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South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

MAY 7, 1999

Bomb Scare Causes Havoc, High School Evacuated

By Patricia Abbott

Last Friday, April 30, a simple sentence uttered by a student brought the high school's normal routine to a standstill. The student entered the office at approximately 12:30 p.m. and announced he had seen a bomb in the school. While the day to day activities may have stopped, the action taken was swift. Principal Tony Massaro made an announcement that school would be dismissed for the day with the next bell. All students were instructed not to go to their lockers but to leave the building immediately.

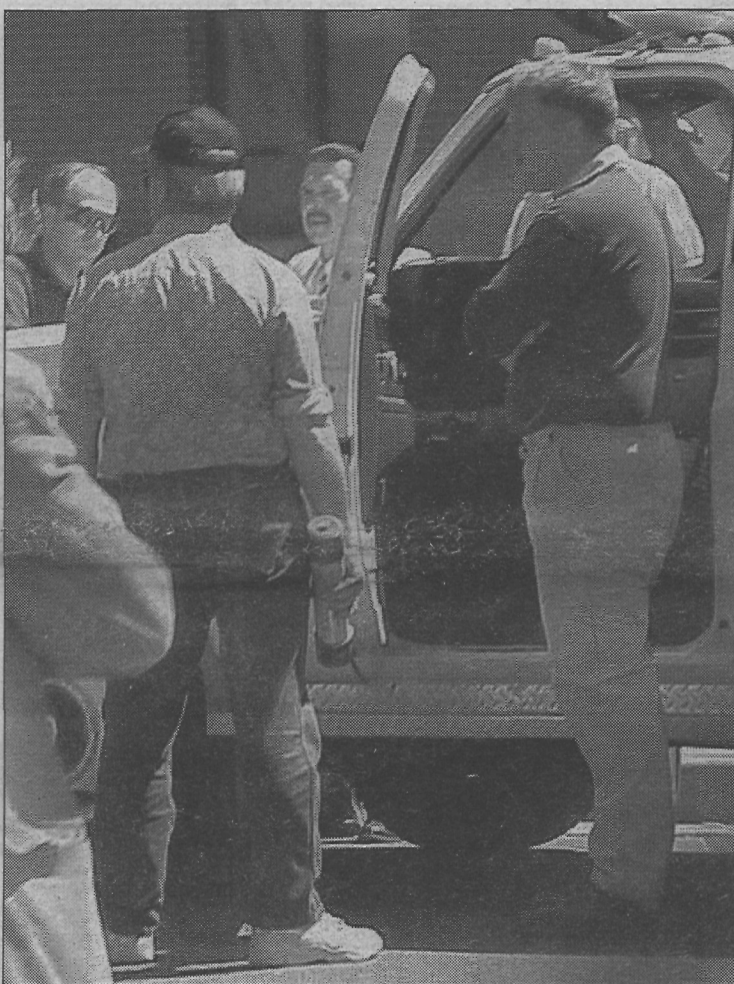
The South Plainfield Police Department and the Office of Emergency Management were notified and immediately responded to the call. Also responding to the high school were the South Plainfield Fire Department, New Market and Plainfield Fire Departments, South Plainfield Rescue Squad, the Middlesex County Police and bomb squads from the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and New Jersey State Police.

A sophomore student allegedly showed classmates what appeared to be a pipe bomb. The actual device was a 100 amp industrial size

fuse. There were no explosive devices attached to the 18 inch long fuse. The emergency resulted in the arrest of a 15-year-old male sophomore student, who was charged with Public False Alarm and terrorist threats. He was taken to the Juvenile Detention Center in New Brunswick. Officials stated that the student will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. School Principal Tony Massaro noted that while many students were frightened, the evacuation went smoothly and at no time were the students in danger.

The school district is acutely aware of the impact the recent Colorado tragedy has had on students. Coupled with the high school bomb threat, the school board went into high gear to address the situation.

On Monday, Superintendent Guy Ferri sent home a detailed letter with each student addressed to students, parents, citizens and officials of the school district. The letters speak point-blank about the high school bomb scare as well as other incidents. It notes that school leaders and staff throughout the district are fully aware of the need for support, reassurance and compassion and the



Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma holds the suspected "bomb."

need to be ready for the children when and if they need any of these services on a more individual level. The letter points out that fear is contagious and with that comes the risk of panic. Their immediate goal is to restore normalcy to the schools.

In order to accomplish this task a number of safeguards have been established and are being stringently enforced. The following list is excerpted from the letter sent home with students.

- The Board Visitations to Schools Policy requires that all visitors sign in at the main office and get a pass. That policy has been stressed and reinforced and staff will stop anyone who has not complied.
- All school entrances are locked except for the main entrance. Students are urged not to open doors from the inside.
- Crisis management staff are in place in every school. Children are urged to report their concerns or to seek assistance with their own problems.
- Student Assistance Counselors, Child Study Team and Guidance Staff are working to identify, assess and assist troubled youth.
- Each school has a peer

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Fire Department Responds To Two Fires, Bomb Scare

In the span of two days last week, the South Plainfield Fire Department responded to two fires and a bomb scare at the high school.

Last Thursday night the fire

department received a call reporting a house fire on Vail Court. Arriving on the scene in two minutes, firemen found an intense fire with flames coming out of the ga-

rage and extending to the main portion of the house. Volunteer firefighters from all over town responded to fight the blaze.

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Fire destroyed the garage of a Vail Court home last week. There were no injuries.

Some Students React to Events With Fear, Others with Threats

By Patricia Abbott

School was once a place where parents felt their children were safe from danger and the horrors that occur daily across the globe. War was a nightmare that was a world away. This is no longer the case. Violence is an ongoing war that invades our classrooms. Violence, not from foreign and unknown terrorists, but by the very children who sit in our classrooms every day. The "boy next door" might be the terrorist of parents' nightmares.

The violence may be directed at classmates and society in general for reasons real or imagined. The country is still on edge from the Littleton tragedy. Headlines tell of copycat threats and bomb scares. Youths emulate the so-called "Trench Coat Mafia," but they don't understand the seriousness or because they find a sick sense of humor in the reactions to the coats or more frightening, because they somehow

identify with the fallen murderers.

While all had hope that our community might remain unscathed, this is not the case. The district reported that the bomb threat at the high school was not the first incident that has occurred in South Plainfield. Prior to Friday's bomb threat, several lesser incidents took place last week. A fourth grade Riley School student made verbal threats about killing other students. Police were notified and the student was suspended pending psychological assessment. A rumor circulated throughout the Middle School sixth grade class that a bomb would explode at school. The school was swept for devices last Thursday evening and was found to be safe.

Three additional incidents with middle and high school students occurred earlier in the week. All those involved were suspended and police notified.

In My Opinion

Letters

Championship Track Meets May Seek New Address

To the Editor,

The excerpt below is taken from an article that appeared in the *Newark Star Ledger* on Friday, April 30, 1999. The South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club has been concerned about the condition of the track for several years. We have met with the Superintendent, the Business Administrator and members of the Board of Education on the topic. All have expressed their concern and dedication to improving the track.

They decided to include the reconstruction of the track in the referendum that will probably take place in September. Our concern is if the referendum is defeated does that mean that our administrators will not take the necessary steps to replace the track? In the *Star Ledger's* article a representative from the state expressed concern for any athlete who uses a facility that is dangerous. Do we really want our kids to practice and compete on a deteriorated track? We all realize that you can not and should not separate the academic and the athletic development of any of the students currently enrolled in the South Plainfield School System.

We sincerely hope that, no matter what happens with the referendum, the assets entrusted to the South Plainfield Board of Education will not be allowed to continue to deteriorate. We all want the best for our children. You have the power and the responsibility to maintain all the facilities owned by the taxpayers. Please don't let the future of the track program at South Plainfield High School rest on the vote of one referendum. To do so would be an injustice to all those who have succeeded because of their participation in the program in the past.

MIKE ENGLISH PRESIDENT, SPABC

Excerpts taken from the Star Ledger

Deteriorating track conditions at South Plainfield's Frank Jost Field could force the NJSLAA Track and Field Group Championships and Meet of Champions to move to a new address next year, according to tournament director Don Danser.

Frank Jost Field has been home to the state meet since 1983, but Danser said, "The track has deteriorated over the years and if it's not at least resurfaced by next year, we'll have to move our meets to another site. It has patches everywhere, which was sufficient at the time, but now it's time that something more is done to improve it."

South Plainfield Athletic Director Mike Buggey said that plans are in the works to replace the 20-year-old track by next year. However, such a project, which could cost at least \$250,000, would first have to be approved by South Plainfield voters.

To the Editor,

On Friday, April 23, Sacred Heart School held its third annual Chinese auction. As chairperson for this event, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to publicly thank our many contributors. Although numerous, I believe the following acknowledgements should be made. We are very grateful to the local businesses, corporate sponsors, parents, faculty and alumni for their generous and enthusiastic support. Thank you to the many volunteers who spent hours planning, collecting donations and decorating. To the Sacred Heart School custodial staff for their support and hard work, not only with this endeavor but also throughout the year, you are always appreciated. Thank you to all the bakers for providing the wonderful goodies and to Ms. Fusco and our seventh grade students who literally "ran" this event.

Our special thanks to Pinto Brothers Disposal who so generously donated the "grand prize," to Muglia Enterprises for the twenty-five inch TV and to Presto Printing for their donation of time and printing. To Sister Cornelia for her support and Father Mike, who for the entire evening, had our undivided attention as he pulled the winning tickets. During this event many individuals were selling tickets, answering questions or working in the kitchen, none of this went unnoticed. A successful fundraiser requires a lot of hard work and dedication. Each and every one who gave their time and energy was truly appreciated. Thank you one and all.

**SINCERELY,
CAROL COLLINS-RAY**

Dear Editor,

Summer and warmer weather are fast approaching. School will be closing and then the piercing words from your children saying, "I'm bored, there's nothing to do." Sound familiar! A great alternative is join the South Plainfield Community Pool and the award winning swimming and diving teams. These are two separate teams located at the South Plainfield Community Pool located on Maple Ave. near the PAL Building.

Lessons and practice start in early June. Meets begin the end of June and continue until the end of July. The teams are not stressful and you don't have to be a great swimmer or diver. (The coaches will show you how to become one.) Swimming a lap at the pool is the only requirement.

Children have great fun, make new friends and develop positive self-confidence and esteem. If you don't live in South Plainfield, there are non-resident memberships available.

To join, call or stop by the PAL Building. They will answer your questions or direct you to the swim team parents' group.

Hope to see you at poolside!

**SINCERELY,
CHERYL NAGEL-SMILEY**

To the Editor,

Thank you for printing the personal memories of some South Plainfield Education Association members' favorite books and reading experiences. Another

group of faculty and staff have submitted additional anecdotes to me in response to your original request. I am in turn submitting them to you in hopes that you will be able to publish them as well. The SPEA also hopes that these anecdotes will spark thoughts among parents and grandparents about their favorite books, which they might share with their children and grandchildren. Likewise, children might be encouraged to relate their favorite books during family discussion time.

**YOURS TRULY,
BARBARA HARRIS
SPEA COMMUNICATIONS
CHAIRPERSON**

Every night before bedtime, my mom and dad would ask me what book I wanted them to read to me. And sure enough, every night my response was the same, *The Little Engine That Could*. As a very young child, I suppose it was the vividly colorful pictures as well as the theatrical way that my parents read that attracted me to this book. But as I grew older, the words became more meaningful to me. I remember my parents explaining to me that I could do anything that I set my mind to, as long as I believed in myself and did not give up. I frequently thought about *The Little Engine That Could* throughout my childhood, whether I was sounding out a difficult word, computing a complicated math problem, trying out for a sports team and on countless other instances. To this day, I still reflect upon the "Little Blue Engine's" repeated message, which is equally important to people of all ages as challenges of all calibers are faced. As the basis of my determination, the words "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can" will forever inspire me. — **Brenda Krushinski, Riley School**

The BoxCar Children was my favorite childhood book. I remember my second grade teacher reading a chapter a day out loud to us. She had a wonderful way of keeping us in suspense as to what would happen next. I did a theme approach to *The BoxCar Children* when I taught third grade. The children really seemed to enjoy the story too. — **Helen Lay, Riley School**

My favorite children's book is *Harry and the Terrible Whatzit* by Dick Gackenback. It's about a child who's afraid to go into the basement because he thinks that there is something terrible down there. When his mother goes

Thank You

On behalf of Billy Knifel and his family, we would like to thank all those who have called to donate blood or offer their support. Billy, the nephew of resident Ann-Marie Ferrant-Syefart, has been diagnosed with acute Lymphoma and is in need of blood donors.

If you would like to donate blood or help in any way, call Ann-Marie at (908) 756-7543.

down and does not come up he decides to go down and get her. He found the Whatzit. This story is for third graders and is a must read book. — **Kathy Trenchak, Riley School**

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein is my favorite book. It is an excellent example of the stages of life which we have or will experience throughout time. I have suggested this book to several of my classes since I began teaching in South Plainfield in 1991. I told them they should watch a particular tree or bush near their house grow. I have done this activity with my own children, who are now thirteen and fifteen years old.

Read this book. Then read it again. You will love it and remember it throughout your life.

The best gift you can give anyone (including a teacher) is to donate a book to a library. I often do this on special occasions of for very special people in my life. — **Barbara Friedman, Kennedy School**

On Beyond Zebra by Dr. Seuss was my favorite book as a child. Conrad Cornelius O'Donald O'Dell was a very young man learning to spell. Dr. Seuss took him on beyond "z" for zebra to imaginary places filled with imaginary letters. As a chronically ill child, I loved laying in bed and going on journeys with Dr. Seuss. — **Cheryl Fox, SPHS**

After watching the TV series for years, I was curious to read the book that got it all started. I read *Little House on the Prairie* and then began collecting the entire series of books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. I always admired her for overcoming so many obstacles and I found her life as a pioneer girl in the late 1800's fascinating. Sometimes I wish our lives today could be a little bit slower and simpler like things were back then. But, I'm not sure I would

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South Plainfield Observer

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South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (732) 805-0815 or e-mail us on the web page at www.spobserver.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

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The new School Board members pictured are: (sitting left to right) Dawn Jefferys, Doris Haley, Pat DeSantis and Marjorie Reedy. Standing are Steven Bohn, Daniel Smith, Ken LaFreniere, Jeffrey Seider and Frank Mikorski. The board elected Doris Haley as the new president and Ken LaFreniere as vice-president.

Fire Department Responds to Fires, Bomb Scare

Continued from page 1

A total of 39 firefighters were on the scene along with three engines, two from South Plainfield and one from New Market Fire Company; a truck from both the South Plainfield and the New Market Fire Companies and a rescue squad vehicle from New Market Fire. The fire was brought under control in about a half an hour and no injuries were reported. The damage was confined to a main portion of the garage. No surrounding structures were in-

involved. The cause is still under investigation.

Friday morning the fire department was called to Recycling Inc. on Harmich Road. Upon arrival to the scene they found heavy smoke in the interior structure and coming out of the doors. An engine was ordered to connect into a hydrant and an attack line was stretched into the interior of the building. A thermal imaging camera was utilized and fire could be seen in the shredder unit, extending to the roof through the duct work. Fire-

fighters cut open sections of the roof and pulled back roofing material to extinguish the smoldering fire inside.

Responding at this fire were 17 firemen; four engines (two from South Plainfield and one each from the New Market and North Stelton Fire Departments), two trucks from South Plainfield and one from River Road Fire Department. This fire took less than 13 minutes to get under control.

Just a few hours later the fire department was called to the high school with a possible threat of a bomb in the school.

The volunteer firemen responded to each of these emergencies in just minutes. Each firefighter has gone through numerous training courses in order to be ready to meet any emergency that may arise. They are also kept up to date with the latest equipment and procedures.

South Plainfield's firefighters are all volunteers and take their jobs seriously. If you should see one of our firefighters let them know how much we appreciate their work. If you are interested in joining the fire department, call 908-226-7715.

Roxanne Cortese Named Therapist of the Year



Roxanne Cortese

The International Association of Counselors and Therapists annual convention was held this year on April 30-May 2 at the Marriott Hotel in Somerset. Saturday evening was the Awards Banquet to honor Therapists for Exemplifying Excellence in the Holistic Counseling Field.

Our very own Roxanne Cortese was the recipient winner of this

prestigious award. She was recognized for her work with ADD/ADHD children and adults as well as her involvement with her community, charitable work and volunteerism in this field.

Roxanne accepted the award recognizing her daughter Nicole as the one who deserves the award. Being diagnosed with ADD, Nicole has worked with her mother displaying patience, understanding and a willingness to find and do what ever it took to enhance her life in a positive holistic way.

The nominees are chosen by their peers from each chapter across the United States as well as from international chapters. They are then submitted to the National Headquarters in Florida to be reviewed. Then one candidate out of hundreds is to receive this award.

Roxanne has a private practice in South Plainfield and an advertising representative for the Observer.

Suburban Woman's Club Sponsors Delegate

Jane Nguyen of Amboy Ave. has been chosen to represent South Plainfield High School as its junior delegate to the Career Girls' Institute held on June 21-24 at Douglass College in New Brunswick.

The GFWC Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield sponsors one high school junior annually. She attends seminars on

career choices, hears speakers on related topics, joins a crafters workshop and participates in recreational activities.

Ms. Nguyen will give a report of her experience at Douglass College during the Junior Woman's Club meeting held in September. Her alternate will be Krista Gundersen of Woolworth Ave.

The Suburban Woman's Club will award its annual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior at the June 1 Awards Assembly held at the high school. Beverly Montwid is the education chairperson.

New members are always welcome. For membership information, call 756-7071.

High School Evacuated After Bomb Scare

Continued from page 1

mediation program, so students can serve as "listeners" for other students. Peer leaders are in close liaison with responsible adult staff members.

- Evacuation plans are in place and are practiced routinely in each school.

- There is a police presence periodically as needed via the DARE and Juvenile Officers, whose cooperation and response time are superior.

- We will prosecute serious offenders and any weapons offenses to the fullest extent of the law.

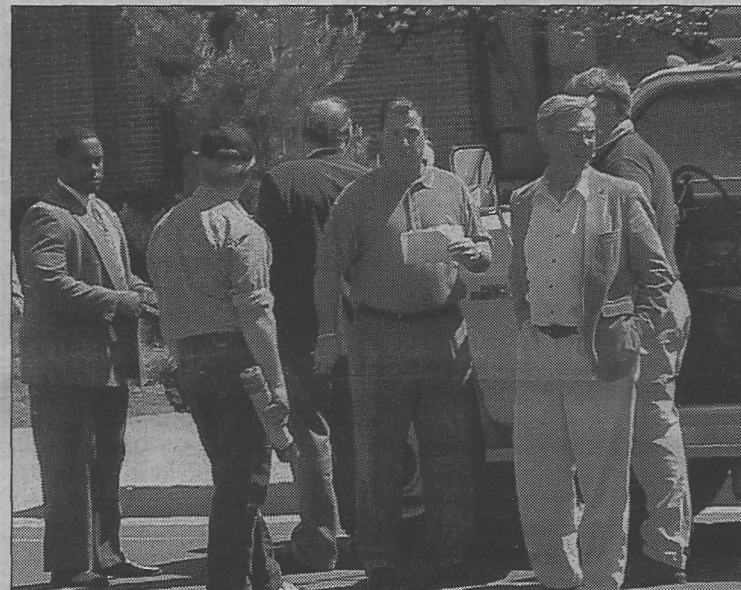
- We have random locker search authority and are governed by "reasonable suspicion" in that event.

- All of our staff serve as adult confidants, even if only to direct students to a highly trained school contact, to whom students can speak about their own fears, confusion, anger or sadness.

In addition to all this, the district recognizes that much more can be done to support and protect South Plainfield's youths. The district will work with the educational community, parents, civic and religious groups and borough officials, to provide ongoing outreach programs. By week's end the school's will be sending to each students home, an action plan which includes "what to look for" and "what to do" for any parent with fears or concerns about their children. The school district newsletter will follow up with a list of current plans and future proposals. The school board and superintendent invite the support of any willing to help.

Principal Tony Massaro noted that normal attendance in the high school runs at about 93%-95%. While it might be assumed that that figure would drop a bit on the Monday following the bomb scare, the attendance level remained the same.

The return to school on Monday went smoothly. It was a day for reorganizing and locating books and other items left during the evacuation.



What appeared to be a bomb turned out to be just a 100 amp fuse. Responding to the incident were Mayor Gallagher and officials from the fire department, emergency management, two bomb squads and the State Police.

ob·serve (v.t.): 1. to celebrate ceremonially // 2. to notice (something), to pay special attention to // 3. (a) to look at with attention // 4. to perceive, notice, come to know by seeing // 5. to comment, to note attentively

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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Workshop on Raising a Healthy, Drug Free Family

Dr. Patrick M. Aiello of the Aiello Chiropractic Center will be holding a workshop entitled "Raising a Healthy, Drug Free Family" on Tuesday, May 18, at 7 p.m. in the South Plainfield Public Library.

As part of a mission to educate the community, this free program will teach you how to create an environment in your home that will help support you in "Raising a Healthy, Drug Free Family." You will also learn valuable information that will help you and your family reach your true inborn health potential.

So, mark off Tuesday the 18th of May at 7 p.m. for this valuable workshop. For more information, please call Sunny Fenn at (908) 754-7885 or Dr. Aiello at (908) 755-2289.

The South Plainfield Public Library is located at 2482 Plainfield Ave. across from Borough Hall.

Sacred Heart "Funstival 99" Tickets on Sale

Advance ride tickets for this year's Sacred Heart "Funstival 99" are now available after all weekend Masses and at the Parish Center on Randolph Ave. At \$12 for 8 rides this represents a 50% savings over purchases at the Funstival.

This year "Funstival 99" will be held from May 18 through 22. Tuesday, May 18 will be bracelet night with pay one price of \$12 to ride all evening.

Classic favorites will be available again this year, with rides, games and food. The big raffle to be drawn on Saturday evening includes a grand prize of a seven day cruise for two to the winner's choice of destinations, with a \$700

airfare allowance, \$1,000 food Certificate from A & P and a 32" color TV valued at \$750.

Elks Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 9 the Elks will be holding their Annual Pancake Breakfast from 8 a.m.-noon. Each mom will receive a free carnation.

Everyone is invited to bring their mother or grandmother to this "all-you-can-eat" and cooked to order Pancake Breakfast, which includes eggs to order, bacon, sausage, french toast, juice, milk, coffee and tea.

The cost is \$6 for adults, \$2.75 for children (children under 5 free). Hope to see you all there.

Spring Yard and Bake Sale

The United Methodist Women will be sponsoring a Spring Yard and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Raindate is May 22 at the United Methodist Church located on Plainfield Ave.

The yard sale will include household goods, clothing, toys, books and much more. The bake sale will feature home-baked pies, cakes, breads and cookies.

Space is available for \$10 (2 car space). Dealers are welcome. For more information, call Ellie at (908) 561-2982 after 6 p.m.

Craft Show and Sale at Riley School

Riley School fourth graders, along with parents and teachers, are hosting a craft show and sale to benefit their Stokes Fundraiser on Friday, May 7 from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at Riley School located on Morris Ave. For vendor information, call 668-8252. Come and shop for Mom!

Franklin School Kindergarten Orientation

The Kindergarten Orientation Program for students entering Franklin School in September, 1999 will be held on May 13, May 20 and May 27. Two sessions will be held, 12:15-1:25 and 1:35-2:45. Registration for this program will be held on Thursday, May 6

from 2:30-3:30 in the school lobby. For more information, call Suzanne Butrico at 561-8128.

Adult School Seniors Monthly Meeting

The Adult School Seniors will hold their monthly meeting on May 7 at 10 a.m. in the Administration Building on Cromwell Place. Terri Manes from the Middlesex County Health Dept. will speak on arthritis. Transportation is available. Coffee and cake will be served. Call 754-1047 for further information.

After the general meeting sign ups will be taken for the trip to Paper Mill Playhouse to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The trip is planned for June 30 to see the 2 p.m. Matinee. Tickets are available to seniors at the PAL building for \$20 per person, transportation included. Only 47 tickets are available and will be sold on the first come first served basis.

Police Bike/Property Auction May 8

The South Plainfield Police Department will be holding a bicycle and property auction on Saturday, May 8. The auction will be held at the South Plainfield Road Department, located on the corner of Spicer and Belmont Avenues.

Property may be viewed at 9:30 a.m. Auction will begin at 10 a.m.

Along with bicycles, other properties available for auction consist of assorted motor vehicle stereo equipment (amps, speakers, cassettes and kicker box, etc.) unclaimed jewelry, knives, and other properties.

Also a 1983 Chevrolet modular van (ambulance/firearms vehicle) 37,521 miles will be up for auction.

Further information can be obtained by telephoning South Plainfield Police Records (908) 226-7670 Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Trip to Radio City Christmas Show

The Recreation Department is planning a trip to the Radio City Christmas Show on Dec. 9. The tickets are \$50 per person. There are only 49 tickets available for this trip and will be sold out fast. You can purchase tickets at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave.

Yankees/Phillies Trip Planned

Recreation is planning a bus trip to Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia to see Phillies play the N.Y. Yankees on Wednesday, June 9. The tickets are only \$25 per person which includes the bus. There are only 49 tickets available. You can purchase your tickets at the PAL Building.

Car/Truck Show to Benefit Vision 2001

Northwest Jersey Camaro Club is sponsoring The All Car and Truck Show for the benefit of South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation, Inc. on Sunday, May 16 (raindate: May 30) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the high school parking lot on Lake Ave. The cost is a donation of \$2.

The show will include show car parking, blacktop midway, judging

for sponsor's trophies, club participation, ladies' choice, longest distance and host choice trophies. The first 100 entries will receive dash plaques. Door prizes, a 50/50 drawing, food and beverages and activities for kids will also be available. Miss New Jersey will make an appearance along with Wacky Wayne the DJ.

Preregistration is \$12 or \$15 on the day of the show. Registration closes noon on the day of the show. The preregistration deadline is April 30. Non-food vendors fee is \$20 and the car corral is \$15.

Reserve your space early. All show cars must be in the parking area by noon. For information, call Tom at (908) 755-6276 or Dorothy at (973) 584-1542. No alcoholic beverages, pets, bikes or skateboards are allowed.

Killington, Vermont Trip Planned

Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a bus trip to the Cortina Inn in Killington, Vermont, June 27-July 1. For reservations or additional information, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222.

Tourette Syndrome Meeting

The next meeting Association Family Support Group will be held on Tuesday evening, May 11 from 7-9 p.m. - at JFK Hospital, 65 James Street, Edison, in the Neuroscience Institute Department.

Meetings this year will be held on Sept. 14 and Nov. 9. For more information call Debbie, 732-283-1439 or www.tsanj.org.

Historical Society Plans Harbor Cruise

The South Plainfield Historical Society will be sponsoring a New

York Harbor Cruise from Perth Amboy on Sunday, May 30, aboard the *Cornucopia Princess*. Boarding will be at 11 a.m. from the Smith Street Dock. The cruise begins at noon and returns at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40. Price includes tax and gratuities. Tickets are tax deductible.

Call Bill Tuthill at (908) 756-9654 or Mary Mazepa at 754-3503 for information.

Send check or money order to South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, So. Plainfield, NJ 07080 by May 25.

PBA Local 100 to Sponsor Car Show

PBA Local 100 is sponsoring a car show on May 22, 1-7 p.m. on Cragwood Rd. Raindate is May 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free.

For information, call (908) 756-4466.

U.N.I.C.O. Sponsors Golf Outing

Plainfields' Unico Chapter of South Plainfield invites you and/or your foursome to join them on Monday, May 17 at the Beaver Brook Golf Club in Clinton. Registration is 12 noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. A buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and awards and prizes will be at 7 p.m. There will be a \$10,000 putting contest, longest drive, closest to the pin on all par 3's, low net and low gross prizes. The Calloway system will be used for scoring. The cost for the day, including green fees, cart, buffet dinner, locker and storage, is \$110/person.

Gold and Silver Corporate Sponsorship are still available. Dinner only is \$25. For information call Mike Cortese at (908) 561-1539 or Dick Grillo at (908) 754-1653.

Submit your events to *Around Town*, at the South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave. Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or fax (732) 805-0815.

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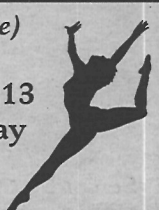
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Feigley's School of Gymnastics
joining forces to create a combined
program of Gymnastics, Dance and
Musical Theater for each student.*

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South Plainfield**

**Jo-Ann's Dance Studio Feigley's Gymnastics
(908) 561-5094 (908) 561-8888**

When: (Two three-week sessions available)
1st Session - July 5-July 23
2nd Session - July 26-August 13
9 am-12 noon / Monday-Friday
Early drop off \$5 per day extra

Ages: 6-9 years / 10-14 years



From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Sunnie Fenn

Thanks to a \$6,000 grant from the Technology Bond Fund, administered by the New Jersey State Library, the South Plainfield Public Library has three additional public access computers. These computers may be used to search the Internet, two periodical databases or Novelist. To use the Internet, you must have a library card or some other form of identification and sign up at the Reference desk. There is a time limit of one half hour, unless there is no one else waiting to use the computer.

On Tuesday, May 18, Dr. Patrick Aiello, D.C. will be giving a talk on "How to Raise a Healthy and Drug Free Family." The program starts at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

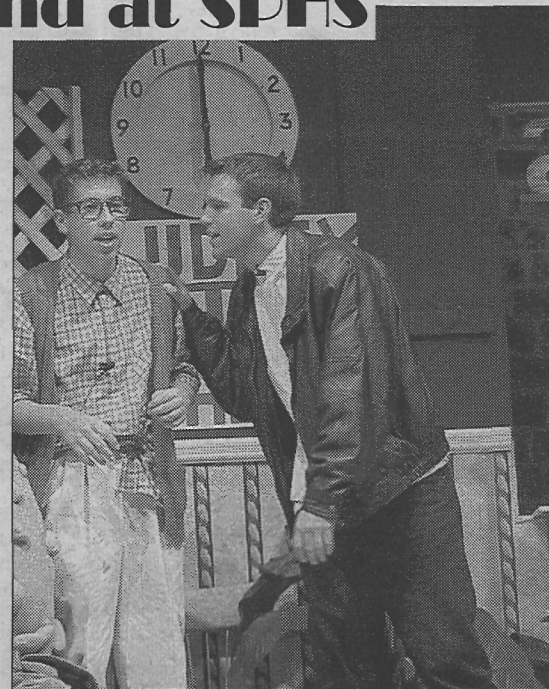
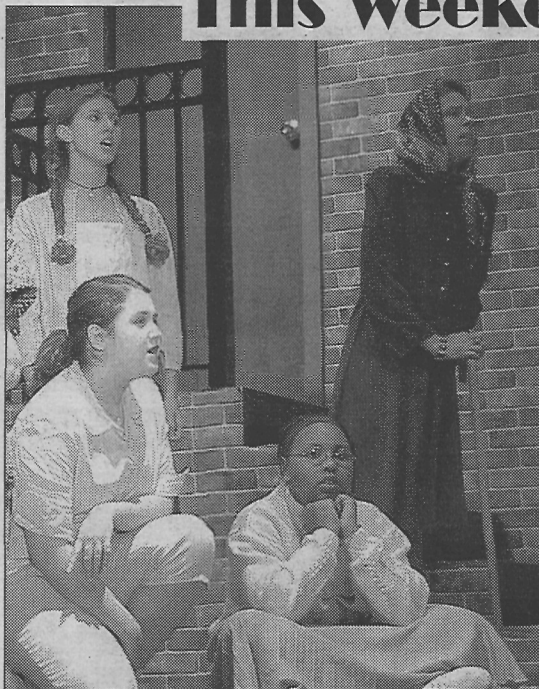
Children's storytimes this week

for children ages three and older are on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. No registration is required. If you would like more information, call the library at (908) 754-7885 or pick up a monthly calendar from the rack on the wall outside the children's room. Each month there is a new library calendar of events and activities.

The library is happy to announce the hiring of Robert Helmbrecht as a reference librarian and supervisor of the circulation desk. Come in and meet Robert.

Planning your summer vacation? The Library has many travel books and magazines to help you plan your itinerary. We may even have novels about the places you want to visit. Stop by and ask a Reference Librarian for help.

Catch Little Shop of Horrors This Weekend at SPHS



Little Shop of Horrors will be presented Thursday-Saturday, May 6-8. Curtain is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Admission is free for SPHS Gold Card holders. Tickets are available at the door. For more information call Tracy Murray at 908 754-4620, ext. 278.



IMPORTANT BOROUGH MEETING NOTES

Board of Education Meetings for 1999/2000

The following dates have been scheduled for Committee of the Whole and Regular Meetings of the South Plainfield Board of Education. All meetings are to be held on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of the Administration Building, Cromwell Place, unless otherwise designated.

Committee of the Whole Meetings 1999

1999: May 11, June 8, August 17, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14

2000: January 11, February 8, March 7, April 4

Regular Monthly Meetings

1999: May 18, June 15, June 29, August 24, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21

2000: January 18, February 15, March 14, April 11, 2000

Zoning Board of Adjustment 1999 Meeting Dates

First, third and fifth Tuesday of the month as follows:

May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29, July 6, July 20

August 3, August 17, August 30

September 21, October 5, October 19

Nov. 4 (Thursday), November 16,

November 30, December 7, December 21

Site-Plan Sub-Committee Meeting Dates:

Fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

May 27, June 24, July 22,

August 26, September 23, October 28

Planning Board 1999 Meeting Dates

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as follows:

May 11, May 25

June 8, June 22

July 13, July 27

August 10, August 24

September 14, September 28

October 26

November 9, November 23

December 14, December 28

Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, May 10 Thursday, May 13

Monday, May 24 Thursday, May 27

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Logon to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda.

Democracy Day Ballots Are Mailed

Democracy Day ballots have been mailed to all South Plainfield residents. Please fill them out and mail them back or to drop them off at Borough Hall. Also enclosed in the mailing is a brochure explaining the new "Quality of Life Walkway" fundraiser for the PAL. Anyone with questions should call Mike English at 226-7714.

Join the Summer Fun Program at Recreation

The Recreation office announced its Summer Fun Program to be held at Riley, Roosevelt, Kennedy and Franklin schools during the summer months. Summer Fun is free to any South Plainfield child entering first grade in September through those just completing sixth grade.

The program will have supervised daily activities starting June 30 and running until August 13 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m., rain or shine. It's a great way to make new friends, learn tennis, become a sculptor or an artist and as well as participate in many other planned activities.

In addition, there will be a free tennis program at Spring Lake Park for children ages 6-9 from 9-10:30 a.m. and ages 10-14 from 10:30-noon. Participants must wear sneakers and bring their own tennis racket, plus one unopened can of tennis balls to the first class.

Preregister at the Recreation office located inside the PAL building or at the site where you would like to participate on the first day you attend. Proof of residency and parent's signature are required. You will have to provide an emergency contact information, including participant's doctor's name and phone number. This program is open to residents only. There is an additional fee for arts and crafts activities.

For more information, call the Recreation office at (908) 226-7713, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

*For all the mothers who have both lost and
found the children in their lives.*

How Do I Say Hello

As I stand by my window looking out through the glass, I reflect on this moment, I'm meeting my past.

My knees grow weak, my stomach is churning, as I close the curtains realizing its only early morning.

My thoughts start to wonder I go to sit in my chair, I close my eyes, take a deep breath, how do I start talking about the things I regret.

"How do I say hello after all these years after saying goodbye remembering my tears"

Here in my hands I hold the bunting I made, the colors of the rainbow to match her blond hair. Let me look through my treasures I've saved all these years that have brought me special memories to help bring back the lost years.

I remember the silver cup I bought when she was one, with her name engraved for my precious one.

"How do I say hello after all these years after saying goodbye remembering my tears."

I remember when she turned six, possibly starting school, I bought her a book to explain all the rules.

Every year I would document each thing I thought she would have gone through, from her grades, to dances, to playing a flute.

"I imagined at 6 months she got her first tooth, and started to walk by the age of 2, by the age of 9 she'd be dancing like a pro, and at 13 asking to wear makeup the answer is no.

"How do I say hello after all these years after saying goodbye remembering my tears"

I remember the dress I bought for her prom, sitting here on a hanger never felt by her arms. I picked out a pink one thinking she's fair, with little white roses that would match the flowers in her hair.

Here is the hope chest I saved all of these years, it's been in my family for the past 50 years. It's filled with momentos from her birth to this day; today I will finally have a chance to give it away.

"How do I say hello after all these years after saying goodbye remembering my tears."

I've put on some weight, my hair has turned gray, and I've worked very hard, and have learned how to pray.

Where has my little girl been all these years, has she been happy, or has she also been filled with tears. What color is her hair now, could she look like me, will she have the same traits that I'll be able to see.

The footsteps are coming the bells about to ring I run to the door and stop to think.

"How do I say hello after all these years after saying goodbye to the child I gave away with tears.

Will she love me or hate me, will we be friends, can she ever forgive me, and help us both to mend.

As I open the door there she stands so tall, more beautiful than I ever dreamed of at all. My knees grow weak, my throat is dry, and she smiles at me and says

"Hello, I've been waiting for this moment all of my life"

"I never forgot you over all of these years, come my child let me show you what's here. Come look at my treasures I've bought for you representing each birthday I didn't share with you.

Here's your first cup, your first pair of shoes, here are the ribbons to match these dresses too, here is the blanket I wrapped you in, this is your picture which is wearing thin.

"Mom, come here and just say "HELLO"

"You called me MOM, you look just like me. Can I touch you can I hold you oh GOD let it be, that I can say hello and no more tears let there be."

I reach out to embrace her is my dream coming true.

"HELLO" MY CHILD I've never stopped loving you.

— By Roxanne Cortese

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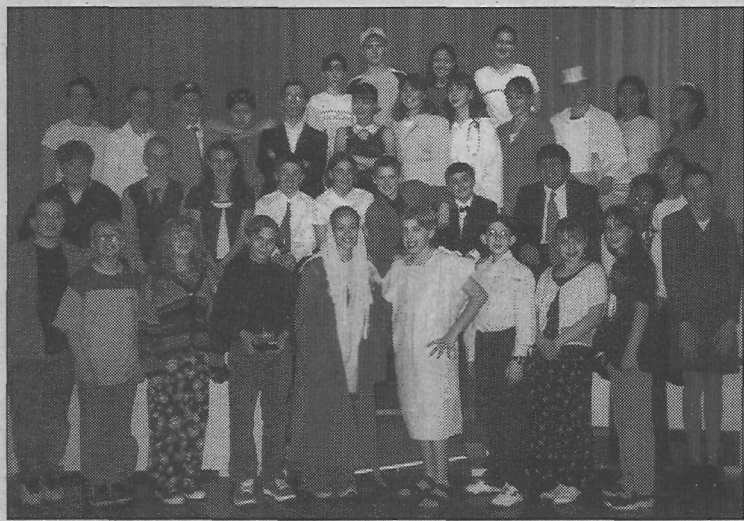
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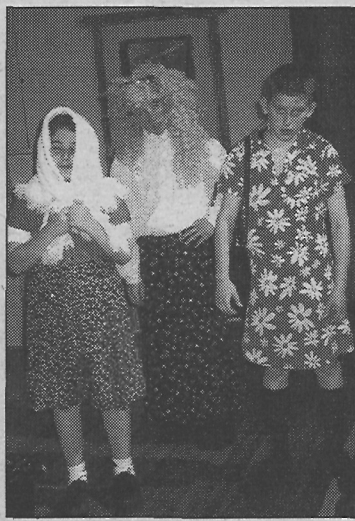
IN OUR SCHOOLS

The Middle School Performs *The Squad Room*

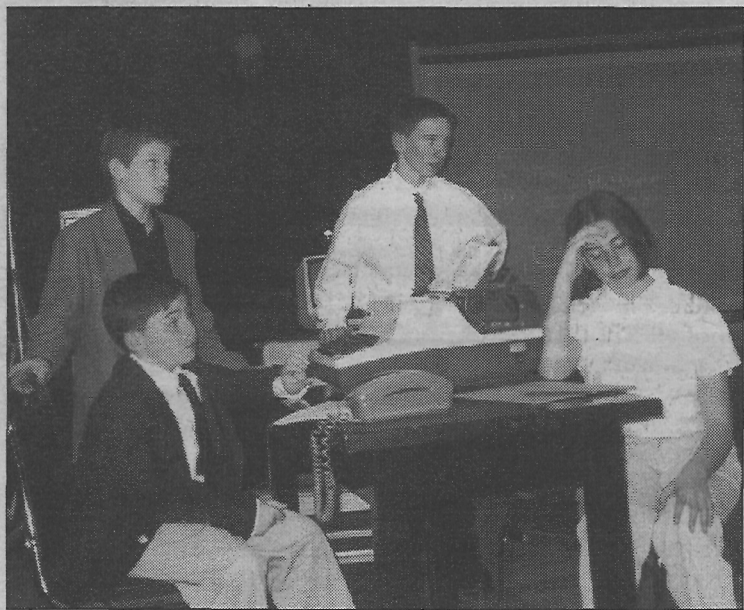
Last week Middle School students performed the play *The Squad Room* three three times during school hours for teachers and students and on Friday night for parents and relatives. Despite the high school bomb scare last Friday, the students performed their parts with precision and the play was a delight. The audience showed their appreciation with their loud applause.



The cast and crew of the Middle School's *The Squad Room*.



Alex Tierney, Chris Imbrosciano and Jay Leahy



Jay Leahy, Chris Imbrosciano, Alex Tierney and Jamie Morris

The Squad Room

Director: Gina Capizola — Assistant: Jackie Trusewicz

Stage Crew

Chelsea Falato, Valerie MacKintosh, Tony Kolvites, Charlene Magat, Kyle Luthman, Brian Publik and Angela Sivo

Cast

(In Order of Appearance)

Detective La Cava	Alexander Tierney
Janitor	Chris Kelly
Fingers	Vincent Carubia
Detective Strindberg	Jay Leahy
Woman With a Guilt Complex	Kristen Nietzer
Detective Marie Grant	Jamie Morris
Mrs. Grant	Tiffany Boyle
Deli Person	Danielle Tonkin
Teacher	Ashlen Udell
Students	Jesse Nietzer, Christina Ettore, Marianne Hebreo
	Mike Fry, Tristan More, Katie Mott, Lesley Sideck
Lt. Herman Mootfowl	Josef Rodriguez
Commander Rainwater	David Allara
Detective Adams	Chris Imbrosciano
Moose Newland	Adam Tamzoke
Lunatic	Danny Sierzega
Dr. Vague	Kristen Fredericks
Lucille Hotchkiss	Angela Catalfamo
Mad Bomber	Greg Publik
Mrs. Van Hickenlooper	Katie Lawrence
Melissa Stonebridge	Brittany Regan
Crinw Photographer	Kim Arend
Detective Doris Cansino	Stephanie Swierc
Bag Lady	Caity Fodor
Kavanaugh	Ricky Sullivan
Gloria Garvy	Nicole Carlson
Chester Garvy	Jordan Lynch
Miss Abbott	Quien Bowe

Kennedy Students Raise Funds for Kosovo Kids

John F. Kennedy's third grade classes became interested in the war in Kosovo as they discussed their weekly current events. When the third graders saw pictures of the children refugees in newspapers and on television, they became concerned and wanted to help. Through the Internet they found relief organizations that are sending money to help the refugees. The children wanted to do something to earn money for donations.



Kids Helping Kids—The desire to make a donation has been contagious at John F. Kennedy as students from all grades drop money into the donation barrel. Billy Ritchey did work around the house for his donation; Brian Amigroni gave up his snack money and Constance Flanagan donated her allowance. The John F. Kennedy Student Council also helped with a donation of fifty dollars that they earned for their clean campus work.

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Riley School Presents George M. Cohen

By Patricia Abbott

The John E. Riley School Drama Club recently presented a production of *Song and Dance Man: George M. Cohen* to the student body and a second evening show was held for family and friends. The cast of over 50 worked for many months to perfect the tale of this American legend.

The show was directed by Joan Stasio and Dianne Seesselberg, along with assistant director Linda Bohl.

Committees made up of staff and parents alike covered many of the behind-the-scenes, important details imperative to any theatrical production. The sets were simple but effective and helped to provide a real sense of the era in which Cohen lived. Costumes were colorful. Simple choreography was a major plus to the musical numbers. The use of microphones helped to boost the students' voices as well as added a theatrical touch that George M. Cohen himself would have approved of.

The evening's performance large turnout was appreciated by everyone involved. Hopefully this experience and all that accompanies it will encourage the young thespians to further explore the arts as they continue on in school.



Student Book Club Begins at SPHS

A student book club was initiated recently at South Plainfield High School, even though many doubted that a book club would muster any interest. The response, however, was surprisingly positive. Currently, the club boasts about 15 active members under the faculty supervision of Ms. Fran Flannery, Mrs. Pat Massey and Mrs. Donna Timko.

To coincide with School Library Media Month, members of the Algonquin Square Book Club and their advisors would like to share reflections on their favorite books.

"Nothing is given to man on earth. Everything he needs has to be produced. And here man faces his basic alternative: he can survive in one of two ways — by the independent work of his own mind or as a parasite fed by the minds of others." This quote can be found in the novel *The Fountainhead* written by Ayn Rand. *The Fountainhead* is my favorite novel because it helped me to realize that individuals can make a place in the world even though they may think differently than other people. Every person can not be a follower, someone has to be a leader. That is how this book taught me to think; to think for myself instead of just following the crowd. It is a good lesson that every person should learn. — Elizabeth Serago

Of all the books I read, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck is very memorable. This book captures the very essence of the hardship the families went through during the Great Depression. I enjoyed the details about the scenes. Each character touches the heart by his or her pains. I was moved by how hard the family tries to stay together. The character of Ma stands out as a strong-willed and loving person. This book was very emotional but enjoyable. — Dimple Patel

I discovered *The Scarlet Pimpernel* in eighth grade after my history teacher suggested that I try reading it. As soon as I read the first page, I was hooked. The book is such an exciting blend of mystery, romance and adventure that it is the best novel that I have ever read. The characters are amusing, especially Sir Percy

Blakeney, who reminds me somewhat of the archetype for the modern-day Bruce Wayne. Marguerite is the perfect heroine for the Pimpernel. She was the equal of her dashing husband while at the same time retaining her femininity. Granted, it's not the most thought-provoking literary work that I have come across, but when it comes to an adventure novel, there is nothing that equals it. — Rochelle Dimacje

The book that had the most profound effect on me was *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It is a book that raises racial issues that are as important today as they were when Harper Lee wrote the novel. Atticus Finch is a lawyer ahead of his time who has the inner strength to stand up for what he believes in while also passing these values of compassion, acceptance and open-mindedness to his two young children. I see the character of Atticus Finch as a role model for adults and children of all times. — Krista Gundersen

My favorite book would have to be Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead*. It chronicles the hardships of a true hero. The protagonist of the novel is Howard Roark, who fits the true definition of an individual. He does not believe in the philosophy of collectivism. He frowns upon charity and other forms of benevolence. He rebels against the social mores of architecture, and breaks the restrictions of ancient design. He believes that a man's worth is determined by what he himself has achieved, not what he has or has not done for other people. I especially like this book because it shows that not uncompromising beliefs and hard work pays off in the end. — Candace Romascindo

Desperation by Stephen King is one of my all time favorite books. The story takes place in a small mid-western town, where a mining project has unearthed the ultimate evil. This is a fairly typical King novel, with vivid imagery and a twisting plot. The struggle of good

versus evil once again takes the forefront in this Stephen King story. What separates this book from the others is its ending: Who says the good guys always win? — Michael DeMatos

My favorite book is *The Beast Within*. It is a short anthology of vampire stories about suspense, rage, love, despair and art. These short stories probe the condition of the damned and in doing that, they explore the human condition as well. — Justin Woo

My favorite book is *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger. It is about a boy who does not really fit in and

the situations he encounters in a couple of days. I love this book because it is so incredibly funny and at the same time it's sort of sad. Holden Caulfield, the young boy, is portrayed so realistically that you feel like you know him in real life. I must have laughed out

Reading is an ongoing source of enjoyment that I encourage everyone to experience. The American Library Association slogan, "The more you read, the more you know" is worth remembering.

—Mrs. Massey

loud more than a dozen times while reading this book. Although the last time I read this book was more than a year ago, I still remember Holden's hilarious descriptions of classmates and teachers. — Rania Younes

The future is a topic often debated but never forecasted precisely as events actually transpire. Geologist and paleontologist Dougal Dixon has compiled a zoology of the Earth 50 million years after the hypothetical extinction of the human race in his book, *After Man*. The detailed illustrations and descriptions of the animal species of the future are based upon valid evolutionary and geographical processes, providing a well-written, seemingly factual collection of Mr. Dixon's views on the future of zoology. — David Cupo

My favorite book is *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, a science-fiction satire of modern western culture and society by Douglas Adams. This book and its four sequels present some of the funniest humor in literature. —David Aquino

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Small Fry C League
Braves Nick Giannakas
had two homeruns and
seven RBIs.

SPORTS

Ponytail A League
Polish Homes Johanna
Hedler had three hits,
including a grand slam
homerun.

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

This is the *last chance* to order any South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club clothing this season. The ordering deadline is Wednesday May 12. Contact Donna Hanley at (908) 561-2664 to place an order or if you need more information.

A big OOPS ... I'm sorry for forgetting to thank Father Carney from Muhlenburg Chapel for offering the invocation at the Opening Day ceremony.

Tickets are still available for the annual SPJBC Dance to be held on Saturday, June 12 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Polish National Home on New Market Ave. Tickets are \$35 per person and must be purchased by May 29. A \$10 deposit is required and must be received by May 15. Admission includes an open bar, buffet, entertainment and tickets for great door prizes. Groups may reserve tables. Contact any member of the Woman's Auxiliary or call Cindy Eichler at (908) 769-4047.

Contact the SPJBC ... Clubhouse 908-754-2090 or email spjbc99@aol.com.

Events at a glance

Raffle Drawing — Saturday, May 8
 Mother's Day — Sunday, May 9 — no games
 Trenton Thunder Trip — Friday May 14 — no games
 Club Meeting — Monday, May 17
 Memorial Day Weekend — May 29, 30, 31 — no games
 All-Star Day — June 6
 SPJBC Dance — Saturday June 12 — no late games

Small Fry C League Highlights

White Sox v. Yankees—Gregory Watts, Daniel Espin turned double plays; Erik White showed some strong pitching and Chris DeOlivera was two for two.

Mets v. Mariners—AJ Kunie pitched strong, Ryan Szumski doubled; Robbie Hoffman had two hits and Corey Bensen had a two RBI triple.

Braves v. White Sox—Nick Giannakas had TWO HOME RUNS and seven RBIs and Chris Lesniak doubled and had two RBIs.

Diamond Backs v. Giants—Michael Niemczyk had a three run triple.

Yankees v. Athletics—Nick Levendusky showed good pitching and Paul Cantarella had two hits.

Devil Rays v. Dodgers—Jonathan Marcoux had two doubles and Daniel Nastarowicz had a double and a triple.

Giants v. Mets—Scott Barton had a HOME RUN, Ryan Shello showed great fielding. Frank Stefaneli had three hits and Stan Mitchell scored his first run.

Mariners v. Tigers—Mike Brainard had a HOME RUN and a double and Brandon Ullon had three hits.

Diamond Backs v. White Sox—Nick Jeglinski was outstanding in his fielding, Joey Lacerda pitched very good, also outstanding were Scott Suleski, Bobby Stillo.

Cardinals v. Yankees—Nathanael Udell had his first hit and scored his first run. Ace Schoenly had a two RBI single and Matt Helgesen got strike outs.

Braves v. Tigers—Kenneth Yefko had two doubles,

Small Fry B Standings

American League			National League		
Team	Win	Loss	Team	Win	Loss
Athletics	2	1	Giants	2	0
Devil Rays	2	2	Cardinals	3	1
Mariners	2	2	Braves	2	1
Yankees	1	2	Diamond		
Tigers	1	2	Backs	2	1
White Sox	0	2	Mets	0	3



Traveling Soccer Club Tryouts

The South Plainfield Traveling Soccer Club will be holding its 1999 fall tryouts. Tryouts for children between the ages of 7-10 years old (born between Aug. 1, 1989 and July 31, 1991) will be held at Riley School on May 17 and 18 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Tryouts for children ages 11-14 years old (born between Aug. 1, 1985 and July 31, 1989) will be held at Riley School on May 20 and 21 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Your child must attend one of the two tryouts to be eligible to be selected to play Fall soccer.

High School Girls Play Three One-Run Thrillers

By Brian Cochran

The Tiger girls softball team traveled to Iselin last Tuesday to begin a string of three games, all decided by a single run. The 3-2 Tiger victory was not easy to come by as a pesky Mustangs squad took their one run lead into the sixth, only to see the Tigers score two of their own, handing Alison Barrett and South Plainfield its 11th win.

Thursday at home Colonia (5-7) came to town and held their own, taking the Tigers deep into the game with a scoreless tie. Then in the bottom of the sixth, the Tigers loaded the bases and up stepped Kim Wilcox. Kim ripped a line-drive that handcuffed the shortstop and Kelly Ritchey raced home for the only run in the 1-0 victory. Alison Barrett went 2-for-3, struck out four and scattered four hits to go 12-1.

Monday the Tigers suffered their second loss of the season to the Trojans of Bishop Ahr 2-1. Bishop Ahr ace, Jillian Kellman, avenged an earlier loss to the Tigers by pitching a no hitter and surprisingly shutting down what had been a clutch offense. Alison Barrett started off the game with a line shot off Kellmans leg that the third baseman recovered and threw — I thought late, but they said wild — over to first to allow what would later become the Tigers only runner past first the entire game.

These two teams are sure to meet again once tournament time rolls around. So if your interested in some great softball against our arch rivals, pencil it in and bring a chair. (Dates to be announced)

Tonight the girls are home against Sayerville. Saturday they're home against Piscataway at 11 a.m.

Tiger Boys Drop Three, Kapsch Hits 4th of the Season

By Brian Cochran

The South Plainfield Boys Baseball Team had a rigorous weekend schedule last week, with a trip to Iselin to face J. F. K. sandwiched between a home and home matchup with Colonia.

Thursday in Colonia Mike Kapsch hit his third homerun of the year as the Tigers unleashed a merciless onslaught with their bats pounding out 19 hits in the 16-2 victory. Chris Atcachunas and Eric Johanson also hit home-runs. Sam Alexander laced a pair of triples, with Ryan Flannery, Pat Sarullo, and Shaun Kenny all notching doubles in yet another offensive explosion. Chris Atcachunas scattered five hits to win his fourth straight.

Friday in Iselin the Tigers offense shut down and they were only able to muster two runs on four hits to lose 3-2 to JFK. Steve Bucchignano had three of those hits including a double and Mike Vito dropped to 2-2.

Saturday it was back home for a make-up game against Colonia and the Tiger bats remained

somewhat quiet in the 9-4 loss. The Tigers got four of their six hits in a three-run third, but could not keep up with a Colonia team that scored in five of seven at bats.

The first week in May saw the Tigers travel to Edison and drop a heartbreaker to Bishop Ahr 8-7. After scoring two in the first and five in the second, the seven run lead looked comfortable, but the Trojans came back with their own seven run burst late in the game to squeak out the win. Mike Kapsch hit his fourth homerun of the season (7th career) and added a triple. Ryan Flannery roped a double. Mike also took the loss, his first of the year.

A big game coming up on Saturday, May 8. Tigers are home against J P Stevens at 11 a.m.

South Plainfield Soccer

Under 12 Results

Despite a heartfelt loss to the Watchung Hills Soccer Club (1-0), the South Plainfield Galaxy team played a valiant game, dominating about 90% of the game. Showing excellent defensive plays were Paul Corrado, Billy Padula and Dwight Quichua. Offensive playing was not to be outdone, behind the leadership of Pete DeAndrea, Mike Atehutua and Fabian Casteblanco. Pete Kelly, our goalkeeper, played an excellent game, saving a penalty kick.

Under 10 Soccer Results

South Plainfield United boys under 10 team won 4-2 against Cranford at their home field last Sunday, despite an unexplained loss the first time around. The boys came out to play and play they did. They controlled the entire game. Their enthusiasm and physical control was superb. Trevor Rastelli and Matt Fabino had the defense locked tight. The mid-field was the key with Ryan Cullen and John O'Conner providing both offensive and defen-

Ponytail Softball Notes

A League

Polish Home 8-Transways 5

Polish Home standouts were: Heather Locuser, who hit two triples and scored two runs. Also Marissa Judd and Denise DiMeglio each scored twice.

Transways standout was Melissa Scotto who hit a home run and scored twice.

Polish Home 14-Quality Glass 4

Polish Home standouts were: Johanna Hedler, who had three hits, including a grand slam and Denise DiMeglio, who pitched three shutout innings

Quality Glass standout was Jaime Gaughan, who had to two hits.

Flanagans 17-Halls 10

Flanagans standouts were: pitchers Robin Zushma and Lisa Sniscak, also Christine Strani and Jessa Jones with some timely hitting.

Halls standouts were Jacquelyn Prongay and Meagan Schweers with outstanding hitting.

Transways 9-Flanagans 3

Transways standouts were Melissa Scotto, who hit a grand slam home run to put Transways in the lead in the second inning and Danielle Tonkin who made two very good catches in the outfield to save runs from being scored.

B League

Lauren Darr playing for RT Tech, hit a home run.

Highlights submitted by Tom Walter, Mike DiMeglio, Tom Sniscak and Frank Irber. If you would like to see your team highlights in the Observer, contact Mike DiMeglio.

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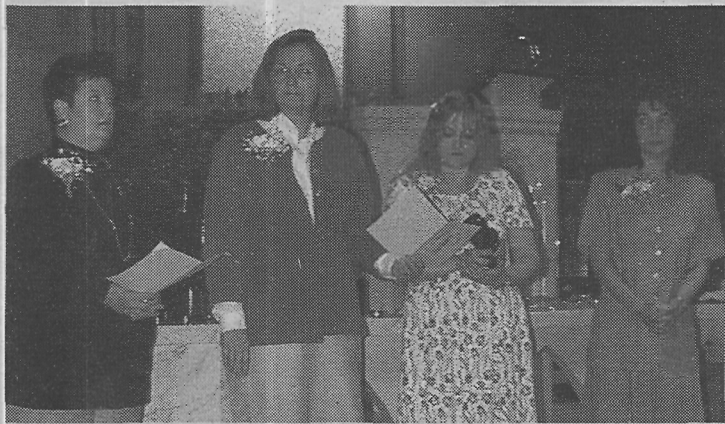
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South Plainfield Golf League Begins Play

Tuesday, April 27, the South Plainfield Golf League began its season at the Plainfield Country Club West Nine course.

Results for the first week were as follows: South Plainfield Police defeated Twin City Pharmacy 11-9, V. F.W. defeated Hummel Chemical 15-5, Borman's Communications defeated Arena Sports 14-6, Dilex Defeated Sport and Social 13-7, Masters defeated Pornovets 13-7 and H.C.M.A. defeated Witty's Liquors 13-7.

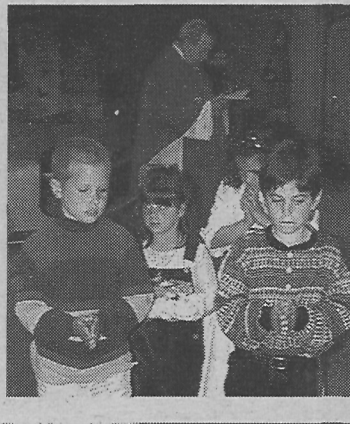
Sacred Heart Altar Rosary Society Installation and May Crowning



Monday evening the Sacred Heart Altar Rosary Society held their May Crowning after the 7 p.m. mass. They also held the installations ceremonies for the 1999 officers. The new officers were sworn in by Father McGuire. Pictured above are: President-Debbie Vokral, Vice President-Joan Blessing, Treasurer Barbara-Zirger and Secretary-Joanne Pelle.

The May Crowning Ceremony was held in the church due to inclement weather. Crowning Mary was Carissa Baratta, honor guards were Jayson Bolton and Sean Piersanti and the crown bearer was Laren Bolton.

After the crowning the group recited the rosary and held their monthly meeting.



Letters

Continued from page 2

want to give up computers, cars or running water in the kitchen! — **Rachel Thompson, Franklin and Kennedy Schools**

My favorite book as a young child was *The Cat in The Hat Comes Back* by Dr. Seuss. I don't remember if it was the unconventional yet amusing words that I loved or the wacky illustrations that we are all now so familiar with. The ending of the story is the best, when Z takes off his hat and cleans up the whole mess. This book is truly a timeless children's classic that can be enjoyed over and over again. — **Michael Capizola, SPHS**

As a child, I loved when my mother read to me. She read nursery rhymes, fairy tales, Aesop's Fables, Dr. Seuss and my favorite Golden Books. I really enjoyed listening to the Golden Books — especially the one that told the story of "Over the river and through the woods..." The Disney characters were in the story — Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, etc. — and when they all finally reached grandmother's house they burst into song and sang

"Jingle Bells." However, one Disney character, Clarabelle Cow, couldn't carry a tune. But in the spirit of the Christmas season, Mickey, Minnie and the gang smiled at Clarabelle and tolerated her singing. I identified with Miss Cow because I, too, cannot hold a note. And just like the Disney characters, my mother sat happily and listened to me chime out "Jingle Bells" at the top of my lungs, (whether it was December or July). — **Jennifer Szemborski, Kennedy School**

I love *Henny Penny*. My grandmother use to read it to me and now I read it to my own two sons. My grandmother is gone, but my memories of a wonderful story shared with my grandmother and children will last with me forever. — **Beth Giakas, Riley School**

Every year I begin the school year with an apple unit. *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein is about an apple tree that gives everything it has to this little boy. I then in turn discuss the importance of giving and not just receiving. Then I use it as a model for the school and classroom rules. — **Teresa Luck, Kennedy School**

Charlotte's Web is my favorite children's book. The story really touched me, and to this day I like spiders. — **Barbara Habib, Kennedy School**

My favorites are any Bobbsey Twins, Trixie Beldon, Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books. I enjoyed each book in each series and think that these series started me on enjoying mysteries. To this day I still read and love mysteries. — **Ginger Goldstein, Grant/Administration Building**

I love to travel, so my recreational reading is directed in this area. Be it books, magazines or the *New York Times* travel section, I can never get enough. Reading is my passport to the world. — **Jan Cotoia, Kennedy School**

I recently read *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein for the first time and it touched me. I think it can teach a lot to our children about love and friendship. Hopefully it can help them to appreciate human kindness. — **Sherry Dvorak, Kennedy**

Editor's Note: Due to the tremendous response we have received on this subject, we will continue to publish these recommendations over the next few issues.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

By Briggs
Longbothum

I just got back from a long weekend out of town — away from telephones, faxes, cyber-blips and beeps and even out of range of the nearest cell phone tower. The sound of the wind in the treetops under a full moon was fabulously deafening. To be sure, it was a welcomed relief from the usual input from a thousand sources. The closest I got to technology was the predicted glint of an Iridium flare low on the horizon. (If "Iridium Flares" are unknown to you check out <http://www2.sate.llite.eu.org/sat/vsoph/iridium.html/>, and <http://www2.gsoc.dlr.de/sarvis/>). But the hard reality of another Monday has yanked me back home again. And along with it is news of yet another virus making the rounds. What to do???

TIP: You cannot infect your computer with a virus just by opening and reading email. The danger and risk is in opening attachments that often accompany email! If you don't trust the source, don't open whatever is attached! Another prevalent means of transmitting viruses is by way of floppy disks! If you are at all uncertain about the "cleanliness" of any diskette, scan it with your updated antivirus software first, before you open the files inside. I do mine 100% and you should too!

By the way, Computer Associates (www.cai.com) has free anti virus software available from their website. Of course there are two caveats to having even the very best anti-virus software: 1) you have to keep its library of virus "signatures" updated, and 2) you have to know how to use it when you need to. Take some time and learn how to use your software if you have it, and also keep it updated. A helpful website is <http://antivirus.tqn.com/library/weekly/aa061298.htm>, here you'll learn standard virus removal procedures. Something better to know about now, instead of later.

I think that by now most Internet users have heard that AOL has bought out Netscape! To me this was not good news and already the best brains in the browser business have jumped ship. I just don't see anything outstanding anymore coming down the road from Netscape, and I certainly dislike the AOL approach

to communications. (see <http://www.aolsucks.com>).

Censorship and the selling of private records to spammers is not on my list of proper attributes for a company providing internet access. That kind of restriction should only happen on the client side! My opinion, but also another good reason to jump over to the higher bandwidth/high speed connections offered by our friends at Comcast Online. At least you never get kicked off when you're online with Comcast and that alone is worth the price of admission!

Another good reason to consider the higher speed connections is for the ease and speed with which you can access important files and data you store and backup online! In case you haven't noticed, backups and archiving are very popular on the web. Super secure and virus-proofed, your files and folders (even entire hard disk contents) can be saved and stored online. With high speed access, you can literally find your desktop and user profile whenever and wherever you go online. See <http://www.altrivia.com> for information about their free web space for this and similar uses.

TIP: Whenever you wish to print something from the net or otherwise, it's a good idea to first select "print preview" before engaging your printer. You may not need every page that is available, and this is where you can determine which ones to select for printing so you don't waste paper printing unneeded stuff.

Unneeded stuff, here's something that should be a help to everyone. It's called the "Proxomitron." Essentially, with all the features and abilities web programmers now have at their disposal to present you with whatever they have to offer (read: "sell you"), it's almost impossible to surf for more than a minute or two before you get hit with a pop-up ad, a banner that never ends, or something similarly distracting and unwanted. Dynamic HTML, CSS, SMIL, Java, and JavaScript etc. are all programming tools for enabling someone to grab your attention. You don't get much of a choice, but to sit back and get socked with whatever is thrown at you. Enter the "Proxomitron" which is (sort of) like a web filter. With it, you can eliminate those pesky pop-ups, banners, etc. In other words, you can take back control of what you want to see. Check it out at <http://members.tripod.com/Proxomitron/index.html>. Let me know what you think! Personally, I like it. See you all next time. — Briggs (Bruggo@home.com)

Pool to Offer

Children's Activities

Don't spend your summer chasing after every kid in the neighborhood! Keep your sanity and your children happy.

Buy a family membership to the Community Pool. Lay back and enjoy the sun! Let the dedicated members of the pool take care of your children. For three hours a day, five days a week, your children will be involved in organized recreational activities.

Call the PAL for information at 226-7714.

Congratulate GRADUATES!!

Show your pride in your graduates by congratulating them in the Observer



Congratulations!

For \$20 the Observer will publish your message and photo recognizing the accomplishments of your friends or loved ones with a personalized ad.

Congratulations!

Send your check or money order with the name of person receiving congratulations, event celebrated (and date, if applicable) along with your name, address and phone to: **South Plainfield Observer Congratulations**, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846. (If you would like photos returned, send self-addressed, stamped envelope.)

Obituaries

Diane (Payne) Birath, 37

Diane (Payne) Birath died on Sunday, May 2, in her home.

Born in Montclair, she had resided in Plainfield for many years before moving to South Plainfield six years ago.

Mrs. Birath had been employed as assistant branch manager for United National Bank in Green Brook for the past seven years and had been employed by the bank for 19 years.

She was a member of St. Bernard's R.C. Church in Plainfield.

Her father, John T. Payne, died in 1986.

Surviving are her husband, William Birath; two daughters, Rebecca Ann Birath at home and Elizabeth Ann Birath of Plainfield; her mother, Nellie Payne of Plainfield and a brother, David J. Payne of Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Birath Children's Fund, c/o Green Brook E.O.P. Lodge #23 P.O. Box 7043, Green Brook, NJ 08812-7043.

Josephine Munciz Spadaro, 72

Josephine Munciz Spadaro died on Friday, April 30, at the Paul Kimball Medical Center in Lakewood.

Mrs. Spadaro was born in Elizabeth and had resided in Union before moving to South Plainfield in 1951 and stayed there until 1986 when she moved to Leisure Village in Lakewood.

She had been employed as a sales clerk for Bradlees in South Plainfield for 16 years before her retirement in 1983.

Mrs. Spadaro was a life member and past president of the VFW Memorial Post 6763 Ladies Auxiliary in South Plainfield. She was also a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary in South Plainfield and the

American Legion Auxiliary Post 348 of Brick.

She was a former communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Surviving are her husband, Nicholas Spadaro; a daughter, JoAnne Gomez of Highland Park; a sister, Marion Costa of Webster, Mass. and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Walter H. Myer, 57

Walter H. Myer died on Thursday, April 29, at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

Born in Union, Mr. Myer had resided there before settling in Plainfield 23 years ago.

He was a 1971 graduate of Kean University in Union where he earned a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Math. He later continued his studies at Kean and earned a Masters of Arts Degree in 1977 in Counseling and Guidance.

Mr. Myer was employed as a veterans counselor for Kean University and later for Union County College as a guidance counselor. He was employed most recently as a systems analyst for Bell Atlantic, formerly Nynex, in New York City for the past 15 years. He had also been employed as a programmer for Rapid Data in Fairfield, prior to Bell Atlantic.

Mr. Myer was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the United States Air Force from 1961-1965.

Mr. Myer was a member of the Brigade of the American Revolution/Third New Jersey Regiment where he had served as their Adjutant.

He was a member of the Alpha Sigma Mu Veterans Fraternity of Kean University and a former member of the St. Joseph's High School Fathers Club where he served as their 1997-1998 president.

Mr. Myer is predeceased by his parents, Henry and Florence (Nowalski) Myer.

Surviving are his wife, JoAnn (Skeffington) Myer; a son, Jason Myer of Plainfield; a sister, Barbara J. Ciccone of South Plainfield and a brother, Edward R. Myer of Union.

Funerals services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to the St. Barnabas Development Foundation - Cancer Center c/o 95 Old Short Hills Road, West Orange, NJ 07052 or the American Cancer Society, New Jersey Chapter, 846 Main Street, Fords, NJ 08818.

Jennie Kozumbo, 91

Jennie Kozumbo died on Wednesday, April 28, in the Frederick Memorial Hospital, Frederick, Md.

Born in Middle Port, Pa., she had resided in South Plainfield before moving to Myersville, Md. a few years ago.

Mrs. Kozumbo was a homemaker. She was a devoted wife and mother who enjoyed gardening, baking and sewing.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and later a member of St. John's Church in Frederick, Md.

Her husband, Walter J. Kozumbo, died in 1974.

Surviving are three daughters, Jeanette Conway of Somers, N.Y., Joan Kozumbo of Myersville, Md. and Claire Daly of Frederick, Md.; a son, Walter Kozumbo of Baltimore, Md.; four sisters, Frances Lazur, Elizabeth Dominiski, Helen Michalik and Esther Brady; two brothers, Joseph and Henry Dominiski. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and one great grandson.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Yuki Lawson, 76

Yuki Lawson died on Monday, April 26, in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Tokoyo, Japan, she came to the United States in 1957. Mrs. Lawson had resided in South Plainfield for 30 years before moving to Plainfield in 1991.

She was employed as a paper packer for Ronnie Packaging in South Plainfield for 20 years retiring in 1988.

Her husband, Sammie, Sr., died in 1990.

Surviving is a son, Sammie Lawson, Jr. of Lyons, N.J. Also surviving are her long time friends, George and Eloise Lattimore and Mitsuko Staten, all of Plainfield and Setsko McPeck of Piscataway.

Private funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 5/6 to 5/13

ARIES 3/21-4/21 We have a strong transit here (Moon square's Mars). There is a danger of needless disputes, irritability, acting without thinking and rash judgment. You may find it difficult to handle other people for awhile. If you are discouraged try not to react too defensively towards others. It could be that you are oversensitive. Be careful of domestic accidents. Take a breath.

TAURUS 4/22-5/20 Fantasy, beauty and idealistic love can appeal to the heights of your imagination. Relationships can really gain a stronghold when you treat your mate to the above descriptions I started off this writing with. Also enjoy creative and spiritual pursuits, the real world will kick in soon enough. You should be receiving good news soon also. Dark blue

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 Is there someone leaving your life now? I am sure they made their mark. During this week your intellect is high. When in discussion with others you may see flaws in their ideas so be cool about how you bring up the correct procedure. Pay attention to a recurring dream ... your subconscious is trying to tell you something. Gray is your color.

CANCER 6/21-7/22 Express your feelings, do not try to hide them, if you deal with them honestly your week will go by a little easier. Pay attention at work this week, a small mistake can cause problems and extra work to clear the situation up. You may be tired by the end of the week, as the Moon and Pluto combination will exhaust much of your energy. Lilac is a nice color.

LEO 7/23-8/22 Take a little more precaution at work and finish up that project you been working on. On the home front have fun; being with the family will be very enjoyable. Now that swimsuit time is coming up maybe it's time to get back on that diet. Some of these ideas I gave you means only one thing ... get out and do something. The Leo's sun is shining on you.

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 Try to curb your jealousy, it does not become you. After all it is a self destructive personality trait. An old friend is out there to help with any unhappiness that is going on now, just look them up. We all need a shoulder now and then. If you have ideas of moving this is a favorable time to do it. Relax in a hot tub. And have a bottle of wine close by.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 Be careful this week for whatever you do. Compulsive behavior will have you losing what you have work so hard for. You will face a challenge this week. So try to balance your desires with self-control. Manipulation on your part must be avoided, as only bad will come of it. And one last thing, go see a show instead of gambling. Best day, Saturday.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 Oh boy! Fireworks will fly when the black sheep of the family shows up unexpectedly. At work take on a project, higher ups will notice the job being done and will be impressed. Sentimentality will rule supreme on Mother's Day. On the 15th a business venture offered to you looks pretty good. Wear something green this week. Love abounds.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 People will warm to you, and you

should get from others exactly what you give, that is, warmth and affection. You will show concern for those less fortunate, make a donation to a worthy cause, put that loose change from the store in the can. Career move sounds promising just be sure it's not a step back for you. Best day Thursday.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 You may feel like being alone with your thoughts and feelings. Your mood does not have to be sad or from depression, you may simply desire to be calm and reflective. If you wish to be in the company of people, they can be of the serious nature, no time for frivolous conversations. You also may want to consult an older, wiser person.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 The moon is in Aquarius the beginning of the week. You will want to be in social groups for friendly and convivial interchange. Aquarians in the scientific fields will be having fun with all the new discoveries they had a hand in. You also will tend this week to speak from rational rather than emotional. Visit a friend in the hospital. Blue

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Be on your guard - there can be difficulty in getting the cold hard facts of any situation. Things this week are more than ever not what they seem and you can react with befuddlement or confusion. This is a good time Pisces for retreat and contemplation. Believe it or not a child's wise words will help you come to a decision. Best day for you is Sunday.

Tidbits: Happy b-day TAURUS. Your sign is the conservator of the Zodiac, maternal/paternal, protective and nurturing. You are excellent at finishing what others signs begin. Taurus has the natural ability to turn practical investments into proven securities, such as government stocks and bonds, banking, and real estate. Your intellect is slow but sure, and while you take your time in making decisions, no one else can change your mind. You can be led, but never pushed. The symbol for Taurus is the bull, Planet ruler is Venus who was a Roman goddess of beauty and the arts. In astrology, Venus' influence inclines toward a love of luxury. The birthstone for this sign is the emerald; it protects against infidelity and deceit, insures loyalty and improves memory. Your colors are pale blue and mauve. And a visit to Dublin would be wonderful. Just be careful of violent situations that have to do with love or money. So have a happy birthday all you bulls and live life to the fullest.

QUOTE: THE SUN WILL WARM OUR HEARTS

MOON WILL OPEN OUR HEARTS

Music Man Auditions

Auditions for South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop's production of *Music Man* will be held on June 14, 15, from 6-9 p.m. in the high school chorus room. South Plainfield residents entering 6th grade in the fall through age 19 are eligible to participate.



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- Holly Park Video, Park Ave.
- K Foods, Park Ave.
- Krauser's Food Store, Oak Tree Rd.
- Twin City Pharmacy, Park Ave.
- The Little Store, South Clinton Ave.

- The Bagel Stop, South Plainfield Ave.
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- Oak Tree Farms, Oak Tree Road
- Pauls Stationery, Hamilton Blvd.
- Quick Chek, Sampton Ave.
- Quick Foods, Park Ave.
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- Service Plus, South Plainfield Ave.
- Sunrise Foods, Front & Maple
- Twice Is Nice, Front Street
- Yogurt Express, Maple Ave.

South Plainfield Observer Advertisers are Listed in Bold Print

If you would like to sell the Observer, call (732) 469-4380.

Gigantic Globe at Kennedy School



Third grade students from Mrs. Severino's social studies classes worked on a globe for the J. F. Kennedy production of "It's A Small World." The six-foot-high globe was made with chicken wire supported by metal rods. The children then wove green and blue napkins in the wire opening to represent oceans and continents. All three classes gathered in the all-purpose room to watch as the gigantic globe was lifted to the ceiling.

Bicycle Rodeo Will Stress Safety Tips

The South Plainfield Police Department will be hosting their annual bicycle rodeo on Saturday, May 15 in Spring Lake Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the rodeo is intended to teach bike safety to children. The rain date is May 22.

This year there will be a guided safety course for youngsters to ride, complete with traffic signs. There will also be an On Bike Skills Development course set up. Helmet wearing cyclists will negotiate a moderately challenging course of cones to improve their riding abilities.

For cyclists 14 years of age and

younger, who do not have bicycle helmets, there will be a limited supply of donated helmets provided. Those participants wearing their own helmet to the rodeo and who register their bicycle with the South Plainfield Police Department, will be entered into a drawing to win a new bicycle or a locking device for their bicycle.

Safety oriented literature supplied by AAA and the South Plainfield branch of the N.J. Division of Motor Vehicles, will be provided to all participants.

Questions? Contact the police department at 908-226-7693.

School Board Vote Shows Higher Turnout

This year's voter turnout for the School Board elections was only slightly higher than last years. The election was to choose three new members for the Board of Education and approval or rejection of the 26 million plus school year budget.

Last year just 1,200 voters out of 11,852 registered voters (less than 10%) came out and voted. This year out of the 11,804 registered voters just 1,520 voted, which is about 12.8%.

Police Department Taking Applications For Communications Operators

The South Plainfield Police Department is accepting applications for the position of Communications Operator through May 21. To be eligible, applicant must be 18 years of age or older, a high school or vocational high school graduate or posses an approved high school equivalent certification, be a citizen of the United States and able to accurately type a minimum of 20 words per minute.

Questions? Contact Sgt. Michael Grennier at (908) 226-7673.

Preference will be given to South Plainfield residents.

The Borough of South Plainfield is an equal opportunity employer.

Ralphs' Opens Under New Management

Ralphs' Italian Ice, located on the corner of Front Street and South Plainfield Ave., has recently re-opened under new management.

Ralph's offers 20 flavors of

gourmet Italian ices. Sugar free flavors are also available. All ices are made with real fruit

Visit Ralph's seven days a week, Sunday through Thursday, 12-9, Friday and Saturday 12-10.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

HANDYMAN-FT/PT. KEYSTONE Community Residence, an agency serving persons w/mental disabilities, is looking for a motivated, responsible person to perform repairs/painting. Apply at 154 Front St., So. Plainfield.

LIFEGUARDS/SUPERVISORS FT/PT and subs. Pools throughout NJ. Call American Pool Management 888-621-7665.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT has opening for a Docket Clerk, full time. Seeking ambitious, bright, self-starter for data entry and general clerical. Good office and computer skills required. ATS/ACS experience a plus. Very busy office. Hours 9am-5pm, evening court session every Wed. Salary \$19034+ benefits. Contact Pat Vargo, Court Adm. 908-226-7651.

ADVERTISING SALESPERSON, motivated, for local newspaper. Experience not necessary. 732-469-4380

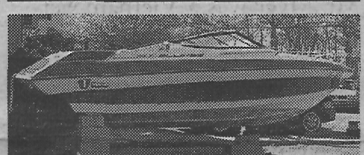
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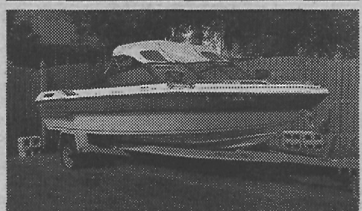
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FOR SALE



1990 WELLCRAFT ECLIPSE, 197 CUTTY cabin, 4.0 litre v-6. VHF radio. \$6000. Joe 908-754-7375 or Marty 668-8397.

FOR SALE



1989 RENKIN BOWRIDER Classic with Trailer. Excellent condition. Inboard/Outboard 125 HP Mercruiser. Great family boat for fishing or cruising. New in 1998: Boat cover, trailer tires, Hummingbird fish finder and AM/FM cassette stereo. Used in both fresh and salt water. Hate to sell it but moving on to a bigger boat! Asking \$5,200. Contact: Mike at 908-226-7673 or 908-757-4894.

SERVICES

ATTENTION! CAT LOVERS! ARE you going away? Leave your cat(s) in the hands of bonded, insured professionals. Excellent references. Call Kitty Watchers, 908-791-4185.

RENTAL WANTED

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS SEEK small cottage/house w/fenced yard. Professional couple, clean & responsible. Hope to move in by summer's end. Call Ken or Sandy at Independent Cellular. (908) 668-6844.

SENIOR WOMAN LOOKING FOR room with kitchen privileges in North or South Plainfield. 908-756-8135.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST COCKATIEL, LAST FRIDAY grey with yellow on his head, orange, on cheek. Responds to Spike. Reward offered. Call 755-0796

PHOTOGRAPHY

COPIES OF OBSERVER PHOTOS for sale. For information, call Pattie Abbott at 756-8011.

POLICE REPORT

• A Twin City Pharmacy employee entered an office to find a man had entered the office through a back door. The suspect fled but was caught and detained by pharmacist William Ashnalt. Police discovered a bag containing cash checks and receipts hidden in the suspect's pants.

• An Astor Street resident was arrested for simple assault/domestic violence.

• Harris Foreign Car Service reported theft by deception. Customer Mario Gonzalez of Tabb Ave., Piscataway had extensive repair work done at Harris. When the work was completed Gonzalez was advised to pick up the vehicle. He stated he did not have the money and would ask his mother for financial help. A secretary at Harris said the suspect's mother, identified as Aze Zuna Guiterriez called and reluctantly gave her Visa card number to cover the bill. Several days later Harris Automot-

tive received a notice from the credit card company stating that the card holder denied giving out the number and the bill was deleted from her charge card. The suspect has not made arrangements to pay for the repairs that totaled \$3651.50 Harris may sign a complaint.

• Eric Acheampong of Old Bridge was arrested for shoplifting several items from Home Depot. He had hidden the items in his pant leg and was attempting to leave the store when he was confronted by a manager.

• Jenny Martinez of Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting a jacket from Sterns and her companion Milton Acosta, also of Plainfield, was arrested for shoplifting \$444 worth of women's clothing at the same time. Neither of the suspects spoke English. A Sterns employee translated for the officers.

• Eagle Plywood, Oak Tree Rd., reported an attempted burglary. Some-

one had tried to pry open a plywood wall which used to be a door. No entry was gained.

• Alonzo Branch of Plainfield was robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot of Middlesex Mall after exiting Kmart. A black Volkswagen Jetta pulled alongside him as he walked the short distance to his car and two suspects asked for directions. They exited the car and pointed a handgun at the victim and demanded his money. Mall security tapes will be used as evidence.

• An employee of Eckerd's Drug Store was passed a counterfeit bill by Shelton Lane of Plainfield. The employee alerted the manager and the police were contacted. The suspect stated he received the bill from his daughter. The money was seized.

• The Star Ledger reported a newspaper vending box on Maple Ave. had been vandalized.

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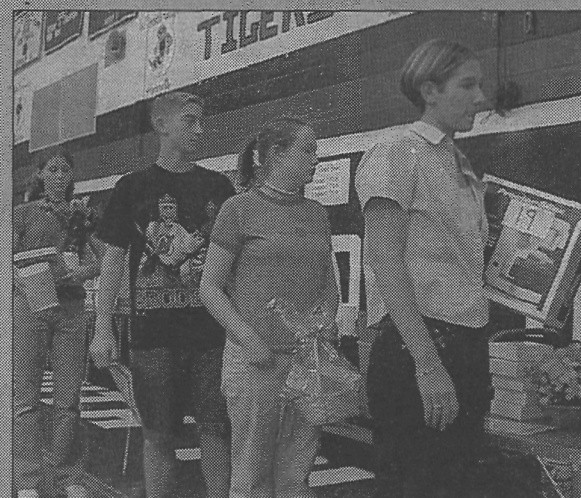
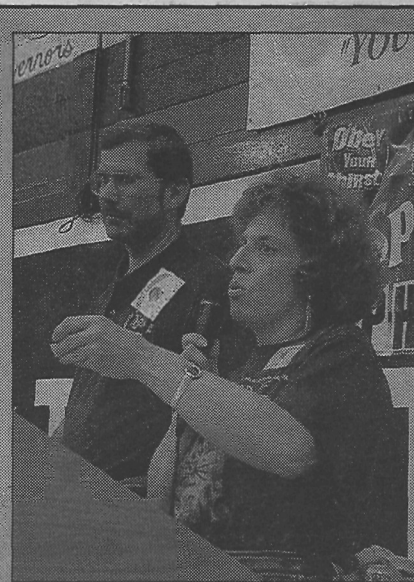
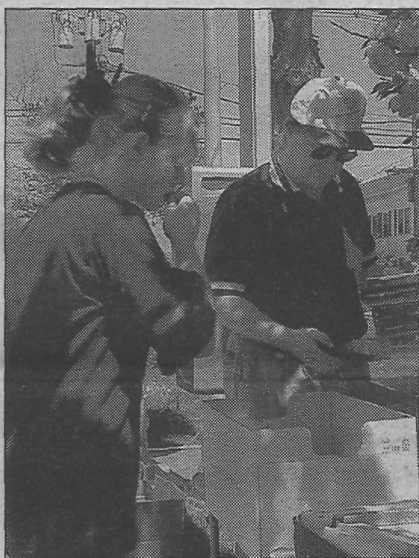
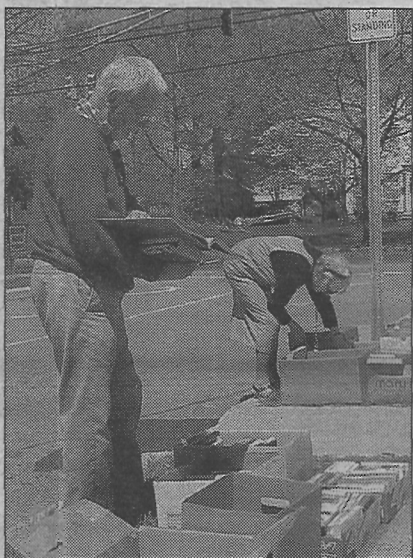
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The Library Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, was held last Saturday. The sale is an annual event.



Last Saturday's Project Graduation Auction was a huge success. Proceeds are earmarked for the annual alcohol and drug-free graduation celebration.



Photos on this page by Pattie Abbott

May 1999

Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Copy Deadline: Friday, 5 pm Advertising Deadline: Monday, 5 pm	3 Recreation Comm. Meeting 7 pm PAL	4 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	5 Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	6 Little Shop of Horrors at SPHS Taxpayers Advisory Group 8 pm	7 Little Shop of Horrors at SPHS Craft Show Riley School 5-9:30 pm Publication of So. Plfd.Obsver	8 Little Shop of Horrors at SPHS Police Bike/Property Auction 9:30 a.m. Road Department
9 Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast at the Elks	10 Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	11 Library Board 7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	12 Environmental Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	13 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	14 Publication of So. Plfd.Obsver	15 Police Rodeo Spring Lake Park 10 am-3 pm
16 Vision 2001 Car/Truck Show SPHS 9-3 pm	17 Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm UNICO Golf Outing Beaver Brook CC	18 Sacred Heart Funstival 99 Starts Drug-Free Family Seminar at Library 7 pm Board of Adjustment 8 pm	19 Sacred Heart Funfestival 99 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	20 Sacred Heart Funfestival 99	21 Sacred Heart Funfestival 99 Publication of So. Plfd.Obsver	22 Sacred Heart Funfestival 99 PBA Car Show 1-7 pm Cragwood Rd.
23	24 Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	25 Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	26 Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	27 Recycling Commission 8 pm Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	28 Publication of So. Plfd.Obsver	29
30 Historical Society Harbor Crusie starting in Perth Amboy	31	JUNE 1 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	2 Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	3 Taxpayers Advisory Group 8 pm	4 Publication of So. Plfd.Obsver	5

Want to know what's going on in South Plainfield? Get home delivery of The Observer. Subscription form on page 7.