

# Arts & Entertainment

The A&E Staff will be meeting in mid-September to discuss story ideas and upcoming assignments. Offer your input and we'll discuss your ideas. Write us at [ae@goleader.com](mailto:ae@goleader.com)

## Pen & Ink

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

ers would rather explore their psyches and heal their inner children with Oprah or discover than Tony is in fact the father of Melanie's baby instead of listening to Clinton ramble about the crisis du jour.

If it does succeed on a long-term basis, it would certainly be a coincidence that its popularity might escalate just around the time that his wife, Hillary Clinton would be making her run for President. Good ratings usually spell good poll standings, which raises the question as to why Abraham Lincoln never considered to talk show circuit.

It all boils down to the acceptance of the daytime television-viewing public. Some might rather start cooking early or watch a soap opera instead of listening to Clinton. He might try to entice us with a celebrity interview or two (say Barbra Streisand?), closing out the show with a saxophone duet of "The Way We Were." Either way, if the viewers don't buy it, CBS will shelve it and they'll probably have to fire a bundle of Clinton's adoring interns. Mom and Dad, lock up your daughters!

Povich pointed out a solid statistic during his interview with Connie Chung: "I can tell you that in the last 15 years, there have been 75 attempts at daytime talk shows. There have been four successes."

Maybe late night would be a better calling for the former President. He could join Ashley Banfield's "Across America" if she's willing to let his full-color profile join the side of her touring bus. Maybe Phil will fill Bill's bill with a "fiercely Democratic" angle on MSNBC. The news station might let Bill join its newest addition, "Nachman" early every weeknight. After all, the portly reporter appears to like cigars too.

## Celebration Singers To Hold Auditions

CRANFORD — On Tuesday evenings, September 10 and 17, the Celebration Singers will hold auditions for the adult choir from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Cranford United Methodist Church located on the corners of Lincoln and Walnut Avenues.

Auditions are open to anyone who is at least 18 as of Friday, November 1. The group's main performance will be on Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14, at the church with 8 p.m. performances both nights, and a Saturday afternoon matinee. The adult choir rehearses on Tuesdays from 8 to 10 p.m. at the church.

## Community Players to Welcome Jazz Trio for Membership Drive

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Community Players (WCP) membership drive for their 2002-2003 season will be kicked off with a fundraising performance by the Vince di Mura Jazz Trio, featuring the vocalist Carrie Jackson, on Saturday, September 21, at 8 p.m.

The WCP box office, located at 1000 North Avenue, West, opened on September 1 and can be reached at (908) 232-1221 with all tickets priced at \$15.

The concert jazz pianist and composer will perform songs from his recently-released CD, "Imperfect Balance," along with other jazz songs by Cole Porter, George Gershwin. This one-time performance will be followed by refreshments in the lobby.

Westfield resident Don Mokrauer

## Filmmakers Symposium To Begin on September 23

MOUNTAINSIDE — Filmmakers Symposium, a 12-week session of private movie screenings and interviews, which has hosted 825 movie premieres in the past 12 years, will begin at Loews Theater in Mountainside on Monday evenings, beginning September 23. The second session will start on November 4.

The series is open to the public. However, seating is limited and early registration is advised. The subscription for six weeks is \$131 or 12 weeks for \$249 plus a \$20 registration fee.

Confirmed films and those under consideration for the upcoming spring session include film such as *Analyze That* with Robert DeNiro, Billy Crystal and Director Harold Ramis and *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* with star and director George Clooney and Julia Roberts. Past guest speakers have included Danny Aiello, Ethan Hawke, Gil Bellows and Famke Janssen.

For information or registration, please call (800) 531-9416.



TEARING DOWN THE HOUSE... Downtown Westfield welcomed the summer jazz sounds of "The Homewreckers" last Tuesday evening. The ensemble, which performed on Elm Street near Trader Joe's, was an audience favorite. The performance was part of Westfield's sixth season of "Sweet Sounds Downtown," a summer concert series.

## Rose Gelfman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

that I am creating from within me," said the artist.

Gelfman, an Austrian native, fled Vienna for Shanghai, when Hitler annexed Austria to his Nazi government in 1939. Her parents and brother were also able to leave, but her grandparents perished in the Holocaust.

"Shanghai was the only place open to immigration," she explained. From Shanghai she immigrated to Sydney, Australia finally making her way to the United States in 1959.

Although she was a certified teacher in Vienna, Gelfman's qualifications didn't meet United States' standards. Instead, she worked first as a seamstress and later as an office manager at Temple Beth-El in Cranford.

Still driving and independent, Gelfman is currently an active member of Temple Beth Orr in Clark. She often speaks to groups about her experiences relating to the Holocaust.

"I have had a long life of ups and downs," she said, "but I am a very happy person. My personal goal is to stay well as long as I can."

Gelfman's "Self Portrait" is currently on exhibit in Trenton, where it will be part of the Statewide Senior Art Contest in October.

Recently, Gelfman started attending creative writing classes, also given at the JCC, where she is writing her life history. She is eagerly awaiting September, the beginning of the Jewish New Year, as well as both her writing and art classes.

While Gelfman is certainly pleased about receiving an award for "Self Portrait," success, to her, lies in knowing that as an inexperienced amateur, she mastered something new.

Said Gelfman, "The pleasure of any activity is the best reward itself."

## NJWA Concert Band Performance Will Benefit Firemen's Association

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Center-Genesis Eldercare, located on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield, will host a fundraising concert on Saturday, September 14. Open to the public, the concert will raise funds for the Westfield Firemen's Benevolent Association.

Louise Dedeo, Physical Therapist at the subacute care and rehabilitation facility thanked the Concert Band of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) in Westfield for agreeing to perform at the venue.

Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m., with the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. The concert is expected to last for one hour.

The program will include selections from *The King and I* by Richard Rodgers, *Over the Waves* waltz by Rosas, *Lustspiel* overture by Keler Bela, *Hosts of Freedom* by King, and a trombone solo by Hrvoje Markovic, who will play *Debert* by Austin.

"Firefighters are engaged in heroic feats each time they enter a burning building. It's particularly meaningful that we assist them — I am confident the public will respond very

favorably," stated Howard Toplansky, the conductor of the NJWA Concert Band, which is now in its sixth year.

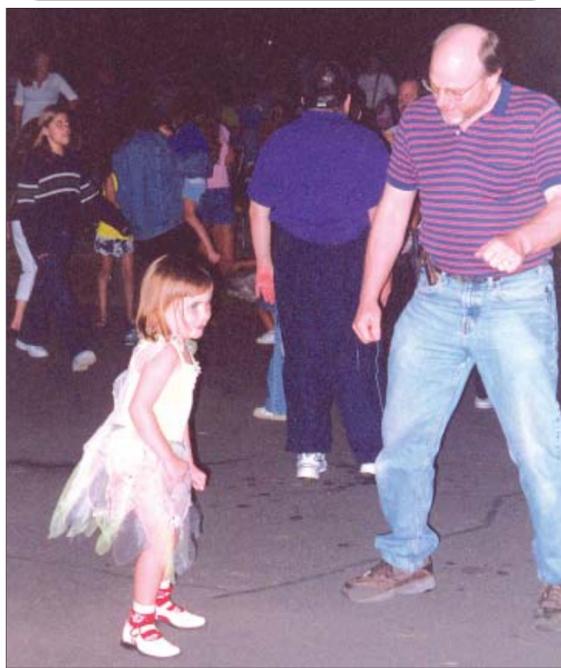
Members of the Concert Band come from a number of towns in Union County and, according to Mr. Toplansky, "the band has grown from an initial group of 15 to its current level of 65 players."

The purpose of the Benefit Concert Series is to assist worthy public service, religious and other charitable organizations. Any such group is encouraged to call the NJWA at (908) 789-9696 to arrange for a benefit concert. No advance funds are necessary.

Fundraising through the series has aided such groups as the Gift of Life and Rotoplast. In addition, more than \$800 was sent to the September 11 Fund in a benefit concert sponsored by the Key Club of Union.

To ensure a seat for the September 14 concert, attendees must purchase \$5 tickets by calling (908) 233-9700 and ask for Sharon or Kelly.

New members of the Concert Band are always welcome to join weekly rehearsals at the Westfield Y, 200 Clark Street, Westfield on Saturdays from 12 to 1:30 p.m.



DANCING QUEEN...Mountainside resident, four-year-old, Isabelle Fitzgerald dances the night away at the New Power Soul concert at Echo Lake Park alongside her grandfather Tim McEvoy, also of Mountainside. The Soul Concert, a combination of high-energy dance music, with rock, rap, reggae, country, oldies, swing, soul and funk, was part of the Summer Arts Festival presented by the Union County Board of Freeholders.



### Calderone School of Music

THE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

Established 1975 Certified Teachers

Private Instruction on  
All Instruments, Voice and Ensembles

Kindermusik classes for ages 2 to 7

Riverwalk Plaza  
34 Ridgedale Avenue • East Hanover  
(973) 428-0405

256 Morris Avenue • Springfield  
(973) 467-4688

## TIME SHARE - Atlantic Palace on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, N.J.

Inquiries: [ac@goleader.com](mailto:ac@goleader.com)

## Choral Art Society Invites New Members; Tells Slate of Concerts

WESTFIELD — Singers of every range are invited to join the Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc. in feting its 40th anniversary year. Under the direction of James Little, the non-profit community chorus is devoted to the study and performance of choral works.

Rehearsals are held weekly on Tuesdays, from 8 to 10 p.m., from September to May and are held in the choir room of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, which is located at the corner of Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street.

The season's first rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, September 3, with

registration and music purchase beginning at 7:30 p.m. Singers interested in joining are invited to attend a rehearsal and meet with Mr. Little.

The 2002-2003 season will begin on Friday, December 13, at 8 p.m. with the Annual Messiah Sing at the First Baptist Church in Westfield.

On Saturday, January 18, 2003, the Society, along with the orchestra and guest soloists, will perform J.S. Bach's *St. John's Passion* at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. On Saturday, May 10, 2003 the Society's anniversary concert will include a performance of Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*, also at The Presbyterian Church in town.



By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
1 POPCORN

Is there a more talented comedian with a more lackluster film career than Eddie Murphy? Probably. But then that wouldn't serve the thesis of this film criticism. So just play along. Otherwise, I have no review and you're on to the obits.

Anyway, my rather sad postulation about a brilliant young comic who sells his artistic soul to Hollywood in return for riches isn't far from accurate. You see, while Murphy is no doubt enjoying that proverbial laugh all the way to the bank, he apparently isn't saving much in the way of gu-faws, chuckles and titters for us.

Crack a smile during a showing of *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*, his latest foray into the realm of formulaic funniness, and you're probably thinking about something else ... like how good it will feel when the movie ends.

An uninspired farce about gangsters of the future trying to muscle-in on a nightclub owner, director Ron Underwood's laugh-deprived effort takes place in Little America, our first colony on the moon.

There, in the year 2080, title character Murphy runs the Club Pluto. A former reprobate who, aided by his robot Bruno (Randy Quaid, as an outdated model '62), made quite a reputation for himself as a smuggler, Nash now plays it straight. He wants nothing to do with the heavies who wish to buy him out.

Here's the thing, though. While gambling is about to be banned on Earth, chances are it'll be legalized on the moon. So these bad guys won't be taking no for an answer. Expect the usual gunplay as Murphy's Pluto Nash tries to defend his club and the moon colony itself from mob domination.

To say that the jokes in screenwriter Neil Cuthbert's script are tired could only be perceived as a compliment. That would at least indicate that the film contains said cackle-producing items. They are a ruffian in *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*, tired or otherwise.

Unfortunately, this moon-based misfire is not so bad that it's good. It's just plain bad. Yet it is nevertheless amusing to wonder what they were thinking when they decided to place this old saw in a mock futuristic setting. Hokey and simplistic, it plays like a primer on how the mob takes control of things.

Just imagine. Someday, a student at Harvard learning about how the gambling capitals of Las Vegas and Atlantic City came into being, might excitedly blurt out, "Hey, I saw this in an Eddie Murphy movie when I was a kid."

Its educational value aside, one is hard put to find redeeming value of any sort in Murphy's latest film. That includes his acting. Which is a shame. Because when the comedian gets his comic characterizations right, audiences are hopelessly enamored of him.

Memorable roles that inaugurated the star's film career include Reggie Hammond in *48 Hrs.* (1982), Billy Ray Valentine in *Trading Places* (1983) and, to a lesser degree, Axel Foley in *Beverly Hills Cop* (1984). But with the exception of his impassioned, semi-dramatic portrayal of Rayford Gibson in *Life* (1999), his more recent work in the various and sundry *Dr. Doolitless* and *Nutty Professors* are all a blur. There is an almost angry, production line arrogance that replaces the more personal Pagliacci of his youth.

What's missing in *The Adventures*

## POPCORN™ The Adventures of Pluto Nash: Eclipse of Humor Mars Comedy

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

of *Pluto Nash*, aside from an engaging plot, decent direction and good acting, is likeability. After all, who is this guy in outer space trying to hang on to his nightclub? Why should we care about him? He isn't particularly intriguing or dashing. And his romantic interest in Dina Lake (Rosario Dawson), a would-be chanteuse waiting tables at Club Pluto, couldn't even register a luke-warm on the penny arcade's love meter, no matter how hard they squeezed.

The sad fact is, the personal affiliation Murphy once sowed with his audience has been supplanted by Eddie Murphy the franchise. Despite how well he has entertained us in the past, we don't owe him a laugh. Especially when he presents us with something that makes *The Jetsons* (1990) seem like high art.

Of course, you and I know not to waste our money on such drivel. We read the reviews of those we, ahem, respect, and thus select carefully only that cinema worthy of our valuable time. But it's posterity I'm worried about. We can only hope that when that aforementioned Harvard scholar studies *Casablanca* (1942) in "Film Appreciation 101," he doesn't raise his hand and excitedly offer, "It's just like an Eddie Murphy movie I saw when I was a kid, except instead of Nazis it was the Mafia hassling the nightclub owner. Also, it took place on the moon instead of Morocco. But at least it was in color."

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The Adventures of Pluto Nash*, rated PG-13, is a Warner Bros. release directed by Ron Underwood and stars Eddie Murphy, Rosario Dawson and Randy Quaid. Running time: 95 minutes.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY,  
CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY,  
DOCKET NO. F-1831-02

THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, AS TRUSTEE, PLAINTIFF vs. DARYL S. PAYNE, ET ALS., DEFENDANT.  
CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED MAY 30, 2002 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES.

By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed shall expose for sale by public vendue, at the Union County Administration Building, 1st Floor, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 4TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D., 2002 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is ONE HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY TWO & 00/100 (\$134,432.00).

MUNICIPALITY: Elizabeth  
COUNTY: UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

STREET & STREET NO.: 826 Cross Avenue  
TAX BLOCK AND LOT: BLOCK: 11, LOT: 228  
DIMENSIONS OF LOT: 115 feet by 55 feet

NEAREST CROSS STREET: 55.52 feet from Stanley Terrace  
SUPERIOR INTERESTS (if any): NONE  
There is due approximately the sum of ONE HUNDRED FORTY FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY NINE & 63/100 (\$144,199.63) together with lawful interest and costs.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.  
The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROELICH  
SHERIFF

WILLIAM M.E. POWERS JR.  
CHARTERED-COUNSELORS  
737 Stokes Road  
PO Box 1088  
Medford, New Jersey 08055-9962  
CH-756778 - (WL)  
4T - 8/8, 8/15, 8/22  
& 8/29/02  
Fee: \$187.68

## JOIN US FOR THE NEW DANCE SEASON

Dance with all your Heart

## FALL REGISTRATION

September 3, 4, 5 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm & 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
Classes Begin September 9th

AM / PM Preschool Classes (2½-K)

Westfield School of Dance

CALL TODAY, CLASSES FILLING QUICKLY

908-789-3011

402 Boulevard, Westfield  
(across from The Westfield Train Station)

BALLET • JAZZ • MODERN • POINTE • TAP • MUSICAL THEATRE  
Beginner to Professional • Ages 2½ to Adult