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# Little News Weekly

All the news that's of Little Interest

November 28, 2002

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## Special Thanksgiving 2002 Issue



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### Letters to the editor:

*To the editor:* Although it's marginally interesting to read a paper that chronicles the exploits and travel plans of the Donohue family (HaHa), at Thanksgiving, what about the people who can't make it? As many of you know, Michelle and I, will not be making the trip to Littleton this year! It so happens that I have a job and a new apartment and actually a whole life apart from the Donohue Clan. Who knew? By the way my name is Bobby and you can find my website at [RCdonohue@att.net.home](mailto:RCdonohue@att.net.home). So, Michelle and I are disappointed not to see the gang up in Littleton but are not too upset that we won't be stuck sleeping in the basement with the snakes! What is up with that? Isn't it bad enough that we all freeze our tails off! I can't believe that I actually lived there...I digress. Anyway, good luck to the guests!

---R.C.Donohue Long Branch?, NJ

*To the editor:* I'm truly offended by the picture of the turkey on the cover of this issue. Usually, this rag is pretty low brow, but this is the bottom of the barrel. It's time to think out of the box! How about a nice tofu turkey with nuts and berries as accoutrements? You know there is a lot on the traditional menu that you really can't digest. I think we should all have a nice cup of boiled ginger root beforehand to aid with the digestion and stave off impending colds. Just a thought!

*J.M. Rosa  
Monmouth Beach New Jersey*

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## Inside the Donohue Compound

**Much** like the weeks anticipating Y2K, the world has been on pins and needles waiting for the much talked about event of J.R. Donohue's Retirement. Perhaps a lot of the hoopla was generated by the air of mystery surrounding the actual date. The usual finger-pointing was in evidence at recent Donohue functions: "Did he tell YOU anything?" "When do you think it's going to happen?" Reminiscent of "Survivor", strange alliances were made and broken in the quest for the ultimate scoop: "If he tells you anything and tells you not to tell anyone, you still have to tell me." Mrs. Donohue was perhaps most in the dark. When asked, she would laugh and say "How should I know?" Local paparazzi camped out in front of Donohue's house but were paralyzed by the disarming charm and friendliness of Mr. and Mrs. Donohue. They kept asking them if they wanted anything like a cup of coffee, cream donut, and later in

the day, a hotdog on the grill with a Coors Lite. The paparazzi made the usual mistake and got too comfortable. Their efforts were finally foiled when they took a break and tried out the nice porch swing infested with hornets. As they ran screaming down West End Avenue, a dry chuckle could be heard. So everyone was kept in the dark until the madcap race to the train station one Friday afternoon to see J.R. Donohue alight. The quiet communities of Little Silver and Shrewsbury were said to be extremely grateful that that there were no helicopters with paratrooping Santas. It seems for once everyone used restraint and didn't try to get a piece of the action. However, the rest of the world felt the tremor. Reporters on the other side of the globe were baffled by the excited head nodding (both ways)( what to do?) but could not accurately report what was said. It turns out this paper is too cheap to get a translator. But clearly it was BIG. Now that it's all over, those close to the Donohue family have speculated that an almost equal interest will be taken in J.R. Donohue's next move: His summer vacation plans. Don't worry, we already have the inside track!

*---Karen Jayne*

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## J. Robert Donohue Retires!

**Hard** to believe, but true! After many years of a mediocre career, sitting behind a desk making paper planes and boats (keeping it nautical) Bob Donohue retired from Waterman Steamship on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002. At a farewell toast in the office, Bob was quoted as saying, "You know, the ships went out, and came back in, in

spite of me.” Everyone agreed that this was a true statement of fact.

On leaving the office, Bob could not help hearing some of the comments being made in low tones: “Loser,” “Good riddance to bad rubbish,” “How did that guy last so long with Waterman? He must have the negatives.”



*No hand waving about it, he's on the loose!. What will he do?*

Bob thought it a good idea to kiss the ladies in the office good-bye, however, they sensed this might happen and all retreated to the ladies room. Unfazed, Bob left the office and proceeded home on an early train. Bob told the conductor that this was his last trip and the conductor said, “So what.”

On departing the train, Bob was met by his family, friends, and neighbors. Not being the most well-liked guy in the neighborhood, the family had to resort to bringing in mercenary well-wishers. Some of these were homeless people, ex-cons unable to find other work, and nursing home people in wheelchairs, walkers and one poor soul who dropped his crutches under the train. Champagne was poured and the homeless people started to get

out of hand. The nursing home people started a fight over who would sit where on the bus back to the home. Chaos prevailed and the police were called. Bob remained oblivious to it all and continued to make paper planes and boats, which his grandchildren ridiculed and said, “Poppy is ready for the home—see if there is room on the bus.” Bob finally proceeded home alone, his wife staying at the station with an ex-con who told her he was Mother Teresa’s son.

The next day featured the annual day at the track with Bob having a M.H. (monstrous hangover). Softball, Coleen’s pool, track, volleyball back at the house with beer, booze, and the ever-popular foul shooting contest. Even with M.H., Bob managed to be the winning pitcher at softball and somehow won at foul shooting. Ian Rosa won the junior foul shooting event, keeping all the money in the family.

On the money side, Ken Jayne sent in one dollar too bet at the races “in absentia”. Obviously Ken is on the installment plan and will send in another dollar next year, so he can make the minimum two dollar bet every other year. Let’s hear it for frugal Ken!

Sibyl Jayne made her track debut this year accompanied by her millionaire hubby Joe. They both participated in all of the events, excelling in drinking, dancing, and M.H.s.

The Donohue family now looks forward to the next all-out, knock-down, drag-out holiday at Thanksgiving—Littleton style. Ah, I can smell the turkey cooking.

O, I almost forgot—Back to the track. The tenth race was named the J. Robert Donohue Retirement Run. Bob

ended up in the Winner's Circle with the owners, trainers, jockey, family etc. Bob told the jockey that he always wanted one of his daughters to marry a jockey. I think I'll save that story for the next newsletter.

---J.R. Donohue

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## New Year's Resolution Update

As many of you know, making New Year's Resolutions is a popular American tradition. I'm sure all of us have heard the more common exclamations like "I'm going to lose 10 lbs!" or "I'm going to get a new job" and so forth—you get the idea. Well, we at the paper have noticed that rarely is there any follow-up to these resolutions. This year we've taken it upon ourselves to do just that. We sent a correspondent along with a review panel to interview several of our family and friends to assess the situation. (We regard this as a good deed on our part to remind everyone of their year-end goals!) The following summarizes some of the highlights:

### Tony Rosa

*Resolution:* become land baron

*Status:* Surveyed properties along the Eastern Seaboard.

*Prediction:* This could take awhile—so many properties, so little time. —Plus, what to do with spare time if not look at houses ?

*Comments:* " I don't really care if we have running water, I just want to get a horse"- Jean-Marie Rosa

### Tom Kirwan

*Resolution:* Buy more wine, so we have it. "I don't want to be caught short!"

*Status:* Looking good. Has started to extend basement wine cellar out under the backyard. Will have to re-landscape, but that's OK- planned on doing that anyway. In negotiation to buy Scarpa's old house to use as spillover. Not bad !

*Prediction:* Fait Accompli !(french)

*Comments:* " All I ever asked for in a neighbor is a spare tray of ice cubes. Jeez!" – JRD

### rs. Donohue

*Resolution:* keep one step ahead of Mr. Donohue

*Status:* Some days are better than others!

*Prediction:* Will have all clothes ironed by Dec 1 for the holidays.

*Commentary:* As long As he takes me out for dinner on Friday nights, I think I'll keep him!!! I just don't understand why he can't lay his clothes out for a trip a week before! - Mary Ann

### Sibyl Jayne

*Resolution:* Become the next Martha Stewart

*Status:* Here's what he's done so far:

Launched new product:

My Wedding, My Way  
Decorated new condo  
Taking quilting class

*Prediction:* What do YOU think?

*Commentary:* "You know, girls like to do this kind of stuff --I'm with her 100 percent (I draw the line at insider trading, though. Sorry, Doe!)"

### Col-Doll

*Resolution:* divest herself from Shrewsbury community activities

*Status:* Not looking too good. Although plans are afoot for her to resign as head of SDGAAAA, sidekick Jeannie Lamberti plans to step in.

*Prediction:* Will continue to plan events for foreseeable future. Probably will not hold meetings at the Pour House, though. Ooops!!

*Commentary:* " This is so ridiculous . The only thing Coleen really should be doing is watching Connor swim . Have you seen him butterfly?"

### Kennon Jayne

*Resolution:* Get some payback from Front Street properties

*Status:* Unfortunately gave Front Street property to non-responsive sons. Will probably have to push development deal forward single handedly.

*Prediction:* The bad news is that this is going to take a lot of letters, phone calls, and e-mails. The good news is that this is K'non's forte. Success highly likely if he can get Johnny and Karen to read their e-mail.

*Commentary:* " Sabe! Get Joe Jayne on the speaker phone !"

---Karen Jayne

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## What's in a Name

It turns out Bill Shakespeare was wrong ! Quite a bit ! In keeping with this papers' philosophy of shameless self-promotion and ridiculous habit of reporting on items of little to no interest to anyone save the reporter, I'd like to share with you some interesting anecdotes concerning the naming of our second child Joseph Patrick Jayne ( born April 3, 2002).



Call me cute !

As expected, before the birth, John and I had some discussions, albeit brief, about what to name our child. I was sold on Grace for a girl's name and Joseph for a boy's name. We had loved the name Joe when I was pregnant with Hannah but when I brought it up this time all I got in response was "Joe, huh? I'm not sure." (tap tap tap on the computer). Time passed. I get a phone call from Joe Jayne one day and he asks "You are going to name the baby Joe, if it's a boy, aren't you?". I say to my husband, "We can't disappoint your brother!" no response...tap tap tap. Nearing the end of the pregnancy, things start to get a little uncomfortable and I am in and out of the hospital for tests and such. One time I'm escorted by a nun of

the order of St. Joseph. "I'll be praying for you," she says, "You are all set." I think to myself: SIGN!

Finally the big day arrives. I'm on the operating table (Caesarean, not to worry, no gory details will be divulged). The baby boy is delivered and is beautiful! All the doctors and nurses are so excited-- the baby is wonderful- what is his name? We look at each other-- Johnny says, "whatever you want" I croak out "Joseph Patrick" and declare victory.

My mother, who was never thrilled with the name (too common) seemed to get over it decided to call him J.P. ( or sometimes P.J). After several weeks pass and she has gone home after spending the requisite 2 weeks in Littleton (Thank you Mommy), my mother calls to check up on us and give me the update on the family. "You know, she says, "Uncle Joe really thinks this baby was named for him!" Well, he was, sort of. I also had in mind my grandfather, Joseph (Popsy) Donohue as well. Then it happens at our family reunion, my cousin Joey John asks what the baby's name is and is really impressed "That's my name- Joseph Patrick!" I tell him I couldn't think of a nicer person to name my baby after.

Well, we had a chuckle over this and I was telling my father-in-law how everyone thinks the baby was named after them, and he says, "Isn't that funny, I thought you named the baby for my grandfather Joseph Kennon Jayne, the submarine commander."

It occurred to me how perfectly this baby was named. He is such a wonderful little person- all smiles and so interested in this world, as he looks out with his big face and calm blue eyes. It's no wonder that he is already a crowd-pleaser.

Here's the kicker: I just got off the phone with my mother who says "You should have named him Bobby."

---Karen Jayne

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## Move Over Martha!

This year, the Cambridge Jaynes have made a lot of progress! After Thanksgiving last year, Joe and I accidentally started looking into buying a condominium. By February, I found one I loved and despite Joe thinking the building looked like something off a *MegaDeath* Album cover, we bought the condo and moved in on Easter. Our new home is lots of fun and I have many projects and purchases planned - for the future of course because, as Joe reminds me, it's a bear market! The move went well and everyone, including Joe, seems very impressed with our new home...except maybe Hannah. The first time she came over, she threw up in the living room and the last time she was over she decided we didn't have enough toys (something we'll have to work on!).

This summer, some friends of ours got engaged. This got me thinking about my wedding organizer again. I had thought about marketing it in the past, but never did. This summer, the time was right. My Wedding My Way went from an idea on paper and in my mind to an actual business! So far, 5 books have been sold, the website is up and running and I will be exhibiting at the Boston Bridal Expo on January 5, 2003. Joe and I are both very optimistic about this endeavor and hope to see it grow in the future. Joe is already talking about the next editions such as, "My Husband My Way" and others.

On top of starting a business and working on the new house, Joe and I have been working on our “extra curricular activities.” This fall, Joe got involved with the Rotary Club of Boston. My father is a past president of the Amherst club and has been a member for a long time. He was thrilled when Joe decided to join and drove to Boston for Joe’s initiation on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We now participate in fundraisers and other weekend activities for the club. Joe has met a number of interesting people and is making many good contacts. One such contact is the president of Rotary Boston who ordered one of my books! (Nice job, Joe!) In addition, Joe joined the Boston Sports Club and started working out on a regular basis. He is a little more critical of what we eat for dinner and asks a few more questions about the meals – but all in all I am thrilled that he is taking better care of himself. Joe has also learned how to use the washing machine. This is really an accomplishment. He is the only man I know who uses 2 new towels every day and can take up to 3 showers a day. Even with the machine going all the time, Joe still has a pile of undies and towels that need to be laundered. At least now he does not have to wait for me to get them done.

Meanwhile, I started a book club with women at work and I joined a quilting class at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. I am having a wonderful time with the class and am learning quickly. (Would you really expect anything less?) Don’t get your hopes up for any quilts this Christmas though....maybe next year. Joe agrees that this is a good skill for me to develop so that if My Wedding My Way falls though, I can always focus on the quilting and sell those for added income!

This has been a very big year for both of us and with Martha Stewart on her way to jail there is a good entry opportunity into the market. We need to strike while the iron’s hot!

---Sibyl Jayne

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## **Unemployment Cited with Fairfield County Family**

*US Secretary of Labor  
Reports Disturbing Statistics*

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**Washington:** November 15, 2002  
- Nationwide unemployment trauma has come to a distinguished busy bee Connecticut family.

Nationwide involuntary displaced workers stand at a 6 % unemployment rate. Official reports from an east coast affluent community (name of town withheld as a condition of release of the following statistic) shows a 60 % involuntary unemployment rate for a local, high productivity, family.

Social services agencies assisting this destitute family allowed certain personal data to be released in this high profile case. Those figures show a 2 parent, 5 children, family of 7; of which 3 are gainfully employed and 4 are destitute. Of these 4 unemployed 2 are currently on workers compensation which will expire by year’s end, 1 on welfare, and the fourth member is too old to qualify for any type of compensation.



Efforts to reach this family in distress have failed. The privacy protection act prevents any such discourse. However, a senior spokesperson representing the local welfare and human services agency of the US Labor Department , unemployment division, assured this reporter that care packages marked “LLL” were being dispatched by the food relief organization, AmeriCares, to this family in crisis. Investigations are currently in progress to determine the nutritional value of the “LLL” ingredients contained in the container contents.

Fortunately one of the unemployed family members has hoarded a large inventory of simlac and pabulum earmarked for his off-springs. This may be used to feed his spouse and himself. It is reported that his spouse is scheduled to return to the workplace before year’s end. Her employment will reduce the couples’ dependency on siphoning off their babies infant foods supply. Another family member has no family to feed. Authorities report that he lives in the internet world with a self developed web site dealing with commodities. It is universally believed he can survive nutritionally on his commodities of soy beans, hogs, and pork bellies. The eldest unemployed child is not actively looking for employment at this time. In his semi-retired state he is not counted amongst the unemployed. His immediate welfare is currently assured with room and board provided, an agency official said. The fourth unemployed member is not qualified for any federal relief. Aside from age, he is living on drugs, pills, and ointments.

*[Editorial comment: we looked at the numbers and observed that of the 3*

*employed workers - one is the mother of them all. She has legs!]*

According to the Federal Reserve Board it is the consumer who is carrying today’s economy. Accordingly, the three employed members of this otherwise destitute family are consuming quite nicely and supporting our economy. Chairman Alan Greenspan has applauded these three workers in a recent statement saying, “busy bees of the world, keep nose to grindstone. The nation needs you to stimulate the economy.” He was also heard uttering “Vivere Est Agere.” He further added words of encouragement to those less fortunate four by adding, “I feel your distress of joblessness, commend your stalwart spirit as a downsized worker, and commend your patience, perseverance, and parsimony.”

---K. Jayne



Although unemployed, Ken Jayne continues to volunteer his time. Seen here teaching the importance of "high visibility orange" for hunting and water safety to a new (*interested?*) class member.



## Seattle Update

It's been another exciting year in Seattle. It started out with Max attending a new school after his original abruptly closed. Max took the changes in stride and now has many new friends!

After many threats from the corporate office, Trux was finally laid off from work. What a relief, and just in time to go on vacation to the east coast. Vacation turned out to be a great time for everyone, especially Max because he was able to spend some quality time with his cousins (let's not revisit the van ride from Small Point to Littleton!).



Max and Hannah's first vacation

Once back in the Seattle climate, Sam decided to come out of the womb. His doctor predicted an OCT due date, but like a Seattle weather forecast, the prediction had very little to do with reality. Sam surprised us all and showed up one month early!



Seattle Sam, October 26, 2002

We are all very excited about the early arrival (especially Christina).

---*The Seattle Jaynes: Max, Sam, Christina, and Trux*

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## A note from the Inn Keeper

This year, as with most years, Thanksgiving again falls during the cool climate period. Concerned from quiet insults about how cold it is when the Fall season arrives at Littleton or more precisely, *doesn't the guy have any heat when we come to visit for Thanksgiving*, the host has decided to go to extra efforts this year to attend to the guests particular needs to support their frail constitutions.

First off, the host would like to clarify that the Inn does indeed have heat. In fact there are more than five separate zones in the Inn each of which can be adjusted by standard residential grade wall mounted thermostats, probably much like the ones in your own home.

The host would like you to be comfortable at the Inn, and, as such recommends adjusting the thermostats as needed. In the slumbering areas (upstairs) there is a thermostat located in the main hall way. Downstairs, there is a second thermostat located in the living room. While both of these units are digital they are very simple to operate; press the *UP arrow* key to raise the temperature and (this piece of information you probably don't need) press the down arrow key to decrease the temperature. In the basement (for big TV and computer entertainment) there is a more simply operated analog type

thermostat, use this if you have trouble with the more sophisticated digital type.

Finally, there should be no complaints this year as the host has dished out for a new gas-fired free standing stove to heat yet another section of the house, the other family room area. This too is thermostated, simply dial in the temperature level that makes you comfortable, watch the simulated wood flames, perhaps cozy up and read a book. This new efficient gas heater can be supplemented by the electric heaters also located in the same area; you may want to wear your shorts if you plan to spend some time in this room. Most important, this fake fire no longer requires Bobby to stoke it during the Thanksgiving festivities with logs from outside. Good thing as it appears he won't be around this year and the Inn keeper has become rather lazy lately keeping the "fires hot".

Lastly, if anyone has trouble with adjusting the climate controls they should speak with the Inn keepers' daughter Hannah Jayne; she is familiar with the entire system. Unfortunately, however, her English is not so good. Alright, everybody! Put on your shorts! Have a good time! --*J.T. Jayne*

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### **Travelers Update**

Yes, it's slim pickin's in Littleton this year ! As November rolled in, we started to receive cancellations from various members of our usual contingent. Take for example, Bob Donohue and Michelle Patterson. Apparently someone tipped off management at Hillman Rollers to Bob Donohue's penchant for taking off the Friday after Thanksgiving. BUSTED!

And we thought Jehovah Witnesses didn't celebrate holidays. Live and learn. But we will sorely miss their smiling faces in Littleton this year. Also among the missing is Mr. And Mrs. Joseph Jayne. Sibyl and Joe will be having Thanksgiving with Sibyls family at her sister's new house. Or actually I heard a rumor that they will be eating in their car halfway between Newton and Littleton! It turns out that there is a nice farmstand on Rte 2 where they can park and watch the traffic and maybe pick up a slice of pumpkin pie as well.

MeMa and Poppy will be arriving early - on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Poppy is going to his fiftieth high school Reunion the night before.

Congratulations Poppy! Last but not least, Jan and Tom Kirwan are arriving with plenty of time to spare, on a day sometime before thanksgiving or so we hope. A little vague? yeah, well jump on board! Wait a minute! What about the Rosas! We hope to see Jean-Marie, Tony, Ian and Isabelle sometime on Wednesday afternoon. Hannah can't wait: "Isabelle my room Mama"

---*Karen Jayne*

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### **Population Explosion Cited**

Littleton, MA: November 20, 2002 – An alarming rise in productivity has been reported from a Seattle outpost and a quaint little village on the East coast known as Littleton. Parental productivity continued to rise during 2002 with irrational exuberance.

Social Security officials show population increases in these two urban and rural areas grew at an annualized rate of 100% respectively, far exceeding

normal growth. "We have the country's most productive families, superbly trained, highly motivated, and best educated now in these two locations", a labor department spokesperson said.

It was also just learned that the allocation of production index shifted to a high male scale reading in these two distinct centers.

A Ways and Means Committee legislator of the United States House of Representatives reiterated the importance of finding ways to propagate our population, and promote the promulgation of future tax payers, while simultaneously pleasing patient parents, and thereby provide for a promise of potent increases in the tax revenues. He added, "Republicans and Democrats on both sides of the isle are applauding these two families as they set these high standards of family planning by increasing the tax base of future tax payers both for their local governments and for the IRS".

*---K. Jayne*