

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION



# The Grande Ball

*Trenton 2000*

Congratulations  
to

Maurice T. Perilli

on receipt of the  
Spirit of Edison  
Family Award



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THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

# The Grande Ball

## *Trenton 2000*

*Saturday,  
November 18, 2000*

*The War Memorial Building*

*Welcome*

S. John Quattrone, Gala Chair

*Greetings from the Foundation Chair*

John P. Neary

*Spirit of Edison Awards*

Maria P. Imbalzano

*Recipient Responses*

Eric Pennington '87  
Maurice Perilli  
Albert Stark

*Closing Remarks*

Dr. George A. Pruitt  
President  
Thomas Edison State College

*Cocktail Reception*

6:30-7:30 p.m.

*Silent Auction*

6:30-9:30 p.m.

*Dinner and Dancing to  
the Sound of Trilogy*

7:30-11:30 p.m.



# The Grande Ball *Trenton 2000*

## *Gala Committee*

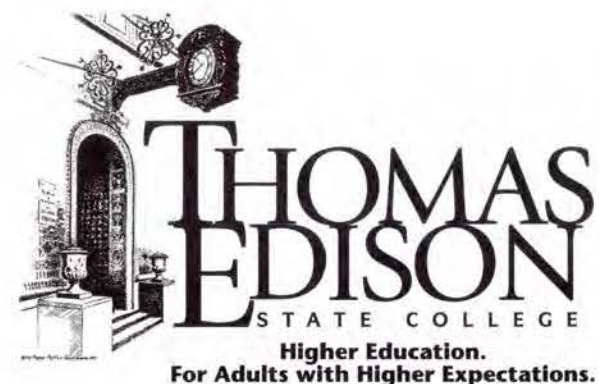
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### *Chair*

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Marjorie Carnevale  
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Evelyn Krosnick  
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Margaret T. Norton  
S. John Quattrone  
Christy Stephenson  
Diane Steadman  
John P. Thurber



Dear Friends:

On behalf of Dr. George Pruitt and my fellow Gala Committee members, I welcome you to the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's Gala, The Grande Ball – Trenton 2000. We are pleased and proud to hold our event, now in its ninth year, at the recently renovated War Memorial Building, a perfect setting in which to recognize our 2000 Spirit of Edison Award winners.

The Spirit of Edison Awards are presented each year to those whose outstanding professional achievements and community leadership have helped make a difference in the lives of all citizens. This year, we are pleased to present the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award to Albert Stark, Esq., a nationally recognized attorney, entrepreneur and community leader. We are also pleased to recognize Eric Pennington, Esq. '87, also an attorney and entrepreneur, as this year's outstanding alumnus. The Family of Edison Award will be presented to Maurice Perilli, a dear friend of ours and of the broader Trenton/Mercer community, whose longtime commitment to Thomas Edison State College has helped make the dream of a college education a reality for thousands of adults across the country.

As we participate in this annual celebration of outstanding achievement and enjoy the beauty and grandeur of the War Memorial, hopefully you will take a moment to reflect on the important work that Thomas Edison State College is doing to prepare adults for the future. Because of your continued support, the College is indeed an innovator in providing access to educational excellence to adult learners around the world.

Thank you for joining us this evening.

Sincerely,

S. John Quattrone, Chair  
2000 Gala Committee

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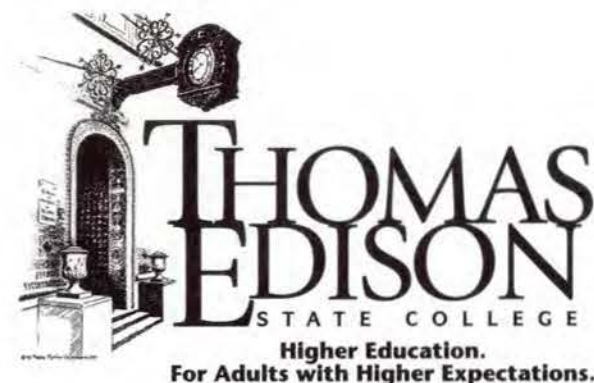
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Dear Friends:

Thank you for joining us at the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's ninth annual Gala. Each year, we gather together to celebrate Thomas Edison State College's role as a pioneer in higher education for adults. Your investment in the College continues to yield great returns for our students. For that, we are sincerely grateful.

The theme for our gala this year celebrates the remarkable rebirth we are experiencing in Trenton. The hotel conference center project being built not far from us is just the latest manifestation of the new vitality in our capital city. Thomas Edison State College has been actively involved as a partner with our community to restore Trenton's grandeur. The elegant restoration of the College's historic townhouses is a good example of the College's tangible involvement in the preservation of the city's architectural treasures. These townhouses are now a magnificent addition to the College's downtown campus. The College has made a commitment to support this community in numerous ways, and tonight we join in celebrating the progress that has been made through the work of so many.

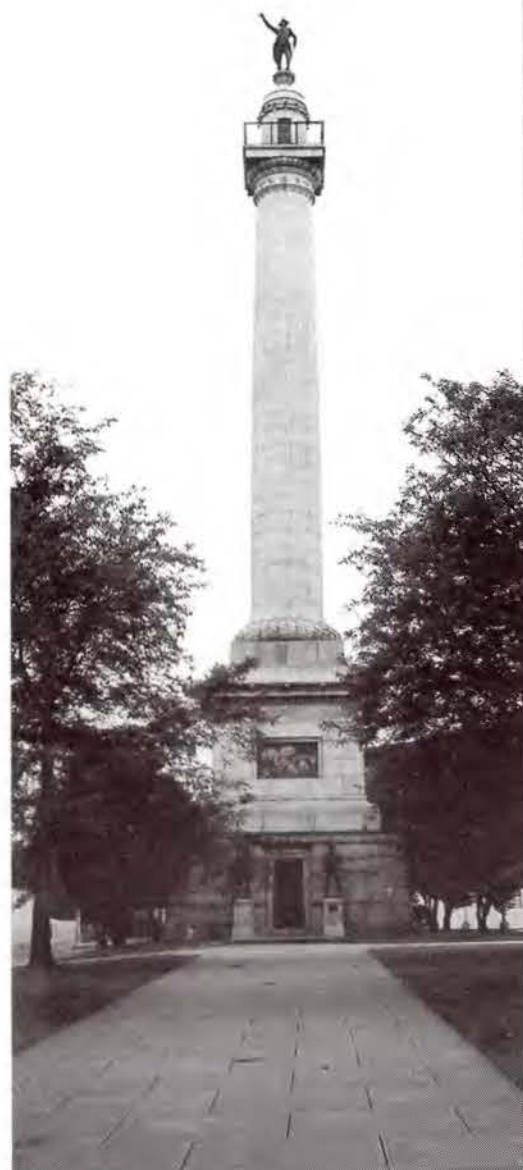
On behalf of the entire Thomas Edison State College family, thank you for your ongoing investment in the College and its work. We offer a special thanks to John Quattrone and the dedicated members of his committee for their hard work to make this event a success.

Sincerely,

John P. Neary, Chair  
Board of Directors  
Thomas Edison State College

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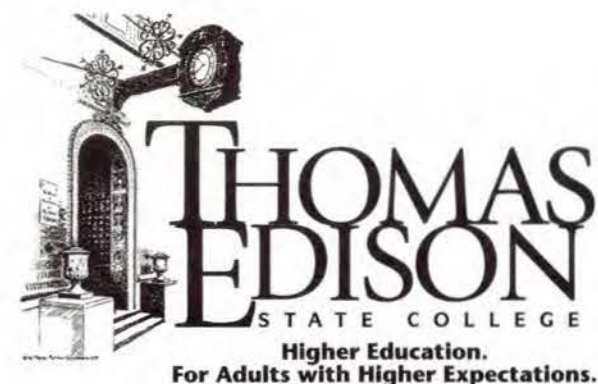
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Thomas Edison State College



Dear Friends of Thomas Edison State College:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to The Grande Ball – Trenton 2000, the ninth annual Gala hosted by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. Your support of this event helps the College fulfill its mission to provide access to quality higher education for adults that is both affordable and flexible. I thank you on behalf of the thousands of students and graduates whose lives are forever changed because of the opportunity that Thomas Edison State College provides.

This year we are privileged to honor three outstanding and committed individuals who have contributed greatly to our community. Their exemplary work in the business community and their dedication to promoting personal achievement is an inspiration to all of us. Albert Stark, Maurice Perilli and Eric Pennington '87 are indeed worthy of the Spirit of Edison Award, which acknowledges their roles as leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators, and which recognizes their desire to advance the dreams of others through involvement and investment in the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been another remarkable year for the College. We launched our Master of Arts in Professional Studies (MAPS) Program, a rigorous degree program presented entirely online to offer maximum flexibility for adult students. We enrolled a second class in September and will enroll yet another in January. We have also redesigned and reorganized our Web site in an effort to provide the most concise and up-to-date information about Thomas Edison State College for prospective and currently enrolled students, alumni and friends. We hope you will visit us online at [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu). We are very proud of these and other achievements, and we anticipate even greater accomplishments in the future.

Once again, I offer my sincere thanks to you for your continued support. Thomas Edison State College has been the preeminent institution for adult learners for nearly 30 years. Your investment in its future will provide rich opportunities not only for the residents of New Jersey, but also for adults around the world who value lifelong learning.

Thank you for joining us on this special night.

Warmest Regards,

George A. Pruitt  
President  
Thomas Edison State College

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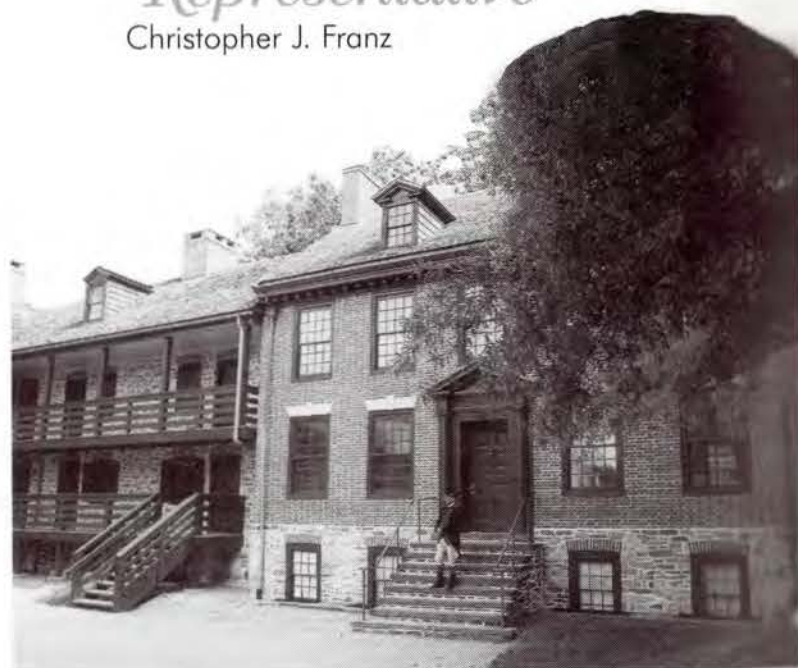
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Christopher J. Franz



## *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 "The Grande Ball-Trenton 2000" and Spirit of Edison Award Presentations a special and successful evening!*

*Thanks to the Sarnoff Corporation for printing the program journal.*

*Thanks to The Princeton Packet and The Times of Trenton for their public service announcements promoting the event.*

*Thanks to the staff of the Trenton War Memorial for helping us relive a grand era.*

*Thanks to the Ad Journal sponsors for the many warm wishes and support.*

*Thanks to our many friends and area businesses who provided gifts and services for the Silent Auction.*

*Thanks to the many corporate sponsors and individuals who attended and supported this event and our honorees.*

*Thanks to Jimmy Duffy's Catering for providing the sumptuous meal.*

*Thanks to Richard Kisco and Le Fleur, Inc. for the wonderful decorations.*

*Thanks to Trilogy for providing the music tonight.*

*Many, many thanks to  
"The Grande Ball-Trenton 2000" Committee for  
their time and effort spent on this event!*



# Embodying the Spirit of Edison

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is pleased to present the sixth annual Spirit of Edison awards. The prestigious Spirit of Edison awards are bestowed 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 to those who have made a difference at the local, national and international level, which is fitting, given the global nature of Thomas Edison State College's distance education programs.

A special category, the Spirit of Edison Family award, is occasionally awarded to a friend of the College who demonstrates outstanding service and dedication on behalf of Thomas Edison State College.

**Eric Pennington '87** will receive the Spirit of Edison Alumni Award, **Albert Stark** will receive the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award, and **Maurice Perilli** will receive the Spirit of Edison Family Award. (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.



1994  
John P. Neary  
Frank Z. Hawrylo '79



1996  
Paula Vaughan '90  
Richard J. Gillespie



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



1998  
Dr. Suren N. Sehgal  
Rita A. Novitt  
Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir '84



1999  
John J. McCann  
Alfred E. Mann  
Nicholas L. Carnevale

## Previous Recipients



Eric S. Pennington, attorney and partner at Hand, Little, Pennington & Codrington, has more than 20 years of experience in law and management. It is his remarkable record of commitment to the community through public service and his devotion to improving the quality of life through higher education that has precipitated his selection as tonight's alumni recipient of the Spirit of Edison Award.

Eric began his career with New Jersey Bell/Bell Atlantic (now Verizon) in 1979 and worked his way up to assistant manager of Interexchange Services. During that time, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Thomas Edison State College and went on

## Eric Pennington '87

to Rutgers School of Law in Newark, N.J., completing his J.D. in 1992.

Eric launched his law career with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York in 1992 as an associate in the corporate department. A year later, Eric served as a law clerk for The Honorable Robert N. Wilentz, chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. In 1994, he worked as a law clerk for The Honorable Damon J. Keith with the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Detroit, Mich. Eric returned to Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in 1995 as an associate in the litigation department for two years and then joined Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Giffinger & Vecchione as an associate in the Labor and Employment Group.

A partner with Hand, Little, Pennington & Codrington since November 1999, Eric currently concentrates in employment discrimination and civil litigation. He is admitted to practice in the State Courts

of New Jersey and New York; the United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York; the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey; and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Among his many community activities, Eric is a board member of Family Connections in Orange, N.J. and the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and a grader for the New Jersey Board of Bar Examiners. Eric has also served as a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Ethics Committee, the Newark Advisory Board of Education, the Newark Zoning Board of Adjustments and the Newark City Council Education Committee.

Eric and his wife of 17 years, Ellen, live in Newark, N.J. with their 7-year-old daughter Imani.



## Maurice Perilli

Foundation board and its projects over the years. Maurice also has provided leadership on the Foundation's nominating committee.

Among his many civic activities, Maurice has served as a member and vice chairman of the Hamilton Township Planning Board; member and chairman of the Hamilton Township Zoning Board; director of the Hamilton Township Engineering Department; and police commissioner and mayor of Hamilton Township. He is the former chairman of the Board of Trustees of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton and a current board member; a member of the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Area YMCA; a trustee for Trenton Business Assistance Corporation and a member of the Mercer County Unit of the American Cancer Society.

Maurice T. Perilli will be honored tonight with a special Spirit of Edison Award—the Family of Edison Award. A strong supporter of higher education, Maurice's unfailing dedication to Thomas Edison State College and his exemplary service to its Board are the true measure of "spirit" for which the award was designed.

A member of the Thomas Edison State College "family" for more than seven years, Maurice has served on the College's Foundation Board of Directors since 1993. It is his unwavering "spirit" for Thomas Edison State College that has enabled him to foster support for the

Currently the chairman of the Board of Roma Federal Savings Bank, Maurice's banking career spans two decades. He also has 40 years of printing and publishing experience. Maurice is the former owner and publisher of *La Nuova Capitale*, an Italian language newspaper, for 15 years and was part owner of *The Mercer Messenger* from 1964 through 1980.

Born in Trenton, Maurice now resides in Hamilton with his wife, Josephine B. Perilli. They are the parents of four grown sons, Maurice T., Jr., who is married to Carol; John who is married to Candy; Robert who is married to Sarina; and Richard. They have seven grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

## Albert Stark

This year's Spirit of Edison Award recipient from the business community has a distinguished career in law with a remarkable record of commitment to the community and public service. Albert M. Stark, shareholder, Stark & Stark, has more than 37 years of experience in the legal process.

A member of Stark & Stark since 1964, Albert practices in the Personal Injury Group. He concentrates on seriously injured clients, many of whom have suffered severe brain injuries.

Albert is a member of the Mercer County, New Jersey State and American Bar Associations as well as the Association for Trial Lawyers of America and the Mercer County Estate Planning Council. He has been qualified as an arbitrator with the United States District Court, District of New Jersey since 1985, and has been designated a Certified Civil Trial Attorney by the Supreme Court of New

Jersey, Board on Trial Attorney Certification. Prior to joining Stark & Stark, he was an assistant to the governor. Albert has also served as assistant city attorney and assistant county prosecuting attorney.

Albert received a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in political science, from Dartmouth College in 1960 and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1963. He was the host of "Law Line..." on WHWH for which he received the First Prize Media Award of the New Jersey State Bar Association for radio broadcasting. He is the host of "In the Public Interest" on WIMG radio, a program that presents topics of current importance to the community and has appeared as a Comcast Newsmaker. He has written extensively in the areas of the brain injured client, pro bono work and other legal issues.

Albert lives with his family in Princeton, N.J.



## THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

# Higher Education for Adults with Higher Expectations

Thomas Edison State College, one of America's preeminent educational institutions, provides adults with access to the best choices in higher education. Identified by *Forbes* magazine as one of the top 20 colleges and universities in the nation in the use of technology to create learning opportunities for adults, this accredited public college is a national leader in the assessment of adult learning and a pioneer in the use of educational technologies. Recognized as "one of the brighter stars of higher learning" by *The New York Times*, Thomas Edison State College is higher education for adults with higher expectations.

The College offers 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. Founded in 1972, this world-renowned institution offers 15 associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees in more than 100 major areas of study. Thomas Edison State College provides adults from every state and 79 nations with a wide variety of ways to complete a quality degree.

Accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Thomas Edison State

College offers a distinguished academic program for the self-motivated adult learner. Students of Thomas Edison State College pursue degrees through a variety of rigorous academic methods, including documenting college-level knowledge they may already have as well as by completing independent study courses, Thomas Edison State College courses and examinations. Students may also earn college credit for learning acquired through military or corporate education programs, classroom courses at other accredited colleges and other high-quality credit-earning options designed for today's busy adult.

This year the College has officially established its second online master's degree program, the Master of Arts in Professional Studies (MAPS). In the MAPS program, students use methods and ideas drawn from the study of the liberal arts to examine and address real-life issues confronting working professionals. The MAPS program joins the College's Master of Science in Management program, a highly sought-after online degree that has been available since 1996.

In August the College launched an upgraded and totally redesigned Web site that offers prospective students, current students as well as alumni and friends

a plethora of information pertaining to each group. There are numerous enhancements, tools and information available on the new site including a tuition and fees calculator, which allows a potential student to assess the approximate cost of completing a degree; dedicated pages to military service members and community college students, which outlines the benefits of the College's Military Degree Completion Program and Degree Pathways Program; directions to all College facilities; financial aid information; and expanded alumni and donor information. The College can be found on the Web at [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu).

Helping students to achieve their goals has always been at the heart of the Thomas Edison State College mission. The Center for Distance & Independent Adult Learning (DIAL) options such as Guided Study courses, which can be taken at home; online courses, 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.

For maximum flexibility and convenience, Thomas Edison State College 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 the Office of Corporate-Higher Education Programs, Thomas Edison State College has assisted corporate clients since 1983. Working in conjunction with the 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 with the help of Thomas Edison State College.

The 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 and practitioners from around the globe.

Thomas Edison State College's Degree Pathways Program allows community and junior college students to complete a baccalaureate degree without leaving their home counties and is available to every associate degree graduate from all New Jersey county and community colleges. This unique program offers two-year college graduates a seamless transfer to Thomas Edison State College's baccalaureate programs. Thomas Edison State College also has a partnership with Edison Community College in Fort

Myers, Fla., and is in the process of developing other educational alliances around the country.

The College's Military Degree Completion Program accommodates the special needs of military personnel whose location, re-location and time constraints make traditional college attendance difficult. The program allows students to pursue a college degree wherever they may be stationed. Thomas Edison State College is ideal for service-members who desire to use innovative instructional approaches rather than classroom-based courses.

Thomas Edison State College 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 is home to 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 the use of technology in the healthcare field. HINT recommendations have resulted in streamlined and reduced healthcare administrative costs.

Although governed by an appointed board of overseers, the College is host and home for two active outstanding volunteer leadership boards. The Thomas Edison State College Foundation serves as the primary fundraising and advocacy arm of the College and the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association is a vehicle for alumni advocacy, leadership and support. Each of these boards provide important business, civic and community promotion and resources for the College's programs and activities.

The depth of the College's accomplishment is a tribute to its staff and the leadership of three presidents. The late Dr. James Douglas Brown, Jr., the College's founding president (1972-1979), Dr. Lorraine R. Matusak (1979-1982) and Dr. George A. Pruitt (1982-present). A true visionary, Dr. Pruitt has not only charted the College's course, but also has steered the institution toward the 21st century. 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 state's capitol city of Trenton. 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. Renovations have recently been completed on 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, has 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 globe.

Thomas Edison State College takes great pride in helping so many adult learners achieve their educational goals. As the College continues to evolve and grow, it will constantly seek new and unprecedented ways to provide the highest quality education opportunities for its adult students.

# Corporate Acknowledgments

*The Thomas Edison State College Foundation and The 2000 Gala Committee extend deep gratitude to each of our sponsors whose early commitments (by journal press time!) helped to make this event a success.*

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*Again, we extend special thanks to Sarnoff Corporation for providing in-kind printing support of the gala program journal.*



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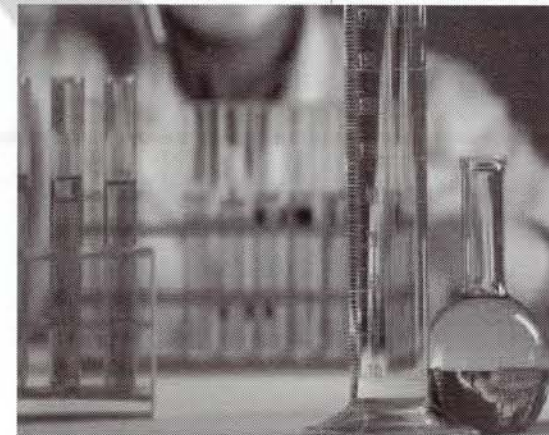
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Congratulations to the Spirit of Edison Award winners.



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and each of the recipients  
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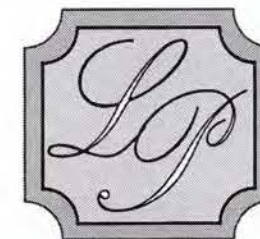
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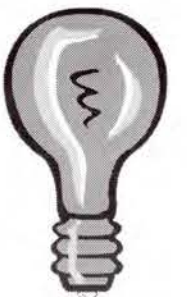


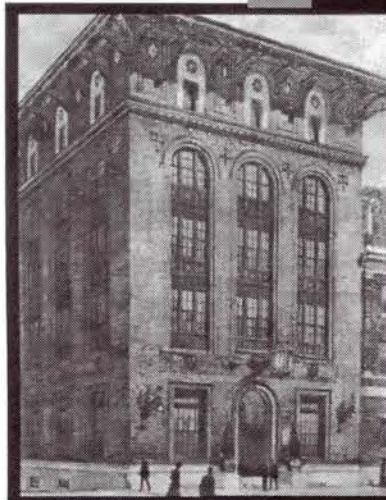
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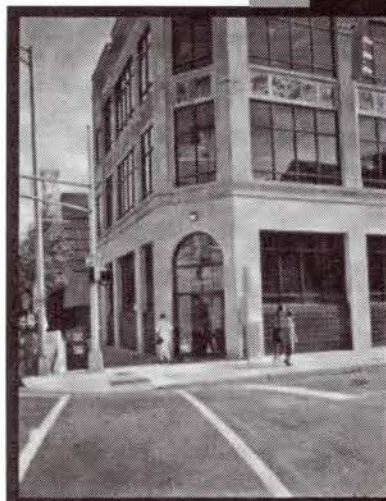
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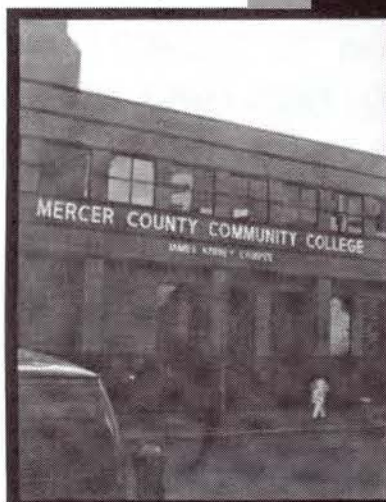
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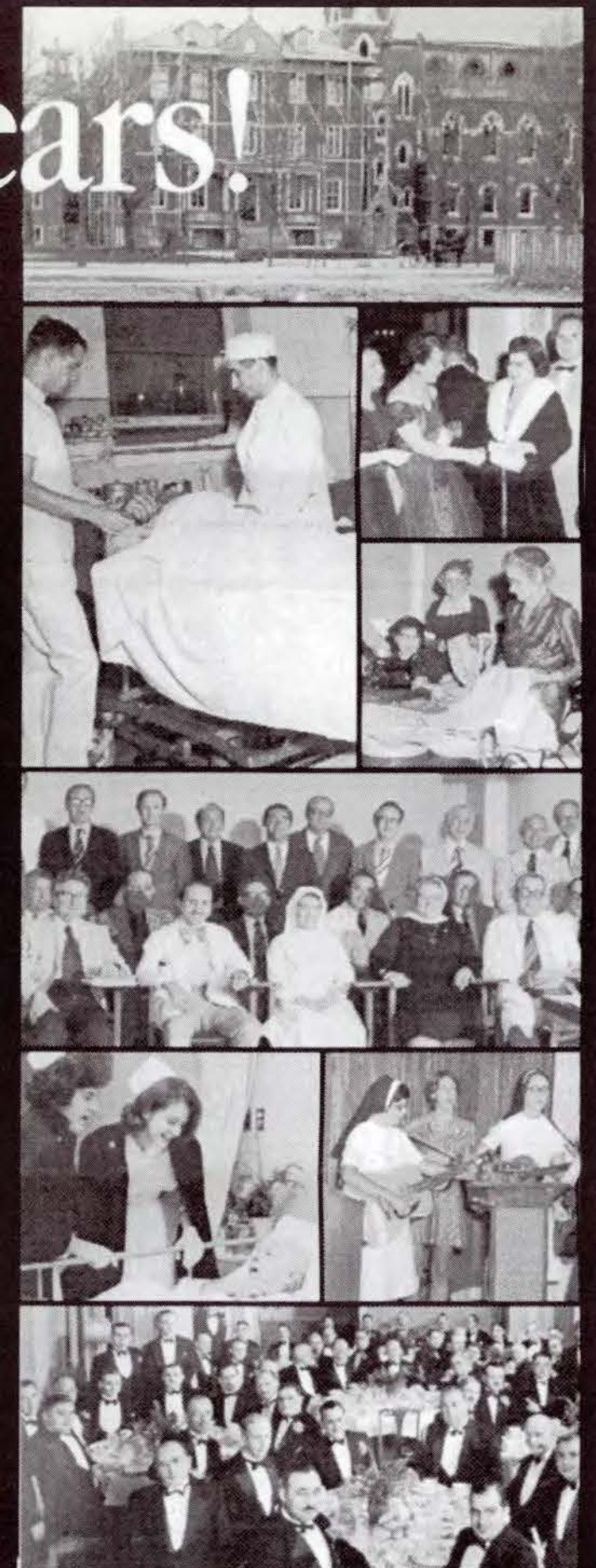
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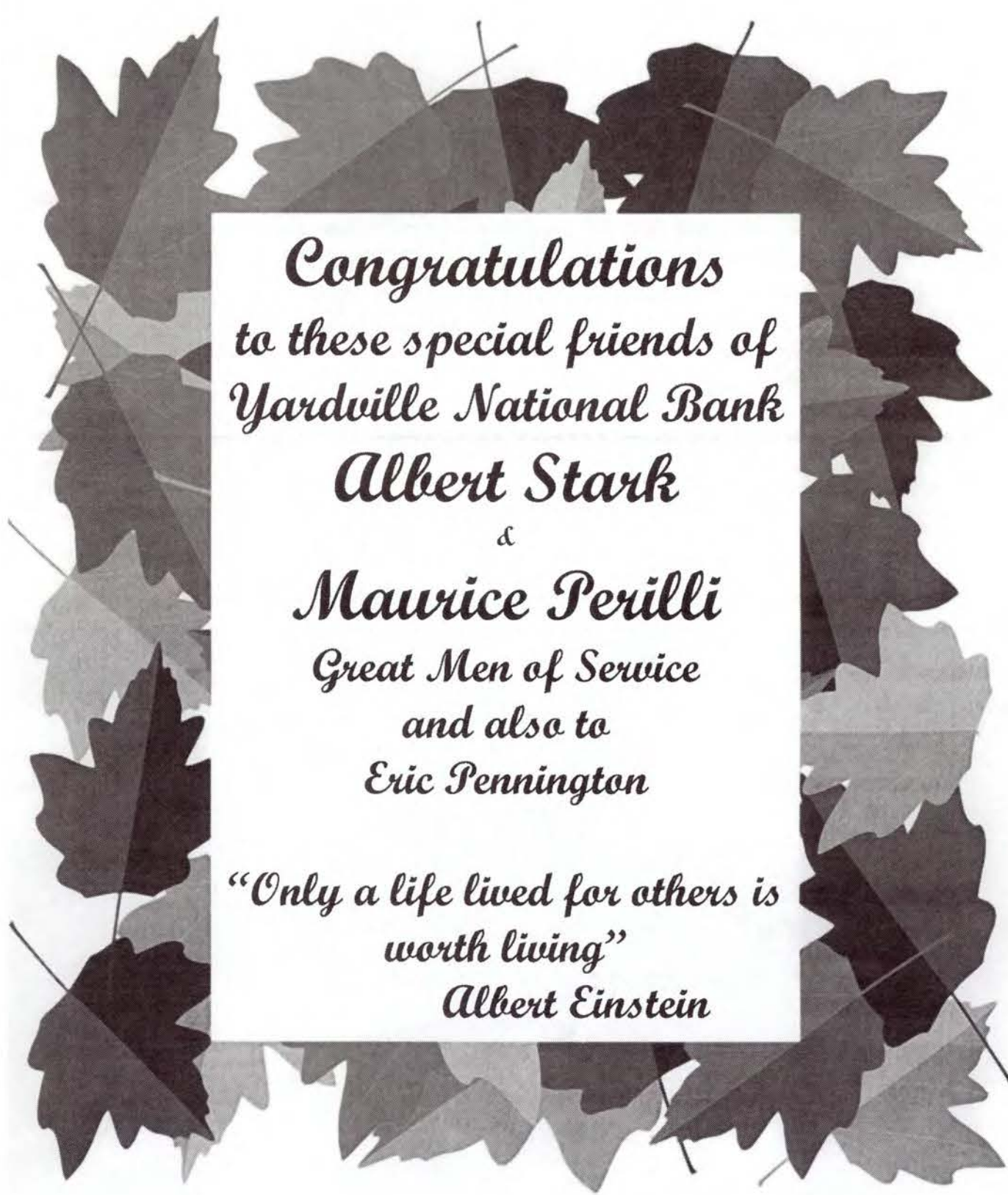


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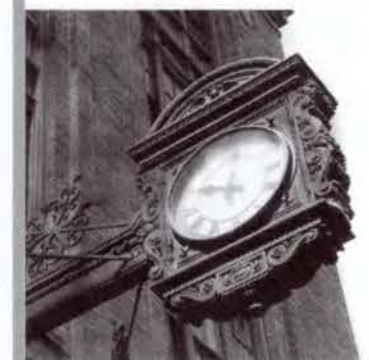
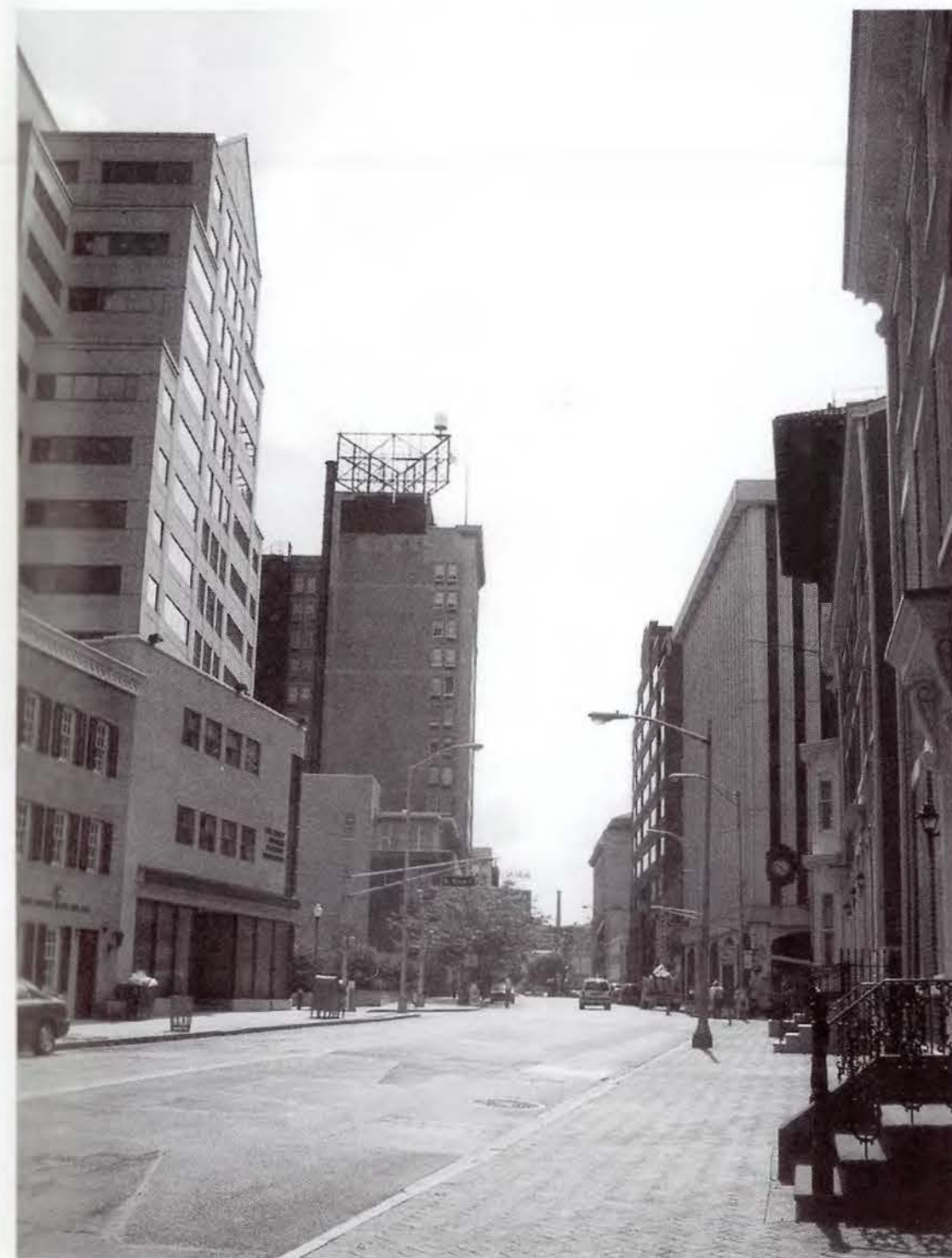
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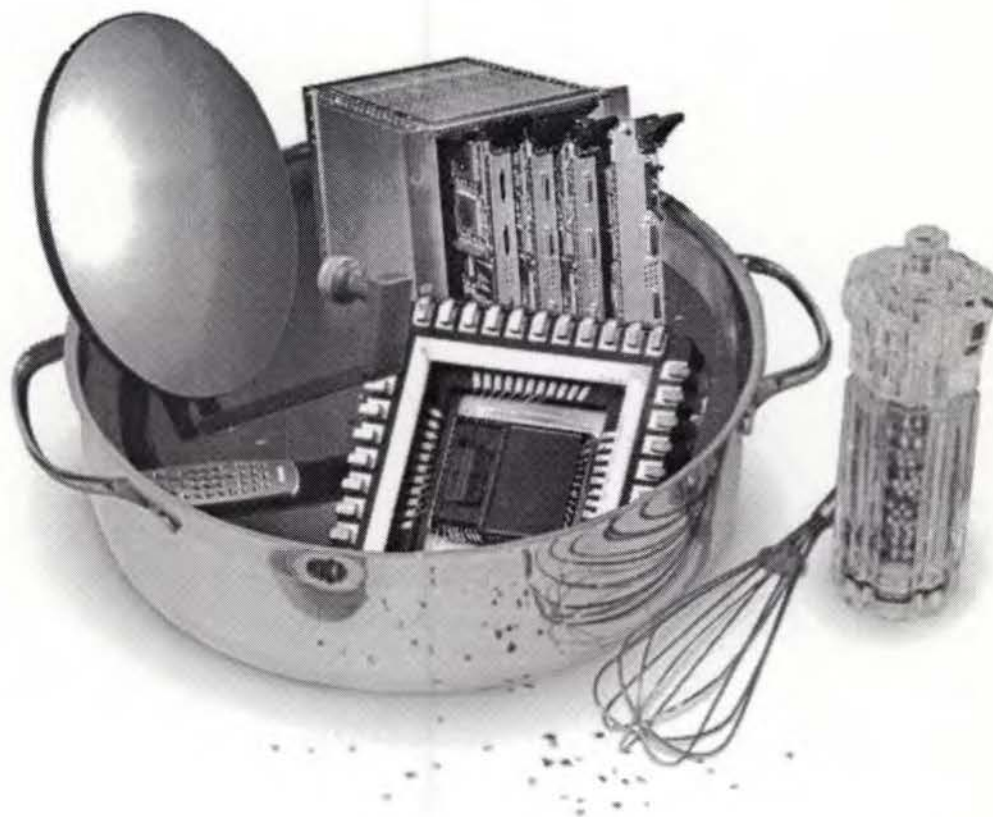
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