



POPCORN™

Picking Oscars as Penance A Punishment for Road Rats

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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The thought this go-round was to apply the punishment of handicapping Oscars where it might do some good. Hence, the decision to round-up numerous lawbreakers and charging them with the onerous chore of portending who will walk off with the golden statuettes come this Sunday evening, March 5. Call these undesirable the Road Rats.

The rats come from every economic background, in all shapes, sizes, genders, ethnicities and ages. About the only thing they have in common is that they drive on our public roads...poorly. This year's Offenders for the Oscars and their picks for the upcoming Academy Awards are as follows:

Chosen to pick Best Song is Porter Antisocial of Glens Falls, N.Y., one of the more scurrilous of Road Rats because he knows his transgression and practically revels in it. He's always in a hurry. He's more important than us, you know. In fact, he's convinced he's entitled to pass on the right, no matter what calamity it may cause. Given his druthers, he'd rather pass on the right than on the left. His choice to win Best Song: "In the Deep," from *Crash*.

Picking Best Foreign Language Film is Mr. Clueless Clyde of Vinegar Bend, Ala. Whether Clueless knows it or not, he's a cousin of Porter Antisocial. But his wrongful, catastrophe-causing proclivity has to do with the left lane. His choice to win Best Foreign Language Film: *Tsotsi*, from South Africa.

Next on our list, assigned to choose who will walk away with Best Director honors, is Swoozie Hunsucker of Shaker Heights, Ohio. Road Rat Swoozie believes true status means getting to that charity event or rushing to pick the kids up from soccer practice by going 50 mph on residential streets while talking on a cell phone, maybe even smoking and drinking a latte, too. Her choice for Best Director: George Clooney for *Good Night, and Good Luck*.

Selected to decide who'll win Best Supporting Actress, causing more traffic-related fatalities than any of

Artists' Showcase Set At Library on Sunday

MOUNTAINSIDE - The first annual Artists' Showcase, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountainside Public Library, will be held on Sunday, March 5, from noon to 4 p.m. at the library at Constitution Plaza.

Attendees will be able to view and purchase works created by local artists in a relaxed environment. All the works are described as "original, one-of-a-kind pieces" and will include oils, acrylics, watercolors, photography, sculpture and mixed media, among other categories.

Artists from a three-county area, including Union, Essex and Middlesex Counties, will be represented. Admission will be free, ample parking available and refreshments will be served.

A highlight of the event is expected to be a silent auction featuring fine art works donated by the participating artists. For more information, please call the library at (908) 233-0115.

John Russell's Artwork Featured At Art Expo

WESTFIELD - Artxepo, one of the most comprehensive events of its kind for both art industry professionals and consumers, will feature the works of John Russell during its 2006 show being held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City from March 2 to 6.

In Booth 221, Mr. Russell will display to the anticipated 40,000 attendees his collection, which features detailed, realistic ink drawing of people, pets, events and buildings of architectural or historical interest.

Mr. Russell's sketches are featured on the covers of the 26th (1998) and 28th (2000) annual editions of *This Is Westfield*, published by *The Westfield Leader*.

For more information about Artxepo, including artists, special events, seminars and travel for the event, visit www.artxepo.com. Mr. Russell may be contacted directly at (908) 232-2626.



OUR HOUSE...Ted and Kitty Schlosberg are featured with the dollhouse donated by Little Treasures for the silent auction held at Shackamaxon Country Club on Sunday. Dr. Schlosberg has been the executive director of the New Jersey Workshop For The Arts for 35 years.

the aforementioned Road Rats, is Vince Flagrant of Lanesville, N.Y. Vince is of the firm opinion that solid double lines are meant to be crossed, especially if they're what separate him and his favorite strip malls. Four lanes, six lanes, it doesn't matter. His pick for Best Supporting Actress: Rachel Weisz in *The Constant Gardener*.

Getting the honor of choosing Best Supporting Actor is Johnny Deranged of Welcome, W Va. What puts Johnny among this esteemed crew is his tailgating. "What? Stay ten feet back for each ten miles per hour?" queries Mr. Deranged. His selection for Best Supporting Actor: Paul Giamatti in *Cinderella Man*.

Drawing the slip that said Best Actor was Honey Dontecare of Patterson. Honey's true forte is exiting a highway to the right, all the way from the left lane. Opportunities to exit left, all the way from the right lane, come less often. Her choice for Best Actor: Philip Seymour Hoffman for *Capote*.

Next up is Dave Dispensation of Little Falls, N.H. Dave is prognosticating this year's winner for Best Actress. He can't find the certificate from King James, but it specifically grants him the right to use the shoulder as his own private lane. Dave's pick for Best Actress: Reese Witherspoon for *Walk the Line*.

Last among the major categories of Road Rats, picking this year's Academy Award for Best Motion Picture, is Harlan T. Frustration. On first blush, we might be inclined to feel sorry for Harlan. Fact is, he's afflicted...a victim of that national scourge known as Road Rage. His choice for Best Picture: *Brokeback Mountain*.

Other winners selected by various and sundry Road Rats are as follows: Best Animated Feature- *Wallace and Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit*; Best Art Direction- *Good Night, and Good Luck*; Best Cinematography- *The New World*; Best Costume Design- *Mrs. Henderson*; Best Documentary- *March of the Penguins*; Best Documentary Short Subject- *The Death of Kevin Carter: Casualty of the Bang Bang Club*; Best Editing- *Crash*; Best Makeup- *Cinderella Man*; Best Original Score- John Williams for *Munich*; Best Animated Short Film- *The Moon and the Son: An Imagined Conversation*; Best Live Action Short Film- *Cashback*; Best Sound Editing- *War of the Worlds*; Best Sound Mixing- *Walk the Line*; Best Visual Effects- *King Kong*; Best Adapted Screenplay- Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana for *Brokeback Mountain*, and Best Original Screenplay-George Clooney and Grant Heslov for *Good Night, and Good Luck*.

Enjoy rooting for those who you think should be the winners March 5. And if you're driving to watch the show at a friend's house, be careful. Mrs. Segall told *The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, "I never dreamed this annual event would have maintained its position as the greatest fundraiser on record. And I really, had no idea of what I was getting myself into."

Mrs. Segall chaired the committee for two years; the first year, the fashion show was held in a Short Hills department store restaurant with professional models taking the stage.

Next Thursday evening, 450 women will sit down for dinner and none will have to cook. And the only cleaning up they'll be doing afterwards will be in the form of taking home some really nice gifts. But that's just half of the fun. They'll also enjoy seeing their friends turned into models, some of whom are teachers from the district, as they take on the catwalk at L'Affaire Restaurant, decked out in fashions by the GAP of Westfield.

The models will look good head to toe thanks to Michael Miller of Headturners salon, a father of two in the school system. Dana Kline of Party Designs will once again donate her talents, artfully displaying the raffle items in beautifully wrapped gift baskets. In past years, the plethora of prizes, all of which are donated by members of the community and local merchants, have been known to take over several suburban living rooms.

Fortunately, Lackland Storage has donated space in which to house the

Art Month Honors County Students

AREA - Artwork from various schools in Union County is being showcased for the Art Educators of NJ's (AENJ) Youth Art Month, an annual observance each March in New Jersey to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school art programs.

Union County's Youth Art Month exhibit will be held at IKEA Elizabeth on Ikea Drive in Elizabeth from March 1 through April 4. A reception is also planned for Wednesday, March 1 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for all participating artists and their families, friends and art teachers. Artwork from students in grades K-12 will be on display, and each student artist will receive awards.

Youth Art Month celebrates the state's talented youngsters and provides a forum for acknowledging skills fostered through experience in the visual arts that are not possible in other subjects offered in the curriculum.

Visitors to the IKEA Youth Art Month Exhibit will see a variety of media used by the artists, such as pastels, acrylic paints and pencil. Three-dimensional projects, drawings, paintings, prints and photographs will be exhibited to showcase the art programs throughout Union County.

All artwork can also be seen at www.artsonia.com/unioncounty1.



PRIMP MY RIDE...Michael Miller of Headturners Salon turns Kim Moriaki into a Mountainside model mom.

MS Model Moms 'Runway' With Money for Kids

By LINDA B. CONDRILLO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE - This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the Mountainside PTA's annual fashion show and gift-basket raffle. The proceeds from the show will pay for children's enrichment programs, class trips and assemblies across all grade levels in the pre-K to eight district.

Originally the brainchild of Judi Segall, who at the time had two small children at the Deerfield school where she now teaches, the show is often referred to as the borough's "social event of the season."

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Center for Hope Hospice Holds Auction

CLARK - The Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care and Honorary Chairman Michael Lapolla have invited the public to an "art bouquet." An Art Exhibition and Auction is to be held at the Gran Centurions at 440 Madison Hill Road in Clark on Sunday, April 2.

The art can be previewed from 4 p.m. on, and the auction will commence at 5 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes an open bar, hors d'oeuvres and hourly door prizes. Visitors can purchase original works of art, which are framed to enhance an office or home. All are reasonably priced.

Support for this fundraiser will enable the Center for Hope to continue to provide terminally ill patients with natural, humane care known as hospice and their families or loved ones with physical, emotional and spiritual support during their time of need.

Reservations are requested by March 24. Call Helga Thomas at (908) 889-6287.

Town Book Store Hosts Meet and Greets

WESTFIELD - To get ready for spring, The Town Book Store of Westfield is hosting two very different Meet and Greet book signings. On Saturday, March 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bob Klein and Paul Larsen will be in the store to promote new book "Elvis: Born to Rockale."

This is the first book to focus on a single Elvis concert (1975 afternoon show at Nassau Coliseum) and has garnered reviews worldwide. A photo archivist, Mr. Klein has had works published in many publications and has one of the top five Elvis collections in the world. Mr. Larsen, a Scotch Plains schoolteacher who attended the concert, wrote the book's forward.

Then, from 2 to 4 p.m., New Jersey author Judith Caseley will be in the store to promote her new picture book, "In Style with Grandma Antoinette."

Anyone unable to attend these events may call and reserve an autographed copy at (908) 233-3535.

goods for the PTA up until the night of the show.

"Luck Be a Lady" is this year's theme for the gala event, and as in the past, tickets sold out in record time. To add to the element of surprise, grand prizes are kept secret until the guests arrive. Past year's contributions have included fine jewelry from the Trimarco family, Airline tickets from Continental arranged by the Kutsop family, handmade furniture by Charles Pijanowski of Charles Contracting and countless tickets to sporting events and Broadway shows from the Winter family.

Pulling together an undertaking of this enormity is no easy task. Mrs. Jo Vargo, who has been chairing the annual event for the past four years, told *The Leader and The Times*, "We have a committee of 20 volunteers that solicit local merchants and families for donations, and we put together a really nice program listing all our contributors. And then there is the job of getting a store to donate clothes for the evening, which is not as easy as it sounds."

"We are very happy to have the GAP provide the fashions for this year's show. We've also had great support from other Westfield boutiques such as Chico's, Anais and Sole in prior years. Setting up, decorating, ticket sales and seating arrangements are coordinated entirely by the volunteers. New moms to the area sometimes aren't sure if they should go because they might not know anyone. We arrange seating in those cases by grade level so moms with children of the same age can get to know one another. We also get groups of the same gals who buy tables of 10 every year. In all, it's very much a combining of talents, and we manage to pull it off quite well, year after year."

Donna McAdam, who now lives in Basking Ridge, chaired the fundraiser for 14 consecutive years. Recounting some of the more memorable moments, Mrs. McAdam remarked, "The event is so popular that one year I had several people dropping off really expensive baskets to my house in hopes I could get them in, even though the show was sold out. I did the best I could and, if there was a cancellation, I got them in. But what really made it work was the volunteers. I always had a wonderful group of ladies who worked very hard, and I could never take credit for the show. It was everyone working together and just enjoying being with people who you would not ever get a chance to meet if you hadn't volunteered for the fashion show committee."

And the best part? No one walks out empty handed. There are goodie bags for everyone. Mrs. Vargo added, "They're all different. As you can imagine, finding someone to donate 450 of anything can be next to impossible. Realtors in town donate magnets, accounting firms donate pens and pads, and we have one faithful supporter who we can always count on for enough Lipton tea bags to fill every goodie bag. Large pharmaceutical companies have also been big proponents over the years contributing products such as lip balm or sun block. And Tylenol or Motrin - which really comes in handy after it's all over."

Rest assured - on March 9 - way past everyone's bedtime, the committee will call it a wrap, and in the end, as usual, it will be the kids who end up the biggest winners. Bravo!

Green Dance Held Sunday, March 12

WESTFIELD - On Sunday, March 12, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities will host the 10th annual St. Patrick's Day "Green Dance" for people with disabilities.

The event will be held at the Westfield Community Room, located in the Westfield Municipal Building on Easy Broad Street, from 3 to 5 p.m. Snacks, refreshments and DJ entertainment by Golden Note Entertainment Inc. will be provided. Pre-registration is required. The "Green Dance" theme is a St. Patrick's Day celebration, so participants are urged to wear green.

To be put on the mailing list and to receive information about programs for people with disabilities, call Sharon Gentile, program coordinator for the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, at (908) 527-4806 or (908) 527-4900.

Levin's Murder Mystery Deathtrap Opens March 4

WESTFIELD - Director John Correll of Winfield Park has his cast in final rehearsals for the 8 p.m. Saturday, March 4 opening of Ira Levin's suspense-filled mystery *Deathtrap* at Westfield Community Players (WCP), 1000 North Avenue, West in Westfield.

Other show dates are Friday and Saturday evenings, March 11, 17 and 18, with all reserved seats at \$15 available from the box office at (908) 232-1221. WCP membership cards will not be honored for the benefit performance on Friday, March 10.

A one-time darling of Broadway, playwright Sidney Bruhl desperately needs a hit. He finds it in a play submitted by a writing class student. To get the script and a hit show, Sidney and his wife scheme to murder the author by luring him to their home with an offer to help polish the script for producers. When author Clifford

Anderson takes Sidney up on his offer, the scheme unravels - or is it a double cross?

John Correll directs his wife and frequent co-star Linda Correll as Myra Bruhl while Larry Shagawat of Clifton plays Sidney. Shaka Malik of Montclair is author Clifford Anderson, while Stew Lovejoy of Summit is lawyer Porter Milgrim and Irene Moses of West Orange is nosy neighbor and sometime-psycho Helga Ten Dorp. Lynne Lampariello of Springfield is the stage manager, and Bob Murray the lighting designer.

WCP has reserved seating, so make a preference known when calling the box office for seats at (908) 232-1221 and remember that all non-member tickets must be prepaid. Opening night patrons are invited to stay for light refreshments with the cast and crew after the curtain rings down.

Operatic Couple Take Part In LOC's La Boheme

WESTFIELD - In 2000, Scotch Plains residents Juan and Valerie Pineda, co-founders of the Little Opera Company (LOC) of New Jersey, established several goals for their new organization. Among them were to give community singers an opportunity to work side-by-side with professional artists and to create new audience members and artists for the future of opera.

Musical Club Offers A Musical Bouquet

WESTFIELD - The March performance of the Musical Club of Westfield will be held on Wednesday, March 8, at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield. A mixed bouquet of music will be offered, including music for soprano, tenor, organ and piano four hands, with composers from four centuries represented.

Chairman for the program is Barbara Krause. The performance is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the program to give those in attendance the opportunity to meet the performers.

For information about membership in the Musical Club of Westfield, call (908) 232-2173.

Tiger, Gash Read Poetry in Fanwood

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Arts Council and the Carriage House Poetry Series are hosting a free poetry reading featuring Sondra Gash and Madeline Tiger on Thursday, March 9, at 8 p.m., at the Kuran Arts Center on Watson Road, off Martine Avenue, adjacent to Fanwood Borough Hall.

Admission is free. An open reading will follow the featured readers, and guests are invited to bring a poem or two of their own to read. For additional information, call Fanwood Arts Council co-directors Adele Kenny at (908) 889-7223, and Tom Plante at (908) 889-5298.

New Column: Home And Garden Inquiries

Remodeling your kitchen or bath and unsure what countertop surface to choose? Wish you could give your property more curb appeal but unsure how to begin? Submit your home & garden questions, and *The Leader-Times*, along with our local experts, will provide answers in an upcoming new column. Send questions to csforms@goleader.com

-Christie Storms

Fanwood's Jeanne Smith Exhibits Pastel Landscape

FANWOOD - The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association will feature Fanwood artist Jeanne Smith as its guest demonstrator at the Wednesday, March 15 general meeting in the Fanwood Community Center on North Avenue.

The artist will demonstrate pastel landscape painting working from her own photographs; Ms. Smith will show how to transform a snapshot into a dynamic work of art. Ms. Smith's landscapes of southern France were recently featured in a solo show, "Provence Pastels," at the Westfield Art Gallery, a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts. Smith studied in Nice, France, and returns often to visit family and nurture a lifelong love of Mediterranean light and color.

Ms. Smith recently completed three portraits for the Women's Memorial

at Arlington National Cemetery, "Faces of the Fallen," a project memorializing soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. She earned a Ph.D. in English Literature and published a book on folklore in contemporary novels, "Writing Tricksters," before turning her attention to art full time in 2003.

Winner of several awards, including a 2005 Westfield Art Association "Award of Excellence" and the 2005 NJCA Portraiture Award, she has studied art at Georgetown University and locally at the duCret School, the Somerset Art Association and the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. A member of the Pastel Society of America, Ms. Smith teaches private classes in pastel and watercolor, and she paints commissioned portraits.

For more information, contact Tom Yeager at (908) 322-5438.



SUPERSTAR...Mary Magdalene (Chloe Zeitounian) comforts Jesus (Nick Williams) in the Westfield High School spring musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* opening today, March 2, and running Friday and Saturday at the Westfield High School auditorium, 550 Dorian Road. Tickets are reserved seating for all performances and may be purchased at the door.