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— Established 1890 —

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HUNG UP!!

Senior Citizen Is Entitled To Have Life of Her Own

By Milt Faith, Executive Director
Youth and Family Counseling Service

A B C D I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Diction Deception

Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions - only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly - good guess. If you get two - well-read individual. If you get three - word expert. If you get all four - You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.

Answers to last week's arcane words.

1. Scoria - The slag or refuse left after the metal has been smelted from the ore
2. Olecranon - The part of the ulna projecting beyond the elbow joint
3. Cierge - A wax candle
4. Borgot - The rock trout of California

- CHYME**
1. Soreness in the eyes
 2. Muddy, slimy
 3. A loud clanging noise
 4. Partly digested food

- SPOFFLE**
1. To worry about small things or trifles
 2. To annoy, torment or delay
 3. Corn meal, mush
 4. To wobble or walk in a swaying manner

- LIPHAEMIA**
1. Blood deficiency
 2. Alcohol poisoning
 3. Deep feeling of remorse, guilt
 4. Yellow fever

- MANAVELINS**
1. In anatomy, an involuntary muscle contraction
 2. Swelling or state of being swollen
 3. Leftovers; odds and ends
 4. A dispute or skirmish

Is the Cable TV Company Attempting To Limit Our Choices of News Networks?

It's nearly impossible to own a television set nowadays in New Jersey without being forced to sign up for cable TV - or obtaining a satellite dish. Yes, an antenna can be placed on your roof, but it is not the same. It does not offer the alleged variety that cable and satellite companies are supposed to offer. Many subscribers to cable and the satellite do so because they want access to cable news networks, special sports networks, arts and entertainment, or the history channel.

A decade ago, basic cable costs were approximately \$17 per month. Now basic cable costs over \$45 per month. Even that may make one groan and the cable company's explanation, each time there is a cost increase, is that they have added many new stations.

Are the added stations really the ones that the consumer wants to see? In fact - what's worse - the vast majority of added stations seem to be rife with infomercials. Is that what we really are subscribing to see? Yet, we pay for it.

In addition to the annoying infomercials, a very disturbing switch took place recently. In early October, the Fox news network, which had been on channel 20, was shifted to channel 95 and CNN news, which had been channel 33, was shifted to channel 78. In their previous place - that's right - are infomercials. A real concern is that both of these informative and popular networks have been shifted to obscure and nearly ignored positions on the dial.

In fact, on many televisions, channel 95 is inaccessible. Is this censorship or is it just a more effective lineup by the cable company to force-feed us their infomercials?

Is the cable company trying to push all these added infomercials for added profits and to drive you further to their "Pay Per View"? Guess what! - You're already "Paying Per View," that's what the forty-five bucks a month is supposed to be about. Instead now, the forty-five bucks is "Pay Per Phew!"

To others and skeptics, perhaps, the cable company is deliberately pushing these news networks to inconvenient or inaccessible positions on the dial because of political reasons. We certainly hope that is not the case - that our pursuit for alternative information is not deliberately being harassed.

The cable companies have a monopoly that needs to be examined. Also, cable companies should not be permitted to compensate municipalities or any government body in any fashion. It has the effect of solidifying and perpetuating their purchase of the monopoly rights from government.

We suggest you try an experiment. Click through the 99 channels you pay for and write down the times you encounter actual content versus commercials or infomercials. It is possible to click through the whole sequence and not find any content. Is this something you should be paying for?

Our children are reading less and watching cable TV more. Does this concern you?

Resident Upset Over Ticket Blitz, Unfriendly Ticket Writers

I am writing you to voice my concerns in regards to several events, which have occurred to my family, and friends in Westfield in the last several months. I was born and raised in Westfield and have always had great respect for the fine police officers in this town. I recently moved back to Westfield five years ago with my wife who also graduated from Westfield High School in 1987 with me. We now have 4 children and are glad to raise them in this town.

What I am concerned about is the treatment of the residents when you try and use the downtown. It seems as though the three police officers who were there in the past to safely cross my children have been replaced with three ticket officers who are extremely rude and not concerned for the residents well being. The incidents which have led to this letter all have occurred over the last several months and are as follows:

My wife's friend taking her children to swim classes at the YMCA - parked legally with expired registration - officer Schwartz had her car towed and she was left at the YMCA crying with her children and I gave her a ride home.

My Brother-in-law used the downtown parking and had 20 minutes left on the meter and had an over-time ticket on his car.

I used the YMCA, there was no parking in the lot, and therefore I parked in a metered spot. When I returned it read -11 minutes - with a ticket on my car.

I went to the barber, and then the Leader Store - came back to meter -16 minutes with a ticket on my car.

On September 12 my wife went downtown to get a bagel and parked across the street illegal on the corner of Elm/E. Broad. Unfortunately her registration had lapsed as she had an ill sister who had been in the hospital for six weeks and had not re-newed it. She told Officer Schwartz that her sister had just died two days prior and she would go home (three blocks) and use my car to go to DMV. He gave her a ticket and had her car towed.

September 14, I was at my daughter's Sunday afternoon soccer game at the Memorial Pool field and parked on Scotch Plains Ave - five feet from the cross walk and returned to my car to find yet again another ticket for parking in front of a cross walk.

This is a great town, but when I am mailing my quarterly tax check with 3-4 parking tickets it just doesn't give you a good feeling. The goal should be to protect the residents. It seems this has been replaced with ticket officers whose main goal is to write tickets, generate revenue and harass the tax paying residents who are trying to use our downtown. I would hope we go back to having police officers crossing the residents and children and not replaced with three people going around a town writing tickets on meters which do not keep accurate time in a town with a parking problem. Officer Schwartz must not be under the Chief Tracy's command, since he does not show the same respect and concern for the residents of this town. If the goal is to stop people from shopping and using the downtown, then it may work.

Dr. Chris Freer
Westfield

Richard Dobra
Westfield

Letters to the Editor See more letters Pages 5 & 16

Resident Comments On The Westfield Subway Redevelopment

I was pleasantly surprised to see that the South Avenue redevelopment has started. I have been following the progress and planning stages of the redeveloping for years. When the administration told us what we needed, nothing was ever said about a subway.

For the past week or so, I have been seeing signs all over Westfield pointing to a subway. Why does Westfield need a subway? We have an above ground railroad. It's been there for years.

Did the Town of Westfield construct an underground transit system without any disruption? - No digging, no big trucks destroying our roads? No added air pollution? No traffic jams?

This was too good to be true. So I decided to follow the signs to locate this new underground marvel. I started all the way down Central Avenue at the Clark border. Boy! Those signs are far from town.

After a short time I was at South Avenue. More signs. Then I found the new subway. It is located between Hershey and Dukes.

My point is, why is a national chain allowed to pollute the town with signage? I can see it now. Every new store will have those silly little signs pointing to their location. Maybe a large, red neon arrow atop the Block Buster store pointing down is the next stage of redevelopment.

Letters to the Editor

Build The Minimum Needed to Solve The Parking Problem in Westfield

The deck designs are not very attractive. These designs are no more than simple cookie cutter designs that make it easy for the developers to make a profit.

We must all ask ourselves, do we need or want more residents? Do we want to make it easier to commute into the city? The average person lives in Westfield for five years and if you really, really want a commuter space, I think it is fair to ask new residents to wait five years.

So far, this supposed parking problem has not affected our property values, and I doubt it ever will. It seems to me that if we really have a commuter parking

problem and a downtown parking problem, then we need those projects to serve those objectives only and build the minimum needed.

Westfield is almost completely developed, and we have really gotten along fine for as long as I can remember. It is a great town and let's not take a chance with a huge development project that will be a huge eyesore.

I say stop it now, and keep the small town atmosphere we all love. Isn't it the reason we will move here in the first place.

Todd Evans
Montclair

Westfield Permits Should Not Be Issued In Areas That Flood

It is beyond me that a town like Westfield is so backward in treating property owners living here for over 30 years in an uncaring manner.

The people living on Coolidge Street between Wells and Gallows Hill have only three drain sewers. This is low sighted area, so when it continues to rain we worry about flooding. Some families have already been flooded more than once.

On October 20, construction started on the odd numbered side of Coolidge Street by a company from Westfield. Mud water has been running from this property for almost two weeks.

I called the town engineering department twice - telling them of the conditions and about the concern of being

flooded. It was passed off as: "So What!"

Why has a permit been issued when knowing this could hurt other people? I have no objection to people improving their property. What I do object to is a permit being issued knowing this is a flood area.

An architect should have presented plans with this condition in mind before a permit was given. The construction company should have notified the Westfield Department of Public Works that the water table was reached and mud water continues to run down Coolidge Street past homes and flooding the drain sewer.

Eleanore Taylor
Westfield

Westfield Town Council Mtgs. Are Akin to Science Fiction

If you like science fiction, TV 36 has the Sci-Fi Channel beat by several light years. In case you've haven't been watching "The W Files," the plot revolves around an Alien invasion of a

quintessentially wonderful American town whose biggest problem is parking.

Having implanted mind-control devices into the heads of the mayor and most of the council members, the Aliens are a heartbeat away from landing two gargantuan spaceships disguised as parking decks in the heart of town.

Did I say fiction? It's reality television. I keep asking myself: When did Westfield become so desperate, so destitute, that it had to turn to outsiders to barter two extraordinary parcels of land in exchange for additional parking with a lot of strings attached? Camden or Bridgeport, Connecticut, might be forced into that backs-against-the-wall dealing. But Colonial Westfield?

How can these so-called "hearings" be considered participatory democracy when a mayor, council and redevelopers armed with markers and yellow pads look on in smug amusement as one taxpayer after another expresses anti-deck sentiments? Couldn't a legal argument be made that Westfielders were denied due process because they were not formally asked whether or not they would support a bond issue to build said decks?

Were it not for the eloquence and smarts exhibited in the remarks of people speaking at the hearings or in letters to *The Leader* I would consider this milestone in our history as the Dumbing Down of Westfield. In my case, I must be getting dumber or in the initial stages of Alzheimer's because I watch the mayor and council on television and I say over and over, "Who are these guys?"

John O'Connor
Westfield

Parking Decks May Come to Be Known As McDermott's Folly

I recently wrote to *The Westfield Leader* expressing my opposition to the construction of parking decks, apartments and retail establishments and my displeasure with the way the mayor is handling this matter. I attended a recent town council meeting and came away resigned to the fact that these decks are pretty much a "done deal" even though there has been significant and growing opposition to them.

I suggest that the South Avenue project be named "McDermott Gardens" so that the taxpayers, who will foot the bill for years to come, will always be reminded under whose administration this deck was conceived and constructed. Then again, perhaps both of these projects will always just be known as "McDermott's Folly."

It may seem that I dislike the mayor, but that is not the case. What I dislike is his, as well as some of the council member's, attitude that they have been elected and they will do what they want and if the taxpayers do not like it, they can vote them out of office. This may very likely occur, but by then it will be much too late.

David O'Connor
Westfield

