

## College to Rededicate Owl In Honor of The Devlins

**CRANFORD** - On Sunday, October 28, Union County College (UCC) will honor renowned artists Harry and Wende Devlin on the occasion of the rededication of a wrought iron sculpture of an owl caricature that was drawn by M Devlin almost 40 years ago.

A reception in honor of the Devlins will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. in The Cranford Campus Commons, 1033 Springfield Avenue in Cranford.

"This sculpture has particular significance to U and its alumni, especially those who graduated when the college was known as Union Junior College," stated Executive Director of the Union County College Foundation Louise Yohalem. "In fact, it has become the virtual trademark of our Alumni Association."

When UCC moved to its current location on Springfield Avenue, Mr. Devlin crafted a caricature of the Owl and his design was executed in wrought iron. In 1964, the piece was presented to UCC on behalf of high school students and directors from Union and Middlesex County Junior Achievement (JA) in appreciation of UCC's scholarship program for JA members.

Soon after it was installed on the stairway of the Campus Center, the sculpture was given the name of "Icarus" by virtue of a contest conducted by the campus newspaper. Icarus now hangs in The Commons.

Icarus' rededication will be the centerpiece of the October 28 reception and the evening will feature an exhibit of the works of the Devlins. It is hoped that on that evening, Mr. Devlin will at last confirm or deny

the UCC legend, claiming that he originally sketched Icarus on the back of a napkin.

Members of the arts community, and the community-at-large are invited to honor the Devlins for their contributions to UCC and their artistic legacy. For those wishing to attend, a minimum contribution of \$10 per person is being suggested to establish the Wende and Harry Devlin Scholarship Fund. This grant would benefit a UCC student of the arts.

For more information and reservations, please call the UCC Foundation at (908) 709-7505.



## POPCORN™ Training Day: Refresher Course Is Exhausting

One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER

**2 & 1/2 popcorns**  
Following a tense two hours of immersion into the South Central L.A. ghetto courtesy of director Antoine Fuqua, this homeboy was glad to tuck tail and scoot back to the suburbs. Whew! Enough is too much. Point taken, lesson learned...again.

For while *Training Day* may be a bit more grim and grisly than necessary to make its case about police corruption, we suspect its harrowing sketch of a rookie cop's first day on the narcotics beat is not terribly wide of the mark. And the truth hurts. And gnaws at you.

Granted, at first blush writer David Ayer's script is ostensibly standard cop flick stuff. But Fuqua's stunningly photographed rendition of *The Street* as the Earth's only sneak preview of Dante's underworld is fashioned with gripping eloquence.

Coupled with explosively powerful performances by Denzel Washington as detective Alonzo Harris and Ethan Hawke as his idealistic young charge, Jake Hoyt, the unspeakable devastation of the inner city is revisited.

Thus, along with the shovels full of action, we are reminded of the drug problem that never went away. Between devastating shoot-outs and hair-raising chase scenes, we wonder: Will we ever rid ourselves of this scourge? The film makes a sad commentary on the revolving door nuttiness that comprises and perpetuates our so-called War on Drugs.

Escapist entertainment? Nope. Not hardly, unless maybe you've recently run away from your rowing duties in a slave galley. Aside from the social lesson, this is relentless, rough and tumble stuff, with nary a moment of comedy relief to remind us that it's only a movie. Holding the pedal to the metal for practically the entire film's one-hundred and 20 minutes, Fuqua puts you at seat's edge for much of that time.

So leave the knitting at home. You'll need one hand free for nervous popcorn chomping and the other available for wiping your brow in exasperation. And if you suffer from hypertension, make sure you've taken your pressure pills. Regular exercise, plenty of rest, and a diet low in saturated fats is also recommended to bolster you for this harrowing roller coaster ride through the underbelly of drug enforcement.

But none of these precautions will prepare you for the very different Washington that's in store. A self-styled narc who holds court from the driver's seat of a classic black Monte Carlo, he cruises his domain like a much feared prince, the master of all he surveys. Featuring himself a philosopher king, a swaggering lord of the flies, he fondly expounds on his secret to success. But he warns the wide-eyed recruit: "Never come here without me." The admonition sets the stage and leaves a clue. Then the insanity begins.

To speculate that Alonzo is a crooked cop is like suggesting that organic chemistry may be difficult. Sure, it qualifies the supposition. But it's quantification we need here. And therein lies the nub, the dramatic uniqueness that renders *Training Day* more enticing than it would otherwise have any right to be. You see, detective Alonzo is bad. The question is, which type of bad is he?

It's the veteran narc's charisma that does it. That's what makes things so hard to sort out in the early going. Putting his full menace into every word, the rogue detective has a convincing patter. And there is an implied threat in each precept he teaches.

Hence, we cannot help but commiserate with Jake, the newly wedded novice so intent on making good while also taking the opportunity to clean up the world. His assignment is a dream come true. Narcotics is an opportunity of a lifetime. But the old adage of being careful what you wish for may apply here.

Understandably, he is soon suspicious of his assigned mentor's unconventional methods. But then, Alonzo never took an action he couldn't rationalize. Sure he cuts some corners, relates the senior officer.

Yes, he allows some of the smalltime toughs to deal a little marijuana in return for their fealty and the promise of tips about larger fish. How are you going to catch wolves if you're not a wolf yourself, he rhetorically asks. And then he commands Jake to smoke some confiscated PCP...so he'll know the enemy firsthand. And with that, he howls, forces a beer on Jake, and demands that he howl, too. Jake grows uncomfortable. So

do we. Still, as he reminds his well-intentioned assignee, Alonzo has a much-envied arrest record. One of the best, in fact. Thus he has Jake second-guessing himself and dizzy with conjecture. After all, can you argue with success? Maybe this is really the nitty-gritty of police work is really like.

Alonzo's loathsome style sticks in Jake's craw, yet he still tries to do the right thing. But after each increasing example of corruption, just as he is about to suck it up and deal with it, his teacher then ups the ante and commits an act even more outlandish than the last. And thus matters keep escalating, with Alonzo inevitably cajoling and/or blackmailing Jake to the next higher level of justification, until at long last the two seem hopelessly embroiled in precisely the activities they have sworn to fight.

The only difference is, they have the badges. And while that may or may not be enough for Washington's award-worthy Rasputin of the hood, it still doesn't fly with Hawke's very credible boy wonder.

This hardly makes for a convivial student-teacher relationship. And as anyone who has ever been to the movies can guess, how that enmity is addressed is central to Mr. Fuqua's film. Unfortunately, in its headlong intensity to establish the thrills-and-spills antagonism that evolves, there is little attention paid to dramatic balance.

Not only do supporting performances by brand name rappers Dr. Dre and Snoop Doggy Dogg amount to little more than window dressing, but there is a total absence of sub-text.

And after one particular plot flaw in the denouement defies logic, the sense of reality is compromised. It causes the remaining action scenes to take on a comic-book dimension. But if you can overlook the B-minus plot structure, *Training Day* promises social instruction with an A-plus attitude.

*Training Day*, rated R, is a Warner Bros. Picture's release directed by Antoine Fuqua and stars Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke and Eva Mendes. Running time: 120 minutes.

## Jessica Schoenberg Sets Westfield Performance For Charity Benefits

**WESTFIELD** - The music of Jessica Schoenberg will be featured as part of a single event of a series called, "Coffee With A Conscience," on Saturday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Consisting of 10 shows from September to June, the venues will alternate between the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist and the First United Methodist Church of Westfield.

Ms. Schoenberg, the feature singer of the October 20 event and a native of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada has been captivating North America with her charming voice and heartfelt words.

After establishing her own record label in 1994, Sway Gypsy Records, she released three albums in Canada and embarked on a solo effort titled "Humanisms" in both Canada and the U.S.

Ms. Schoenberg's third release, "Tiniest of Bones," delivered to her the honor of the Best Alternative/New Music Artist on Record award.

The price of admission is \$10, which includes refreshments as well as the performance.

In addition to serving "heavenly" coffee and spellbinding entertainment, the series benefits charities such as The Eric Johnson House in Morristown, The Interfaith Council for the Homeless and the Names Project, which is more commonly known as the AIDS Quilt.

The admission fees will be used to pay for the entertainment and will be donated to these well-founded charities.

Email Your A&E News to: [michelle@goleader.com](mailto:michelle@goleader.com)

CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

## CHILDREN'S BOOK NOOK

With Marylou Morano

### Biographies: Reading About Real People

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

Biographies are a popular nonfiction book category, especially among children and young adults. There is something satisfying in reading about those whose lives have made a difference in the world.

Inventors, scientists, politicians and others—often we see only a glimpse of their lives—their moment of fame. A biography will give the reader an understanding of what came before in the life of the person, as well as after.

#### Picture Book Biographies

By the age of 5, Louis Braille was totally blind, yet despite his disability he attended the one-room village school in Coupray, France. The only subject he did not excel in was reading. "Louis Braille: The Blind Boy Who Wanted To Read" (Remarkable Children Series, 1997) tells how Louis "invented" the Braille system for reading when he was only 15 years old. The book has lovely illustrations depicting 19th century France as well as the Braille family.

The story of Madam C.J. Walker, an African-American businesswoman who became a role model for girls of all races, is told in "Vision of Beauty: The Story of Sarah Breedlove Walker." The inspirational life story of this remarkable woman is written by Kathryn Lasky (Candlewick Press, 2000).

#### Middle Grade Readers

Children's Press has an excellent series entitled "Getting To Know the World's Greatest Artists." There are more than 30 artists included in this series.

Readers can learn the inspiration for the artistic expressions of Chagall, Matisse, van Gogh and many, many more.

Children's Press continues to release books in its "Community Builders" series. One of the latest is "Molly Brown: Sharing Her Good

Fortune" by Charman Simon. Other titles in this series include biographies of Andrew Carnegie, Walt Disney and Lady Bird Johnson.

What kid hasn't eaten a Hershey's chocolate bar? "Chocolate by Hershey" by Betty Burford (Carolrhoda Books, 1994) gives a wonderful background of Milton Hershey, including his childhood and his several business failures before his name became a household word.

Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880) was an abolitionist who wrote books and pamphlets to call attention to the conditions of slavery. "Writing For Freedom" by Erica Stux (Carolrhoda, 2001) tells the story of this courageous woman who sacrificed everything to write words that helped change the course of history.

#### Young Adult Biographies

"Looking Back: A Book of Memories" by Newberry Medal winner Lois Lowry (Delacorte Press, 1998) describes the biographical material behind the writer's fictional stories. Lowry is the author of "The Giver," "Anastasia at Your Service" and other books.

"Katherine Dunham" by Barbara O'Connor (Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 2000) is a Trailblazer Biography in the Pioneers of Black Dance series. Any young adult interested in theatrical arts will enjoy reading this book.

Written as a companion to "Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl," "Anne Frank: A Hidden Life" by Mirjam Pressler explains to the young adult reader what life in the secret annex was like for the diarist, her family and the others who lived hidden from the Nazis for 25 months during World War II. It is published by Dutton's Children's Books.

Every child from kindergarten through high school has a hero. Why not look up a book written about your favorite person the next time you visit the library or bookstore?

## Jolly Trolley: Much Improved

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use a handicapped stall in a bathroom but having the paper towel dispenser be out of reach for a person in a wheelchair.

Bravo, Jolly Trolley! Another aspect of The Trolley's ambience has also been improved—the quality of the food.

Michelle: For a mere \$4.99, the express lunch offering I selected included a scrumptious Buffalo Chicken Salad Wrap with a hearty mug of Cream of Potato Soup. Normally squeamish about ordering chicken in a restaurant because I don't want to get a mouth full of gristle, I decided to trust The Trolley and jump in head first. I wasn't disappointed. The chicken was tender, boldly spiced, and mingled with chunks of juicy tomatoes, all nestled inside a warm tortilla.

For a 1/2 and 1/2 lunch offering, the wrap was certainly generous in both ingredients and piquancy.

Thursday was the perfect day to cozy up to a tiny cauldron of soup. I've had my share of Cream of Potato soup and, much like the chicken issue, I typically frown upon the flavor and consistency. Again, I was pleasantly surprised. Amazingly, I did not need a pair of oars instead of a spoon to make my way through the soup, as I have in other local restaurants. Better yet, the consistency did not resemble a mug of water. Instead, it was creamy and subtle. Just right.

What is the only way to top off a lunch at The Trolley? Well, the Fried Banana Sundae, of course. I never understood how anyone could "fall in love" with a dessert until my spoon met the coconut-fried bananas and ample scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Like an ending to the sweetest symphony, this sundae also included some chocolate sauce, a mound of whipped cream and, you guessed it, a cherry on top.

I'll be happy to make its acquaintance once again.

Melissa: I started off with the hot pretzels appetizer. This consisted of two large hot, and I mean hot, pretzels accompanied by a mustard dip. While not a spectacular appetizer, the pretzels definitely hit the spot when one has a hankering for the kind of pretzel one would find at an old-time stadium. Now, if only I had partnered it with a pint!

Perhaps it's my fondness for all things English, or maybe it's all of those old wives' tales about fish being brain food, but if there is one

thing that my eyes zero in on when perusing a restaurant menu, it's Fish and Chips.

The Fish and Chips at The Trolley was a pleasure to this connoisseur. When it was delivered by our server, I was pleased to see that the plate was overflowing with golden chips (French fries) and four large slabs of beer-battered Cod.

The batter was crispy and fried to a golden perfection, with just a hint of beer flavor. Much better than most I've had. In all, the Fish and Chips was an experience that I would definitely choose to repeat.

For dessert I selected the brownie sundae, the true test for any chocoholic. It consisted of an oversized, warm, chocolate brownie topped with a scoop of ice cream, whipped cream and a cherry on top.

This dessert was definitely enough for two people, seeing as I probably left more of it on my plate than I actually ate.

I was a little bit baffled by the scoop of ice cream. I am accustomed to a brownie sundae being made with vanilla ice cream. Even if vanilla is sometimes viewed as bland, if the brownie is done right, the contrast between the chocolate brownie and the vanilla ice cream makes for a perfect pairing.

The Trolley's brownie sundae had what I deduced to be a coffee-toffee ice cream on top, which by itself might have been perfect, but with the rich chocolate flavor of the brownie, the ice cream made for a tastebud overkill.

One of the significant signs of a restaurant that intends to stay in the neighborhood is its ability to accommodate its neighbors.

The Jolly Trolley has proven just this. By providing handicap accessibility and taking better care with food presentation and quality, it seems certain that this beloved dining establishment has made Westfield its home.

## Emotions Stirred In Cain's Book

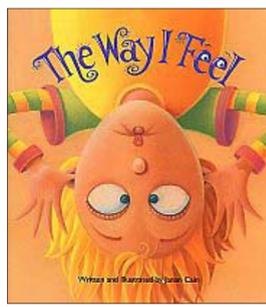
By MICHELLE H. Le POIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Shelves of children's books are devoted to learning the alphabet, colors, and numbers. Few, however, invite youngsters to discover their feelings. And, in today's super-complicated world, Janan Cain's "The Way I Feel" could not be more appropriate.

Published by Parenting Press, Inc. in Seattle, Wash., this multi-colorful book engages readers with brilliant, non-cartoon-like illustrations and rhymes about all sorts of common emotions, including silliness, disappointment, anger and boredom.

While "The Way I Feel" is intended for children ages 2-8, guardians and parents will have no trouble excitedly turning all 32 pages during each bedtime story hour.

Psychologically geared to give youngsters the permission and strength to deal with varying feel-



ings, conflicting emotions are juxtaposed appropriately on each page. Therefore, the child doesn't feel like he/she is riding an emotional pendulum, but takes each feeling in stride as it is broached.

The expressions on the faces of Cain's characters are adorable, not intimidating, and often present themselves as friends. Specifically, a child can understand boredom by looking at the solemn figure sulking by a rainy window.

Within a few pages, the reader appreciates the art of being goofy:

"Silly is the way I feel when I make a goofy face, and wear a goofy, poofy hat that takes up lots of space!"

Recently, *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* tested a copy of "The Way I Feel" on a group of 3-4 year olds in neighboring Middlesex County.

My goddaughter, who is now 3 1/2, was able to identify easily with the text and illustrations, while learning even more about the emotions she couldn't always put into words.

When we reached the last page of "The Way I Feel," she quickly turned the book back over again to the front, declaring, "Let's read it again!"

That copy of Cain's book was taken to my goddaughter's class on a day when she was to bring something orange to school. The cover, which is colored in eye-catching orange, was ideal for her presentation.

Quickly, her teacher picked up the copy and read it aloud to the class.

While realizing the essentials of everyday objects and activities is vital in the lives of our youngest readers, "The Way I Feel" emphasizes a normally overlooked aspect of the child's development—getting in touch with their feelings.

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*The Way I Feel, Janan Cain, Parenting Press, Inc., 32 pages, May 2000, Hardcover \$16.95.*

## Barbershop Chorus To Hold Open House

**RAHWAY** - The Rahway Valley Jerseyaires local chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.) will host an Open House on Monday, October 22, at 7:30 p.m. at Roosevelt School, 811 St. Georges Avenue, in Rahway.

"Men of all ages who love to sing and can carry a tune are invited to learn more about our singing society," stated President of the Jerseyaires Doug Brown.

For more information, please call Bob Stalknecht at (908) 754-3717 or Charles DeAgazio at (732) 494-3580.

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## Author Callahan Sets Appearance At SP Library

**SCOTCH PLAINS** - The Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library will present an author appearance and book signing at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 20, at the library. Open to the public, the event is free.

Area resident Billy Callahan is the author of "Muckraker," a widely-acclaimed story about a high school journalist who publishes a story in the school paper about the use and sale of illegal drugs and alcohol in a local park. The ramifications of his decisions affects his family, friends, schoolmates, teachers and the community.

According to Friends President Ted Czarnomski, "This program is the first of several we have planned for the 2001-2002 season, all of which will be free of charge to the general public."

Friends is the fundraising arm of the library, devoted to providing money for some of the library's extra needs, as well as presenting free programs and other community events.

To join the Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library, please pick up an application at the library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, or call Mr. Czarnomski at (908) 232-5524.

## Editorial

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clearly doesn't have America's best interests at heart. Placing the onus and blame of September 11 on America and then expecting us to accept their money is ludicrous.

The lesson here is obvious...beware of enemies bearing gifts...especially if they're talking out of both sides of their mouths. I'm pretty sure Emily Post doesn't have a chapter in her book about that.