

Concepts & Thought

'Cherub' Experience Teaches Invaluable Lessons in Journalism

By STEVEN KRAKAUER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

In 1984, Albert Scardino received a Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing in the *Georgia Gazette*. In the summer of 1965, he stayed at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. for five weeks.

Angelo Henderson won a 1999 Pulitzer Prize in feature writing for an article he wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*. He spent five weeks of his 1979 summer at Northwestern University.

Baltimore *Sun* reporter Lisa Pollak received a 1997 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing. She was a guest student at Northwestern University during the summer of 1985.

This summer, I and 85 other high school seniors from 27 states, spent five weeks, from June 24 to July 27, at Northwestern University, in hopes that maybe someday we would follow in the footsteps of these lauded journalists.

All three of the Pulitzer Prize winners (and all 86 of us) were involved in what is known as the National High School Institute Journalism Division, a program to encourage high school students from the U.S. to become immersed in journalism.

The program began in the summer of 1934, and every summer since then (except a brief period in the mid-1940s) the campus of Northwestern gets invaded by "cherubs," as the high school students are lovingly called.

The "cherub" camp was quite different than anything I have ever experienced. It was not high school. You walked back to your dorm with your roommate inside and not to your home with your parents behind the door. There were no A's and B's, and no worries of grade point average to boost your chances at the college of your choice. There was no seventh period English or third period gym.

But at the same time, this wasn't college. We had to be back at the dorms in time to meet our curfew. Everyone in the program went to the same classes and the same lectures and the many day trips required an instructor by your side at all times.

Maybe it was something in between the two, like a five-week college orientation — an orientation where you learned more about a specific subject than any other subject studied during an entire year of learning.

This five weeks was much more than an orientation — it was an experience.

We took field trips. But we didn't just take field trips. We saw a Cubs-Mets game at Wrigley Field. One step better, before the game, former superstar and now Cubs announcer Joe Carter lectured us on baseball and broadcasting.

We visited and took a tour of the



Courtesy of Steven Krakauer

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME...Westfield resident and Westfield High School student Steven Krakauer seized the opportunity of a lifetime when he attended Northwestern University's National High School Institute Journalism Division, a program for high school students from the U.S. to become immersed in journalism. The program's instructor Ashli Sims joined Steve, pictured, top left, and other students in downtown Chicago. The pupils, known affectionately as the "cherubs," were visiting the offices of *The Chicago Tribune*.

Chicago Tribune offices. One step better, before our tour, Ann Marie Lipinski, Editor-in-Chief of the *Tribune* spoke to us. And a columnist on the staff conducted the tour.

But beyond all this freedom we had and all the special opportunities of the field trips we attended, I came out of this program with a new respect for and a new understanding of journalism.

The instructors filled our days with lessons, lectures and assignments, but the erudition we received extended far beyond the classroom. Here are a few good messages we learned there:

If your mother says she loves you, check it out. In general, the journalistic motive behind this first lesson we learned is to always fact check and make sure every bit of information can be easily backed up, no matter how insignificant the fact seems. For life, however, it's important not to jump to conclusions.

Rudofsky Receives Bachelor of Science

WESTFIELD - Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. has announced that Lauren Rudofsky of Westfield earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Textiles and Apparel.

Growing Enrollment Creates New Positions in Westfield Schools

WESTFIELD - Approximately 10 new teaching positions were filled this summer for the incoming school year in Westfield.

Increased enrollment and curriculum changes have prompted the need for new hires. The new teachers will be placed at the elementary, intermediate and high school levels.

Syracuse Univ. Names Grunberg to Dean's List

MOUNTAINSIDE - Syracuse University's College of Arts and Sciences has revealed that Mountainside resident Jason Grunberg has been named to the Dean's List for the 2001 spring semester. Jason, a junior, is majoring in policy studies.

City University Places Jacobus on Dean's List

SCOTCH PLAINS - New Jersey University in Jersey City has reported that Scotch Plains resident Amy Jacobus was named to the Dean's List for the 2001 spring semester.

tant not to jump to conclusions. Maybe that's extreme, but if your mother says she loves you, don't jump to conclusions, and find out for yourself.

The job of journalists is not to ask questions but to answer them. People don't read newspapers to be challenged. This is not a guessing game, but a place to find the facts, the truth.

When someone in power says something stupid, always quote him or her. Now this should just be common knowledge. The real reason is that people in the news should know better, and realize if they are going to make a stupid quote. The better reason is that, well, stupid quotes by famous people can be interesting.

There should be a moratorium on adverbs and "to be" verbs in journalism. Some rules just need to be (sorry) followed religiously (sorry), no questions asked.

One of our instructors and recent graduate, who was Editor-in-Chief of *The Daily Northwestern*, often reminded us, "The job of journalism is to piss people off." The instructors (recent grads of Northwestern and professionals in the field of journalism) exhibited dedication and skill, the experiences were fulfilling and rewarding and the lessons learned will be remembered forever.

And who knows, maybe someday one of the 86 "cherubs" will win their own Pulitzer Prize.

Maybe it'll even be that one kid from Westfield.

Eric Ostrowski Studies Onboard Academy Schooner

WESTFIELD - Eric Ostrowski, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Ostrowski of Westfield, will enter Tabor Academy in Marion, Mass. in the fall as a member of the sophomore class.

The academy offers new students an opportunity to experience life onboard *S.S.V. Tabor Boy*, Tabor's 90-foot schooner.

Eric is currently participating in Tabor's "Orientation at Sea" program, which brings 12 to 14 students, Tabor faculty, and Tabor student crew members together for six days of sailing, exploring, and learning along the coast of Maine.

During the learning adventure, Eric will be exposed to the ocean with a general introduction to oceanography, marine biology, and related environmental issues.

Eric will earn one-half semester credit in nautical science for his participation in the program.

As part of the vessel's crew of trainees, he will learn to handle sail, stand watch, steer a course, and take part in various other traditional duties of manning a large sailing vessel.

Eric will participate in special activities, such as exploring spruce-covered islands, hiking and swimming in Acadia National Park, and group sing-a-longs on deck under the stars.

Elementary Summer Enrichment Program Helps Builds Confidence

WESTFIELD - The coordinator of the Primary Enrichment Program (PEP) for the Westfield Public Schools, Mylissa Bauman, reports that the enthusiasm of the students in the three-week summer program is gratifying.

"Parents tell me that the students look forward to attending the classes and eagerly discuss each day's activities," stated Mrs. Bauman. "The program gives children an opportunity to build confidence and enthusiasm for the upcoming school year in a creative and enjoyable learning environment."

The PEP Program, in its 12th summer in Westfield, is running through Friday, August 10, at Jefferson Elementary School. A total of 60 students, who are entering first, second and third grades in September attend the half-day classes, which are designed to enable the students to be actively involved in the learning process.

Westfield Public School students, representing all six elementary schools in town, are enrolled in the program, which features limited class sizes of 7-10 students.

There are seven classrooms and one nurse/health educator selected for this program.

"These are very creative teachers, who make learning both interesting and productive," reported Mrs. Bauman. "They use theme-based activities to integrate learning in all subject areas with a special emphasis on language arts and math."

Mrs. Bauman continued, "Students' successes are highlighted and positive learning experiences are reinforced in the PEP program to build confidence and enthusiasm for learning so students are excited to begin a new school year."

The teachers in the PEP program include: Lisa Thomas, Lauren Lessig, Mike Burgess, Melissa Greenwald, Stacey Stanzel, Lisa Kralkauskas, Karen Salter and Nurse Jeanne Jensen. Theresa Whitehead is the program's secretary.

According to Mrs. Bauman, an exciting addition to PEP this year is the involvement of the Westfield Historical Society.

"Through a HEART Grant from the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, we have been able to bring musical artists Cheryl Warfield and Jim Besch of Arts Horizons in Englewood to create hands-on musical activities that emphasize Westfield's rich history through music and dance," said Mrs. Bauman.

The PEP program also works closely with the Westfield Public Library during the three weeks of classes. Children's Librarian Carol Wilson visits each class and encourages reading among the students.

This year's program is scheduled

to include special presentations in mathematics and science.

To celebrate the completion of this year's PEP program, authors and illustrators Dan and Kim Adlerman

will share their work with the students on Friday, August 10. Each student will also receive a complimentary copy of the authors' book, "Africa Calling."



ALL PEPPEP UP...The staff of Westfield Public School's Primary Enrichment Program (PEP) meet to discuss their plans for the last few days of the three-week summer enrichment program. Pictured, left to right, are: standing, Program Secretary Theresa Whitehead and teachers Lisa Thomas, Karen Salter and Lauren Lessig; middle row, Mike Burgess, Jeanne Jensen and Program Coordinator Mylissa Bauman; and front row, Melissa Greenwald, Stacey Stanzel and Lisa Kralkauskas. In addition to the teachers, guest speakers in the program included authors, musical artists and a children's librarian.

Tracey Sanguiliano Receives Woman's Club Scholarship

FANWOOD - The Woman's Club of Fanwood recently awarded Tracey Sanguiliano of Fanwood a \$500 scholarship.

Tracey will attend The College of New Jersey in the fall, majoring in communications. She is the daughter of Lisa Sanguiliano and the late Paul Sanguiliano.

With an outstanding record at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Tracey was the business editor and editor-in-chief in her senior year at *The Fanwoonian*, the school newspaper.

Tracey was also a member of the Junior Statesmen of America, Students Against Drunk Driving, teen tutoring, and soccer and wrestling teams. She is working part-time at a local supermarket as bookkeeper.

The Woman's Club of Fanwood was founded in March of 1930 and incorporated in October of 1965. The purpose of the group is to promote social and cultural advancement of its members, and by concerted endeavor to help in civic and philanthropic activities.

The club has several fundraisers during the year and donates to worthy causes in the community, such as the scholarship. The committee was chaired by Delores Shunk, assisted by Helen Linsay and Joan Kimer.

For membership information, please call the President at (908) 322-4772. Club meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

Cornell University Awards Degree to Dennis Yueh

BERKELEY HEIGHTS - Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. has revealed that Dennis Yueh of Berkeley Heights has received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science.

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