

The Westfield Leader

— Established 1890 —

The Official Newspaper of the Town of Westfield and the County of Union

Member of:
New Jersey Press Association
National Newspaper Association
Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Westfield, New Jersey
P.O. Box 250 • 50 Elm Street
Westfield, N.J. 07091

Tele: (908) 232-4407 • E-mail: press@goleader.com • Web: www.goleader.com • Fax: (908) 232-0473

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the offices of the newspapers at
P. O. Box 250, Westfield, New Jersey 07091

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY WATCHUNG COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

<p>Michelle H. LePoidevin A&E and EDUCATION</p> <p>Suzette F. Stalker COMMUNITY</p> <p>Jennifer Pinto PROFESSIONAL STAFF</p> <p>Lauren S. Pass PROFESSIONAL STAFF</p>	<p>Horace R. Corbin PUBLISHER</p> <p>David B. Corbin ASSISTANT PUBLISHER & SPORTS</p> <p>Karen M. Hinds OFFICE MANAGER</p>	<p>Fred K. Lecomte SALES DIRECTOR</p> <p>Michael L. Bartiromo MARKETING & PRODUCTION</p> <p>Robert P. Connelly CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS</p> <p>Lauren A. Gruman PROFESSIONAL STAFF</p>
---	---	--

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

One-year - \$24 • Two-year - \$46 • Three-year - \$66 • One-year college (September to May) - \$16

THE TIMES of Scotch Plains - Fanwood

— Established 1959 —

Official Newspaper of the Borough of Fanwood and the Township of Scotch Plains

Member of:
New Jersey Press Association • National Newspaper Association
Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association
Fanwood Business & Professional Association

Periodicals - Postage Paid at Scotch Plains, New Jersey
P. O. Box 368 • 1906 Bartle Avenue
Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076

HUNG UP!!

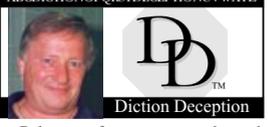
Songs of Heartbreak Symbolize Reader's Distrust of Marriage

By Milt Faith, Executive Director
Youth and Family Counseling Service



Diction Deception

ABCDICHTIONOPORSTDECEPTIONUWXYZ



An up-to-date reader writes: I am responding to last month's column, in which a reader listed the top 10 wedding songs. I am 38 years old, never married, and never will. The several marriages I attended have fallen flat, with many of my friends either divorced or living unhappily with their spouses. My own family was dysfunctional and I witnessed constant anger and abuse of all kinds. Why would anyone want to marry and have a close relationship, only to be hurt? So I dare you to print my list of songs, which focus on unhappy relationships rather than the unreal happy ones.

Answer: Here is your list. And then I'll comment:

1. "Heartbreak Hotel" — Elvis Presley
2. "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" — The Platters
3. "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do" — Neil Sedaka
4. "Who's Sorry Now" — Connie Francis
5. "Blueberry Hill" — Fats Domino
6. "The Great Pretender" — The Platters
7. "Brilliant Disguise" — Bruce Springsteen
8. "Half As Much" — Rosemary Clooney
9. "Every Breath You Take" — The Police
10. "Crying" — Roy Orbison

Yes, these are songs of heartbreak and broken relationships. But, like the "happy" songs and all music, these songs reflect a segment of our experiences in life. Most of us want emotional and physical intimacy, to love and to be loved; we want to share our joys, our sorrows. Your family background has created feelings of anxiety, fear of closeness, distrust, anger and various emotional defenses (walls) to protect you from anticipated, potential harm and pain.

Under these circumstances, it is best to remain uninvolved so that you are not hurt and will not hurt anyone. However, you may want to re-evaluate your attitude and emo-

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. Pauciloquy — To utter a few words
2. Smittle — To infect
3. Beglerbeg — The governor of a province in the Turkish empire
4. Aptalism — Inability to secrete saliva

CHEVACHIE

1. An expedition with calvary
2. Forming the shape of a V
3. In astronomy, the coma of a comet or other heavenly body
4. Soft leather made of kidskin

PARRHESIA

1. Temporary loss of memory of one's surroundings
2. Differing in spelling, meaning and origin, but pronounced alike
3. Boldness or freedom of speech
4. Speech deficiency such as slurring words

PASCUOUS

1. Peaceful; friendly
2. Found or growing in pastures
3. Easily penetrated
4. Of or connected to Easter

ABLIGURITION

1. Curbing the tongue; refraining from verbal response
2. Freeing oneself from bondage
3. Extravagance in the preparation and serving of food
4. A sacrilege or intentional desecration or disrespectful treatment of ideas held sacred

Answers will appear in the next issue.

Property Tax Constitutional Convention And Referendum Shouldn't Be Ignored

Once again, it appears that our legislators in Trenton are on the verge of leaving bad enough alone. This year, it looked as if the push for a state constitutional convention to address the antiquated, outdated and unfair property tax system in New Jersey had finally gained enough traction to allow state voters to decide in a November referendum whether to call for such a meeting.

Bills were introduced in the State Senate and Assembly calling for a ballot referendum, more people were talking about the issue, our local town governments backed the idea and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities sponsored two informational sessions on the legislation in the spring. But after seeming to gain some steam, it looks as though, yet again, legislators prefer to let local officials take the heat for a bad system rather than address the matter themselves. Action on the two bills—S-478 in the Senate and A-540 in the Assembly—must be taken quickly so that the ballot question can be prepared in time. With legislators facing a June 30 deadline to enact a state budget prior to their summer recess, it looks like time has run out on letting voters—those who pay property taxes—voice their feeling on the matter.

It's a shame this is the case because, unlike federal and state income taxes, where one pays according to their income level, the property tax levy is basically beyond the control of those who pay, a reality that makes it unfair in many instances.

Consider the case of two neighbors, both living in similar homes that are assessed, for tax purposes, about the same. One homeowner is young and earns \$100,000 annually; his property tax bill is, for instance, \$8,000, or about 8 percent of his income.

His neighbor, meanwhile, is a senior citizen who has lived in his house for several decades and depends on a retirement income that is much lower than his younger neighbor, which makes his own property tax bill of \$8,000 harder to swallow. How fair is this? And what is the elderly neighbor to do in some instances except move out of his house? If seniors leave the area and families move in, the school systems will face financial chaos.

The property taxation system in our state is part of a system going back hundreds of years, to a time when property owners were considered to be people of substantial means. But it's not that way anymore.

A constitutional convention would have prepared proposals consisting of amendments to the state constitution and revisions to existing state statutes, all revenue-neutral. It might have helped eliminate the inequities in the current system, ensure greater uniformity in the application of property taxes, reduce property taxes as a share of overall public revenue and help communities reduce their high dependence on property taxes. In New Jersey, property taxes account for almost half of all state and local revenue, an incredibly high level compared to the national average of less than one-third.

Why couldn't the Legislature at least allow voters to have the chance to express their opinion on this issue in November? What would have been wrong with opening a discussion on this regressive tax? By their silence on this matter, state legislators have, in effect, endorsed the existing property taxation system. Given that it's a good bet that most property tax payers despise the current system, are our state legislators truly representing their constituency?

Westfield Baseball League Coach Feels Fortunate to Live in Fine Town

An interesting play occurred between the Blue Jays and The Athletics over the weekend of June 15 on the baseball fields at Gumbert Park that deserves further mention.

It was an unusual play, but didn't involve a fantastic catch, game winning home run, or dominating pitching performance. It occurred in the final game of a best-of-three series for the league title; and a team was faced with a decision.

During the previous game's 5-3 loss, which tied the series at one game apiece, the opposing team left a pitcher in for two batters too long. This infraction of league rules clearly results in forfeiture of that game. Discussions between the managers and league officials resulted in allowing the team to decide what to do, to play the final game, or follow league rules and become league champions.

In about the time it took to read this note, the team voted to play the game.

However, due to the heavy rain on Friday, the fields were unplayable. So now, both teams will receive trophies titled "1st Place". But, in reality, they are champions in many more ways than just being the Westfield Baseball League. After all, isn't this what competition is all about?

With all the bad press today about youth sports, a story like this warms my heart, and I feel it deserves to be told. I also feel fortunate to live in this town, with these people as my neighbors.

I am the coach of the "opposing" team. For the record, the members of that championship team are Matthew Monaghan, Tony DiIorio, Tommy McManus, Ryan Brown, Michael Clark, Mark Fischetti, Eric Grog, Kiran Patankar, Alan Workman, Joshua David, Benjamin Dornfeld, Brian Dunn and Richard Venkus.

Rick Reimlinger
Westfield

Reader Disputes Letter On Drinking Ordinance

I was disappointed to read Mr. Sicola's letter in the June 27 edition.

As one of those who spoke against the proposed ordinance, I feel it is important to state my case publicly again and not have others make assumptions as to my motives or particular circumstances.

Briefly, I made three points in my comments:

- (1) It's a parent's responsibility to control the behavior of their "underage" children—one which cannot be abrogated to the authorities when they are away—at the shore at weekends or otherwise.
- (2) The issue is already divisive within the community (witness the public hearings on the "proposal") and promises only to make money for attorneys fighting the various inherent issues (which were explained by attorneys far more eloquently than I can) without any real clarity as to how those issues would sort out and at what expense (and indeed at whose!).
- (3) In these times, I believe the authorities, including the police have enough to do without further burdening them with some fairly experimental legislation (there had to be a reason why the state legislature "punted" this to the local authorities and I for one don't want to be out there as a pioneer at expense to the township's taxpayers).

My children are not yet at the age where this is an issue but they are not far from it. That's why I was disappointed that Mr. Sicola went on to suggest that those of us who spoke against the proposal "do nothing to encourage a change in the behavior of their children...rather attempt to defend or cover up...". I specifically cited programs that work during my comments, e.g. D.A.R.E. and Project Graduation and encouraged the council to consider expansion of such programs. For example, there is a substantial gap between the end of the D.A.R.E. program in my children's school (fifth grade, I think) and project graduation (12th grade). There's a lot of room there for all those who spoke of their concern for the underlying issue (and I believe all who spoke pro and con indicated that they were concerned) and the council to come together and do something positive from all the energy this issue generated.

I hope I never have to "eat my own words" but I see this issue as one that primarily resides within our inherent parental responsibilities. I welcome programs such as D.A.R.E. and Project Graduation and would welcome an expansion of them to cover the obvious gaps. I would not impugn the motives of anyone who got involved in this issue and I don't think it's helpful at all to do so. Once again, the Township has proven that, when consulted on issues of importance to the community, it is not lacking in expressing its opinion and doing so in a manner that brings welcome clarity to the issue under discussion.

Donard P Gaynor
Scotch Plains

Letters to the Editor

Westfield TV-36 Board Member Falcone Welcomes Progress Review

A recent letter to *The Westfield Leader* on June 27 questioned the value that has been added to Westfield TV-36 by a town ordinance in 1999, a volunteer board of 2000, part-time paid municipal staff, and over \$200,000 in expenditures over two years.

The opinion shared by some students and staff at Westfield High School (WHS) is that cable viewers have gained little from the town's effort to try to expand beyond what the WHS TV Studio regularly broadcasts on TV-36.

It should be noted that the WHS TV studio makes use of approximately \$10,000 in borrowed video equipment from the town. WHS television programs emanate from several "for-credit" courses taken by students, from one full-time and two part-time faculty salaries courtesy of the Board of Education, from paid student videography assignments funded by organizations who want their video on TV-36, and from student and staff independent videography projects that are contributed for showing on TV-36.

This is not to excuse the letter's criticism of the community and governmental side of TV-36. As a member of the

TV-36 Board, and its first chairman, I personally would welcome a review by the town of its TV-36 department to determine if the expectations of town leaders have been met, and if not, why not?

First and foremost, I am concerned that the new television facilities in the Municipal Building are severely underutilized by the town. The Broadcast Center is closed to the public nearly all the time, with very few Westfield residents familiar with the Broadcast Center. The town's new video equipment is rarely used. Regarding TV-36 programming, the TV-36 Board decided, out of fear that it won't allow live programming from the community to be broadcast on TV-36.

I would urge Town Administrator Jim Gildea to speed the publishing of rules regarding decision-making, management and operations at the town's TV-36 Department. This will be a major step to encourage town departments, community organizations and individuals to participate, broadcast their messages and programs on the channel, and borrow the town's audio/video equipment.

Phil Falcone
Westfield

Clarification

A press release e-mailed by the Westfield Public Schools to *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*, entitled "Westfield High School Students Recognized for Outstanding Achievement During Year" (June 27 edition, Page 9) mixed up the names of two recipients and their awards.

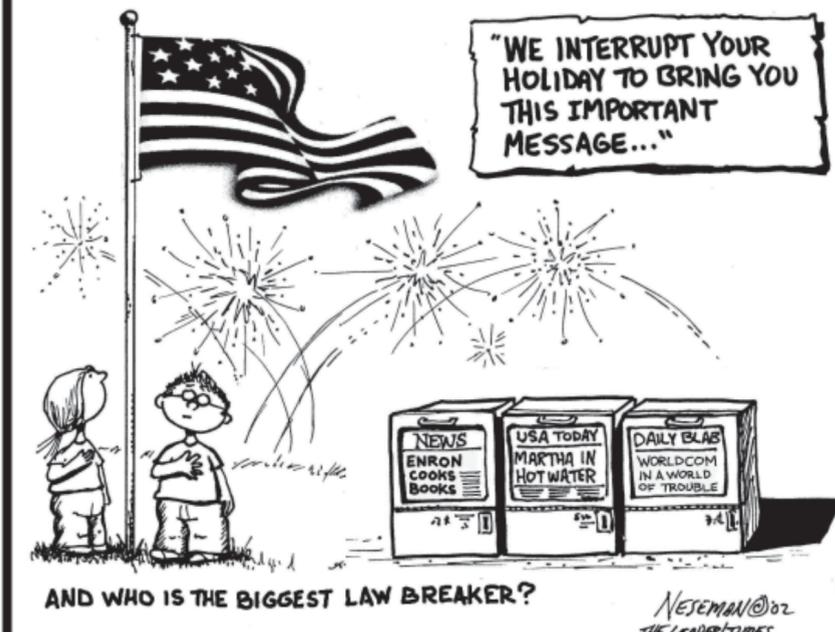
The correct information should read as follows: David Zorn received the Westfield High School Distinguished Student Award (excellent achievement in all endeavors). Christopher Freisen earned the Westfield High School Spirit Award.

Resident Thanks Westfield Police

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the fine work done by members of Westfield's police department. I recently needed their assistance to report suspicious activity near my home. Within two minutes of the call, they had responded and were able to bring the situation under control.

In these uncertain times we should be appreciative of the work of our civil servants. I certainly believe they deserve every penny for putting their lives on the line each and every day for us.

Brian Appuzzo
Westfield



AND WHO IS THE BIGGEST LAW BREAKER?

NEJEMAN 02
THE LEADER/TIMES

Residents Ask For In-Depth Explanation On BOE Salaries

The salary figures given on the front page of the June 27 issue for Board of Education senior management were troubling. We're certainly not going to defend Carol Choye's 170,000+ dollar salary without explanation. Were we to be shocked, upset, surprised?

A follow-up article with a comparison of the various jobs and their characteristics, as well as the performance of the students in the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood districts might help us put these figures into some context. Information such as whether these salaries are for 9 or 12 months work, how much supervisory responsibility the individuals have, their time in their current positions, what individuals doing the same work in other districts earn and what special qualifications they might have are some examples of what might make this story more complete.

The gap between the highest and lowest salaries in the district might also be informative. Posting these salary figures without any explanation was irresponsible. What if your own salaries were printed without any explanation?

We are not questioning the public's right to know the salaries of the BOE administrators, but context is essential. We look forward to an in-depth exploration of these issues.

Sandra Gong,
Dr. Victor Sloan

Reader Supports Police Department; Believes Westfield Dept. Costs Less

It seems that Westfield is negotiating its new contract with the Police Department in a manner less than candid and honest. Some of the council seems to instruct its negotiator to "Let-them-eat-cake."

On matters of economy, the town has a \$65 million school budget, can hire expensive lawyers to argue against one another on different sides of the same issue, and can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on Rahway Avenue which resulted in barriers to the movement of fire trucks onto and off of that street and a series of humps that won't slow down anyone. With this record, I think the council can economize someplace other than the back of the P.B.A.

As to the cost, on Sunday *The Star-Ledger* ran a study of the costs of the police of each of the towns of Union County to the average homeowner of each town and per capita in each town. There were only four towns, which cost the average homeowner of each town less money than the average homeowner (or per capita) of Westfield. As homeowners, we paid \$272 (or \$184 per capita) for the police in Westfield in the year 2001. Of the four towns costing less, only Linden was larger, and the homeowners only paid 20 percent of the police costs. One can safely argue that there was no town comparable to Westfield, which delivered more for less money.

The next time a council member orders the labor negotiator to offer 0 percent raises over the next three years, I hope another council member will remind him, or her, that the cost of Rahway Avenue humps would relieve 1,000 homeowners of the cost of police services for one year.

A. John Blake
Westfield