



SECTION D
HERALD NEWS

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Friday



Girls' new best friends

Couples choose affordable gemstones over diamonds to mark engagements.

bringit, D7

NIGHTLIFE



Photos by LESLIE BARBARO/Herald News

Salsa instructor Maria Perdomo of North Arlington leads a session at Diva Lounge in Montclair. The club touts a cosmopolitan style and variety of themed nights.

The style cries New York, but the club is in New Jersey

By ED BEESON
Herald News

If cheesecake can be sold as "New York style," then so can a nightclub, right?

For the past five years, the Diva Lounge in Montclair has been a hip place to be (and be seen), in part because it has fashioned itself as a "New York style" nightclub. That means when you walk into Diva, you should

feel as though you are in the posh New York neighborhood of Soho. Or, if the Big Apple is not your cup o' Cosmo, Miami.

That, at least, is the message on the club's Web site: "Think South Beach... Think Soho... Think Diva..." Think for a moment that you're not stuck in the middle of New Jersey.

"New York is the cream of the crop. People come from all over the world to party there," Jordan Fraser, 23, of

Montclair said as he lounged at Diva with four female friends one recent evening. "If they can do that locally, then more power to them."

Still, one must wonder: Would a Soho-ite feel déjà vu at Diva? It's iffy. For one, the club's vision of Soho is more diverse than the real thing; compared to those who live and play in the long-gentrified neighborhood, Diva's clientele on a "Latin Thursday" night was pretty well mixed.

Despite the club's self-conscious we-are-New York claim, there is something unabashedly New Jersey about Diva and the clientele it attracts: the thickly gelled hair; the frosted lipstick; the shirt collars splayed several inches from necks; the leopard prints on the furniture, the floors, the lampshades.

On a chilly winter night, Diva's front room feels more like a dimly lit castle

Please see **DIVA LOUNGE, D2**

ONLINE FEATURE

For additional photos and audio from Diva Lounge, please visit:

northjersey.com/divalounge

Miller has much to offer jazz program

By DONALD V. ADDERTON
Herald News

WAYNE — It's a piano groove that has become the unmistakable musical motif for Mulgrew Miller.

Now the soft-spoken 51-year-old Greenwood, Miss., native is bringing his unparalleled musicianship and knowledge of America's so-called classical music to the classroom as the newly named director of jazz studies at William Paterson University. "My agenda is to share with the students my experience in developing my craft playing with people like Art Blakey and Betty Carter," Miller said, referring to the legendary percussionist and singer. "Young musicians must under-

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Valentine's Day jazz selections, **D5**

stand the business of playing music because, once you get on the bandstand, it is time to hit it."

When Miller isn't in the classroom, he has been on the bandstand, himself, with his group, Wingspan, which features Steve Nelson, vibes; Duane Edwards, trumpet; Steve Wilson, saxophones; Ivan Taylor, bass; and Rodney Green, drums.

"We play music we think of as jazz," he said. "We don't worry about labels."

Please see **JAZZ, D5**



MICHAEL KARAS/Herald News

Mulgrew Miller is the new director of jazz studies at William Paterson University.

MOVIE REVIEW

Martin's 'Pink Panther' falls flat

By DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press

Whoever was thinking pink should have realized it probably would stink.

Blake Edwards himself found painfully a couple of times that resurrecting his "Pink Panther" franchise without Peter Sellers did not come close to working.

The makers of "The Pink Panther," the new take on Inspector Clouseau, found possibly the most formidable successor to Sellers imaginable in Steve Martin. Yet despite the occasional chuck-

Please see **PINK, D3**