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Letters to the Editor

**There Is No Place Like Home
 And Baseball, Bob Brewster**

I read with interest Bob Brewster's recollection of fun times growing up in Westfield (*Devils Den* by Bruce Johnson). Since my name was mentioned, my sister, Lois Pinkin, who still lives in Westfield forwarded it to me.

Since graduating from WHS in 1967 and going to college in D.C., I have spent very little time back home. I have lived in the D.C. area, San Diego, and Macon, Ga., but none of those places matches Westfield, from education, public safety, and community involvement as I as a youngster remember it.

As a young boy growing up, all you needed was a ball and a bat in baseball season (sometimes a wiffle ball or a broomstick to play stickball against the brick wall at Washington School), a football during the fall, and a basketball in the winter. Washington School was always our playing ground, although there were many two-on-two basketball games played on the Brewster cement pad and two-on-two football games played on Harding Street. The good thing was that age was not a criteria. It was a good blending of kids with a common interest that could not wait to get out of school so they could change clothes and enjoy sport together.

I hope it is still that way. The column and Bob's comments brought back many memories. The next time you have a chance to interview the venerable and highly successful baseball coach, ask him why he chewed on the tar that seeped out of the patches on the street in the hot summer as if it was chewing gum.

Thank you for the memories.

Dave Pushman
 WHS '67

ABCDICTIONOPQRSTDECEPTIONUVWXYZ
 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. Tienda - A booth or shop
2. Sapo - The toadfish
3. Carabao - A Philippine water buffalo
4. Pandit - In India, a scholar or learned man

PARLE

1. A sort of coarse canvas
2. A long handled battle-axe
3. To thrash or beat
4. To converse

PISK

1. A pustule or pimple
2. The common nighthawk of America
3. A stem, stalk or support
4. The rock trout of California

FECUNDATION

1. The act of making fruitful or prolific
2. Revenge; reprisal
3. A process of cleansing the body; fasting
4. Starvation

VACA

1. Round or oval in form
2. Very small amount; a pinch
3. A cow in the Southwest
4. Dark; gloomy

See more letters on page 5

Nurses Are Vital to Patient Care at Region's Hospitals

With all the snow and ice the region has sustained this winter - and there is still over a month and a half to go until spring - many New Jerseyans have been in car accidents, had weather-related heart attacks or taken some nasty falls on black ice and snow-covered walkways this winter. The sheer volume of injuries has filled our emergency rooms and made surgeons and their medical teams put in extra hours to handle the case overload.

But while doctors have been busy, let's not forget the medical staff members who must care for patients who have to be hospitalized - the nurses. Whether it be checking a patient's blood pressure, pulse or cleaning incontinent patients, it is the nursing staff that deals directly with patient care.

RNs are responsible for ensuring doctors directives are followed per a patient's hospital stay as well as when they are discharged.

One of our editors was among the patients last month when he fell and broke his shoulder requiring surgery and one night at Overlook Medical Center in Summit. The night he was hospitalized, Overlook was so busy that his two-hour surgery for 6 p.m. got

pushed back to 9 p.m.

Nurses are responsible for checking and recording vital signs, taking patients temperatures, administering prescribed medicine, and taking injections and blood samples. They even check to make sure patient meal orders are consistent with their medical history such as diabetes and associated food and other allergies. But it is the caring nature of nurses that is so important to make a patient's hospital stay as comfortable as possible.



In addition to Overlook, our region is covered by RWJ University Hospital in Rahway, and Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth.

Hospital nurses, who work 12-hour shifts, work in all aspects of hospital care from emergency rooms to surgery and critical units to oncology and maternity care. They are the keys to patient care during all aspects of hospitaliza-

tion.

Let's remember our nurses throughout the year - not just during National Nurses Week, Tuesday, May 6 to Monday, May 12.

Thank them for all they do.

Winter Snow; Ground Hog's Prediction Is On Track

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Feb. 2 predicting six more weeks of winter. Though the weather was fine for the Super Bowl that evening, the Denver Broncos were pummeled by the Seattle Seahawks - after which the snow belted the region in the night and through the next day.

Staten Island Chuck made the same prediction as Phil, but was grumpier about it. He escaped New York Mayor Bill de Blasio's clutches - jumping to the ground and scurrying back into his hovel.

The Puppy Bowl preceding the Super Bowl got off to a political start as they announced that Obama and Michelle's dogs

were providing excellent coaching for the event, causing some to switch to a rerun of the *Caine Mutiny*.

The best catch at the Super Bowl, in our view, was by the referee when Broadway Joe Namath flipped the coin toss in the air before anyone was ready. Right after that was the worst catch of the day, when on the first play, the snap whizzed by a surprised Peyton Manning's ear for a safety.

Bruno Mars at half time in the Super Bowl was superb.

The Chili Peppers were not so hot.

Traffic should now get back to normal in the area - just as unpredictable as the weather.



NESEMAN @14
 THE LEADER/TIMES

Help Preserve The Honoring of 1,563 NJ Vietnam Veterans

As a not-for-profit organization, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation (NJVVMF) is self-supporting in its mission to encourage and foster a thorough understanding of the Vietnam era including the political, historical, social, cultural and military aspects that affected the United States, and especially New Jersey. Each year, more than 9,000 school children pass through the doors of the Vietnam Era Museum and Educational Center and visit the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

The Vietnam Era Museum is the only museum of its kind in the USA and 2013 marked the 15th Anniversary of this New Jersey treasure. Visitors can take advantage of our tours, monthly programs and ceremonies. The Memorial pays tribute to the

1,563 New Jerseyans who did not return home and hosts programs for those who still feel the effects of war.

As a result, the Foundation has become a trusted resource for remembering, honoring and healing. For information on the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Museum and Educational Center, visit the website at www.njvvmf.org/ or call (732) 335-0033.

With your help, we will preserve the legacy and continue to honor those who served and our active duty service men and women. Please visit us and support our mission. Interested residents may check line 61 on the New Jersey tax form to donate. Thank you.

Bill Linderman, Dir.
 NJVVMF

Did New Jersey Taxpayers Win At the Super Bowl?

Super Bowl XLVIII may be popular and it just may bring some economic benefit to New Jersey but the cost to the New Jersey taxpayer is unconscionable because the American Football Conference and the National Football League and the two football teams while reaping great profit are contributing very little to the taxpayer costs for the game and because so few events related the game will take place in New Jersey!

According to the *Asbury Park Press* (Larry Higgs, "Surprise! The real cost of the Super Bowl for New Jersey residents," January 22, 2014), "the cost so far: \$17.7 million and counting."

The question posed in the article is whether New York City or New Jersey will receive the greater economic benefit. It reports that Lake Forest College Professor Robert Baade said, "We have a situation where New Jersey taxpayers could pay to enhance the New York economy. People who attend the game - will they stay in New York and not New Jersey? Why should ordinary people in New Jersey pay to enhance New York's economy?"

The *International Business Times* asks, "What Will The Super Bowl Cost Taxpayers?" (Christopher Zara, January 28, 2014) "Taxpayers in both states will have to shoulder some of the burden: Security, mass transit, local promotions - it all costs money, and the region is sparing no expense."

But what is the economic rate of return for the taxpayers? Questions have been raised about just how much New Jersey will benefit economically from the Super Bowl. Professor Baade, "If you do a pure economic evaluation, we may be able to cover the explicit costs...but we can't make the argument that accommodating the Super Bowl is actually better than anything else."

The average taxpayer is shut out of the Super Bowl! The average price of a ticket is \$2,056! The "get-in price or the price of the cheapest tickets available at \$1,400!

(*The Wall Street Journal's Market Watch*, January 28, 2014) According to *The Daily News* the most expensive seat is \$25,700 in the Lower Club 140 section! The most expensive suite \$686,000. The least expensive suite \$238,000. (*Christian Red*, January 27, 2014).

Having a major sporting event in New Jersey may be good public relations for the state but may not be good use of scarce taxpayer dollars. And this is especially so when most of the activities, parties, and attractions around the Super Bowl will be in New York City!

Nor is it clear that the nation and the world will even know that the game is being played in New Jersey! The NFL in its design for the official program shows a shot of the New York City skyline with New Jersey but a speck in the distance!

New Jersey elected officials at a press conference denounced the NFL design and reprimanded players and broadcasters who refer to the February 2nd game as the "New York Super Bowl!" Senator Robert Menendez said, "Apparently, the NFL needs a geography lesson." He took issue with the "tiny sliver of Jersey City" visible on the program cover, adding, "You're kidding, right?" Senator Cory Booker said that he is "beyond miffed" that the game is being referred to as the New York Super Bowl!

Mike Lupica, a *Daily News* columnist, said, "This is still a New York City Super Bowl...the Super Bowl is here because of New York City." With attitudes such as this no wonder our elected officials are upset! And New Jersey taxpayers should be as well!

The Garden State may get the game, but The Big Apple gets the big bucks! Not quite fair arithmetic! The Governor and the State Legislature had best consider whether taxpayer resources should be devoted to projects that cost the taxpayer much but bring the state relatively little in economic benefit.

Stephen Schoeman
 Westfield

Constitutional Silence Does Not Justify Federal Action

Recently President Obama has spoken several times about his intention to use "executive orders" to bypass Congress and pursue things he wants accomplished. In addition to showing a certain contempt for representative self-government (Congress is elected by the people, is accountable to them, and is not a mere inconvenience to be shunted aside by an aggravated chief executive), Mr. Obama's approach veers dangerously into murky waters.

His potential actions will have to be scrutinized for their constitutionality, not only as to whether they violate something explicit in the Constitution, but also if they create or expand powers about which our charter text is silent. Extra-constitutionality is no pretext for federal activism.

Because the Constitution does not forbid something specifically doesn't mean such action is authorized by the Constitution inferentially. The propositions of the Constitution define and limit the roles of the federal government, and do so definitively. Both the Left and the Right use the Constitution's muteness on any number of things as an excuse for federal legislation or regulation.

But this is not to say that the Constitution makes room for them. Otherwise, why would there be a Tenth Amendment, which states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the

States respectively, or to the people."

How would we know to what this amendment refers if the meaning of text regarding delegated federal powers was somehow opaque? Or why would there be a process for amending the Constitution written within the text of that document itself?

Why amend something whose words can simply be reinterpreted into a meaning commensurate with the political agenda of those in power? With that said, an originalist reading of the Constitution does not mean that we compel wisdom and common sense to take a holiday. Prudence, the great qualifier of extremism and overreaction, is an intrinsic part of the conservative approach to politics (and life, for that matter).

Consider what often is called our "social safety net" - Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, federally-funded public housing, the federal food stamp program. Conservatives can and should maintain that such a net is unjustified by the Constitution and that it should be fundamentally re-cast. However, this is not synonymous with calling for the net's immediate abolition. Instead, conservatives need to make what improvements we can, when and where we can, whether modest or comprehensive.

Upgrading our systems of old-age financial and medical insurance and health coverage for the poor is needed for greater efficiency, yes, but there is nothing compassionate about contin-

ued attempts to sustain things nearing collapse. Rather than abolishing the "safety net," then, conservatives argue that what we need is a multitude of nets: State- and locally-run social services, retirement programs, old-age medical insurance plans, and so forth. States are closer to the needs of their own people, and are more accountable than intricate, robotic, anti-human bureaucracies in what Ronald Reagan called "a far-off capital," Washington, D.C.

To maintain that because conservatives cannot countenance the current system of social programs they therefore oppose the purposes of such programs is untrue. We simply agree with the Founders that diffusion of power and locality of authority are better guarantees of effectiveness and integrity than impenetrable national ones.

The Founders knew what they were about: They set limits on the federal government and gave states, counties, and communities great latitude to enact policies they thought best for those who live within them. One thing they did not do was imply that anything not forbidden can be done.

Those who use constitutional silence as a justification for federal action are engaging not only in intellectual dishonesty but the deliberate erosion of representative self-government itself.

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