes grazed her.

South Jersey

South Jersey is a section of local news and sports gathered by members of The Inquirer's bureau in Cherry Hill and published every Monday through Friday. Readers are invited to call the bureau on weekdays at the numbers listed below to comment on the newspaper, report a news tip, place an advertisement or conduct other business.

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In the opera, students sing in language taken from school hallways. This is the second time the school has staged an original opera.

Students do opera in their own way

OPERA from 51 third row. "But then they do and you watch it and it's pretty incredible."

This is the second time the school has staged an original opera.

Last year, the school's young Placido Domingo and Mariyos Flores told the story of a young boy struggling to handle bullies.

The latest 45-minute production was the central storyline of peer pressure around several other issues of concern to children. Not only does Erin find herself tempted to drink alcohol, but after a vehement argument her parents split up and she starts doing poorly in school, crumpling up an exam on which she scored a 52.

"This one is like a Russian novel. It's in Italian," said her teacher, the district's fine arts supervisor. "The students have chosen topics that are of real importance to kids their age. They get to work out their own feelings on issues and make public statements about what they're thinking and feeling."

Having students create their own operas is the brainchild of the Metropolitan Opera Guild in New York. Every year, the guild founded the Creating Original Opera program, run out of its educational director. Every summer, about 120 teachers from three regions are chosen to attend a 10-day training workshop. They may return for two more summers for advanced training.

The students at William Allen worked since September, often five days a week after school, to put the opera together.

"This is not only a good musical experience, it's a good educational tool," music teacher Ann Pollack said. "It's totally changed my teaching style. Now when we have creative music, I just write a word on the board and let the kids create their own song about it."

Which is exactly what the workshop is all about. The teachers are not supposed to become opera writers, producers and directors. They are supposed to help their students

become all of those things.

"The children run every phase of the production and the teachers are there just to guide them through it," said Andrew Miller, assistant to the guild's educational director.

Benich said the opera needed to be brought into the classroom in an accessible way, to change the way kids look at opera.

Ask kids to sit in a hall about their favorite music and you can bet the word opera wouldn't cross their lips. But Thursday afternoon, several girls who were perched on stools, their faces aglow to receive healthy doses of bluish, held a different story.

"I definitely always thought opera was boring, but then I figured that if kids did it, it would be all right," said sixth grader Jillian Dorn, who was among those who played out Erin's fears in dance. "Now I think it's great."

The house is almost full when the lights dim and the orchestra must pick up their bows. There is hardly any shifting in the red, upholstered seats during the classical strains of the four-minute overture. Then the blue curtain parts.

The opening scene finds Erin sitting around a living room with friends who want her to drink, offering her their beer bottles. She tries to turn away.

"Come on, you're a doctor, you're never gonna get popular with that attitude," one moans.

Erin is confused. "I'm a mid-drinking lady," she sings. A chorus of voices voiced on the front of the stage mocks her choice of beverage.

By opera's end, however, Erin stands up to her friends and tells them drinking alcohol is wrong. One girl screams at her, "Just go ahead with your nerd pants!" before storming offstage, but Erin remains resolute. The opera concludes with the entire cast coming onstage to link hands and singing, "We need to stick together."

Woman hopes for quick release in abuse case

She was convicted of abusing 19 children in 1988. On Friday, the verdict was overturned.

But most of all, Michaels said, she wants to get married some day and have children.

Michaels, now 31, of Pittsburgh, was convicted April 15, 1988, of child abuse stemming from her job at the West Care Day Nursery in Maplewood. Prosecutors argued that she had forced children to perform bizarre sexual acts and the jury agreed, returning guilty verdicts that brought a 47-year prison sentence.

A state appeals court overturned the conviction Friday, citing misuse of expert testimony and the trial judge's decision to deny defense attorneys access to the allegedly abusive children.

Michaels' attorney, William Kanaster, called her by the news. "I cried just reading the verdict and I thanked God," she said in a telephone interview Saturday with the

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "To be able to talk and laugh and go out and look at the stars at night, and to go to church when I want to, I want that. To have laughter. I want that. There's not much laughter in here."

In fact, in another part of the interview, she said: "I was hated when I came here. I was shunned. They knew why I was there. A bail hearing for Michaels will take place this week, perhaps as early as tomorrow, said Robert Rosenthal, another of her attorneys.

The state must decide whether to try the case, appeal the appellate court's ruling to the New Jersey Supreme Court or drop the charges and free Michaels.

Lower County Prosecutor Clifford J. Miner and his spokesman, Ray M. Jones, could not be reached for comment Saturday.

Michaels is thinking of nothing

but getting out of prison, she said. She maintains she is innocent of the 115 counts of sexual abuse of 19 children ages 3 to 5 for which she was convicted.

"I don't mean to sound cruel, but justice has been served," she said. "It's a beautiful end to a terrible story."

Michaels said the last five years have not been easy.

"I made the strongest. I've learned so much. My faith has grown. I've seen the face of God over evil. I've met women with lives more horrible than mine. I realized a lot. I prayed a lot. It's given me strength."

There are plenty of people I care about a lot who are in here," she said. "The innocent. I know I was innocent. I believed in God and my family loved me. There are things I knew. I know I can strip my

MC4

Calendar

Special events

ARTS IN THE PARK Jewelry, crafts, live music, food, entertainment. High School Park, Montgomery & Woodland Rds. Elkins Park. Today 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Free admission. Information: 215-495-0402.

ROCK SHOW Philadelphia House Society annual event. Morris Adventure (Globe Center), Northampton Ave. Phila. Today 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Information: 610-494-1985.

OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES Sun. 10:30 a.m. 515, 10:30 a.m. 1 or younger free. Sponsored by Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce. Information: 215-495-0402.

OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES Antiques & collectibles sponsored by professional. Southampton, Free Library, 101 Street Rd. Southampton. Tomorrow 2 p.m. \$5 per item. 215-259-7544.

CARNIVAL Food, fun, games, rotary field. Township Line Rd. Perkasie. Tomorrow. Free admission. Sponsored by Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce. Information: 215-495-0402.

SCIENCE SHOW Entertainment, food, family events. Shopping Bag Plaza. Lansdale. Wed. 7 a.m.-12 p.m. Free admission. Benefits Upper Merion High School & district achievement programs. Information: 215-495-0402.

ANTIQUE APPRAISAL Professional appraisers, antique auctions. Chester Hill. Tomorrow & Street Hts. Lancaster. Fri. 6:30 p.m. Appraisal fee \$5. \$20 for 3 items. Information: 215-475-4888.

STANISLAV TEATRO International food, dog, strolling, dancing, folk music. 101 Street Hts. Lancaster. Fri. 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Information: 610-584-5411.

MOBILECITY Spring Fling ride. Next Sun. 9 a.m. Sun. Township Line. Chester Hill. Tomorrow. Free admission. Information: 215-475-4888.

STANISLAV TEATRO International food, dog, strolling, dancing, folk music. 101 Street Hts. Lancaster. Fri. 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Information: 610-584-5411.

ART & ARCHITECTURE TOURS Tours of historic New Hope. High at Lancaster. Tomorrow & Street Hts. Lancaster. Fri. 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Information: 215-475-4888.

USBOON SALE Elkins Park Free Library. 362 E. Church Rd. Elkins Park. Today 1:30 p.m. Tomorrow 10 a.m. Free admission. Information: 215-495-0402.

USBOON SALE Maple Branch Library. 2415 Avenue Ave. Tompkins. Sat. 10 a.m. Free admission. Information: 215-495-0402.

USBOON SALE Perkasie Valley Library. 24 E. Church St. Perkasie. Sat. 10 a.m. Free admission. Information: 215-495-0402.

Music

CONCERTS Barnes & Noble Books. 1271 Kings Rd. Montgomeryville. Today 4 p.m. JOHN SCULLO. Piano. Fri. 8 p.m. BILLYE THOMAS. Accordion. Information: 215-495-0402.

CHAMBER CONCERT BLISS MONT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA performs works by Tchaikovsky & Copland. St. John's Lutheran Church, 105 N. York Rd. Hatfield. Today 8 p.m. Free admission. Information: 215-684-1802.

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MOBILECITY Spring Fling ride. Next Sun. 9 a.m. Sun. Township Line. Chester Hill. Tomorrow. Free admission. Information: 215-475-4888.

STANISLAV TEATRO International food, dog, strolling, dancing, folk music. 101 Street Hts. Lancaster. Fri. 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Information: 610-584-5411.

ART & ARCHITECTURE TOURS Tours of historic New Hope. High at Lancaster. Tomorrow & Street Hts. Lancaster. Fri. 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Information: 215-475-4888.

USBOON SALE Elkins Park Free Library. 362 E. Church Rd. Elkins Park. Today 1:30 p.m. Tomorrow 10 a.m. Free admission. Information: 215-495-0402.

USBOON SALE Maple Branch Library. 2415 Avenue Ave. Tompkins. Sat. 10 a.m. Free admission. Information: 215-495-0402.

USBOON SALE Perkasie Valley Library. 24 E. Church St. Perkasie. Sat. 10 a.m. Free admission. Information: 215-495-0402.

Music

CONCERTS Barnes & Noble Books. 1271 Kings Rd. Montgomeryville. Today 4 p.m. JOHN SCULLO. Piano. Fri. 8 p.m. BILLYE THOMAS. Accordion. Information: 215-495-0402.

CHAMBER CONCERT BLISS MONT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA performs works by Tchaikovsky & Copland. St. John's Lutheran Church, 105 N. York Rd. Hatfield. Today 8 p.m. Free admission. Information: 215-684-1802.

Students sample opera from all angles

Young people learn arias, wave in social concerns, and navigate the pitfalls of presenting an art form.

By Oshra Carmel
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

SOUBRIETY — Pay no mind that these opera stars have not yet developed adult voices. Or that they like to play kickball after rehearsals. Because there's nothing in the opera produced by New Hope-Solebury Elementary School students that is standard fare.



Fourth-grade teacher Tim Angst directs a rehearsal of "The Leaving." The opera, funded by the Metropolitan Opera Guild in New York City, will be performed next Sunday at New Hope-Solebury Elementary School.

In this modern musical drama, aliens can sing, politicians are forgiving, and the media save the day. It's called "The Leaving," and although it is being funded by the Metropolitan Opera Guild in New York City, its public performance will be limited to a one-day run in the school auditorium.

The project, to debut next Sunday, is one of 12 in the state that teach young students the behind-the-scenes work of staging an opera. The young musicians were charged with writing, producing and performing, as well as sometimes navigating the political bickering that can come with producing a show.

A by-product of the effort, say folks at the Guild, is that young students might pick up an appreciation for opera.

"It's not just people with big Viking hats on and the big fat lady singing," said Jennifer McCusker, 16.

The students have learned that the hard way through their teacher, Tim Angst, 32, is trained as an opera singer and will leave his six-year teaching career in June to pursue singing professionally.



Fourth grade teacher Tim Angst directs a rehearsal of "The Leaving." The opera, funded by the Metropolitan Opera Guild in New York City, will be performed next Sunday at New Hope-Solebury Elementary School.

He has stood by all year trying to rein in discordant chords and get his young performers to project their arias without resorting to screaming.

Angst spent last summer training for the project with the Metropolitan Opera Guild, at the suggestion of his principal, Susan Sellers, an opera aficionado.

"She basically said, 'You're going, there's no discussion about it,'" Angst said between rehearsals last week.

The main idea behind the "Great Original Opera" program is to let students see how complicated a

cupcake wrappers. Most of this is sung, accompanied by music played on an original set of instruments. A scary, "futuristic" drone is achieved by students pressing against electronic keyboards.

There's even a calypso theme to the whole affair, rehearsed last week by 9-year-old Chase Clement, who fashioned many of his costumes from his parents' pots, pans and household waste.

Does all of this creativity mean the next Puccini or Verdi may come from New Hope-Solebury?

"Perhaps."

"Maybe I'll go to an opera," said Alexia Mersenti, 10, whose grandparents sang opera in Italy. "But I'm still into pop and Britney Spears."

Oshra Carmel's e-mail address is ocarmel@phillynews.com

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(610) 834-1228

Saturday, June 10 at 10:00am
Lower Pottsgrove Twp, PA
285 Armand Hammer Blvd.,
Pottsville, PA
Just South of E. High St.
and North of Industrial Highway
(610) 718-9388

Sunday, June 11 at 12:00pm
Downingtown, PA
965 East Lancaster Ave.
Just west of Route 100 across
from the Downingtown
Country Club
(610) 518-3330

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North Jersey

The Inquirer

Thursday, May 28, 1998

City & Region Inside

The City & Region pages follow B4. These pages are designated R.

SEPTA workers threaten to strike at noon Monday. R1.

Quintuplets are born to a Harleysville couple. R1.

Obituaries, R4. Weather, R5.

South Jersey Sports, E8.

Safeguards in place, Ben Franklin set for overhaul

By Henry J. Holcomb
THE BRIDGE WRITER

Work has begun on a long and environmentally tricky overhaul of one of the region's most celebrated landmarks.

Crews will replace 22 layers of faded, brittle, lead-based paint on the Ben Franklin Bridge with a modern coat that experts say will remain bright for two decades. The project, expected to cost at least \$60 million, also involves restoring the bridge's huge suspension cables to stronger-than-new condition.

All this will be accomplished, engineers say, without disrupting traffic, fouling the air, or polluting the river that flows to the sea through important fishing and wildlife areas.

Slung by the memory of welders who suffered lead poisoning when the bridge's road surface was replaced in 1965 — and other bridge-project fiascos around the nation before the dangers of lead-based paint were as clear as they are today — the Delaware River Port Authority has assembled a multi-disciplinary team to plan and monitor the work.

"We are very concerned that we're doing the job right, that we're protecting our neighbors, our customers, our workers and the environment," said Robert Box, chief engineer for the bus and port authority, which operates the Ben Franklin and three other Pennsylvania-New Jersey toll bridges. "We know that doing right, this can be a model project. Done wrong it can be a big embarrassment," Box said.

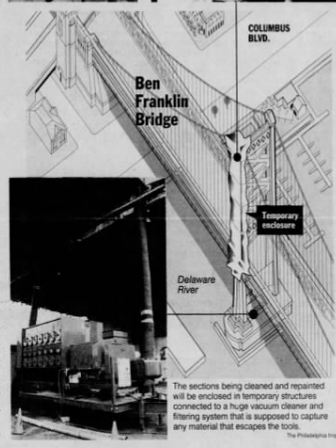
The project team is headed by Kenneth A. Trimber, vice president of KTB-Taylor Inc., a Pittsburgh consulting firm that specializes in paint and other protective coatings. Trimber has written books on safety issues and played a leading role in setting national safety standards for containment of pollutants associated with the application or removal of paint.

"Those standards are working," Trimber said. "It's not the same industry now."

The project will take at least two years.

See BRIDGE on B4

Restoring a Landmark



Girl, 3, was victim of sexual assault before she drowned

Her father and two others face charges after the death in Cherry Hill. More charges are not ruled out.

By John Way Jennings
Angela Coughlin
and Larry Lewis
SOUTHERN JURY WRITER

A 3-year-old Camden girl who drowned Sunday in a backyard swimming pool in Cherry Hill had been sexually assaulted a short time before her death, law enforcement officials said yesterday.

An autopsy Monday showed that Samantha Wann had been sexually abused before she was found dead about 6:30 p.m. the day before at the bottom of the pool at the home of Martin J. Hunninger at 119 W. Valleybrook Rd., the officials said.

Camden County Prosecutor Lee A. Solomon would not discuss specific results of the autopsy, except that it confirmed drowning as the cause of death and provided information that has led to a wider investigation.

The prosecutor said the girl's father is charged with endangering the welfare of his child while he smoked PCP during the day Sunday. Hunninger is charged with endangering another girl, a 7-year-old, and Hunninger's girlfriend is accused of telling a witness to lie.

"We cannot determine if it is an accidental drowning or a homicide. I have not ruled out the possibility of additional charges," Solomon told reporters yesterday at his Camden headquarters.

Meanwhile, Solomon said, investigators were examining "a truckload" of bizarre paraphernalia taken from a room at the West Valleybrook Road home that was referred to in police documents as "a den."

"We are concerned about the conduct toward the child prior to her death," Solomon said, describing the case as "very tragic."

Solomon said that Michael Wann, 34, the father of the drowning victim, was among eight adults and two children at the home for an all-day party over the Memorial Day weekend, and that drugs were used.

Wann, an unemployed house painter from the Fairview section of See GRL on B4

How do you spell "godsend"?

Device helps teen unable to speak break new ground, letter by letter

By Denise-Marie Holala
PHILADELPHIA CONTRIBUTOR

Drew Alvarez, an eighth grader from Germantown, Tenn., cannot speak, but that does not keep him from spelling.

With the aid of a modified electronic dictionary developed by Burlington Township-based Franklin Electronic Publishers, Drew, 14, took off for the 71st annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, which began yesterday and was scheduled to end today.

He used the handheld device, which he calls "Frankie," to spell out words, as he did to win the mid-South regional spelling competition and advance to the finals.

Though the machine helps him speak, it cannot help him spell. He was eliminated on the word "herpetant" in the first round.

"Frankie" does all the talking, because Drew's speech is severely affected by a muscular condition known as apraxia.

See SPELLER on B4

In The Schools By Maureen Fitzgerald

Kids run the show in opera production

Hainesport students have written and produced their own work, sans fat lady.

Moments before curtain time, the fifth graders at Hainesport School were buzzing about the auditorium, sweeping the floor, testing the lights, perfecting the sound system.

Kathleen Richards, 11, an actress, emerged from backstage, a bit frantic, throwing her arms to her sides for dramatic effect.

"Do you know where James Jester is? We only have two makeup artists back there!"

James, another makeup maker, was nowhere to be found. And Kathleen still needed her glitter eye shadow applied before the show.

Backstage, there was another problem.

Dave's dead? Matt Paul, 12, reported to the head electrician, Keith Ann Olszowski, 11. He was referring not to a child, but to one of 20 or so stage lights that the students had built, named and attached to a dimmer board. The one named Dave was not illuminating.

"OK, check it, check the tape," said Leigh Ann, remaining calm. "We have time."

There were no teachers consulted, no parents brought to fix last-minute snags. But that wasn't the half of it.

Not only were the 16, 11- and 12-year-olds literally running the show, they had written it — the script, the music and the lyrics — themselves.

They had designed and built the scenery (including a collapsible salad bar and Shaggy machine), created the costumes, applied the makeup, and even handled the public relations. (They invited the governor and their congressmen. They didn't come to last Thursday's performance, but the mayor and his wife did.)

It is all a part of Creating Original Art, a program managed by the education arm of the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York and now operating in some 600 schools around the world. In this area, schools in Ardmore, Philadelphia, and Lansdowne, in Pennsylvania, and Blackwood and Hainesport in South Jersey are participating in the program.

The Met program conducts intensive workshops for some 200 teachers each summer, training them to guide children in the creation and production of original opera.

Bruce Taylor, one of its creators, started the program at a high school in Seattle in 1976, when he saw the disintegration of the arts in public schools.

He thought a program in which students wrote and produced their own work would not only expose them to the world of theater, but let them learn how to make decisions for themselves from deciding what they wanted to write about to deciding how to resolve problems along the way.

"Kids have to learn to function on their own, without someone telling them what to do and how to do it," he said. "In a production you've got



Kathleen Richards, 11, a student at the Hainesport School, performs as Valerie in a rehearsal of "The Campagna Perry," an opera she and her fifth-grade classmates wrote and produced.

a lot of kids depending on each other. ... The peer pressure makes them accountable."

Two fifth-grade teachers at Hainesport, Mike Richards and Bobbie Broder, attended one of the Met workshops at Princeton University last summer. And in September,

Willingboro gets a bad report card

A panel of education evaluators recommended broad changes for the troubled district.

By David Hafter
PHILADELPHIA CONTRIBUTOR

WILLINGBORO — Citing problems that range from outmoded teaching styles to questionable board management, a team of state education experts delivered a scathing critique of the Willingboro school system last night designed to help this troubled district.

The report, prompted by three consecutive years of students' unsatisfactory scores on eighth-grade standardized tests, criticizes the district of 5,500 students for instances of disorganized board governance, below-standard instruction in some areas, and deficiencies in its finances. It also points out problems with teacher instruction and how students are learning.

"All these things are tied together," said Douglas Groff, former Burlington County schools superintendent, who headed the team. "If one is weak then all are weak."

For close to an hour and a half, Groff and his team explained exactly what those weaknesses were. According to the report, Willingboro students are not learning math skills or higher thinking skills.

The report also faults the district for outdated teaching techniques. Willingboro's teachers, the team said, need professional development. In addition, parental involvement is lacking.

See WILLINGBORO on B4

MD4

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Education

Tuesday, April 26, 1994

Within dissonance, a poet finds a voice that leads to calm

His words took a man from gangs to Shipley.

By Joyce Vettima Hoffer

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

BYRON MANN — When Luis Rodriguez went to school in South Central Los Angeles, the teachers made him sit in a corner and study books because no one could understand him. "I spoke perfect Spanish," said Rodriguez, now 39. "But the teachers didn't know what to do with me. So I sat in the corner until they literally beat the Spanish out of me."

Rodriguez told students at the Shipley School that he "fell through the cracks of language" and felt powerless because he could not communicate. But he said that changed about 20 years ago when he found his "voice."

Today, the author uses poetry to tell his story about growing up a "second-class citizen" and running with gangs during the 1960s.

Last week Rodriguez was the poet-in-residence at the Shipley, Baldwin, Agnes Irwin, Episcopal and Havertford Schools. His visit was sponsored by the Multicultural Resource Center for Philadelphia and the independent School, and funded by a grant from the DeWitt Wallace-Readers Fund.

Rodriguez, whose book *Always Running: La Vida Loca (Gang Life in L.A.)* is a bestseller, visits schools, shelters and prisons nationwide and in Europe talking to students about finding their "voice."

"I was the most shy, broken-down person you could imagine," Rodriguez told students at Shipley. "Poetry became my strength. Now I am not afraid. I can find the words I want to break the silence."

Rodriguez spoke candidly of gang life and of how 25 of his friends were killed by rival gangs, drugs or violence. He talked about being kicked out of three schools and dropping out when he was 15, and being thrown out of his home.

When he joined a gang at age 11, Rodriguez said, he wanted a sense of power — but he ended up in prison at age 17 for attempted murder.

"Those were six very intense years," he said. "I was lucky to have survived it and transcended it. I got into poetry when I was about 25 or 26. It created a former convict he

called Chente for helping redirect his energies.

"Poetry should be something that anyone who has lived through something can write about," he said. "I learned to write so that I could eventually write about my experiences."

Normally, Rodriguez said, the schools he visits are impoverished, with students who are gang members. "It's special for me that I get to go to schools that are a little more privileged," he said. "But really the students in these schools are really not so privileged. The outside rates are high, and so is alcoholism."

For impoverished kids, people set expectations for them and their status in life," he said. "For the privileged, they are told they will succeed and they will be the rulers. That pressure hurts their creative process."

"I'm not a poet because I thought if you were a privileged child, you could be anything you wanted to be, but the pressure to succeed to a certain standard around their neck," he said.

He talked to the Shipley students about how someone from his background could come into "their world and dialogue as equals."

"I'm not any better than the 25 poets who usually read in English class. It's just that the circumstances, time and place were in my favor. Now I feel I have a responsibility to help other people."

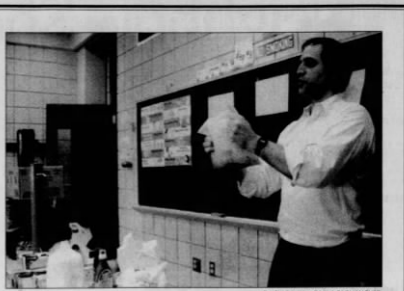
Rodriguez started his own publishing company, *Tia Chucha Press*, in Chicago, where he now lives. He publishes his own work and the work of authors who are from different ethnic groups, from prison or homeless.

Senior Maggie Garfield said Rodriguez was more modern than the poets she usually read in English class. "I don't approve of his background in the gangs, but I think it's good he came out of it and that he's using his poetry to bring others out of that way of life," she said.

Senior Ron Arbogast agreed. "I don't personally relate to someone who had been through gang life," Arbogast said. "But it's great that he explained what happened in his past using metaphors. Poetry isn't a well-known path on which this information travels."

At the end of the visit, Rodriguez said he would be back in the area in the future.

His literary voice saved Luis Rodriguez from a life among gangs, he told students as the Shipley School's poet-in-residence.



In a session titled "Science Fun," Gordon Zibelman from Drexel Hill Middle School demonstrates how to make ice cream out of milk, chocolate syrup, ice and rock salt. About 155 teachers attended the Eighth Annual Elementary Science Mini-Convention.

Tricks for teaching science

By Gloria A. Hoffer

CORRESPONDENT

MAPLE — It took a bit of pushing, prying and squeezing, but finally Pat Nelson achieved her

Nelson, a third-grade teacher at Toby Farms Elementary School in Chester Township, built a clay boat capable of floating. Her loan, green, floating machine not only stayed above the water line, it also held 12 marbles and proved scientific principles on buoyancy.

Ms. Nelson and her students have been reading about the Titanic, and I wanted a way to integrate the reading and science curriculum," Nelson said. "We used a terrarium in the classroom to try floating various objects, but coming here has given me some new ideas."

Nelson was one of 155 teachers from public, private and parochial schools at the Eighth Annual Elementary Science Mini-Convention sponsored by the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. Held April 14 at Delaware County Community College, the event allowed teachers to share ideas on how to convey complex science principles to students.

There were lessons on a wide range of topics, including chemistry, environmental science, plant biology and physics.

Nelson attended a workshop on floating and sinking conducted by Jeff Wernick and Derrick McMichael. The two Wilkes University graduate students demonstrated new science and technology kits developed by the National Science Resource Center, the National Academy of Science and the Smithsonian Institution.

The kits, which cost about \$100 for 30 students, provide everything needed for six to eight weeks of science lessons plans, Wernick said. They include bookends and science props, such as objects that float and sink and plant materials.

Linda Davis, who teaches at Stafford Friends School in Havertford Township, said she hoped to use information from the floating kit.

"We do a schedule theme every year and incorporate various subjects under one topic," Davis said. "Next year, I'm proposing our theme be boats."

Kits were just one resource among many presented at the conference. Other items that turned into science teaching tools included Legos, model cars, lima beans and scales used to weigh fish.

Though a bit unconventional, all were simply different approaches to helping children get excited about science, according to Danny Childers, a presenter.

In elementary school, a lot of teachers teach a little bit of everything," Childers said. "They need ways to teach exciting lessons independently."

In showing ways to teach about levers, Childers demonstrated that the amount of pull needed to move a toy car up a ramp depended on the placement of the fulcrum.

Another lever experiment involved five yardsticks and a C-clamp. By fanning out the yardsticks and clamping them together in the center, Childers demonstrated a wheel.

Later, using a Lego kit containing assorted plastic wheels and widgets, Childers showed how students could build simple machines and levers.

Manopaker, a fourth-grade teacher at Amnold Elementary School in Ridley Township, said she had used the Lego kit with her students.

"We all have to teach the same lessons, but by coming together with other teachers, you share your ideas about what works," Kato said.

Last year, I taught third grade and I used some new ideas I learned at the conference to teach about the three states of matter."

Childers, a fourth-grade teacher at Our Lady of Fatima in Secane, said she had used the Lego kit with her students.

After the students build a model for a science project, they must write a paper to demonstrate their understanding of the science concept," Sister Carolyn said.

Pint-size Pavarotti set to sing

Arndmore Avenue fourth graders composed their own opera. Now, they await opening night.

By Cynthia J. McGearty

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

LANSDOWNE — It has all the elements of classic opera: conflict, passion, emotion. But it has something Puccini never even thought of — the evil hornet from the sewer.

It's *Six Kids With an Attitude*, an opera written, composed and performed by 28 fourth graders at Arndmore Avenue Elementary School. It will premiere next Tuesday and run for four days on the gymnasium stage. The production (10 a.m. Tuesday, May 4 and May 6, and 7:30 p.m. May 5) is free and open to the opera-loving public.

In the works since January, the project originated under the auspices of a Metropolitan Opera Guild program known as Creating Original Operas. Music teacher Nicholas Damiani and fourth-grade teacher Susan Brotherton attended a guild-sponsored training seminar last summer at Yale University.

In keeping with the student-centered principles of the program, the opera — from the first note to the last nail hammered into the set — was the work of the First Ever Arndmore Avenue Opera Company, of the fourth graders involved in the project.

"We had no vote in any of this," Damiani said.

The students met two mornings a week, starting with a general discussion and then breaking into groups to discuss theitty-gitty details: music, lyrics, sets, costumes, makeup and publicity.

The action of *Six Kids With an Attitude* centers on a group of fourth graders who get some mischief one night after viewing a scary movie called *The Evil Hornet From the Sewer*. The girls in the group play a prank on the boys, who are gathered for a sleepover, pondering things that go bump in the night.

In the ensuing farce, a television gets broken, and the children end up having to earn the money to replace it. There's an evil vent at the end that we should keep secret," Damiani said.

Magnus, 10, First Ever publicity chairman, did not divulge the secret, but he did comment on his experience with the opera project. "I'm having a good time, and I think everyone else is, too," Tom said.

"I know nothing about opera. Now I know that it's sort of like a play, but it's a lot longer. There's a lot of singing and dancing," he said.

Damiani said the students "learned how to communicate with each other in a clear manner." They also learned that the arts are fun pursuits of the adult world, he said.

"I'm happy that the kids can see that the arts are something they can do themselves. They're seeing that all their hard work is having some results for them."

Education Notes

Jumping at the chance to benefit heart unit

By Gloria A. Hoffer

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

Ridley Middle School sixth graders recently participated in the school's Third Annual Jump Rope for Heart event.

Sponsored by the American Heart Association, the event involved about 180 students, who raised \$1,400 for the charity by jumping rope and collecting pledges. Teachers Wayne Goleby and Shirley Pitt and nurse Barbara Dehner coordinated the event.

Also in the **Ridley School District**, students at **Lakeview Elementary School** were recognized as gold medal winners by the March of Dimes for reading 4,882 books in a month and receiving \$5,470 in donations for the charity.

Hula hooping for hours

They didn't stop to eat or drink or go to the bathroom. These youngsters were going like wheels.

On Friday, 78 students at **Russell Elementary School** in Broomall dropped into their hula hoops and let it rip. They shook and swayed for hours, raising more than \$500 for juvenile diabetes.

The students began hula hooping in gym class last year, said Lisa Horst, physical education teacher at the school. "At that time, it was just to see who was the best boy and the best girl," Bertie said.

This year, fifth grader Meredith Scamman asked if the event could be held as a benefit for juvenile diabetes. Bertie said, "Anyone who could hoop nonstop for an hour qualified for the event," she said.

After six hours of hooping, Friday,

eight students remained. "I finally had to stop it," Bertie said. "School was over." The students ate pizza and crackers and drank apple juice while they hooped.

The winners, who will receive trophies, were third graders Alana Breckin, 1993 winner Stephanie Baska and Nicole Zonetti, fourth graders Ashley Hall and Mary Beth Tallman, and fifth graders Wendy Cherry, Esther Yon and Kim Nicolai.

Student ambassadors

Eleven local students have been chosen to participate in People to People, an ambassador program in which U.S. students travel to other countries in the summer. This summer, these students will visit New Zealand for nine days.

Ark Benham, St. Thomas of Good Counsel, Anthony Otto, **Ridley Middle School**, Brian Lorenz, **Springdale Lake Middle School**, Michaela Baska, **Lakeview Middle School**, Lauren Birtney and Alana Stout, **Norhtley Middle School**, Chad Hake, **Shaw-Kell and Tara Fritz, Radnor Middle School**, Lori Crawford and Jennifer Gill, **Garnet Valley Middle School**, Jason Stackhouse, Matt Berkowitz, John Pertridge and Jim Smith, **Haverford Middle School**, and Katie Bellwell, **Medica Grove**. Kim Talley and Matthew Williamson, **Strath Haven Middle School**.

Bonner at the Vet

Nonstop Bonner High School in Drexel Hill was well-represented at the Phillips 1994 home opener on April 15.

Sister Agnes Josephine, a chemistry teacher who has been at Bonner since 1977, is an ardent Phillies fan.

One of her former students, who is now an aide to Mayor Rendell, knew of her passion and invited her to view the game from a special seat. Sister Agnes and two of her friends, Sister Marie Claire and Sister Marie Benedetta, were able to watch the opening game from the mayor's private box.

Also watching the game, as well as receiving National League championship rings, were three Bonner graduates, Ray "Jody" Bonn, Class of 1976 and Phillips assistant grounds maintenance director, received his third championship ring. Receiving their first rings were grounds crew members Dave Pannamonte, Class of 1972, and Roy Young, Class of 1980.

Dress down for leukemia

St. Andrew School in Trevett Hill, along with **Cabery Lutheran School** in Havertown, St. Gabriel School in Norwood and **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School** in Media, host part in the Leukemia Society's fund-raising Dressed Down Day. Each of the four groups made a contribution to the charity and was well-represented to celebrate the home opener.

Paddington at Tree Tree

Tree Tree Elementary School was host to Paddington Bear as part of a third-grade social studies lesson on England.

Along with a visit by the popular storybook character, the students were also treated to a marionette on honeydew crickets.

Book reports come alive

Third graders from **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School** made their biography book reports come alive

recently by dressing as their favorite hero or heroine and giving oral reports. Those portrayed included President John F. Kennedy and St. Bernadette.

History Day winners

Several area high schools had winners in the annual History Day competition sponsored by the Chester County Historical Society and West Chester University.

The theme for this year's event, held this month at the university, was geography and history.

Students from five counties participated in the competition, which has been held for about six years, said Beverly Sheppard, associate director of the historical society.

"It's an academic competition on two levels," she said. "The junior level from six to eight, and senior level for grades nine through 12."

The students could enter several categories, including researching and writing a history paper or developing a project on a historical event. Sheppard said the students could also enter as individuals or as teams.

Jobs Turner, a history professor at West Chester, coordinated the project. Sheppard said.

"The purpose is to encourage students to develop their skills and an interest in history," she said. "It's also to help them understand the importance of learning about history."

Winners from **Marymount Newman High School** in various categories were Kaitlyn Boyer, Eric Paigenbaum, Sarah



Hooping it up at Russell Elementary School in Broomall, students raised more than \$500 for the fight against juvenile diabetes. Friday's marathon hula hoop session featured 78 youngsters.

Kaplan, Niran Patel, Ryan McLean, Emily Kar, David Kowalski, Joe Fiederman, Ben Heller, Ayana Alvin, Sara Adair, and Rachel Pabel.

From **Paxon Haller Middle School**, junior division winners were Lisa Kowalski, Katie Calabrese and Jennifer Duthie.

From **Penncrest High School**, Joe Erickson was a winner. From **Notre Dame Academy**, junior division winners were Elizabeth Prezel, Kim Leisner and Mary Ellen Wehlika.

The state competition will be held at Pennsylvania State University next month.

Scholarship available

Delaware County Community College is accepting applications for the annual William Taylor Jr. Scholars Award competition. The winner will receive a full-tuition scholarship to the community college for one academic year.

For more information, call 410-317-6035. The school is on Croftfield Road in King of Prussia.

high school seniors from sponsoring school districts are eligible. Each entrant must write a short essay and a written recommendation from a teacher, counselor or school administrator.

The award was created in 1984 to honor Taylor, a founding trustee of the college and its educational foundation.

Deadline for applications is May 20. For information, call 410-317-6035.

Basketball fun

The **Upper Merion Area Middle School** will hold its annual basketball game between the faculty and eighth graders at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the school's large gym. All proceeds will be donated to the Upper Merion Education Association Student Assistance Fund for needy families in the district.

Tickets cost \$4 and will be sold at the door. For more information, call 410-317-6035. The school is on Croftfield Road in King of Prussia.

✓ it Out

Picture It

Try This

Here is a list of what the kids should draw in coming weeks. Please be sure to use a black pen or marker on an unlined, white sheet of paper. This week kids draw the new Second Street bridge.

May 14: Mother's Day gift

May 21: Clown

May 28: American flag
Send or drop off drawings to ✓ it Out, c/o The Republic, 333 Second St., Columbus, IN 47201. Deadline is noon Tuesday. Please include name, age and suggestions for drawing ideas.



Sage Mitch 6



Nickie Mitch 4



Michelle Murphy 6



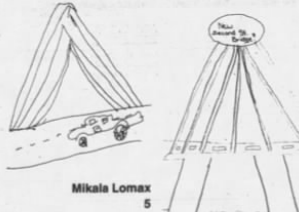
Katie Salee 6



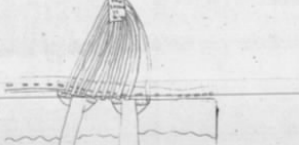
Kaitlin Miller 6



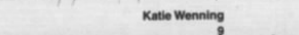
Alex Washburn 6



Mikala Lomax 5



Katherine McAvoy 5



Katie Wenning 9

What, if anything, really gets on your nerves?



Having school: Alex Birdwell
Tyler: Jordan Ogle
Jordan: Steven Solomon
My kitten: Hillary England
Homework: Jared England
My sister, Diamond: She cries a lot. Ebony Pennybaker

Asked at Foundation For Youth

Do you have a question you would like us to ask? Send your question to: ✓ it Out, c/o The Republic, 333 Second St., Columbus, IN 47201.

Students take lead in opera production

By Keith Ervin

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Neil Davis, production manager of the Opera Magic Production Company, had his hands full.

"Neil, he won't get out of my way — he's bothering me," said a makeup artist, pointing to a classmate.

"Neil, can you get the performers and herd them all on stage in three minutes?" asked musical director Terri Richter.

A short time later, the house lights went down for "The Hike."

Neil, 10, is one of 20 third- and fourth-graders in teacher Jo Vu's class who wrote and produced the hour-long opera, which premiered recently in the lunchroom of Seattle's Alternative Elementary No. 2.

"We rock," exclaimed Annie Hogan, 10, after schoolmates gave the production an enthusiastic reception.

"That was fun. Let's do it again," said Michael Paigenbaum, 10.

Set at Camp Bearwood, a fictitious summer camp in the San Juan Islands, the play follows a group of children who break camp rules by wandering off on an unpaved hike.

The older children dump their younger siblings, and both groups get lost in the woods. Rescued during a frightening night in the forest, they declare their affection for each other and struggle back to camp, singing.

"I'm glad we're back at camp. We're really cold and damp. We're tired and hungry, too."

It's an impressive production from students who just seven months ago knew almost nothing about opera.

Where's the fat lady?

"Some kids said they thought opera was a big fat lady singing in a 'Viking outfit,'" said Holly Eberhart, 10, who plays one of the older campers and who leads the Opera Magic Production Company's public-relations team.

The children learned better when they saw the Seattle Opera production of Mozart's "Magic Flute." The role of Papageno was played by Richter, who gave the children singing lessons, helped them put the play to music and worked on details of staging.

"It's amazing what they came up with," said Richter, a soprano who also played Xenia in Seattle Opera's "Boris Godunov" this year.

"They were in charge of everything — lighting, costumes, props, the entrances, the lines. I don't think they ever had the experience before where they totally ran everything."

Behind every great children's opera is a great musician — and in this case, two. The students also had help from composer, keyboardist and choral conductor Robert Kechley, whose son Murray is in the class.

After students came up with words and melodies, Kechley helped them structure the songs. With two student percussionists backing him, Kechley accompanies the play on piano.

Vu and the school's part-time visual-arts teacher, Cathy Tagget, last year attended the New York Metropolitan Opera Guild's teacher training on creating original opera in Cincinnati. They then obtained a foundation grant to pay for the work of Richter, Kechley and Tagget, the technical director.

The children have learned lessons in writing librettos, setting them to music, designing and building sets, building forelights, singing, acting and working together.

"They've also been introduced to a whole new world of music."

"People think that opera's boring," said Mayre Squires, 10. "We've learned it can be fun."



Annie Hogan plays Christine in her school's opera, "The Hike."

Third- and fourth-grade students wrote, produced and performed the musical production.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

for Flat Rock-Hawcreek and Bartholomew Consolidated

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Flat Rock-Hawcreek (Houser)	Chicken Nuggets, Tostitos, Choice of Fruit, Soft Pretzel, Milk	Turkey Sandwich, Noodle Soup, Mix Vegetables, Choice of Fruit, Milk	Sausage Steak, Meatloaf, Potatoes, Corn, Choice of Fruit, Tostitos, Milk	Spaghetti & Meatballs, Green Beans, Choice of Fruit, Soft Pretzel, Milk	Roast Chicken Salad, Pasta, Choice of Fruit, Breadsticks, Milk
BCSC Breakfast	Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice, Milk	3 Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Juice, Milk	Breakfast Steak, Fruit Juice, Milk	Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice, Milk	
BCSC Elementary	Pizza, Hamburger, Chicken Patty Sandwich, Chef Salad, Sweet Beans or Vegetables, Salad, Fresh Fruit, or Canned Fruit, Cookies, Milk	Nacho Nachos with Beef & Cheese, Hamburger, Chicken Patty Sandwich, Chef Salad, Sweet Beans or Vegetables, Salad, Fresh Fruit, or Canned Fruit, Cookies, Milk	Can Dog, Hamburger, Chicken Patty Sandwich, Chef Salad, Sweet Beans or Vegetables, Salad, Fresh Fruit or Canned Fruit, Milk	Choice Chicken Entry, Yeast Roll, Hamburger, Chicken Patty Sandwich, Chef Salad, Sweet Beans or Vegetables, Salad, Fresh Fruit or Canned Fruit, Cookies, Milk	
BCSC Secondary	Spaghetti, Garlic Bread or Chicken Salad Sandwich, French Fries, Pasta, Vegetables, Salad, Fruit Juice, Fresh Fruit, or Canned Fruit, Milk	Sausage Steak, yeast Roll or Sandwich, Meatloaf Potatoes or French Fries, Pasta, Vegetables, Salad, Fruit Juice, Fresh Fruit, or Canned Fruit, or Cakes, Milk	Can Dog or Sandwiches, French Fries, Corn, Vegetables, Salad, Fruit Juice, Fresh Fruit, Canned Fruit or Cakes, Milk	Chicken & Noodles, Yeast Roll or Ham & Cheese, Meatloaf Potatoes or French Fries, Corn, Vegetables, Salad, Fruit Juice, Fresh Fruit, Canned Fruit or Potatoes, Milk	

MAY 8-12

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B-2 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1998

Time-traveling tenors tell tall tale

■ Opera season returns to Oak Hill Elementary with production of 'The Heartbeat.'

BY BILL DOLAN
Times Staff Writer

LOWELL—The students and staff at Oak Hill Elementary seem to have a knack for harmony.

For the eighth year, its fifth graders will burst into song as they present a time-traveling opera, "The Heartbeat," about celebrating nature.

The students, who have named themselves the "Conserve and Preserve Opera Company," are practicing Friday afternoon and all day Saturday in preparation for performances 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

Katy Bailey, a student serving

as the production's public relations spokesman, said several of the opera's 10 characters go back in time to an Indian village in 1450. They see how it was to clean there and so changed from the present. They then go back into the time machine, fast forward to the future, where they find things dirty, then zap back again.

She said the plot and the five songs the company sings were all composed by students. "We all picked the topic and the (student) writers wrote it."

Some 64 students of Jeanne Goske, Christina Connors, Lora McColey and David Lilly are taking part in the production. Donna Harker is the company's music director.

The group began weeks earlier, when students auditioned for their various onstage and backstage roles.

Bailey also is one of the characters in the original opera. The other performers are Ashley Grant, Nick Hudacik, Brian Petralia, Ryan Nord, Elizabeth Martin, Andy Cleveland, Priscilla Zuchowski, Amy Kersey, Joe Wojcik, Brice Burge and Tiffanie Ball.

Opera has been a very annual event at Oak Hill since Goske and



Oak Hill fifth-graders Amy Kersey, Elizabeth Martin and Priscilla Zuchowski rehearse a scene from their opera, "The Heartbeat," which focuses on celebrating nature.

Harker took part in a teacher training series conducted by New York's Metropolitan Opera Guild in 1991.

Oak Hill was then one of 20 elementary schools in the Midwest chosen to participate in the guild's Teacher Workshop Series on Creating Original Operas.

Candidate announces mayoral aspirations

BY CARRIE RODOVICH
Times Staff Writer

LAKE STATION—Ed Peralta believes a small group of people has been running Lake Station for too long.

Peralta, 57, announced this week he will run for mayor in 1999 as a Republican. He has never before sought a public office.

"The city has been at a standstill for the last 15 or 16 years," he said.

Employment opportunities have dropped as work at the mills slows and city officials aren't working hard enough to attract new corporations to the area, he said. "I want to throw my hat into the political ring and put the city back on track."

Ed Peralta

Mayor candidate

owns United Security and is a real estate investor.

Peralta grew up in the Chicago area and has lived in Lake Station 20 years. He graduated from Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago and attended Southern Junior College in Chicago. He owns United States Security and is also a real estate investor.

Peralta wants to attract businesses, lower taxes and improve education. The wage attract businesses is to approach individual businesses rather than waiting for businesses to find the community, he said. Encouraging business growth would help lower individual taxes.

Peralta said he would like to see schools integrate technology into the classroom, but not at the expense of basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills that students need to perform without computer assistance.

"The quality of education should improve for every child in the city," he said.

Peralta said he thinks city officials should work with parents, teachers, churches and community groups to make life in the community better.

"It seems like the city fathers think that Lake Station is still Mayberry," he said. "Well, Opie has grown up. You have to look your doors now. Mayberry is gone, and people need to wake up. We need to destroy the Mayberry image and give this city potential."

Hobart apartment complex closer

■ M'ville officials express concerns about the proposal's effect on traffic.

BY KATHERINE BIEKER
Times Correspondent

HOBART—Plan Commission members unanimously voted Thursday to recommend rezoning for a proposed 732-unit apartment complex behind Southlake Mall.

The vote brings the Edward Rose Properties' development one step closer to rezoning more than 12 acres, making room for

the apartment complex. The City Council will consider the petition next week.

The effect of the Edward Rose Properties development on traffic patterns along Mississippi Street remains the big question. City Planner Jim Mandan said that can be dealt with at final subdivision approval.

Merrillville officials expressed their concerns about traffic in a letter but did not attend the public hearing. The letter states the town has conducted several road improvements along Mississippi Street and would hate to see them compromised by the development.

Edward Rose Vice President Jerry Speedy said timing of the traffic study doesn't worry him. "It's just going to accentuate how minuscule our impact will be," Speedy said.

Traffic counts are being taken during a 16-hour period over two

weeks. Historical counts from the state Department of Transportation and Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission also will be used to project future traffic.

Gretchen Garcia lives in The Preserve, 1613 E. 85th Court, and also is worried about traffic.

"Right now, your house shakes with all the traffic. You sit at the light two or three times before you get through," Garcia said.

The Plan Commission will conduct a public hearing on the preliminary subdivision plan at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at City Hall.

Water

Continued from B-1

looking for concessions."

Owen said the town was glad to hear about the plans for the storage tank, and it was good that the water company had extended water mains down Madison Street and Broadway, and out to Deep River Water Park, but that he was concerned about residents in the very center of town who were still using wells.

"I'm still looking at the residential part of the public," Owen said. "That's the people I represent, not the commercial people."

represent them, too, but most of them don't live in town. The guy who gets up and goes to work in the morning—the blue-collar guy—that's who I'm concerned about."

Councilman David Mirich, D-2nd, said it also would be helpful to have some plans for water line extensions into the panhandle area, where councilmen expect to see commercial development after 53rd Avenue is extended and widened next year.

"If somebody builds a house out in a corn field, they wouldn't expect the town to go put in a road for them," Nickels said.

"You essentially pay for your own water main in front of your own house."

Town Engineer Tris Miles said at the very least, it would be helpful for the town and the water utility to get some plans on paper and work toward filling in the gaps that were left from before the town's 1971 incorporation.

"One of the most common questions I get is, 'Does anybody want to meter mains on my street?'" Miles said. "If we could work together to just formulate a schedule, a plan to fill in these voids in the older areas, I think that would be a start."

Drugs

Continued from B-1

"There is no substitute for experience, and Jeff Kumorek brings that to help fight substance abuse in Lake County," said Donald Capp, chairman of the partnership's selection committee. "His relationships with law enforcement, educators, judges and so many others dealing with substance abuse puts him in a unique position to serve in his home county."

The Partnership for a Drug Free Lake County was created last year when the former Lake County Alliance and Partners for Prevention merged into one organization. William Nangle, president of the partnership and executive editor of The Times, said the agency receives about \$100,000 a year from grants and court fees, and receives more than \$1 million

in requests from community groups and agencies seeking funds for drug prevention, education, treatment and criminal justice.

Nangle said it will be Kumorek's job to try to double the amount of money the agency is able to raise to help expand the reach of drug-fighting efforts.

"The needs of the community are great, while the financing is not so great," he said. "We are very pleased to have someone with Jeff's credentials leading an organization that is dedicated to dealing with substance abuse in Lake County."

"His work with community policing and organizations fighting the war against drugs has been an obvious choice."

Kumorek, who served as a substance abuse counselor in the police department's employee assistance program for five years, said combating illegal drug use is one of the great challenges facing Lake County.

"Drugs are at the heart of every single socioeconomic problem we have in Lake County," he said. "There is no more important issue for our future and the future of our children."

"I am looking forward to continuing with public service in this new and very challenging capacity."

In addition to his work in community policing, as a Chicago police officer, Kumorek worked in the bomb and arson unit as well as in special details including organized crime, gangs, stolen weapons and illegal drugs.

During his tenure in Illinois, he was honored for his work on a six-month sting into the theft of cars destined for shipment to

Poland, and for his work to break a multistate burglary ring that used profits from its thefts to support the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Kumorek also has received commendations from the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Treasury Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the city of Chicago and the Polish American Police Association.

Kumorek, a graduate of Chicago City College, has taught at the Illinois State Police Academy, the South Bend Regional Police Academy, the Chicago Police Academy and the nationally recognized Citizen Community Alternative Policing Strategy initiative. He also served as a consultant on the recent Chicago Crime Commission publication, "The New Faces of Organized Crime."

Safety

Continued from B-1

their concerns because they felt the officers were going overboard and stopping residents excessively. Since then, Olsen and Matthew Round, vice president of Berger Realty Group, held a meeting to explain the increased presence of security. Olsen estimated about 100 residents attended.

"There were residents who were not happy being stopped by police. I told them it would take a while for the officers to get to know all the people," Olsen said.

For the most part, she said comments from residents have been positive. After hearing some residents complain about stepped-up security patrols, Olsen said she started getting calls and letters from residents telling her they appreciated her efforts.

The management company is going to install a security gate at the entrance and is considering installing fence around the property.

San Christie has lived at the complex for 14 years. He thinks Olsen has done a good job improving the property, but said he didn't know if security patrols had made a difference.

"You see people here and you don't know if they're new people or friends of residents," Christie said.

The size of the complex makes it hard to know if the officers have been successful in keeping non-residents off the property.

Tax

Continued from B-1

needed to pay for the cost of goods and services provided by the city. The revised property tax rate would be \$5.74 per \$100 assessed valuation.

The 1999 rate for the city is 50 cents per \$100 assessed value higher than the current property tax rate of \$5.24 per \$100 assessed valuation—\$50 more for every \$100,000 assessed value. That does not include

property tax rate increases that are anticipated for the schools, county government, libraries and the like.

A final determination on the tax rate will depend on whether the State Board of Tax Commissioners decide to accept an addition of \$2.1 million to Hobart's property tax rolls. Lake County Auditor Sam Orlick forwarded the figures to the state tax board on Dec. 3, within the state's deadline for adding

assessed value.

Timothy Brooks, executive secretary and general counsel for the state tax board, said the agency will make a decision on assessed value additions for Hobart and other Lake County communities in the next few days.

Brooks said the property tax decrease is the result of an increase in Hobart's taxable assessed valuation—from \$171,797,000 to \$173,615,000. As

long as spending remains constant, increases in assessed valuation mean decreases in property tax rates.

Brooks said Hobart is asking the state to increase the assessed value of real estate in Ross Township by about \$1 million and add \$1.7 million in the tax increment financing area along U.S. 10. In addition, at the same time, Brooks said Hobart lost about \$600,000 in assessed value in other locations.

Giving

Continued from B-1

Saints Monica and Luke's Church Soup Kitchen.

Among other groups doing charitable works are the senior class, which has about 68 members donating time at a soup

kitchen, and the French Club, which will sing carols at the Senior Center.

The Student Council has an Adopt-A-Family program, and Peer Helpers for special-needs kids held a Christmas party after school last week. HERO

held a blood drive this week, and the Spanish Club will carol at the Town Center Retirement Homes.

Quest Club members, in partnership with the Natural Helpers, are holding a party at Happy Moments Daycare at Miller School

next week.

Moderator Jerry Kaarda said the members made Santa masks for the kids to decorate, and they'll have a Christmas Parade led by Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves. After the parade, the children will get treats.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2002 WEST

RECORD/LOCAL

TIMES

Third-graders put on opera

Busy schedules create material for Solon Robinson production.

BY DIANE KRIEGER SPINAK
Times Correspondent

CROWN POINT — Who says kids have it easy?

When a group of 39 Solon Robinson Elementary School third-graders got together last fall to come up with an idea for an original opera, they voted to showcase stress as their theme.

They chose time conflicts as the cause of their stress. Lessons, scouts, chores, homework and appointments were all pointed out in song as reasons youngsters sometimes just don't have time to do everything, including going to birthday parties.

"Tag of Me" was held in three performances, two of them Thursday for the public. The three-act opera follows students through a week of their lives as one plans a birthday party while others

try to juggle singing lessons, science projects and more so they can attend.

In the end, they decide the best thing to do is, "Slow down and think it out, try to plan ahead. There's only one me to go around, stop the tug of war."

It's the eighth year the students have participated in the project, offered through the Creative Original Opera program, part of the Education at the Met Division of the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York.

The students call themselves the Kids Safari Opera Company, and work in crews, just like in any other theatrical production, as writers, electricians, composers, performers, and in public relations and set design.

The students were charged with coming up with the five acts in the opera and giving each specific personality traits. "It was hard how we were going to write about the opera, and come up with scenes and how they were going to work,"

said Brittany Adams, as the group was preparing for its afternoon performance.

What wasn't hard was identifying time conflicts in their own lives that can contribute to stress.

"I have football and do dirt biking," Andy Hoch said. "I have Brownies every week and have to do projects for it," said Amy Kender. "I have to go to my dad's house and a lot of my friends invite me over," said Stephanie O'Connell.

Amanda Fields said she wouldn't be able to attend a wedding because of her piano lessons.

"The kids do really well," said third-grade teacher Michelle Hess, who works on the project annually with fellow third-grade teacher Joyce Abbott.

"They love it," Hess said. "They take ownership of it and are proud of their product."

Local officials seek probe of the 'other' Jesse Jackson

Times Staff Report

CHICAGO — U.S. Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr., D-Chicago, on Thursday released letters from more than a dozen south suburban and Chicago officials calling for an investigation into alleged criminal activity surrounding the candidacy of Jesse Jackson of Robbins.

Both men are vying for the Democratic candidacy in the 2nd Congressional District primary on March 19.

The officials wrote letters to U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald and Cook County State's Attorney Nick Devine, urging a full investigation. Among those sending letters were Lansing Mayor

Dan Polgar, Lynwood Mayor Russell Melby, South Holland Mayor Don DeGraff, Chicago Heights Mayor Angelo "Sam" Clambro, Homewood Mayor Richard Hefield and Illinois Rep. David Miller, D-Dolton.

Congressman Jackson is trying to have the Jackson from Robbins removed from the ballot. A hearing officer for the State Board of Elections on Jan. 19 recommended the Jackson from Robbins be removed from the ballot, saying there was no evidence the man used "L" as his middle initial. The Robbins man filed his nomination papers using the name Jesse L. Jackson.

On Saturday, the general counsel of the State Board of

Elections recommended the Jackson from Robbins be allowed to remain on the ballot, but without the middle initial "L."

Congressman Jackson alleges Illinois Sen. William "Bill" Shaw, D-Dolton (who also serves as mayor of Dolton), and his brother, Cook County Commissioner Robert Shaw, misled volunteers collecting signatures for "the congressman." The Shaws deny the allegations.

The State Board of Elections will hear additional evidence on petition fraud allegations beginning at 11:30 a.m. today in its Chicago office.

Shooting suspect denied bail

Shaka Shakur charged in Jan. 4 shoot-out with Gary police officer.

BY BILL DOLAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

CROWN POINT — A Lake County Circuit Court judge denied bail reduction Thursday for a Gary man charged with a Jan. 4 shoot-out with a Gary police officer.

Mark Steven Douglas, also known as Shaka Shakur, 35, of 1130 Idaho St., asked Judge Thomas Stefaniak to reduce his \$100,000 bond so he can be released from the Lake County Jail where he could be held un-

til his trial later this year. The judge received letters from a number of Shakur's supporters, including some college students, who said he was trying to turn around his life and wouldn't be a danger to the community or a flight risk.

However, the judge said Shakur's previous criminal record and pending charges were too serious to justify a bond reduction. Gary police Officer Richard Allen Sr. saw Shakur strike a utility pole with his car at the intersection of 43rd Avenue and Broadway shortly before 8 a.m. police said.

Allen attempted to stop Shakur, who sped away. After a

short chase, Shakur pulled over near 42nd Avenue and Delaware Street, exited his vehicle and allegedly began firing a pistol at Allen. A probable cause affidavit from the Lake County prosecutor's office said Allen hid under his dashboard to evade the more than 12 shots fired by Shakur.

Shakur drove off but finally was stopped after striking a bus and a tree. He is charged with attempted murder, possession of a firearm by a felon, attempted battery and resisting law enforcement. If convicted, Shakur could face 70 years in prison.

Shakur was released from prison 10 months ago after serving 16 years for armed robbery.

THE POLICE BEAT

CATCHING UP WITH THE LOCAL CRIME REPORT

GRIFFITH

WEDNESDAY

■ Auto theft, 6:07 a.m. 400 block of North Griffith Boulevard.
■ Theft, 6:10 p.m. 200 block of East Columbia Avenue.
■ Auto theft, 7:44 p.m. 1800 block of West Glen Park Avenue.

THURSDAY

■ Possession of marijuana, 2:46 a.m. Cline Avenue and Main Street, Michael Dettl Jones, 18, of 6604 Idaho Ave., was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and minor possession of alcohol.

HIGHLAND

WEDNESDAY

■ Operating while intoxicated, 1:27 a.m. 8300 block of Indianapolis Boulevard, Periklis Tjipis, 23, of 719 Kaitiawan Drive, Schererville, arrested.
■ Theft, 7:01 a.m. Spring

Garden Restaurant, 2708 Highway Ave. Cash reported stolen from register, \$150.

■ Damage to property, 10:11 p.m. 3000 block of 45th Street. Damage to mailbox.

MUNSTER

WEDNESDAY

■ Vandalism to vehicle, 7:06 a.m. 7600 block of Hoffman Avenue. Three tires slashed, \$300.
■ Vandalism, 12:20 p.m. 7900 block of Forest Avenue. Paintballs shot at house.
■ Theft from residence, 5 p.m. 1100 block of Oak. Unknown amount of items reported stolen.
■ Theft from residence, 6:22 p.m. 8100 block of Hawthorne. Jewelry and \$1,500 cash reported stolen.
■ Malicious trespass, 11:36 p.m. 1900 block of Tulp Lane. Back door window smashed.

SCHERVILLE

WEDNESDAY

■ Theft, 8:35 a.m. 800 block

of East Joliet Street. Newspapers, valued at \$50, reported stolen.

THURSDAY

■ Driving while suspended, 12:23 a.m. Eagle Ridge Drive and Deer Creek Drive, David Roethlis, 19, of 9124 Fairbanks, Crown Point, arrested. Roethlis also was cited for disarming a stop sign, police said.

■ Disorderly conduct, public intoxication, battery alleged, 2:05 a.m. Woodhollow Loft, 221 U.S. 41, Jan. Lerner, 27, of 6837 Arizona Ave., Hammond, arrested.
■ Conviction, possession of paraphernalia alleged, 9:47 a.m. Walgreens, 659 W. U.S. 30. Twelve DVDs, valued at \$163, allegedly taken from store. Julia Robertson-Johnson, 37, of 4637 W. 189th St., Country Club Hills, Ill., arrested. Robertson-Johnson also was cited for driving while suspended, police said.

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(Continued Results May Vary)

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Red Advertisement

Bank Repossessed Cars to be Sold Directly to the Public

Hammond Dealership Disposing of 100 Bank Repos and Other Used Vehicles for Only \$59 Then Start Making Payments, With Qualified Credit*

HAMMOND, IN — Bank Repossessed cars and trucks are among the most hunted-for bargains in the automotive industry. Unfortunately for John Q. Public, they're also the hardest to come by.

Banks often unload repossessed vehicles to car dealers at rock-bottom prices — allowing dealers to resell them for retail value. But bargain-seekers can take heart: This week, Neal's Dodge is going to change that.

This Wednesday, January 30th through Sunday, February 2nd, Neal's Dodge will offer 100 bank repossessed, lease return and other used vehicles for up to 50% discounts below normal values, and pass the savings on to their customers.

"These vehicles have been acquired at incredible savings from banks (repos), auctions, and other sources," Bill Bender of Neal's Dodge said. "Now we must sacrifice this inventory immediately — regardless of loss of profit. And if that means selling these vehicles for up to 50% below normal values, then that's what we'll do."

Every bank repossessed and other pre-owned vehicle will be available for just a \$59 acquisition fee* then start making payments. "It's that simple," said Mr. Bender. "To make these bargains even easier, we'll mark the payments right on the windshield! Just pick your vehicle and pick your payment. You won't find a faster, easier way to get a great deal on a pre-owned vehicle."

Almost every type of vehicle and price range will be available, from luxury 4x4s to basic transportation. Many are still under warranty. "With our pre-owned inventory near an all-time high, chances are we have what you're looking for in stock and ready to drive home," Mr. Bender added. Extra sales and finance staff

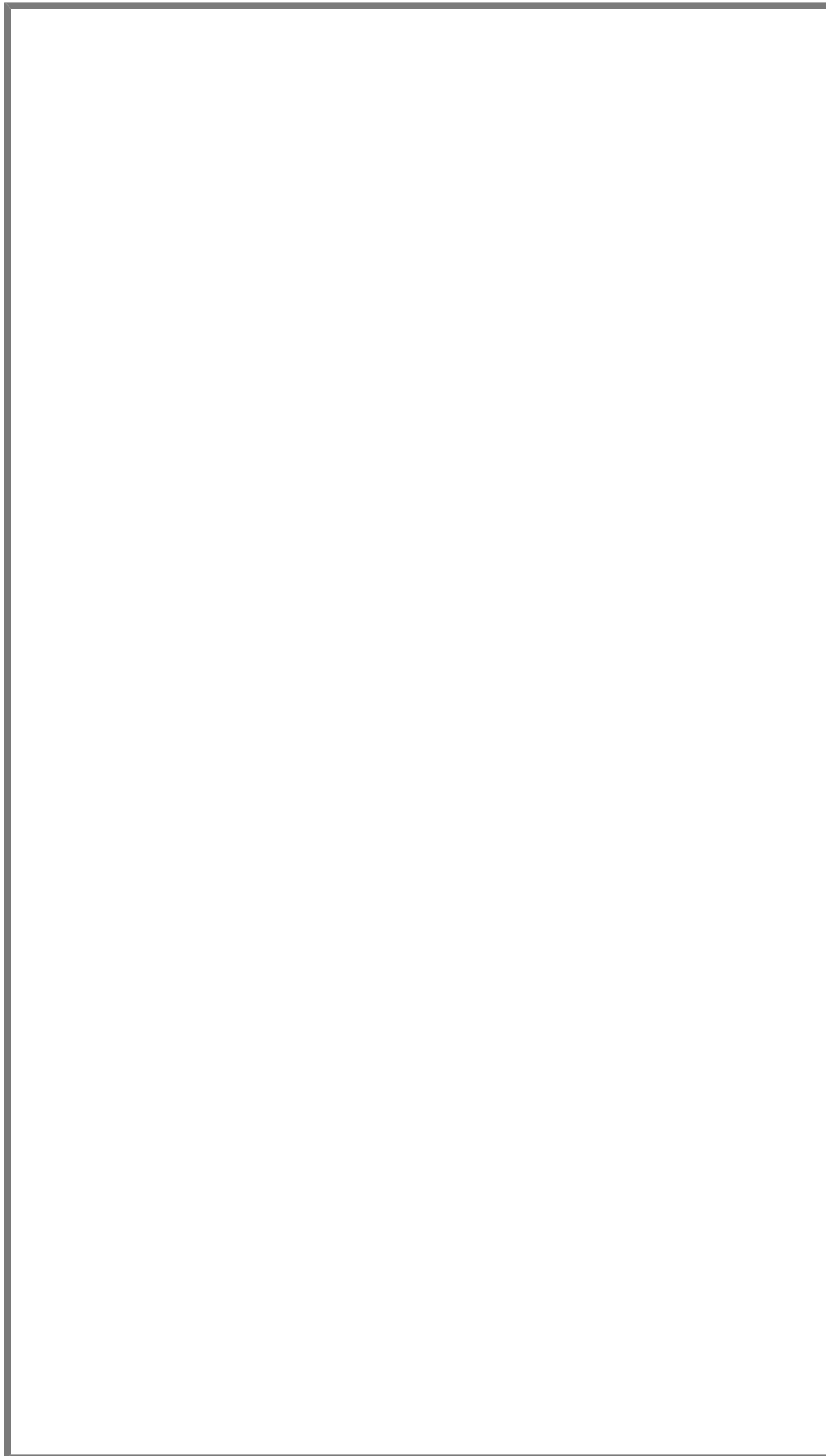
will be on hand to assure customers prompt, quality service and the best finance terms possible. Mr. Bender said, "We'll have over \$4 million in financing available for this event, so chances are we can arrange financing for just about anyone who is employed, re-gardless of past credit history."

Trade-ins will be accepted, and customers are encouraged to bring their title or payment book to expedite delivery.

"The opportunity Indiana bargain-hunters have been waiting for happens this Wednesday through Sunday at Neal's Dodge. Every bank repo and other used vehicle is just \$59 then start making payments." Customers may never see savings like this again," said Mr. Bender.

After the \$59 SuperSale ends at 6:00pm on Saturday, February 2nd, many of these vehicles will be sent to auction. Any questions can be directed toll free to 1-888-455-2118. Neal's Dodge is located at 7212 Indianapolis Boulevard in Hammond.

*Limit two vehicles per household please. Dealer reserves all rights & restrictions. *All offers with approved credit. \$59 plus tax, title & license. Down payment may be required for some models. Example: 1998 Chevy Cavalier, Sale Price \$1711.18. \$1999 for 48 mos @ 6.9% APR. \$1999 down payment for a total of \$1999 down plus tax. Total amount financed \$1711.18 plus tax. Subject to credit approval. Subject to dealer's final approval. See dealer for details. Copyright © L & A Marketing, Inc. 2002. All rights reserved.



REGION

Lake Area

United Way
maps goals

Page 2

Crown Point

Local

The Times Monday, June 24, 1991 Section B

200 Jobs Wanted

LOCAL

Looking for
work? Try our
classifieds

Page 5

Local in brief

Crown Point

Cedar Lake officials will test emergency alarm at 6 tonight

CEDAR LAKE - Volunteer fire department officials will try a new emergency warning system at 6 tonight to notify residents of an impending tornado.

The test will consist of a two-minute fire siren blast.

After this first test, testing will be done at 6 p.m. the last Monday of every other month, probably until October, Fire Chief Dennis Wilkening said. The next test will be conducted Aug. 26.

Thomas Sergeant of the Fire Department said residents should practice emergency procedures in their homes in case of an approaching tornado.

Because this is the first attempt at a tornado warning system, many residents may not know about the procedure, but Wilkening said both police and the fire department are ready to receive calls.

LOFS home, garden group to get decorating tips Tuesday

LAKES OF THE FOUR SEASONS - Ramona McCroft of the Merrillville Florist Shop will be the guest speaker and demonstrator at Tuesday's meeting of the Lakes of the Four Seasons House and Garden Club.

Club members will meet at noon at the Lakes of the Four Seasons Clubhouse and learn how to decorate with boxes, fabric and flowers.

All-purpose CPR instruction offered at Lowell library

LOWELL - Adult, child and infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation will be taught by Cindy Zakala at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Lowell Public Library.

The American Heart Association offers the class. To register, call 696-7704.

Pet shows, worm races, videos planned for kids' reading club

LOWELL - The Lowell Public Library's summer reading club, "Dive In, The Reading's Great!" has begun at the library and its Shelby and Schneider branches.

Youngsters can register any time, and receive a paper shark with a paper fish for each 10 books read.

Activities include a pet show for live or stuffed animals (live ones on leashes or in cages) at 1:30 p.m. today, "Katter the Cat" and "Hoover Blood Highway" will be shown at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The Shelby branch plans a show at 10 a.m. Thursday; a worm race at 10 a.m. July 1; and exotic animals shown by veterinarian Herbert Hardwick, July 18.

The Schneider branch plans a pet show at 11:30 a.m. Thursday and a worm race at 11:30 a.m. July 11.

Region

Basic sailing courses open through August at Lake Etta

GARY - Several American Red Cross certified courses in basic sailing begin this week at Lake Etta County Park.

Remaining courses will run 5:30 to 8 p.m. July 8-11, July 15-18 and Aug. 12-15.

Advance registration and payment of \$12.50 are necessary. The deadline for the July 8 course is July 1; followed by July 8 and Aug. 5 for the others.

Topics include the working parts of a sailboat, safety, getting started and tactics required to get across the lake and back. The basics will be taught by an American Red Cross basic sailing instructor.

All ages can participate; however, those younger than 18 must have written consent from parents or guardians. Call 769-PARK for a registration form.

Children's artwork on display this week at library branches

LOWELL - The Shelby and Schneider branches of the Lowell Public Library will hold a celebration of art today through Saturday.

Children from those areas whose artwork appeared in the annual student art exhibit at the Lowell Public Library recently will bring their pieces to the branch libraries to be displayed.

Cedar Lake considers second fishing derby after May rains

CEDAR LAKE - Cedar Lake Chamber of Commerce directors say heavy rains in May were the reason for the low turnout at the group's annual Fishing Derby.

The derby, held during the whole month of May, attracted only 138 entries instead of the 200 or 300 of previous years.

Chairman Phyllis Griffin said only two of the 137 tagged fish were caught, both worth \$50 each. The derby offered more than \$11,000 in cash prizes for the tagged fish.

Support group honors local soldiers

By MELANIE GSEPIGA
Times Correspondent

LOWELL - Attired in dress blues and looking every bit the part of the career Marine that she is, Lance Cpl. Melissa Huseman gratefully accepted a commemorative plaque for her role in Operation Desert Storm.

Huseman's recognition is the first of

many planned by the Tri-Creek/Cedar Lake Desert Storm Support Group organized in the early days of the war in the Persian Gulf to offer emotional and financial support to local military personnel and their families.

Huseman said the group did just that. "They boosted our spirits quite a bit," she said, adding that she received letters from people she never knew from Lake and

Porter counties.

The daughter of Shirley Huseman of Hebron and Jay Huseman of Merrillville, she served as a clerk and driver in Saudi Arabia, getting within four miles of the Iraqi border.

Now stationed at Camp Pendleton, Ca., as an administrative chief, Huseman said the attractive plaque will go on the wall in her office as a reminder of her hometown

support.

The additional recognition upon her return home was a surprise, she said, for which she is most grateful.

The support group plans to recognize each individual from the Lowell/Cedar Lake area who took part in Operation Desert Storm. So far, the group has

See SOLDIERS, Page B-2

SAFE CYCLISTS



An estimated 1,000 bikers, hangers-on and wanna-bes, top, turned out for the annual ABATE summer blow-out held at the Illiana Motor Speedway in Schererville Sunday. Mark Stancy, Chicago, right, and Lisa Lopez, Hammond, win the Wooten contest. The contest consists of the driver riding by the motorcycle while the passenger takes a bite out of a hotdog hanging from a string.

Times photo by Lucille Lopez

Riders in bikers' heaven as ABATE pulls out all the stops

By MARK KIESLING
Times Staff Writer

SCHERERVILLE - Year around, ABATE educates people in the art of motorcycle riding, lobbies the legislature for pro-biker laws and raises money to fight muscular dystrophy.

But Sunday, it was time to party. With a capital "P."

ABATE (American Bikers Estimated Toward Education) Lake County representative James "Jimbo" Farantelli attracted about 1,000 bikers, hangers-on and wanna-bes converged on Illiana Motor Speedway in Schererville from noon to after dark Sunday to celebrate

ABATE's seventh annual summer blow-out.

The event was sponsored by ABATE of Indiana's Region 2, which is made up of members from Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, Pulaski and Starke counties, and bikers from as far as Milwaukee, Michigan and Evansville dropped in to grab a beer, some early fries and buffalo wings, and to listen to the bands.

A Harley-Davidson T-shirt and jeans were not required for entry, but those who dovest that way were definitely more comfortable than the minority who did not.

After all, it's pretty hard to compete in the

See ABATE, Page B-2

Opera teaching in Lowell? Go figaro

By DIANE KRIEGER-SPIVAK
Times Correspondent

LOWELL - School may be out for summer, but not for long as far as two teachers from Oak Hill Elementary School are concerned.

Donna Harker and Jeanne Guske are re-teaching their roles from teachers to students as participants in a teacher training series conducted by New York's Metropolitan Opera Guild.

guild's Teacher Workshop Series on Creating Original Opera. The series began Friday at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and will run through July 1.

Three other Indiana schools, Eleanor Skillen School 34 in Indianapolis, Perry-Worth Elementary in Lebanon and Cumberland Road Elementary in Noblesville, were chosen to participate along with Oak Hill.

The teacher workshops series on creating original works was established in 1983 to introduce in the Midwest chosen to participate in the

See OPERA, Page B-2

SATANIC FINDINGS

Satanic symbols lurk on Borman

By DEBRA GRUSZECKI
Times Staff Writer

HAMMOND - Sinister musings to awaken the "ancient evil one" lurk in an isolated, unpretentious area of the city's south side.

Graffiti from the likes of "Dagon the black angel," "Azazel the wizard" and "Prison the spaw" is painted next to pentagrams, snakes, horned skulls and a clawed hand with an eye

drawn on the palm under a Borman Expressway bridge overpass near the Moson Railroad tracks that cross 173rd Street.

The satanic symbols and sayings, a series of nocturnal gatherings and a neighbor's springtime find of a satchel with 14 hypodermic needles has led to neighborhood action.

People in the 7500 block of Harrison Street meet regularly now to try to find out

how they can clean up the area, stop the gatherings and restore tranquility.

"There've been parties there with loud music and beer," said Chuck Ryan, 7507 Harrison Ave., who admitted to being somewhat glib about reports of juvenile gatherings until April.

Ryan stumbled across the satchel in a walk with his children and then spotted the

See SATANIC, Page B-2

Expert: Graffiti may have roots in game

By DEBRA GRUSZECKI
Times Staff Writer

BOISE, Idaho - The head of a national occult crime information clearinghouse said graffiti found in Hammond resembles the work of youths inspired by Dungeons and Dragons, a game he dubbed a "crash course in sorcery."

"A real active satanic group isn't going to let their members advertise by spraying graffiti," said Larry Jones, a Boise police lieutenant and president of Cult Crime

Network Inc. who has studied occult crimes since 1985.

The more adept they (true satanists) get, the more serious felonies they're committing, and I base that on talks with ex-satanists or present ones who started out as a kid," Jones said. "As soon as they're sucked into higher groups, they shut down (the outward signs of satanism) quick."

The fact that the inscriptions popped up under the Borman Expressway over-

See EXPERT, Page B-2

Times photo by Susan C. Rao

IUN police officer Ronald Jones stands in front of his squad car. His success story is an example of "Working smarter in the '90s."

Former millwright finds new challenges as IU police officer

By LU ANN FRANKLIN
Times Correspondent

GARY - Ronald Jones has "retired for life."

Like thousands of his generation, the 46-year-old Gary resident went to work in the steel mills at age 18 and planned to retire from there.

By the mid-1980s, however, those plans began to unravel. "The rumors started in 1984 that my department was going to be shut down," Jones said. He decided then that he needed to retrain.

He had taken some courses at Calumet College of St. Joseph and at Ivy Tech "just getting my feet wet" academically. But he began his college studies in earnest at Indiana University Northwest the year the rumors began at USX Gary Works.

He enrolled in the bachelor's degree program in criminal justice at IUN. His interest in law enforcement stemmed from a stint as a special deputy with the Lake County Sheriff's Department.



The I.U. police department is a fully accredited police force, not a security department. Full-time criminal justice students at IUN can work for the department and attend the state's police academy.

Second in a series

The rumors about the shutdown proved to be correct. In 1985, the company closed the 18-inch bar mill where Jones worked as a millwright.

See OFFICER, Page B-2

WC

Austin American-Statesman METRO & STATE Thursday, March 6, 2003

B5

Eanes, Del Valle school boards begin whittling budgets

By Kathy Blackwell
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Eanes and Del Valle school officials are grappling with which jobs and programs to slash next year.

Both districts held special board meetings earlier this week to focus solely on those issues.

Eanes — whose meeting was Monday — is still waiting through almost 200 cost-saving proposals. Del Valle on Tuesday voted on recommendations

designed to close its \$2.4 million budget shortfall for 2003-04.

The Del Valle board voted to cut 31 positions, including 12 teachers, the transportation supervisor and an assistant principal at Pughman Elementary School. Some of the positions are already vacant, and Superintendent Bernard Blanchard said he hoped most of the rest could come through attrition.

Board members also voted to eliminate bus service for students who are tutored after school.

In total, the Del Valle board approved about \$1.4 million in cuts and requested further review on other proposals, such as eliminating all library aides and reducing teacher workdays.

The board will meet again March 23.

Even though any cuts are painful, Blanchard said the quicker they're approved, the better.

"Sooner or later, every (district) is going to have to do that," Blanchard said. "And this will give us time to reassign

personnel."

The Eanes budget process has moved slower.

After coming up with a list of more than \$8 million in proposed cuts, Superintendent Jess Butler said a number of principals, administrators and other staff members have gone back and forth over the items. On Monday, they discussed which jobs and programs they want to try to save but came to no decision about cuts.

A vote won't come until the board meets at the end of the

month.

The district faces a \$7.9 million gap in next year's budget, and administrators need \$4.2 million to fill it. They are planning to cover the rest of the shortfall by taking \$11 million out of the district's \$18.5 million savings account as well as by increasing revenue.

Eanes officials had been considering one cost-saving measure that will likely not become a reality: charging students to ride the school bus.

At Monday's board meeting,

transportation director David Bollen said trustees that districts can charge only students who live within a 2-mile radius of the school.

The see-saw discussions frustrated some board members.

"We've got to be much more aggressive," Trustee Robert Dorke said at the meeting.

Both districts have hit the state's maintenance and operations cap of \$1.50 cap per \$100 in assessed value, so they can't raise taxes.

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Stage is set; stars are primed

After months of hard work, fifth-graders will make their opera debut in Austin

By Jeffrey Gilbert
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Ben Mercado controls the lights. Jose Juan puts on the makeup. Austen Hyde performs the overture, which he composed. Juan Hutchinson is the lead in the opera they've all been practicing for, nonstop, for weeks.

They're ready. And they're fifth graders.

The company of 60 children at Bryker Woods Elementary School in Central Austin has turned Louis Sachar's children's book, "There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom," into an opera. Students will perform the opera today in the school's auditorium, marking the culmination of a yearlong project and making Bryker Woods the first school in Austin that is part of the New York Metropolitan Opera Guild's Creating Original Opera program.

The fifth-grade classes have done it all on their own — from writing the script to advertising the production — without much help from teachers.

"For the people that watch it, it is like magic," 10-year-old production manager Zoe Kears said. "They do not realize we have done so much work to prepare. We are doing things like wheeling sets around and changing costumes in between scenes."

The story revolves around a boy, played by Juan, 10, who is an outcast in his school. He feels so lonely, like a boy who wanders into the girls' bathroom. Ultimately, a counselor helps him find his place and make friends.

It's not "Carmen" or "La Boheme," but it works for Bryker Woods, which has been in the opera business for five years. Music teacher and opera director Melody Long had to apply to be part of the program and has completed training in Alabama, Boston and New York. The New York program gave the school \$150,



but Long said they would not use it all. Most of what students used, she said, came from donations. They raised about \$100, but also accepted costumes and props.

Preparation for this year's opera began in August, when the students voted on the name for their company. They decided on The Flaming Bryker Woods Opera Company, in recognition of the school's mascot, the puffer.

"Each student then could apply and audition for three jobs or roles that they were interested in," director and fifth-grade teacher Susan St. Germain said.

The teachers "hired" the students and divided them into groups — composers, writers, set designers, electricians — and began to brainstorm.

In years past, students have written and composed operas from scratch. This year, they decided to adapt a book that everyone had read and enjoyed. But their task was still challenging.

"The writers had a tough time deciding which five or six scenes they could turn into music," St. Germain said.

After the script was written, the composers wrote the songs and music. The set designers created backdrops and figured out how they would move the sets between scenes in less than a minute. The costume

designers measured the actors and put together appropriate outfits.

The electricians mapped out how they would use their own lights by using vegetable cans, spray paint and light bulbs, said 10-year-old Ben.

"We built, dimmers, wired them and decided where they should be," he said. "We control the lights during the performances."

For the past two weeks, the teachers and students agree, the opera has taken over their lives.

"We work real hard, rushing around, getting things done," 10-year-old production manager Meredith Warren said. "I go home every night with a big headache."

St. Germain said the teachers try to incorporate every subject into the work. English in writing the script; math in

measuring the sets, and science in wiring the lights.

"The skills and experiences that this offers are above and beyond what could be offered in any curriculum guide," she said.

Parents agree.

"They develop an appreciation for how a group works together where everyone has a certain role," said Mary Croust, whose daughter is in the opera. "It brings out leadership qualities that everyone can see."

The cast performed the 35-minute opera Tuesday and Wednesday for fellow students. Juan, who says acting and singing are his favorite things to do, thought it went great.

"There were some disagreements, but we were able to work them out," he said. "We all were a great team."

Sacher, who lives in Austin, said he has seen lots of interpretations of his books, but this is the most creative. He said his family plan to attend the show.

"I'm always glad when teachers find new ways to use my work," he said. "I have no idea what to expect, but I'm really looking forward to it."

St. Germain said she is glad the final is finally here, and she is proud of the entire team.

"Our expectations were so high, and they all met them," she said. "They really did a phenomenal job."

Teacher in inquiry to retire, Hays says

By Jeremy Schwartz
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

KYLE — Hays school district officials said Wednesday that an elementary school teacher the district has accused of coaching her fourth-grade students during last week's TAKS has agreed to retire.

The teacher has denied giving students answers, said district officials, who refused to release the teacher's name and the name of the school where the alleged violation occurred. The potential security violation has been forwarded to the Texas Education Agency, which could conduct its own investigation.

According to a district investigation conducted Friday, the teacher helped 13 of the 14 students taking the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills in her class. The teacher encouraged students to sound out words and read over test questions, district spokeswoman Julie Crimmins said.

Crimmins said the teacher, who has taught in the district for many years, has agreed to retire at the end of the year because of the investigation.

The Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Debra Culbertson called coaching a serious violation and said the teacher could potentially lose her certification. Teachers and others who serve as test monitors sign an oath before administering the test and are not allowed to answer any student questions regarding the test.

The agency says it has received other complaints from around the state, but it's not clear yet how many violations have occurred. In 2001, the agency conducted almost 100 investigations related to assessment tests.

The students involved may be

forced to take the test again, a determination that will be made once results come out in May. Because this is the first year for the new test, results are not being used to figure district and school accountability ratings.

District officials would not reveal the teacher's name because it is a personnel issue and because they fear litigation for releasing the name because the Texas Education Agency hasn't made a ruling, they said.

The district learned of the violations from the mother of one of the students, who told his mother of the alleged coaching the night of the test on Feb. 27. The parent then contacted district officials who interviewed students and the teacher.

According to a district report, 13 of the 14 students clearly described helping and coaching behavior.

"We are confident this was an isolated incident," Crimmins, the district spokeswoman, said. "We heard nothing like this through TAKS. We take pride in the fact that achievement tests have been distributed with the utmost of standards."

TAKS was instituted this year as a tougher version of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills, which had been used to test student and school district performance. The most pressure was on third-grade students, who took the test Tuesday and face possibly being kept back a grade if they fail the test three times.

The new test will be delivered in segments: math, science, social studies, reading and writing from Feb. 23 through May 1. Students in grades three to 11 will take the tests, but not all investigations will take all segments.

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SCHOOL: Trustees to discuss options at tonight's meeting

Continued from B1

Mohr said. "We want to work with the kids who need another educational option," she said. "We can start a high performing school and produce some results."

Two years ago, KIPP tried to forge a partnership with the Austin school district, but the school board rejected the proposal. KIPP, Austin College Preparatory School came to the area anyway and opened in the fall with 77 students.

District trustees will discuss their options at 6:15 p.m. today at the district's administration building, 204 W. South St. in Leander. The meeting likely will lay the groundwork for Superintendent Tom Glenn to negotiate terms for bringing KIPP to the district. District officials want KIPP to teach students at

the current cost per pupil ratio. The district likely will provide the classrooms and transportation for the academy. Beyond that, however, not much else has been nailed down. It's too soon to determine whether the district may need to build or acquire another building to house KIPP, district spokesman Bill Bratcher said.

The district likely would offer the academy to all interested parents, but priority would go to students from low-income families and those who fail the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test.

In 2002, Leander's low-income students posted a passing rate nearly 10 percent lower than the rest of the district in reading on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills and 6 percent lower in math.

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RECOVERY: Community credited with aiding family

Continued from B1

"It feels really good," Veronica Bigelow said. "Everybody in Georgetown has done everything in their power to help the boys out. Someone once said that it takes a village to raise a family, and Georgetown is that village."

The Bigelows' ordeal began Nov. 12 when Veronica Bigelow left four of her sons in the family van to drop off a third one of the boys had taken to day care for show and tell. Bigelow's 12-year-old son, Joshua, was not in

the van.

The boys began playing with a lighter when papers in the front console went up in flames, accelerated by a nearby can of disinfectant spray, officials say. Most of the flames headed toward Sean, who was strapped into a car seat up front. He suffered extensive burns on his chest, back, left leg and face.

Doctors amputated his fingers and one of his toes. His face will never have the creamy appearance it did before the fire. Sean will need a lifetime of physical therapy and adaptive

equipment to help him write and feed himself.

Those setbacks haven't dampened Sean's spirit, said Kelli Sherouse, a physical therapist at Georgetown Healthcare System, where Sean, Brandon and Justin receive treatment. Therapists think Sean will be able to run and jump.

"Our job is to get them back into the community so they can be little boys, and that's what they are," Sherouse said. "The 2-year old, his favorite words are 'Mama' and 'No.'"

Brandon gave his first press conference Wednesday at Union Hill Elementary School in Round Rock, where he is a student.

"I'm glad that I'm back, coming to school," Brandon said. "I miss my teacher and my classmates, and I'm glad that none of my brothers died."

After the fire, Brandon told his mother that he had tried to rescue his youngest brother, Sean. A reporter asked him to describe how he tried to save Sean.

"I just hugged him," he said.

DEATH NOTICES

ANDERSON, Owen Wade, 62, of Austin died Monday. Services 12:30 a.m. today, West-City-Fair Funeral Home, Burial Austin Memorial Park.

BENAVEN, Isidoro, 86, of Corpus Christi died Saturday. Services 10 a.m. today, Baptist Temple Burial Assumption Cemetery, Arrangements by Mission.

BERRYHILL, Marvin, 81, of Moulton died Monday. Services 11 a.m. today, 11:30 a.m. Saturday, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Moulton. Burial, St. Joseph's Cemetery, Arrangements by Smith, Moulton.

BIRNIE, Jane Rhine, 73, of Houston, formerly of Austin, died Sunday. Burial and services 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Arrangements by Advantage, Houston.

CHAMBERS, Annie, 86, of Austin died Tuesday. Visitation 7 p.m. Friday, King Tran Mortuary, Services 11 a.m. Saturday, Sweethome Baptist Church, Burial Cook-Walker-Caplan Park Cemetery, Pharrsville.

DARLING, Robert Howard, 86, of Port Arthur died Monday. Services 1 p.m.

today, Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home, Galveston. Services 2 p.m. Friday, St. Ann Lutheran Church, San Jose, Burial St. Ann Lutheran Cemetery.

EMERY, James Leslie, 46, of Austin died Saturday. Visitation 6 p.m. today, West-City-Fair Funeral Home, Services 11 a.m. Friday, First Baptist Church, Burial Texas State Cemetery.

MICHAEL, Joe, 63, of Kyle died Wednesday. Burial 7:30 p.m. today, Angel, Burial Life Oak Cemetery.

PATTERSON, Dorothy Marie, 85, of Georgetown, formerly of town, died Tuesday. Services pending. Arrangements by the Gabriels, Georgetown.

SMITH, Elsie Edna, 82, of Johnson City died Tuesday. Visitation 9 a.m. and services 4:30 p.m. today, Ochs Funeral Home, Johnson City, Burial Oak Creek Cemetery, Johnson City.

WILL, Billy M. Jr., 41, of Austin died Sunday. Services pending. Arrangements by West-City-Fair.

SMITH, Elsie Edna, 82, of Johnson City died Tuesday. Visitation 9 a.m. and services 4:30 p.m. today, Ochs Funeral Home, Johnson City, Burial Oak Creek Cemetery, Johnson City.

WILL, Billy M. Jr., 41, of Austin died Sunday. Services pending. Arrangements by West-City-Fair.

RACE: UT dean talking with two fraternities

Continued from B1

outcome of those discussions," Brett said. "The discussions I'm in and the actions of the Interfraternity Council are two separate problems."

Besides suspension from the council, Kappa Alpha Delta is a nine-month probation period during which any other of fines could produce further punishment.

Also, the fraternity must conduct two one-hour lectures about interracial relations issues. The lectures must be open to all Greeks and at least 80 percent of Kappa Alpha members must attend.

Officers must also attend two hours of training about race issues.

Phi Gamma Delta must conduct two hours of training about race issues, said 80 percent of the students officers.

Kappa Alpha President Tim Weaver referred questions to a representative of the national organization, who could not be reached for comment.

David Brian Perry, a UT employee who advises the Interfraternity Council, said Kappa Alpha plans to appeal.

Carl Cordar, president of Phi Gamma Delta, said he disagrees with the findings.

"A guest wrote it and not an actual member," he said. "I don't think we should have been punished, but at the same time, the punishment was fair. Having cultural awareness is always something that's

beneficial."

Both fraternities have been sanctioned before by the dean of students office.

Kappa Alpha was found guilty of hazing in 1998 and was canceled as a registered student organization until the end of 1999. It was suspended during 2000 and on probation until the end of 2001.

In 1994, Phi Gamma Delta was involved in an incident with racial overtones in which it distributed a T-shirt with a photograph considered offensive. Phi Gamma Delta was placed on suspension and probation, and was also required to hold eight multicultural education hours per member for three years beginning in 1981.

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TempoSouthwest

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 1994

MITES OF SPRING
Community organizations
have a full schedule
of activities for
the Easter bunny.
See Page 5.



Michael McDermott on Chicago's Lincoln Avenue: "I'm a poet, a seer. Music is just the little wagon I use to carry my message."

Tribune photo by John Dineen

On the rocky road of rock

By Donna M. Chavez
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Michael McDermott still spends a lot of time at his family's Orland Park home. He still regularly performs in teacher Dan Sackett's Carl Sandburg High School contemporary literature classroom. He still visits with the priests at St. Michael's Church in Orland Park. That's on the one hand.

On the other hand, McDermott is following the 150-year-old words of favorite poet Walt Whitman and his "Song of the Open Road." That road has led McDermott thus far to the

Orland Park musician says the message is the thing

clubs and coffeehouses of Chicago and New York, to gigs around the country with his five-piece band, to a hands-on New York recording contract that has produced two albums (the plans to begin recording the third album in June), and what he calls "decent coverage" by MTV of his music videos.

Throughout it all, McDermott's biggest fans are his gray-haired parents. "He's keeping us young," said a

stranger from Des Moines buys his CD. And it's likely that McDermott's professional future is in the hands of a lot of strangers from a lot of places like Des Moines.

But this rock musician son of a suburban insurance agent is willing to take those risks because, for starters, he doesn't consider himself a musician.

"I'm a poet, a seer. Music is just the little wagon I use to carry my message," McDermott said recently. Indeed, rock critics have compared his music to that of Tracy Chapman, Bob Dylan and Jim Morrison, musicians

SEE ROCKERS, PAGE 6

Palos School survives as a piece of history

By Ken O'Brien
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Palos School might be gone, but it won't be forgotten.

The elementary school at 127th Street and 69th Court in Palos Heights was open from the late 1830s to 1972. It was demolished in 1980 to make way for a townhouse complex.

The only remnant of the school is its entry arch, which has been in storage. In 25 to 30 pieces, at a Palos Heights water department facility. Efforts are under way to restore the arch, said organizer Lynne Pohl of Palos Heights.

"It was time to save something from the school," said Pohl, who was a 4th grader when the school closed. "I just wanted to keep a part of history."

She said volunteers are working to restore the arch, which will be placed in the children's forest section of the Lake Katherine Nature Preserve in Palos Heights. The 8-by-15-foot arch, which Pohl said was the school's most distinctive feature, will have a 30-foot concrete circular base. Landscaping and benches will complete the area.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held there on April 16, and organizers plan to dedicate the site on Sept. 24, Pohl said. Local school children will be invited to attend so they can be part of history, she said.

Pohl said she is assisted in her efforts by a committee of 15 volunteers (including her husband, Jim), who plan to place two plaques on the arch. One will be engraved with the names of people who donate at least \$100 to the effort, which Pohl estimates will cost a total of \$10,000 to \$12,000. The other will list the names of contractors who volunteer their services to the restoration. She said the group is looking for people with construction skills to help restore the arch.

Pohl also is collecting memorabilia for a time capsule to be buried at the time of the dedication.

"We're seeking pictures, report cards or anything that had to do with the school," she said.

And present-day students also will be represented. Students at Chippewa Elementary School in Palos Heights are contributing such things as a yearbook and lists of facts and trends from this school year to the time capsule.

For more information, call Pohl at 708-468-8770.

SouthwestTalk

On Wolf Road: The dogs come out at night to claim Chicago's Kennedy Park.

The playgrounds, ball fields and tennis courts on Western Avenue between 113th and 114th Streets become a haven for the neighborhood dogs that make up the informal Kennedy Park canine club.

"It's like a dog show out here with all the different breeds, and that's kind of neat," said Connie Burnett, who has been bringing her shelties, Briar and Sander, to the park for four years. "This is wonderful exercise for the dogs, and walking around the park is great for the owners."

Despite their small size, Briar and Sander can stand up to any of the bigger dogs that come to the park. "It's excellent socialization for the dogs," said Burnett. "This park gives dog owners a chance to observe their dogs' behavior with other dogs. When they spot potential problems, they can correct them."

Burnett would like to correct the behavior of dog owners who don't clean up after their pets. Those who gather every night do their part, but they've been hassled in the past because of what's left behind by others.

"People are too willing to punish all dog owners for the sins of the negligent ones," said Burnett, who carries plastic bags to clean up after her shelties.

Like Burnett, Jim Quinn enjoys giving his three Labrador retrievers, Molly, Rose and Penny, the chance to run around the park.

"There's nothing better for a puppy than 45 minutes of vigorous exercise," said Quinn, who has raised several litters of puppies since he started coming to the park seven years ago. "It's a great park for dogs and kids."

Linda Lewkowsky started coming to the park with her son, Nick, and their mixed-breed puppy, Sandy, last summer.

She came at first because her Morgan Park apartment lacked a decent yard for Sandy to play in and was amazed to discover how many dogs came to the park every night.

"You get to know the dogs before you get to know the people's names," Lewkowsky said.

Scott Diodon

Sounds of music

Students stage their own 'Revenge'

By Ann Pinnick
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

The most veteran performers of this 50-member theater guild have only one production under their belts. The composers haven't yet learned to play a musical instrument, and the set designers have a tough time wielding a hammer. Still, a group of Bridgeview Elementary School students have crafted an opera, under the auspices of New York's Metropolitan Opera.

Their 30-minute-long work is called "Revenge." Its story unfolds in a schoolyard, where a group of rap-singing gangbangers and some other street-smart kids are bent on getting even with each other. In the end, they come face-to-face with a need for individual honesty and mutual understanding.

The "ages" for this venture into the fine arts is the Metropolitan Opera Guild in New York City, the educational arm of the world-famous Metropolitan Opera House. Bridgeview Elementary in Bridgeview is one of 20 Midwestern schools selected each year to participate in the guild's Creating Original Opera program.

Bridgeview is in year two of the three-year program.



Teacher Mary Pinnick directs Bridgeview Elementary School students in a rehearsal of their opera "Revenge," part of a Metropolitan Opera Guild program.

Approximately 100 elementary schools from the Midwest vie each year for acceptance into the program, which involves intensive workshops for teachers held over the three years of the program. Phase I, conducted at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, included a hands-on approach to staging an opera. The other phases, conducted at the Met in New York, provide more in-depth study of stage production.

Music teacher Mary Pinnick of Worth and assistant principal Judy Morrison of Oak Forest first approached the school about applying for the program in 1990 after Pinnick saw an ad in a music education magazine. With con-

struction of a new library under way, administrators decided to put the proposal on hold to minimize disruptions at the school.

But Pinnick and Morrison, who also teach 4th grade, remained steadfast and received authorization to pursue the program in 1992. They attended their first training session that summer.

"We felt very fortunate that we got it," Pinnick said. "We were really kind of surprised. ... Out of all the schools (selected), this was the only one without a stage. A few of the other schools that were selected had computer-

SEE OPERA, PAGE 6

Chicago Tribune

METRO

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TUESDAY
MARCH 19, 2002
MC

SECTION 2

Mary Schmich & Eric Zorn

Feel-good story flops when it's really needed

To Mary Schmich: From Eric Zorn

Well, dear Mary, had I not been in the hospital when I first heard the latest twist in the Felicia Middlebrooks story, the news might have been enough to put me there.

I was awakened at 3 a.m. Saturday by a dull chest pain that radiated down my left arm. Pretty soon I was light-headed, clammy and nauseated—classic symptoms of a heart attack. My wife called 911, firefighters and paramedics responded, strapped an oxygen mask on me, slipped me a nitroglycerin pill, carried me from the house and gave me my first ambulance ride.

During this frightening experience I distracted myself with thoughts about the feel-good story of the spring. All news radio WBBM-AM's decision not to yield to the egomaniacal, narcissistic, socially irresponsible demands of morning co-anchor Felicia Middlebrooks.

Middlebrooks, 44, was paid a reported \$380,000 a year to read the news, yet had been holding out for a substantial raise on the absurd grounds that her on-air "personality" and her status as the biggest domestic news event in at least 60 years, was responsible for WBBM's recent rise to the top of the ratings.

The station balked. Middlebrooks is good at a job that's harder than it sounds, but she's no better or more a "personality" than dozens of local radio newscasters. She responded by begging friends confidentially via e-mail to contact the station and demand "a fair and equitable" contract for her, on the grounds that her ouster would be a setback for African-Americans and women.

Someone leaked the e-mail to the Sun-Times, thus exposing the full and ridiculous measure of Middlebrooks' self regard. When talks broke off Wednesday, prize fell, justice was served, sanity trumped vanity and I thought we had a great, happy topic with which to kick off this week of correspondence columns.

Then—how cruel is this?—a visitor to the emergency room showed me the report that, Friday, Jesse Jackson brokered a deal with WBBM to give Middlebrooks a modest raise in a new contract.

Well, I'm resting comfortably now, recovering from an episode somewhat short of a heart attack but close enough to scare the Jackson race-mongering rhetoric out of me. But I'm down one feel-good story at a time I could really use the good cheer. Can you help?

To: In-Patient Zorn

From: Impatient Schmich

What is wrong with you, Eric? I mean with your brain. I initially thought the above e-mail was a gag, composed at your usual off-post and fueled by a jumbo coffee. I kept looking there shortly after the fact, but no, you really were writing your column from your hospital bed.

Eric, Felicia Middlebrooks? Don't you know what hospital inmates should be doing? They should be watching "Law & Order" reruns. Or making self-improvement vows. Or pondering the existence of God.

If you had to write, couldn't you have composed a touching reminiscence on the nasty tricks middle age inflicts even on marathon runners? An ode to health scares that make a person newly appreciate the little things in life? Something to make the reader weep and write you get-well notes?

But, sigh, even in crisis, you are a rational professional. So you made sure that before you were wheeled in for tests Monday you'd done the job you're paid to do—and what you're paid is parking meter change compared with Ms. Middlebrooks' fee.

Frankly, I don't think much anyone in the media is worth \$380,000 a year. But Middlebrooks works in a media realm where egos and salaries are inflated, and I don't blame her for grabbing for as big a chunk as she can get of that puffed-up pie. Besides, there is some value in letting women and African-Americans see that in a world that routinely pays women less than men and blacks less than whites an African-American woman can wrangle a salary as ridiculous as the big boys'.

However, she ought to know that there's no such thing as a "confidential" group e-mail. That tactic was as dimwitted as your writing half of this column and vowing, regardless of your health, to continue to write through this entire week that we'd planned as one of our occasional joint column adventures.

Don't you get it, Hercules? You and I will be cut to McDonald's wages if our bosses think our jobs can be done from bed.

Cop's affair revealed at slaying trial

State assembling motive for killing

By Carolyn Starks
Tribune staff reporter

Jurors heard for the first time Monday testimony about a longtime affair between slain Hampshire Police Sgt. Gregory Sears and a Lakewood woman, as prosecutors began to highlight the tension they believe developed between Sears and the lifelong friend accused of killing him.

Helen Sears, 80, the dead officer's mother, testified about her son's 17-year affair with Marilyn Vogelmann, but also about Vogelmann's mood after he broke off the relationship. About the same time, Helen Sears testified, John Carrocia, who is on trial for Sears' murder, showed a growing interest in Vogelmann.

The web of relationships began to surface as Carrocia's trial entered its second week in the Kane County Courthouse, and prosecutors began to lay the groundwork for a possible motive.

Carrocia, 31, is accused of gunning down Sears on June 1, 2000, in an industrial park in Hampshire.

Entering the courtroom with a walker and wearing sunglasses, Helen Sears took the stand and told jurors that Vogelmann had been like family, calling her "Mom" and sending gifts for birthdays and holidays.

When her son tried to break off the affair in late 1999 because he planned to marry his new fiancé, Norma Jean Cook, Vogelmann became upset, Helen Sears testified.

"She called me one morning, she was crying, was hysterical," Helen Sears testified. "I told her that I guess Greg had definitely made up his mind, and like I said, she was upset. I never saw her again or heard from her again."

About the same time, according to testimony, Carrocia befriended Vogelmann. Vogelmann's name also surfaced during Carrocia's two-hour interrogation at the Kane County Sheriff's Department a day after the slaying, Carrocia told police that he and Vogelmann had become good friends after Sears broke up with her, according to testimony from Capt. Mike Anderson.

"[Carrocia] said Sears' 17-year relationship with Marilyn Vogelmann cheated John out of 17 years of friendship with Marilyn Vogelmann," Anderson told the jurors.

Meanwhile, as Sears' relationship with Cook grew, he spent less time with Carrocia, police have stated. Anderson told jurors Carrocia was angry that Sears, with sending gifts for birthdays and holidays.

PLEASE SEE TRIAL, PAGE 6

Fire destroys church in Wheaton

Firefighters look down on the gutted remains of St. Michael Catholic Church in Wheaton after an early-morning Monday fire swept through the sanctuary. Story, Page 2.

Federal plaza to be reopened

Most barriers to be removed to allow rallies

By Matt O'Connor
Tribune staff reporter

Federal authorities said Monday they are removing most of the concrete barriers ringed the federal plaza and those being added will provide federal employees and visitors at the Kluczynski Building more safety.

James C. Handley, GSA's regional administrator here, said in a statement.

But an attorney for the main around the Kluczynski Federal Building but that about two-thirds of the popular Loop plaza would reopen to public gatherings.

David Wilkinson, the GSA spokesman in Chicago, said the decision also means the farmers market likely will be allowed to return to the plaza in May.

"We are reopening the plaza for public use because security measures now in place and those being added will provide federal employees and visitors at the Kluczynski Building more safety and protection," James C. Handley, GSA's regional administrator here, said in a statement.

But an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, which is embroiled in a lawsuit over the rallies ban, said it may continue the legal action because the GSA has taken the position that the federal plaza isn't a public forum.

PLEASE SEE PLAZA, PAGE 6

Kids show and tell in operatic fashion

Arts program teaches music and life skills

By Lynette Kalnes
Tribune staff reporter

Actors in sparkling blue costumes flowed across the stage like waves. A tall tree came to life, swaying to a symphonic beat. A performer began to sing and out came the piping, unformed voice of a child.

The youthful high notes were one of the few signs that this was not a professional production by adults.

Every piece of the opera, down to the set, makeup and songs, was conceived and performed by children ages 10 to 13 in an Elgin after school program called SCORE. Students Creating Opera to Reinforce Education.

The 52 pupils met at least twice a month during the school year with more than 30 professional singers, actors, composers and designers to create an original opera. The children also attend an intensive daily art camp for one week in October and two weeks in June.

They get singing tips from a member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's supplemental chorus. Rhythm lessons from a Latin percussionist and choreography lessons from a professional dancer.

As the pupils learn about arsis and stasis cues, organizers hope they also gain self-confidence and skills in decision-making, teamwork and taking responsibility that will translate into academic and professional success.

"We want them to walk away with leadership skills, with life skills," said SCORE program coordinator Deanna Education.

SCORE, on its third original opera in as many years, makes the arts accessible to financially or socially at-risk students, Cates said. The free program provides an activity

Emma Davies, 10, (left) and Dafnece Ratcliff, 10-week-old, will perform in June in Elgin.

Woman not fit for trial in slaying

By Dave Barnes

Special to the Tribune

After launching her second hunger strike in as many weeks, Alice Bair was ruled unfit to stand trial and will be transferred from the McHenry County Jail to the care of the Illinois Department of Health and Human Services for treatment in a mental health facility.

Bair, 38, is accused of fatally crushing her mother, Margaret Bair, 86, of Winnetka, a little more than a year ago. The McHenry County coroner had ruled that Margaret Bair died of respiratory arrest due to a blow to the chest of the kind that could be received if someone had sat on her.

During a hearing Monday afternoon before McHenry County Circuit Judge Thomas Schermerhorn, Bair's defense counsel, Assistant Public Defender Richard Behf, and Assistant State's Atty. Daniel Regan agreed to accept the coroner's conclusion of clinical psychologist Robert Meyer that Bair is unfit to stand trial.

Bair stopped eating and taking pills.

PLEASE SEE INSIDE, PAGE 6

INSIDE

REGION & STATE

Former accountant to the mob testifies

He says he helped to prepare tax returns that concealed profits. PAGE 3

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We Take Passport Photos

12G The Clarion-Ledger Sunday, April 16, 2000

Beck: Waving baton for MSO

From 11G
chart-topping pops arranger to conductor.

"I'm just looking forward to getting back to Brahms and Mahler."

(Integrity. Cool. But then when you look at it that way, who really needs Grammys and hit arrangements anyway? Mahler rules!)

Currently engaged as the director of the Boca Pops Orchestra in Boca Raton, Fla., and the Lima Symphony in Ohio, Beck travels the continent as a guest of mid-size orchestras throughout the year.

An ambassador for his muse, Beck says he often turns to stumping up to 20 times a year to just about any club that will have him to explain what it is an orchestra can do for a community, a society and a soul.

With a sense of congenial nobility, he routinely returns the conversation to what must be a popular subject for him — that being just where an orchestral ensemble should be heading in these times of personal sound systems, Internet tech-

"Live music in a jazz club or a church choir, and yes, in a symphony concert hall is an experience everybody should get the opportunity to have."

— Crafton Beck

nology and MTV.

"The job for orchestras all across this country is to return to where our job is, which is to remind everyone what a glorious experience a live concert truly represents. It's a beautiful thing," he says. "In society today, communication is far apart. You have church and football games, and that's about it."

"Live music in a jazz club or a church choir, and yes, in a symphony concert hall is an experience everybody should get the opportunity to have."

"If I can expose that to everyone, I'll have done my job."

performing arts Third-, fourth-graders stage an opera

By Keith Ervin
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Neil Davis, production manager of the Opera Magic Production Company, had his hands full.

"Neil, he won't get out of my way — he's bothering me," said a makeup artist, pointing to a classmate.

"Neil, can you get the performers and herd them all on stage in three minutes?" asked musical director Terri Richter.

A short time later the house lights went down for *The Hike*.

Neil, 10, is one of 23 third- and fourth-graders in teacher Jo Vos's class who wrote and produced the hourlong opera, which premiered recently in the lunchroom of Seattle's Alternative Elementary No. 2.

"We rock!" exclaimed Annie Hogan, 10, after schoolmates gave the production an enthusiastic reception.

"That was fun. Let's do it again," said Michael Faigenblum, 10.

Set at Camp Bearwood, a fictitious summer camp in the San Juan Islands, the play follows a group of children who break camp rules by wandering off on an unsupervised hike. The older children dump their younger siblings, and both groups get lost in the woods. Reunited during a frightening night in the forest, they declare their affection for each other and struggle back to camp, singing:

"I'm glad we're back at camp."

"We're really cold and damp."

"We're tired and hungry, too."

It's an impressive production from students who seven months ago knew almost nothing about opera.

"Some kids said they thought opera was a big fat lady singing in a Viking outfit," said Holly Eberhart, 10, who plays one of the older campers and who heads the Opera Magic Production Company's public-relations team.

The children learned better when they saw the Seattle Opera production of Mozart's *Magic Flute*. The role of Papagena was played by Richter, who gave the children singing lessons, helped them put the play to music and worked on details of staging.

"It's amazing what they came up with," said Richter, a soprano who also played Xenia in Seattle Opera's *Boris Godunov* this year.

"They were in charge of everything. They were in charge of

lighting, they were in charge of costumes, props, the entrances, the lines. I don't think they ever had the experience before where they totally ran everything."

Behind every great children's opera is a great musician — and in this case, two.

Vos's students also had help from composer, keyboardist and choral conductor Robert Kechley, whose son, Murren, is in the class.

After the students came up with words and melodies for the songs, Kechley helped them structure the songs. With two student percussionists backing him up, Kechley accompanies the play on piano.

Vos and the school's part-time visual-arts teacher, Cathy Tagget, last year attended the New York Metropolitan Opera Guild's teacher training on creating original opera in Cincinnati.

They then obtained a foundation grant to pay for the work of Richter, Kechley and Tagget, the technical director.

The children have learned lessons in writing librettos, setting them to music, designing and building sets, building footlights, singing, acting and working together.

They've also been introduced to a whole new world of classical music.

"People think that opera's boring," said Mayre Squires, 10. "We've learned it can be fun."

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COMMUNITY

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Frederic A. Priff Elementary School pupils (from left) Sarah Esposito, Jayme Knast, Colleen Kearney and Alicia Mee perform a scene in the original opera "Undercover Kids."

Taking their cues from the Met, Priff pupils create original opera

By ANDRIA CARTER
Press Staff Writer

Fifth-graders at Frederic A. Priff Elementary School, Waretown, have formed their own opera company. And, with the help of New York's Metropolitan Opera, the Yes We Can Opera Company has written, scored and designed an original opera.

The company debuted its work last month, before an audience of 200.

The plot of the one-act comedic opera, titled "Undercover Kids," revolves around the theme of individuality.

"We wanted to show that everyone is different, but some people want to be the same as others," said fifth-grader Sarah Esposito, one of the opera's writers. "We wanted the kids to understand it's about them, their lives."

All of the roles were played by children and the dialogue was written to reflect the way children talk to each other when there are no adults around to hear them. The original songs, with such titles as "Kids and Books," "Always," "Bad Bummer Blues" and "Shine," underscore the play's theme.

"It was hard and we had to do a lot of work," said Ryan Bowers, one of the actors.

The opera company came about as a result of the Metropolitan Opera Creating Original Opera Program, through which art and music teachers learn to teach children how to produce an opera.

Steven Strouse, an art teacher at the school, and music teacher Patty Sauchelli applied last March to participate in the program. Priff was one of 11 schools in the state to be accepted. Strouse and Ms. Sauchelli attended an orientation session in May followed by a 10-day workshop series at Stockton State College, Galloway Township.

"We came back from Stockton and began putting it together with our curriculum," Strouse said. "We taught the kids the integral steps to get organized, then they did all the rest with Mrs. Sauchelli and myself being the editors."

The only involvement the teachers had were as directors, Strouse said.

The Metropolitan Opera National Teacher Workshop Series provides teachers the necessary skills, information and methods to guide their students through the process of developing, producing and creating original opera/musical theater.

"The program enables students to produce an opera and teaches them about team work," said David Dik,

program director for the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

"Working as a team, going through the process makes the kids accountable for their work and dependent upon each other. No role is just a starring role, all roles are vital to the whole."

The program began in 1976 as the Opera From the Inside Out artist residency program, which allowed artists to work with students to create musical theater. The Original Opera Program began taking shape when teachers wanted to learn how to teach their students to produce and perform an opera, Dik said.

By 1985, the program had expanded to include a workshop series for New Jersey teachers. Each December the Opera Guild's education department sends notices to area schools, inviting which two teachers and the principle to apply for the program, he said.

Creating their own opera was a lot of work, but it was worth it, the pupils said.

"Responsibility, I learned responsibility," said Cory Fleischman, who also performed in the opera. Miss Esposito said she learned to trust people and to be responsible too.

The production earned the class citations of excellence from the state assembly and senate.

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COMMUNITY

PAGE C3

COMMUNITY PROFILE ♦ POLICE BLOTTER

Original opera dumps on pollution

A musical composed by Dover fourth-graders — with some help from the Metropolitan Opera — debuts tonight with an environmental message

By TARA LYNN BEAMAN
PRESS STAFF WRITER

Christine Koropatnick got a telephone call from her teacher over the summer asking her to do homework before school even started.

But this was one homework assignment Christine was excited about. It led to a couple of what Christine called "once-in-a-lifetime opportunities," including the chance to meet Barbara Bush.

Christine and her fourth-grade class at the Hooper Avenue Elementary School, Dover Township, have produced an original opera the students will perform tonight and Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the school's multipurpose room. The students wrote, set to music and designed an opera about the environment, a theme chosen by the class.

The shows are open to the public.

"I got called during the summer and told I had been picked for the class," said Christine, who worked on public relations for the show and will be working the lights during the performances. "We had to think about what we wanted for a theme before we came to school."

"This is something you only get to do once. Only the fourth-graders do it."

This is the second year fourth-graders at the school have produced their own opera. Last year's opera company, the Musical Express, produced a show about friendship called "The Web." This year's company, the Making an Effort Opera Company, will put on "Going, Going, Gone?," a show about pollution's effects on the pupils and their families.

The project is a result of training received through the Metropolitan Opera Guild Education Department's Teacher Workshop Series on Creating Original Opera. The project has been funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Prudential Foundation and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Wayzeta F. Stickley-Strouse, music teacher at the school, received the training at 10-day seminars at Stockton State College, Galloway Township, the past two summers. The training is done by professionals from the Metropolitan Opera. Schools are selected for the project through an application process.

"The training was very interesting," Stickley-Strouse said. "Last year the kids were a little apprehensive about doing an opera, but we sold it. This year the kids have seen it and they were excited to be a part of it."

The project started the first day of school, when class members sat down to decide upon a theme. Then, a group of writers set about producing a script.

"We started with a narrative to tell what the story is about," said fourth-grader Jacquelyn Fitzgerald, one of the writers. "Then we put it into dialogue. Then we wrote the lyrics and the composers put it to music."

As part of the requirement for an opera, the words to the songs must be part of the story.

"We looked at all the lyrics and Mrs. Strouse gave us tapes and we sang what we thought would be good for the songs," said Amy Stodolak, one of the composers.

"We picked the melodies we liked and combined them to make the songs. After we wrote the melodies, we orchestrated them, adding rhythm instruments."

The story opens on a baseball field located next to a landfill, Jacquelyn said. The children playing on the field are concerned they will lose their field to the pollution caused by the dump.

"The music is really neat this year," said Stickley-Strouse. "It's exciting to see what the kids can come up with."

As part of the requirement of the funding from the Metropolitan Opera, no teachers are allowed backstage during the performance. In fact, all the teachers who have been helping the students prepare the opera will spend the evenings in the audience, with the exception of Stickley-Strouse, who will conduct the orchestra.

Fourth-grade teacher Catherine Skiba was co-director of the show, working primarily with the writers, while school principal Ron Swierzbinski is the show's producer.

Someone from the Metropolitan Opera will attend one performance to critique the show.

"That's where the pressure comes in," said Stickley-Strouse. "Last year's show was very good. The man who came to the performance

said it was one of the best first-year opera performances he'd ever seen. And he's seen a lot of them."

The students, who comprise Skiba's fourth-grade class at the school, also designed the costumes and the set for the opera. In March, the entire class will visit New York to see a dress rehearsal for an actual opera and go backstage to see how the jobs are done by professionals.

"In January, the kids will start to learn more about traditional opera and where it originated," said Stickley-Strouse. "So in March they will know what they're watching. Whether they like it or not is not important. What's important is that they've been exposed to it."

On Oct. 30, members of the class, including Christine, were able to hand deliver an invitation to the show to Mrs. Bush when the first lady was speaking at Leisure Village in Lakewood. The audience with Mrs. Bush culminated months of public relations work for the students that included learning how to write a press release, posters and thank-you letters for people who helped out with the show.

Mrs. Bush telephoned the school to express her regrets that she would not be able to attend the show. And Gov. Florio sent the students a letter to be read the night of the performance.

"It was exciting meeting Mrs. Bush," Christine said. "We took a lot of pictures and made a videotape. It was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet her."



Last year, about 425 people attended the two shows, and Stickley-Strouse said she expects good crowds again.

"I think it will be good again this year," she said. "But the process is what is most important. What the kids learn as they're doing it. They're learning self-discipline, problem-solving and self-confidence."

"It teaches the children to depend on each other instead of the teachers. From the problems they have to solve, they learn a lot of skills."

STEVE SCHOLFIELD/Asbury Park Press

Top photo, Hooper Avenue Elementary School pupils (from left) Angelique Stork, Joseph Cermatori and Allison Burch rehearse a scene in front of the "garbage dump" featured in the original opera "Going, Going, Gone?" Bottom photo, Bruce Taylor, a director with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, gives the class some pointers.

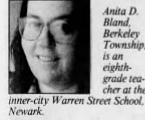
EDUCATION/SENIORITY

Asbury Park Press Sunday, September 5, 1993 C5

view From the classroom

Help dreamers to be doers, too

By ANITA D. BLAND



Sometimes, when you are in the eye of the storm, you cannot see the golden morn that follows the turmoil. Teaching through the arts is the most rewarding medium I have ever found.

Everyone thinks that people are either dreamers or doers. That idea may be accurate but misunderstands dreamers in many different ways that are not always recognized by the educational system as necessary or successful. It has been realized by noted researchers in education that children learn in many different arenas. Many learn best through the arts.

Yet over the last few years, arts in education has diminished in emphasis as technological training is infused. What the state Department of Education may not take into account is that some children do not learn satisfactorily by technological methods alone, and the artistic side of their learning is being virtually ignored. As educators,

parents and taxpayers, we must address all avenues of learning. My area of expertise is the arts, and I am here to say that the arts are multi-disciplinary. This successful cross-curricular discipline allows these children to realize their goals and attain productive lives, whether in the arts field or elsewhere.

Recently, I had the privilege to be a presenter at Shidmore College's Harvard Project, under the direction of Dennis Palmer Wolf. At this Institute on Assessment in the Arts and Humanities, I was a member of the team representing the Metropolitan Opera Project — Creating Original Opera. I was to speak on providing for interdisciplinary work. It was a labor of love to present my classroom views to professional artists who are struggling to make administrative and state departments of education understand the importance of the arts in education.

Sometimes, when you are in the eye of the storm, you cannot see the golden morn that follows the turmoil. Teaching through the arts is the most rewarding medium I have ever found, one that helps to address all learning styles. In the project that I develop each year, I can include all children and all learning styles into one successful project that lends great impact and credence to the ability and potential of children in this generation.

In a totally original presentation, children learn to do many things that they may not have in the traditional arena. By writing an original script, students learn to understand the symbolism in literature as well as character analysis, theme, mood, setting, au-

thor's purpose and point of view. They learn the writing techniques of good literature and the styles of the authors they emulate.

They learn what makes good creative writing interesting, what makes repetitive writing impacting and what makes resource writing factually concise. In history, they learn the circumstances of an era and how they impacted on people, their lives and their decisions for the future. Children learn the importance of the exact word in a musical lyric to enhance and bring feelings to each individual in the audience. Math comes in when stages have to be measured and scale models built, as well as proportionately accurate sets and musical scores that demonstrate mastery of the elusive fraction.

Pulleys, levers, and other simple machines are scientifically dissected to be used in moving sets efficiently. Such a project teaches a knowledge of electricity in building the lights, and the imagination to use all these skills to create something new and emotionally reaching.

Using this program of the arts, I have been able to ease peer pressure and make children more sensitive and accepting of others, and to provide a psychological release that surpasses the "normal" approach to education.

In this type of artistic approach, all learning styles are included and the basic learning responsibilities are met, while still developing learning areas for all students. After all, computer geniuses need that creative-minded person to dream the dream, so that they may be enabled to be the doer of that dream.

social security notes

By Eileen Sheridan

Do taxpayers get their money's worth?

Q Do people get their money's worth from Social Security?

A If you mean the American people as a group, the answer is yes. Social Security pays out more than 99 cents in benefits for each dollar collected in taxes. Administrative costs take less than a penny. No private insurance program can match that.

Q You said "as a group." Does that mean not every individual gets his or her money's worth to the same degree?

A You're correct. Social Security gives the American people their money's worth on the average. "On the average" means that some people do better than average and some do not do as well.

Q What's an example of someone who does better than av-

erage?

A Lower-income workers and workers with a spouse and children generally get a better return than others in their Social Security protection. That's because the benefit formula is weighted in favor of those with lower earnings.

Q What's an example of someone who does not do as well?

A They don't receive full advantage of Social Security's survivor protection, although they do have the protection of disability insurance, as well as retirement insurance.

Q In response to an earlier question you referred to Social Security benefits as "insurance protection." Just what do you mean by that?

A Social Security is a kind of insurance called "social insurance." The concept is similar to the fire insurance on your home. You pay premiums year after year for fire insurance protection. If your house burns down, you get the insurance proceeds. But even if you never have a fire, you get your money's worth from the protection that your insurance premiums purchased.

Similarly, a young worker starting a career at age 22 can't foresee whether he/she will marry or remain single, whether he/she will live to retirement age, or die or become disabled. Social Security protects against those contingencies.

□ Social Security Notes appears Sundays. Questions may be sent to Eileen Sheridan, District Manager, Social Security Office, 646 Neptune Blvd., Neptune 07753.

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VIEW FROM THE CLASSROOM

Amelia D. Band, Berkeley Township, an eighth-grade teacher, has 20 years teaching experience, all in the same inner-city Warren Street School, Newark.

Creative teaching is necessary

This year, I have been faced with a class 75 percent of which has been retained two or three years. I knew from the beginning that creative teaching wouldn't meet this class' needs, and some drastic changes would have to be made.

For the last six years, I have worked on creating original opera, which is funded through the education department of the Metropolitan Opera Guild. This avenue led to some of the most amazing learning.

It gives students a chance to learn while doing and lets them know they're doing something particularly worthwhile. My oldest student evolved from doing almost nothing in school to taking almost complete control of the project once he was given this opportunity to learn and be given praise.

He has come up with an artistic, thought-provoking logo and the name for this year's company: The Untraceable Artists Opera Company. He is busy designing the sets and has begun to find the need to know math in all its forms as it relates to his job.

Consequently, this student is improving in all his academic subjects because he does not want to risk leaving the opera company and because now he has found self-esteem and is able to apply his learning style to other teaching styles.

Government and education officials could note this. We must encourage them to think of educational life as the medical community has begun to think—not waiting for disaster to strike and then trying to cure, but rather trying to prevent the illness. Government officials must realize the importance of funding a well-balanced, developing curriculum that will meet every student's style as preventative medicine for what is quickly becoming an educationally ailing society.

Because when students "turn off" and fail in school, school becomes a place of unpleasant circumstances and one they will avoid by dropping out.

In the 1960s, the educational establishment spent a lot of money to find a way to individualize learning for students lagging behind the norm. It was there once it broke down instruction to individuals, these students would catch up to the norm.

The government got in on the act, and basic skills programs developed where children were removed from regular classrooms for individualized, small-group instruction. Statistics show this approach has not addressed the need. It's not that basic skills instructors are not teaching well, but this is not necessarily the answer.

Recently, researchers have been able to see that children not only learn at different speeds but also in very different ways. Addressing those differences has not been tackled sufficiently by the educational system, especially when districts are streamlining.

In streamlining, they often eliminate arts, sports and other areas deemed "unnecessary." Unfortunately, these are the areas that best address at-risk children. Educational decision makers need to consider the area in which a child learns. Many skills are taught indirectly by music, art and sports.

We have to encourage diverse learning styles to develop all children to their potential. There are tests to match students with their learning styles.

Many times among my students in Newark, I have seen at-risk students overtake the rest.

Teaching eighth grade has meant I have had to face children as young as 12 years and as old as 17. Anyone who has a teen-ager at home knows the difference between those ages and the emotional roller coaster these kids are on. You can only imagine what it is like to teach structured Dick-and-Jane-level reading to a 17-year-old who has not retained three times and still has not mastered basic skills.

Teaching in a rote manner normally does not succeed with these students and only minimally with others. Those not at-risk learn, but retention is brief. I have found involvement in non-traditional ways of learning leads to the most profound educational experiences for all children and particularly at-risk students.

There's a star each week in Lanoka Harbor class

By TAFY SPALOS

Press Correspondent

THERE'S A NEW celebrity each week in Teri Rieder's kindergarten classes at the Lanoka Harbor Elementary School in Lacey Township. It's part of the Star of the Week program she has been using to build pupils' self-esteem during the three years she has taught here.

Rieder's is one among a number of programs Ocean County schools use to recognize students. The H&M Potter School in Berkeley Township's Bayville section and Lacey's Forked River Elementary School highlight a Student of the Month. The Waretown Elementary School in Ocean Township regularly awards parents of their child's achievements.

But in Rieder's classes, every pupil gets the chance to shine. Early in the school year, parents are notified of the week in which their child will star and what that will entail. All week, the featured child wears a star necklace with a special glittering paper star so, "the whole school knows" who the star is, Rieder said.

On that Monday, the child and a parent arrive early and set up a bulletin board together of photographs and mementos of the child's life. Family vacations, siblings and favorite pets are often included. During class, the child takes over the teacher's pointer to identify each item and answer classmates' questions.

Based on what they have learned about their classmate, pupils dictate a story that Rieder writes on a large sheet of lined poster board. It includes the star's hair, eye color, family members and pets and favorite hobbies, colors, sports, and foods.

It usually ends, "We are all glad that he/she is in our class." "We are all glad that he/she is in our class," Rieder said, "and the child takes this written affirmation by his peers home at the end of his week."

The star also brings an item from home for the class "mystery box"—something "tough to guess," said Rieder. "The only condition" is that it is "not alive."

The pupil takes it as a challenge to try to stump classmates, who may ask only questions requiring "yes" or "no" answers as they guess the box's contents. Mystery objects have included toys, home decorations, even volcanic dust from the eruption of Mt. St. Helens.

The "climactic activity for the star of the week," said Rieder, is on Friday, when a guest of the child's choosing, usually a parent, comes to class. The star introduces the guest and he makes a short presentation. These have been as varied as the children themselves.

Tina Crepaci, a post office employee, gave each pupil a self-addressed postcard on which to write a brief note to the family, such as, "I love you, Mom." The children were delighted when the notes showed up in their mailboxes a few days later.

A mother of Greek heritage, Mary Simpos, brought Greek dolls to show the children and served Greek cookies. A down to earth lesson on recycling and pollution was presented by James Meekins, an environmentally concerned father.

Some presentations were spectacular. In February, Debra Dalozano dressed a red cape and "became a nagan before our eyes," Rieder said. She even "escaped from locked chains."

A grandmother, Liu Clinton, showed slides of her farm and taught the children the steps in making maple syrup, then gave each a sample to take home.

There have been a policeman, a fireman who invited the children to try on his gear and a guitar-playing dad who



Amanda Cassano, Lanoka Harbor Elementary School's latest Star of the Week, sits with her mother, Lee Cassano, shows Amanda's classmate Joseph Shup toe painting.

works for a cable company and distributed pencils and magnets to his enchanted young audience.

The less spectacular presentations are equally special to the children, Rieder said. She cited one visit by a dad, Veltran Grapace, who simply read the class "Leslie Red Riding Hood," the favorite story of his daughter, Jennifer. Rieder said this visit was a class favorite.

Animal guests have included a cockatiel, a rabbit, hermit crabs and hamsters. One star was so eager to present her beloved hamster, P.J., that she forgot to introduce her other guest—her mother. The largest pet a star ever brought to Rieder's class was a horse—which stayed outside the school where she was then teaching in North Jersey.

The children dictate a story about the guest for a class book. At the end of the year, each child will make a book as his memento of kindergarten. In his last page will be the story the class wrote the day the child's guest visited.

Rieder's aim for the Star of the Week program is to build pupils' self-esteem. From the first day of school when the student tells the class all about himself, in the special time when he shares the floor with his chosen guest, he is made to feel good about himself.

A child who finds it hard to speak in front of the group is suddenly "like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon," Rieder said. "For they are the experts," and everybody is interested in what they have to say.

Simpson said her daughter, Olga, felt like a princess. It was "her special week, all about her," she said. "I give Mrs. Rieder credit, she's doing a fantastic job" building pupils' self-esteem.

The star program teaches academic lessons too. The mystery box encourages thinking skills such as classifying, formulating questions and making inferences. Story dictation promotes writing and language skills.

Rieder said the yearlong program is in fact a wonderful social studies curriculum, "exposing the children to all parts of the world, countries, jobs and people. I could never teach them what they are exposed to in this way. I learn, too."

The program is instrumental in encouraging the important parent-home connection, the teacher said, fulfilling the child's desire for his parents' involvement in his classroom.

In the three years that she has taught at Lanoka, not one parent has refused to cooperate, although content to feeling nervous about standing up in front of their child's class.

Agency is helpful finding lost relatives

The critically ill man lay dying. His only request was to be reunited with his long-lost son. How could his son be located?

One way was to contact the Social Security Administration. Although the agency cannot disclose any information to the searchers, if the son were working or receiving Social Security benefits, the agency would forward a letter to the son's last known employer or address.

If the son were working at the last job listed in Social Security records or had left a forwarding address, the letter might be deliverable. The rest would be up to the son.

Each year about 25,000 people ask Social Security to help locate a missing person. The reasons vary widely: a serious illness or death in the family, the availability of money such as an inheritance or a desire to locate lost children or parents.

When Social Security began in the 1930s, these requests began to filter in. By 1945, the agency recognized that the volume of letters and the significance of Social Security records as a vital and often sole link in locating an individual required a written policy, and the first instructions were formulated. Letters would be forwarded only for humanitarian or monetary concerns affecting the missing individual.

The basic policy and procedures outlined in 1945 are in effect today.

No information is given to the requester. The individual's right to confidentiality is the first and foremost consideration.

A letter that meets the agency's criteria is sent to the Social Security number holder's last known address or the last employer who reported earnings for him. If the missing person is a Social Security beneficiary, the

Eileen Sheridan SOCIAL SECURITY NOTES

agency will mail the letter directly. In either case, it is up to the missing person to respond. Social Security takes no further responsibility.

In cases that involve monetary consideration, Social Security charges \$3 to cover the cost of searching its records. Humanitarian cases are handled free.

Over the years, various news articles have directed readers to Social Security if they want to locate long-lost friends or former sweethearts. Such requests are not approved.

If you have an urgent and compelling need to locate someone, the procedure to follow is: Prepare your correspondence to the missing individual and place it in an unsealed envelope bearing the name of the person sought and the Social Security number.

If you don't know the Social Security number, include the missing person's name and his or her parents' names. Write a letter to Social Security explaining the circumstances that require you to locate the missing person.

Place both letters and the unsealed, unstamped envelope in a second envelope and address it to: Social Security Administration, Office of Central Records Operations, 300 North Greene St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

◀ Eileen Sheridan is district manager of the Neptune Office, Social Security Administration. Her column appears Sundays. Questions may be sent to her at Social Security Office, 645 Neptune Blvd., Neptune 07753.

Merit scholars are announced

Press Staff Report

ELEVEN Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex county high school seniors were among 2,400 college- and university-funded winners of National Merit Scholarships announced Wednesday. Each scholarship provides \$250 to \$2,000 annually.

Area winners are: David L. Bowman, Howell Township; Anthony F.

DeBella, Brick Township; Timothy J. Dolgos and Kristen A. Westberg, Piscataway Township; Steven E. Hay Jr., Toms River; Elizabeth T. Klett, Middletown Township; Laura A. McMasters, Ship Bottom; Sam Patel and Shobana Widman, Edison Township; Christopher Pericone, Manalapan Township; and Wanda L. Treese, East Brunswick Township.

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njea Report on Education

TEACHER TV - FOR EVERYONE

There's a new program on the air that is must viewing for anyone interested in the future of our schools. **Teacher TV** addresses one of the most critical issues facing America today—education.

This unprecedented new series is a joint project of The Learning Channel (TLC) and the National Education Association (NEA). **Teacher TV** is the first program ever by teachers, for teachers, and about teachers. But don't switch your dial—this series goes far beyond the scope of its title.

TLC and NEA realize that our schools could never function without the educational support personnel, administrators, specialists, and parents who provide so much support for our children. They also understand the extensive role that business and higher education can play in the classrooms of America. So I think it's clear that this series is really for all of us interested in America's schools.

By definition, **Teacher TV** is not only a partnership between TLC and NEA, but also an alliance with the innovative educators who have played a critical role in its creation. Two New Jersey teachers, a pre-school program, and a school nurse have already participated in segments of the series and we anticipate many more trips to our schools by TLC.

This extensive participation by school employees helps guarantee programs that will provide practical information, techniques, and resources that can be used in classrooms and quite often by parents helping their children at home.

School employees have been very clear about what they don't want in this series,

and TLC listened. So this won't be one more series sprinkled with "experts" expounding on educational theory, or "superstar teachers" who perform in a vacuum. Instead, we'll see community approaches to excellence in education. We'll see schools come alive because teachers, students, parents, and local businesses are working together.

Teacher TV has great plans for the future and will explore issues such as parental and community involvement in schools; teacher preparation; technology in the classroom; business and education partnerships; peer coaching; and the changing role of schools in our society.

There's only one obstacle left for this innovative series to conquer. Many people who want to watch **Teacher TV** aren't able to see it because their local cable company doesn't carry The Learning Channel, on which it is telecast, as part of its basic cable line-up. But here's a solution!

If your local cable provider isn't carrying TLC already, call or write the general manager and ask that TLC become a part of basic cable.

If you aren't sure who your local cable provider is, TLC has set up a toll free number (1-800-443-1212) you can call to find out. In just a few seconds you'll find out your cable company's name and address, together with the name of the general manager.

NJEA's policy-making Delegate Assembly has endorsed **Teacher TV** because we believe in sharing the good news from our schools.



Betty Kramer, NJEA President.

Betty Kramer, a classroom teacher in Berkeley Township, is the elected head of 138,000 teaching staff, support staff, and retired members of the New Jersey Education Association.

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EDUCATION

Teacher of English aids college-bound Japanese students

By MAKINO SHINOHARA
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

TOKYO — When Yoshiaki Takahashi was a schoolboy, he spent many hours in a chicken coop with a flashlight and a favorite novel, lest his father find him.

"Whenever my father discovered me with a book, he would tear it up," Takahashi recalls. "He thought literature would turn a man into a goof-for-nothing bum."

In a clever deception, he read books in English.

"My father then thought I was just studying a foreign language," he says. "He was so impressed that he gave me an allowance to buy more books."

With the extra change in his pocket, Takahashi bought a paperback every morning and finished it before rushing to friends at a 10 percent discount on the way home from school.

Raised near a United States naval base in Japan in the 1950s, Takahashi listened to the military's radio broadcasts in English and devoured English-language newspapers. Later, at his university in Tokyo, he studied linguistics and philosophy, eventually landing a job as a high school English teacher.

"I began teaching only part time as a graduate student, never really intending to become a teacher," he says. "I just wanted to be in touch with English."

But 12 years ago, he moved on to a new type of teaching. He has become

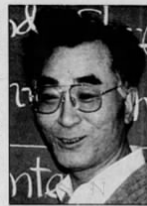
one of the most sought-after English teachers at the leading Japanese "juku," a type of cram school dedicated to preparing students to pass the entrance exams for Japanese universities.

The importance of Takahashi's occupation is unique to Japan. His juku, known as Sanda Prep School, was founded in 1918 and has become the premier pipeline for students wanting to enter the nation's best universities. Of all the freshmen admitted last year to prestigious Tokyo University, nearly half came from Sanda. The enrollment consists of high school students seeking after-hours help or graduates who failed the exams the previous year.

Because a university degree can secure a top corporate job in Japan, there is an intense competition among students to memorize facts that might be asked on the entrance exams. This has spawned a booming industry in juku, which focus their teaching on the five exam subjects dictated by the government: Japanese, English, math, science and social studies.

A ripple effect of the competition is that elementary schools and high schools often are ranked on how many of their graduates enter the select universities. Some "crash" schools even train toddlers to pass exams to enter desirable elementary schools.

Takahashi recognizes the irony of holding a job that wouldn't exist if Japan's education system were working.



YOSHIAKI TAKAHASHI
Fills in the gaps for students

velop an intellectual interest in English," he says.

Since the rules of English grammar rather than conversational ability are tested on the exams, Takahashi's lectures are largely in Japanese.

His devotion to the subject is reflected in his great popularity among students. Takahashi's classrooms are packed with about 200 students, who are unusually attentive. Many are forced to stand for lack of seats. Some use open glasses as not to miss any details on the blackboard.

"Mr. Takahashi's way of teaching is very systematic," says Rei Okada, who is making his second try at the exam for Tokyo University's architecture school. "He is easy to understand because his grammatical explanations make logical sense."

"I'm not registered for this class, but Mr. Takahashi allows other students to come to his lecture," says one student, who is standing.

As in most Japanese classrooms, Takahashi gives a one-way lecture with minimal reaction from the students. That doesn't bother him.

"Having taught for nearly 30 years, I have a sense of where students have difficulties understanding," he says. "I get feedback through the questions I am asked afterwards. Teaching is a scholarly process, figuring out where the breakdown is between comprehension and confusion in students."

The common practice of giving students material to memorize is a sign of

the teacher's lateness, he says.

"I constantly ask myself what hinders a student from comprehending." Commenting that one of his professors said a teacher is like a reservoir behind a dam, Takahashi says, "What he meant was that a teacher must continually educate himself to be able to supply the knowledge that students need. A good teacher needs both a scholarly mind and compassion."

While regular high school teachers have a high social status, juku teachers like Takahashi also are respected as professionals. He is often asked to give

talks at seminars set up by regular teachers around the country. Many high schools buy videotapes or receive satellite broadcasts of lectures by juku teachers.

A high demand for juku has allowed Sanda to expand to about 45,000 students. But the quality of Japanese students has changed over time, notes the school's public-relations chief, Kenichi Kondoh. "The students today are perhaps more passive and easygoing. We don't see as much desperation."

Pay now for education, or later for failure

Every time you open a newspaper, click on the radio or watch the news, the glowing economy seems to be the forefront issue.

The Japanese government says Americans are lazy and have no work ethic, that we do not take pride in, or responsibility for, our work and our accomplishments. Why, they ask, should educated and dedicated Japanese take on the burden of a failing American society and decrease their advancement?

I can see the potential in the children of the United States, but I question whether we are not our own worst enemy. In Japan, education is spared not a penny but expanded and encouraged.

Over 50 years, Japan has lifted itself from destitution to being a world leader — especially in technology and economics, owing to its educational commitment to excellence.

Children in the United States are failing, as they go through an American educational system that is now ranked far below most countries of the world. If the trend continues, I believe our ability to remain a world power will also dwindle, because our economic strength and well-being are directly reflective of our success as an educational forum.

VIEW FROM THE CLASSROOM

□ Anita D. Island, Berkeley Township's eighth-grade teacher, has 20 years' teaching experience, all in the same inner-city Warren Street School, Newark.

Our children are just as capable as the Japanese. Our educational system can be just as proficient. Why then are educational programs always cut first in troubled economic times?

Recently, in Berkeley Township, interested parents and, more important, concerned students, attended a Board of Education meeting to voice their concerns about proposed budget cuts, including the possible elimination of middle school sports. The following week these same students continued their struggle to bring media attention to their plight.

They are concerned and proud, motivated by self-esteem and self-worth, which seem to be lacking in American society today. Extracurricular activities

serve a distinct purpose in the academic: schemes of success and goal attainment. Involvement in sports has influenced many students to succeed in school, where they may have otherwise failed. Athletic participation has given students the motivation to learn in order to remain on the team.

From their success in sports, confidence and pride grow in other areas. Many at-risk students are motivated and strive for success and recognition in sports, the fine arts or industrial arts, where they find their special talents. These activities provide vulnerable and sensitive youth the avenues to find their self-esteem, motivation and self-worth.

I have seen this happen again and again, when creating original operas, which I do with kids. Suddenly, those children with extreme emotional problems and with little or no motivation find things to help them meet the goals set for them.

The kids shape up emotionally and learn to rely on each other for encouragement and help. Their classroom becomes a place where they find their special talents, and they do better in all areas because they have found new and interesting things to experience. Their desire to be part of something that means so much to their self-esteem becomes central to their learning.

1992 Minority Scholarship Award

For the tenth consecutive year, the Asbury Park Press is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to minority students, encouraging them to pursue careers in the media.

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njea Report on Education

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Fax machines, computer terminals, distance learning, interactive television, and word processors are becoming the norm in today's society. Anyone looking for a job in even the smallest of companies needs to be adept at using these miracles of the technological age.

On March 6 and 7 NJEA will sponsor a professional development conference where many New Jersey teachers will have the opportunity to examine a multitude of technology programs and equipment designed to enhance classroom learning and teaching.

We believe our Instruction and Professional Development (IPD) Conference on technology is the largest of its kind in the state and will bring together educators and technology experts in a cooperative "learning from one another" atmosphere.

We've heard the call to upgrade our students' performance. We've heard the call from the corporate world seeking employees with a working knowledge of technology. We've heard the call for change in our curriculum.

NJEA's IPD Conference will provide innovative answers for teachers and school districts looking for ways out of the status quo in education. Our members will learn how computers can assist in job training for special education students, how to use telecommunications to restructure the learning environment, how to use computers as a tool for multicultural learning. The list of workshops and speakers is extensive, and the conference promises to be an exciting one.

Last month, the report of the Quality Education Commission called for the introduction of the "classroom of the

future, where students are connected to information resources that make them active participants in the learning process. The catalyst for this revolutionary change are computer and interactive fiber technologies."

NJEA agrees. We realize, however, that this revolution must begin with the proper training of our teaching force. Educators must be provided with appropriate and effective training if they are expected to bring their students into the 21st century! Every teacher should have a computer at his or her desk, and every classroom should provide computers for student use.

If we want our teachers to be computer literate and we want them to teach their students, the State of New Jersey must provide the necessary tools for the technological revolution we all know is necessary.

And the revolution should not stop at the classroom door. Computers in our school offices will make student scheduling more efficient. Our guidance counselors can more effectively find scholarships and jobs for our students. Librarians can teach children the thrill of research through modems and databases. The school nurse can keep up-to-the-minute student health records and link up with social service agencies. Our bus routes can be more accurate and time efficient for students. The possibilities are endless.

NJEA is proud to sponsor this conference. We know it will give our members with new and exciting opportunities to advance their own learning and teaching approaches. We're working for change in education because we know it's the best investment for the future.



Betty Kraemer
President, NJEA

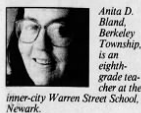
Betty Kraemer, a classroom teacher in Berkeley Township, is the elected head of 138,000 teaching staff, support staff, and retired members of the New Jersey Education Association.



EDUCATION/GENERAL NEWS

view From the classroom

By ANITA D. BLAND



Anita D. Bland, Berkeley Township, is an eighth-grade teacher at the inner-city Warren Street School, Newark.

Learning gender bias starts young

There are a lot of factors that ultimately affect children's attitudes toward gender and accomplishments. School, with its philosophies and organization, definitely plays a big part in those outcomes.

Sometimes, it is the school experience that literally saves a person from an unimaging home life. Then, conversely, it is with a strong support from home that a child's dream is realized when they are caught in a school situation that does not foster it's students adequately.

The perfect situation is a union between home and school. Even with the most perfect union, there are certain attitudes, whether conscious or subconscious, that affect children. One of the most discriminatory practices is discrimination by gender, the worst part of which is many teachers and parents don't even realize they're doing it.

I recently took a group of 11-year-olds to a museum. The girls in this class were the academic achievers. They were the ones with the A's while the majority of the boys were perfectly satisfied with C's or even lower, really not demonstrating their abilities at all.

On this particular excursion, we were in a lecture-side presentation. While I sat quietly in the back of the room and observed these children in action, I watched the Jekyll-Hyde transformation I had not been aware of.

Most of the girls were silent, with the exception of one normally overbearing young lady who was reduced

to a nearly inaudible, meek voice in the shadows. The boys were jumping out of their seats with questions and their ability to share stories about the subject matter, despite whether they were relevant.

The girls were just as knowledgeable, but the boys took over and the girls let them. Gender bias and the results of gender bias over the years were very clear.

The young man giving the lecture responded to the boys with thoughtful questions and they batted happily back and forth packing each other's brains. When the girls, actually only one, managed an answer, she was told politely in a very condescending voice that she was "very good."

It wasn't that the tour guide was insensitive, but rather that society has demonstrated these attitudes for so many years that it has become an accepted attitude with expected responses. We all do this and it takes a conscious, concentrated effort on everyone's behalf to change this bias.

One way teachers can change these attitudes is to be extremely careful and mindful not to distinguish between the sexes. How many times do the girls wash the boards and the boys open the window or collect those heavy books? How many times are girls overlooked during a math or science lesson because it is a "boy's subject" and vice versa when girls are favored in the poetry class. It takes efforts to change things we might be doing subconsciously in the classroom. It has been documented that the boys are encouraged more in the math and sciences than the girls.

From this ideology, the girls then follow the careers that fit within this norm. For us, the baby boomers, girls were to be teachers, nurses, secretaries or housewives. Although girls are seeking new worlds to explore, they still shy away from traditionally male roles.

Gender bias recognition has to start in kindergarten, where both the boys and the girls play with all the toys equally, where emotion can be expressed by both genders without judgment, where boys can cry and girls can be angry.

With Creating Original Opera, a project I am involved with from the Metropolitan Opera Guild, we teach children about electric fixtures and actually make our stage lighting from lamp bases and electrical wiring. This is where I encourage the girls to participate. I bring in my tool box, with its electric drill and screwdrivers, and begin to demonstrate that there's nothing to fear.

The girls also work hand-in-hand with the boy electricians. I try to get the boys to be involved with make-up and costume techniques. It isn't easy because even at a young age like 10, the children have seen so many gender-biased images in their lives from the people they trust most, breaking the mold is extremely difficult.

So parents, the next time your son takes out the garbage or rakes the yard and your daughter washes the dishes or dusts the furniture, take a little time out and rethink your choices too.

You look like you saw a ghost

Workers at this toy store say they did. And he's fond of practical jokes on women.

By GINA BOUBION
THE SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

ENTER THE Play-Doh aisle at your own risk. Browse the children's books with caution. And don't even ask to go upstairs, where the toys are stacked.

The Toys R Us in Sunnyvale, Calif., is haunted by a man named Johnson, employees and psychics say.

"I don't believe in ghosts," said Putt-Putt O'Brien, who has spent 18 years stacking toys at the store. "But you feel a breeze behind you. Someone calls your name and there's nobody there. Funny things happen here that you can't explain."

Rag dolls and toy trucks leap off shelves. Balls bounce down the aisles. Children's books fall out of racks. Baby swings move on their own. The folks at Toys R Us say they've tried to explain it logically but can't.

"Many people have experiences, not just one or two of us," O'Brien said. "He's like Casper. Nothing he does ever hurts anybody."

Others have taken notice, too. Newspapers have written about him. The toy store has been featured on television's "That's Incredible" and other shows. A Hollywood script writer for the movie "Toys" spent

two nights inside doing research. Psychic Sylvia Browne held a seance there in 1978 and has been back a dozen times.

Browne said Johnson told her he was a preacher and ranch hand in the 1880s on the Murphy family farm, where the toy store sits today. He spoke with a mild Swedish accent, and his first name was John, Yon or Johan.

Browne said the ghost told her he had been in love with Murphy's daughter.

There was the time when men were waxing the floor and a teddy bear kept appearing in each aisle as they moved their equipment through the store.

O'Brien said she saw Johnson once: A young man in his 20s or 30s, wearing knickers, a white long-sleeved work shirt and a gray tweed snap-brim cap, walked past her. Another time she heard the sound of galloping horses.

"Yohan used to exercise the horses, they say," O'Brien said.

Now he apparently gets his exercise playing with the staff. There was the time when men were waxing the floor, for instance, and a teddy bear kept appearing in each aisle as they moved their equipment through the store. There's the overwhelming sweet smell of garden flowers that haunts Aisle 15C, next to the Mickey Mouse dolls and the Batman toothbrush sets.

So, now the obvious question: Is it all just a desperate sales gimmick? "It's very good publicity for us," said store director Stephanie Lewis. "But I personally don't believe in it."

Johnson, who died a bachelor, toys with the women most.

"I have employees who will not go into the women's bathroom alone," Lewis said. That's because Johnson follows them in there and turns on the water faucets, she said.

Longtime employees say Johnson has also pulled pranks on contractors who came to do short-term jobs. They were a toy kiosk from a store and refuse to come back.

O'Brien believes Johnson lives upstairs in a breezy, cool corner. The pranks he pulls upstairs are also harmless, she said, but it's spooky because one is usually alone.

"When I go up there, I'll say, 'Johan, I'm only here to work,'" O'Brien said.

So if the place is haunted, why stick around? "It's a good ghost," said Lisa, another employee, who didn't give her last name. "It's fun here."

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CONGRATULATIONS — PARENTS & GRADS

As we approach the end of another school year, approximately 70,000 high school seniors are preparing for their graduation ceremonies. Their final days of high school will be remembered with struggles with caps and gowns, trying valiantly to remember all the directions given during the endless practice sessions for commencement ceremonies, and the traditional signing of yearbooks.

These graduates and their families will face graduation day filled with emotions and memories of what will soon be remembered as the carefree days of their youth.

Many of our graduates will go on to some form of higher education. A fair percentage will opt to stay in their home state and attend one of our country and state colleges. Some will venture far from home for their post-secondary learning. Still others will hone their skills at technical schools and prepare for immersion into the workforce.

For many students, formal education will come to an end with their high school graduation. But they will discover that entering the job market or the armed services is yet another means to an end. They will learn that opportunities for discovery and education are everywhere.

The world is a textbook for those yearning to visit other countries, experience new cultures, or even explore our own nation and discover new attitudes.

Our students have earned their diplomas, and they can be proud of their accomplishments. I would remind them, however, that they had some help along the way. So as I congratulate them, I also give a hearty cheer to their parents!

As parents you have survived thirteen exciting, worrisome, exhilarating, sometimes frightening years of education with your children. You have struggled through the "new math" only to discover there was really nothing wrong with your "old math." You've tried and tried to understand the words to the music they listen to, why their idea of "appropriate dress" is so very different from yours, and why "everything" is always so important!

You've had disagreements and even argued about who's right and who's wrong. But through it all you've been supportive at athletic events, school plays and musicals, band festivals, and midnight deadlines on the school yearbook.

So at this year's commencement exercises to an end in to *Pomp and Circumstance* and everyone in the stadium begins to applaud, take a moment and smile at your own accomplishment. You've done an outstanding job and you deserve tremendous thanks.

On behalf of NJEA members in all our schools, I congratulate the graduates of 1993 and their parents! May the future be filled with wonder for all of you.



Betty Kroemer
President, NJEA

Betty Kroemer, a classroom teacher in Berkeley Township, is the elected head of 144,000 teaching staff, support staff, and retired members of the New Jersey Education Association.



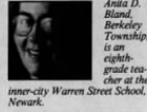
EDUCATION

Asbury Park Press Sunday, Jan. 30, 1994 C7

view From the classroom

Your personal portfolio unlocks the future

By ANITA D. BLAND



Anita D. Bland, Berkeley Township, is an eighth-grade teacher at the inner-city Warren Street School, Newark.

Assessing the worth and value of anything requires taking a multifaceted look at whatever we are evaluating. With objects, we can go to the professionals who will be able to determine the values. Any diamond looks quite nice to the naked eye, even though diamonds come in many qualities with widely different values.

We put our trust in people who are trained, and who retain a portfolio of their work. We trust them because they have a proven track record and the documented experience to back up their credentials.

Should kids be thought of as anything less precious than a diamond? We cannot judge kids only by test scores or their social/familial position when we are readying them for college and a career. Like the qualified jeweler, we have to help our kids create a portfolio of credentials in order to present these children at their true worth and value.

I was recently involved in developing such portfolios in assessing the Creating Original Opera Project in which I participate, in conjunction with the Education Department of the Metropolitan Opera of New York City. The Harvard Graduate School is developing assessments of the educational projects of the Met — an evaluation tool. It is quite an interesting idea that can be adapted for college-bound students as well as others.

In assessing our project, we are evaluating every phase of the work that we do, as the teacher, keep a diary of the events as they happen and their impact on the educational advancement that this project enables educators to make with children. I will videotape a great deal of the working time for various components of the project — writers, actors, set design, electric, public relations and the production managing teams.

The children will go through the audition processes as they develop. We will keep a log in a chronological journal. Then the people from Harvard will observe the children. Then they will have a permanent, needed record of the benefits of this project to review and share. We'll be able to look back and realize where we began and where we ended up. And we'll be able to

to look at the different stages as they occurred throughout the year's progress.

It's a good way for them to tell themselves to colleges. Such a portfolio could be a treasure of material to draw from — material that colleges and prospective employers could peruse while interviewing and evaluating the child's potential for success.

The portfolio can become a valuable tool in making a true assessment of the student, not a perfunctory assessment based on SAT scores or an application that does not always reflect

the attributes a student brings to future college and job opportunities.

Letters of recommendation and character references may be also included in these portfolios. Colleges, for example, are always scouting athletes. But since they cannot be at every event and may miss some outstanding moments, a portfolio of those sporting events — newspaper articles, school recognitions and whatever else has highlighted your child's efforts — could fill the gap.

In showcasing their developing

scholastic, athletic, artistic and social characteristics, children can make audio tapes or videotapes as well. From these collections, children are able to draw on a rich developmental resume filled with accomplishments. This kind of presentation would certainly help the colleges and employers make better choices and take a better look at a person and his current abilities, as well as growth potential. It's not until we put on the jeweler's eye that we can look within the diamond and see its true worth.

His comfort zone found strutting out the numbers

By CELESTE E. SMITH
PRESS EDUCATION WRITER

GIVE TERRY Caliste an excuse to talk about math, and he's off.

With a gleam in his eyes, the Tinton Falls resident speaks rapidly, gestures with his hands, and uses phrases like "analytical repertoire" to describe how students need to know a variety of ways to tackle a problem.

Caliste believes that with the right attitude and preparation, no high school student needs to fear the math section of the Scholastic Achievement Test. Since February, Caliste has been broadcasting that message on "Knowledge Base," a weekly half-hour television show that began on Monmouth Cablevision and reaches 42,000 homes.

Recently, Caliste's audience expanded considerably when his program was picked up by Cable Television Network of New Jersey and carried to 1.8 million households.

"We had a lot of fun last week working smart, and not hard," Caliste said at the start of one episode. This week, he promised, "we're gonna tackle your analytical tatchels."

Caliste hopes to draw in high school students — especially young black people who have never had black teachers as role models, particularly in math class.

"There's nothing like that on television, where you have a black man teaching math," Caliste said. "It's an uncommon image. It defies the stereotypes of a black male. It catches people by surprise."

Aiming to reach young black students is part of the reason Caliste, 36, an adjunct math professor at Brookdale Community College, Middletown Township, and Monmouth College, West Long Branch, left his corporate roots to become a local television personality.

Caliste spent years as a technical statistician for NYNEX, New York, and Bell Labs, Holmdel Township. While he enjoyed the challenges of his job, he found himself looking forward more and more to his tutoring appointments and Saturday morning teaching sessions with high school students.

He wanted them to appreciate math in a way he didn't when he was younger. It wasn't until he worked as a manager at a fast-food restaurant in his hometown of New Orleans that he realized he had an interest in math.

"I really had no aspirations for college," Caliste said. "After the experience of sitting there late at night, balancing books, I learned I was comfortable with numbers."

A scholarship carried him to Southern University, which paved the way for his career as a technical statistician. But he still found himself looking forward to his weekend teaching stints.

So he left the corporate world, and with his own money he started the low-budget television program.

Caliste said he's encouraged by the feedback he gets on the show, which is presented at 4:30 p.m. each Monday. About 20 calls and five to 10 letters are received each week, he said.

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ADVERTISEMENT REPORT ON EDUCATION



Editor Fulmer, Secretary-Treasurer

Countering the Culture of Violence

"If not now, when? ...time for action!"

That was the theme of a professional conference NIEA sponsored yesterday on problems confronting our youth.

Not surprisingly, the problem that received the most attention is violence — violence visited upon children and even by them. This is an issue for which it certainly is time for action, not just by schools but by all of us.

America is a violent society, a society that heedlessly sanctions, glorifies, and models violence in every element of our lives. We say we abhor aggression, but what we do gives the lie to our words. Our entertainment, our news, our personal behavior, even our language all endorse violence as the means for dealing with frustrations and taking control.

We blame the media, and we point our fingers at politicians who seem more interested in votes than values. But the truth is that we get what we ask for. When we change, they'll change.

For decades, school staff members have spoken out about the excessive violence in children's lives; now the problem has grown and invaded the school itself.

The schoolyard bully has been replaced by a would-be Rambo. Ten percent of all children from ages 10 to 19 say they have been shot at or have fired a gun at someone else. Violence begets violence. Frightened children carry weapons to protect themselves, thus escalating the likelihood of violence.

Schools are taking steps to counter the lessons of aggression. And those steps go far beyond the traditional "throw the books out" nostrum. While the removal of threatening students is essential, it's not enough.

Schools have embarked on positive programs designed to instill healthy attitudes and teach the skills to achieve them. Children are learning alternatives to dealing with anger and mastering techniques for solving problems.

Some programs turn students into "mediators" who can intercede with their peers. Classroom lessons help our youth not only to spurn prejudice and bigotry but also to appreciate and honor differences. In our multicultural society and our ever-shrinking world, our children's vision must be global. Schools are beefing up their programs about drugs and alcohol — which are so often associated with violence.

Many districts have set up alternative programs for disruptive students.

Some districts are even offering sessions for parents. Since abusive adults were often abused as children, it's essential to break that cycle.

All of these programs take time and money, but not nearly as much money as is lost to violence or to building more prisons and warehousing more criminals.

Schools cannot solve this — or any other social ill — alone. The oft-quoted African proverb that it takes a whole village to raise a child certainly fits here.

The media, political leaders, sports legends, and entertainment heroes all have special responsibilities to the young people who look up to them.

But all of us are members of the proverbial village. The higher standards we expect of our children we must first meet ourselves.

Finally, we must reassure our children that we will protect and nurture them, and then we must keep our word.



Editor Fulmer, an elementary teacher in Lakeland, is the elected secretary-treasurer of NIEA (NJ Education Association) and a member of the New Jersey Education Association.

VIEW FROM THE CLASSROOM

□ **Anita D. Bland, Berkeley Township, an eighth grade teacher, has 19 years' teaching experience, all in the same elementary school, Newark.**

Opera can encourage education

Opera: Visions of helmets and sounds of cats screening are what most children think of at the mere mention of the word.

Certainly no child would seriously think of condemning himself to the boredom of opera, no matter how classical and traditionally serious the art form. I dare say many adults would renege the same way.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Teaching in an inner city school I never thought creating original opera with children would be feasible, but I knew the arts—in particular the stage—were a great forum to help build the child academically, socially and behaviorally.

I've taught school for almost 20 years now, and I've truly seen my fill of the "one new project" that was going to revolutionize education.

Being in such a large system as Newark has given me many pilot program opportunities. I've also been given new and result-worthy programs that the entire system embraced as workable. I've seen them come, and I've seen them go.

Some surprised me, but one that has surprised the most and that survives at my school, is Creating Original Opera, a project of the Metropolitan Opera Guild's education department in New York City.

This program is truly a labor of love. To create, Junie Foreman and Bruce Taylor, decided to create something kids could use and learn from in ways that are most amusing. The people that work for the Met do not set any limitations on youngsters.

It applies in so many ways that it is mind-boggling. I have seen basic skills students write a libretto to mature and showing development that I know they have an ability to write and comprehend and resolve. Some of the topics of our opera were an absentee parent and alcoholism, the inability to read and trying to hide it, jealousy and self-esteem, war and homelessness. Not bad for kids.

Then there are the students who learn about electricity so they can build their own lights and spotlights and create mood and develop theme using them with colored gels. Many people do not realize the children have done all this and are operating them without an adult telling them what to do.

Then there was the young girl I had who had been through numerous schools, was three times retained and had little self-esteem, who took on the job of public relations. She was able to get a story in the Newark Star-Ledger, WWOR-TV, local cable stations and a letter from Gov. Florio while successfully advertising the opera. She was motivated, active, assured and could speak on the telephone as well as any adult I've encountered. Her standard test scores soared. She realized she could do whatever she set out to do.

Teachers don't always have to teach. Sometimes just being there to help students probe their possibilities is much more important.

While building scenery, a young man in my class who had suffered through cancer and the death of his mother and who had been in custody battles all year, was setting wheels on some scenery the students had built. I was busy watching him drill some holes with the electric drill I had bought. Suddenly, the drill made what I thought was a strange sound. He knew more about the drill than I did, and he helped to teach me about variable speeds and why they are used.

The lyrics of the opera flowed from lessons on metaphors, similes, repetition, alliteration and the like.

"Colorful rainbows, all that I see, songs with no rhythm reaching for me" were the lyrics of a song of a homeless child.

Can you imagine that coming from children? The results of this project are truly endless. Other schools involved in this project have included Torres River, Wall Township, Little Egg Harbor Township and Wheaton.

EDUCATION

New homework mandates loom

JESSICA DAVIDSON
PHOTO BY JEFFREY WATKINS

FOR NICOLE Bell, the typical summer morning starts at about 11:30 a.m., when she stretches her tanned body out of her floral sheets, looks outside her bedroom window and tries to decide whether to go to the beach or the pool hall.

"Homework," she said in a grumpy voice. "Can you call me back in an hour?"

To many high school students, the mere mention of that dreaded word during the long, lazy days of August seems like a capital crime. But while America's youngsters are hitting the beach this summer, policy makers are coming up with ways to make them hit the books.

Last month, the Henry Hudson Regional School Board of Education adopted a set of regulations that will require students to complete an average of two hours of homework at least four nights a week beginning in September.

David Struckmeyer, an Asbury Park Board of Education member who visited Asbury Park High School in the spring, plans to ask administrators there to consider a similar policy. Superintendent of Schools R. Thomas Jonasson Jr. said homework levels are adequate, but the district will review them next month anyway. Meanwhile, state Sen. Ronald Rice, D-Esen, has introduced a bill (S3547) that would mandate homework every night of the week for every high school student in New Jersey. There is no comparable bill in the Assembly.

It's not surprising that some students are less than thrilled by this latest trend in education. "My first reaction was my social life is over," said Bell, a Henry Hudson sophomore, who plays on the school's field hockey, basketball and softball teams. "Maybe more homework, but not two hours. I think that's too much."

While most educators would probably disagree with Bell's assertion that she'll be doing too much homework come September, she certainly will be doing a lot more than most of her fellow teens.

In 1988, according to the Educational Testing Service, one in five 12th-graders reported doing no homework, and only one in 10 reported doing two hours or more a night. About half of the students surveyed, however, spent two hours or more watching television each night.

But though the public has been deluged with reports about how little time American children spend reading and how much time they spend watching television, many educators say the tide is turning.

"We're starting to see a lot more homework now than we were before the attacks on education," said Michael Kashioka, a professor of education at Monmouth College, referring to "Nixon at Risk" and other studies critical of American education.



The pleasures of summer still occupy Nicole Bell of Atlantic Highlands, but schoolbooks and the new homework policy at Henry Hudson Regional School, Highlands, where she is a sophomore, are on her horizon.

"More communities are establishing policies about how much work should be assigned in each subject. Every school district in the state has some sort of homework policy, but until recently, many of these policies were vague statements about the importance of studying at home, not guidelines specifying how many hours of work each teacher should assign each night."

Members of the Henry Hudson school board, who voted unanimously to adopt the new guidelines, say it's not that teachers weren't assigning homework, just that they weren't assigning enough.

"We felt that more wouldn't hurt," said Board of Education President Genevieve Hawley. "I think the parents want to see their children learning more. If the children are going to go on to college or vocational school, they should get into the habit of doing more homework. If they don't get used to discipline and homework in high school, when they go to college they flounder."

The Asbury Park school district will undergo a similar homework search next month, said Jonasson. While administrators say they think homework is getting assigned and getting done, one school board member isn't sure.

"My impression is that we aren't giving enough," said Struckmeyer, a federal bank examiner for the FDIC, who visited the high school in the spring. "I think homework is very important because you don't truly have a working knowledge of something until you do it alone. It's the old story about how we have to stay competitive in the world."

These are precisely the worries of Rice, who has introduced a bill that would require mandatory reading, writing and math homework in every public school in the state.

Rice's bill would also require school districts to set up homework assistance centers where students could go if they needed help with their assignments.

"I think the children in New Jersey who don't get enough homework are being short-changed," said Rice, whose bill is expected to go to the Senate Education Committee sometime in September. "Homework teaches commitment and responsibility. We have to start conditioning our young people at the beginning of the education process to study and learn and stay in school. I'm not saying homework is the cure, but it's one valuable tool that needs to be put back into education."

Many educators agree with Rice that New Jersey students should spend more time on their studies, but they disagree with his methods of attaining that goal.

"I'm not familiar with the bill, but we would oppose a state mandate that kids have homework or a certain amount of homework," said Frank Bellocchio, a spokesman for the New Jersey School Boards Association. "We don't feel the state should be telling districts what to do in the classroom."

Some educators are a little more vehement. "You mean some idiot really proposed a bill like that?" exclaimed Hennessey and Green, principal of Lakewood High School. "I think he's right that kids should do homework, because you can't get a full education by just attending classes. But many students don't have the ability to go home and do volumes of homework. This is just a meaningless bill, which couldn't be monitored. There has to be motivation. It has to be done on the local level."

But while many, Kashioka included, are opposed to a statewide homework law, the Monmouth College professor says the general trend toward more homework in school is certainly a good thing.

"At its best, homework is crucial to education because it solidifies the concepts learned that day in the classroom," he said. "And while there still isn't quite as much homework as there used to be in the dark days when I went to school, I'm not sure that's a bad thing. I think students need to study, but they also need their time off, to blow off steam."

Life skills class draws fire

THE SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

PALO ALTO, Calif. — The name of the class is Dynamic Living Skills. But when students at the Palo Alto summer school course were asked to place a condom over a banana as part of a sex-education lecture, one mother thought the lesson was too dynamic for high school freshmen.

Kathleen Bobak took her complaint about the required class to the Palo Alto School Board, and told the recent meeting she was deeply disturbed when she learned her 14-year-old son took part in the lesson, apparently designed to show students how to put on a condom correctly.

She accused the district of failing to fulfill its responsibility under

state law to inform parents about the sex-education curriculum and give them an opportunity to pull their children out of the lecture.

Some board members agreed and directed school officials to make it clear to both parents and children when information on reproduction would be discussed and to emphasize they can skip such lessons.

This was the first time the class was offered. And while parents were invited to meetings in which the course on human reproduction, health, nutrition and time management was outlined, apparently not all parents were aware of the sex-education lessons. Officials have no plans to scrap the class, but they will probably limit sex-education lectures.

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Mr. Joseph F. Passiment, Jr.
Board Secretary
Board of Education
6 West End Court
Long Branch, NJ 07740

Applicant must be a Long Branch resident, U.S. citizen, and 18 years old. The deadline for application is August 30, 1991.

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UPCOMING

■ MANALAPAN TOWNSHIP: Effective Sunday, the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Drive, here, will be closed on Sundays until after Labor Day. More information call (908) 308-3761.

■ HOWELL TOWNSHIP: "How to Keep Your Assets From Ending Up in a Nursing Home" will be the topic of a talk given by Ray Gulligan, 125 Financial Services, at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Howell Branch of the Monmouth County Library, 601 Trent Road. The program is free. More information is available by calling (908) 938-2300.

■ FREEHOLD: Registration for the Freehold Public Library's summer reading program will begin Monday. More information is available by calling (908) 482-5135.

■ ALLAIRE: The New Jersey Museum of Transportation, Inc. and the Shore Historical Re-Enactment Association, Inc. will present the Great Locomotive Chase from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at Allaire State Park, Route 324.

Soldiers to the 12th Virginia Cavalry and the railroaders of the Pine Creek Railroad join forces with Civil War groups from the East Coast in the re-enactment of Andrew Burt at Big Shanty, Georgia, on April 12, 1862.

■ RED BANK: The Family Health Resource Center of Riverview Medical Center will have Smoke Detector Free introductory sessions from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Red Bank Center of the hospital. More information is available by calling (908) 330-2417.

■ BELMAR: The Jersey Coast Treasure Hunters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Goodwill Fire House, 17th Avenue. All metal detector users are welcome.

■ MARLBORO TOWNSHIP: Linda Rossi of TransDesign will present a program on interior decorating at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Marlboro Branch of the Monmouth County Library, Wyncroft Road. The program is free. More information is available by calling (908) 536-9404.

■ MANASQUAN: The Manasquan Hook and Ladder Co. #1 will have a Father's Day pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday at Squa Plaza. The menu will feature pancakes, french toast, scrambled eggs, home fries, ham or sausage, juice, coffee and milk. The fryer's belly buster will be available.

■ MANASQUAN: A community celebration of the American flag and Father's Day will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Manasquan BPO Elks Lodge #2334. The four-hour ceremony features a history and colorful display of American flags presented by officers of the lodge with the assistance of local Boy Scouts and the lodge's most choral.

■ OCEAN TOWNSHIP: The Senior Friendship Club of Ocean Township will meet at 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Fireman's Field Recreation Center. Memorial parade, Oakhurst section. More information is available by calling (908) 222-2054. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month.

■ MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP: The Shrewsbury Chorus will hold an open sing of Copland's "Old American Song" and Thompson's "Frontiers" at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday at the First Lutheran Church, 1475 West Front Street, the Lutheran section. All voice parts are welcome. Auditions may be scheduled by calling (908) 542-2715.

Organizations interested in submitting advance items may obtain a free copy of the Asbury Park Press publicity guide, "How to Write a Press Release," by sending the name and address of the organization to Community, Asbury Park Press, 3601 Highway 46, Box 1550, Neptune 07754-1551.

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WESERN MONMOUTH



Joshua Bard (from left), Long Branch; the Rev. Andrew L. Foster Jr., AME Zion Church; Red Bank; Tella Robinson, Fair Haven, and Darnell Cordier, counselor, at the meeting of Operation Friendship last night.

CROSSING CULTURAL LINES

4 students to travel abroad to find common bonds

By SHERRY FIGUEROA

Press Correspondent Bureau

LITTLE SILVER — In her Operation Friendship student tour to Israel and Senegal, 15-year-old Talla A. Robinson wrote, "I have learned not to be afraid of my differences, nor the differences of others. All people have one common bond: the fact that we are people, that no matter what we have done or have had done to us, we have the potential to regenerate."

Miss Robinson, Fair Haven, a student at Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School, will be one of four high school juniors from Monmouth and Ocean counties who will leave on July 24 for a month-long study tour of the homelands of many African-Americans and Jewish Americans, sponsored by the two county chapters of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The trip will seek to renew the bonds that have traditionally existed between Jews and blacks, two cultures that fought side-by-side through the bitter civil rights struggle and for equality everywhere.

Meeting last night at a reception at Red Bank Regional High School, here, Miss Robinson joined Joshua Alan Bard, 16, Long Branch, a student at Long Branch High School, and Aaron Fisher, 15, of Lakewood, student at Lakewood High School, in talking about what they hoped to learn on the trip.

The fourth student, Kara Banks, 15, Toms River, a junior at Toms River High School East, could not attend.

Miss Robinson said she is looking at the trip as "an adventure," and a chance to meet people with whom she can continue to communicate after she returns.

Bard, who plans to be a criminal lawyer, said, "There could be better relations between people," and decried the painting of a swastika on a Rumson synagogue and a pentagram on a church across the street last month.

Fisher, who plays baseball, basketball and tennis for Lakewood High, has been to Israel twice. He decried his hometown, saying there was far less racial disharmony in Lakewood than is indicated in press accounts.

In Senegal, the four students will spend 10 days in Dakar, will plant a memorial garden on the Island of Forée, once a holding area for slaves being shipped to America, and will spend two days in The Gambia.

In Israel, they will spend three days on a kibbutz and several days in Jerusalem and in the Negev and will attend seminars on the Holocaust and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Each county NCJJ chapter hoped to send six students on the trip but fund-raising faltered.

The Monmouth County chapter

set a fund-raising goal of \$25,000, but has raised only about \$6,500 since the campaign began in March.

"Companies are not giving money," said the Rev. Andrew L. Foster Jr., pastor of the Shrewsbury Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church, Red Bank, and co-chairman of the committee. "Some corporations think it is too abstract to invest in the future."

Each of the committee members contributed \$200 toward the project, and telephone campaigns are continuing.

The Monmouth students were chosen from 24 applicants; half were personally interviewed by the committee. "Each of the 12 is superb," Foster said.

In Ocean County, the other five students were Almer Appel, Brick Township; Alex Jacob Brown and Denise Solerzano, Manchester Township; Meredith Gertner, Toms River; and Asher Holzman and Steven J. Tave, Lakewood.

Foster said Operation Friendship offers an opportunity to overcome strained relations "between two cultures that are intrinsically linked in American society."

"They will come back to share with the larger community the importance of that fellowship and co-operation," Foster said. "They might come back with a new vision that may open our eyes and ears to new opportunities for the 21st century."

When one of them cuts his finger on a pair of scissors, he looks for a bandage in the bathroom, only to find a vial of crack, and to overhear Deane's father discussing a drug deal.

The balance of the opera shows the students grappling with the effects of drug and alcohol abuse on young lives, and ends with them vowing to help each other as "friends forever."

"The songs are part of the plot line," Sonza said. "It's not like some plays where there's a song because the director thinks, 'Oh, here's a good place for a song.'"

"They've gotten so much out of this program," said Jeanne Gill, principal of the Anasazi School. "Their self-esteem is as much higher. They're wonderful."

The audience couldn't have agreed more, giving the young opera stars several standing ovations.

The fame of the production extended far beyond Long Branch. Even famed tenor Plácido Domingo sent a congratulatory telegram.

Other students participating in the production were Holly Williams, Russell Woods, Jhar'nae Fisher, Mandy Mason, Helen Teleco, Jermaine Hart, William St. Louis, Jerome McLane, horn, Santeresia Wilson, Russell Woods, Thomas Stovall, Tashawn Corbett, Mary Bowles, Raheema McDonald, Erica Brack, Toshika Rice, and Brandis Elze.

Music classroom will get windows, have use changed

By ELLEN BRADFIELD

Press Correspondent

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP — The instructional music classroom at the Frank J. Dugan School will soon take on a different appearance.

The Board of Education last night agreed to install five windows in the room so it can be converted to a regular classroom to alleviate overcrowding. Three windows also will be installed in the vocal music room, which will retain its purpose.

The cost of the project, including the architect's fee, will be about \$32,000, and will be taken out of surplus, said Edward Allen, assistant to the business administrator.

"Although the room does meet all the requirements for air flow exchange, there is a feeling of stuffiness there. It is not the ideal environment," said Superintendent of Schools Frank DeFino.

The room was originally constructed without windows for aesthetic reasons. Adding windows are not expected to affect its acoustics, should the room revert to its original use, DeFino said.

In urging the board to consider installing the windows, Barbara Utas, president of the Dugan PTA, pointed out potential hazards from working in a hot, stuffy environment during a heat wave such as the one that incapacitated 19 pupils in Eatontown

New Brookdale chief aims to have it thrive

By JOHN A. HARNES

Press Correspondent Bureau

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP — Despite these tough financial times, Brookdale Community College must play an even more important role in the Monmouth County community, said Peter F. Burnham, the college's new president.

In his ninth day in office, Burnham said he finds the challenges of the job exciting.

Speaking during his first formal news conference on the college's Lakewood campus yesterday, Burnham said he wants Brookdale "not just to survive in this time of fiscal austerity, but to thrive."

While there are some hard decisions coming for the college, Brookdale has to make sure it does not compromise those qualities that make it attractive to its students, he said.

Burnham, 46, is the former president of Schenectady (N.Y.) County Community College, and he became Brookdale's fifth president on June 5. He was selected after a six-month nationwide search to find a successor to Joshua L. Smith, who resigned in May 1990.

"In some respects, New York's fiscal problems are a year or two ahead of New Jersey," Burnham said. "The issues are the same, the language is different."

Students' own opera is serious business

By WAYNE PARRY

Press Correspondent Bureau

LONG BRANCH — Desiree's father death drama. Eric's father is an alcoholic. Brittany doesn't have a father. What are they going to do?

No, it's not a soap opera; it's a student opera, written, produced and performed mostly by fifth-graders of the Talia Opera Company at the Anasazi School.

The show, titled "What Are We Going To Do?" was performed last night to a wildly appreciative crowd, and dealt with many of the real-life concerns of students across the county.

Spirited performances were the norm from the children, many of whom a year ago thought opera was a high-pitched affair delivered in Italian by fat old ladies who made your ears hurt.

"I loved it," said Erica Hernandez, who portrayed Brittany and who hopes to be an actress when she grows up. "We learned something from it. It was good."

Erica said her favorite part was "when you're acting like you really mean it."

The school applied to be part of the program, and teachers Eugene Sonza and Elizabeth Steiner were chosen by the Metropolitan Opera Guild to participate in "Creating Original Operas," designed to introduce young children to opera by letting them take total control of one. Once outside funding was lined up, the students basically were on their own.

"The light fixtures on the stage were designed and made by the children; they learned how to do that," Sonza said. "The prop,

scenery, the flats, the publicity, the tickets were all done totally by the children. It's an up-and-coming Metropolitan Opera Company, only on a smaller scale."

Mike DiMaggio and Shawn Hernandez worked spotlights for the production.

"You have to, like, follow people with the light," DiMaggio said.

"To get the people in there," Hernandez added.

The opening scene of the opera is set in Desiree's living room, where she has invited some friends over for pizza and to work on a science project.

When one of them cuts his finger on a pair of scissors, he looks for a bandage in the bathroom, only to find a vial of crack, and to overhear Deane's father discussing a drug deal.

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Fifth-grader Brandis Elze, playing Desiree, sings during last night's production of the student opera "What Are We Going To Do?"

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Alma

UPCOMING

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Soldiers to the 12th Virginia Cavalry and the raiders of the Pine Creek Railroad join forces with Civil War groups from the East Coast in the re-enactment of Andrew Ross at Big Shanty, Georgia, on April 12, 1862.

RED BANK: The Family Health Resource Center of Riverview Medical Center will have Smoke Stoppers free introductory sessions from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Blonoff Center of the hospital.

More information is available by calling (908) 930-2417.

HIGHLAND: The Regular Highlands Republican Club will have a Father's Day breakfast from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall.

The cost is \$3.50 for senior citizens and \$5 for seniors. The menu includes eggs, French toast or pancakes and sausage and bacon.

BEHMAN: The Jersey Coast Treasure Hunters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Goodwill Fire House, 17th Avenue.

All meal director users are welcome.

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP: The Middletown Township will hold an open sign of Copeland's "Old American Song" and "Thompson's" on Sunday at 7:40 p.m. Tuesday at the First Unitarian Church, 1475 West Front Street, the Unitarian section.

All voice parts are welcome. Auditions may be scheduled by calling (908) 542-2715.

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP: "Samplers: A Continuing Tradition" will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the township Public Library, 55 New Monmouth Road.

Spicy Warren of Shirley's Country House, Atlantic Highlands will be the guest speaker. Sides from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Sampler Collection will be shown. Ms. Warren will discuss the types of sampler kits and patterns now available for the handicrafter.

The program is free and open to the public.

MANASQUAN: A community celebration of the American flag and Father's Day will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Manasquan BPO Elks Lodge #2534.

The hour-long ceremony features a history and colorful display of American flags presented by officers of the local Boy Scouts and the local's mixed chorus.

Free refreshments will be offered after the ceremony and a limited number of souvenir flags will be presented to children.

OCEAN TOWNSHIP: The Senior Friendship Club of Ocean Township will meet at 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Fireman's Field Recreation Center. Memorial Day, Culture section.

More information is available by calling (908) 222-2544. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month.

BEHMAN: The Jersey Coast Treasure Hunters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Goodwill Fire House, 17th Avenue.

All meal director users are welcome.

FREEHOLD: Registration for the Freehold Public Library's summer reading program will begin Monday.

More information is available by calling (908) 463-5125.

Organizations interested in submitting articles: Items may obtain a free copy of the Asbury Park Press publicity page. "How to Write a Press Release."

Providing the name and address of the organization to Community Asbury Park Press, 3607 Highway 46, Box 1560, Neptune 07754-1551.

INFORMATION: On Northern Monmouth news should be directed to Assistant Monmouth County Editor Patricia McDaniel at (908) 741-5400, ext. 101.

Letters may be mailed to her attention at the Asbury Park Press, 508 Broad St., Shrewsbury, N.J. 07701.

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NORTHERN MONMOUTH



Joshua Bard (left), Long Branch; the Rev. Andrew L. Foster Jr., AME Zion Church, Red Bank; Talla Robinson, Fair Haven; and Darnella Cordier, counselor, at the meeting of Operation Friendship last night.

CROSSING CULTURAL LINES

4 students to travel abroad to find common bonds

By SHERRY FIGGITT

Press Correspondent

LITTLE SILVER — In her application for a place in the "Operation Friendship" student trip to Israel and Senegal, 15-year-old Talla A. Robinson wrote: "I have learned not to be afraid of my differences, nor the differences of others. All people have one common bond: the fact that we are people, that no matter what we have done or have had done to us, we have the potential to regenerate."

Miss Robinson, Fair Haven, a student at Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School, will be one of four high school juniors from Monmouth and Ocean counties who will leave on July 24 for a month-long study tour of the homelands of many African-Americans and Jewish Americans, sponsored by the two county chapters of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The trip will seek to renew the bonds that have traditionally existed between Jews and blacks, two cultures that fought side-by-side through the bitter civil rights struggle and for equality everywhere.

Meeting last night at a reception at Red Bank Regional High School, where Miss Robinson joined Joshua Bard, 16, Long Branch, a student at Long Branch High School, and Aaron Fisher, 15, of Lakewood, a student at Lakewood High School,

in talking about what they hoped to learn on the trip.

The fourth student, Kara Banks, 15, of Toms River, a junior at Toms River High School East, could not attend.

Miss Robinson said she is looking at the trip as "an adventure," and a chance to meet people with whom she can continue to communicate after the return.

Bard, who plans to be a criminal lawyer, said, "There could be better relations between people," and decried the painting of a wasteland on a church across the street last month.

Fisher, who plays baseball, basketball and tennis for Lakewood High, has been in Israel twice. He defended his hometown, saying there was far less racial disharmony in Lakewood than is indicated in press accounts.

In Senegal, the four students will spend 10 days in Dakar, will plant a memorial garden on the Island of Force, once a holding area for slaves being shipped to America, and will spend two days in The Gambia.

In Israel, they will spend three days on a kibbutz and several days in Jerusalem and in the Negev and will attend seminars on the Holocaust and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Each county NCJ chapter hoped to send six students on the tour but fund-raising faltered.

The Monmouth County chapter

set a fund-raising goal of \$25,000, but has raised only about \$6,500 since the campaign began in March.

"Companies are not giving money," said the Rev. Andrew L. Foster Jr., pastor of the Shrewsbury Avenue AME Zion Church, Red Bank, and co-chairman of the committee. "Some corporations think it is too abstract to invest in the future."

Each of the committee members contributed \$200 toward the project, and telephone campaigns are continuing.

The Monmouth students were chosen from 24 applicants; half were personally interviewed by the committee. "Each of the 12 is superb," Foster said.

In Ocean County, the other 6 students were Anne Alpert, Brick Township; Alex Jason Brown and Desiree Soliman, Manchester Township; Meredith Gertner, Toms River; and Asher Hoberman and Steven J. Tava, Lakewood.

Foster said Operation Friendship offers an opportunity to overcome strained relations "between two cultures that are intrinsically linked in American society."

"They will come back to share with the larger community the importance of that fellowship and co-operation," Foster said. "They might come back with a new vision that may open our eyes and ears to new opportunities for the 21st century."

In other action, a two-year contract with the borough police department was approved last night, giving police officers a 6.5 percent raise. The contract was completed after both parties entered into binding arbitration, and is effective for 1991 and 1992. As a result, police salaries for 1991 were adjusted last night, with first-year patrolmen now earning \$30,075, second-year patrolmen earning \$31,325, and senior patrolmen earning \$43,325.

Oceanport panel saying little about troubled class trip

By B.A. SWEENEY

Press Correspondent

OCEANPORT — The panel looking into a trouble-plagued, eighth-grade school trip isn't saying much, pending the outcome of an ongoing investigation.

"To try to go back in time and rehash details may not be of the greatest benefit," John W. Jure said to an audience of about 45 parents and teachers Wednesday night, during a Board of Education meeting in the auditorium of the Wall Hill School.

Jure, a board member acting as the panel's chairman, repeatedly declined to detail allegations made against the students and the six adults who accompanied them on the overnight trip to Washington last month, saying the panel is "constrained by law" from doing so in public.

The study stems from an overnight class trip to the nation's capital May 30-31, during which 52 of 58 eighth-graders from the Maple Place School reportedly exhibited what school officials said were severe disciplinary problems, prompting their chaperones to bus them home two hours ahead of schedule.

The students reportedly were disorderly and violated an A.D.A. law. In turn, some parents charged that a chaperone had confiscated a pizza and eaten it.

Superintendent of Schools Glenn W. Morgan said Wednesday night that the pizza was confiscated but not eaten.

After the meeting, he said 10 students were disciplined with after-school detention ranging from one to three days.

Morgan, who chaperoned the students along with five teachers, also is on the investigating panel, which consists of five board members and five parents.

That doesn't sit well with Sal Vecchione, Woodbine Way, who said his son was on the trip. Vecchione suggested Morgan's role in the investigation was a conflict of interest. "Who disciplines him if he disciplines the chaperones?" Vecchione asked after the meeting.

Morgan denied any conflict of interest. The other five chaperones are subordinate to him in the school district, he believed the investigation can be done objectively and fairly, he said.

A panel member speaking on condition of anonymity said it was unlikely any of the chaperones would be punished.

In the meantime, angry parents said they felt the panel was trying to avoid specifics, but also expressed hope the matter would be resolved quickly.

The students reportedly were disorderly and violated an A.D.A. law. In turn, some parents charged that a chaperone had confiscated a pizza and eaten it.

New Brookdale chief aims to have it thrive

By JOHN A. HAINES

Press Correspondent

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP — Despite these tough financial times, Brookdale Community College must play an even more important role in the Monmouth County community, said Peter F. Burnham, the college's new president.

In his ninth day in office, Burnham said he finds the challenges of the job exciting.

Speaking during his first formal news conference on the college's Lincoln campus yesterday, Burnham said he wants Brookdale "not just to survive in this time of fiscal austerity, but to thrive."

While there are some hard decisions coming for the college, Brookdale has to make sure it does not compromise those qualities that make it attractive to its students, he said.

Burnham, 46, is the former president of Schenectady (N.Y.) County Community College, and he became Brookdale's fifth president on June 5. He was selected after a six-month nationwide search to find a successor to Joshua L. Smith, who resigned in May 1990.

In some respects, New York's fiscal problems are a year or two ahead of New Jersey, Burnham said. "The

issues are the same, the language is different."

Community colleges in both states are under the same type of pressure. While record numbers of students are enrolling, state and county funding is on the decline, he said.

This year, New Jersey state aid to Brookdale was a sliver less, some \$8.5 million less in fiscal 1992 than the \$80.5 million appropriated in 1991.

"I did not come to this job with rose-colored glasses," Burnham said.

One of the things that attracted Burnham to the job here was the college's fine reputation in the academic community, he said. Brookdale is considered to be one of the top 25 or 30 community colleges in the nation, he said.

For the past year Brookdale has been on a holding pattern, waiting for the selection of a new president, he said. Gerhard C. Tomlinson did a wonderful job as interim president, serving for the past year before he retired earlier this month, he said.

Burnham said he signed papers yesterday to buy a home in Colts Neck Township and plans to move his family — his wife, Vicki, and two young sons — there in the near future.

"We'll be really happy once we get the family all together," he said.

Planner appointed to Rumson council

Press Correspondent

RUMSON — Longtime Planning Board member Herbert M. Zydney was appointed to the Rumson Council last night, replacing Patrick J. Moran, who retired.

Zydney, 21 Holly Tree Lane, is a 23-year resident of the borough, and has served on the planning board since 1976. He also is a member of the Board of Adjustment, and once served on the borough Board of Education, Borough Administrator J. Gary Sisson said.

Sisson said Zydney will be stepping down from his posts on the planning and zoning boards.

The council approved a resolution of appreciation for Moran's 10 years of service on the council. Moran, who recently moved out of the area, was first and first aid commissioner since 1989.

In other action, a two-year contract with the borough police department was approved last night, giving police officers a 6.5 percent raise. The contract was completed after both parties entered into binding arbitration, and is effective for 1991 and 1992. As a result, police salaries for 1991 were adjusted last night, with first-year patrolmen now earning \$30,075, second-year patrolmen earning \$31,325, and senior patrolmen earning \$43,325.

Students' own opera is serious business



Fifth-grader Brande Elze, playing Desirée, sings during last night's production of the student opera "What Are We Going To Do?"

By WAYNE PARRY

Press Correspondent

LONG BRANCH — Desirée's father deals drugs. Eric's father is an alcoholic. Brittany doesn't have a father. What are they going to do?

No, it's not a soap opera; it's a student opera, written, produced and performed solely by fifth-graders of the Tulip Opera Company at the Anasitua School.

The show, titled "What Are We Going To Do?" was performed last night to a wildly appreciative crowd, and dealt with many of the real-life concerns of students across the country.

Spirited performances were the norm from the children, many of whom a year ago thought opera was a high-class affair delivered in Italian by fat old ladies who made your ears hurt.

"I loved it," said Erica Hernandez, who portrayed Brittany and who hopes to be an actress when she grows up. "We learned something from it. It was good."

The rehearsal applied to be part of the program, and teachers Eugene Somma and Elizabeth Britzer were chosen by the Metropolitan Opera Guild to participate in "Creating Original Operas," designed to introduce young children to opera by letting them take total control of one act.

The light fixtures on the stage were designed and made by the children. They learned how to do that," Somma said. "The props, scenery, the facts, the publicity, the tickets were all done totally by the

children. It's set up exactly like the Metropolitan Opera Company, only on a smaller scale."

Mike DiMaggio and Shawn Bertram worked spotlights for the production.

The opening scene of the opera is set in Desirée's living room, where she has invited some friends over for pizza and to work on a science project. When one of them cuts his finger on a pair of scissors, he looks for a bandage in the bathroom, only to find a vial of crack, and to overhear Desirée's father discussing a drug deal.

The balance of the opera shows the students grappling with the effects of drug and alcohol abuse on young lives, and ends with them vowing to help each other as "friends forever."

They've gotten so much out of this program, said Jennifer Gill, principal of the Anasitua School. "Their self-esteem is so much higher. They're wonderful."

The audience couldn't have agreed more, giving the young opera stars several standing ovations. The fame of the production extended far beyond Long Branch. Even famed tenor Placido Domingo sent a congratulatory telegram.

Other students participating in the production were Holly Williams, Russell Woods, Kelly Wolf, Carissa Hart, Jerson, Jarman Fisher, Mandy Haman, Helen Tolosco, Jerome Hart, William St. Louis, Jerome McLavver, Santorina Wilson, Russell Woods, Thomas Scovell, Tashawn Corbett, Mary Bowles, Raheema McDonald, Erica Blake, Toshika Rice, and Brande Elze.

We'd like to hear from you!

NORTHERN MONMOUTH news appears every day in the ASBURY PARK PRESS. Readers are invited to write or call Press news offices to share their opinions, ideas for news stories, photo suggestions and letters to the editor.

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Patricia McDaniel, Assistant Monmouth County Editor.

Student center moves ahead for Chandler-Gilbert CC

— STUDENT, from Page E71

Bartholomew, dean of students. "We're very excited about this," he said. The proposed \$3.1 million, 20,000-square-foot project could house the student lounge, career and job placement center, and counseling and student-life offices. The building will be built, for the most part, with the remainder of the community college district's 1994-approved bond money.

A second phase, which will become a reality if more funding comes down the pike, could include child-care facilities, a full cafeteria and a bookstore. Today, the dining-

room seats only 60; the bookstore is inside a portable building.

As the area around it changes from farm fields to rows of houses, Chandler-Gilbert Community College's bare spots are quickly turning into bare spots.

A science building and library opened in January. A performing-arts center has been approved and is being designed.

Students relish the expansions. Already, Crystal Theaker, 2, of Mesa, enjoys the lunch-hour community program the college provides,

including the bands and lectures. No classes are scheduled between 12:15 and 1:15 p.m. during the fall and spring semesters.

"I think you get to meet a lot of students," said Theaker, who is taking a physics class and working an on-campus, data-entry job this summer.

Elena Dellina, 29, of Gilbert, looks forward to a place she can call her own.

"It's a way for us to be together," she said.

Kelly Pizarro can be reached at (602) 444-7981 or at kellypizarro@azcentral.com via e-mail.

Students to find out the score after teachers' opera workshop

— STUDENTS, from Page E71

Tuesday, drew 13 teachers from schools in the West and Midwest. While the Met, headquartered in New York City, has offered the program since 1983, this is only the second year that ASU has played host. Funding for the program is a joint venture of the Met and the schools that send teachers.

For those teachers, it's a heady experience, Brandford said. "What's so fabulous is when you can walk away from everyday life and focus on something you love. It's invigorating," she said.

"But it's also hard work."

For one week, teachers studied elements of set design, script writing, costuming, vocal techniques, makeup, sound technology and performance.

The instructors were actors and technicians from the Met.

The purpose was to learn enough to form a production company in each school.

In an era when many schools have deemed art and music an extra-curricular activity, Brandford said, "We want to teach youngsters that we have them measure out materials for making a set."

Want to teach science? Assemble a team to work the sound and lighting systems.

History?

Assign readings about 16th-century Russia to explore the background for Muscovy's Boris Godunov or study Napoleon to understand Prokofiev's version of War and Peace.

"It's getting away from chalk talk and teachers being dispensers of all knowledge," Brandford said. "Students gravitate toward their learning styles."

Participating teachers were generous in their praise of Creating Original Opera, saying they felt challenged to learn their skills.

"It's pushing us beyond our comfort zone. I played the piano today and I'm not a pianist," said Elizabeth Woodworth of the All Saints Episcopal School of Fort Worth.

"It's wonderful."

Back home, she said, "This will create real excitement in our community."

Cassandra Cutler, performing arts



Dean Crystal Theaker (left) provokes laughter from Metropolitan Opera Guild teacher Marjorie Duffield.

Trying to describe herself as a fifth-grader, Denver teacher Janet Weisheit (left) provokes laughter from Metropolitan Opera Guild teacher Marjorie Duffield.

coordinator for the Bakken Museum in St. Paul, Minn., said she will instigate an opera program in Twin Cities schools. Such activities, she believes, can "demystify the entire art process."

"Anybody can do it, anybody can make opera. These kids have ownership of this opera, and this gives them pride in their work."

"This workshop shows that arts are a necessary part of the curriculum that can be integrated with any subject matter."

Can youngsters really write their own music?

Joan Hoban, a music teacher at All Saints Episcopal School, insisted they can, even if it's a score composed mostly of rhythm.

And although teachers can help with more sophisticated compositions, the goal of the Met workshop was to show teachers how students can utilize their own skills and ideas.

"Even if it's not Wagner," said Julie Haas, music teacher at Charles Semper Elementary School in Westminster, Colo.

Working together on a production company also teaches teamwork, the participants said.

The Met's reward for sponsoring the Creating Original Opera project goes beyond simply nurturing future

audiences. Benefits are much broader, Brandford said.

"We hope to crack the idea that opera is only a middle-class art, she said. "It helps unfocused kids to focus."

The original opera that young people write often bear little resemblance to the somber styles of Wagner or the lush melodies of Mozart, she said. Scores can include rap music, jazz or rock and roll.

It's the music that engages children.

"We want to stretch the definition of opera," Brandford said, defining opera broadly as a "story that calls for music to help tell it."

Students who successfully mount an original production feel a great sense of accomplishment, she said. Parents are pleased to watch their kids perform. Schools put themselves on the back for resourcefulness.

And although it might not be the Met's primary goal to hatch new opera lovers, more fans are always welcome.

"When a kid finds a doorway into the arts," Brandford said, "that kid will fall in love with the art form. That's gratifying."

Barbara Yost can be reached at (602) 444-7936 or at barbara.yost@azcentral.com via e-mail.

Tempe readying input on freeway

— TEMPE, from Page E71

McClintock Drive would remain congested.

"Adding lanes would have the greatest noise impact of any other alternatives studied. It would require noise mitigation within Tempe's segment of the corridor."

However, the Maricopa Association of Governments, which is made up of Valley mayors, already has endorsed a car-pool lane in each direction, Giuliano said.

But the organization isn't keen on widening the Superstition to its maximum capacity of 12 lanes, partly because it would mean shifting money's from other projects, agency officials have said.

ADOT must get MAG's approval since by federal mandate it is the watchdog agency for Valley freeway projects.

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ASU student chosen to Sister Cities board

— ASU, from Page E71

achievement, describing him as a bright and aggressive young person. "I'm very proud of him," Giuliano said. "It's an honor to belong to the board of such an organization. All board members are accomplished citizens from around the country."

Among those on the board is the mayor of Little Rock, Giuliano said.

"It's not a small accomplishment," Giuliano said. "It says a lot

of the type of person Josh is."

Giuliano, who began the city's internship program with ASU undergraduates when he became mayor in 1994, said Tempe benefits from students like Lader who are very knowledgeable on such things as technology.

Lader, in turn, said that working with Giuliano has reinforced his desire to devote his life to public service.

"I enjoy this type of work," said Lader, who has a twin brother and whose parents are elementary

teachers. "I'll run for Congress as soon as I turn 25."

Lader isn't a stranger to the Sister Cities program. In 1995, he secured a five-week trip to China, courtesy of Tempe and its Sister Cities program.

Lader has served as chairman of Sister Cities International youth program and plans to keep that job while a board member with its parent company.

"I know I'll be very busy," said the ASU political science major. He plans to graduate in May.

City of Chandler Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CITY COUNCIL MEETING
The City of Chandler will hold a public meeting of the City Council on Wednesday, August 4, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 100 N. 79th Street, Chandler, Arizona. The agenda for the meeting includes: 1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting; 2. Presentation and discussion of the proposed ordinance to amend the City of Chandler's Ordinance 10-98, relating to the City's participation in the Arizona State Lottery; 3. Presentation and discussion of the proposed ordinance to amend the City of Chandler's Ordinance 11-98, relating to the City's participation in the Arizona State Lottery; 4. Presentation and discussion of the proposed ordinance to amend the City of Chandler's Ordinance 12-98, relating to the City's participation in the Arizona State Lottery; 5. Presentation and discussion of the proposed ordinance to amend the City of Chandler's Ordinance 13-98, relating to the City's participation in the Arizona State Lottery; 6. 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THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

GILBERT

COMMUNITY EDITION

Wednesday
July 28, 1999

Editors
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Online: www.azcentral.com/community

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Sports 8 **Mtn. Pointe elite gymnast** lands on Senior National Team

Freeway salvo being prepared by Tempe

Response planned to ADOT study

By Elvia Diaz
The Arizona Republic

It may be true that most Valley mayors could care less about Tempe's opposition to proposed plans for widening the Superstition Freeway. But it may be equally true the project may never happen, Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano said.

"They are going through this exercise in vain," Giuliano said. "I can't be done without the support of MAG (Maricopa Association of Governments)."

Nonetheless, Tempe can't ignore Arizona Department of Transportation's preferred plan for widening U.S. 60 to up to 12 lanes.

So this week, Giuliano and his colleagues on the council are preparing a detailed response to the state's environmental study on the proposed project. The ADOT-commissioned study is seeking public comments as part of the process.

Tempe, which contains five of the 16 miles of corridor, should be a major participant in the environmental process because of the magnitude of the proposed project, according to a city-drafted letter that is expected to be discussed during Thursday's council meeting.

The city's other concerns:

- The ADOT preferred alternative of up to 12 lanes, including a car-pool lane, would result in reduced shoulder and lane width, primarily on the section cutting through Tempe. The city has the narrowest right-of-way.
- Even with the addition of lanes, the amount of traffic between Mill Avenue and McClintock Drive would remain congested.
- Adding lanes would have the greatest noise impact of any other alternatives studied. It would require noise mitigation within Tempe's segment of the corridor.

In all, Tempe details its opposition to any widening of the Superstition because it would have a negative impact on the

— Please see **TEMPE**, Page E37

'Artifacts' bind Tempe Elementary

Board shares stories, refines relationships

By Melissa L. Jones
The Arizona Republic

TEMPE — Lighthouses mean a lot to Marilyn Glenny.

As the Tempe Elementary School District board member sat down with two hand-size replicas of Maine lighthouses, she explained growing up on an island in Maine, crossing the water to get to school.

Glenn's lighthouses were her "artifacts" brought to Motorola University on Tuesday to start off a day of communication among the five members of the district Governing Board, new Superintendent John Baracy and board secretary Harriet Meador.

For six hours, the group talked about what drives it and shared its own stories in an effort to create a working relationship that will lead it, and the district's 13,000 students into the new century.

"Artifacts" were brought so that participants could share important values in their lives.

For a district that has been divided with 3-2 board votes and just this month brought on a new boss with Baracy, the timing is right.

Baracy brought a baseball bat and talked about growing up in Detroit in a blue-collar neighborhood, playing baseball in the only grassy spot nearby and learning about teamwork.

— Please see **ARTIFACTS**, Page E39

CGCC student center advances

College awaits final approval of gathering place

By Kelly Pearce
The Arizona Republic

Students proved a "student lounge" — what is really a converted classroom — to get and study. They sit in white chairs in the courtyard to eat a sandwich or group in the sun.

Yet, Chandler-Gilbert Community College lacks a true student center. That will change in the next century.

The board that governs Maricopa Community Colleges conceptually approved a gathering place for the 5,000 people at the East Valley campus

during its Tuesday night meeting.

If the state board also endorses the idea, architectural designs will be drawn and a construction company hired. The facility, envisioned for the north side of the college, on Pecos Road, could open its doors in 2002.

Of course, college is all about learning. That it's also about making friends and hanging out. While, the 14-year-old Chandler-Gilbert main


campus continues to make room for more classrooms and specialty facilities, it also must make students feel at home, at least one official says.

"There's no place for them to sit, eat lunch, spend time together and talk," said Leo Bartholomew, dean of students. "We're very excited about this."

The proposed \$3.3 million, 20,000-square-foot project could house the student

— Please see **STUDENT**, Page E17

KNOWING THE SCORE



Thirteen teachers gather in a circle and try to keep up with a series of commands during training in the Creating Original Opera workshop put on by the Metropolitan Opera Guild at Arizona State University. The teachers go back to their schools and help students create operas that are multidisciplinary lessons in musical theater, math, science, history and literature.

Photos by Diane Chaff/The Arizona Republic

Met workshop trains teachers to help students compose operas

By Barbara Yost
The Arizona Republic

Tempe

Come fall, teachers across the country will be telling their students, "Hey, kids, let's put on a show."

That show will be an original opera — written, composed, designed and performed by the students.

It's a lesson not only in musical theater but also in math, science, history and literature, the perfect multidisciplinary vehicle for today's budget-minded schools seeking ways to teach many lessons simultaneously.

Add schools want to teach those lessons in an interactive manner.

"The trend across the United States is that

active engagement is the way to go. ... Most schools are ready, even hungry, for this," said Shellen Bradford, program director of Creating Original Opera, a project of the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

Last week, Arizona State University hosted one of the Met's weeklong workshops for elementary and middle school teachers on how to use opera as an educational tool. Participants learned new ways to engage their students in a project that highlights the arts and builds self-esteem.

Workshops earlier this year were held at Auburn University in Alabama, in Cincinnati and in Boston. The ASU workshop, which ended

— Please see **STUDENT**, Page E37

Youth movement

ASU student chosen to Sister Cities International board

By Elvia Diaz
The Arizona Republic

TEMPE — Josh Lader of Tempe got his introduction to politics helping his stepfather successfully campaign for the local school board.

That experience inspired Lader to plunge into student government. In high school he was president of the student government organization, and at Arizona State University, he served as assistant director at the public relations office.

His passion for politics led Lader to secure a yearlong paid internship in January with Mayor Neil Giuliano's office.

And most recently, Lader made his way to Sister Cities International, becoming at age 21 the youngest board member in the 41-year history of the non-profit agency, he

said.

"It's an opportunity for me to excel," Lader said about his stint with Sister Cities. "My heart belongs to this organization. It means so much to me."

Lader was elected last weekend to the board during the agency's conference in Little Rock, Ark., where roughly 400 members attended, he said. The agency has more than 1,000 sister cities worldwide and an 11-staff member in Washington, D.C.

As board member, Lader and 24 other directors are in charge of everything from attending meetings and social functions nationwide to oversee the agency's budget of more than a \$1 million, he said.

Giuliano applauded Lader's latest

— Please see **ASU**, Page E37

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City man accused of wife's knife death

By Jim Walsh
The Arizona Republic

Police on Tuesday arrested a 47-year-old man and accused him of stabbing to death a woman believed to be his wife.
Edward George Goldwater was arrested by homicide detectives about 11 a.m. in the 1100 block of East University Drive and accused of first-

MESA

degree murder in the slaying of Jessica James, 35.
"Detectives have worked endless hours on this case," said Detective Jose Martinez, a police spokesman.
The body of James was found in her apartment in the 600 block of West Eighth Street shortly after 2:30 p.m.

Saturday by her roommate, who called police. Martinez said police found a possible murder weapon.
"Certainly, we're going to wait for forensic comparison, but a knife was found at the scene," he said.
Goldwater had been placed on probation by Maricopa County Superior Court.

— Please see D17, Page E17



Edward Goldwater / The Arizona Republic
The 47-year-old ex-chiropractor was on probation for an unrelated fraud conviction when he was arrested.

Tempe readying input on wider-freeway plan

Will respond to state environmental study

By Elvia Diaz
The Arizona Republic

It may be true that most Valley mayors could care less about Tempe's opposition to proposed plans for widening the Superstition Freeway.
But it may be equally true the project may never happen, Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano said.

"They are going through this exercise in vain," Giuliano said. "It can't be done without the support of M/G (Maricopa Association of Governments)."
Nonetheless, Tempe can't ignore Arizona Department of Transportation's preferred plan for widening U.S. 60 to up to 12 lanes.

— Please see TEMPE, Page E17

KNOWING THE SCORE



Trying to describe herself as a fifth-grader, Denver teacher Janet Walsh (left) provokes laughter from Metropolitan Opera Guild teacher Marge Duffield.



Thirteen teachers gather in a circle and try to keep up with a series of commands during training in the Creating Original Opera workshop put on by the Metropolitan Opera Guild at Arizona State University. The teachers go back to their schools and help students create operas that are multidisciplinary lessons in musical theater, math, science, history and literature.

Met workshop trains teachers to help students compose their own operas

By Barbara Yost
The Arizona Republic

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That show will be an original opera — written, composed, designed and performed by the students.
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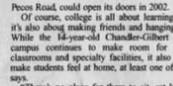
Student center proposal moves ahead

Chandler-Gilbert CC hopes gathering place wins OK

By Kelly Pearce
The Arizona Republic

Students crowd a "student lounge" — what is really a converted classroom — to gab and study. They sit in white chairs in the courtyard to eat a sandwich or gossip in the sun.
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The board that governs Maricopa Community Colleges conceptually approved a gathering place for the 5,000 pupils at the East Valley campus during its Tuesday night meeting.
If the state board that oversees all Arizona community colleges also endorses the idea, architectural designs will be drawn and a construction company hired. The facility, envisioned for the north side of the college, on



Provo Road, could open its doors in 2002.
Of course, college is all about learning. But it's also about making friends and hanging out. While the 16-year-old Chandler-Gilbert main campus continues to make room for more classrooms and specialty facilities, it also must make students feel at home, at least one official says.
"There's no place for them to sit, eat, lunch,"

— Please see STUDENT, Page E17



ASU student Josh Lader, an intern at Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano's office, now is a member of the board of directors of Sister Cities International. At 21, he's the youngest officer to be elected.

Youth movement

ASU student chosen to Sister Cities International board

By Elvia Diaz
The Arizona Republic

TEMPE — Josh Lader of Tempe got his introduction to politics helping his siblings' successful campaign for the local school board.

That experience inspired Lader to plunge into student government. In high school he was president of the student government organization, and at Arizona State University, he served as assistant director at the public relations office.

His passion for politics led Lader to secure a yearlong paid internship in January with Mayor Neil Giuliano's office.
And most recently, Lader made his way to Sister Cities International, becoming at age 21 the youngest board member in the 43-year history of the non-profit agency, he

said.
"It's an opportunity for me to excel," Lader said about his stint with Sister Cities. "My heart belongs to this organization. It means so much to me."
Lader was elected last weekend to the board during the agency's conference in Little Rock, Ark., where roughly 400 members attended, he said. The agency has more than 1,000 sister cities worldwide and an 11-staff member in Washington, D.C.
As board member, Lader and 24 other directors are in charge of everything from attending meetings and social functions nationwide to overseeing the agency's budget of more than \$1 million, he said.
Giuliano applauded Lader's latest

— Please see ASU, Page E110

'Artifacts' bind Tempe Elementary

Board shares stories, refines relationships

By Melissa L. Jones
The Arizona Republic

TEMPE — Lighthouses mean a lot to Marilyn Glenn.
As the Tempe Elementary School District board member sat down with two hand-size replicas of Maine lighthouses, she explained growing up on an island in Maine, crossing the water to get to school.

Glenn's lighthouses were her "artifacts" brought to Matera University on Tuesday to start off a day of communication among the five members of the district Governing Board, new Superintendent John Baracy and board secretary Harriet Meador.

For six hours, the group talked about what drives it and shared its own stories in an effort to create a working relationship that will lead it, and the district's 13,000 students into the new century.

"Artifacts" were brought so that participants could share important values in their lives.

For a district that has been divided with 3-2 board votes and just this month brought on a new boss with Baracy, the timing is right.

Baracy brought a baseball bat and

— Please see BOARD, Page E17

AROUND THE VALLEY

Teachers learn benefits of using opera in class



Donna Rooney (left) and Nancy Sutte of Hartland, Wis., create music on the spot during a workshop at ASU designed to show teachers new ways to engage their students in a project that highlights the arts.

By Barbara Yost

The Arizona Republic

When a favorite couple is about to be married, why not give them the wedding gift that's as lasting as their love—Rolex timepieces. No matter which style of Rolex you choose, you'll be giving a gift of lasting quality, beauty and durability. Mark the moment of a lifetime with a Rolex Yacht-Master.

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Denver teacher Janet Weisheit (left) and the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Margie Duffield keep the mood light.

each school.

In an era when many schools have deemed art and music an extravagance, Bransford said mounting an opera is anything but a luxury.

Want to teach youngsters math? Have them measure out materials for making a set.

Want to teach science? Assemble a team to work the sound and lighting systems.

History? Assign readings about 16th-century Russia to explore the background for Musorgsky's *Boris Godunov* or study Napoleon to understand Prokofiev's version of *War and Peace*.

It's getting away from chalk talk and teachers being dispensers of all knowledge," Bransford said. "Students gravitate toward their learning styles."

Participating teachers were generous in their praise of Creating Original Opera, saying they felt challenged to stretch their skills.

"It's pushing us beyond our comfort zone. I played the piano today, and I'm not a pianist," said Elizabeth Woodworth of the All Saints Episcopal School of Fort Worth. "It's wonderful."

Back home, she said, "This will create real excitement in our community."

Cassandra Cutler, performing arts coordinator for the Bakken Museum in St. Paul, Minn., said she will initiate an opera program in Twin Cities schools. Such activities, she believes, can "demystify the entire art process."

"Anybody can do it, anybody can make opera. These kids have ownership of this opera, and this gives

them pride in their work. ...

"This workshop shows that arts are a necessary part of the curriculum that can be integrated with any subject matter."

Can youngsters really write their own music?

Juan Hoban, a music teacher at All Saints Episcopal School, insisted they can, even if it's a score composed mostly of rhythm — clapping hands, hanging on cans or making other percussive sounds.

And although teachers can help with more sophisticated compositions, the goal of the Met workshop was to show teachers how students can utilize their own skills and ideas, "even if it's not Wagner," said Julie Haas, music teacher at Charles Somper Elementary School in Westminster, Colo.

Working together on a production company also teaches teamwork, the participants said.

The Met's reward for sponsoring the Creating Original Opera project goes beyond simply nurturing future audiences. Benefits are much broader, Bransford said.

"We hope to crack the idea that opera is only a middle class art form," she said. "It helps unfocused kids to focus."

The original opera that young people write often has little resemblance to the somber styles of Wagner or the lush melodies of Mozart, she said. Scores can include rap music, jazz or rock and roll.

It's the music that engages children.

"We want to stretch the definition of opera," Bransford said, defining opera broadly as a "story that calls for music to help tell it."

Students who successfully mount an original production feel a great sense of accomplishment, she said. Parents are pleased to watch their kids perform. Schools put themselves on the back for resourcefulness.

And although it might not be the Met's primary goal to hatch new opera lovers, more fans are always welcome.

"When a kid finds a doorway into the arts," Bransford said, "that kid will fall in love with the art form. That's gray."

Barbara Yost can be reached at (602) 444-7928 or at barbara.yost@arizona.com via e-mail.

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Knowing the score at show time

Met trains teachers to help students create own operas

By Barbara Yost
The Arizona Republic

Come fall, teachers across the country will be telling their students, "Hey, kids, let's put on a show."

That show will be an original opera — written, composed, designed and performed by the students.

It's a lesson not only in musical theater but also in math, science, history and literature, the perfect multidisciplinary vehicle for today's budget-minded schools seeking ways to teach many lessons simultaneously.

And schools want to teach those lessons in an interactive manner.

The trend across the United States is that active engagement is the way to go. Most schools are ready, even hungry, for this," said Shellee Bransford, program director of Creating Original Opera, a project of the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

Last week, Arizona State University hosted one of the Met's weekly workshops for elementary and middle school teachers on how to use opera as an educational tool. Participants learned new ways to engage their students in a project that highlights the arts and builds self-esteem.

Workshops earlier this year were held at Auburn University in Alabama, in Cincinnati and in Boston. The ASU workshop, which ended Tuesday, drew 13 teachers from schools in the West and Midwest.

While the Met, headquartered in New York City, has offered the

program since 1983, this is only the second year that ASU has played host. Funding for the program is a joint venture of the Met and the schools that send teachers.

For those teachers, it's a heady experience, Bransford said.

"What's so fabulous is when you can walk away from everyday life and focus on something you love. It's invigorating," she said.

"But it's also hard work."

For one week, teachers studied elements of set design, script writing, costume, vocal techniques, makeup, sound technology and performance.

The instructors were actors and technicians from the Met.

The purpose was to learn enough to form a production company in each school.

In an era when many schools have deemed art and music an extravagance, Bransford said mounting an opera is anything but a luxury.

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THE NUMBERS

Planners of the proposed Museum of Progress in Scottsdale are projecting first-year attendance of 663,500 at the museum, which would open sometime in the next five years if Scottsdale voters approve a sales-tax funding plan on the Sept. 7 ballot.

Heavy attendance at other attractions:

Phoenix metro	
The Phoenix Zoo	1,079,261
Arizona Science Center	500,000
Scottsdale Center for the Arts Museum	380,000
The Heard Museum	250,000
Desert Botanical Garden	239,000
Phoenix Art Museum	220,000
Mesa Southwest Museum	106,541
Arizona State Capitol Museum	87,000
Tempe Arts Center	65,000
Arizona Museum for Youth	60,000
Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum	60,000
Pioneer Museum	60,000
ASU Art Museum	50,000
Hall of Fame Museum of Firefighting	34,000

Other U.S. areas	
Boston Museum of Science	1,678,000
Houston Children's Museum	305,000
San Diego Natural History Museum	400,000
St. Louis Museum of Transportation	142,000

Source: Consultant's report for museum backers, based on figures from sources including the Official Museum Directory.

Price to refit the Galleria rises sharply

— PRICE, from Page 1

Opponents of the plan say they question the figures, prepared by five museum experts led by a Florida consulting group and including Phoenix architect Richard Pace, released this week. The consultants were paid \$100,000 by the museum backers to make the study.

Opponents note the projected number of visitors, for example, would be many more than the 380,000 who annually visit the Scottsdale Center for the Arts.

"To me, these numbers are not practical," said Barbara Epstein, chairwoman of Save Old Scottsdale, the group opposing the Canals project. "To retrofit that building will cost millions and millions."

But Hal Becker, Museum of Progress president, said the earlier cost estimate of \$75 million was just that, an estimate.

"This is the first number that I have been willing to release and discuss," he said.

Becker said meeting the standards of a world-class museum is a costly proposition that would be even costlier if the museum didn't already have a building like the Galleria. The 450,000-square-foot building opened as a shopping center in the early 1990s, but failed and closed five years ago. It's now owned by Excel Legacy Corp. of San Diego, which is the developer of The Canals.

The museum, a non-profit organization, is planned as a technology showcase with a heavy emphasis on interactive exhibits.

According to the study group's estimates, the museum would be self-supporting from the time it opens, clearing between \$1.7 million and \$1.9 million after expenses.

The report says the museum would bring in \$11.1 million to \$12.3 million in its first year at a projected admission of \$6 per person, and estimates that it will attract 1 million visitors in its fifth year.

Besides Pace, the Phoenix architect, the experts who made the study were Douglas Rutledge of the Baker Leisure Group, Orlando; Jean St. Cyr of Design & Communications Inc., Montreal; Kathleen Brown of Lord Cultural Resources, Alameda, Calif.; and Frank Huzar of Campbell & Co., Laguna Hills, Calif.

Alexa Hausman can be reached at (602) 444-7481 or at alexa.hausman@tpc.com via e-mail.

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The Calendar of Care is a listing of programs and classes offered this month.
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Lighten up: Why Laughter is Good Medicine
We've all heard that laughter is good for us. But did you know laughter can actually reduce stress, boost your immune system and even reduce pain? Find out how. Call (602) 870-4300.
From 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, Courtyard Center, 9202 N. Second St., Phoenix, 530.

STOP RED
John C. Lincoln CARES offers two low-cost classes for parents and their children with asthma. A Parent's Guide to Asthma shows parents how to manage their child's asthma. The Stop Red Asthma is for parents and their asthmatic children. A manual, Living Well: A Parent's Guide to Managing Your Child's Asthma, is included. Child care will be provided. \$5.00 per class. Call (602) 870-4300.
A Parent's Guide: 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, Let's Talk Asthma: 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, Conference Room A/B, John C. Lincoln Hospital - Deer Valley, 19829 N. 27th Avenue (just south of Loop 101), Phoenix.

Does age mean your bones have to break?
Osteoporosis — gradual weakening of the bones with age — affects one in four women, one in 40 men. Osteoporosis and Fall Prevention, an eight-session program taught by a physical therapist, registered nurse and registered dietitian, teaches the risk factors and how to protect yourself through nutrition, medication and exercise. Call (602) 870-4300.
10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 15 through Nov. 3, Courtyard Center, 9202 N. Second St., Phoenix, 530.

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SECTION



The Mamma Mia! cast takes 22 ABBA songs and pulls together a fun musical. Part of the fun is seeing them dressed in clothing that used to be considered cool. Photos by Joan Martini

ABBA'S HAPPY MUSIC A TRIUMPH

'Mamma' a hit!

If you ignore the thin plot, you'll be in for serious fun

By Kathleen Allen

We dare you — no, we double dare you — to walk out of "Mamma Mia!" without a smile on your lips and "Dancing Queen" dancing through your head. It's near impossible to do. This London and Broadway hit, which opened at Centennial Hall Wednesday for a 16-show run, is a honey, exuberant, big cloud of fluff that had audiences out of their seats and begging to, heaven forbid, ABBA tunes. Go figure.

"Mamma Mia!" is a string of hits by those disco-era Swedish popsters conceived by a Catherine Johnson-penned story so thin you could sneeze and it would scatter to the winds.

But here's the thing: This is on your feet and grove-to-the-beat, downright fun. Make that Fun.

About that story: Single mom Don-



Monique Land, at center, has a smoky, sexy voice that gives Donna an earthy sensuality. The story revolves around Donna's daughter's upcoming wedding.

na's 30-year-old daughter Sophie is about to get married. Now, Sophie would like to have her father walk her down the aisle. But Donna's never said who dad is. A peek into Donna's diary

REVIEW
The musical "Mamma Mia!" — based on music by ABBA and presented by Jagers — is at 12 p.m. today and next Friday, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday and May 10, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday and May 11 and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday at Centennial Hall, 5200 E. University Blvd. on the University of Arizona campus. Tickets are \$25-\$72. 520-1341.

Also coming to that island are Donna's old bandmates, Rosie and Tanya. Back in the '70s, the three were the disco divas Donna and the Dynamos. Can't you just feel those ABBA tunes coming on?

When Donna's depressed, Rosie and Tanya pull her out of it with an over-the-top rendition of "Chiquitita."

When a startled Donna runs into her three former lovers, everyone freezes while she bursts into the title song.

When one of the possible fathers wants to give Sophie advice, he croons "Knowing Me, Knowing You."

Who knew there would be an ABBA tune for every possible human emotion? Monique Land's smoky voice and sexy attitude gave Donna a kind of earthy sensuality. When she sang,

Tequila fuel for Hagar's concert

By Anthony Broadman

There's more to ex-Van Halen frontman Sammy Hagar than rock 'n' roll and expensive tequila. But not much more.

The 55-year-old "Red Rocker" gave a concert Wednesday night to open Casino del Sol's AVA 2003 concert season.

The nearly two-hour show was part rock concert and part booze-fueled infomercial for Cabo Wabo, Hagar's tequila label. Barely dressed waitresses served the singer drinks on stage. Hagar and his deft hand — the Waboritas — appeared first behind a curtain bearing the company's logo. "Shame, but I don't do justice to Hagar's self-promotion."

The five-piece band opened the show with "Shaka Doo-Bie (The Limit)," a paean to drugs

REVIEW

Sammy Hagar

Casino del Sol AVA

Wednesday

a paean to drugs and romance ("I like my sugar fast on her back") and segued seamlessly into Bob Dylan's "Rainy Day Women #12 & 35." Corralled in handstands painted, it seemed, by a Mexican Kilt Haring, dancing Sammy-balls formed Hagar's backdrop. For their services, at times during the show he gave them his drink after taking a sip himself. Why did he sip-sip-pass instead of handing out fresh cocktails? Hagar didn't say. But at \$5.50 per waborita — Hagar's signature margarita — from the concourse stand, you can bet that the onstage competition for the singer's slightly used drinks was healthy. One scared, nearly nude waitress rode a donkey to deliver Hagar's drink.

"Nice ass," he said.

The dirty secret behind the fun of Hagar's campy stagework is the quality of his lyrics.

The grating verses and schmaltzy choruses are often sung over blatantly derivative melodies. "Things've Changed," written by Waborita keyboardist Jesse Harris, is Bob Seger's "Night Moves" with more distortion, and "Man Tequila" is a drunk-spring-breaker version of Gary Glitter's "Rock and Roll Part 2" — the sporting event "Her song."

These lyrics, to "Deeper Kind of Love," are particularly cheesy violations of decent songwriting mores: "A deeper kind of love can bring you down and lift you up so high. A phoenix starts to rise from the ashes inside my soul, leaving old wounds behind. A new me is born. And you show me your world is dangerous, but I let go, and when I fall, I fall deep into a deeper kind of love."

Papa should pray that their ruddy-faced infomercial of an album didn't write the words to that stinker.

But Hagar's main goal, it seems, is fun. And if he sells a little nactus juice, well, that's OK, too.

The audience, which was very near capacity, drank up the music, the priory liquor and the over-the-hill spring break atmosphere.

Charter school students are proud to be the talent behind 'HAZE' opera

By Olivia Clarke

If your only vision of an opera involves Italian lyrics, a million-dollar set and a large woman singing in a Viking hat, then the student-created rock opera "HAZE" may surprise you. This isn't your typical school rendition of "West Side Story" or "Grease."

Everything — from the opera's storyline to the uniquely designed sets to the rock music — was created by middle and high school students from The HAZZ School, a nonprofit charter school for grades six to 12.

The students' hard work will

pay off when "HAZE" is performed Saturday. About a week before showtime, groups of students swamped in and out of their classroom to paint sections of the set and glue pieces of tissue paper to a large cardboard box. Since February, they've worked at least an hour and a half each day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as after school and on Saturdays.

Their teachers, Kevin Johnson and Janet Williams, received scholarships last summer to "Creating Original Opera." Spon-

sored by the Metropolitan Opera Guild and held in New York City, the program showed teachers how students can create their own opera in the classroom.

"It's like our baby," said 15-year-old soprano Carlyn Holkin. "You get to express yourself in this kind of work, and everyone listens to your ideas."

The students began brainstorming after the winter break. They created the story of a man named Oscar who suffers from childhood flashbacks about a fire that killed his mother. Oscar deals with his

grief and living with the past. And now that the students created the Greynia Opera Company, they plan to perform an opera each year, Johnson said.

"I think it has been really empowering for me, not only as a teacher but as an artist myself," said Johnson, artistic director and creator of the Artista Outrage Productions, a 19-year-old Tucson theater company that works on lesser produced musicals.

"To see kids taking the few hours they normally have to themselves and devoting them selves wholeheartedly to a project



Teacher Kevin Johnson demonstrates a scene to "HAZE" students. Oscar deals with his