

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

As Season Ends, Student-Fan Reflects on Yankee Magic

By ADAM TURNER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

You know those cheesy Mastercard commercials that make you want to puke every time you see them. You know what I'm talking about. Fishing pole, \$10. Boat rental, \$30. All day fishing trip with dad, priceless.

Yeah, those — the ones with the insanely rhetorical endings that make you think Mastercard must be trying desperately to do anything they can to close the gap between themselves and Visa.

Well, as the World Series came to an end Sunday night, all I could do is look back at all the money I spent on Yankee games this year. And even though the ending should leave a bitter taste in my mouth, all I could say was — "priceless."

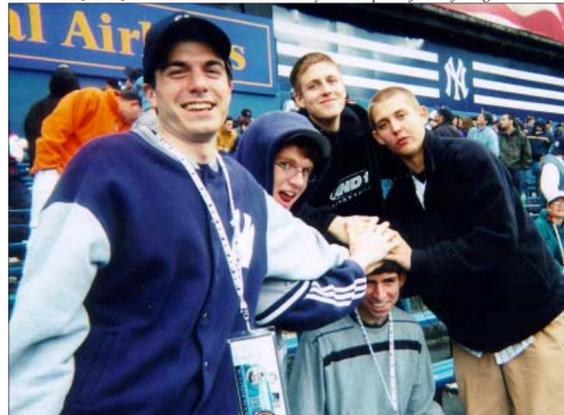
Fourteen tickets to Yankee games, all in the bleachers excluding one game, \$235. Fourteen round trips into New York City via NJ Transit, \$112. Chanting endlessly at Red Sox fans after back-to-back home

parents and picking up McDonalds after 1 a.m., priceless.

Money given to random homeless people throughout the season, \$1.25. I got suckered in by the sad "I have no money to get home" story. Hey, that's enough to buy a soda at WHS.

Box seat ticket to a regular season game, at the least \$30. Bleachers tickets, which also includes sitting among the best fans in sports game after game, \$8. Taunting every Mets fan that decided to invade section 43 on a Sunday night after a 4-1 victory, priceless.

My Yankee pinstripe jersey I wore religiously throughout the season, \$60. Coming home during an unnamed school class to try and get World Series tickets unsuccessfully, 20 minutes of inspiring class time (class will remain nameless for the safety and well being of the graduation of Adam Turner). A phone call from the game to home, 35 cents. Being able to say I was a part of one of the greatest runs



Courtesy of Adam Turner
DIE-HARD YANKEE FANS...At a recent New York Yankee game, loyal fans from Westfield High School made themselves part of the enthusiastic audience. Pictured, left to right, are: Joe Fischetti, Devin Power, James Charaton, Adam Turner, and, seated, Dan Finestein.

runs to tie and then win the game in the tenth inning of an early season division game, priceless.

You don't know how much pleasure it actually gave us to rub it in the faces of the road tripping New Englanders who decided they could "take over" section 43 of the bleachers, our territory during every Sunday home game of the year. "Yeah, go drive ya caa back ta beantown." Get out of our section!

Countless hot dogs, shish kabob sticks and knishes filled with mustard at our favorite pre game stop, "Twin's Fast Food," right across from "the house Ruth built," \$88. See-through tarps for rain delays, which totaled one and we actually forgot the tarps that day, \$6. Being in the stadium for Cal Ripken, Jr.'s last game in the Bronx, even though it was cancelled before the end because of rain, priceless.

Bottle of soda at Yankee Stadium, \$4. Metro Cards to take either the D or 4 trains into the Bronx, depending on what kind of a mood we were in that day, \$42. Staying overnight at my stepfather's Washington Square Village apartment after an 8 o'clock game with three friends and no

in professional sports history, priceless.

As the game seven of the World Series came to an end and we all watched the fall of a dynasty, I slowly got up and shook the hands of each person at my house and said it had been a good run. This season has left me with a million memories and three very good friends, more than any other team will ever be able to give me in one year.

No one can be disappointed with how our Yankees played; they fought back in the face of defeat and exemplified everything this country needs to be. And just because they lost doesn't mean the city of New York loses, or that America will lose, it simply meant the Yankees lost another World Series, which totals 12, a higher number than any other team's World Series victories. It's just a game, and win or lose there's only one thing I can say about the 2001 season — priceless.

Editors Note: In next week's Student View, Britney Sanders of Mountainside will write about her experience at the National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C.

Concepts & Thought



WORTHY OF RECOGNITION...The New Jersey Association of Early Childhood Education presented Theresa Mandrillo, Director of Westfield Cooperative Nursery School, with a Member Recognition Award at their annual convention at the Hilton in East Brunswick on October 19. Pictured, left to right, are: Diane Young, Mrs. Mandrillo, Pat Michaels and Angela Murphy.

Theresa Mandrillo Awarded For Educational Leadership

WESTFIELD — The New Jersey Association of Early Childhood Education presented Theresa Mandrillo, Director of Westfield Cooperative Nursery School, with a Member Recognition Award at their annual convention at the Hilton in East Brunswick on October 19.

Mrs. Mandrillo was recognized for her commitment to early childhood education, as well as her achievements as director of the nurs-

ery school.

Mrs. Mandrillo taught at Westfield Cooperative Nursery School for 11 years before becoming director of the school in 1995.

The school, which encourages parent participation in their child's classroom monthly, is located in the First Congregational Church at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield.

The school's philosophy is an extension of the home and parents and teachers working in concert to enhance the lives of children. Play is the optimal venue for learning at this stage of development.

Westfield Announces School Closure Dates

WESTFIELD — All Westfield Public Schools will be closed on Thanksgiving, November 22 and Friday November 23.

Schools will follow a four-hour session on Wednesday, November 21. Four-hour school days are also scheduled for elementary and intermediate school students on Tuesday, November 27.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held for grades K-5 on that date, while intermediate teachers will attend a professional development program.

Local Residents Enroll At Syracuse University

AREA — Westfielders Jay Garrels, Kevin Johnson, and Allison Klass, Alexander Grunberg of Mountainside, as well as Brett Bushinger and Eryn Bushinger of Scotch Plains have enrolled at Syracuse University (SU) in Syracuse, N.Y.

Jay is enrolled in SU's College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in arts and sciences. Kevin is enrolled in



HONORED STUDENTS...Kent Place senior Christie MacDonald of Westfield, left, and senior Julia Chabrier of Westfield, were named among the 13 students who received honors from the 47th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Christie was named a Commended Student for her outstanding scholastic potential and high performance in the program. Julia was named a Semifinalist in the program and is eligible to advance to Finalist standing, a prerequisite for a Merit Scholarship Award.

Union Catholic HS Begins Strategic Planning Efforts

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union Catholic High School (UCHS) in Scotch Plains, has recently joined the ranks of hundreds of schools across the country and begun to look at and plan for the future.

On November 16 and 17, UCHS will host more than 150 people from the area and beyond as part of the school's ongoing long-range strategic planning process.

The process is being facilitated by the Institute of School and Parish Development (ISPD), a national development consulting firm serving Catholic schools, parishes and dioceses.

The convocation on November 16 and 17 is a key component in the planning process for the next three to five years of the school. The event brings together people from inside and outside the school to share in the planning and to create a dynamic vision for the future. Attendees offer a diverse cross-section of expertise.

"Some of the people from outside the school who will be involved include, for example, a plant manager to serve on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, a priest to serve in the Spiritual Life Committee and a Certified Public Accountant to serve on the Administration and Finance Committee," stated Sr. Percy Lee, Principal of UCHS.

"We want to involve as many people as possible who have an interest in the

success and future of Union Catholic," she added.

UCHS' long-range planning efforts are taking a look at all areas of the school including: spiritual life, academic, student life, administration and finance, faculty and staff, development and marketing, buildings and grounds, technology, and athletics. Guests to the convocation will offer insight and recommendations related to these areas.

This process began with the faculty and staff, plus a Development Core Team composed of parents, alumni, and community members. They have already identified the main challenges the school faces in all nine areas.

These challenges will be presented to everyone at the convocation for their suggestions on how to solve them. Following the convocation, the Institute of School and Parish Development will compile the results and prioritize the recommendations before presentation to the school leadership.

In February of 2002, the implementation process will commence.

Jennifer Schembs Named to Dean's List

WESTFIELD — Dr. Donna Crawley, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs at Ramapo College in Mahwah, recently revealed that Westfield resident Jennifer Schembs was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2001 semester.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner Slated by DECA Chapter

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Chapter, an Association of Marketing students, is sponsoring its 11th annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner for homeless and needy families on Thanks-

giving Day at the Black United Fund Community Center Complex, located on the corner of West 7th Street and Central Avenue in Plainfield.

The dinner will include a home-cooked turkey with all of the trimmings, and will be served between 12 and 3 p.m. Over 80 students, with the help of their parents, will cook and serve the dinner.

Those attending will be served by DECA students at a sit-down dinner, and will also be given take-home dinners so they, like all families, can enjoy their turkey leftovers after the holiday.

DECA student David Baumwoll said, "Last year, over 180 guests attended, and they really appreciated the dinner, and the company of DECA students."

If any agency or organization has clients who would be interested in attending, they can call DECA at (908) 889-8600. Residents interested in contributing to the dinner can also contact DECA. Residents who would like to donate a turkey should call DECA as soon as possible.

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Month

Sometimes we all need a break...



"For the past nine years, my wife has lived with Alzheimer's disease. As an internist who practiced with the Summit Medical Group for nearly 40 years, I cared for patients with a variety of illnesses. Now in my retirement, I care for her. I love my wife but caring for her is a 24/7 job and, frankly, sometimes I need a break. For the past three years, Esther has attended Spend-A-Day Adult Health Center. She gets a chance to socialize with others while I run errands and maybe even get in a game of golf. Meanwhile I have peace of mind knowing that she is getting the best care. When I pick her up at 3:30, I feel the time apart was good for both of us."

Dr. William Diefendorf

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KENT PLACE SCHOOL

PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE • GRADES K-5

You're invited to experience a Primary School where girls test their abilities and take joy in learning.

Tuesday, December 4, 9-11 a.m.

Open House Program
9:00 - 9:30 | Refreshments & Registration
9:30 - 10:00 | Information Session
10:00 - 11:00 | Tours

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908.273.0900 • www.kentplace.org

KENT PLACE SCHOOL

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE • GRADES 6-12

You're invited to experience an Upper School where girls are focused, self-reliant, and leading the way.

Sunday, December 2, 1-3 p.m.

Open House Program
1:00 - 1:30 | Refreshments & Registration
1:30 - 2:00 | Information Session
2:00 - 3:00 | Tours

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