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Letters to the Editor
Relationship Between FCC and Temple Dates Back a Half Century
 In response to Michelle Ehrich's very kind letter that appeared in last week's issue of *The Westfield Leader*, which thanks The First Congregational Church of Westfield for allowing Temple Emanu-El to make use of its sanctuary for worship during its recent High Holidays, this gesture is but one of many in a long line of mutual relations that the church and the temple have enjoyed.
 As noted in the late Robert Hylan's church history book, "A Centennial History of the First Congregational Church of Westfield" (1979):
 "During the summer of 1950, the (then) Reverend Dr. Lyle McCorsion learned that the Jewish community in Westfield had formed Temple Emanu-El and that their services were being held in various homes. With the permission of the board of trustees, Dr. McCorsion offered the use of the parish house to this new congregation.
 This offer was accepted, and the Jewish congregation continued to use the parish house for their services until the completion of their temple in 1953. This was indeed a period of cooperation and harmony, for our own services were being held in the parish house because of the reconstruction of the Meetinghouse (main sanctuary building). In recognition of this demonstration of brotherhood and democracy, the Congregation of Temple Emanu-El presented our church with the red carpeting in the Meetinghouse..."
 Although the carpeting has had to be replaced since that original gift in 1951, the church was only too happy to "roll out the red carpet" again and welcome Temple Emanu-El.
 Heidi Hylan, Westfield

ABCDICTIONOPQRSTUVECTIONUWVXYZ

 Diction Deception
 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. Daddock - The rotten heart or body of a tree
 2. Vagissate - To romp or frisk
 3. Abacinate - To blind by placing a red-hot copper basin close to the eyes
 4. Meretricious - Having the characteristics of a prostitute
DAEDALIAN
 1. A rough or coarse cover for a bed
 2. Ingenious or intricate
 3. A guardian spirit
 4. Pertaining to the Babylonian god of the earth
USTULATE
 1. Discolored or blackened as if by burning
 2. Having a beard, as with the bearded seal
 3. Of little or no value; worthless
 4. Versatile; competent
CUCKQUEAN
 1. Having the shape or resembling a hood
 2. A woman whose husband has committed adultery
 3. A lunatic; a depraved individual
 4. A meal table philosopher
SKILDER
 1. To burn with hot water; scald
 2. To live by begging or stealing
 3. To skin or scale, as with fish
 4. To waste in water

Denying DeLay is Serious Blow To SHU's Higher-Learning Goals

Last week, Seton Hall University denied the College Republicans club the chance to allow former Republican House Majority Leader Tom DeLay to speak on campus. The university spokeswoman said, "The university felt the legal and ethical questions surrounding him did not make him an ideal choice to speak on campus at this time."
 A federal grand jury had indicted Mr. DeLay on money laundering and illegal campaign-finance charges. The former congressman, who resigned because of the scandal, has been cleared of all but two of the money-laundering charges; he has not been convicted of any.
 Four years ago, Seton Hall invited former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami to speak on campus. One week ago, Columbia University allowed Iran's current president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a controversial figure who has said that Israel should be "wiped off the map" and has refused to confirm the Holocaust as historical fact, to give a talk on its grounds. Certainly, legal and ethical questions surround those international figures.
 But the question here is not one of ethics. The question is not even one of politics - members of the Seton Hall's College Democrats sided with the College Republicans in objecting to the decision.
 Is the question one of encouraging freedom of speech and the oft-cited college mantra of offering students unique chances to dialogue with and learn from a variety of sources? Students will miss an opportunity to question Mr. DeLay's voting and ethics

records. They will miss an opportunity to apply the critical-thinking skills the college seeks to empower them with to a national government figure.
 Students at Seton Hall, a Roman Catholic institution, will miss an opportunity to hear a former congressman discuss his new book about how God changed his life. Is the question one of incompatible religious views?
 Last year, Seton Hall cancelled a planned appearance by Democratic Senators John Kerry and Robert Menendez. Students missed an opportunity to hear a former Presidential candidate and a U.S. senator. We wonder why.
 Why can students hear from Middle Eastern leaders who may or may not have deepened the level of terrorism in this world but not hear from legislators whose actions have directly affected this nation?
 Perhaps if Seton Hall exposed its students to national figures with questionable ethics records, it would graduate fewer future corruption-bound individuals like Dennis Kozlowski, the former Tyco International CEO currently serving a prison sentence for fraud after misappropriating more than \$400 million of the company's money. The university had to rename Kozlowski Hall after accusations that the \$1 million Kozlowski donated to the school was stolen company money.
 If Seton Hall is waiting for a politician with no blemishes, it will have to hold its breath for a long time. Until then, the school's unlucky students will lose out on chances to interact with players on national government's big stage and take corrupt figures to task.

Dems Disagree with GOP Candidate Stroz on FW Historic Preservation

In his recent letter, Republican candidate Joel Stroz [Fanwood] shows his lack of understanding when he calls for the borough council to stop the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission from its work on reviewing our current historic preservation ordinance.
 In doing this, Mr. Stroz is asking the people of Fanwood to turn their backs on our history and heritage, to ignore the beauty and splendor of Fanwood's historical past. He is asking that we do nothing to try to protect and preserve the very buildings and property that give Fanwood its charming appeal. Without these protections, any developer can buy these historic houses and build modern 21st century houses and thereby diminish the appeal and charm of Fanwood.
 Law and custom dictate that a property owner can develop his or her land any way they want as long as they are in accordance with current zoning and land-

use regulations. Without historic preservation guidelines, there is nothing to prevent an historic house from being torn down and a new modern monstrosity be built in its place. The Historic Preservation Commission is reviewing our local ordinance to make it stronger.
 As a member of the planning board, I was recently given an update on the commission's early findings and feel that they are on the right track. Mayor Colleen Mahr, Council President Kathy Mitchell and Councilman Bill Populus understand the importance of Fanwood's historic district and the work being done on this report from the historic commission. This report is due at the end of the year. To call for dismissal of the historic commission and the work it is doing is just outright irresponsible.
 Daniel Zucker Fanwood

Westfielder Appeals to the Rest of the World To Help Clean Up the Mess We Created

In last week's *Westfield Leader* [letter to the editor], Thomas Lienhard seemed to suggest that American forces should continue to wage war in Iraq indefinitely because "there are forces in the Middle East who are dedicated to the destruction of the United States." That would probably be al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. The same Osama bin Laden who President Bush vowed to get "dead or alive."
 So forgive me for asking why, six years after 9/11, Osama is still appearing in videos and taunting Americans? Why is al Qaeda regrouping and getting stronger after six years of the Bush "war on terror?" Mr. Lienhard doesn't seem to be upset that President Bush, instead of fo-

cuscing America's military on a laser-like mission to destroy al Qaeda and the Taliban, decided instead to invade Iraq, which had nothing to do with 9/11 and was not a threat to us.
 The American invasion of Iraq has not made America safer or destroyed our enemies, but has resulted in the needless deaths of thousands of our military, has cost billions of dollars which our children will have to pay, has reduced America's prestige and credibility in the world, and has helped to recruit many new terrorists. Neither the president nor the Congress did their homework on this one.
 Mr. Lienhard says "as a Vietnam veteran, I saw what happened when the anti-

war movement did nothing but encourage our enemy to continue the fight until we gave up." He might ask why Americans considered North Vietnam to be our enemy. Was tiny North Vietnam really a threat to America, or was it just because they were godless Communists who needed a strong dose of democracy?
 Nowadays the labels inside many of the clothes hanging on American clothes racks say "Made in Vietnam." The enemy that defeated us in Vietnam is today not only a valued trading partner, but a vacation destination as well. Kinda makes you wonder why 58,000 Americans had to die there.
 An answer to that question, and a reason why our leaders continue to sacrifice American lives and treasure in foolish and unnecessary wars, might be found in a quote from Robert S. McNamara, the former Defense Secretary and one of the architects of the Vietnam war. In a 1995 book, he wrote, "We of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations who participated in the decisions on Vietnam acted according to what we thought were the principles and traditions of this nation. We made our decisions in light of those values. Yet we were wrong, terribly wrong. We owe it to future generations to explain why."
 Tens of thousands of Americans died in Vietnam, and thousands are dying in Iraq, because there seems to be something in our national "principles and traditions" that says America has some sort of God-given right to use military force against countries we don't like, in order to spread democracy. It didn't work in Vietnam, and it's not working in Iraq. America's military can't win Iraq's civil war. It's time for the Bush administration, Congressman Mike Ferguson, and every-one else who supports this war to start eating humble pie, admit their mistakes, and appeal to the rest of the world to help clean up the mess we created.

Dorothy Szot Westfield

Bob Pinheiro Westfield

Why Does Westfield Only Have Two Cell Towers While SP Has Six

This is in response to a letter from engineer Anthony Scaglione of Westfield. He mentions that he travels all over the country designing and installing networks and testing for cellular companies. He says he regularly explains to the public why cellular towers are necessary. Maybe he can explain why his hometown of Westfield has only two cellular towers based on antennasearch.com. Three, if you consider the cell tower on South Avenue, which is physically in Scotch Plains. This is based on looking at 200 Grove Street in Westfield. Strange, there are no cellular towers north of North Avenue, until you get into Garwood.
 The "public" he is talking about lives in Westfield. In Scotch Plains, we have six cellular towers if you include Fanwood, which is a little more than one square mile in the center of Scotch Plains. I believe there nine cell towers total.
 While Mr. Scaglione is bothered by opponents considering their children's safety, he is not bothered that his own town has relatively few cellular towers. He is not bothered that as he travels the country in defense of this technology, his town has successfully fought against it. He is not bothered that Clark, Garwood, Scotch Plains, Cranford, Winfield Park, Rahway, Linden, Kenilworth and surrounding communities have multiple sites for these towers. I was surprised to see there were 86 cellular towers within a six-mile radius of Grove Street in Westfield.
 My family and I don't use our cell phones except for emergencies, so our current exposure is minimal.
 He talks about things of concern for people who reside close to cellular towers, that duration of exposure will be at least 12 hours daily. Well, I live close to the proposed site and because I am retired, my exposure would be 24 hours a day. I have neighbors who are confined to their homes because of illness, accidents or because they are elderly. They pay taxes and want to enjoy their homes. There are stay-at-home moms and children in the school close to the proposed site. Their exposure will 24 hours.
 He is right. There isn't enough information about the effects. That is why I don't want my home, the school and the park to be used as a test case until someone can figure it out. I do not believe it is an emotional response to expect that once my township does its part in contributing to the network, that other neighboring towns would be expected to do the same.
 I ask why a 120-foot cellular tower is needed in a residential neighborhood, next to a park and school. I ask why they are putting this in an area that shows up with coverage on Omnipoint, Cingular and Verizon online maps. Almost all of Scotch Plains on the Omnipoint online coverage map is in green.
 When I looked at Grove Street in Westfield on the Omnipoint coverage map, then I can agree with Mr. Scaglione, "everyone wants the cake and eat it too," since there is a big white spot there with no coverage. I believe that the residents of Scotch Plains have met our commitment to the 1996 Telecommunications Act. I question why communities such as Westfield are waiting for every other town around them to provide this necessary network. In Scotch Plains, we have done our part. Now let Westfield do the same.
 Melvin Smallwood Scotch Plains

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Unpopular Stand Necessary for Future

The open letter to Representative Ferguson was a take off of the MoveOn.org page in the *New York Times*. I respect the opinion of everyone who signed the letter but strongly disagree with each of their points.
 "Support a safe, phased withdrawal of U.S. Troops from Iraq beginning now." This is similar to what the President and General Petraeus has called for, except they do not want to begin withdrawing troops until it will be safer for those remaining.
 "Oppose further funding of the war." This will deny our troops of the supplies and equipment they need to survive.
 "Support diplomatic measures that will bring other nations into the peace keeping process." Great idea, but how do you propose to do this? The United Nations passes resolutions that have no hope of enforcing; the only country that offered to replace the U.S. in Iraq is Iran.
 "Insist on a new plan to create a stable, self governing Iraq..." Many refer what is happening in Iraq as a civil war. Remember, it took from 1861 to 1865 before the bloody U.S. Civil war ended. The people of Iraq are beginning to come together but it will take time.
 It is true the war in Iraq is unpopular, but sometimes we need leaders like Congressman Ferguson and President Bush who will take an unpopular stand and do what is right for the future of our country and the rest of the free world.
 Thomas Lienhard Westfield

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 Melvin Smallwood Scotch Plains

The Children Created for Me a Utopian Experience In Life's Journey

The party is over, the celebration ended, but the glow lingers on and always will, I suspect. On June 14, wonderful people came together to celebrate my 40-year privileged life at Holy Trinity Interparochial School.
 For me, it was a little bit of heaven, this everyday connection with the hearts, the minds and the souls of a very beautiful community of God's people. I can't think of one child, one parent or one staff member with whom I didn't fall in love. Can you imagine anyone being so incredibly lucky? And when it was over, hundreds of people set aside their personal, precious time to acknowledge me.
 It is I who should have been celebrating them for the gift of themselves and the children who created for me a utopian experience in my life's journey.
 So, to the extraordinary committee members who spent so many hours planning and carrying out this beautiful and memorable night, I say thank you. To the people, three generations of them who gave up a comfortable night at home just to be there, I say thank you. To the many

school leaders who have spent all their energy by Thursday night of a winding down school year, I say thank you. To the school office and its supportive staff, I say thank you. To the many wonderful nuns and priests and especially to our Superintendent of Schools, Fr. Kevin, I say thank you. For all those magnificent prayers, letters and magnanimous gifts, I say thank you. And finally, for the privilege and honor of knowing and serving His children, I say thank you.
 And so, we return to normal, and June 14 becomes a memory. Well, you may all return to normal, I never shall. You have forever, lifted me to a plane that will never return to normal. It's on that plane I shall rejoice in the memory of what has been and the vision of what will be. Now who could possibly ask for anything more?
 As I said before, the party's over, the celebration ended and the glow lingers and I imagine always will. Thank you for all that, my good, holy and wonderful friends. Thank you for that.

Dorothy Szot Westfield

Bob Pinheiro Westfield



Corzine Plan for Re-Activating Railways Will Betray Suburbs

Taking a page from the Jim Florio playbook on taxing the suburbs to death, Governor Jon Corzine has gone one better by actually threatening the suburban way of life.
 In order to accommodate New York garbage and marine cargo growth from the Port Authority, millions of additional trucks and railcars will move in and out of port areas each year. Unfortunately, this sort of growth will place an overwhelming amount of traffic on roadways along the Turnpike and on the Chemical Coast railway, which runs along the Turnpike.
 As the ultimate solution to the logistical challenge, Corzine's transportation people have funded a plan to shift port and Bayway Refinery traffic in a westward direction into the surrounding suburbs. The Corzine plan involves reactivating the old Staten Island Railway from Linden to Cranford, where the line will connect to the Raritan Valley commuter rail line. This will allow refinery traffic to be diverted from the Chemical Coast Line to the Raritan Valley commuter line, and also allow the placement of train-to-truck depots in the suburbs. So far, the railroad has been pushing for truck depots in Roselle and along Commerce Avenue in Union. Proposed expansion of the commuter line to Phillipsburg would facilitate potential movements.
 Unfortunately, the Corzine plan will

use freight trains to block seven roadways, including St. Georges Avenue in Roselle and South Avenue in Cranford.
 Although the rail proponents like to talk about railcars full of plastic pellets, the railroad also carries hazardous chemical waste for the refinery and explosive propane tank cars. With gasohol commonplace, consider the likelihood that trainloads of flammable ethanol will be running through the middle of Roselle, Cranford, Garwood, Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield and Dunellen on the Raritan Valley commuter line.
 Consider the future of the suburbs, living with the threat of a downtown chemical derailment, disruption of commuter rail service and repeated blockage of major east-to-west roadways in the area.
 Unlike the cities of Elizabeth and Linden, which receive direct monetary compensation from the Port Authority and the Bayway Refinery, the suburbs receive the traffic and no compensation. To add insult to injury, the Corzine plan will further subsidize Elizabeth, Linden, Staten Island and the Port Authority by dumping potentially dangerous cargo and as much traffic as possible into the suburbs.
 Will "Florio Free in '93" become "Cancel Corzine in '09"?
 William Fidurski Clark

William Fidurski Clark

Dick Samuel, Chairman Scotch Plains Democrat Committee