

Arts & Entertainment

Ladies, Fire Up Your Bidding Paddles; Bachelors Will Hit the Runway for Cancer Organization

By MICHELLE H. LE POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Twenty-five single men, varying from 30 to 50 years of age, have opened up their hearts to the mission of the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF) in Scotch Plains and they hope single women will open their checkbooks and bid on them for a dinner date.

With every penny benefiting the projects and purposes of ECF, "A Night for Angels, a Bachelor Auction," will allow single men and women to go on a dinner date to restaurants like Theresa's in Westfield or The Frog and The Peach in New Brunswick in a chauffeured limousine — if, the price is right!

"They've (the bachelors) all responded



favorably and especially want to help the children," ECF Central Regional Director Monica Vermeulen told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* Thursday morning.

John Parisi, a sales training specialist for Prudential and an adjunct college professor, will be sponsoring Vermeulen's daughter, a cancer survivor, at the auction. Parisi, 31, is a member of the Brick Community Players, of which Vermeulen is also a member.

"Monica told me about the organization (ECF) and it's a great cause. When she told me that he wanted me to sponsor her daughter, I was honored," said Parisi. "Monica is like my mom. I even call her, 'Momica,' so her daughter is like my little sister."

"Cancer is something that touches everyone's life. I want to help this go over well," Long Island bachelor and physical therapist Blaine Levin told *The Leader/The Times*. "I am looking to find someone to date for a real relationship, but first and foremost, I want to help the organization."

No stranger to charity bachelor auc-

tions, the 27-year-old Levin, who will be one of the evening's bachelors up for bidding, has broken the \$1,000 mark for other organizations that work to help individuals stricken with cancer. Three nights per week, Levin moonlights as an exotic dancer for Male Revue, U.S.A. and his employer encourages the dancers to do something charitable each year. Levin was also proud to reveal that he has posed for *Playgirl*.

A 48-year-old pilot for Continental Airlines, Chris Chambers added that, while there is always the possibility of meeting someone, he has "always been interested in doing something to help other people."

"It seemed like a fun thing to do and a different way to get involved socially," said Chambers.



Pen & Ink: Got Hunger Pangs? Try Eating Through Your Television Set

By MICHELLE H. LE POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times



EAT UP!...Rachel Ray, Nigella Lawson and Emeril Lagasse lure viewers into their kitchens with the aroma of educational and informative cooking programs.

If the King of "Bam!" Emeril Lagasse knew what was good for him, he wouldn't pass the garnished plates of finished culinary delights to the members of the audience seated around kitchen set, but through our living room television set, where my father watches like a moth drawn to a tempting flame of Lagasse's kitchen range. But, it isn't only about the glorious dishes the chef turns out; cooking shows like Lagasse's have just as much educational value.

They often teach an undiscovered culture, how to be a gourmet on a scant budget and how to do more than boil water.

From Berkeley Heights to Berkeley, Gimple Finds Justice With 'Fillmore!'

By MICHELLE H. LE POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — As the Creator and Executive Producer of Walt Disney Television Animation's new Saturday morning program, "Fillmore!," Berkeley Heights native Scott Gimple has brought a new duo of crime-solving intermediate school superheroes to the screen — minus the violence.

Enforcing the familiar message of "do the right thing," the half-hour show about Safety Patrol Officer Cornelius Fillmore includes the voices of "Saturday Night Live's" Horatio Sanz as Valjejo, "Survivor" host Jeff Probst as Vice Principal Raycliff, and "Just Shoot Me's" Wendie Malick as Principal Folsom.

the supercop John Shaft in *Shaft*. He added that he identifies more with the character of Danny O'Farrell, a police officer in the program who epitomizes the "comic relief kind of guy."

Gimple, who attended fifth grade through senior year in Berkeley Heights, graduated

said Gimple. "It was all about fitting in and impressing that certain someone."

Gimple pointed out that the strong drama portrayed in modern police programs like "NYPD Blue" more accurately depict the depth and breadth of what is going on in the heart and mind of a seventh grader



Courtesy of Walt Disney Animation, 2002

Fillmore, the African-American seventh grader who once wreaked havoc in the school halls instead of hampering it, is a character through which Gimple lives vicariously. He said he has been molding the story of "Fillmore!" since 1997.

"There are a lot of cool mysteries," said Gimple of "Fillmore!" "It's like 'CSI' for kids. It keeps them thinking."

"I'm certainly not like him, but that's certainly how I would have liked to have been," Gimple told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* through a telephone interview. "Fillmore is a cool, smooth kid," he said, adding that his attitude sprung from Richard Roundtree's portrayal of

SATURDAY MORNING SQUAD...X Middle School Safety Patrol is on the case! Ridding the hallways and schoolyard of assorted mischief, Cornelius Fillmore and Ingrid Third are out to stop crime in the hip, new series "Disney's Fillmore!" from Walt Disney Television Animation.

Governor Livingston High School. Many of his experiences in the school district made a deep impression on the 31-year-old's psyche.

"In seventh grade, everything seemed so intense. If a comic book was stolen, it was like your car was stolen. There was such intensity of emotion at that time in your life,"

than shows like "Saved By the Bell."

Recalling his education at Columbia Junior School in Berkeley Heights, Gimple said, "Everything felt so much bigger. It was like being in our own city."

He tried to reflect this same largeness in scope to how he created "Fillmore!s" X Middle School, where Fillmore and his sidekick Ingrid Third, an empowered and dark

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Banning Literature: Westfield, S. Plains Library Officials Promote Freedom

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD -- John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" and Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" have more in common than being classics written by American authors.

At one time all three books, plus hundreds more, were banned by schools and libraries across the United States.

To generate public awareness of the frequency with which books are still banned and censored today, the American Booksellers Association and the American Library Association (ALA), among other organizations, have designated September 21-28 "Banned Book Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read."

The theme for Banned Books Week 2002 is "Let Freedom Read: Read a

Banned Book." The last week in September has held this designation since 1982, as an yearly reminder to Americans that the freedom to read what one chooses is a democratic one that is not to be taken for granted.

According to the ALA website, which lists a banned books fact sheet, each year their Office for Intellectual Freedom receives hundreds of reports on books and other materials that are challenged. A challenged book is one in which removal from school and library shelves has been requested. A banned book has been removed.

Books are most likely to be challenged or banned because their content, language or subject matter is considered objectionable by an individual or group.

According to the ALA, the commitment of librarians, teachers, par-

ents, students and other concerned citizens successfully block most challenges, allowing the materials to remain in the school curriculum or library collection.

Most recently, the "Harry Potter" series of books by J.K. Rowling, has been challenged by parents and librarians, who feel the book is unsuitable for young readers because it promotes witchcraft.

Several area libraries are recognizing banned book week by prominently displaying banned books and encouraging patrons to read them.

Norbert Bernstein, former Director of the Scotch Plains Public Library, announced the creation of a display of banned books and a list of

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Necklace by Elizabeth Best

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"Going Out of Business"

Per the publisher's request, Jen's Trends will no longer be published.

ARTSY ACCESSORY...This silver and agate pin by Anna and Costas Continofis will be one of the pieces featured at the Nomahegan Park Fine Art & Crafts Show on Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6.

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