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**PUBLISHER'S NOTE**  
**Good People of Westfield,**  
**End This Abhorrent Behavior**

The behavior of all parties at the Westfield Council meetings is abhorrent. The good people of our town must bind together and put an end to it. The lack of decorum is a disgrace, and it is hurting this wonderful community.

**Horace Corbin, Publisher**  
*The Westfield Leader*

ABCDICTIONOPQRSTDECEPTIONUVWXYZ



**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. Orcus - The lower world; Hades
2. Hirundine - Relating to the swallows (birds)
3. Sillon - A defense built in a wide ditch
4. Chiliad - A thousand of anything

**ROYNE**

1. To bite or gnaw
2. A small stone; pebble
3. Of royalty; royal
4. Mean; nasty

**LAGOSTOMA**

1. Sluggishness; lethargy
2. In music, denoting passages to be rendered in a mournful manner
3. Speech impediment; slurring
4. Harelip

**CUDGEL**

1. A short, thick stick of wood used as a weapon
2. To ridicule; prod
3. To delude by flattery
4. To nestle or draw close for comfort

**LEGERDEMAIN**

1. Gracefulness; flowing
2. The holdings of a Scottish laird or landowner
3. Pertaining to forests; heavily wooded areas
4. Sleight of hand or trickery

**See more letters on page 5**

# Government... Like Fire, It Is a Dangerous Servant, Fearful Master

What we call the Presidents' Day holiday is really not that. It's actually the holiday celebrating George Washington's birth in 1732, according to the United States Office of Personnel Management.

Granted too, there's some argument about what calendar was in use during that time. Although it's popularly thought that Presidents' Day is the combination of Washington's and Lincoln's birthday, Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 1809 never became a federal holiday; but it did become a legal holiday in several states, such as New Jersey.

In 1968, legislation moved several federal holidays. Washington's Birthday holiday of February 22 was moved to the third Monday in February each year. Since taking effect in 1971, it was intended to simplify the calendar and give government workers three-day weekends.

The fact that there are three-day weekends now seems the important feature of most holidays today - such as Presidents' Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day. Could it be that because we forgot the real reasons for the holidays that we are in the mess that we are today? One could question the significance of a general who hardly won a battle, except for his last one - or a statesman who hardly won an election, except for his last one.

George Washington was the great general with few victories. He's called the "Father of Our Country" and most of us know that he was the first President of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln was the great statesman that hardly won an election. Considered one of the greatest, he was the 16th President of the United States and was assassinated in office at the start of his

second term in 1865.

Which of the two said, "Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company?" or "Government is not reason. Government is not eloquence. It is force. And, like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master?" These are quotes of George Washington.



And then you would know that Abraham Lincoln said at Gettysburg: "that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." His quote inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. is, "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds..." We think it is important for our children to know of these great men of perilous times, of their character and sacrifice, of their contribution to country and mankind.

It's way past time for all countrymen, adults, elected officials - you and I - to live by our deeds with the honor and character of these great men.

"George Washington clearly defined what it means to be an American through his actions, exemplified the meaning of the words, ideals, devotion, and love of country."

Bill Sanders, Portraits of Patriots  
 www.goleader.com/services/video/07feb08-Patriots/07feb08-Patriots.htm

## Gay Marriage, Equality, Same-Sex Union; Which Is It?

The same sex marriage issue is full of emotional extremes, misinformation, poor newspaper reporting, purposeful terminology usage and disingenuous arguments. Take N.J. Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-Gloucester) desire to fast track the bill to legalize same sex marriages in the state of N.J. Senator Sweeney has had a change of heart on the issue of gay marriage since the last time it was brought up for a vote in the N.J. Legislature. Now he sees this as a civil rights issue and not one that involves his religious beliefs as he did the last time. Why is it a civil rights issue now? What new law guarantees anyone the right to a word? The answer is because who can argue against civil rights? Anyone who does is clearly biased. It is disingenuous. How about the linkage that newspapers like *The Star-Ledger* make between the broader issue of gay rights, of which gay marriage is a subset, and bullying. Why? The answer is we all must be against bullying and by association, for gay rights and by association for gay marriage. If this does not work, what will the Democrats think of next? I know - the mother of all justifications - it is for the safety of the children. That one is always a winner. They will just have to think of a way to figure this in. That could be a tough one though.

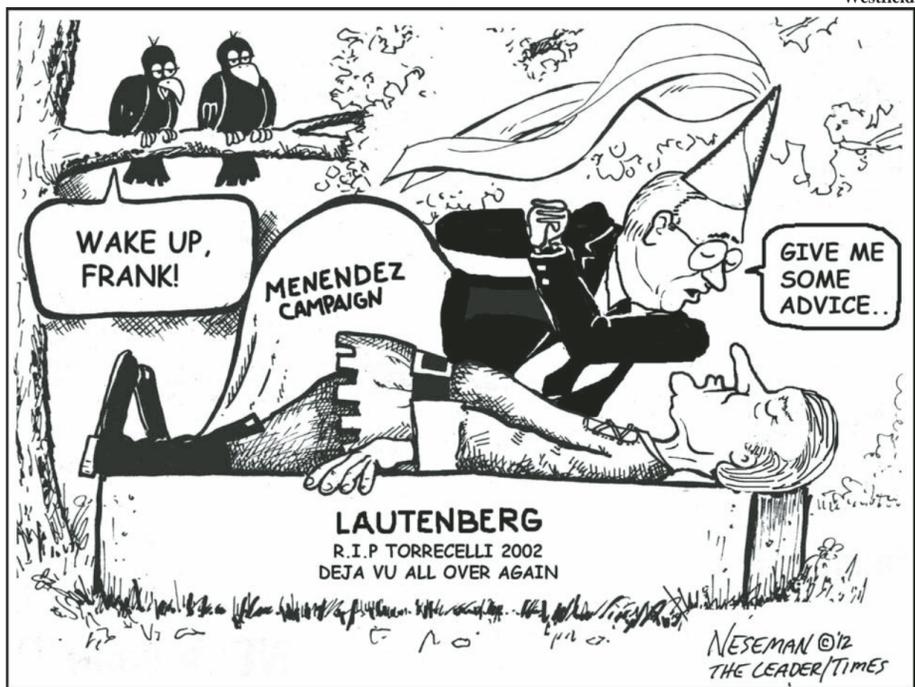
Have you noticed that the term gay marriage is now frequently referred to as marriage equality? Why do you suppose this is? The answer is because equality polls better. Who can argue against equality? Come on, there is already the Civil Union Act passed in N.J. in 2006 which was designed to provide equality. If that law does not bestow all of the same rights and obligations that come with an official marriage today, then fix that in a revised civil union equality bill. I am all for equality in the law for a same sex union - same rights and obligations as marriage - but just not the term marriage. Let's get behind a revised Civil Union Equality law instead.

I do not dispute the genuine love that same sex couples can have for each other and their desire to express and enjoy this relationship publicly and legally. I am just one of those crazy radical people who happen to believe that the word marriage should be reserved for the legal union of a man and a woman. A heterosexual marriage is the only marriage that can procreate the species which gives it the edge in any natural marriage argument. The appropriate term for same sex unions is not the term marriage. Critics will say what's the big deal? It's only a word. And I say this argument cuts both ways, what's the big deal? It's only a word.

Polls for a long time have indicated

public support for same sex union equality and only recently do some polls indicate that the public's opposition to gay marriage is eroding. I am not sure why. My suspicion is that most people do not care about this issue as much as the hyper-emotional lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual groups do. I am not obsessed by it either, but I am not indifferent either. Therefore I am left no choice but to pull out the mother-of-all last cards I can play to argue against it. We must think about the safety of the children. Same sex unions are clearly not the way the Lord or nature (for those non believers) intended for couples. In support of this allegedly conservatively biased position is the small issue of procreation to ensure species survival. In a same sex union - can't happen. In this sense same sex marriage can never be considered traditional. It will therefore be unnecessarily confusing to impressionable children to see or have the term marriage taught applying to both normal heterosexual relationships and also to gay unions. Children will be confused if a person refers to another same sex person as my wife or husband or spouse. If this law is passed, I see it as another fabric of society break down - not a big one - but just the same if it did not pass - not a big injustice to gay people either.

Richard Sauerwein  
 Westfield



## Better Lighting Is Needed at Corner Of North and Tuttle in Westfield

*Editor's Note: This letter was sent to Westfield Councilwoman JoAnn Neylan and copied to this newspaper.*

The recent double accident at Tuttle Parkway and North Avenue has been haunting me; it was so tragic and disturbing.

I would like to offer a suggestion or two that might help at that dangerous point, as well as promoting safety while crossing streets at night.

After the accident I drove through town at about 6 p.m. on South Avenue and it was nearly like daytime so bright were the lights, very good for helping commuters cross, and also shoppers. But at Tuttle Parkway and North Avenue it was very dim and since I was heading west, I had to come over a slight rise so the visibility was even more compromised. I can see how a driver would miss seeing a pedestrian in the street. Can't

we have the very brightest lights installed there to help visibility?

Just as the town has signs and a campaign about being watchful of children when school is out or just starting again in the fall, I would like to offer the suggestion that we have a winter campaign when people are crossing streets when it's very dark in the late afternoon in winter. I often am startled by people crossing who are in dark clothing and seem to assume I can see them because they can see me. Not true. We need to be very aware to avoid these tragic events and the town could help by education of the populace.

In addition to being extremely careful, carrying a small flashlight would be a great asset when crossing in winter months so drivers can see you.

Jill Siter  
 Westfield

## Bullying Laws Are A Catch-22 That Only Make The Problem Worse

You are probably aware that the Council on Local Mandates ruled recently that New Jersey's anti-bullying law is unconstitutional because it is an unfunded mandate. To satisfy the public, Governor Christie is about to approve spending precious taxpayer money to enable schools to comply with the law.

The Council acknowledged that the New Jersey law is well intentioned. Kids continue to suffer from bullying and to take their own lives in record numbers despite a dozen years of intensive anti-bullying efforts! We are desperate to put a stop to these tragedies. However, good intentions alone are not enough to solve a problem.

More than any individual in the world, I have been warning that anti-bullying laws cannot possibly work. I have correctly predicted that they are a Catch-22 that will only make the problem worse, while wasting tremendous amounts of money. Whenever a state legislature intensifies its anti-bullying laws, bullying becomes a bigger problem. It is now being called a "crisis" and an "epidemic." Anti-bullying laws are not

the remedy for this epidemic. They are a major cause of the epidemic!

But I am not writing merely to warn you that the law can't succeed. I am turning to you because New Jersey can, indeed, achieve what it is striving to accomplish: a major reduction in bullying with no extra expense. But this cannot be accomplished by counterproductive anti-bullying laws.

To understand why New Jersey's anti-bullying efforts are failing and how it can easily succeed, please read my latest Psychology Today blog, How New Jersey Can Reduce Bullying with No Extra Budget, www.psychologytoday.com/blog/psychological-solution-bullying/201201/how-new-jersey-can-reduce-bullying-no-extra-budget.

Please, don't let New Jersey sink further into the bullying morass. Inform the public and urge those in power to consider a more logical approach to the problem before we hear of more bullying related tragedies.

Izzy Kalman, Director  
 Bullies to Buddies, Staten Island

## If Not for Rampant Patronage, Runnells Could Be Profitable

Runnells Hospital came up at the last freeholder meeting. It was the same tired exchange seen at campaign time; citizens mentioned cost-cutting, which leads to the freeholders attacking the citizens in an attempt to make it look like we were questioning the purpose and integrity of the hospital.

But numbers don't lie, politicians do.

In 2010 the Union County Watchdog Association studied the employee list and found that Runnells employees were listed on other county departments' payrolls, meaning they are hidden from the Runnells bottom line, which raises transparency concerns. When the county claims Runnells only lost xyz in any given year they aren't giving us the whole picture.

Runnells is a patronage pit extraordinaire! The list of the connected is too long to list here. In addition to the payroll, the county contracts out for outside services that

could most likely be provided by existing staff within the county.

For these facts alone this hospital should be privatized. Freeholder Alexander Mirabella said it best during the 2010 budget hearings, although he meant it as a glowing compliment, "Runnells Hospital only loses a little bit of money now, where in the past it lost millions annually."

If not for the rampant patronage and questionable job titles, this hospital would have a chance at being consistently profitable considering the lack of a revenue-sapping emergency room and attendant uninsured patients.

Despite the dysfunction the dedicated professional staff and volunteers at Runnells make it a terrific hospital - the Union County Democratic machine have made it a very bad business that taxpayers should get out of.

Tina Renna, President  
 Union County Watchdog Assoc.

## 'Courts Gone Wild' Cost Scotch Plains and Fanwood Significantly

I have written a number of times about the out-of-sight property taxes that we taxpayers are forced to pay in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. As most of you know, the majority of our property tax dollars go to our school system. While it is true that our school board failed to give taxpayers a sizeable break in our taxes with the additional funds provided last year from Trenton, along with failing to rein in the Superintendent salary that exceeds limits placed by our Governor and should be held accountable for these actions. The most significant reason for the cost to taxpayers is the miniscule amount of state aid that our courts permit being returned to us. The courts, in turn, take our money and send it to 31 districts that they say deserve it. These "Courts Gone Wild" must be stopped.

So far none of our elected officials have decided to do anything about it. Is it they agreed with the courts, ignored our interests, or just failed to represent our interests over theirs?

Finally one elected official, regrettably one that does not represent our district, has stood up and said that this injustice must stop.

That Senator is Michael Doherty of Hunterdon County. Both the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Town Councils have approved resolutions supporting his bill (S-280) that would remove the courts from their non-constitutional power of dictating where our cash goes. In particular, each student would receive equal state aid. This would result

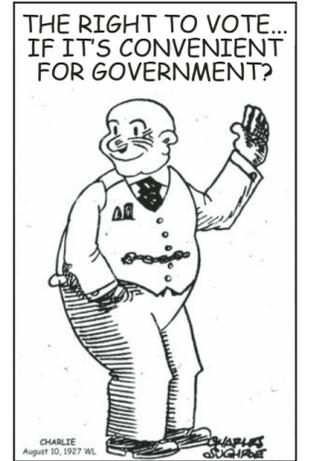
in approximately an additional \$40 million in aid to our joint school system, which would make a significant impact on our \$80-million school budget.

If this sounds like something that is long over due, then join us on February 21, in the Scotch Plains Council Chambers for a presentation by the Senator. The Scotch Plains Town Council has offered the Senator only 15 minutes to give his presentation and he will only be limited to answering questions from Town Council. However, the Senator's staff along with the Scotch Plains - Fanwood Tea Party will be present to address any questions from our taxpayers outside the council chambers.

If you can't make it go to the Senator's website, www.fairschoolfunding.com. Here you can see other information, sign an on line petition and use a calculator to determine how much additional state aid each of your towns, if not from Scotch Plains or Fanwood, would receive should the Senator's bill become law.

However, the Senator cannot do it alone, he needs our help and support for our benefit. Our country has a long history of fighting for justice; should you agree that this situation cannot continue, please join us that night and make a stand for what many view as compliance to our constitution, fair funding and something that should never have happened in the first place.

Albert Muller  
 Scotch Plains



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