

Concepts & Thought

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

Trip Across Atlantic Offers Taste in Foreign Philosophy

By **ABBY BRAMNICK**
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

I was fortunate enough this summer to visit Denmark with my family. Although I love summer at home with my family and friends, I was to eager to experience something different. When I entered Tivoli, a cultural amusement park in Denmark, I was rapt how differently the Danish people experience life. My first reaction was visual. How could it not be visual? Average amusement parks shout bold, primary colors intended to influence the visitors to spend money, eat greasy foods, and to provide an escape. Tivoli, did not have large commercial signs, but classy booths with genuine old-fashioned designs. Colors were gentle on the eyes. The background scenes were not intense commercialism, but instead they provided a choice of dance, music, fireworks, and drama. Tivoli provided the regular fun-food expected at an amusement park, however, the upscale dining restaurants were a pleasant alternative. While ordering at this lovely café, I thought I misheard the waiter when he offered me a drink from the bar. I laughed, and then I remembered that I was free to order an alcoholic beverage.

For a split second, I felt uneasy about this freedom. I declined the drink, not because it had always been forbidden, but because I do not enjoy alcohol. I felt respected by this culture trusting me with the decision. My last stop was a charming wooden booth. Broken ceramic mugs were spinning on a wheel. Chipped plates hung from wires. The object was to break these items by throwing rubber balls. My family and I had such a good time trying to break things that we had always tried to preserve. By the time we finished we had broken several plates. When we asked the proprietor what we had won, he responded casually, "no prize, its just for the sheer pleasure." This man's words truly reflected the Danish philosophy. My trip to Denmark was full of art, architecture, food, and landscape, but it also opened my mind to new ways of enjoying life. When my plane landed on American soil, I smiled to myself. I knew that I brought back from Denmark a philosophy that would enhance the experiences America promised me in the future.



SOLEMN PLEDGE...Students and staff at Tamaques Elementary School in Westfield held a solemn ceremony on September 11. The Boy Scouts presented the original American flag from the school auditorium, which had stood there for 40 years and presented it to Al Riker of the American Legion Post No. 3 for proper retirement. The Tamaques Girl Scouts raised a new flag for the school, which was dedicated to the heroes of 9/11. A moment of silence was observed and Principal Michael Cullen addressed the students about citizenship, before the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Schools Participate In Walk Our Children To School Day

WESTFIELD — Westfield's public elementary schools will walk to school for National Walk Our Children to School Day on Wednesday, October 2. This nationwide event is an opportunity for parents and children to walk to school together. They can enjoy each other's company while getting the health benefits of walking. A special raffle will be held at all the elementary schools a few days prior to this event. One winner will have the honor of being escorted to school by Westfield Mayor, Gregory S. McDermott. He will pick the child up that morning at his or her house and they will walk to school together. Other raffle winners will be escorted by school principals and by town officials.

All walkers are being asked to wear some item of clothing that is red that morning so that they will easily be seen by passing cars. When the walkers arrive at their schools there will be a reception area with stickers for them to put on and a large banner to sign. **Juggler to Commence Sunday School Season** WESTFIELD — Nick Gregory of Give and Take Jugglers, a professional group from Philadelphia, will perform in Westminster Hall at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield this Sunday, September 22, for opening day of the new Sunday School season. The 9:15 a.m. performance will be open to the public. The church is located at 140 Mountain Avenue.



TECH-FRIENDLY...Fifth grade teachers were among the more than 80 faculty members in the Westfield Public Schools who recently completed computer training. Elementary computer technician Renee Moon shares techniques with fifth grade teachers, pictured, left to right, Mary Dailey of McKinley Elementary School; Scarlett O'Neil and Alex Schmidt of Wilson Elementary School; and Kathy Stamberger of Franklin Elementary School. Computer technician Sandie Hilliard assists teachers at the far end of the training station.

Westfield Pupils Will be Wired With New Computers, Software

WESTFIELD — Over 150 new computers were placed in the Westfield Public Schools for the beginning of the 2002-2003 academic term. Both students and teachers will take advantage of the new technological tools, as well as the appropriate software in order to enhance curriculum at all levels. Approximately 80 teachers participated in technology training in the schools this summer to prepare for the new year. A total of 15 workshops, led by Carol Swann-Daniels, Supervisor of Instructional Technology, took place over a three-week period. At Westfield High School (WHS), 40 replacement PCs have been installed in the Mathematics Lab, Open Lab and Social Studies Lab. At the elementary level, five eMac computers are ready for use in each one of the 22 fifth grade classrooms. Teachers were trained on these computers during the summer, focusing on curriculum integration. Fifth grade classroom software includes "Inspiration," visual organizational software for organizing any material, software for student slide shows and web page

creation, social studies and math. Mobile workstations replaced older computers at the intermediate schools. Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools each now have two wireless labs for a total of 30 student laptops per school with access to two wireless printers and three projectors per school. "This is a more cost-effective replacement method than leasing stationary computers," said Ms. Swann-Daniels. "They were tested on a 'try and buy' basis." The wireless labs will be shared by the social studies, world languages and mathematics departments. A total of 65 teachers in these departments also received laptop computers. "The teacher laptops have the capability of connecting to television. At least 10 televisions with VCRs and carts were also purchased for each school," added Ms. Swann-Daniels. "Each department supervisor will be working closely with the teachers to ensure meaningful integration of the new technology with the content of the curriculum," she explained. Also at the intermediate level, each special education classroom received two new eMac computers and printers. Summer training sessions were held for the intermediate, elementary and special education teachers who will be using the new equipment in the fall. "We have made real progress in realizing the vision and specifics of the technology plan. We are nearing the ideal marriage of technology and instructional excellence," she concluded.

Clarification
 A press release regarding the Back-to-School Nights in the Westfield school district should have read:
Thursday, September 19
 •Franklin School (Grades 3 through 5), 7 p.m.;
 •Jefferson Elementary School (Kindergarten through Grade 5), 7:30 to 9 p.m.;
 •McKinley Elementary School (Kindergarten A.M. and Grades 1 through 3), 7 p.m. with a Coffee at 8 p.m. / (Kindergarten P.M. and Grades 4 through 5), 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.;
 •Tamaques Elementary School (Grades 3 through 5), 7:30 p.m. / (Kindergarten through Grade 2), 8:15 p.m.;
 •Washington Elementary School (Grades 2 through 5), 7 to 7:45 p.m.;
 •Wilson Elementary School (Grades 3 through 5), 7 to 7:45 p.m.; / (Kindergarten through Grade 2), 8 to 8:45 p.m.;

Union Catholic HS Plans Open House
 SCOTCH PLAINS — Union Catholic Regional High School will host a Fall Open House on Tuesday, October 1, and Wednesday, November 6. All interested seventh and eighth grader students and their parents are invited. A formal program will begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by a presentation on the school's technology, academics and extracurricular programs. For more information, please call (908) 889-1600 or visit www.unioncatholic.org.

Dickstein Chosen to Attend Leadership Conference

WESTFIELD — Jonathan Dickstein of Westfield has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) from November 12 to November 17 in Washington, D.C. He will join 400 students from around the country selected for this honor. Jonathan is a student at Westfield High School. "The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting Leaders of Today" is the theme for the NYLC conference, where Jonathan will interact with key leaders and newsmakers from the three branches of government, the media and international community. He will hear welcoming remarks from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives and a panel discussion with journalists at the National Press Club. Jonathan will also meet with senators and a representative or

an appointed member of their staff to discuss key national issues. Leadership skill-building activities, judicial simulations, and a Model Congress will also be included in Jonathan's schedule at the conference. **Cheryl Wagner Named To Spring Dean's List** SCOTCH PLAINS — Cheryl Wagner, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Wagner of Scotch Plains, has been named to the Dean's List as a result of her academic performance during the spring 2002 semester at Southampton College of Long Island University in Southampton, N.Y. A graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Cheryl is majoring in marine biology.

Photos of September 11 Accident At Westfield High School



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