settle on Vioxx

NOVEMBER II, 2007

Neon lights

are out on

Stage and strike stifles

theaters in busiest season

TYLIGGY MCGLANE

Broadway stagehan moved from the theater

wings to picket lines yesteriny when their union called

strike during the New York theater industry's bust

Local 1 of the International Alliance of Theatrical

State Employees walked out vesterday morning

canceling matinee and evening performances of 27 of the 35 musicals and plays running on Troadway.

Bundled against the cold, the union members talked with frustrated ticketholders, many of WHAT'S OPEN ON THE GREAT WHITE WAY

Stole Christmas!" was scheduled to play four shows

- resolute picketers carried signs that read "Our

"New York is a tourist town. You shouldn't

cancel shows," said Scott Beck, who traveled with

his family from St. Petersburg, Fla. "Are they going

No new talks are scheduled, making a quick reso-

There were crying children outside the Lunt-Fon-

"The Little Mermaid' is one of my favorite

lution seem unlikely. The strike is the first to hit the

city's \$1 billion theater industry since 2003, when the

tanne Theatre, where "The Little Mermaid" was in

previews. Mary anna Antoldi sobbed in the arms of

her mother, Mary ann, who drove four hours from

[See BROADWAY, Page 13]

musicians' union picketed for four days.

their Eldersburg, Md., home to Manhattan.

Terror drills expose

Earle security flaws,

secret papers reveal

BY RON MARSICO

STAR-LEDGER STAFF

The Earle Naval Weapons Station, a Monmouth

County military base where munitions are loaded onto

warships destined for the Persian Gulf, posted a mix

of high and low marks during simulated terrorist attacks this summer, according to confidential base doc-

During a series of surprise drills conducted July

7-19, guards allowed two vehicles laden with fake ex-

An overall review of one day's tests concluded that

manpower levels were inadequate at some guard

posts, while an evaluation of another day's drills found

the base communications system failed to operate

properly, according to the documents. Additionally,

Six U.S. soldiers were killed in the insurgent-

[See EARLE, Page 17]

plosives onto the base, information obtained by The

Star-Ledger shows. Sailors and staff also did not respond properly after a fake weapon of mass destruction identified as either "chemical, nuclear, biological, radiological or explosive" was planted in an adminis-

uments and individuals familiar with the tests.

tration building, the papers revealed.

to refund us for our flights, hotel room and time?"

whom were angry about the short PAGE 13

notice of the strike. Outside the St. ---

est time of the year.

families are No. 1."

Sunday Star Ledger

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The con man and the convent:

A convoluted tale





CHOCKEN HONOR PLANTS SHE MONEY CONTRACTOR STATE At top, Richard Tagliamonte, left, with other inmates at Rikers Island. Above, Sister Catherine Grace walks on the grounds of the Melrose Convent in Brewster, N.Y., where Tagliamonte was a guest when he set up a series of elaborate scams.

Sisters never suspected they had taken in a smooth-talking swindler

postcard of peace and seclusion just 60 miles the convent door. from Manhattan on a lazy, winding country He wore a tailored suit, boasted of his days rich, the famous and the ordinary with the

ing sanctuary to church groups and others look- the friendly stranger with the sweet smile.

ing to pull back from the world.

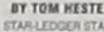
monte, a con man who stole identities of the

"Richard is a charmer," said Sister Cath-One calm November day seven years ago, a erine Grace. "He was very dear to us." Bordered by loose stone walls and rolling smiling, well-dressed man with glittering re- But the man who called himself Richard woodland, the Melrose Convent is a picture ferences and a gift for gab came knocking on Maldonado was actually Richard Taglia-

working for hotel queen Leona Helmsley, and siken aplomb of a master magician. Episcopal nuns have called it home the past carried a letter from a monsignor at St. Pat- And he managed to turn Melrose Convent 50 years, tending to two farmhouses and the rick's Cathedral. He said he wanted a quiet into his own private headquarters, pulling off gardens on a few bucolic acres near the village place to stay a few days a week in between a series of intricate and audacious scams

of Brewster, N.Y. They also run a retreat, offer- business trips to the city. The nuns took in aimed at some of the biggest names in the

Names of Jersey WWII vets still echo in France



It was a simple act of curiosity: A teacher ered. The discovery sparked the memories of peeled back the faded wallpaper in the attic town residents who had lived through the of a one-story schoolhouse in the French War, and inspired a group of citizens to form town of Kalhausen and uncovered traces of a the Historical Association of Kalhausen to dramatic period in World War II.

There on the cracked and yellowed plaster were names and dates, drawings and ton, N.J." The two-time Pulitzer musings - the graffiti left by dozens of "Bob Trout Vineland, N.J. 24 Dec. 1944," winner, a pugnacious jour- American soldiers who took shelter there wrote a 28-year-old signalman. More graffiti nalist, essayist and novelist during the bitter winter of 1944-45.

proclaims: "George Jackson Handel The soldiers, many of them from New Jer- Gloucester City, New Jersey." "Pete Monty sey, were members of the U.S. Army's 44th West New York, New Jersey, and "Leo Bru- Ray Lauinger spent the winter of Infantry, which was in the midst of vicious netti, Garneid, N.J., Jan. 28, 1945." fighting to push the German army back to "Ray Lauinger, Philly, MyK," was a with the 44th Infantry. the Rhine River.

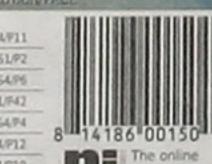
research and preserve the town's history. A 27-year-old medic signed the wall and underlined each word: "Steve Mayoski Clif-

1944-45 in Kalhausen, France,

infested eastern mountains near the Pakistan border, raising the U.S. toll to 101 this year, the deadliest since the invasion six years ago. Page 3.

IN OTHER NEWS

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COLLEGE of

THE SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER PAGE 16 SECTION ONE **ECHOES**

of his graffiti. "I do remembe who also signed that attle wall.

Iceman from Trenton, drew a de- for the troops in France in 1945. tailed sketch of the Kalhausen alliage center as seen from the Indiana and Michigan also left

they also carved their thoughts of sey men peppered its ranks. home. There is a heart plerced by Records indicate Trout, an arrow, backyard birds, a bri-dled horse head, and an organ grinder's monkey. One reads, at least 103 44th Infantry World Cpl. Morris Passarella Hope to War II veterans, all over age 80,

Brooklyn and the Bronx; from FRENCH CONNECTION



Ray Lauinger poses with actress

As the soldiers spent Christ- try traced its origin to the New mas and New Year's in the attic, Jersey National Guard, and Jer-

land in the province of Alsace Lor raine in eastern France, about I miles from the Rhine and the Ger In 1940, Kalhausen had 750 resi-

ents when Adolf Hitler claimed Alsace Lorraine for Germany and he town had to live under Nazi occupation until it was liberated by the Americans in December 1944. Lauinger served as a stretcher bearer, guard and telephone lines-

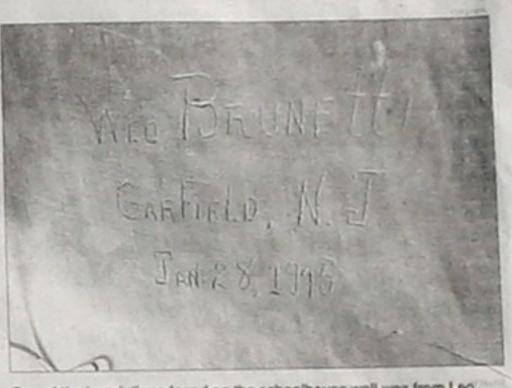
man and electrician as the 44th battled the Germans along a 30-mile front in the snow of what Lauinger recalled how he and Brunetti of Garfield. two soldiers paused to shake hands

Enristmes Day and were caught in drunk or drugged and compared the open by a German fighter the slaughter to Pickett's Charge at n the cockpit.

ghostlice white winter uniforms the floor below.



NOVEMBER II, 2007



winter recorded in the country. One of the inscriptions found on the schoolhouse wall was from Leo

the middle of a Kalhausen street They charged so recidensly, the to make the start of Americans speculated they were lane approaching at rooftop level. Gettysburg in 1863. When the fighthe veteran said he could see the ing was over, the outmanned wastica on the wings and the men Americans had repulsed 20 attacks.

In the five months that fol-"We would have been dead for lowed, the 44th Infantry became sure, but he didn't fire on us," the first American regiment to auinger said. "Tve always believed cross the Rhine, fighting its way was because it was Christmas through Germany and Austria. At

dubbed "Nordwind" just east of house was restored after the war, "In our village, we do a memory job Kallausen. Infantrymen hurrying and the attic is now used to store with the seniors, interviews. We forward shoulder to shoulder in supplies for the kindergarten on search for old photographs, work shouted, "Happy New Year, Yan- The graffiti will not be papered French we call this 'le depoir de kee bastards" as they attacked. over again.

one point, the outfit was in combat The Germans were not so full of for 144 days. In May, the Germans The Kalhausen historical sociholiday kindness on New Year's surrendered, and by late July, Cpl. ety is attempting to collect the Eve., however. As midnight her- Passarella had his Christmas wish. memories of 44th veterans. sided 1945, Panzer tanks and infan- The 44th Infantry returned home. "Sadly, it is late now and many

tion, and I hope the graffiti will be at the National Guard Militia Mu-



on genealogy and so on. For the graffiti, it is also a memory job. In mémoire Do not forget."

"The school is always in func- Photos of the graffiti may be seen preserved," said Bernard Zins, 47, a seam of New Jersey, Sea Girl. Call ... Kalhausen historian. "We do all for (732) 974-5966. The Kalhausen hiswebmaster kallausen.com



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from Long Branch, was 84. To me, it's like a thousand people just left the room." said author Pete Hamill. In Perspective, Page 5

odyssey

Verona author and

adventure began with

his escape from Nazi

Austria. An I Am New

businessman Kurt

Landsberger's

Jersey profile.

SUNDAY

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[See ECHOES, Page 16]

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