

Concepts & Thought

Sturm Awarded for Law, Aging Essay Competition

SCOTCH PLAINS - Scotch Plains resident Lauren Rebecca Sturm, a law student at the University of Kansas, won second place in the 2003 Law and Aging Student Essay Competition for her essay on fair housing for retirees.

Lauren's essay, "Fair Housing Issues in Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs): Can Residents Be Transferred Without Their Consent?" was recognized for its outstanding research and content.

The American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Law and Aging and the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) Foundation sponsored the contest.

The top three essays and one honorable mention work have been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the *New York City Law Review*, which is published by the City University of New York School of Law.

Lauren, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sturm of Scotch Plains, is a third-year law student. She plans to graduate in May 2004 and to seek a career in public interest and elder law.

Lauren originally wrote the paper for an independent study assignment during a summer 2002 internship with the Department of Housing and Urban Development regional office in Kansas City, Mo.

For the competition, she revised and expanded it to include ideas from her experiences working in the School of Law's elder law clinic in 2002, which is a clinical class in the law school where students work under supervision of attorneys from Kan-

sas Legal Services.

Lauren also received a \$1,000 Educational Opportunity Fund grant through the university's Student Senate to support her pro bono services during her internship at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Law and Aging Student Essay Competition is supported by a grant from the FJC, a foundation of donor-advised funds whose mission is to increase and maximize the impact of charitable dollars and create innovative philanthropic solutions.

The purpose of the competition is to reward innovative student research and original writing on issues concerning law and aging and to promote recognition of the value of this type of legal work.

The competition is open to current law students in ABA-accredited law schools, as well as to those who have graduated within the past year.

Westfield School Board To Unveil Survey Results

WESTFIELD - During the meeting of the Westfield Board of Education on Tuesday, September 9, Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley, will present a summary of the responses received from the Community Survey distributed to Westfield residents in May.

The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. at 302 Elm Street.

A complete agenda will be available on Monday, September 8.

Educator of the Week

Cathy Loughlin

Grade 5 Teacher
Washington Elementary School, Westfield

By MICHELLE H. LE POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Age: 51
Hometown: Westfield, born in Plainfield

Education: Bachelor of Arts Degree, Elementary Education
Previous Experience: Woods Road School, Hillsborough - teaching six- and seven-year-old students. Mrs. Loughlin developed a program

for children who were not successful in kindergarten, helping them make the transition to the first grade.

I Knew I Reached My Students When: "You see small gains when you see them smile and answer with confidence. It's very subtle, but you see it when they walk in the classroom and feel happy to be there. So, I think a good teacher has to have a sense of humor with their class and treat every child as an individual, keeping solid expectations within each child's specific needs. You have to give the children the tools to deal with their lives."

Mrs. Loughlin related a story about a child who recently visited her after graduating last year. She told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* that she is happy to see children returning "feeling good about themselves. Sometimes they just want to come back to talk," she said.

What I Love About the School District: "I think what's unique is that we really try to treat each child independently and have many programs to meet everybody's needs. We try to have a program that will be best suited for each particular child. In Washington School, we, in the fifth grade, are now doing a lot more sharing and better transitional experience for the students before they enter the middle school. This year, we are implementing a new program with several periods of technology each week, grouping the students according to each level of their reading ability. Westfield

is encouraging differentiation, which means that children will make progress on their own individual level and will be grouped according to their ability or their interest. I think we're very sensitive to that. I think in Washington School, we're making an effort to present the child with unique programs."

"The Westfield school district offers continuing education. I took a class at Kean University. As a teacher, you have to be willing to always seek out something new and something to add to your curriculum. You have to keep it fresh. It has to be a nurturing experience."

Favorite Topic to Teach: "I really enjoy teaching the history of the country because I think it helps the children gain a sense of what has happened in the past, which will help them to understand what is taking place now in their world. And, I always enjoy teaching children to appreciate literature."

The Future of Education in America... We have to be extremely adaptable to a ever-changing society."

My Goals as an Educator... "I am the technology representative in my building, so every year I make small gains in being comfortable with technology." Mrs. Loughlin used the new Apple computer operating system as an example. "Anything I can learn I want to pass on to my children. I am willing to seek out anything to add something new, something exciting that the children will enjoy and benefit from."

Home Life: Mrs. Loughlin is married to Westfield attorney and Board of Adjustment Attorney, Vincent Loughlin. The couple has a son, Keith Loughlin, who is a clerk at the Elizabeth Courthouse, and a daughter, Anne Loughlin, who is a third-year student at the University of Virginia.



Cathy Loughlin



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS...Westfield High School Principal Dr. Robert Petix, left, joined Libby Rheinhardt, last year's PTC Scholarship Committee Chairperson, second from left, in a photo with all 17 PTC scholarship recipients last spring. Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley is pictured in the last row. A total of \$26,900 was awarded in June, each senior receiving an amount reflecting their costs and needs. Parents in the school district donate the funds during the first days of school each fall. Last year's total was the largest in five years. This year, the PTO hopes to collect a new record amount.

Williams Polishes Leadership Techniques in Nation's Capital

WESTFIELD - The Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC) in Washington, D.C. has reported that Donald Williams of Westfield attended the National Youth Leaders Conference (NYLC) in late July in Washington, D.C.



Donald Williams

The program invites high school students, based on scholastic merit, community involvement and leadership contributions, to interact with current national leaders.

A senior at Westfield High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Williams of Westfield, Donald is active in the chamber orchestra as first-chair string bass player and is in his second year in All-State Orchestra.

As a graphics editor for the WHS newspaper, *Hi's Eye*, journalism teacher, Charlotte Faltermayer, recommended him to the CYLC NYLC.

Donald said the conference afforded him the opportunity to learn a lot about leadership, relationships within the community, and about himself. He was elected President of his small group one week and appointed Chief Justice the next week.

For Donald, the highlight of the experience was seeing the Senate in action and meeting with Congressman Mike Ferguson and the staff members of Senator Frank Lautenberg.

At WHS, Donald has been named "Student of the Month" and is a member of the National Honor Society. Recently, he received a National Merit Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

During the last three summers, Donald has participated in several building projects through The Presbyterian Church in Westfield's Senior High Fellowship mission trips. In July, he returned from Tijuana, Mexico, where he helped to build a house for a local orphanage.

In previous years, he participated with the group to build decks for the Cherokee in North Carolina and to build houses in Birmingham, Ala. for Habitat for Humanity.

During the summer of 2002, Donald crewed a historic three-masted schooner on a round-trip voyage from Castine, Me. to Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, and learned electric, stellar and sight navigation.

College Club Holds Sale Of 40th Year Calendar

FANWOOD - The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains has announced that the 40th edition of its Community Date Calendar is now on sale for \$7 at Irma's Hallmark, Young's Paint and Varnish, Scotch Hills Pharmacy, John's Meat Market, Park Photo, Wallis Stationary and at the Fanwood and Scotch Plains libraries.

The calendar, published by About Face Graphics Panther printing, lists the dates for community and school events, as well as civil holidays and religious holy days. More than 100 clubs and organizations contributed to this calendar.

Now in its 75th year, the club seeks to further the education of women by providing them with scholarships. Various fundraisers are held during the year, including the sale of the calendar, which the club has done since 1964. The club has awarded just under \$400,000 to about 390 young women. The College Club expressed its gratitude to all its advertisers for their support, notably the Andrews family of Young Paint and Varnish,

which has participated consistently since the calendar's debut.

The purchase of ads enables the club to put the entire price of the calendar towards scholarships for young women who reside in Fanwood and Scotch Plains and who are planning on or currently pursuing a college degree.

Anyone interested in learning more about the College Club or becoming a member may call Ginger at (908) 889-4105.

International Internship Completed by Rabadeau

SCOTCH PLAINS - Russell Rabadeau of Scotch Plains, a member of the Class of 2004 at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa., has completed a six-week internship in international business in England and Russia this past summer.

Russell worked four days of the week at Ruskin College, building and amending college databases, as well as doing marketing research. The rest of the week was spent in cultural studies and travel.

For the final 10 days of the program, Russell traveled to Helsinki, Finland, and St. Petersburg, Russia for that city's 300th anniversary celebration. While in Russia, he met students from St. Petersburg State University and exchanged information on student life in their country.

Headmaster's List Told At Delbarton School

MORRISTOWN - Students from Westfield and Scotch Plains were named to the Headmaster's List for the spring 2003 term at Delbarton School in Morristown.

To qualify for Highest Honors, students must achieve grades from 90 to 100. High Honors distinction is awarded to students with grades between 87-89, and Honors commendation is presented to pupils with 83-86 grade ranges.

Highest Honors: Tenth graders James Wade, Matthew Delaney and Michael Leighton were named to the list. James and Matthew are Westfield residents, while Michael is a Scotch Plains resident. Westfielder and 12th grader Bryan McDermott also received Highest Honors.

High Honors: Ninth grader David Weinstein of Westfield, 11th graders Brendan Gorman and Mark Gately of Westfield, and 12th grader Wade Anthony of Westfield were recognized.

Honors: Eleventh grader Tyler Deieso and 12th grader Peter Gately, both of Westfield, were placed on the list.

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

The Dilemma: Teenagers And Sex-Obsessed Media

By LISA BASILE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Why are young girls in such a rush to become sexy? Why does the desire to be glamorous interposition itself between innocence and expression of ones personality through image?

There seems to be a growing number of young teenage females who are convinced that acceptance can be attained through achieving a specific image or having "magazine model" characteristics.

For some, the pressures placed on younger girls to be sexy on the mystery of growth and life experience that comes with time.

Certain television shows and music certainly contribute to the premature desire to look and act older. There does not appear to be a voice of compassionate guidance in the media. Instead, the market carries teen magazines that promise popularity or "beauty" to those who conform to certain styles and attitudes. The *CosmoGIRL* or *Seventeen* magazines are part of the strong and relentless spine of today's unfortunately image-obsessed media.

I asked 13-year-old girls from Westfield their opinions on teen magazines. A typical response was, "I like them because they give good tips on how to look like my favorite singers and actresses."

This was a disheartening remark because 13-year-old girls should be taught to be happy with themselves rather than worry about looking like a celebrity. Such magazines are tempting to the young reader because they make celebrities out to be the epitome of physical and social "perfection."

For example, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera use sexuality as a major marketing tool and sell millions of records to a largely young female fan base. I don't know the exact intent of today's pop star, but it appears to me that their actions influence young fans to dress more provocatively.

Media lacks a role model, who is average sized and average looking. By this I mean, one who isn't dolled up to be somebody that she is not. Girls need a role model who is intelligent, one that isn't parading half nude and singing meaningless songs about sex and fantasy. The values of popularity and ideal image are overshadowing self-appreciation and the

significance of intellect.

There is no doubt that sex sells, but it is being sold to young girls who do not yet understand it.

Pre-adolescents are easily impressionable and some have fragile self-esteem. The media has its own checklist of "true beauty" characteristics, and it can do great damage to self-esteem.

I remember when I was 13, being swayed to dress a certain way because any other way was considered "out of style." I cared because other girls were hurtful and judgmental of my attire if it wasn't always the current "in" brand.

In retrospect, they were victims of ignorance and susceptibility to the media. What is sad is that they don't even recognize that fact.

On the same token, pre-adolescence and the young teen years are times when self-discovery and sexual curiosity is inevitable. There is nothing wrong for a young girl to want to be educated about sex. The problem is that the media has a way of invoking pressure to have sex before one is ready.

Many teen television shows use sex to attract a young audience. Even the so-called Music-Television network (MTV) has soaked the public in sex-related programs.

I believe that young girls should be guided to find who they are and develop somewhat of an image with which they can feel comfortable. Almost every young girl cares about how she looks, and they should not feel as though they need to compete with other girls for attention and title through appearance.

Could the cause of premature interest in sex appeal indeed be caused in part by the media? Or are parents to blame for young girls and boys who value the way one looks rather than seeing the substance beneath?

Whatever causes this unconscious or conscious insurgence against gradual maturation, young teenagers need to be reminded that as much fun as being pretty can be, loving who you are and developing spirit are more important and rewarding than being an adult before you can handle those responsibilities.

Lastly, my question is this: What constitutes beauty and how do we teach young girls that the most radiant form of it comes from within?

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