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# Niagara



# Gazette

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## Newswatch

### Zayre tries again

**TOWN OF NIAGARA** — A computer malfunction prevented the new Zayre discount store at 1655 Military Road from opening Thursday.

But the retail chain's group manager, William Wickli, said the store is to be open from 7 a.m. to midnight today and Saturday.

The malfunction occurred late Wednesday. Wickli said store managers turned away dozens of shoppers Thursday while they awaited replacement computer parts.

"We're extremely sorry for any inconvenience we caused our customers," Wickli said.

### Comedy costs more

**SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP)** — Americans are paying more to laugh less.

The 1988 Cost of Laughing Index, released this April Fool's Day and adjusted for inflation, showed a 5.8 percent increase in the humor scale over last year.

The index measures 18 leading humor indicators. It showed the wholesale price of rubber chickens increased \$4.80 per dozen during the past 12 months.

"The trend in playful poultry is particularly worrisome," said Malcolm Kushner, who compiled the index. "Over the past two years, rubber chicken prices have jumped 23 percent and dancing chicken telegrams have risen by 9 percent.

There was an 8 percent hike in comedy club ticket prices and an 11 percent jump in the newsstand price of Mad Magazine. The wholesale price of Groucho glasses and arrow-through-the-head gags did

# LaSalle — 190 link in works

By SEAN KIRST  
Niagara Gazette

Building an interchange to link the LaSalle Expressway with the I-190 is set to begin in 1990, according to the state Department of Transportation.

Drivers now must leave the expressway and weave through city streets in order to reach the I-190.

Daniel Filipski, a DOT design engineer, said Thursday the state plans to bid the project in December 1989, which would mean starting construction in spring of 1990.

## 40 CECOS managers will move to Texas

By CAROLYN KUMA  
Niagara Gazette

About 40 top jobs at CECOS International's Town of Tonawanda corporate headquarters will be transferred to Houston. The change is expected to be complete by Oct. 1.

It's a move to consolidate CECOS' headquarters with that of parent company Browning-Ferris Industries, which is based in Houston, said CECOS spokesman Judy Chick on Thursday.

tion in spring of 1990.

Filipski said a new interchange will require demolishing up to three houses between 63rd and 65th streets. He said it is premature to identify the homes until the state picks a design.

He said the state will hire a consulting engineer next month to complete plans. The DOT estimated the project will cost \$2.5 million. But Filipski said the interchange will cost "more than that," yet declined to give a figure for fear of influencing bids.

The east-west expressway runs be-

tween Williams Road in Wheatfield and 67th Street. It was originally planned as a major route connecting downtown Niagara Falls to its eastern suburbs. It was built between 1971 and 1975.

Mayor Michael O'Laughlin said Thursday he supports plans to build an interchange. "I wish they were doing it even sooner," O'Laughlin said. "It's a waste of taxpayers' money to have that road to nowhere."

City Council Chairman Anthony

Quaranto said, "It'll be construction jobs for our people, first of all," he said. "And I can't see where that project will have a detrimental impact at all on our businesses."

But some officials, residents and merchants worry truck traffic will mushroom in LaSalle and send shoppers out of the city.

Councilman Frank Soda said the interchange could hurt businesses on Route 62 and Buffalo Avenue.

"What that interchange will primarily do is give residents of the

northern suburbs a faster way to get to the Summit Park Mall" on Williams Road in Wheatfield, he said. He said the state should also create an I-190 link with the northbound Robert Moses Parkway to funnel more traffic downtown.

Mary Jo Lemieux of 69th Street has passed petitions to stop the work. She claims it will spawn noisy and dirty truck traffic in LaSalle.

"Two years? That'll give me just enough time to sell my house," Ms. Lemieux said of the impending construction.

## Merchants reassured about race past mall

By JOHN CURRAN  
Niagara Gazette

Rainbow Centre merchants, worried about losing business during a downtown grand prix auto race, took their concerns Thursday to race organizer Brian Czaja.

Many left a one-hour session with Czaja convinced the race's audience — projected at 50,000 to 100,000 people — will compensate for lost local patronage caused by congestion and restricted access.

