

The Westfield Leader
— Established 1890 —
The Official Newspaper of the Town of Westfield
Legal Newspaper for Union County, New Jersey

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 • 251 North Avenue, West
Westfield, N.J. 07091
Tele: (908) 232-4407 • E-mail: editor@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.

Paul Peyton
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR
Suzette F. Stalker
COMMUNITY
Michelle Le Poidevin
ARTS & EDUCATION

The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES
— 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
Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076

Fred K. Lecomte
MARKETING DIRECTOR
Michael L. Bartiromo
MARKETING PRODUCTION
Robert P. Connelly
OPERATIONS & LEGALS
Ben Corbin
SERVICES

Subscription Price:
One-year - \$28 • Two-year - \$52 • Three-year - \$76 • One-year college (September to May) - \$20

Westfield is Excited and Proud to Host The President of the United States

Tomorrow, Friday, March 4, 2005 will be an exciting day for Westfield when the President of the United States, George W. Bush, arrives at the Westfield Armory to hold a town meeting on Social Security reform. Everyone in the region is buzzing over the importance of having the President visit - and all the minutiae that this involves.

It's an honor to welcome the President to our town and to hear his message. Congressman Mike Ferguson of our district is the host for the President. Congressman Ferguson must have had some influence in having Westfield as a stop in the Presidential visits around the country. There is an obvious sense of trust and respect between the two men.

This will be a media bonanza and everyone in the town is stirred. As of this writing, many are asking, "How can I get invited, obtain a ticket for admission to the Armory to hear the President - how are the questions that are to be asked of the president going to be determined?"

We're not sure how the White House works out all these details. One thing you can be sure of, those in attendance have had their backgrounds checked.

The logistics are enormous. When Air Force One approaches the area to land at Newark Airport, the skies will have been cleared for hundreds of miles - perhaps nothing will have landed at the airport for a half hour or more in anticipation. This is the age of Homeland Security, not whistle-stop meet and greet!

The route from the airport to Westfield will be completely controlled for obvious reasons, and details will not be publicized. The arrival at the Armory will certainly be exciting. Westfield High School students across the street will get a first-

hand view. Maybe this will all occur by helicopter, rather than by an entourage of vehicles.

Theodore Roosevelt and President William Taft visited Westfield in 1912. A record of this event for history's sake is depicted on a tile in the railroad underpass. It shows a photograph with an inscription that reads, "Teddy Roosevelt carried his whistle-stop campaign for the presidency to Washington School in Westfield, May 25, 1912. President Taft had been at the same spot the day before. Taft won the Republican nomination but Woodrow Wilson won the presidential race."

In October 1960, Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, visited Westfield. Over 6,000 people packed the streets to hear him speak. There are photos of that in the archives of the Westfield Historical Society and published in *The Westfield Leader*.

Another "close encounter" occurred for the village of the West Fields of Elizabeth quite a while ago when President Abraham Lincoln visited Elizabeth in 1861. Reports say that nearly half of the residents of the West Fields mounted horse and buggy and headed to Elizabeth to attend the event, leaving the town virtually abandoned.

President Bush's visit to Westfield tomorrow is official business, not political campaigning. The subject of Social Security reform is an enormously important one. It's complex and everyone seems to agree that it needs to be fixed.

President Bush, in his second and final term, is pursuing his agenda without the need to worry about reelection. Second term presidents have the luxury to do this.

We urge all to reflect on the President's message and to show him a warm reception, in true Westfield tradition. Thank you Mr. President for considering us to be important enough to come by.

Letters to the Editor

Mother Says Make Results Public on K-9 Drug Search of High School

I am sending this in response to the article published February 24 and the Editors Note of the same date; both addressing the K-9 Searches at Westfield High School (WHS). My response is to Principal Petix:

You should be commended for making the decision to allow the K-9 unit of Union County Sheriff's department to search the high school. When I received notification in September, I was elated.

My question to you is that you have commented, emailed, and followed up on this procedure, but have yet to reveal the outcome of such searches. I realize that a student's privacy is important, but I also feel that the citizens and parents of Westfield should be apprised of the results; withholding the students identity.

The old saying, "my child would not do anything like that," and those are the children we have to make sure, are not involved in said activities. It is important that all parents can feel that their child can attend school without being exposed to these types of situations. High school is difficult, not only for the

student, but for the parent too.

You quoted that you did not believe "the presence of illegal drugs in WHS is any worse than any other typical suburban high school." I am sorry, WHS is not a typical high school, and should not be compared to "typical" high schools. WHS provides an exceptional education, and the students that have graduated prove that.

The citizens of Westfield pay to make sure that all students receive this valued education. The citizens and parents of Westfield should be made aware of the results of K-9 inspections. This allows the opportunity for parents to be aware of their children's environment and the ability to address the situations, should need be.

As a parent, I feel that it is important to be kept abreast of all situations that occur at our schools, and all parents should be made aware of results of the procedures such as the K-9 searches, while maintaining the privacy of students.

Peggy Lamb
Westfield

WHS Principal Petix Updates Leader On K-9 Drug Search

I want to correct the impression that your readers might have had after they read *The Leader's* article on the canine search of Westfield High School.

The 10-minute amnesty period was offered to students only after the school had been secured (known in other schools as a "lock down"). Students in the randomly selected classrooms to be searched were ineligible for the amnesty and had already been evacuated to the auditorium when the amnesty was announced.

A limited search of the school was conducted so that the event would be only minimally disruptive to the educational program.

The purpose of the amnesty was to give students who were involved in any way with drugs an opportunity to turn themselves in and seek help.

After the dogs searched the classrooms, they searched the auditorium and then walked through all the corridors of the school. No drugs were found.

Our student body is aware that the canine unit may return at any time.

Robert Petix,
Westfield High School Principal

HUNG UP!! Woman Needs to Take a Stand Regarding Boyfriend's Mother



By Milt Faith, Executive Director
Youth and Family Counseling Service

A Frustrated Young Woman Writes: I am in love with "Sam" (disguised name). After three years of dating, Sam asked me to marry him, and we started looking for an engagement ring. Before I knew it, Sam's mother insisted that she accompany us on our search for a ring.

No matter what I said, Sam took his mother's suggestions into consideration about the size of the stone, the shape, etc. After several weeks, Sam's mother gave Sam her old engagement ring as her "wedding gift" and insisted that this become my engagement ring.

Sam's need to please his mother, and not antagonize her, is more important than my feelings. I'm increasingly feeling that Sam's mother will be an intrusive force in my life. Should I take a stand?

Answer: What do you mean by "Sam's mother will be an intrusive force in my life"? She already is. And Sam permits her to be controlling and intrusive. You have three options: 1) Do nothing, and this will eat away at you and your relationship with Sam. 2) Take charge and tell Sam that his behavior - and his mother's - are unacceptable, that the ring situation is probably reflective of his behavior of passivity, submission and insensitivity to your feelings, and that there have to be permanent changes in the relationship, if it is to continue. 3) Walk away from Sam and his controlling mother. The choice is yours, but do not choose No. 1!

A Young Woman Writes: I find myself in a difficult position. Do you think it is possible to work out something satisfactorily in your present life if and when the same thing had gone wrong in the past?

Jon (disguised name) and I had dated since we were 15. We always thought we would end up together and marry, but it never happened. Jon did not go on to college, smoked pot heavily, and never worked at a regular job. Eventually, Jon left home, said he had to "find himself," and I never heard from him.

That is, until now, five years later. We've met a few times. Jon is different, more mature. He graduated from college, is employed in an account-

ing firm, no longer does drugs of any kind. He regrets his past mistakes, says he never stopped loving me, and wants us to see each other to make sure our loving feelings are still there, and then build a future together.

My parents oppose this; they say people do not change; "once a drug addict, always a drug addict." They feel he will reject me again. I believe in Jon, and never stopped caring for him. I never felt this strongly towards anyone. Are my parents being objective?

Answer: Obviously, your parents do care, and they want to protect you from being hurt. However, everything you say indicates that Jon has matured emotionally and has gone on to make a healthy and adult adjustment. I believe that, at times, life gives us a second chance to resolve unfulfilled dreams from the past. You have that chance. Go slowly, but go for it.

A Movie Viewer Writes: I recently saw the movie *Kinsey*. I understand you recommend it. Why? The language is foul; there is frontal nudity and a blatant scene of two men kissing. What value is there in seeing this motion picture?

Answer: *Kinsey* is a thoughtful and sensitive biography of Alfred Kinsey, one of the first research pioneers of human male and female sexuality. His research was highly controversial then and still remains controversial.

My recommendation to see the movie is to observe the father-son relationship, a situation which, once again, highlights the significance of the formative years of a child and a parent.

Kinsey's father was a harsh, preaching, judgmental man who constantly found fault with his son and his other children. Kinsey attempted to separate himself from this controlling man, and ended up being very much like him, a man unable to permit himself to feel, a man unable to permit emotional intimacy while obsessing himself with scientific facts re sexuality.

We also learn that Kinsey, despite success, was continuously filled with self-doubts and feelings of inadequacy. Within this context, please re-evaluate the movie.

Letters to the Editor

McKinley Kapers Performance Cherished by Westfield Parent

It's not often a Dad gets the opportunity to see just how fine the schools are here in Westfield. Last week, I had the chance to visit the McKinley School, where my daughter Julia is in the third grade.

The occasion? A lunchtime rehearsal for the annual school variety show known as "McKinley Kapers." The teachers involved in the production this year were gathered around the two "top bananas" - Julie Fetter, who sings, trains the kids, and provides most of the choreography, and Sarah Hedgepeth, who is not only the musical director, but also coordinates everything from lights, props, song selection, and generally encourages the nervous parents (and teachers!) who sign up to participate.

As the teachers worked through their number - a parody of "Please, Mr. Postman" (sung as "Please, Ms. Andreski" - named after McKinley's principal), I witnessed a sight that nearly brought tears of joy to my eyes. In fact, if it wasn't for the ear-to-ear grin I sported, I'm sure I would have reached for a handkerchief.

I had glanced at the children eating lunch, and realized they were all paying very close attention to what was going on around Ms. Hedgepeth's piano. As the teacher's finished their number, the 75 or so students who were eating their lunch in the back half of the gym burst into spontaneous applause.

The teachers grinned and Ms. Andreski apologized to Sarah on their behalf ("I promise we'll all know the words on opening night!"). And as each group of children took their turns coming up to the

stage to rehearse their songs, those still at their lunch tables sang along. Occasionally, there would be an unruly outburst from one pack or another, but this was quickly tempered by a firm yet compassionate admonition from Ms. Andreski.

Each year, McKinley Kapers affords the children of McKinley School an opportunity to participate in a full-scale musical production. The children are divided into age groups, and under the unwavering commitment of the "top bananas," a magical few evenings of theater results. And theater it is. The children sing theme-appropriate selections (this year's show revolves around "Big Words"), accompanied by a live band, stage lights, and sound effects and get a true taste of the hard work, dedication, and fun that goes into performing a show.

The thing that struck me most about that lunch-time rehearsal is the idea that in this unlikely setting - a grammar school gymnasium - children were naturally and enthusiastically giving their all for a friendly, artistic, healthy activity, and that this was something they were not forced to do. How many other schools would be thrilled to achieve a fraction of such behavior?

I have been involved in McKinley Kapers for several years, but this was the first time I had a chance to see the children rehearse. To paraphrase the Bard, the sight of their "shining schoolboy faces singing willingly at school" will be a memory I'll cherish for a lifetime.

Joe Penezak
Westfield

Rep. Ferguson's Vote to Hike Fees on 'Indecent' Broadcasts Sounds Familiar

It took a while, but I finally realized why Rep. Michael Ferguson's explanation for his vote to hike fees for "indecent" broadcasts sounded so unpleasantly familiar. Its been many years since I last read the words "We shall yet make these United States a moral nation!" Sound familiar? Elmer Gantry spoke them in the last paragraph of Sinclair Lewis' 1927 novel about a corrupt evangelist.

Elmer Gantry, written more than 75 years ago, was eerily prophetic. Throughout American history, various self-righteous guardians of public morality have periodically emerged from the religious right to attempt to regulate what Americans are permitted to hear, read and see.

Rev. Gantry, in declaring his intent to impose "utter purity" and "the domination of the Christian church through all the land," was surely the spiritual forerunner of the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act.

Let's make no mistake about this. There is little difference between this foolish crusade and attempts by the more primitive members of Rep. Ferguson's party to deny and suppress the teaching of Darwinian scientific reality. To put it another way, banning words will inevitably lead to the burning of books and, eventually, to censorship of ideas and persecution of those who espouse them.

Thus, the real agenda behind this legislation is not to prevent future "wardrobe malfunctions," nor is this merely a case of a pack of Congressional rubes trying to rid the airwaves of boobs. It is actually far

more dangerous than that and the perpetrators - of both parties - of this legislative folly really ought to be ashamed of themselves.

There is no question that this bill will become law. President Bush never loses an opportunity to support any measure and sign any law, however repressive, to pander to the right-wing fringe of his party. Whether it will survive judicial scrutiny is less clear and will depend upon the makeup of the Supreme Court. The Bushites are certain to nominate activist reactionaries to every vacancy over the next four years.

If those efforts succeed, the Scalia-Thomas "Axis of Judicial Extremism" may come to dominate the more centrist and competent members of the Court and this legislation will, at least briefly, become the law of the land. On that day, we will surely hear the distant sound of Sinclair Lewis, John Peter Zenger, every banned novelist and, ultimately, the Founding Fathers, spinning angrily in their graves.

Robert J. Ratner
Westfield

To Reach Us

E-Mail - editor@goleader.com

Deadlines

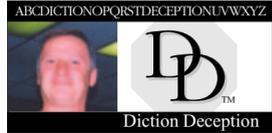
General News - Friday 4pm

Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm

Classifieds - Tuesday 12pm

Ad Reservation - Friday 4pm

Ad Submittal - Monday 12pm



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. Lapin - Rabbit fur used in imitation of more valuable skins
2. Lefe - Loved one; a friend
3. Parget - Plaster or wall coating
4. Mear - A boundary

TAMANOIR

1. A deep cut or gash
2. The three-toed anteater
3. A slaughterhouse for cattle
4. A wine cellar or place where wine is sold or kept

WINNOCK

1. A one-horse carriage
2. An old work horse
3. A window
4. A fish net

WETHER

1. A castrated ram
2. To entice or trick
3. A small cleaning cloth
4. To chill or harden

TALION

1. A guardian spirit
2. Punishment that exacts a penalty just like the crime
3. Winged sandals
4. An outside staircase

Letters to the Editor

President's SS Plan Requires Him to Explain Ramifications

President Bush is coming to Westfield on Friday to sell his version of the Social Security reform. Rep. Ferguson held two meetings last Saturday to accomplish the same purpose.

Both the President and Rep. Ferguson have attempted to divide the electorate on this issue. The President has said that any changes will not change the benefits received by people over the age of 55 years.

He apparently thinks that seniors will therefore not oppose his plan because they are not adversely effected. He has also suggested to younger people that the seniors are using the contributions of the younger people for their (the seniors) benefit.

I have talked to many seniors. They are unanimous in opposing the change proposed by the President. If there is a problem today because of a deficit in funding the promised benefits, the problem will be worse if funds are diverted from Special Security to fund private accounts.

Without considering the amount paid to Wall Street for handling the private accounts, the diverted funds will not be available for their intended use.

There are many problems with President Bush's proposal. Here are two examples.

The President has said that when people contribute to the private accounts he has proposed, the private accounts will become part of their estate, and they can leave the funds in the private accounts to their heirs. The President also said the private accounts would be used to purchase annuities for their owners when the owners retire. If private annuities are purchased there is no fund to be left to the owner's heirs.

One other obvious problem is that in order to adopt the President's plan, when funds are diverted to private plans, there will not be sufficient funds to pay the current benefits due seniors; therefore, it will be necessary to borrow trillions of dollars to fund the benefits currently payable.

Before accepting the plan proposed by the President, ask the President to fully explain all of the ramifications of his proposal.

Ralph H. Kline
Scotch Plains

Senate Bankruptcy Bill Is Bad Idea for New Jersey Consumers

As an attorney, who for the past 31 years has represented families forced to file for bankruptcy, I can tell you that bankruptcy abuses are few and far between. In the next few days, the U.S. Senate will debate Senate Bill 256, a so-called bankruptcy "reform" bill drafted by the credit card industry that will make it almost impossible for many families in financial distress to file for bankruptcy in order to rebuild their lives.

S-256 would destroy a traditional American safety net in order to line the pockets of corporations. The alternative to debt forgiveness is debt slavery. Without bankruptcy, at current interest rates, many American families would be forced to continue paying their past credit card bills for the rest of their lives.

Overwhelmingly, American families file for bankruptcy because of medical or economic catastrophe - not because they want to abuse the system. New Jersey residents should not believe the lies that this bill will somehow lead to lower interest rates or that "irresponsible consumerism" justifies this harsh anti-family bill.

Faced with declining real wages, job insecurity, long-term unemployment and rising health care costs, American families have been preyed upon by so-called "easy" credit with many hidden costs.

This bill ignores the real reasons consumers get into financial trouble and instead takes food out of the mouths of needy families to feed the credit card industry, which last year raked in record profits of \$30 billion, much of it from increasing penalty fees, late fees and sky-high interest charges. It is consumers, not credit card companies, that need the protection of Congress. I strongly urge all my fellow New Jersey residents to contact our senators to make sure they vote to defeat this predatory legislation.

Mark Goldman
East Orange

