

University News

Maloney and Shulman Placed on Dean's List

WESTFIELD - Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y. has reported that Westfield residents Tyler Maloney and Lacey Shulman have been named to the Dean's List.

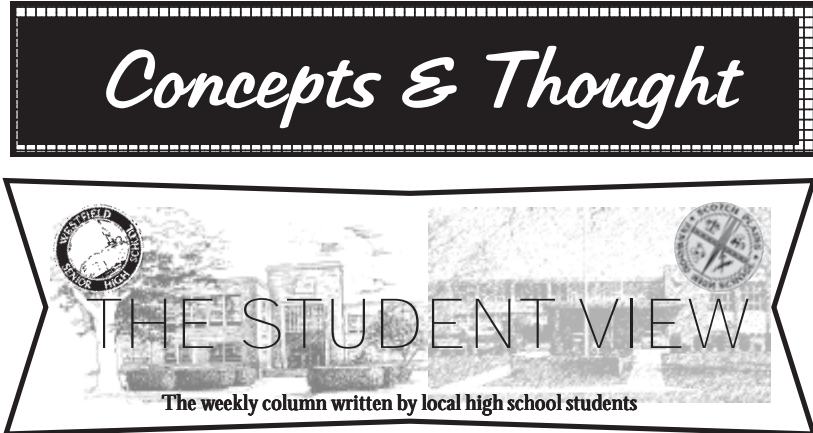
Tyler, a member of the Class of 2003, is a graduate of Oratory Preparatory School. He is concentrating his studies in sports information and communications at Ithaca.

Lacey, a graduate of Westfield High School, is majoring in occupational science/OT at Ithaca. She is a member of the Class of 2002.

Montclair State Univ. Places Fanwoodians On Fall Dean's List

FANWOOD - The Office of Public Information at Montclair State University in Upper Montclair has revealed that Fanwood residents Jennifer A. Blauth and Brian D. Rogalin have been placed on the Dean's List for the fall 2001 semester.

Jennifer is majoring in human ecology with a concentration in family and child studies. Brian is undecided.



Learning for the Sake Of Standardized Testing

By MIRIAM BAMBERGER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

It's been proven. There is such a thing as over-testing, and New Jersey has done it. Between elementary school and high school graduation, students are given every standardized test from the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) to the GEPAs (Grade Eight Proficiency Assessments) to the HSPTs (High School Placement Tests).

One would think that by the 11th grade a student has sufficiently proven his (or her) level of proficiency in math and language arts.

But in the midst of junior year, when students are busy worrying about AP (Advanced Placement) tests and SATs and college visits, New Jersey students are taken out of the classroom for a three-day testing period to determine their overall level of literacy and mastery of basic math.

Wait, it gets better. These tests are only practice tests to prepare students for the real HSPTs. After the actual tests are over, schools are allowed to resume a normal schedule for a few weeks before administering an HSPT field test to experiment new test questions and sections.

To the incredulous readers out there, this is not a joke. But somebody should let the New Jersey Department of Education know that, since they are currently in the process of looking for new and improved standardized tests to inflict (I mean administer) to state schools in years to come.

This correlates nicely with the proposed Bush Education Bill, which calls for standardized testing for all American students each year, starting in the third grade.

President George W. Bush's feeling is that nationwide standardized testing will keep better tabs on students and school systems. However, there are those who would disagree. Bill Wetzel, founder of the Students Against Testing organization, said of today's education, "...it's just learning for the sake of testing."

This feeling is shared by many students and educators throughout the country. Today, students are plagued by the mentality that every word read or heard in a classroom must be memorized for an ensuing test. Tests ask for cold, hard facts. So naturally that's all students care about. An "A" on a test means and "A" in the class, which means a high GPA, which leads to college acceptance.

And when you add in these standardized wastes of time, the testing frenzy reaches a whole new level of ludicrousness. Most states require students to pass some type of exit exam to graduate high school.

For example, every high school junior in this state must pass the HSPT as a graduation requirement. This seems reasonable. When administered in moderation, a standardized test at the high school level can provide a fair measurement of students' general knowledge and academic achievement.

However, state officials reportedly want to increase testing at the third and fourth grades. What's next, a nationwide standardized coloring exam for kindergartners?

Students can't be expected to perform well in school if their learning is constantly being assessed by exam after exam. Testing every few years may be helpful in evaluating schools and students. But honestly, is all this testing really necessary?



HONORED...The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders recently praised students and educators from the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools for the role they play in the area's educational system. Pictured, left to right, are: Union County Vocational-Technical Schools pupil Brian Mench of Westfield, Union County Freeholder Mary P. Ruotolo, Union County Magnet High School

Union County Honors Vocational-Technical School Pupils During Nat'l Education Week

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders joined the national celebration of Vocational Education Week in February by honoring students and educators from the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools for the role they play in the area's educational system.

Seven pupils from the Vocational-Technical High School and Union County Magnet High School, as well

as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, received official resolutions from the freeholder board, citing their work as an "invaluable and irreplaceable learning tool."

"The Union County Vocational-Technical Schools are proud to be part of the educational training process that has started many, many thousands of individuals on their way to rewarding and productive careers,"

the resolution stated. The resolutions were awarded on March 7 at the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting at the County Administration Building in Elizabeth.

Over 850 high school students from Union County attend the share-time Vocational-Technical High School and the four-year Magnet High School, which are both located in Scotch Plains.



THE COUNT IS IN...Counting the bottles from the Penny Project, pictured, left to right, are: back row, David Kabakow, Sam McKeown and Rachel Rickles of Franklin Elementary School; and front row, United Fund of Westfield Penny Project Coordinator Danielle Walsh, Sherri Haber of Imaginarium, Franklin fifth grader Dara Silverman and Cara Price and Eric Devlin of Culligan.

Penny Project Continues To Aid Victims of Sept. 11

WESTFIELD - As the Westfield Board of Education vehicles rounded up the penny-filled water bottles for delivery to the United Fund of Westfield, the community's effort in helping the victims of September 11 was evident.

Over 2,500 students in all nine public elementary schools in Westfield donated their pennies

to the project, which was sponsored by Westfield's United Fund and the Parent-Teacher Council.

The water bottles for the project were contributed by the Culligan Water Company, and wagons placed in each school for placement of the bottles were donated by parents and the Imaginarium in town.



TRIBAL TRADE...When studying Native Americans, particularly the Leni Lenape Indian tribe in the area, third graders from Wilson Elementary School in Westfield participated in a trade fair at school, which once brought tribes together. Students brought handcrafted items to school, such as stationary, bookmarks, pressed flowers, and key chains, that were traded for others with their classmates. Pictured, above, Jesse DeMartino talks trade with Tom Kowalski.

Open House Activities On Tap At Vocational-Technical HS

SCOTCH PLAINS - Parents and students from Union County are invited to learn more about the Union County Vocational-Technical High School and its programs during an Open House on Thursday, April 18, on the Raritan Road campus in Scotch Plains.

The annual Open House will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will include guided tours of all available programs and facilities. The Open House is designed to ensure parents and students get a comprehensive look at the Vocational-Technical High School's leading occupational and skills training programs.

"The high school provides hundreds of students with the hands-on training they need to successfully pursue careers in their chosen fields," stated Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Bistocchi.

"We invite every parent and student in the county to attend the Open House and learn more about programs we offer," he added.

The April 18 Open House will include demonstrations of the latest

technologies in each of the school's instructional areas.

Auto Technology students will highlight the latest in emissions testing, while Culinary Arts pupils will provide samples of gourmet specialties from the school's bake shop. Students participating in the Graphic Communications program will demonstrate the latest in desktop publishing.

In addition to refreshments, all visitors will be invited to shop in the school's World Supermarket, take advantage of blood pressure screening administered by the Allied Health program, visit the greenhouses in the Horticulture program, and enjoy pampering from students enrolled in the Cosmetology program.

For more information regarding the April 18 Open House and the Vocational-Technical High School programs, please call the Day Admissions Office at (908) 889-8288, extension no. 340 or 341, or visit the school website at www.ucvts.tec.nj.us.

See it all in Color!
See it all on the Web!
www.goleader.com

The Only Place for Comics!

Little Shop of Comics
356 Park Ave
Downtown
Scotch Plains
908-322-9402
Open 7 Days a Week

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 4
Sports Cards, Action Figures, Gaming and More!

Many Annuity Owners Lose Money. Will You?

Some annuity owners lose over 50% of the value of their annuity when it pays off (income taxes up to 39% plus estate tax up to 55% on estates exceeding \$1,000,000).

It's true and we show you exactly how to help avoid the loss in our booklet "Annuity Owner Mistakes." The booklet is free and shows how to get more benefits from your existing assets and help preserve your annuity value.

Leave your address for your free copy
800-267-5677 (24 hours)
Stephen J. Cagnassola of Cedar Knolls

TC10915C(03/02)

lexia Association. An introduction to dyslexia, including the warning signs, affect on learning, and remedial approaches designed to prevent academic failure, will be analyzed.

The Special Education Committee is a sub-committee of the Westfield Parent-Teacher Council and acts as a support network, an information resource and as a watchdog on issues concerning special education.

The expo is held in conjunction with the committee's annual fundraiser for the Katherine E. Cuthbertson Memorial Fund, so named in honor of a little Westfield girl with severe disabilities who overcame significant obstacles to be one of the first fully "included" children

in the state.

Each year, the fund provides for a limited number of monetary awards to eligible Westfield High School seniors. Unlike academic scholarships, this award recognizes the student's personal achievement and growth through both their schooling and outside activities. The fund also provides for free educational programs for parents and teachers.

For more information about the expo, the Parent-Teacher Council/Special Education Committee, or to make a donation to the Katherine E. Cuthbertson Memorial Fund, please call (908) 789-7523 or (908) 233-2050 or visit www.westfieldnj.com/specialeducation.

Edison School to Host 'Marches On' Program

WESTFIELD - Over 225 middle school students and their adult mentors from middle schools across northern New Jersey will gather at Edison Intermediate School in Westfield on Wednesday, April 10, to explore issues of diversity, tolerance and safety in their schools and communities.

"Marches On" brings students involved in NJPTP, developed by the Princeton Center for Leadership Training and sponsored by the Department of Health and Senior Services since 1997.

At 9:30 a.m., there will be a "Large Group Welcome." Twenty minutes later, NJPTP students will offer special presentations. At 12 noon, "Exploring Issues of Diversity and Community - Part I" will be held, followed by "Part II."

The program is being implemented in 130 middle schools, which represent urban, suburban, and rural districts from all 21 counties in New Jersey. NJPTP trains middle school pupils in leadership skills, group facilitation, problem solving, and pre-

vention issues. NJPTP student leaders then outreach to their peers over the course of the school year through interactive, engaging, student-led workshops.

Over the course of the day, students will have the opportunity to showcase the work they are doing in their schools and learn about prevention work that is happening in other schools. Students and adults will also experience a new prevention module focused on exploring issues of diversity and community.

The objectives of this activity are to increase awareness of multicultural issues that affect attitudes and behaviors and to develop a common vision on how to embrace, enhance, and build on strengths regarding diversity issues.

Across New Jersey, approximately 700 middle school students will participate in "Marches On," as this event is also being hosted in central New Jersey by Millstone Township Middle School in Millstone, and in southern New Jersey by Centeron Country Club in Pittsgrove.

Kent Place School
Proudly Presents Speakers Series 2002

Leadership and America's Future in Space

A lecture by former U.S. Astronaut Sally Ride

Thursday, May 2, 2002 • 7:30 p.m.
Kent Place School Field House
42 Norwood Avenue, Summit, NJ

Tickets \$20/adults
\$10/students with ID

For event and ticket purchase information please call (908) 273-0900 ext. 231 or visit Kent Place online at www.kentplace.org