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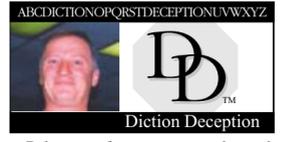
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Letters to the Editor
WF Resident Spies Pre-Thanksgiving Wild Turkeys in His Neighborhood

My Thanksgiving turkey arrived early this year. To be entirely correct, three wild turkeys showed up on a lawn across the street from my home. To say that the appearance of such wildlife on Embree Crescent is as scarce as hen's teeth is an understatement. As a Westfielder for almost three decades, I have crossed paths many times with the usual local fauna: Squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, rodents and many species of birds. Until today, my only other experience with Wild Turkey has been restricted to a highball glass. At first glimpse it would appear that these marvelous birds are joining black bears and deer in making the point that if their habitats continue to shrink due to unchecked housing development in New Jersey, then wildlife very soon may become tamelife. However, a gasoline station attendant in Mountainside later in the day explained that wild turkeys have been around his community for almost 15 years, adding that their numbers have been dwindling recently because a bobcat, like other carnivores, has

developed a taste for white meat. So, the three magnificent-looking gobblers that I tracked with my camera apparently had made a choice: Live with the Bobcat or move in with Man. Hey, stop laughing. So, no one takes turkeys to Mensa meetings. But could it be that all those hunting shows on television that have deified the wild turkey as one of the most crafty, elusive creatures to hunt were actually telling it like it is? Hmmm. You know, maybe wild turkeys are smart. Consider this: These birds have rationalized that it's okay to walk among humankind this time of year for good reason. Who wants to bother to kill, pluck and dress a turkey when you can get a free, frozen 15 or 20-pounder by spending \$250 on groceries at your local super-market? And lastly, before you ask someone to pass the cranberry sauce, ponder this on Thanksgiving Day: What if the Pilgrims had been vegetarians?



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. Springal — An active young man
 2. Trollop — An untidy or dirty woman
 3. Loke — Private road or lane
 4. Threnody — A song of lamentation; a dirge
- FUSTIGATE**
1. To scold or nag
 2. To shape like a spindle; thick, tapering at each end
 3. Fermentation resulting in a strong, musty smell
 4. To beat with a stick or club
- ACRISY**
1. Condition in which no right judgment can be formed
 2. Relating to or affecting external surfaces
 3. Sharpness; eagerness
 4. Disbelief in God
- PALUDISM**
1. Characterized by an ashy, white complexion
 2. Acting like a heroic champion; in a knightly fashion
 3. Malaria
 4. Acting indiscreetly; carelessly
- COZEN**
1. The hip or hip joint
 2. A person who steers a boat
 3. Mentally ill; insane
 4. To cheat or defraud

John O'Conner
Westfield

Former Council Candidate Gowen Thanks All For Campaign Support

My apologies for taking so long to send off this note of thanks to you. As a defeated candidate for Scotch Plains Township Council I took a bit of time for reflection and now wish to express my gratitude for the honor of having campaigned in the context of such a demonstration of our American Democracy. I am moved, deeply and sincerely, by the treatment I received from all the members of the press. While I was careful to remain succinct in my responses to interviewers, the press was likewise dutiful in restating my positions with clarity. For me, in this campaign, the opportunity to impel the works of our democracy and help bring new ideas and thinking to a public forum was as natural and significant a task as I have ever imagined. Consider this: A businessman (a dad that wants to make a difference...) with a clear idea of his own leadership potential and a mind filled with thoughts for 'a better tomorrow' seeks to gain support from a public that has hardly met him except on a professional level. Through the machinery of a system that guarantees this same opportunity to each of us, he begins to make a mark in history. The individuals I met as I campaigned door-to-door, the people I talked with informally or at neighborhood meetings, and especially my neighbors and friends, all had viewpoints and words they shared. The outpouring of commitment, belief and emotion from everyone I dealt with was enriching and uplifting. I was truly a part of 'America-acting-like-America'... People speaking out, knowing that their words would be heard and that whoever finally gained the elected role would be chosen from among them, freely and without fear. I congratulate everyone: the winners soon to be seated on our Township Council... the losing candidates who must now wait to attain their sought-after roles... the Township itself for providing the public forum for an interchange of ideas... the observers and writers from newspapers and electronic media... the individuals and groups who nurture and support our political system... congratulations... on a job well done. I am gifted by this opportunity to work with you all and I will continue to do so.

George F. Gowen
Scotch Plains

Assemblywoman Stender's Fanwood Opinions Questioned by Times Reader

I read with interest the recent article (November 14) where Fanwood Mayor Lou Jung, and State Assemblywoman (and Fanwood resident) Linda Stender were interviewed on their thoughts regarding the election in general, and the Fanwood business district in particular. I must say I was a bit perplexed by Mrs. Stender's comments on her perception of failure on the part of the current administration. Allow me therefore a few moments to lay out the facts. For starters, Mrs. Stender gives chutzpah a whole new meaning when she minimizes the accomplishments of Mayor Jung while trying to pat herself and other Democrats on the back for their very thin level of accomplishments over a period of 20 years of talking (always talking) about "downtown redevelopment." Frankly, from the beginning, in the late '70s, this was their issue, but again, they did nothing despite having majority rule in borough government for most of those years. She states that the Democrats' candidates (three fine individuals, by the way) received different feedback in their campaign walks than was the case with the GOP candidates. Perhaps that is true, but who carried the day by very substantial margins? It was the Republican candidates and the very solid record of accomplishment of the current Republican Mayor and Council. She then speaks of Republicans benefiting from work done years ago by Democrats. Really? Can someone point out what that was? Is it the "grant" money that we sent to Trenton and Washington in the first place, with a minuscule portion being recycled back to us? We are supposed to be thankful for that? How about a tax cut, Linda?

She complains that street lamps in the business district are leased, not purchased. Hmm, I wonder what her complaint would have been if the lamps had been purchased instead of leased. Mrs. Stender continues that Republicans have not done enough to address the problem of rising property taxes. Now ask yourself this question: who is in a better position to address the problem of rising property taxes, a mayor of a small town who is on the receiving end of federal, state and county dictated mandates or a member of the state assembly who can address some of those issues at the center of the action? Perhaps Mrs. Stender has plans to introduce legislation to allow municipalities to determine pay levels that make sense for the municipalities, or perhaps legislation that curbs our courts and their illegal and expensive (to the taxpayers) judicial dictates such as the Mt. Laurel/COAH farce, and/or Abbot versus Burke which is horribly expensive for the people of this state, especially the "rich" people in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. Ah, but that would require leadership. Leadership? Linda Stender? Sounds like the plot of a low rent sitcom. The good news for Linda Stender is that she is in a safe gerrymandered seat. As long as she keeps boss McGreevey and the tax and spend special interests happy, she will retain her seat. Years ago, Elridge Cleaver (ultimately a Republican, by the way) stated: "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." Where is "little Miss do-nothing, tax and spend liberal" on that equation?

Andrew J. MacDonald
Fanwood

SP Resident Upset With Development, Trend of Subdividing Lots in Township

Over the past few years, my husband and I have been watching an alarming trend take place in our state and surrounding communities. Sadly, it now would appear that this trend is taking place in our own town and has arrived on our own street. In May of this year, our neighbor sold his home to a real estate developer. The developer purchased the property with the intent to raze the house and subdivide the property in order to put up two sizable homes in its place. The current house earmarked for destruction sits on over an acre of property with a very wooded back yard. It is, in our opinion, one of the nicest properties on the street. It makes us ill to know that this house, which is not in a dilapidated condition, and the beautiful trees surrounding it are both a target for destruction. Our street is made up of 50 plus year-old ranches and cape cods that are meticulously maintained. The homes are not large, but the residents on our street love living here...why? Because of the warm character and charm of the homes. Everyone, from friends and relatives, to delivery personnel, always comments on how lovely our street is. My neighbors hear the same comments as well. Adding to the beauty of our street are all the lovely, mature trees which provide shade, charm and homes to small animals. The homes are nicely spaced apart, which was a priority for my husband and I when we were house hunting 12 years ago. One of the main factors why my husband and I chose this very street was that we fell in love with the way the street looked and that it was

already developed. None of my neighbors or I can imagine how these proposed new homes would fit in on a street such as ours. The proposed subdivision, or new construction of any kind, would be an absolute detriment to the charm of our street. I sincerely doubt that the architectural style of these new homes would fit in with the existing character of the homes that are already here. My neighbors and I are terrified of what this subdivision would look like if it is approved by the township's Planning Board and do not believe it would add value to our own property. We are planning to fight this proposed subdivision, because there is more at stake here than potential for higher property values — we are fighting for quality of life. We are all especially concerned for what this town will look like over the next 10 to 20 years, as one by one, older homes are torn down so the property can be cleared, subdivided and rebuilt with over-sized structures that are out of scale for the new property and its adjoining neighbors. The approval by the town's Planning Board, would send a strong message that older homes and the character of a neighborhood have no intrinsic value, are not worth saving, and that local residents have no voice in the matter. It is my understanding that the proposed subdivision is scheduled to be heard by the township Planning Board on Monday, November 25, at 8 p.m. in the township's council chambers, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. This meeting is open to the public, and we plan to be there.

Melissa Esposito
Scotch Plains

The FCC and NJ Look To Control Telemarketers, and We Support This

Many in the area get up in the morning with their first cup of coffee, turn on the computer and erase all the junk email. How many Nigerian ministers are there anyway that tell you about moving several million dollars out of the country because of the latest coup? All they want you to do is give them your bank account number for them to deposit these riches to split with you. Of course, if you fall for this, they'll suck dry any money you might have in the account. This is just one of the many scams that are going on by email. By telephone it is: "You've been approved!" — "Free airline tickets!" — "Insurance for seniors" — "Lonely and wanting to meet you" — "Free vacation." The list goes on, where these telemarketers hope to trap the unsuspecting, prey on the weak and take advantage of human frailty. On April 9, 1998, then Assemblyman Richard Bagger (now Senator) wrote, "My proposal is straightforward. The bill says that spammers must identify who they are and that a spammer who disguises his or her identity violates the state's consumer protection laws. The bill says that spammers who send their junk email into New Jersey must provide a contact person for New Jerseyans to reach out to, and if a New Jerseyan asks that the spamming stop, they must stop doing so. Failure to adhere to these requests would be a violation of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act." In July of 1999, then Union County Prosecutor Manahan said, "by pretending to offer seniors safety and security for their accounts, what an illegal telemarketing scheme really does is prey on the fear that some people have that they won't have access to their money." There are junk Faxes too. When workers go to the office Fax machine in the morning, they sort out the scores of junk faxes that arrived overnight and put another ream of paper in the machine. Office workers are getting good at screening unwanted phone calls by telemarketers that hope to switch the company's phone service, sell that hot stock or collect money for that unheard of charity. But, telemarketers are getting more clever and sophisticated — some of these calls continue to slip through. One slick one is the company that calls to confirm your listing in a business directory; there never was such a listing, but if you play the game there will be one, with a charge of course. At the end of the day, you make it safely home after a hard day's work and sit down to dinner — you've

guessed it! The phone rings. Most people don't like to be impolite. But, it's getting easier for most to say; "I don't conduct any business over the phone, take me off your list and never call back." Others don't answer the phone anymore; they let their answering machine do the work. Some make a sport of it as they enjoy bedeviling the telemarketers. In spite of the growing animosity to telemarketers, the government reports that the industry has grown from \$435 billion in sales in 1990 to \$600 billion in the last year. The government estimates that \$40 billion of this is clearly fraudulent. The government also reports that there are legitimate uses for telemarketing — but the government doesn't elaborate on what these uses are. Certainly, there's a powerful lobbying group in their midst. The government has been concerned about telemarketing abuse for some time. The Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) of 1991 prohibits telephone solicitation calls to homes before 8 a.m. and after 9 p.m. A telephone solicitor must give his name, the name of the entity for which he is calling, and a telephone number or address to contact that entity. Further, the rules require telemarketers to maintain a do-not-call list and may not call those on the list for ten years. If so, they may be subject to fines. Certain calls are exempt from many of the FCC's rules, including calls from companies with which the consumer has an existing business relationship and those from tax-exempt, non-profit organizations, including many political organizations. Currently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering ways in which it can revise its telemarketing rules to adequately protect consumers' privacy. The FCC has asked for comments on whether it should change its rules that restrict telemarketing calls and, if so, how. We urge you to learn more about this by seeing www.fcc.gov/cgb or by calling them at 1-888-CALL-FCC. Our leaders at the state are doing important work on this problem too. Let them know how you feel and give them your support. Senator Richard Bagger, Asm Thomas Kean, Jr. and Asm. Eric Munoz can be reached at (908) 232-3673 in Westfield. Senator Joseph Suliga can be reached at (908) 587-0805 in Linden. Asm Jerry Green at (908) 561-5757 in Plainfield and Asw. Linda Stender at (908) 668-1900 in Scotch Plains.

Thank you, Westfield For Caring So Much

We want to once again show our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the entire community of Westfield. You have honored our husbands with not only a beautiful memorial, but also with such a dignified dedication ceremony. We now have this wonderful park for remembrance and reflection. With Thanksgiving approaching, we feel truly thankful to be part of such a caring community. Thank you.

Kate Walsh
Diane Starita
Rebecca Shum
Maura Madden
Laurie Fogel
Sally Cohen-Alameno

Resident Praises Claire Lazarowitz For Letter Published in 11/14 Leader

One of the most bizarre events of American politics is the ritual post-electoral love-fest in which losers and victors figuratively fall into each other's arms, while declaring their undying mutual regard and respect. It's almost as though all of the pre-electoral campaign ads in which they portrayed their adversaries as Satan's earthly representatives had never existed. That's why I was so very gratified to read Claire Lazarowitz's letter last week. You see, instead of kissing the victor's ring, she undertook something new, novel and noble: She told the truth. The sad reality is that Westfield was subjected to a sleazy campaign in which the Republicans turned to negative advertisements and untruthful and bogus accu-

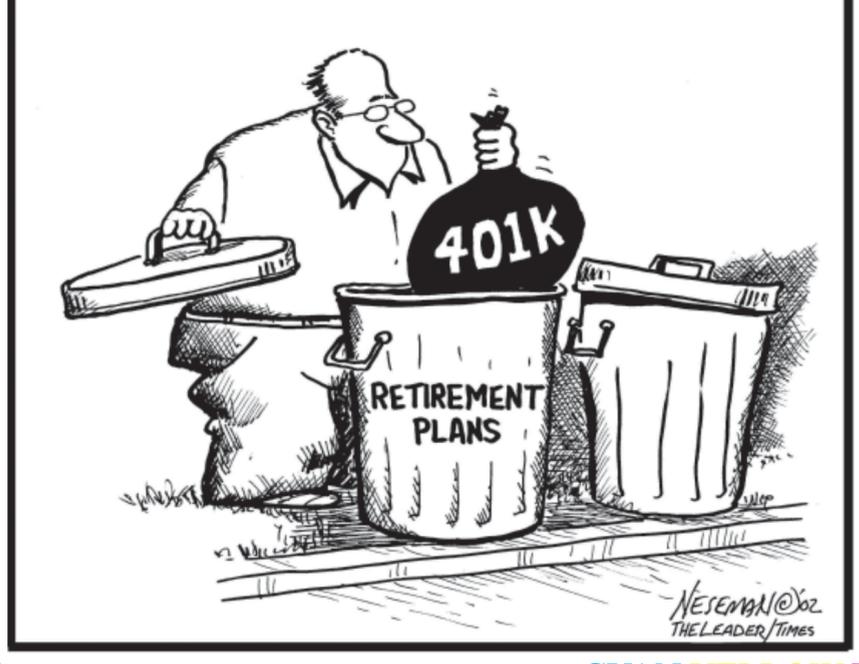
sations. In a year in which a Republican rhesus monkey would have been hard-pressed to lose an election, there was simply no need to resort to the politics of slime. Yet, they did, and the first casualties of the Republican credo of "victory at any cost" were decency and truth. While the Republicans revel in their success, I hope that Claire's letter serves to remind them of the corroded moral and ethical dimensions of their behavior and to put them on notice that their victory may well be ephemeral if their future conduct doesn't begin to approach reasonable standards of civility.

Robert Ratner
Westfield

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Councilman Goldman Thanks WF Voters For Continued Support

I want to express my appreciation to voters of Westfield's Fourth Ward who supported me for another term on the Town Council. I look forward to continuing working with Mayor Greg McDermott and my colleagues on the Town Council, including newly-elected members Andy Skibitsky and Sal Caruana, in maintaining Westfield as a top-notch community and also addressing our community's needs and problems. For the past six years I have tried very hard to be responsive to the concerns of individual Fourth Ward residents and neighborhood issues, and to address matters of importance to Westfield as a municipality. I intend to continue in this vein. One of my priorities remains the successful completion of the pending downtown parking/redevelopment plan. In my six years on the Town Council we have had lots of talk, but very little in the way of concrete results, other than a substantial increase in parking fees. The process in which the Town Council and the Planning Board has been engaged during this year is complex and slow, but I am confident that we are on track toward positive results. I hope that the new members of the Town Council respect the hard work and detailed analysis that has occurred to date and that we continue moving forward with the current plan.

Larry Goldman
Councilman, Fourth Ward

Martha McLoughlin
Cranford