

Mores Letters to the Editor

This Is Westfield Gave Wrong Impression About First Church of Christ, Scientist

The recent 30th Annual Edition of "This is Westfield" did a fine job of depicting the quality of life and diversity in the community. How inspiring to see the ways that people of faith are reaching out to our neighbors.

I was dismayed, however, to see that the article on the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Westfield, gave the impression that members aren't as engaged in efforts to embrace the community. This is far from true, and I regret that the false

impression given in the article was due to the fact that I didn't give the interview the full attention it deserved, as I was in the middle of a life-time move of home and business to new locations.

I'm planning an article, to be published in this paper in the near future, which will give readers a better understanding of Christian Science and the wonderful religion which has grown up around its teachings.

Nancy Plum Tuthill
Montgomery Township

Open Lunch Policy Allows Freedom At the Expense of Students Security

In his attempt to justify the high schools failed open lunch policy, Dr. Robert Petix voiced a distorted perception of critical security issues as well as a mystifyingly radical view of the respective responsibilities of parents and educators.

When we, as parents, entrust our children to our schools, we have the right to expect, demand and rely upon educational excellence in a secure learning environment. The stunning revelation that ingress and egress are completely uncontrolled makes it clear that meaningful security does not exist at the high school. Quite literally, anyone at all can enter or leave the school at will. Does Dr. Petix truly believe that safety and security are hallmarks of a police state? Campus radicals of the 60's may have once believed that kind of hogwash, but events have tragically proven that security is integral to the very survival of freedom.

Perhaps Dr. Petix' most disturbing revelation is his continuing failure to even recognize the dangerous futility of perpetuating a "privilege" which is purportedly limited to juniors and seniors, but routinely violated by younger students. That's not a privilege at all. The fact that it took a committee of concerned parents, hundreds of petition signatures and a public outcry at a

School Board meeting to galvanize him to reluctant action betrays an appalling lack of understanding of the seriousness of this problem.

Interestingly, Dr. Petix actually stated his belief that the advent of the open lunch policy converted the high school from a "prison" (his word, not mine) to an institution which fosters responsibility and mutual respect. That's utter nonsense. In fact, the opposite is true. The students are fully aware that a policy which is not enforced is nothing more than a joke. That's not respect at all. If anything, it teaches and fosters irresponsibility and disrespect for the school administration and all of its policies. (And, while we're on this topic, Dr. Petix really ought to explain his view of the school as a "prison". I'm sure that his observations will be nothing short of enlightening.)

It is time to reiterate and reinforce the proper relationship among parents, schools and administrators. Our children attend our schools at our expense. We pay administrators to provide an academic education. We emphatically do not pay them to intrude upon our right to teach moral values to our own children. Dr. Petix should not impose his detached conception of morals, responsibility and freedom upon our children at the expense of their security.

Robert J. Ratner
Westfield

The Open Lunch Policy Should Remain At Westfield High School

Editor's Note: This letter was copied to Dr. Robert Petix, Dr. William Foley and Arlene Gardner.

The recent protest of the WHS 'Open Lunch' policy afforded deserving juniors and seniors is an unfortunate over-reaction to some equally unfortunate situations. We, the undersigned, feel an obligation to dispel the myth of hyperbole.

The policy that does not allow freshmen and sophomores to leave the school during lunch should be maintained; spot checks of color-coded identification are a good suggestion and one we endorse. It's demeaning and egregiously unfair to our upper classmen, however, to rescind this privilege because of the transgressions of a few.

A suggestion: freshmen and sophomores who do break school rules should face appropriate consequences, i.e. the forfeiture of their 'Open Lunch' privilege when they become juniors.

That some students eat lunch in parentless homes is neither news nor noteworthy. It's always been this way.

The vast majority of our young people cause no trouble whatsoever. Moreover, we daresay that the majority of those homes are still parentless at 2:45 p.m. Someone who is intent on trouble will find that window of opportunity, whether at lunch or after school.

We fully support the administration addressing and enforcing the issue of who leaves the grounds during lunch; what we oppose, however, is turning a schoolhouse into a jailhouse.

Most of our children will be starting their independent college lives within two years. In today's jargon, they'll be on their own 24/7. How hypocritical and shortsighted to deny them this small freedom now, only to send them out on their own in several months time!

Let's not create more divisiveness between our children and ourselves. Instead, let us send the strong and nurturing message of support: "we trust you. Do the right thing."

Ann and Peter Coriasco
Patricia and Tim Doyle
Hope and Lee Schraeter
Westfield



PORTRAITS FOR PATRIOTS...Comcast recently presented Coles Elementary School in Scotch Plains with a portrait of President George Washington. John DelViscio, General Manager of Comcast New Jersey, presented the portrait to PTA President Susan Dyckman, center, and the school's principal, Dr. Debbie Evans. Comcast purchased the 22 by 28-inch black and white portrait from Portraits for Patriots, a Mountainside venture founded in 1999 by William Sanders to commemorate the country's first president.

Tarantella's Ristorante

Mother's Day is May 12th
Make your reservations today!

APPETIZERS
LOBSTER BISQUE\$3.95
MIXED GREENS SALAD WITH WALNUTS, GRAPES, MUSHROOMS, GORGONZOLA CHEESE AND SUN-DRIED TOMATOES IN A RASPBERRY VINAIGRETTE.....\$5.95
COCONUT SHRIMP SERVED WITH A ZESTY ORANGE MARMALADE OVER MIXED GREENS.....\$7.95

ENTREES
TRI COLOR FETTUCCINI WITH LOBSTER, SCALLOPS AND SHRIMP IN BRANDY CREAM SAUCE WITH MUSHROOMS, ARTICHOKES, SUN-DRIED TOMATOES AND ARUGULA\$17.95
STUFFED CHICKEN FILLED WITH HAM, SWISS CHEESE AND BROCCOLI IN A CHAMPAGNE SAUCE WITH A VEGETABLE MEDLEY & WILD RICE.....\$13.95
STUFFED TRIO SALMON, SHRIMP & SOLE FILLED WITH A CRAB MEAT STUFFING TOPPED WITH A LEMON DILL SAUCE WITH A SIDE OF JULIAN VEGETABLES AND ROASTED RED POTATOES.....\$15.95
PAN SEARED FILET MIGNON IN A TARRAGON CREAM SAUCE TOPPED WITH ASPARAGUS, ROASTED PEPPERS AND CRAB MEAT WITH A SIDE OF POTATO CROQUETS.....\$17.95

In addition to our regular Menu • Full Service Bar
Children's Menu Available

1199 Raritan Rd, Clark
Corner of Central Avenue
732-396-3700

Another Letter to the Editor

Times Reader Urges Fight Against Police Home Search Ordinance

In the near future your Mayor and Council in Scotch Plains are expected to hear an ordinance, which if passed, will give the local police department the option of entering your home under the suspicion of underage drinking. The Fourth Amendment clearly states that "The rights of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated".

This proposed ordinance effects every family in our town, regardless of whether you have teenagers now or not. If passed by our Mayor and Council, it will remain on our books as law for many years to come until it can be challenged. A challenge to this law can only be brought by someone that had their home invaded by the police under this ordinance and the

cost of defending such a challenge by the township, will of course be picked up by you, the loyal taxpayer.

While we are fortunate to be represented by very committed individuals, this issue is too serious not to be addressed by the residents of our town. We need to organize a respectful campaign opposing this ordinance now. Let's stop this while we can. Our Mayor and Council members need to hear from you on this issue. If you want to get involved then, please contact me at the email address or at the phone number listed below.

Geraldine Keogh
Scotch Plains
Thisismyhome@aol.com
(908)756-2087

IN UNION COUNTY, IT'S:

Unlimited Communications
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

FOR CELLULAR PHONES, BEEPERS & PAGERS

Voice Activated Dialing

Now... **\$35.00**
4300 MINUTES
FREE Activation with 2 year contract

FREE
• Long Distance
• Voice Mail
• Call Waiting

verizon wireless
Authorized Retailer

OWNER OPERATED • SERVING UNION CO.
15 East Broad St. Westfield, NJ
908.654.6440 Fax: 908.654.6441

OWEN BRAND

Your Hometown
MORTGAGE BANKER

IVY MORTGAGE

Residential - Construction
Commercial - Bridge Loans

Local (908) 789-2730
Toll Free (888) 489-9680
Pager (908) 535-8244
obrand@ivymortgage.com

Licensed Mortgage Bankers - NJ Dept. of Banking
Equal Housing Lender

MOTHER'S DAY Treasures

Pendant \$49

Bracelet \$58

Mom walked in front of you to show you the way.
Mom walked behind you to be there when you needed her.
Say thank you for being there.

Sterling Silver Baby Shoes with handmade Venetian glass in pink or blue, bracelet, pendant or charm.

Michael Kohn
JEWELERS SINCE 1906
226 North Avenue • Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 233-8811

Pearls. And basic black.

TASAKI PEARL
The new attitude in pearls

Michael Kohn
JEWELERS SINCE 1906
226 North Avenue • Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 233-8811