



Mount Kisco The Examiner

September 11, 2007

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1

Mount Kisco Cop Indicted in Death of Perez

Tensions simmer as illegal immigrant issue heats up

By Susan Chitwood

A drunken Rene Javier Perez could often be spotted stumbling along the streets of Mount Kisco. Apprehended dozens of times by local police, the 42-year-old homeless Guatemalan immigrant was widely viewed as an unsavory character.

But that's not the Perez that fellow countryman Hugo Duarte knew from back home.

"He was a good person," Duarte, a Mount Kisco day laborer, told *The Examiner* in Spanish. "He didn't have problems with anybody. His brother is a good person. It's a very good family. It was a shock when he was killed because he was a *patasino*."

Mount Kisco Police Officer George Bubaris was indicted Sept. 4 on manslaughter charges stemming from Perez's racially divisive death in April. The handcuffed 30-year-old cop pled not guilty Sept. 6 in State Supreme Court in White Plains on a pair of official misconduct counts and unlawful imprisonment. Bubaris, who was released on \$100,000 bail, returns to court Oct. 22.

Perez, an illegal alien, was found unconscious on the side of the road near the North Castle border April 28. He died early the following morning of severe internal bleeding after being taken to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla. His death was ruled a homicide following an autopsy.

Perez is one of three Guatemalans to have been found dead in Mount Kisco in recent years. Fernando Mateo of the New York City advocacy group *Hispanics Across America* has requested that investigations into those deaths be re-opened.

In her Sept. 6 press conference, Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore said Bubaris "restrained Rene Perez and exposed him to a risk of serious

physical injury and recklessly caused the death of Mr. Perez."

Bubaris's attorney Edward Hayes said that while the investigation into Perez's death wasn't political, he questioned the

validity of the indictment. Hayes said Perez was "anti-social" and a "very abusive public alcoholic."

"It had nothing to do with whether he's an immigrant or not," he added. "You'd have problems with this guy whether he was an immigrant or lived here for a thousand years."



Day laborers' plight moved front and center after last week's indictment.



Mount Kisco Police Officer George Bubaris

Hayes, who made his comments Sept. 7 outside the courthouse after Bubaris made bail, added the officer was "in terrible shape, very depressed" as a result of the indictment.

Mount Kisco Mayor Michael Cindrich said in a recent interview he hopes that people will not judge the police department by this incident alone. "They're doing a reasonable job and will continue to do so," he said.

"This won't diminish their commitment to the community," the mayor continued. "I hope the Latino leadership recognizes that... They shouldn't hesitate to come forward with information and without fear of reprisal. We are a country of law and order and social justice. Our Constitution provides rights to everyone in this country whether you're here legally or not."

But not everyone agrees. One local worker said he believes illegal immigrants get off too easily. "This officer found this guy in town, apparently intoxicated, and this guy was illegal," said area carpentry contractor Michael Reichardt. "He could have been locked up and possibly deported."

Local law enforcement agencies do not generally have the authority to deport illegal immigrants, countered David Leopold a law professor and an executive officer with the American Immigration Lawyers Association. "Immigration law is enforced by the federal government with certain exceptions. Local police can be deputized, but it doesn't happen without definite agreements and only a few have (them)."

Leopold agreed with Cindrich regarding illegal immigrants' rights. "They are under the same laws as everybody else," he said. "The Constitution talks about persons, not citizens. The Constitution applies to everybody. Immigration status has nothing to do with it."

"If they're charged with a crime," the attorney concluded, "they have the right to counsel and certainly the right not to be abused by the police. Because otherwise you'd have a situation like Nazi Germany."

—Marnie Wilbur contributed to this report.

Riding the Rails: Going Home on 9/11



Mount Kisco commuter

By David Griff

This column will usually attempt to share the curious, infuriating and mundane of the daily commute between Mount Kisco and Grand Central Terminal.

However, because the inaugural issue is on September 11, I find it impossible to write about anything other than commuting home that day.

My wife worked on Broad Street and I worked at 59th Street and Lexington Avenue, across from Bloomingdale. Immediately she called. Our plan was for her to come to my office, then we would find a way home to Harrison, where we lived at the time.

Factoring in the chaos, distance, and that she was walking with a friend who was seven months pregnant, I estimated that it would take about four hours for them to walk to my office. We last spoke around 10:00 a.m. I resolved not to worry unless 3:00 came and they had not contacted me.

They arrived around 2:30 p.m. We reunited. They rested, then we walked down Park Avenue to the 48th Street entrance to Grand Central. The Helmsly and MetLife Buildings were set against a

flawless blue sky, shielding us from the tragedy behind. The train was standing room only. Occasionally, the silence of shock was broken by hushed voices on cell phones checking in with loved ones.

Normally we referred to our commute

as "an hour with a few hundred of our closest friends." One train ride was indistinguishable from the next. However, on 9/11, we all were friends. We were New Yorkers. We were Americans. We were lucky, because we were going home.

Riding the Rails: Mind Your Manners



Pleasantville commuter

By Scott Avidon

It was sitting in the aisle seat in an otherwise empty row on a city-bound train one rainy Friday morning.

"Do you mind if I sit in there?" I said, nodding to the window seat. His eyes slowly looked up. A sound somewhere between a huff and a grunt escaped his mouth. I'm not even sure his lips moved. He slowly rose for me to pass and sit down.

The middle seat was our DMZ, if you will. Then, his water bottle, like an errant puppy, slid over and brushed against my leg. I swatted it back not too gently; I was posed.

But I tried to chill and focus on my breathing.

At White Plains, a woman sat between us. Détente. When the conductor came through, aisle-guy dropped his paper, money and ticket on the floor. We arrived at Grand Central Station. Aisle-guy stood

before the train stopped; White Plains woman got up when the train stopped. I waited. They left.

I looked down where the aisle-guy had been sitting and there was a crumpled five-dollar bill staring up at me. Now what? Do I leave it?

"If I can catch up to him—without extra effort—I'll return it," I thought.

And there he was, 50 feet away in a sea of bobbing heads. Didn't think I'd catch him. Maybe he'd stop at the crosswalk? No, he wasn't lucky, he turned left and I walked south on Park Avenue looking for someone to give the five dollars.

Would I have chased down a person who'd been nicer to me that morning? No question about it. On a different morning maybe I'd have even tried harder to catch him. Just not today.

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Day Laborer Debate Strains Kisco Community

By Laura Treanor

Janet Pietrobono has lived in Mount Kisco almost her entire life. The granddaughter of Italian immigrants, she was born here, lives in the home that belonged to her grandmother and generally loves the town she calls home.

But in recent years, Pietrobono, who works at Banana Republic on South Moger Avenue, in Mount Kisco, has experienced a decline in her quality of life. She attributes this to a series of problems involving her Latino neighbors. Her neighborhood, like many in Mount Kisco, is predominantly Spanish-speaking. "I used to love to go out on the deck on a nice summer night and look at the stars," she said. "One night, a man popped out of my raspberry bush."

Pietrobono has found evidence of people sleeping in her car at night and defecating on her lawn. She also notes a litter problem.

"They have used my picnic table and left their garbage on it," she said, adding that she often finds trash stuffed behind her plants and bushes.

But in an interview last week, an illegal Guatemalan immigrant—who requested anonymity—voiced frustration with Hispanic day laborers being singled out.

"I have seen Americans throwing garbage in the street," said one of the men, a 42-year-old day laborer who was seeking work at the Mount Kisco train station on Labor Day. "It's the population in general."

Whether ignited by colliding cultures and legitimate beefs or xenophobia and discrimination, local residents' complaints about Hispanics—which range from the use of unofficial hiring sites to public drunkenness to littering—highlight a latent tension that's exacerbated by acts of crime and violence among the new immigrant population.

In recent years, Mount Kisco has been the scene of both heated labor disputes and the death of three Guatemalan immigrants. Forty-two-year-old Rene Javier Perez, a homeless illegal alien who had a history of arrests, many alcohol-related, was found dead on the outskirts of Bedford on April 28. A Mount Kisco cop is at the center of an investigation into Perez's death.

Yet many point to the progress made in helping Hispanics fit in. New York State Assemblyman Adam Bradley, whose district includes Mount Kisco, believes that "there has been an evolution of success" regarding immigration issues. "The fact that Mount Kisco can be recognized as the number one community in a place like Westchester," he said, referring to an article in Ganner's INTOWN magazine that rated Mount Kisco the top family town in the county, "tells us that the town is integrating positively, not negatively."

The latest wave
Over the past decade-plus, the town, which a century ago was a haven for immigrants from Italy, has experienced a high influx of new immigrants from Latin America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one quarter of Mount Kisco's

roughly 10,000 residents are of Latino descent, eighty-five percent of whom are Guatemalan.

The actual number of Latino immigrants in Mount Kisco—and how many are here illegally—is unknown. "I'm not even going to dwell on [the exact number of immigrants]," said Mount Kisco Mayor Michael Cindrich. "There are enough issues involved with running a small government without having to worry about who's an immigrant and who's not, who's documented and who's not. That's the federal government's responsibility."

But the mayor also points to the federal government—and the Constitution—in citing why Town Hall cannot force job-seeking Latinos to assemble at the official hiring site. Many Latinos gather at the train station rather than at Neighbor's Link, a community aid organization. Cindrich, who has spoken to Neighbor's Link Executive Director Carola Bracco on the topic, said the two are unsure of the reasons. He believes that businesses and residents who often complain about loitering would be appeased if the laborers and those hiring them "would cooperate and utilize Neighbor's Link."

The best the town can do, however, is continue to publicize the benefits of the official hiring site and encourage its use. "The U.S. Constitution provides that people can congregate and look for work on the street if they so choose," he said. "The government doesn't have the authority to tell people to move."

The reason most of the day workers feel it's easier to land jobs soliciting contractors near the train station is because the lottery system at Neighbor's Link involves luck, not hustle.

And hustling, for these men, can be a matter of life and death.

"It's really difficult to get here, but it's worth it," said the 42-year-old day laborer, who crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico to the U.S. "My mother is very sick. She has diabetes. She has to buy medicine. If I weren't here, she couldn't live."

Rampant racism?

Despite the strides cited by both governmental and private organizations to integrate Latinos in Mount Kisco, many continue to note an environment they see as racist and troubled.

Laura Mathieson, who works at The Barber Pole on Kirby Plaza, thinks that racism runs rampant. "People always call them Mexicans," she said of the local Latino population, "when most of them aren't even from Mexico." She expressed irritation at the intolerance. "Think about it," she challenged, "would you do the job? Half of the people who discriminate against them wouldn't even do the jobs that they do."

And then there's the next generation. Teenager and Bedford Hills resident Johnny McCarthy said he has experienced racism in Mount Kisco first-hand. The Fox Lane High School junior, who has dark skin and labels himself Hispanic, explains that he gets his Irish last name from his stepfather; his mother is an immigrant



Two day laborers in search of work near Mount Kisco train station. Many residents complain that the presence of the Hispanic immigrants spoil their quality of life.

from El Salvador. He was born in the United States.

"One time me and my friends were walking," McCarthy related while working behind the ticket booth of Clearview's Mount Kisco movie theater on Main

Street. "Three of us were Hispanic and two of us were black. One of our friends almost bumped into this car by accident. At first the woman just started to pull out of the spot, but then she stopped and yelled out 'blah, blah, blah, Spic,' and drove off."

A letter From a Real Estate Professional on Buying and Selling Your Home in Today's Market



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Coffeehouse Battle Brewing in Pleasantville

By Martin Wilbur

When Starbucks opened its doors near the Pleasantville train station on August 31, Bridget Couto had every right to be concerned.

For the past seven years, Couto, the owner of the Dragonfly Caffe on Wheeler Avenue, has worked hard to carve out her niche in the ever-expanding coffeehouse business.

Now, like so many small business owners throughout Westchester and the country, the Dragonfly Caffe will face its toughest test from a conglomerate that has all the advantages of being propelled by a large corporate engine.

It may be David and Goliath but Couto isn't backing down.

"We're completely different, in feel, in atmosphere," she said last week. "They have their business, we have ours."

Time will tell if the Dragonfly Caffe survives but discussions with random customers in both stores last week revealed that most coffee lovers believe Pleasantville is big enough to support both establish-

ments.

What helps is the proximity to the Metro-North station. Couto said her busiest time is during the morning rush hour. The two coffeehouses are also separated by the train tracks—Starbucks is located near the Pleasantville Diner on Memorial Plaza—which should provide each establishment with a chance to capture the morning commuter.

Some customers surveyed last week said they will attempt to support both stores but they have their preferences.

Zachary Sabbah, of Briarcliff, was at Starbucks last week where he prefers various types of coffees. But he plans on staying with the Dragonfly Caffe, especially when he's in the mood for a cup of tea, which Starbucks doesn't serve.

"Sometimes you want a simple tea instead of a frappa, mappo, cappuccino," Sabbah said.

Couto said she offers more than coffee and unique surroundings. There are selections of gifts along with the coffees and pastries, and a few outdoor tables for her customers to enjoy on a nice day. On Friday nights there is live music.

Pleasantville resident Tammie Tellone



Dragonfly Caffe owner Bridget Couto, with employee Ali Mouttaki, plans to go head to head with the new Starbucks in Pleasantville.

said she would continue to support the Dragonfly because of its one-of-a-kind ambience. For Tellone the Dragonfly seems special.

"This is closer for me and it just seems more homey and more quaint," she said.

Starbucks customer Alex Praslick also sees an opportunity for both stores to do well.

"It's kind of different," he said. "Different kinds of coffee as well."

Starbucks Manager Allison Latragna said business was slow during the first week, probably because of the Labor Day weekend opening. Even during the first few workdays, the expected crush of morning commuters was more like a trickle. Meanwhile, Couto said during that same time period she noticed no difference in her usual flow of business.

Latragna expects sales to pick up after more residents learn that Starbucks has moved into the location. A scheduled Sep-

tember 12 grand opening with local dignitaries should give the new store a boost, she said.

As far as the competition goes, Latragna also doesn't see a problem.

"I've seen the Dragonfly. It's such a quaint, cute place, that should help it," she said.

A bigger issue for Starbucks, however, may not be the Dragonfly Caffe, but competition from its own stores. Along with the Pleasantville location, there are also Starbucks in Mount Kisco, Chappaqua and Briarcliff.

Latragna mentioned that she was not aware of the strategies that placed four stores in such a tight area but didn't think

Coffee drinkers will now have a choice of where to pick up their brew but Tellone knows where she will go for a cup.

"There are people that I'm with sometimes that go to Starbucks, but I'll keep my loyalty here," she said.



Assisting at the second annual summer charity golf outing for REFLECTIONS, a scholarship established in memory of Tina Shaina Gambino, is Tina's sister Isabelle Gambino (far right) and friends Brianna Connelly (far left) and Jaclyn Falconi. The Aug. 9 event, along with a special evening fundraiser held in June, has successfully raised money to benefit Pleasantville School District students. Tina, a senior at Pleasantville High School at the time of her untimely death in Nov. 2004, earned enormous admiration throughout the community with her generous spirit and omnipresent smile. This year's recipient of the REFLECTIONS Scholarship was Alyssa Cecchetelli.

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September 11

Six Years Later Memories Remain Fresh

By Martin Wilbur

It was 5 p.m. when Pat Lynch left White Plains to go to New Rochelle.

It was a Tuesday afternoon. There should have been rush hour traffic. But all Lynch remembered while traveling on the Sprain Brook, Cross Country and Hutchinson River parkways, was how deserted it seemed.

"It was very eerie from lack of traffic," said Lynch, a Yorktown resident who recalled the day recently while sipping coffee in the Borders bookstore café in Mount Kisco. "There was nobody on the roads, nobody outside at that point."

Six years have passed since Sept. 11, 2001 but the painful memories absorbed by anyone who lived through the attacks will never go away. You didn't need to lose a loved one or close friend to realize that in some way life was going to change forever.

Confusion at what they were hearing was a common reaction.

Sheldon Gartner was teaching music at a school in Hawthorne when word came

that the World Trade Center had been attacked. Like millions of other Americans, Gartner had trouble comprehending what he had been hearing on the radio.

"I just remember hearing 'and now the Pentagon's been hit,'" he said.

That need to talk with somebody else was a common theme for most people, said Scott Turnbull, owner of Starbase Candy on Main Street in Mount Kisco.

Turnbull had a television playing in his store when the first news came in that the Twin Towers had been hit. He remembered that in those early moments many people, including some of the news commentators, had trouble grasping what was unfolding before them.

"I called my son that day because, like most people, you had to connect to sort of make it real or listen to someone else," Turnbull said.

Reaching out to make sure loved ones were okay tied up phone lines and jammed school offices throughout the metropolitan area.

Yorktown's Lynch said that like most parents he worried about the safety of his daughter, who was in her first day of high

school about 30 miles from home.

Jim Keane, owner of Pleasantville Bake Shop on Wheeler Avenue, said when the anniversary approaches he thinks about the firemen lost and the other men and women who sacrificed their lives.

"I have some firemen in the family," he said. "I always think about the firemen. I think they gained a lot of respect after that whole thing."

Unlike many of his fellow citizens, Keane said he doesn't fear for his or the nation's safety as a result of the terrorist attacks.

But one local woman had trouble finding words to describe the shock and tragedy that occurred that day. One thing is certain for her—the feeling of safety and invincibility of America may have been shattered forever, said Angela, who declined to give her last name while sitting on a bench near the Pleasantville train station.

As a result of Sept. 11, 2001, it made her realize that almost anything can happen at any time.

"I was always of the opinion that good will always overcome evil, always," she said. "But evil is always going to be out there."

Sept. 11, 2001: Basic Facts

Chronology

8:46 AM—Plane crashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center.

9:03 AM—Plane crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center.

9:17 AM—The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) shuts down all New York City area airports.

9:21 AM—The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) halts all flights at U.S. airports. It is the first time in history that air traffic has been halted nationwide.

9:38 AM—Plane crashes into the Pentagon. Evacuation begins immediately.

9:45 AM—The White House evacuates.

10:05 AM—The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

10:10 AM—A portion of the Pentagon collapses.

10:10 AM—Plane crashes in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

10:22 AM—The State and Justice Departments, as well as the World Bank are evacuated.

10:28 AM—The World Trade Center's north tower collapses.

10:45 AM—All federal office buildings in Washington, D.C. are evacuated.

4:10 PM—Building 7 of the World Trade Center collapses.

Source: U.S. State Department

Quiet Courage After September 11

By Faith Stevelman



On the morning of September 11, 2001, I was heading to work, a few blocks from the Twin Towers. I had my purse over my shoulder when I turned back to answer a phone call that told me to stay home. I was really lucky. So was the rest of my family.

The next day I learned that the father of my preschool daughter's friend had been killed in the towers' collapse. My four-year-old child and I had to have some intense, frank conversations about family, loss and love that year, conversations I'd have preferred to put off.

I tried to talk to her mother. A few times we went to lunch. I was single too, but my marriage had ended over a course of years, hours in a morning. I don't think I was much help.

It wasn't until weeks later that I learned

that a classmate from law school had also been killed on September 11. A police officer who was not on duty that morning, he had rushed to the towers to help.

The news hit me hard. I remembered there were times our classmates had been unkind to him, arrogant, and I'd been impressed as heck that he was able to laugh it off and keep a wrinkle in his eye. Their arrogance upset me then; after 9/11 the irony was overpowering. Look who turned out to really have the goods.

Though I went to his funeral, to this day I find it nearly impossible to comprehend he is gone. In my mind's eye, I can still see him at the university pool: lean, tall, fast.

Going back to work was difficult for me. For months I dreading leaving Westchester for downtown and couldn't wait to get back. There was a big divide. Most people who stayed up here didn't really get it, certainly not in the way people downtown did.

Then there was the guy who helped me with odd jobs around my house. In his "real" life he was a firefighter in the Bronx. Once in awhile he'd talk about it, about going down to Ground Zero, about the men they lost, and how so many of them worked day after day down there, covered in the debris, and then attended the funerals together.

I know I wasn't a victim or a hero that day, but I am still struggling with it all.

A different kind of terror hit home this summer, just after I decided to spend my week of summer vacation in my garden. In Cheshire, Conn., two men tortured a doc-

tor, and then brutalized and killed his wife and two daughters. How to feel safe now, even at home?

That Buddhist thing of giving up on needing to feel safe, how exactly do you do that? And what about that family? At first I thought about the death penalty. They should be killed, those men, I thought. But very quickly even that seemed mostly beside the point.

A girlfriend of mine (who has authority to speak on the subject) told me that a life should not be measured by its length, or the circumstances of its ending.

So, what about that family? For the mother and her daughters, I hope they had a lot of love between them and good times. I hope they found a way to really communicate; that their days weren't consumed by the crush of running from one thing to the next, and worrying about it all. Very simple wishes, but so difficult to accomplish, it seems.

I hope the sisters didn't fight too much and say "I hate you," and make their mother sad. And the father? I hope one day he can feel some-

thing besides sorrow; can feel joy in the love they shared as a family; will be able to accept love from people who will want to take care of him. But that will take a huge amount of courage...something like heroism, actually.

Faith Stevelman is a Chappaqua resident and law professor in New York City.



Back to School

Bedford Schools Aiming for More Cohesiveness



Crews work on the roof of Mount Kisco Elementary School during the waning days of summer to get the building ready for last week's opening.



Fox Lane High School Principal Deborah Talbot.



Mount Kisco Elementary School Principal Susan Ostrofsky.

By Rick Pezzullo

Like most school districts, Bedford is dealing with its share of construction projects, personnel changes and curriculum adjustments as it begins the 2007-08 year.

While those issues will certainly garner much attention, school administrators and teachers have another goal in mind that will require a mindset change and the relinquishing of some old habits.

Mount Kisco Elementary School Principal Susan Ostrofsky said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Debra Jackson has been urging staff district-wide to think beyond the walls of each of the seven main schools and look at the Bedford Central School District as a whole.

"It's a message we heard loud and clear and we embraced," said Ostrofsky, starting her fourth year overseeing about 515 stu-

dents at her school. "We've done a lot of team building thinking how can we move this district forward and to the highest level."

"Our schools are very different, but we all want to give our students equal opportunity," Ostrofsky added.

According to Jackson, who will be leaving at the end of the school year after four years leading the district, there are approximately 4,400 students enrolled in the high school, middle school and five elementary schools, continuing an upward trend. Of those students, about 25 percent reside in the Village of Mount Kisco.

District-wide there have been about 45 new staff members hired this year. There's a new principal at Bedford Hills Elementary School, C. Zbynek Gold, who formerly served as principal at Washington Irving Elementary School in Tarrytown for four

years.

"We really are a team," Jackson said. "The new people (over the last few years) allowed us to take the separate schools and become one district. It's a great place, it really is."

Construction projects

Most of the work that was part of a \$68 million bond passed by voters in January 2002 (along with another \$8.5 million bond approved in 2005) has been completed.

"This year parents will come back and see a lot of closure to a lot of projects," Jackson said.

Not yet finished, however, but still on schedule for completion in October, is the renovation of the K-wing building at Fox Lane High School. The first floor rooms are being transformed into science labs and art rooms.

Last April, a new 45,000-square-foot wing in the front of the high school was unveiled, featuring new classrooms, an orchestra room and spanking new lockers.

Final touches at the high school, which has approximately 1,400 students, are slated to wrap up in June.

"It was a building that had not been renovated since 1950," Jackson explained. "Our goal is to keep this (construction) separate from students."

Fox Lane High School Principal Debo-

rah Talbot, starting her second year, is excited about all the upgrades.

"It just feels like we're settling into this building. It feels like a community," Talbot said. "What we're going to look at here is trying to make the high school experience better for every student."

Meanwhile, at Mount Kisco Elementary School, a new roof was recently installed.

Bus and math changes

One change that district officials hope is barely noticeable is a switch in bus transportation. Chappqua was awarded a five-year contract, replacing Baumann & Sons.

"We hope it to be seamless," Jackson said. "The package was more cost effective for us."

In the classroom, some students will be taking algebra for the first time following a realignment of the mathematics curriculum.

Last year, the Tri-State Organization of School Districts conducted an evaluation of the district's K-12 math program. The state mandated changes for algebra, geometry and trigonometry.

"We've been looking at our math program for years," Ostrofsky explained. "We want to make sure we were teaching what was appropriate at each level. The math program is trying to be at a higher level."

A similar evaluation of the district's science curriculum is scheduled for April.



The future is an open road for Mount Kisco's Matthew Florio, 5, who rode the bus to Kindergarten for the first time on Sept. 5. He is attending West Patent Elementary School.

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Republican Michaelis and Democrat Harckham Battle For Open County Board Seat

Critical swing vote at stake

Examiner staff report

A key figure in Congressman John Hall's successful 2006 campaign is set to square off with Bedford Zoning Board of Appeals member Peter Michaelis in a critical electoral showdown that could shift the county government's power structure.

Former Bedford supervisor candidate Peter Harckham, a Hall campaign veteran and lifelong Democrat, could—if victorious in the Nov. 6 general election—provide



Peter Harckham

Democratic lawmakers with the supermajority they're craving to pass substantive bond packages.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators is comprised of 11 Democrats and six Republicans, including Ursula LaMotte, an incumbent Republican who announced her retirement shortly after Harckham declared his bid earlier this year.

If Democrats—through a Harckham victory—pick up the 2nd Legislative District, they will have the 12 votes needed to pass bond issues without worrying about Republican opposition.

"I'm running to rebuild partnerships between the county and the town government that have been so lacking the last couple of years," said Harckham, eulogizing the retiring LaMotte.

Added the 46-year-old Harckham in a Sunday phone interview, "I'll be going down as a member of the majority," referring to his potential new job with the Board of Legislators, which convenes in White Plains. "Democrats would be able to get a lot done. I'm running on a positive agenda to build partnerships."

But in an interview on Monday, Michaelis said taxpayers in District 2 should be wary of a county board dominated by Democrats.

"The size of county government is going up," the 51-year-old Bedford resident said. "It's very dangerous giving a blank check to one party."

Michaelis, a registered Democrat until he switched his party affiliation in 2001, cited his decade-long experience in closely monitoring local government as a selling point for voters.

"I bring experience to this job," Michaelis proclaimed. "I've been involved for a long time."

Bedford Republican Town Committee Chairman Don Scott, Michaelis' campaign manager, believes that with Harckham, "talk is cheap," while his candidate "really has a record of what he's done."

"He has a great resume," said Scott, pointing to the candidate's involvement with the Bedford Historical Society as president, as well as with issues involving the environment, most notably wetlands. "He also sees that Westchester County has not been tremendously helpful in this part of the county with respect to water, sewer, that sort of thing."

Meanwhile, Harckham supporters cite their candidate's desire to secure money for new ballfields through county funds that they say have been an untapped resource during LaMotte's tenure.

"I think Peter Harckham is so committed to his values and helping families in this area," remarked campaign volunteer Ellen Siroc. "He really understands politics. The county legislature is a very important conduit and I don't think that much has been done with this position."

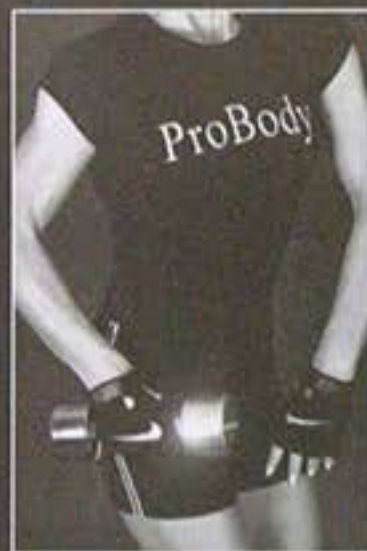
The 2nd Legislative District is comprised of Mount Kisco, a portion of Somers, Pound Ridge, North Salem, Lewisboro and Bedford.



Peter Michaelis

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Iraq: A Nice Break From Library School

By Shelby Monroe

Last September I began my final semester of library school. A brutal exercise for two reasons: First, well, it is library school, and second, I had just spent the summer in Iraq, where you learn very quickly what is important. Turns out it's not the Dewey Decimal System.

Most Americans would not choose to summer in Iraq, but I was eager to see for

myself just how this war is affecting both soldiers and civilians. I went to Iraq as a first-time reporter, where I was embedded with the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade for over four months.

Frankly, I was surprised the Army was willing to accommodate me, a restless library student with no journalism experience and no ties to the military. But they gave me the green light, and off to Iraq I went, in my Kevlar vest and helmet (bought on eBay for under \$300), with



Iraqi police share their cucumber and tomato snack with Shelby Monroe and an American soldier enjoys a cup of tea outside police station in Kirkuk.

stand how it felt to be a soldier away from home, in Iraq, in a war. And I wanted readers at home to share in my experience as much as that was possible.

Each week I grew more comfortable in this strange world of rules and regulations and very mediocre food. Each week the soldiers grew more comfortable with me. They let me join them on patrols and raids. They let me shoot guns (at a firing range) and they laughed at me when I made a fool of myself (happened a lot). The soldiers looked after me and shared my stories with their families, who wrote to thank me for looking after their boys.

Now I have finished library school and I am a librarian. I watch the news from Iraq and almost believe that is the whole story. But I know better. Iraq is a complicated place. It may never be a vacation destination for anyone but me, but it is more than just a war zone. There are funerals, so many funerals, but there are also weddings and births. There is laughter.

I have decided to winter in Iraq. The 1st Brigade is going back, and they have given me permission to join them for a second time. I am eager to return because I believe it is important to bear witness. More important than the Dewey Decimal System.



Village Bookstore employee and Chappaqua resident Shelby Monroe learns to shoot M-4 assault rifle at a Tal Afar firing range where American soldiers train Iraqi police.

absolutely no idea what I was getting myself into.

Soldiers do not like reporters. When I arrived at FOB (Forward Operating Base) Warrior in Kirkuk, I was regarded with suspicion. Because I was not in uniform, some thought I was a KBR (Halliburton) employee, which might be the only thing worse in their eyes than being a reporter.

I spent a lot of time explaining who I was and why I was in Iraq. I tried to reassure the soldiers that I was not there to unearth a scandal that would make them all look bad (the only scandal I witnessed was their grueling work schedule in the relentless heat). I told them I wanted to under-

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From the Left...

Living with 'Disposable' People

By Jeffrey Vreeland

Did you ever feel a little uncomfortable as you drove past a day laborer standing on the street hoping for a day's work? Did you ever wonder how much of an extreme between the average Westchester family's wealth, (\$98,600 per year) and the day laborer's poverty our liberal democracy can tolerate?

Is it possible that questions like this are at the root of our angst when we pass seemingly idle Latino's standing or sitting around the parking lots that surround our train stations; unemployed men, waiting like biblical day laborers, into the 11th hour, still hoping for work.

Or, is it possible, that underlying our frustration with loitering-unemployed-poverty is our own sense of vulnerability in our kick-butt-disposable-throw-away culture? An economy which many of us have helped to create with our enthusiasm for the cheap things of exploitable globalization and just in time inventories; which at the same time could be diminishing the value of our own jobs and safety nets.

Whatever the underlying reasons for our discomfort, I as many of my neighbors, have become addicted to cheap, disposable labor which we have come to expect to be there for us when we need it; to rake leaves in the fall, clean gutters in the spring, shovel snow in the winter, and on and on.

But day laborers are not widgets; they can't be stored on a shelf in the garage like snow tires until needed. They are people who need a place to sleep at night and food to eat so they are rested and nurtured to do the expected hard day's work for us, and of course, they need some place to stand around until we decide that they are needed.

But the county doesn't provide enough decent work-force housing, so they live too many to a room. We do not provide centrally located gathering shelters, so they stand on corners. What could you afford in Westchester on an occasional \$100 a day or less?

Yet we, and our politicians, find the daunting task of improving the lot of those we depend on to maintain our style of living, overwhelming, and so do mostly nothing. None of this is going to change until, as our new governor says, "we become willing to change the status quo." I would suggest not until we change our attitude.

A good beginning toward attitude adjustment...the next time you pass a Lati-



'But day laborers are not widgets; they can't be stored on a shelf in the garage like snow tires until needed. They are people who need a place to sleep at night and food to eat so they are rested and nurtured to do the expected hard day's work for us...'

no waiting for one of your neighbors to hire him, instead of cursing their presence under your breath, or wishing them away—out of sight and mind—let yourself hope they find a great job today.

If you're too timid to voice such an intent verbally why not start by increasing your tips to those who give you service...many of them actually have to figure out how to live in Westchester on the nickels, dimes and small bills in your pocketbooks.

It's amazing how extending hospitality and giving to the 'other' can actually change our attitude toward them...as being the problem.

Jeffrey Vreeland's recently published suspense novel, "When All Else Fails," is set within the environs of northern Westchester and the angst between low collar and Latino workers and their wealthier patrons.

The Examiner

by Henry Naccari

Fare increases hit suburban commuters hardest

Katharine McCall is no different than tens of thousands of other commuters. She stands at the Mount Kisco Metro-North platform at 8 a.m. awaiting a train to Grand Central Terminal. Less than an

hour later she scoots to a subway platform to board another train.

A seasoned commuter, McCall maintains that mass transit is the easiest and safest way to travel, however, increasing

residential living costs and rumored fare hikes are causing her to rethink that opinion.

"My wallet and savings keep getting lighter instead of heavier," said McCall.

A fare hike not only places McCall in a financial pickle but would also harm the stretched budgets of suburban residents who bear an unfair share of the area's transportation costs.

Commuters like McCall are paying for daily parking at the station, a monthly rail pass, and an unlimited bus and subway MetroCard. City commuters are only paying for a MetroCard and maybe an occasional cab.

Recently, Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) officials stated they would propose a 6.5 percent fare increase for 2008 and a 5 percent rise in 2010. According to the agency, the increases are needed to help close an estimated \$2 billion budget gap by 2011.

A monthly pass from Mt. Kisco to Manhattan currently costs \$251 and a 30-day unlimited MetroCard is \$76. If both fare proposals are approved the monthly passes would jump to \$279.86 and a MetroCard to \$84.74.

In two years, that would mean a \$364.60 monthly commuting expense for the privilege of catching a ride to work.

Before moving forward, MTA executives must sit down with city and state officials to coordinate a strategy to balance the agency's budget and develop a capital improvement plan before placing the financial burden on commuters.

"If the fare rises I'll stop using the service and start driving," said Richard Morgan, as he waited for the 9 a.m. train.

Mr. Morgan, you should change your plans.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg recently proposed a congestion pricing plan modeled on a similar program in London. Car and truck drivers entering Manhattan below 86th Street



would pay \$5 and \$21 a day, respectively. The plan is designed to curb traffic, force people onto mass transit, and improve the environment. Revenues are earmarked for infrastructure improvement. The federal government has pledged \$354 million if the plan is implemented.

Commuters don't need Bloomberg and the state legislature, which must grant final approval, to pass a law curtailing city driving. Common sense should keep drivers off the congested, traffic-strewned highways and city streets during the workweek.

Before congestion pricing was proposed pro-commuter organizations and the state comptroller's office reported that rail and subway ridership is expected to increase annually.

More riders generate higher revenues at current prices and should save commuters from substantial increases.

Here's hoping MTA leaders come to the same conclusion.

Hizzoner said it...

"What we need is a commuter tax, and I fought for that a long time. And we'll continue to fight for a commuter tax. That's the way to solve some problems."

—New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaking with reporters.

...From the Right

We are a Nation of Laws

By Greg Ball

Our nation is strong because we are a nation of laws, and even stronger because we have always benefited from a strong and growing legal immigrant population. That legal population must be welcomed and encouraged. Immigration reform is one issue where national political leaders will be unable to find a "press release" solution and we need real answers in the form of serious public policy, and we needed it yesterday.

Nations rise and nations fall, in fact by the very definition of binary all nations are required to do both. Indeed, for reasons that are both within and out of our control, as a nation our current position as global hegemon may not last for much longer. Therefore, the hurdles that we face currently must be confronted intelligently and pragmatically in the interest of our future as a nation. In this sense, immigration reform is the single most important issue of our time. And while few issues are as hotly contested in this nation as the great raging national dialogue on illegal immigration, I, for one, welcome the discussion.

As a New Yorker, I believe this discussion at its root is key to our future and our survival. We are a great and blessed state not in spite of our vibrant immigrant population but because of it. But New York State is home to the second largest population of illegal aliens in the United States and the Hudson Valley is home to a multi-billion dollar black market economy, which depends upon that population.

Mount Kisco is at the epicenter of this expanding exchange of labor and cash. This underground economy, a growing socio-economic juggernaut, relies upon the labor of illegal aliens and is based almost completely upon exploitation and greed. Those on the other side of this issue—supporting illegal immigration to be on a higher moral footing by defending this largely untaxed economy—believe that they are protecting the laborers who are caught in its grasp. They are sorely, and unfortunately, misguided.

The black market economy penalizes legal immigrants, unfairly hurts many small business owners who are obeying the law, undermines union laborers, and yes, in the process hurts the hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens in New York State currently living in indentured servitude.

We must enforce our existing laws, we must support legal immigrants and help contractors and businesses who follow the law, and we must embrace immigra-




'The black market economy penalizes legal immigrants, unfairly hurts many small business owners who are obeying the law, undermines union laborers, and yes, in the process hurts the hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens in New York State currently living in indentured servitude.'

tion reform that supports legal immigration while renewing our commitment to a fair and legal path to citizenship for the millions of immigrants who are committed to this nation.

The 30-second sound byte war of extreme tongues and political correctness must end, and serious public policy focused on national security and economic integrity must take root. The time for politicians committed to the next election has ended, and the need for statesmen devoted to the next generation has arrived. As a young American who hopes to live a long life of public service, I believe in my heart that whatever the hurdles, this great nation is still on the rise.

New York State Assemblyman Greg Ball serves the 95th District, covering parts of northern Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties.





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Dining Delight

New Calling of the Culinary World

By Phil McGrath

The new mantra in the restaurant world seems to be "use local, natural and organic ingredients whenever possible." As a chef in central Westchester County I am finding it easier and easier to fulfill this new calling of the culinary world.

We are blessed in Pleasantville to have a wonderful Green Market every Saturday morning in Memorial Plaza. Organizers have told me that between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. eager shoppers come every week. If you showed up at around 8:30 a.m. you would think that their estimate is a bit conservative. Throngs of eager amateur chefs and serious cooks are pouring over the farm fresh produce, cheeses, meats, breads and local food products that are there for the picking.

Despite what you see on television, most chefs do not make a daily, pre-dawn visit to the produce market. We call our orders in to our produce purveyors who go to the market in our stead. We trust them to get to the market before dawn and pick out the cream of the crop for us while we get some much needed rest. At the Iron Horse we entrust that mission to Phillippe Rayer, a former chef and Croton resident who is our eyes and ears at the Bronx Ter-



minal Market, one of the largest produce markets in the world.

One day that I do tend to get up and out a little earlier is Saturday so that I can get over to the Green Market and kindle the creative juices by looking over and buying what I can from the farmers and craftsmen there.

This past Saturday for instance the Heirloom Tomatoes were at their peak. There was an amazing variety of shapes, colors and sizes: giant, misshapen ruby reds, orbs of golden yellows and small round and speckled greens just to name a few. I also saw bunches of beautiful basil, mint and chives. As I walked by the Bobolink Cheese stall I smelled the beautiful aroma of their Foret, an aged cows milk

cheese whose rind is washed in Belgian Foret ale as it matures. The idea for a Saturday night special was starting to brew.

The following recipe is what I came up with. We used a little poetic licence by call-

ing it a chowder, as it has no potatoes, but despite its name was a big hit with our customers.

Phil McGrath is the owner of the Iron Horse Grill in Pleasantville.

HERBED HEIRLOOM TOMATO "CHOWDER" WITH GRILLED FORET CROUTONS

Serves 4

For the chowder:

4 cups of assorted colored small diced heirloom tomatoes with their juice
1 tbs. each of chopped mint chives and basil
2 tbs. extra virgin olive oil
1 tbs. white wine vinegar
Coarse Salt and fresh pepper to taste

For the croutons:

8 slices of a country baguette
1/2 cup shredded Foret or another favorite cheese

Combine all of the ingredients in a non reactive bowl, making sure to add any of the liquid given off by the tomatoes. Let marinate at least 2 hours so that the tomatoes can give off even more of their "water". Lightly toast the baguette slices, top with some of the cheese and gently melt it. Ladle the chowder into bowls and top off with the croutons.

New Law to Prevent Outsourcing of IT Jobs

Assemblyman Adam Bradley (D-White Plains) authored legislation that was signed into law directing the Commissioner of Labor to issue a report on the offshoring of information technology jobs.

"The good news is that New York continues to recover from the last economic downturn," said Bradley. "However, it is important that during this recovery, New Yorkers are able to maintain a sense of job security, which will have a direct effect on consumer confidence and consumer spending."

The new law is relevant, with reports of American jobs, including high technology jobs, being outsourced to China, India,

Pakistan and other third world countries. Bradley's measure requires the Department of Labor to examine the effect of offshoring outsourcing of information technology jobs and the future stability of New York's job market. The report will also provide information and recommendations as to what New York State can do to reverse this trend.

"New York has incredible economic potential but the fact that so many jobs have been outsourced has really left its mark," continued Bradley. "This legislation is a good first step toward addressing this issue. Research will provide us with the necessary information we need to understand the trend, and then, how to proceed to really turn this trend around."

BLOTTERS

Pleasantville Police Department

Aug. 28: Property damage caused by an auto accident on Wheeler Avenue.

Aug. 29: A motorist was arrested for driving with a suspended license on Sunnyside Avenue.

Aug. 30: A summons was issued to a male subject for drinking in public on Hopper Street.

Aug. 31: Smoke coming from the walls of a house; it was later attributed to an electrician cutting a wire in the wall earlier in the day.

Sept. 1: Police responded to a call regarding dogs barking loudly in the late evening; gone on arrival.

Mount Kisco Police Department

Aug. 29: A dog was reported left in a car; when police responded the car was gone.

Aug. 31: False alarm reported on S. Bedford Road.

Sept. 1: Suspected gas leak on Williams Street; police routed the information to the fire department, which found there to be no leak.

Sept. 2: A man calling from a payphone reported two men on Main Street assaulted him. Police told

Sept. 3: Police respond to an alarm at an office building on Washington Avenue; false alarm.

Sept. 4: Minor property damage due to an auto accident on Southview Street.

Sept. 5: Police respond to a false alarm at Comp-u-Fit at 485 Washington Ave.

Sept. 6: A 21-year-old man was arrested on Marble Avenue at 2:46 a.m. for driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Sept. 7: Burglary reported at Foley's Bar; cash was taken from the register between 3:45 and 11:15 a.m. The investigation is ongoing.

him to wait by the phone; when they arrived he was gone.

Sept. 3: Flowers were reported stolen from Reber's Florist on Lexington Avenue. The value of the flowers was estimated at \$25.

Sept. 4: Auto accident on N. Moger Avenue.

Sept. 5: A man turned himself in for an assault perpetrated on July 13.

Sept. 7: Burglary at private residence; jewelry reported stolen.

Garcia tries to cool off after a long day in the dog days of August. He lives in Mount Kisco with his owners, Shelly Cohen and Eric Lebowitz.

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Notes from the Teenage Underground

Determining Status Through Alcohol and Sex

Content in Notes from the Teenage Underground is not necessarily endorsed by The Examiner. The column is published regularly to familiarize adult readers with an oft-misunderstood point of view.

By Oliver Hill

Some things never change. High school students have always been intrinsically experimental, probing their surroundings with curious tentacles, pushing the limits and testing the rules.

Let's face it squarely. Though different groups have different practices, drinking is one of the most important aspects of social life for a significant number of students.

One bizarre feature of the Pleasantville drinking culture is that in most social circles drinking isn't regarded as an action that occurs within the context of other activities, but rather an event in itself. Casual drinking hardly exists and it is rare to see someone savoring a beer while engaging in conversation.

Instead, racing through drinks without coming up for air is the norm. Because most of the students who drink focus on ultimately becoming trashed, conversation is stifled and drinking ironically ceases to be a social activity.

Then there is the enormous popularity of drinking games, such as beer pong and flip cup. In these games, which have simple premises, the loser is obligated to drink the loser's alcoholic beverage of choice.

When put in such simple terms, this seems ludicrous, because the framework of such a game is entirely unnecessary to the drinking process, and the game itself is often horribly boring. However, most teenagers opt for the structure of drinking games, and this craze certainly gives insight into the psyche of adolescents.

Unwillingness to drink without the pretext of a silly game reveals discomfort with alcohol, as if simply taking a drink with friends would be an awkwardly anticlimactic act of rebellion. In this sense, the advent of drinking games contributes further to the de-sexualization of drinking with friends.



The topic of sex is a much touchier one than alcohol among most teens today. Because high school culture strongly reinforces gender stereotypes and exposes differences between adolescent boys and girls, there is no true integration of the sexes.

In a subconscious way, members of the opposite sex are usually viewed first and foremost as potential sexual partners, and it is only through this uncomfortable barrier

that co-ed friendships form.

Of course, there are a great number of exceptions, but the pervasiveness of this general rule is still alarming.

For high school males, sexual activity is perhaps the single most important factor in determining status. The general thinking is that anybody can drink a beer or work out in the weight room, but the complex wooing process is admirably difficult.

Of course, this ideology is mostly sexist and puts an unnecessary cloud of mystery around the sexual act, but it rings true nonetheless.

High school culture, as always, is governed by a complex set of insecurities and norms that influence nearly every action. However, the mores of life as an adolescent today are tremendously different from those experienced a generation ago by parents, teachers and other authority figures.

Just as the changing world alters politics and economics, the lifestyle of adolescents will constantly evolve.

Oliver Hill is a 17-year-old Pleasantville High School senior.

You Are Here

Jacob Burns Film Center,
Pleasantville
(www.burnsfilmcenter.org)

Box of Current Cinema: "Shadow of the Moon," "The Rape of Europe," opening Sept. 14.

The View from a United Germany: Movies since 1990 (Sept. 7-20): "Head-On," "The Experiment," "Rain, Lola, Rain," "The Ninth Day," "Nobody Loves Me," "Summer Storm," "Nowhere in Africa."

Movies for Kids (all films start at noon, Sept. 16-23): "The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh."

For information call 914-747-5555.

JCC, Pleasantville

Classes:
Classes for infants and toddlers, beginning this month and continuing through October, include Budding Picasso, Mood Art, Shake Rattle and Roll, Almost Two, Toddler Times, Nanny and Me, Busy Babies and Shabbat Toys.

Classes for Pre-schoolers include Daddy and Me Sports, Yummy Tummies, Gymnastics on the Fun Bus, Kids Love to Rock, Soccer with Super Soccer Stars, Theater Arts Junior Program and Karate Club.

After-school classes offered for kindergarten-6th graders are Cyber Discoveries, TechnoDrama, Hot Art (cooking), Overloading, Hoop Dreams (basketball), Kids Rock on - Rock Band, Mad Science, Drama Kids International, Chess, Super Soccer, Hip Hop Dancers, All That Jazz

(dance) and Knitting. For more information call 914-7363076.

Special events:
"Sukkah under the Stars," Sept. 25, 6:30-8 p.m. Celebrate the festive holiday of Sukkot with dinner and games for adults and children. \$15-34. Rain or shine. For information call 914-741-0333, x12.

Katonah Museum of Arts,
Katonah
(www.katohahmuseum.org)

Exhibitions: "Children Should Be Seen: The Image of the Child in American Picture Book Art." Through Oct. 21.

"Horizons: Sculpture Installation by Steinhilf Thomaasandorff." Through April 27, 2008.

"Star Illustrators: Ten Years on Parade" Events: "Story Time at the Katonah Museum" with Bedford Police Chief Chris Menzel, Sept. 15, 10:30 a.m.; "How to Get Published in Children's Books: Alternate Ways to Get Noticed," Sept. 19, 7:30-9 p.m. \$25-30.

For information call 914-232-9555.

Mount Kisco Recreation
Department (www.mountkisco.org)

Special Events: "Dog Days of Summer" - First annual dog swim, Memorial Pool, Leonard Park, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Upcoming events include "Stuff a Friend" on Oct. 17; "The Haunted Trail at Leonard Park, Oct. 26 and 27; a Halloween window painting contest beginning Oct. 22; "The Haunted Trail

for Little Ones" on Oct. 27; a Halloween costume twilight parade and carnival on Oct. 28; and "Touch a Truck" on Nov. 3.

Mt. Pleasant Public Library,
Pleasantville
(www.mountpleasantlibrary.org)

21+ Book Club meets Sept. 21, 2:15-3:30 p.m., to discuss "Lincoln's Virtues" by William Lee Miller. New members welcome. For information call 769-0548.

Delivery service for the homebound in Mt. Pleasant and Pleasantville is now available. For information call 914-769-0548 x221.

Neighbors Link, Mount Kisco
(www.neighborslink.org)

Cultural series "Latin Links: Conversations with Notable Neighbors," kicks off Sept. 26 at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville with a screening and panel discussion of "Americano" to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage month. For reservations call 914-666-3410 x13. The fundraising series also includes a talk on the history of immigration by historian Kenneth Jackson Oct. 12; a talk on the influence of Latin American cuisine by Chef Rafael Palomino Nov. 4; and ends Nov. 18 with a presentation by local author Emeralda Santiago on her work and the influence of Latin American writers.

Northern Westchester Hospital,
Mount Kisco
Childbirth Class: Prepares couples

for the birth of their first child. Sept. 15, 8:45 am to 5 pm. \$200 per couple, includes refreshments and lunch. Call 914-666-1292 for information.

Totsaver (Infant CPR): Acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to manage an infant or child in an emergency. Includes infant and child CPR, accident prevention and management of life-threatening situations such as choking, suffocation, near-drowning and poisoning. Conference Center, 360 Sept. 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 914-666-1292 to register.

Cancer Support Group - free program designed to help anyone who has had any type of cancer. This bi-monthly support group, co-sponsored by Northern Westchester Hospital and The American Cancer Society, is led by a psychoanalyst with a Masters in Counseling, who will discuss and assist people experiencing cancer, offering support and encouragement. Fifth Floor Solarium, Sept. 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call 914-588-2423 to register.

PACE University

9/11 Reflection and Memorial, Garrisonian Plaza, Pleasantville Branch campus, Sept. 11, 9:11 p.m.

University blood drive, Pleasantville Branch campus, Sept. 12, 11:30 a.m.

"Good Citizens," an exhibition of sculpture by Artist-in-Residence Derek Stroup, Chase Gallery, Pleasantville, through Sept. 14 (Mon.-Thurs. 12-4 p.m., Thurs. 12-6 p.m.)

LIFESTYLES

Westchester's Book Addict

By Jennifer Rentz

Free Food For Millionaires by Min Jin Lee

Warner Books, \$24.99

Romance? Check. **Cleverly crafted characters?** Check. **Predictable story line?** Check. This novel is a fun read. The heroine, Casey, is not a typical leading lady because she's flawed. She is therefore believable and relatable. A reader may follow along as she navigates through troubles with family, men and career during this young adult's quest for self-discovery. For someone like me that loves Jane Eyre and laughs out loud reading *Pride and Prejudice*, this novel will bring hours of pleasure without taxing your brain. As a bonus, you will receive a glimpse into the world of Korean-American immigrants living in New York.

Grade: B (points taken off for predictability).

**The Glass Castle: A Memoir** by Jeanette Walls
Simon & Schuster, \$14.00

Don't feel sorry for Jeanette Walls. She managed to rise above her childhood of dumpster dinners, frigid winters and child gropers. What a memoir, what a life. If you have ever wondered what poverty could mean for a family I encourage you to pick up this book. I did not walk away with a sense of outrage at her parents or pity for Jeanette and the other children. Instead, I felt that Jeanette and I could accomplish anything after what we had been through, she in reality and I in becoming Jeanette for 304 pages.

Grade: A-**The Innocent Man** by John Grisham

Doubleday, \$28.95

Known for legal thrillers laced with livable lawyers, Grisham wrote this nonfi-

ction work about an accused killer who is ultimately set free after a long stint on death row. There is a sad history of mental illness explored, which I found more compelling than the murder investigation that is the book's central theme. Clearly, Grisham wrote this book to shed light on the injustices in our judicial system or, at

least, the injustice of the death penalty. I was outraged but not surprised that a killer could be convicted with so little evidence amid small town corruption.

However, I feel the author tried too hard to convince us of his message and as a result this message lost effectiveness. I encourage you to read this book as the story of a life gone wrong.

Grade: B**I Heard That Song Before** by Mary Higgins Clark

Simon & Schuster, \$25.95

I hope that everyone who enjoys a good mystery has discovered Clark. If not, you have some reading to do—about 26 novels. If you have read Clark, don't expect this to surpass her greatest novels to date. This story, based in Englewood, N. J., is about a woman who loves a man who may have killed a few people. You will question the motives of many characters along with Kay, the heroine. You will not be certain about the ending until you have finished the story and you will worry about Kay's safety as the author intended.

Grade: B-

Jennifer Rentz is a self-proclaimed book addict and Westchester County resident. Comment! Review suggestions? Email westchesterbookaddict@yahoo.com.

**Seasons in Sanctuary**

"Seasons in Sanctuary" is a newly-released (Outskirts Press) novel by local news and sports journalist Danny Lopriore. Set in the Bronx and Yonkers, "Seasons" is the tale of a troubled New York City mobster who would rather be a baseball coach.

The book describes the troubled Tommy Vitale's redemptive journey, spanning three decades, starting in the 1960s. Vitale, a former New York Yankees farmhand, sustains a leg injury that ends his dream of playing professional baseball. He does rebound to join the "family business," and eventually rises to the ranks of union delegate and organizer in his Uncle Mario's "family."

Ultimately, Vitale becomes a coach at Redemption High School, where his championship seasons enable him to rediscover his "true calling."

The book is currently available on Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Outskirtspress.com.

Author Danny Lopriore has covered high school sports and news for several daily and weekly newspapers in New York and New Jersey since 1989. He lives in Westchester with his wife and children. This is his first book.

Outskirts Press is a publishing house for emerging authors. For more information, please visit www.outskirtspress.com or www.seasonsinsanctuary.

Author Danny Lopriore will read from his book on

Thursday, Sept. 13
From 7-9 p.m.
At The Village Bookstore

**The Village Bookstore**

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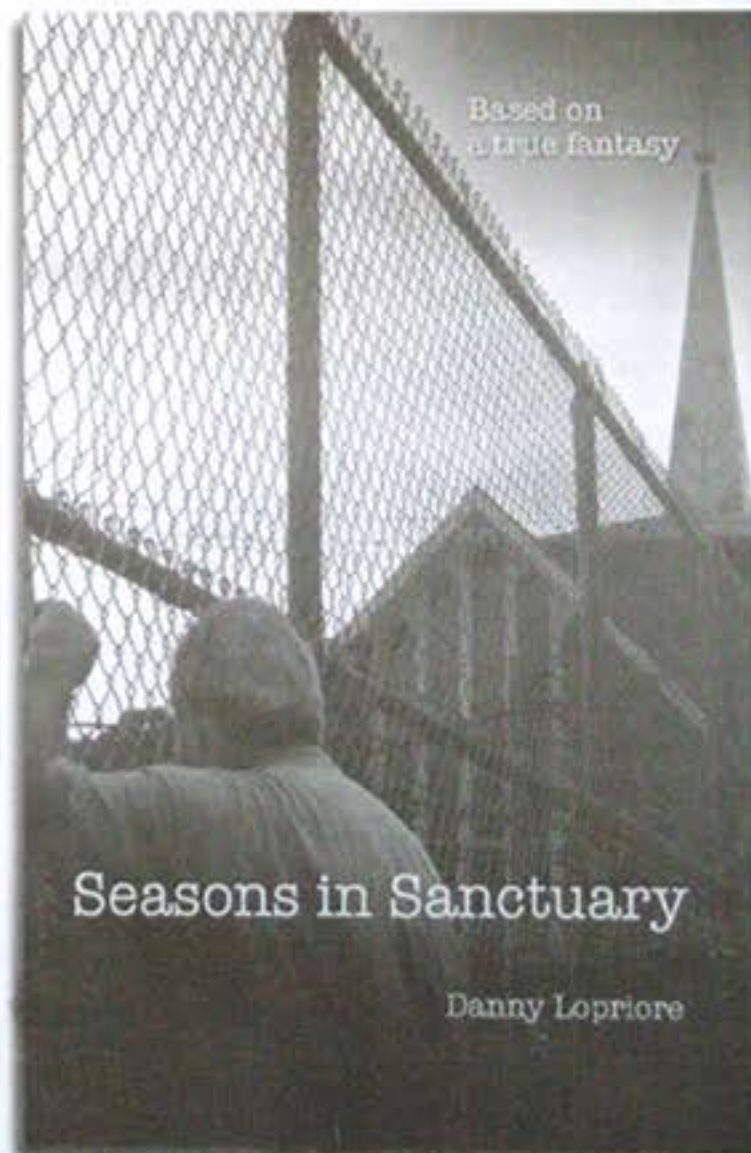
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Danny Lopriore

German Films Discovered at Jacob Burns Center

By Neal Rentz

They may not be household names, but to the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, Michael Verhoeven, Faith Akin, and Tom Tykwer are among the most innovative and important of contemporary international filmmakers.

"The View from a United Germany," a series running through September 20 at the Burns, features films released after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 from eight of the world's most respected directors. Some of the movies were major art house successes, such as "Run Lola Run." Some of the other films featured in the program did not receive wide releases but were important films that deserve to have a second chance to be seen on the big screen, according to Chris Funderburg, a programmer at the Film Center.

Funderburg recently touted all the films in the series, but also said filmmakers should not expect any common themes or techniques presented by the directors. "It's not really unified in any way," he said.

What the filmmakers do have in common is that they have reinvigorated the German film industry, he said.

Five of the eight directors represented in the series, Akin, Doris Dörrie, Volker Schlöndorff, Marcus Krunzinger and Oliver Hirschbiegel, are scheduled to have their latest films released in the United States over the next six months.

The German film industry has not been this influential since the New German Cinema period, Funderburg said. That period, featuring works by renowned directors such as Wim Wenders, Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Schlöndorff, revived the sagging German film industry in the 1960s and 1970s.

Funderburg said veteran directors, such as Schlöndorff, as well as younger filmmakers have been responsible for the vibrant German cinema of the past 17 years. But unlike the new wave or the post-World War II Italian Neorealist directors, those featured in "The View from a United Germany" are individual moviemakers with particular interests, he said.

Even though the fall of the Berlin Wall was a profound moment in German history, its ramifications are not common themes explored by contemporary German directors, Funderburg said.

"Run Lola Run" (directed by Tykwer and set



A scene from "Nowhere in Africa"

for a September 13 screening) and Link's Best Foreign Language Oscar winner "Nowhere in Africa" (presented on September 16 and 20), were highly successful at the American box office. But others had difficulty finding distributors in the United States.

One of Funderburg's favorite films in the series for instance, Akin's "Head-On," may have been too edgy for a wide release in America, he said. The award-winning film, described in the Film Center's calendar as a "gritty, moving love story about two deeply troubled Turks living in Germany."

The nature of the film business makes it difficult for many foreign films to have much exposure in the United States unless they are

intended for a niche audience.

The aim of the series is to offer the local crowd opportunities to view movies it might not otherwise see on the big screen, Funderburg said.

Whether they reached a large art house audience or were more obscure to the general public when first released, Funderburg said all the movies included in "The View from a United Germany" deserved to be seen.

"You can't go wrong with any films in this series," he said.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located at 364 Mansville Road in Pleasantville. For more information about the series, go to www.burns-filmcenter.org or call 914-747-5555.

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A discussion and reception with the artists follows the performance.



This presentation is supported by The David Schwartz Foundation, Jacob Burns Foundation, Art of Wine, Cold Stone Creamery, Glass Onion Originals, Jackson and Wheeler Restaurant, El Speedy, The Village Bookstore, and our Producer's Office.

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LIFESTYLES

The TV Set

A column for discerning telephiles everywhere

By Anne W. Greenidge

Let's begin. I'm here to talk Television. I've come to overanalyze it, to dissect it, to turn it upside down on its head and shake it just to see what falls out.

I plan on reverting its greatness and admonishing it for its sins, to slap it on the back in a show of amused camaraderie. I'm here to expose it, to beset it, to bark in its waste blue plate while poking it in its beautiful, blind, cyclopean eye.

Now that I've no doubt frightened off any squeamish outdoorsy types, let's talk about you—about us. It's September and just as this month is the beginning of something magnificent in the form of this inaugural issue of *The Examiner*, so too does it signal a glorious rebirth for viewers.

You know as well as I do, and if you don't you deserve to have your remote revoked, that on the television calendar fall isn't about depressing things like dead leaves and the forced confinement of school-aged children. For *Bea Arthur's* sake, not!

Fall is a chance to cultivate a whole new



television palate, to be reacquainted with old friends. Burning questions like "What hair will Oprah be sporting this season?" will finally be answered. For television needs, September is code for "brand new you" and this season there will be several shows scheduled on my DVR that mirror this sentiment exactly. Shall we?

By the time this column goes to print, we will have already been treated to Bravo's latest highbrow reality offering, *Tim Gunn's Guide to Style* (Thursday, 10pm). And it's important that I say this publicly—Stacy and Clinton (of TLC's *What Not to Wear*)

few not.

This won't mean up what we've got going. I've room in my closet for all of you.

But let's face it: Stacy and Clinton have reason to be duking in their expensive boon. Their fashion makeover show has been around the block a couple of times. Although they are markedly likable, the well-dad duo doesn't have that Fashion Fairy Godfather meets Head Master of Couture vibe that Gunn does.

Gunn had us at hello when we first met him in his role as Mr. Miyagi to a cast of Daniel-san designers on Bravo's first foray into fashion reality—*Project Runway*. As with *Runway*, Gunn is paired with a supermodel. This time it's Veronica Webb. Good news. From what I've seen it looks like a personality may have come with her contract. It could be producer trickery, during the next episode watch to see if when she talks you can see Tim's lips moving.

In keeping with the idea of old friends learning new tricks consider *Grey's Anatomy* spin-off *Private Practice* (Wednesday, Sept. 26, p.m.). Dr. Addison Montgomery (Kate Walsh) has pulled a Rhoda, leaving the brooding souls to scrub behind at Seattle



Grace for the sunny skies of California.


Can't you tell everything in Addison's life is going to be so much better now that she's driving a convertible? But beware, Kate Walsh. Tye Diggs is your co-star. I like Tye but zings don't. Still, if anyone can make lightning strike twice, it's *Grey's* creator Shonda Rhimes. If she thinks this spin-off idea is a good one who I am to deride it, right? Wrong.

Are you paying attention? I'm a critic. There's nothing we do better than sit back on the couch and make fun of the stuff people with the same degrees we have but just a little more ambition have accomplished. Silly go-getters. It's so much easier our way. When will they ever learn?

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Stage for Success!

By Kitty Schwartz

Deciding to sell your home can be stressful, especially under the current market conditions. How do you begin to get your home ready to sell quickly and for the most money possible? Stage it!

Home staging is the process of merchandising your home in order to emphasize the best features of the space. An integral part of the real estate business in California for over 25 years, staging has more recently become much more popular in this area as well. Presentation is everything when marketing a home. National statistics prove that staged homes sell faster and for more money than their competition.

Over 84 percent of homebuyers now preview houses on line and great photos are the first critical tool in marketing real estate. By eliminating excess furniture, removing dated wallpaper, painting the walls in neutral, warm colors and adding minor updates such as new light fixtures, hardware and faucets, homeowners can give their homes the "staged home" advantage when selling.

Five key staging concepts that can be applied to any home include:

- **Simplify the space:** de-clutter, organize, neutralize.

Take down personal photos and choose colors that are soothing. Eliminate odors and downsize the "stuff"—find temporary storage for extra furniture, files and pantry items. Donate or sell unused items to make the space feel bigger.

- **Target the buyer:** know the audience and deliver what they want to see.

Buyers know within the first 45 seconds if they are interested in your home—first impressions really do count. Trim landscape bushes, paint the front door and turn "drive by" viewings into actual showings. Welcome buyers into the home with a new doormat and seasonal flowers. Stock water in the refrigerator with a note to help themselves; be hospitable, even though you are not there in person!

- **Accentuate the positive:** highlight the best features of the home.

Why did you buy the house? Was it the view, the fireplace or the award-winning schools? Think about the features that you love about the home. Move the furniture so the buyers can access the view or paint an accent wall behind the gorgeous fireplace so that it draws immediate attention.

Find a focal point for every room. Gather a brief booklet about all of the school district's accomplishments and the best features of the neighborhood.

- **Grab their attention:** great photos sell.

Neutralize the décor and wallpaper so the photos show the potential of the space and not the furnishings. Buyers are not purchasing those beautiful window treatments; they are buying the space and location of the home.

- **Earn maximum equity:** preparation pays off in today's tough market.

The cost of staging, whether done by the homeowner or a professional, is always less than the first price reduction.

For more information on home staging, please visit www.classichomestaging.com.

Kitty Schwartz is a member of the International Association of Home Staging Professionals.



Before and after photos of what a professional can do for a home about to be sold. Home staging can do wonders for those looking to sell their houses, particularly in a difficult real estate market.



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Which of These Costly Homeseller Mistakes Will You Make When You Sell Your Home

PLEASANTVILLE - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 5-Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that many homeowners don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and, worse, financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers

make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

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This report is courtesy of Diana Edmond, Certified Real Estate Broker. See attached to select program currently listed for sale.



SPORTS

Pleasantville Romps over Hastings, 30-6

Panthers poised to pursue postseason bid

By Danny Lopriore

Last year's Pleasantville Panthers are history, but history could repeat itself this fall in the form of a second consecutive postseason berth.

In an odd schedule quirk, Pleasantville avenged last season's elimination at the hands of Hastings High School with a convincing 30-6 victory over the Yellow Jackets in front of a large and festive opening night crowd at Parkway Field.

Senior running back Matt DiFabio scored twice and quarterback Eric Perlowitz tossed a touchdown pass in the first half, while Hastings could not move the ball on the Panthers defense.

"When we knew we were playing Hastings again, we were not going to let the same thing happen—them coming to our place and beating us," said Perlowitz, a senior, following the victory. "We're a different team this year and we are working hard to improve as a team."

Panthers' coach Tony Becerra, entering his fourth season at the helm with an overall 17-10 record, has 18 players returning from last year's squad. Upbeat but guarded in his postgame remarks, Becerra said his team had a strong summer of work preparing for the 2007 season.

Last year's team finished at 5-4 as the offense struggled to score, averaging just over 13 points per game. The defense kept the Panthers in most of their games, holding opponents to 16 points per game.

"We did everything in-house. We are one of the only teams that don't go away to camp," Becerra said. "(Former coach) Dick Rote did it that way and we decided to stay home. We had a good summer in the weight room and coming together as a team. Now we'll see if we can be consistent and get better each week."

Week 1 may not be the best indicator of his team's future success—with a rebuilding Hastings team not putting up much of a fight—but Becerra's players hope to build on the big opening night win.

"We played a good first half, then we let down a little," said DiFabio, who rushed for 60 yards and two touchdowns in the first half that saw the Panthers rush to a 30-0 lead. "We should have played better in the second half. We had penalties and made some mistakes. I think we have some work to do for Irvington (next week)."

New year, new attitude

If they are going to compete for a Class B playoff berth, the Panthers will have to replace all-around team leader Kevin Nugent, last year's rushing leader with 583 yards and eight touchdowns. This year's backfield includes DiFabio and running backs Charlie Howe and Andrew Carr-Harris. DiFabio rushed for just under 200 yards last season in just 40 carries, so he has the potential to fill Nugent's cleats out of the backfield.

Both of the team's quarterbacks are expected to see action.

According to Becerra, "Eric Perlowitz will get the nod at quarterback, but there will be plenty of snaps for junior Tyler Thomas."

Perlowitz, who tossed a 32-yard scoring strike to Danny Bramwig to open an early 16-0 lead, will throw to a receiving corps that also includes senior Brian White and junior Will Andreyzak. White, who has grown to 6-foot-3 and 195 pounds, last season grabbed five passes for 13.7 yards per catch in seven games and should be a big target for his quarterbacks.

"We are not a team of individual superstars," Carr-Harris said after Friday's win. "We're a blue-collar group and everyone has to be involved for us to win."

Becerra boasts a veteran interior with senior linemen Nick Vaccaro, Chris DeRose, Dave Weldon and Joel Hech joined by junior Arlon Panitales in the trenches, anchoring the Panthers on both sides of the ball. His captains are James Chiarlitti, DiFabio, Mike Dittman and Perlowitz.

The Panthers defensive will depend on Dittman holding down the line with DiFabio, Chris Gaudieri and Charlie Howe at linebacker.



Head Coach Tony Becerra and Assistant Coach Ken Hintz, chatting with an official prior to the start of the season opener, are pointing the Pleasantville Panthers in the right direction.

"We want to be quicker and more consistent than last year," Dittman said. "We played well (against Hastings), but need to be ready for teams like Irvington. On the perimeter, we have Danny Bramwig and Tyler Thomas at outside linebacker and in the secondary we have Joe D'Apice and Will Andreyzak at the corners with Perlowitz at safety."

Carr-Harris and Bramwig, who each kicked two extra points in the win, will handle kicking duties.

Becerra said he expects to get some important contributions from Chiarlitti, Harrison Smith, Mario Arboite, Jordan Vasquez and Kevin Reda on both sides of the ball.

Becerra's preseason plan to bolster the special teams play showed immediate

results as the Panthers punt return coverage yielded a safety in the first quarter.

"One of our strengths is our speed on defense and we've put a big emphasis this year on our special teams play," Becerra said. "And you always want to limit mistakes and turnovers."

Pleasantville's stiffest competition should come from League B-3 rivals Irvington and Westlake. Hastings, Dover and Woodlands are predicted to have rebuilding seasons and offer three chances on the schedule for the Panthers to get needed victories toward a playoff run. Last year's league champion Edgemont has moved to League B-2.

The Panthers visit Irvington September 16 at 1 p.m. in the first of two consecutive Sunday games.

FOX LANE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE:

September 7	at Hendrick Hudson	7 p.m.
September 15	at Brewster	7 p.m.
September 20	Mahopac	4:30 p.m.
September 28	Walter Panas	7 p.m.
October 5	Ossining	7 p.m.
October 13	at Lakeland	7 p.m.
October 19	at Somers	7 p.m.

PLEASANTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE:

September 7	Hastings	7 p.m.
September 16	at Irvington	1:30 p.m.
September 23	at Woodlands	1:30 p.m.
September 29	Briarcliff	7 p.m.
October 5	Dover	7 p.m.
October 13	at Westlake	7 p.m.

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Camberari Paves Path for Fox Lane Win

Dorsey scores twice in 34-12 victory over Hen Hud

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

After teaching the Class A semifinals last year and finishing the season with an 8-2 record, Coach Bill Broggy's Fox Lane football program had officially reclaimed its spot among the upper echelon.

The 2007 season has already had a host of plot twists, including the recent return of quarterback Mike Mathews, who had transferred to St. Thomas Aquinas at the conclusion of the school year, only to return a day after Labor Day.

With Mathews under center, the Foxes quickly vaulted into the conversation of Class A playoff contenders, which they would have been hard pressed to do with-

out the services of the All-Section quarterback.

Mathews, a senior with Division I collegiate aspirations, made his presence felt last weekend. He connected on the first play from scrimmage with senior receiver Dorsey Dorsey for a 70-yard strike and set up the first of three Rocco Camberari touchdowns in a dominant 34-12 league win over host Hendrick Hudson.

Dorsey scored a pair of touchdowns, returning a fumble 50 yards for a score and catching a two-yard strike from Mathews for a 20-0 lead at the half. Junior Cristian Blasas rushed for a career-high 183 yards on just 14 carries, enabling the Foxes to play ball-control offense and eat up the clock.

Still, the overall effort was far from vintage, as a host of mental mistakes, fumbles, penalties and shoddy tackling prevented the Foxes from putting their best foot forward; something they'll need to do this week when they travel to Brewster Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

"We were not happy," senior captain Tom Buetti said.



Fox Lane RB Rocco Camberari plows ahead for one of his three touchdowns in the Foxes' 34-12 win over host Hen Hud last Friday night

"We felt we played poorly and did not execute well. Our main problem was that we were not playing as a team well but that will come. The fumbles and missed tackles, though, will be fixed in practice and those are usually things that happen in the first game."

Broggy has vowed the team will focus in practice this week, and his players also pledged a similar commitment, knowing full well that Brewster remembers the 40-7

pasting the Foxes applied last year.

"We know they are hungry, but we know that all we need to do is get a great week of practice and keep the intensity up, which has definitely been something that has changed this year and since Mathews has come back," Buetti said.

The hungry Bears are coming off a 27-12 loss to a solid Somers club and need this game to stay alive in the Class A playoff hunt.



BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN: Fox Lane quarterback Mike Mathews transferred back to Fox Lane last Tuesday after a brief stay at St. Thomas Aquinas in Florida. Mathews guided the Foxes to a 34-12 triumph last Friday night over host Hendrick Hudson.



GREETINGS FROM MR. BUETI: Fox Lane's Tom Buetti gets the better of this meet-and-greet with Hen Hud's Matt DeSilva in the Foxes' 34-12 opening night victory.

Ray's Rage

Dorsey, Foxes Above Negativity in Win Over Hen Hud

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Chat rooms, blogs and forums can be useful tools for those of us that don't put too much stock in them, but they regularly allow the slime of the earth an opportunity to voice their oft-uneducated views.

And there is nothing worse than when these miscreants take aim at students athletes, spewing preposterous venom and stirring the pot in ways this scribe could never imagine (and I've been known to stir a pot or two).

Recently, I unearthed a chat room in a *LetHud.com* forum where some misinformed folks tried to contaminate Coach Bill Broggy's Fox Lane High School football program by soiling the name of quarterback Mike Mathews and forging a divide between Mathews and the Foxes, most notably senior captain Dorsey Dorsey.

Mathews transferred at the end of last spring to national powerhouse St. Thomas Aquinas in Florida after a terrific junior season, and Dorsey was asked to

take over as the signal caller for the Foxes, which he did for the good of the team despite being an accomplished wing back and wide receiver.

You see Dorsey is the kind of kid, who, as one of the best players pound for pound in Section 1 would do anything for the good of his team. That's just the kind of kid he is. So, when I read in this particular forum that Dorsey should be sacked off and that Dorsey got a raw deal, I asked him point blank how he felt about all the nonsense and the derisive attempts to drive a wedge between himself and Mathews.

"When we heard the rumors that Mathews was getting ready to leave, I was ready to do whatever I had to for the good of my team and that hasn't changed," said Dorsey after he caught a Mathews touchdown pass just before the half, hauled in a 70-yard strike on the game's first play and returned a fumble for another score in Fox Lane's 34-12 season-opening win over Hendrick Hudson last Friday.

"Once Mathews came back, I was comfortable with every position on the team... running back, receiver and quarterback on offense and defensive back on defense. Anywhere I can play to help this

team, I will. We definitely welcome Mathews back with open arms. It only helps our cause.

"Before Mathews came back, we were kind of down in practice," he added. "The captains tried to pick everybody up, but his coming back made it much better for all of us. I ask God before each game to let me and my team play to the best of our ability, and he definitely let me do that today."

This is a 5-foot-8, 165-pound kid who prays to God before each game, goes about his business in a professional fashion and makes a statement each time he takes the field. I seriously doubt he's feeling sorry for himself over the return of Mathews, so let's put that to rest instantly.

Let's allow the Foxes to flourish, and let's see if they can improve enough over the course of the season to see if they can return to the Class A semifinals like they did last year.

And please, people, let's lay off the athletes in these chat rooms. If you have to talk about kids, talk about your own.

Visit www.yourdirectrays.com to view Section 1 sports photo galleries.

SPORTS

Beyond the Game

Athletes' Bad Behavior Takes Fun Out of Sports

By Tom Forde

Emotion. That is what sports are about. It is the reason we watch, cheer, play and invest our collective hearts and souls into the actions of athletes who don't even know we exist.

As a child I was enamored with sports. I lived for the thrill of watching my heroes rise to the challenge in the heat of competition. They could build me up or shatter my heart in one game.

My father's tales of the 1969 Jets Super Bowl championship have played out in my mind so many times, that even though I was not even a thought in my parents' minds at the time, I live in that glorious historical moment through my

father's memory.

Sports have always been something pure, something real. I cried an endless sea of tears as Michael Jordan touched my beloved Knicks year after year. I witnessed my Yankees return to the glory that my grandfather would have loved to see one last time. And I have stood beside my Jets still waiting for my father's tale of Joe Namath guaranteeing the impossible to somehow happen for my eyes to see.

The games were great. The players were Herculean. And for better or for worse, it all made me feel something. Be it heartbreak or ecstasy, I always felt something. But time moved on and something awful happened while I grew up. I awoke to a world where the home run king is a cheat—at least in the court of

public opinion.

A sports society where a franchise quarterback signs the biggest contract in league history and proceeds to sign his soul to the devil with one of the most abhorrent acts of cruelty. A culture where those in charge of officiating and keeping the game on a level playing field are tilting the scales of justice to cover a Vegas spread.

It seems that somewhere between those poetic days of my childhood and now the sports universe is burning itself down. But the greatest crime is not the pathetic actions of these egomaniacal athletes but the children who look up to them.

A small child should always be able to live in the wonder of these games without knowing what BALCO is and what an indictment means. Sports have become an endless array of what every parent does not want their child to emulate. Where have all the heroes gone? How did it go so wrong? Where is the innocence of youth?

I'm left to wonder what is there left for a child to cheer for? What is there left to feel?

Driving home recently, I listened as the



home run record was seized by Barry Bonds. And I waited to see what I would feel in that moment and it was the worst feeling ever, something I thought I'd never feel as it pertains to the sport I've loved for so long.

There was no joy. There was no anger. I felt something far worse. I felt exactly what our youth is being given to believe in. I felt nothing.

Mount Kisco Recreation Women's Slow Pitch Softball League Final Results

Regular Season:

League Champion: Mount Kisco American Legion, 11-0

Second Place: Chili's, 8-3

Third Place: Win Water Slammers, 7-4

Fourth Place: Yaya's, 0-11

2007 Playoffs:

Championship Game: Win Water Slammers defeated Chili's 8-6

Mount Kisco/Bedford Recreation Men's Slow Pitch Softball League Final Results

Eastern Division Regular Season:

League Champion: Martino's, 12-1

Second Place: Applebee's, 9-4

Third Place: Bradsell Paint, 8-5

Fourth Place: O'Malley's, 6-4

Fifth Place: Joe Rao's, 6-7

Sixth Place: JMF Funding, 2-9

Western Division:

League Champion: Katonah Fire Department, 9-4

Second Place: The 13th, 7-6

Third Place: Katonah Bar & Grill, 7-6

Fourth Place: Not Fade Away, 6-7

Fifth Place: Tefelia Tigers, 4-7

Sixth Place: Bedford Hills Fire Department, 3-9

2007 Western Division Playoffs:

Championship Game: Katonah Fire Department defeated Tefelia Tigers 14-4.

2007 Eastern Division Playoffs:

Championship Game: Martino's defeated Applebee's 18-4.

Fantasy Bulldog

By Jeffrey Ahn

September may signify foliage, and for many others that catchy wedding song from Earth Wind and Fire. For this dog, it indicates the finish line for my fantasy baseball roto league is near. Here are some thoughts and reminders for my dog pound:

1. **Vacations:** Can already be expensive so don't let time away from home cost you even more (like a strong finish in your league). Wherever you go, make sure you either have an Internet connection so that you can set your lineup or get a reliable backup to watch over your team. Missing a lineup change can be the difference between getting a milk bone or just a pat on the head. And if your wife gives you a problem, let her know that shopping money is on the line.

2. **Large daily point swings:** Remember to stay calm. In a roto format league, if one team has a large swing (i.e. five points or more) in a day, this means it is on the verge of winning or losing points in a category. So it may not be as bad as it seems if somebody's stuffing your tail, or if you're on the flip side, it may not be as good either. Check to see if these are categories where you can influence the outcome and adjust your lineup accordingly.

3. **Fantasy fatigue:** Don't be lazy. Continue to check websites like

www.rotoworld.com for the latest news on injuries, closer changes, September call-ups or other events that may impact your team.

4. **Minimum or maximum innings:** Some leagues have restrictions, so be sure you will reach at least the minimum to avoid any point deductions, and if you are nearing the maximum, save those innings for only your top dogs.

5. **And remember,** after you win your league, or finish in the money, remember to reward your commissioner for a job well done. If there was minimal drama throughout the year this implies the league was well run, meaning the commissioner collected money on time and vetoed lopsided trades, among the many tasks. So do what the fantasy bulldog does and throw your commissioner a bone. Five to 10 percent of the prize is appropriate.

Bow wow.



Phil Is Gone But Never Forgotten

by Maury Allen

Bill Veck put a midger named Eddie Gaedel into the lineup of the St. Louis Browns in 1953 for one glorious at bat and when American League President Will Harridge banned the circus performer by size, Veck bellowed, "What about Rizzuto? Is he a short man or a tall midger?"

Veck and the anti-Yankee fans across America got a few kicks out of that one but they knew the Yankee shortstop was the anchor to most of the pennant-winning teams of the 1940s and early 1950s.

"If we had Rizzuto," Ted Williams once said, "we would have won all those pennants."

When Rizzuto died last month at the age of 90—he lied about his age when he signed so most obits said he was only 89—I lost one of my best pals around the Yankees in half a century of covering the team.

Rizzuto was actually retired as a player when I first came on the Yankees scene as a sportswriter but I never missed a chance to toy with him around the ballpark, on team buses and planes, in hotel lobbies and at Yankee events in his glorious career as a broadcaster.

He was as human, funny and warm as a person could be. He shared the cannolis he got from the fans and he took the kidding he got from the press and the players as well as anybody I had ever seen.

Rizzuto panicked when there was light-



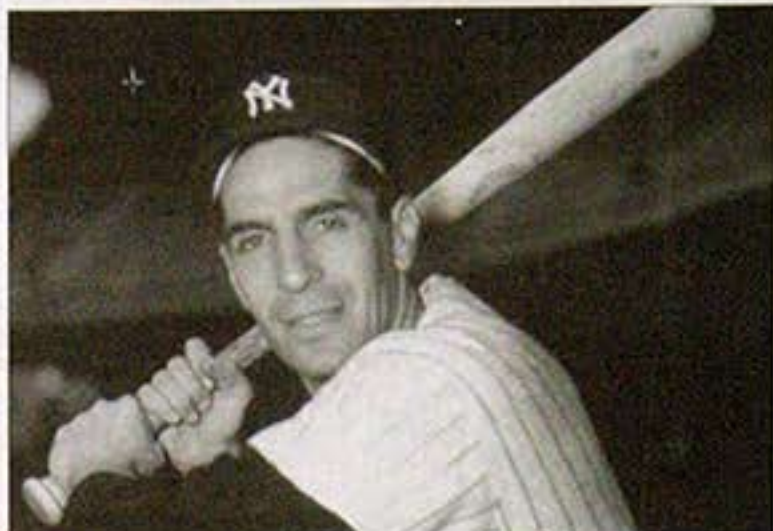
ning and thunder and most of us nasty sportswriters would often sneak up behind him for a loud shout of mock natural noise. He would jump in the air, scream a few holy cows (I never heard him use a real obscenity) and laugh at the attempt at humor.

He always made fun of himself for leaving games early so he could beat the traffic over the George Washington Bridge to his home in New Jersey and threatened to move to Westchester so he wouldn't have to deal with it.

"Did you ever try the Tappan Zee Bridge at rush hour?" I used to ask him.

I wrote a book about Joe DiMaggio some years ago and Rizzuto told me how he had loaned DiMaggio \$18 after his hitting streak ended so the Yankee Clipper could soothe himself in a nearby Cleveland bar.

"Joe never returned the money," Rizzuto said. "A few years before he died Joe told me he wanted to give back the money. I said,



Few players were as humble and humorous as former Yankee shortstop and longtime broadcaster Phil Rizzuto.

"What, and kill a good story. No way." Maybe I should go after his estate," Rizzuto said.

Rizzuto got into the Hall of Fame because Yankees owner George Steinbrenner put a lot of pressure on the voting Veterans Committee. No matter. His 1994 Hall of Fame induction speech was a classic.

By the time Rizzuto got around to talking about his playing career, he had gone over his allotted time by half an hour as he talked of his schoolyard days in Queens, his Brooklyn tryouts, his early minor league

days, his meeting with future wife Cora at a fireman's dinner he addressed for \$25 and the admission of all his neurotic fears of bugs, snakes, lightning, thunder and rival Eddie Stanky.

I'm not upset at missing the Scooter. I'm just happy I had him in my life for half a century.

Westchester resident Maury Allen was a longtime Yankee beat reporter for the New York Post. He is most famous for his 1975 bestseller, "Where Have You Gone, Joe DiMaggio?"

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