



HELPING OTHERS...The Wardlaw-Hartridge community, led by Jonathan Belfer and Noah Ganz, prepare to walk as a "sea of orange" in support of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

W-H Helps Raise Funds For Multiple Sclerosis Society

EDISON — For the past six weeks, Wardlaw-Hartridge (W-H) students Jonathan Belfer of Scotch Plains and Noah Ganz of Westfield have been leading a school-wide fundraiser to support victims of multiple sclerosis. They have raised money through donations, T-shirt sales and elementary school students collecting funds in piggy banks and through a "Buck-a-book" fundraiser.

The Wardlaw-Hartridge community came together on April 15 to culminate the drive with a four-mile walk at Nomahegan Park in Cranford. A spirited group of 100 walkers, clad in matching orange T-shirts, participated in the walk. The W-H contingent included students, parents, faculty, friends and even a few dogs.

"When I cut the ribbon and looked behind me, I saw a sea of orange," Jonathan said. "It was an exhilarating experience. I'd never seen anything like it before."

Jonathan and Noah helped the W-H community raise over \$16,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Upper School and Middle School students purchased orange T-shirts at school in March and April and made their commitment to join the walk. Rhona Esermer of Edison, Upper School Head, and several teachers joined the Sea of Orange.

"Walking on Sunday was a great experience. We lucked out with a beautiful day and it was great to see how many different faces — parents, grandparents, teachers, and all three divisions of students — showed up to support a great cause," Skyla Choi of Fort Lee said.

Jonathan and Noah worked hard as the coordinators of this six-week drive. They were rewarded with a successful fundraiser that provided another example of how the W-H community supports community service and volunteer service opportunities.

"Everyone from five years old to the teachers and the parents helped each other and helped us," Noah said. "I really like how the entire community rallied together for a great cause."

SP-F PTA Council To Present Anti-Bullying Seminar

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD - The Scotch Plains-Fanwood PTA Council is proud to bring you a program for parents, teachers and caretakers of all school age children and teens. It will be held on Thursday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Auditorium.

The program will begin with an overview of the new legislation regarding the act of bullying in the schools. We will then move to describe the programs already in place in the schools and plans for the future. Participants will then be invited to participate in small groups, based upon three age levels. This unique opportunity provides each person a small group setting where examples of anti-bullying tactics will be given specific to that age group and then chance to ask questions.

RSVPs are appreciated but not required and should be directed to Lisa Dunlap at SPFPPTAVP@yahoo.com.

UC Guidance Counselor Wins Outstanding Professor Award

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union Catholic High School's senior guidance counselor, Dr. Cas Jakubik, was recently selected to be the recipient of the St. John's University (Staten Island campus) Outstanding Professor Award for an adjunct professor.

Each year, the Department of Graduate Education at St. John's selects two recipients for Outstanding Professor awards; one is a full-time professor and one an adjunct. Mr. Jakubik, who has been preparing graduate-level students to become school counselors or mental health counselors for four years now at St. John's, was shocked an honored that he was chosen by the students to win this distinguished award.

"The students said they chose me because I gave them so many real-world examples from my regular job," said Mr. Jakubik.

Mr. Jakubik was honored at The School of Education Dean's Convocation on April 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Staten Island. His wife, Joanne Jakubik, also a counselor at Union Catholic, joined her



Dr. Cas Jakubik

husband for the presentation. She noted that it was a very serious academic event, but that "when they announced his name, a whole group of his graduate students spontaneously started cheering." This was the most rewarding part of the evening for both Cas and Joanne.

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

WHS Student is Journalist for A Day: Too. Cool. For. Words.

By CORINNE PETERSEN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

As a 14-year-old, I have come to learn that being tall has many advantages. Especially if you are carrying a notepad, as I usually do, and you want information.

Manhattan is a vibrant, hopping place to begin with, but what goes on inside the hundreds of buildings that line its streets is a story all its own — and how my heart was pounding as I waited outside a courtroom in the Federal District Court of New York, surrounded by prestigious members of the press.

The sentencing of Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer, was due to proceed in just a few minutes, and the courtroom on April 5 was close to packed. At the door, a woman and two United States Marshals stood directing the keyed-up mob, and asked that the first ten people present please enter. I am not a journalist (yet), but I did not even question my probable risk-taking as I got in line—I had been waiting there for an hour, so they better let me in.

Following those in front of me, I made my way to the jury box and found a seat in the second row (yes—I sat in the jury box!)

On a sudden impulse, I turned to the woman behind me and asked, "Excuse me, are you a journalist?"

"Yes I am," she replied, showing me her Press tag.

"That's so cool!" I exclaimed, perhaps a tad immaturely.

She smiled uncertainly. "Yeah, I guess it is. Aren't you a reporter?"

Me, a reporter? Why yes! Yes, of course! I travel globally, working for the *New York Times*. "Haha, no, I'm in ninth grade," I answered, doing my best to mask my state of sheer delight and satisfaction that this *Los Angeles Times* reporter thought that I was a journalist!

"Oh!" she laughed. "Well you are certainly off to a very good start!" The young man sitting next to me turned with a grin. "Yes, I would definitely agree with that!" he chuckled. "You're in here before *The Wall Street Journal*."

For a student/aspiring English and journalism teacher like myself, it does not get much more awesome than that.

"All rise!" boomed a voice that shook me out of my state of ecstasy. Trembling slightly, I obeyed as Judge Shira Schiendlin was swept in on a breeze of authority. Addressing all present, she reviewed Bout's charges (conspiracy to kill United States officers, conspiracy to use nuclear missiles, offenses involving firearms, conspiracy to sell machine guns and explosives, involvement in arms trafficking while aware that they'd be used to kill Americans, and personal support of terrorism against the United States) and explained that she had reviewed evidence presented in the case, many letters sent by various individuals, and the laws of the United States while mulling over his potential sentence.

Mr. Bout's lawyer was then given a

few minutes to rant about why he was innocent, and that the government uses "inflammatory language to prejudice the fact-finder." He challenged his listeners to point to any piece of evidence justifying a life sentence. The laws being applied, he demanded, were "created for terrorists, not Viktor Bout," and that "he's here now, because he spoke negatively against Americans" and "will it someday become that someone thinking about missiles" will be jailed? His final statement was a plea to the judge that more than twenty-five years in jail "would be taking a life."

At this point, Mr. Bout himself addressed the courtroom and the world: "Your Honor," he began, "I'm not guilty, never intended to kill anyone, never intended to sell arms to anyone. God knows it's the truth, and this truth is known by these people here. They will live with this truth, get up with this truth, go to bed with this truth, raise their children with this truth, and love their wives with this truth. I am thankful to the United States — people with clear consciences...because they [his lawyers] treated me with respect. Let God forgive you." He pointed at the audience, his eyes bright with hate and anger. "And you will answer to him [God], not to me. Time will answer to me and to my country!"

Subsequently the prosecutor insisted that Mr. Bout was "here because of choices" — at which point Mr. Bout yelled, "It's a lie!" The prosecutor continued stating that he [Mr. Bout] is an experienced, intelligent man who, at any given moment, could have chosen to halt his participation in the arms trafficking.

The sentencing was drawn to a close with Judge Schiendlin's final words being, "The public does need protection from the defendant...[he] responded to an opportunity to sell arms, but was not actively looking for [one]...[he just] embraced an opportunity [to do so]."

The judge concluded "[that] thirty years is not a reasonable sentence" and thus Viktor Bout's fate became a fee of \$400 to be paid immediately, a forfeiture of \$15,000,000, and 25 years and 15 years in prison to run concurrently, followed by five years of supervised release.

I left the courtroom that day, my mind giddy with blurred thoughts and excitement over the experience. I had sat in the jury box, with real journalists, and watched the sentencing of an international arms dealer who the government had been after for years.

That night and the following day, the media was full of the news of Mr. Bout's incarceration, and I could not help reading it all with a little smile on my face, because I was there, and I had the same notes as journalists from *The New York Times*, and other famous publications around the world!

Too. Cool. For. Words.

Editors Note: Corinne is a freshman at Westfield High School



HAPPY EARTH DAY...Just in time for Earth Day, the fourth graders in Joseph Paradise's class at McKinley Elementary School in Westfield made compost bins. The students have been caring for an indoor red worm compost bin, which they divided up into five smaller bins for each group to watch. They feed their worms organic food scraps and used some of the compost to plant vegetables, and will be able to see their scallions, carrots and turnips grow through a clear growing container. This composting lesson was done in conjunction with their science class on seeds and plants. These eco-warriors are doing their part to reuse, recycle and reduce their carbon footprint on the planet. Happy Earth Day from Class 4-2!

BootCampWF Next Session To Kick Off on April 30

WESTFIELD — Now Offering Outdoor TRX & Yoga! BootCampWF, Westfield's premier, healthy-living OUTDOOR fitness training program, has expanded its class offerings to include BCWF Extreme, BCWF TRX and BCWF Yoga, as well as afternoon, evening and new weekend workouts! The next session runs April 30 to June 13. Please join us for a FREE trial class on Saturday, April 28, at 9 a.m.

BootCampWF welcomes Personal Trainers Jessica Brooks and Joe Henderson, and Yoga Instructors Mary Roth and Jen Lanza, to the BCWF Team!

A specially designed, six-week program, BootCampWF offers a wide variety of complimentary classes to achieve optimal fitness, all done in the GREAT OUTDOORS! The program starts off with FREE optional fitness assessments on April 26 at 6:30 p.m. and April 27 at 6 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Before the first day (and after the last!), we see how long it takes for you to walk/run a half-mile, and how many pushups and sit-ups you can do. We also do an

optional weigh-in and body-fat evaluation. These assessments allow you to measure progress over the course of the session, and if you commit, you WILL see improvement!

For more information, visit our website, www.BootCampWF.com.

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WHS' Hi's Eye Earns Press Assoc. Awards

WESTFIELD — *Hi's Eye*, Westfield High School's independent weekly newspaper, has achieved two significant accomplishments. The newspaper earned First Place with Special Merit from the American Scholastic Press Association, earning 975 out of a possible 1,000 points. *Hi's Eye* was also named one of 10 Outstanding High School Newspapers in its division (schools with populations over 1,700 publishing 30 issues).

Congratulations to the staff and their advisers, Rosemary DiBattista and Nicole Scimone.

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