



THOMAS EDISON  
STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

# Totally HOT Gala







*Touch the  
children of today...*

*Touch the  
leaders of tomorrow.*

*Johnson & Johnson*

# THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## ★ *Totally Hot* ★ Gala

SEPT. 26, 1998  
PRINCETON HYATT REGENCY

### WELCOME

Maria P. Imbalzano, Co-chair

### SPIRIT OF EDISON AWARDS

Nicholas L. Carnevale  
Chairman of the Foundation Board

### RECIPIENT RESPONSES

Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir '84  
Rita A. Novitt  
Dr. Suren N. Sehgal

### CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. George A. Pruitt  
President  
Thomas Edison State College

DINNER AND DANCING TO THE SOUND OF TOTALLY HOT

SILENT AUCTION



# Totally Hot Gala COMMITTEE

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Paula Vaughan



Dear Friends:

Tonight is a special occasion for all of us. Your attendance is a warm display of support for Thomas Edison and it is our privilege, as co-chairs of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's 1998 Gala, to welcome you.

This year, we will present three Spirit of Edison Awards. We will present two awards to outstanding individuals from the business and college communities and a special third award to a member of the Thomas Edison State College "family." The Spirit of Edison Awards recognize a national business leader and a graduate of Thomas Edison State College whose creativity and entrepreneurial accomplishments have had profound effects on the quality of life. We know you will join us in congratulating Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir, a counselor and psychologist, and Dr. Suren N. Sehgal, a research pharmacologist and immunologist. The special Family of Edison Award will be presented to Rita A. Novitt, a member of the College "family" for over 17 years. It is Rita's dedication to higher education and her advocacy for Thomas Edison State College and its Boards that has garnered her this special recognition.

Our annual Gala has earned a reputation as one of the most festive and enjoyable social events in the region. As you revel with friends and associates, please take a moment to reflect on the powerful work this unique College is doing to help adults around the globe create their own programs for success. And, like its namesake, Thomas Alva Edison, the College continues to search for new and inventive ways to meet the needs of its adult students.

Thank you for sharing tonight with us. Have a Totally Hot time!

Warmest Regards,

Maria Imbalzano, Esq.  
Co-chair  
1998 Gala Committee

Margaret Hoisington  
Co-chair  
1998 Gala Committee



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Dear Friends:

As chairman of the Board of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the Foundation's commitment to further the College's mission as an institution of higher education. We, as Board members, have pledged to serve as advocates for the College and the Foundation by communicating the Thomas Edison message of quality and service to colleagues and acquaintances and assisting in securing the resources necessary to meet revenue goals.

Thomas Edison State College brings the highest quality education to adults who have the inspiration, self-discipline and energy to complete degrees despite the many conflicting demands of career, family and community. I urge you all—educators, community leaders, students, alumni, colleagues and friends—to join with us as we take Thomas Edison into the future. We need your commitment of support as the College positions itself to meet the many new and exciting challenges ahead.

On behalf of the entire Thomas Edison community, thank you for your generosity in supporting our Annual Gala. As always, a special thank you to the Foundation Gala Co-Chairs and their dedicated committee for making this event possible.

I hope you have a wonderful evening.

Respectfully,

Nicholas L. Carnevale  
Chairman  
Thomas Edison State College Foundation



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Dear Friends of Thomas Edison State College:

I would like to extend greetings and a heartfelt welcome as you join us for our Seventh Annual Gala. It is the continued support of individuals like you that helps make this College the leader in higher education that it is today. The first order of business at the Foundation Gala is to enjoy yourself and all the festivities.

It is with great pleasure that I extend a special welcome to our three distinguished Spirit of Edison Award winners. Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir '84 and Dr. Suren N. Sehgal are individuals who embody the commitment to innovation, concern for the public good and the spirit of excellence associated with Thomas Alva Edison and the mission of the College. Our third recipient is a truly remarkable woman who has been part of the Thomas Edison State College community for over 17 years. This year we will honor Rita A. Novitt with a special Spirit Award—the Family of Edison Award—with deep appreciation and gratitude for her exemplary service to the College over the years. Rita's unfailing dedication to Thomas Edison State College and her exemplary service to its Boards are the true measure of ispirit for which the award was designed.

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight two of the exciting initiatives at the College. With support from the foundation this year, Thomas Edison will be the first higher education institution to develop a new combination of Internet and multimedia CD-ROM technology in a distance learning course. The technology will provide audio and full-motion video in an interactive environment. Further, the \$12.7 million expansion and renovation of the Thomas Edison State College campus, which will include electronic classrooms, computer labs and educational conference and training rooms, is scheduled for completion in 1999. This facility comprises five 19th century townhouses which are being restored to their original architectural style. When completed, the complex will double the College's existing space.

For 26 years, Thomas Edison has offered quality education to people from all walks of life. I know I can count on you to join me in advancing the mission of Thomas Edison State College. Your partnership in supporting us is vital to the future of this institution and the adult learners we serve.

Thank you for joining us and best wishes for a terrific time this evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt".

George A. Pruitt  
President  
Thomas Edison State College



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# Totally Hot Gala ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors and Thomas Edison State College gratefully acknowledge and thank each of you who participated in making Totally Hot a successful event:



Our sincere gratitude to our printing underwriters, the Sarnoff Corporation for printing the program journal and the Parker Communications Group for printing the invitations.



Thanks to our friends in the media who promoted the event through public service announcements, especially The Princeton Packet and The Times (Trenton).



Thanks to the many individuals and area businesses who provided gifts for the Silent Auction.



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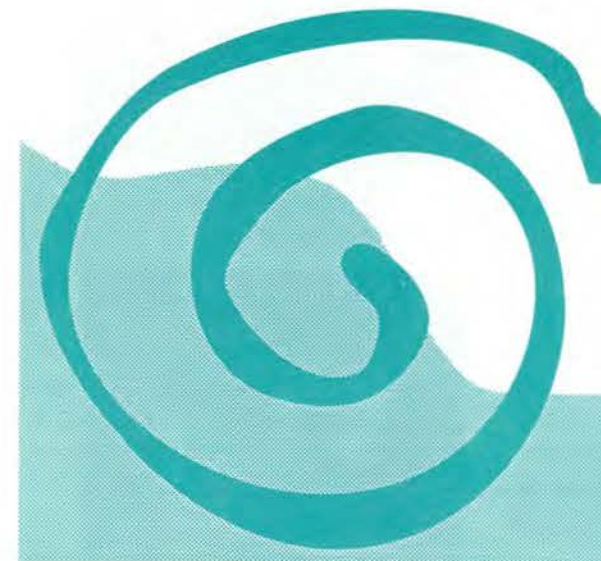


Thanks to Richard Kisco and The Princeton Flower Shop for the beautiful flower arrangements.



Thanks to Totally Hot for its musical sound!

Most importantly, many thanks to the Totally Hot Gala Committee who worked hard to make this event a success!





# EMBODYING THE SPIRIT OF EDISON

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is pleased to present the fifth annual Spirit of Edison awards. The prestigious Spirit of Edison awards are presented each year to recognize community leaders and alumni whose creativity, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit reflect the pioneering genius of Thomas Alva Edison.

Selected leaders must demonstrate that they embody the commitment to innovation, concern for public good and the spirit of excellence associated with the mission of Thomas Edison State College and its namesake. Recognition is given those who have made a difference at the local, national and international level, which is fitting, given the global nature of Thomas Edison's distance education programs.

Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir '84 will receive the Spirit of Edison Alumni Award and Dr. Suren N. Sehgal is the recipient of the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award. This year, we have the pleasure of presenting a special Spirit of Edison Family Award to a longtime friend and advocate of Thomas Edison State College, Ms. Rita A. Novitt. (See recipient biographies on the pages that follow.)

## Spirit of Edison Awards Criteria

- \* Adherence to a high standard of excellence, innovation and imagination in their careers;
- \* Dedication to humanitarianism and to serving the public good;
- \* Devotion to the ideals of self-discipline, hard work and persistence in the pursuit of excellence;
- \* Enthusiasm for the improvement of our quality of life through the continued availability of higher education for adults; and
- \* Distinguished service at the community, national or international level.

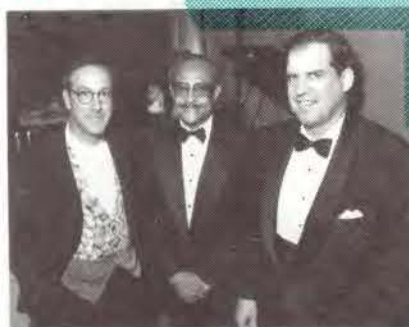
### Previous Recipients



**1997** John J. Heldrich  
The Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez  
Howard E. Butt '95



**1996** Paula Vaughan '90  
Richard J. Gillespie



**1995** Steven deSouza '76  
James Kilgore



**1994** John P. Neary  
Frank Z. Hawrylo '79



Rita A. Novitt

Rita A. Novitt will be honored tonight with a special Spirit of Edison Award—the Family of Edison Award. A strong supporter of higher education in general, Rita's unfailing dedication to Thomas Edison State College and her exemplary service to its Boards are the true measure of "spirit" for which the award was designed.

A member of the College "family" for over 17 years, Rita has served on the College's Foundation Board of Directors since 1990. She served for 10 years as a member of the Board of Trustees, during which period the Board appointed Dr. George Pruitt as the College's third president. It was, however, her enthusiastic "spirit" for Thomas Edison State College that has enabled her to engage board members to actively create very spectacular events over the years.

Rita provided the leadership for the College's 20th Anniversary and 25th Anniversary galas, and for Dr. Pruitt's 10th Anniversary Celebration at the Camden Aquarium. She contributed tirelessly to the College's history project on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. She even visited with Thomas Edison State College alumni around the country while on personal vacations. Most recently, she met with alumni in Santa Fe, N.M.

In addition to her Thomas Edison activities, Rita's dedication to higher education includes her association with Douglass College. She is the president of the Middlesex County Alumnae Association of Douglass College, Rutgers University, and the vice president of the Douglass College Alumnae Association. She served as the chairperson of Douglass College's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Among her many other activities, Rita is on the executive committees of the Board of Directors of the United Way and the Board of Directors, George Washington Council, Boy Scouts of America. She is on the Board of Trustees of the New Brunswick Cultural Center and State Theater Operating Committee. This

type of dedication has garnered her much recognition. In 1989, she was inducted into the Douglass Honor Society, Douglass College, Rutgers University, in recognition of Career and Community Development. She received the Distinguished Service Award from Thomas Edison State College in 1990. Rita has been featured in Who's Who of American Women.

A retired executive with Johnson & Johnson, Rita is a consultant for W. K. Kellogg Foundation Review Team for the National Fellowship Program. She lives in Princeton, N.J.





## RABBI DR. MARC JORDAN BEN-MEIR '84



Despite learning disabilities that forced him to drop out of high school, Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir has demonstrated perseverance and persistence which has garnered him four college degrees, a number of licenses and certifications and ordination as a rabbi. He turned his knowledge into a distinguished career as a counselor and psychologist serving individuals in need of help, including parolees, and battered women and children. It is his dedication to serving the public good and his devotion to improving the quality of life that has precipitated his selection as tonight's alumni recipient of the Spirit of Edison Award.

Marc, who has dyslexia, dropped out of high school in 1963. He completed a vocational diploma in 1965, and, after serving in the U.S. Army

for four years, wandered around Europe for nine months. He finally settled in Israel and stayed there until 1973. While learning Hebrew, Marc overcame his dyslexia and started to read voraciously.

When he returned to the states, Marc re-entered the army. Studying evenings while working full time as an Army recruiter, Marc completed an associate's degree and graduated from Thomas Edison State College in 1984 with his B.A. Marc went on to complete his M.A. (cum laude) in Organizational Behavior and his Ph.D. in Organizational Psychology. His published dissertation on criminal behavior is used in many prisons in Texas.

Owner and operator of the Springhaven Clinic in Fort Worth, Texas, Marc is licensed as a chemical dependency counselor and social worker associate, and is certified in such areas as clinical hypnotherapy and addictions counseling.

Among his many honors and awards, Marc is a published poet. He was the American Poetry Association's "Poet of the Year" in 1989 and was honored "Poet Laureate" by the National Library of Poetry in 1996.

Marc has accumulated four college degrees, licenses, certifications and other assorted honors, yet he still wears his Thomas Edison State College class ring. He and his wife, Tina, live in North Richland Hills, Texas. They are the parents of five children.

Combining a career as a research pharmacologist and immunologist for one of the world's leading research companies with a record of leadership and commitment to public health and wellness makes Dr. Suren N. Sehgal a natural choice for the Spirit of Edison Award.

A world authority on immunosuppression therapy for patients receiving human organ transplants, Suren is a Distinguished Research Fellow for Wyeth-Ayerst Research, a Division of American Home Products Corporation. Suren obtained his B.Pharm and M.Pharm from Banaras University in Banaras, India, in 1953, and his Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from Bristol University in Bristol, England, in 1958. Suren did his postdoctoral fellowship at the National Research Council of Canada, after which, he joined Ayerst Research Laboratories in Montreal, Canada. He moved to Princeton, N.J., with Ayerst Research as associate director of Immunology. In 1987, following the merger of Ayerst Research and Wyeth Laboratories, Suren was promoted to senior research fellow of the new Wyeth-Ayerst

## DR. SUREN N. SEHGAL



Research organization. He was promoted to his present position in 1995.

Suren is the recipient of several awards for his work on drug discovery and development. In 1990, Suren received the Wyeth-Ayerst Discovery and Development Award. He received the Exceptional Achievement Award in 1993 and the Wyeth Clinical Recognition Award in 1995. In 1997, Suren was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Indian Society of Organ Transplantation and was elected to the fellowship of American Academy of Microbiology.

Suren's seminal contribution is the discovery and development of a new drug that blocks the rejection of transplanted organs. The drug, Rapamune® (sirolimus), is in the last phase of clinical studies and holds the promise of better quality of life for the transplant recipients.

Among his many other activities, Suren is a member of the International Consensus Panel on Immunosuppressive Drugs, the Transplantation Society, the American Society for Microbiology and the Society for Industrial Microbiology. He also is a reviewer for Transplantation: Journal of Transplantation Society and a section editor for Principles of Drug Development in Transplantation and Autoimmunity, R. G. Landers, 1996. Suren has numerous publications and articles in his field and is a much-sought-after lecturer on the subject.

Suren and his wife, Uma, live in Princeton. They are the parents of two children, and have five grandchildren.



# THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

## ★ Making Dreams Come True

Thomas Edison State College, one of New Jersey's premier educational institutions, affords students the flexibility to receive the education they want and the opportunity to follow their dreams. Cited as "one of the brighter stars of higher learning" by *The New York Times* and named one of the Top 20 Cyber-Universities by *Forbes* magazine, Thomas Edison State College provides adults from every state and more than 90 countries with a wide variety of ways to complete a quality degree. The College offers associate, bachelor's and master's degrees exclusively to adults, wherever they live and work. With 120 areas of study and 12 degrees, the college provides adults with a personalized path to a college degree and enables organizations to upgrade and enhance the educational stature of their employees.

Since its founding in 1972, Thomas Edison State College has partnered with state and national corporations to provide access to world-class learning. Companies such as AT&T and PSE&G have found in Thomas Edison a true partner in progress.

"AT&T and Thomas Edison State College have a strategic partnership on support of both undergraduate and graduate degrees," said Robert DeCarlo, general manager of middle markets for AT&T.

"Thomas Edison State College is an institution with very talented, creative, innovative people who are cost-conscious in supporting employees pursuing either graduate or undergraduate degrees," added DeCarlo. Thomas Edison works in tandem with more than 100 companies to evaluate corporate courses and to provide a college education to employees without disrupting their personal or professional lives. Through Corporate College Programs, Thomas Edison has cultivated corporate clients since 1983. Working through the Office of Corporate-Higher Education Programs and in conjunction with American Council on Education (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service, businesses are able to document the credit value of inservice programs, create tailored programs to meet employees' needs and accommodate the changing winds of the corporate culture through education.



Working with experienced educators, Thomas Edison students earn degrees by documenting college-level knowledge gained through life experience and by completing guided independent study courses. This accredited public college is a leader in the assessment of adult learning and a pioneer in the use of educational technologies.

"Thomas Edison opened the doors of opportunity for me in a wide variety of areas," said Gregory Adkins, assistant commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and a Thomas Edison student. "Be it through Portfolio Assessment or independent study courses, the College offers a great variety of opportunities for individuals to demonstrate college-level proficiency they've acquired through their lives."

Helping students to achieve their goals has always been at the heart of the Thomas Edison State College mission. Distance & Independent Adult Learning (DIAL) options such as Guided Study courses, which can be taken at home; the On-Line Computer Classroom®, where students and faculty "meet" on the screens of their personal computers; and Contract Learning, independent study for those hard-to-find courses, bring the highest quality education to adults.

"I found Thomas Edison to be the perfect solution for my needs," said Paula Vaughan, vice president for change management with Prudential Insurance. Vaughan, a 1996 Spirit of Edison award winner, is president of the College's alumni association and a current student in Thomas Edison's on-line Master of Science in Management degree program. "I completed my undergraduate degree by taking independent study courses over a period of 10 months. Even though I spent many hours at work and had a long daily commute, Thomas Edison gave me the flexibility to study and take tests when I needed to. I feel very successful."

Thomas Edison State College has left its mark in other areas of academia, as well. The National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning, created in 1989 as the only national program dedicated to advancing the field of experiential learning, annually attracts an impressive group of educators from around the globe. Thomas Edison's Degree Pathways Program, created to meet the need for four-

year college services in the southern regions of New Jersey, has quickly spread throughout the state. This unique program offers two-year college graduates a seamless transfer to Thomas Edison's baccalaureate programs.

Thomas Edison not only leads the way in quality education for adult learners worldwide, but it also administers the New Jersey State Library, with which it became affiliated in 1996, and supports the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, which provides independent policy analysis and review to the public sector, nonprofit organizations and other clients. Furthermore, the College has partnered with the New Jersey Institute of Technology on HINT (Healthcare Information Networks and Technologies), a million-dollar study on using technology in the delivery of healthcare. HINT recommendations will result in streamlining and reducing healthcare administrative costs.

The depth of the College's accomplishment is a tribute to its staff and the leadership of three presidents. Dr. James Douglas Brown, Jr., the College's founding president, Dr. Lorraine R. Matusak (1978) and Dr. George A. Pruitt (1982). It is Dr. Pruitt who has not only charted the course, but also has steered the College toward the future. Honored by the Exxon Foundation as one of the nation's most effective college presidents, he was cited at the 1993 Thomas Edison State College Foundation Gala for outstanding service and unfailing dedication to the institution and its students.

Today, Thomas Edison State College's presence has expanded throughout the city and the state. The College's campus embraces the Kelsey Building at 101 W. State St., the Academic Center at 167 E. Hanover St. and the Kuser Mansion at 315 W. State St. Now, the renovations are nearing completion on the five historic townhouses adjacent to the Kelsey Building. The preservation of the 19th-century structures, with some of the nation's finest Greek Revival interiors, will enable the College to acquire 21st-century technology, from electronic classrooms and computer labs to a corporate-style education conference room and other facilities linking students and faculty at dozens of colleges throughout the country and around the world.

Thomas Edison State College, however, isn't contained by bricks and mortar. The College's reach is felt by all those who dare to turn the impossible dream of a college degree into reality. In the true spirit of inspiration and innovation, Thomas Edison State College will continue to reinvent the future of higher education.

*By Linda Soltis, college relations specialist in the College's Office of Communications & College Relations, with contributions from Cherbo Publications, whose book, New Jersey on the Eve of the 21st Century, will be published this fall.*



# Which professional services firm helps Thomas Edison State College make top grades?

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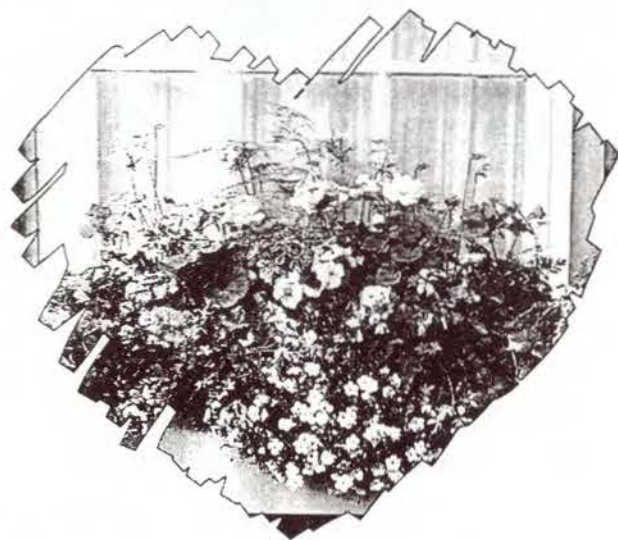
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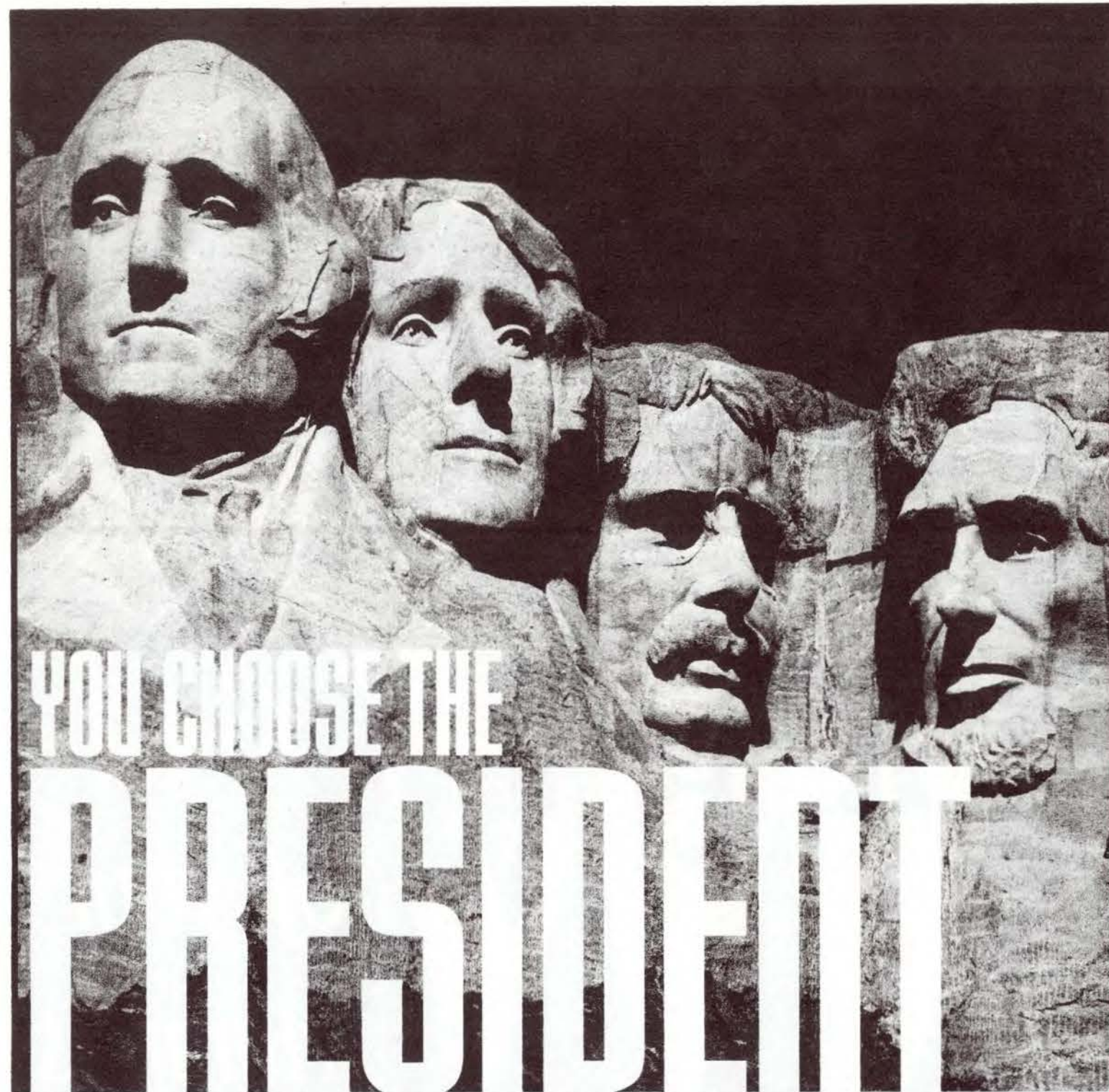
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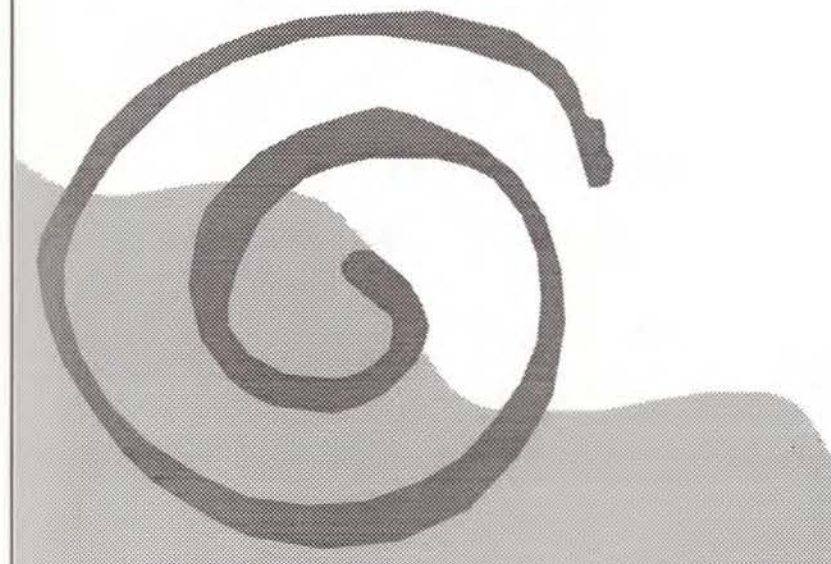


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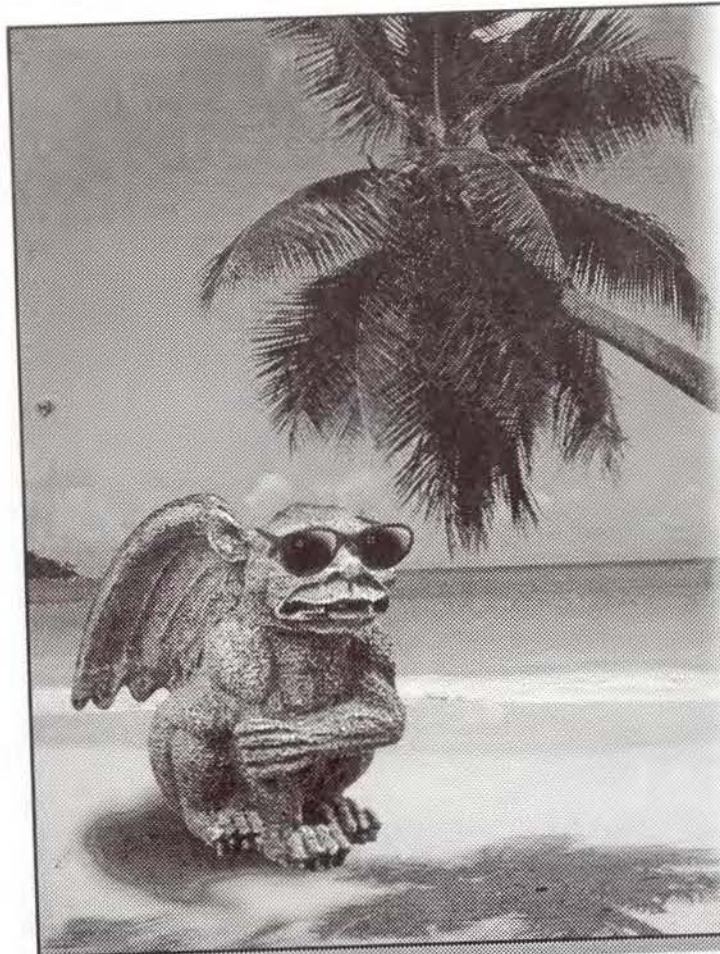


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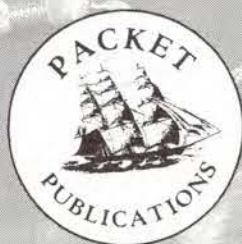


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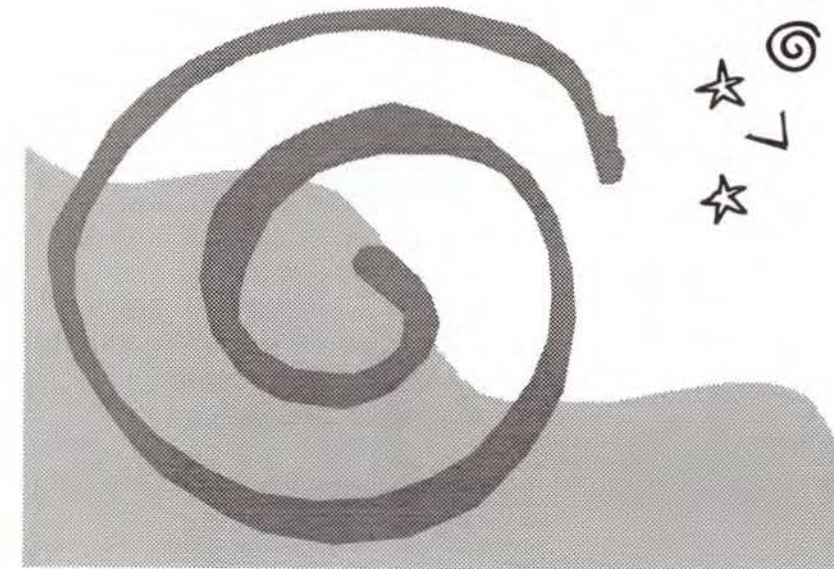
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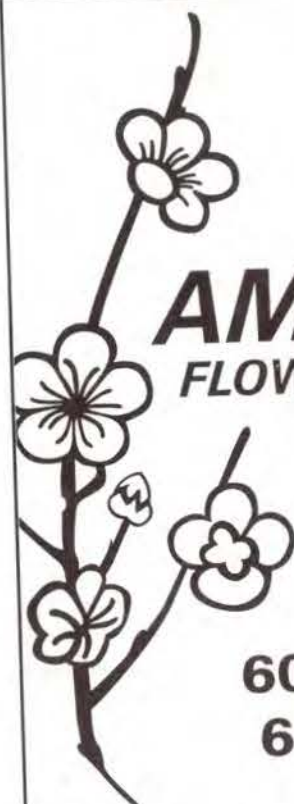
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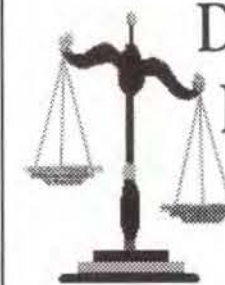
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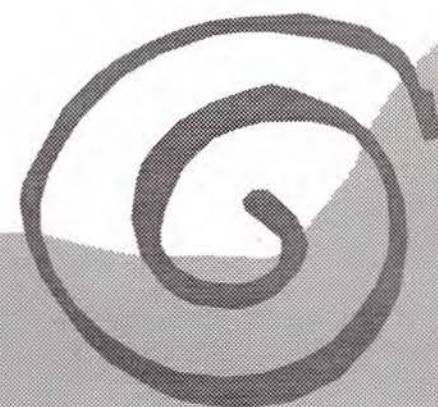
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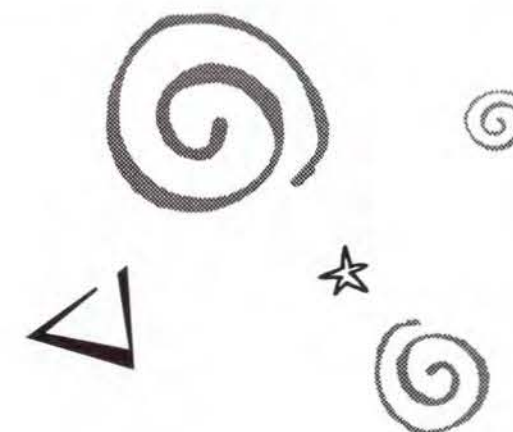
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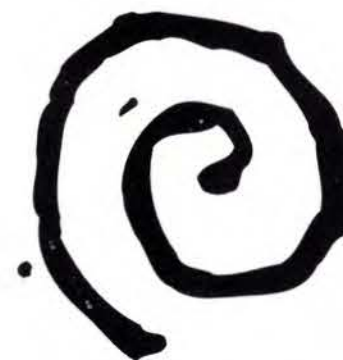




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