

South Plainfield Observer

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
America

VOL. 8, NO. 43

50 CENTS

JULY 1, 2005



Phyllis Savage, assistant principal of South Plainfield Middle School, officially retires from her post today.

Savage to Retire After 26 Years

By Patricia Abbott

When Phyllis Savage said good-bye to her students and co-workers last week, she was also saying farewell to a 26-year career with the South Plainfield School district. Savage, assistant principal of the Middle School, will officially retire on July 1.

Students and parents alike have already noted how much her smile will be missed in the hallways come September. Eighth grade student Ashleigh Gray said, "It's obvious that Mrs. Savage's niche was in the educational environment. She is always concerned about the well being of the students. I'm sure everyone will miss seeing her everyday."

Phyllis was hired in 1979 and taught at Grant School through 1980. From 1980 to 1994, she was a teacher and team leader at the Middle School. She was also a supervisor at the Adult School in 1990 and 1991. She became assistant principal at the Middle School in 1994.

Her outgoing personality makes her the perfect hands-on leader; she enjoys working closely with the students and parents. Middle School Social Studies teacher Barbara Pinelli-McDonough said, "Phyllis has always looked at the whole child—she is great at teaching the students about tolerance and having them look at each other from the inside rather than the outside. The more a child is educated, the more they will understand about each other. If children learn this now then perhaps racism and prejudice will end as they become adults. I have never seen her yell at a child; I have never seen her show anger at a child. She lets the students know that she is there for them—any time. She is a true inspiration and will be missed by the faculty, staff and students."

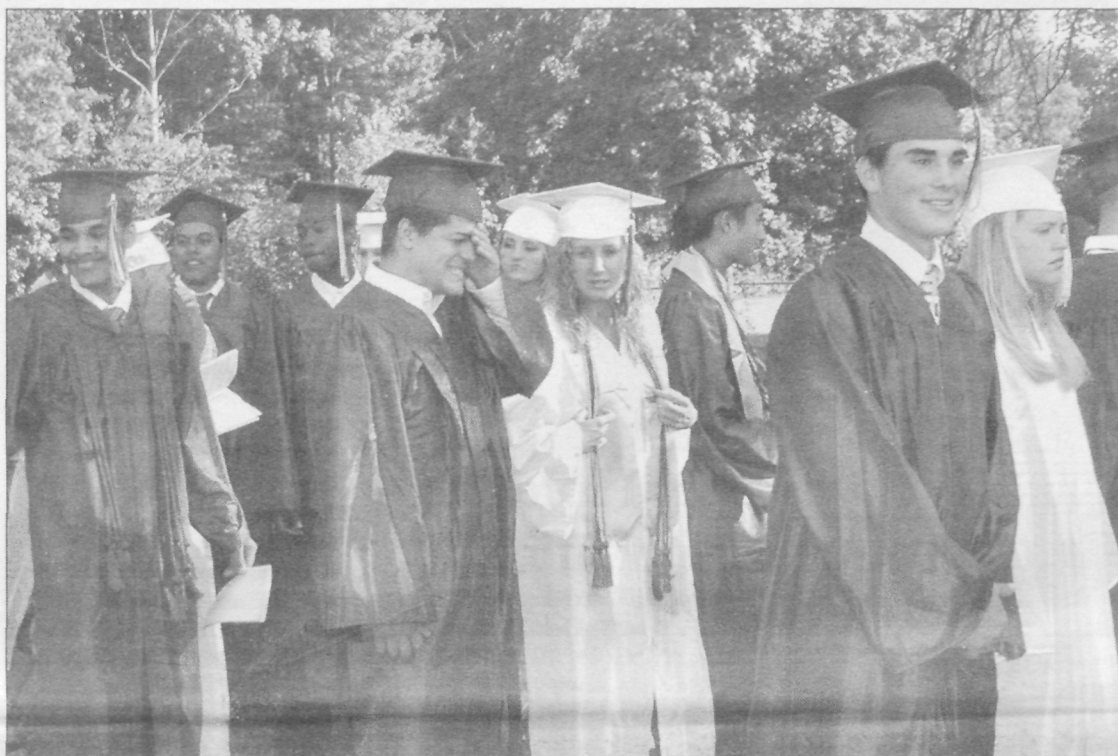
She created student organizations R.A.R.E. SPEACH (Respect All Races Everywhere, Stopping Prejudice and Confront Hatred) and the Human Relations Commission. (Continued on page 16)

Downpour Curtails Graduation

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School's Class of 2005 stormy graduation held last week will not be forgotten anytime in the near future. The evening will surely be one remembered in SPHS history. The entire afternoon was a veritable seesaw of sun and rain, which kept seniors, administrators and parents on edge. Late afternoon was awash with brilliant sunshine and the decision was made to hold the commencement outdoors.

The evening can only be described as a showdown with Mother Nature. At 6:20 p.m., huge smiles were evident in the ranks of the soon to be graduates. However, in the few minutes it took to march to their seats, the sky became overcast and threatening. Principal Dr. Ken May announced that the ceremony would be very brief in order to try and beat the impending storm. Barely three minutes passed before the rain began to fall. Slow heavy drops quickly turned into a downpour. There was no massive rush to leave. Some unable to bear the storm made a fast exit, but the majority of the guests braved the elements. Although the graduates' names were read, protocol was thrown out the window as barely restrained lines of students dashed for their diplomas and requisite handshakes. The first group of soaked students smiled and waved to the masses in the stands.



The SPHS Class of 2005 commencement exercise was cut short last week due to inclement weather.

After a brief silence the crowd began to cheer on the wet youths.

Unfortunately, many of the things that 'make' a graduation were forfeited to Mother Nature. Valedictorian Kathy Morgan, Salutatorian Amanda Prybella, Student Council President Cassie D'Urso and Class of 2005 Officer Caitlin English were unable to read their carefully prepared speeches. Other once in a lifetime highlights

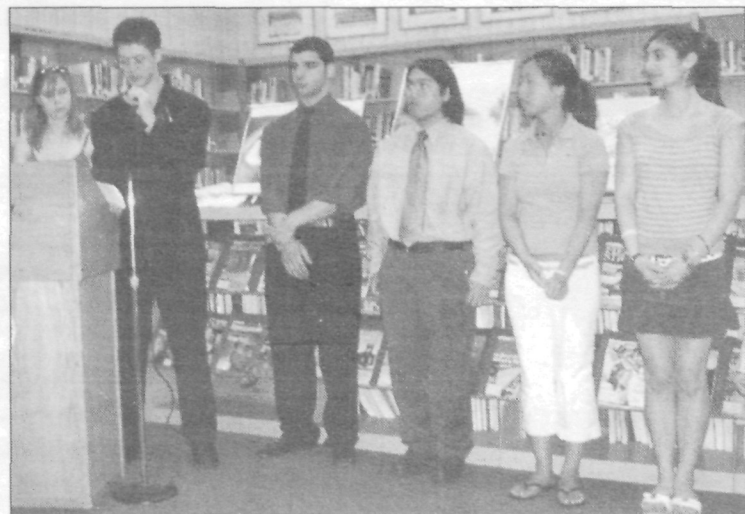
were also cut, such as a Senior Chorus song, a solo by Katie Mott and a color guard routine by Captain Ashlen Udell and several members of the guard. Many classmates and parents were in tears, feeling cheated out of a major event in their lives. The rain did not stop the class from the traditional uproar upon being named graduates. Caps flew and tears were alternated with smiles and hugs. Ironically, the

graduating students were still on the field bestowing congratulations when the sun came out lighting the evening sky. While the class of 2005 commencement was far from ideal, they were clearly the winners in the battle with nature.

Dr. May offered these thoughts on the ceremony saying, "The South Plainfield High School graduation ceremony has become one of respect and dignity. It is a time for the South Plainfield School Community to join together and celebrate the achievements of our greatest resource, our students. The graduation program is a celebration of the accomplishments of the current seniors. Not only do family members want to attend, but also many community members choose to attend the ceremony to support

(Continued on page 16)

New Members Inducted into Art And Language Honor Societies



SPHS senior Michael Duquette, past president of the Ernest Hemingway chapter of the Spanish National Honor Society, introduces the World Language and Art Honor Societies induction ceremony.

By Libby Barsky

Students who have shown exceptional talent in Art, French and Spanish were inducted into South Plainfield High School's Art, French and Spanish Honor Societies in a candlelight ceremony held Tuesday, June 7 in the high school media center.

A special thank you was extended by Peter Pryor to administration

members Superintendent Dr. Robert Rosado, Assistant Superintendent Anthony Massaro and Curriculum Director Kay Crown, SPHS Principal Dr. Ken May and all vice principals and world language teachers for providing the "opportunities and encouragement to achieve our best."

"The Art Honor Society was established to recognize students who show outstanding ability in art; to bring art to the attention of the

school and community; to increase the awareness of art in relation to other areas of the school curriculum and to further aesthetic awareness in all aspects of the school program," explained Valerie Pasquarella president of this year's Art Honor Society and this year's recipient of the award.

Alyssa Maiorino, Art Honor vice president lead the eight inductees in the pledge to use "my talent of art to help create a more beautiful world for myself, for humankind and for all living things." All eight inductees Nicole Aiello, Peter Assad, Aaron Bayona, Ashley Bodner, Eileen Cameron, Breanne Fore, Guiliana Kay and Linda Lee were students of Art teacher Denise Timinski.

After the induction, the inductees explained what they were trying to achieve in the framed pictures of their work that were arranged behind them.

After greetings in French by La Societe Honoraire by President Patrick Pryor, seven students: Gaelle Amazan, Keith Dezmin, Breanne Fore, Cassandra Krajecik, Aleexander Nau, Lee Tetreault and Steven Tietjen, were inducted into the honor society which (Continued on page 11)



Walter Janus and other Korean War Veterans received the Korean War Commemorative Medal at the Elk's in Edison. Over 200 people attended this great occasion, which was held for veterans and their families. Janus served during the Korean War as a rifleman in the 1st Cavalry Division.



Adult School Director Sophia Domogal (above) presents a graduation certificate to Steven Doktor. Below guest speaker Jane Brady congratulates one of the graduating students. Photos by Brian Cole



2005 Adult School Holds Graduation Ceremonies

The South Plainfield Adult School held their 28th Annual Graduation ceremonies on June 14 in the high school auditorium.

The guests were warmly welcomed by Director of Adult Education Sophia Domogala. Guest speakers were Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado, Jane Brady, director Middlesex County Workforce Investment Board and Steven Doktor, who was the adult high school graduate speaker.

The 2005 Adult School graduates

are: Melina Appu, Jacquelyn Bingert, Lakia Bryant, Octavia Campbell, Elizabeth Carlo, Allison Champer, Kelly Cheney, Anthony Cole, Stephen Cucional, Steven Doktor, Stacy Feloucas, Eric W. Fernandez, Robert Louis Fultz, Max Ibanez, Kenneth John Kertes, John Michael Kukuch Jr., Nicole Martinez, Yamileth Mercado, Leslie Miranda, Jamar Parillon, Stephen Pruitt, Nicole Puha, Julio Sierra, Paula Simone and Quinten Carter-Washington.

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The South Plainfield Observer is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: spobserver.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

It was extremely evident that the audience at the June meeting of the Board of Education was both angry and concerned. The students were upset about losing a teacher for reasons they both didn't have and didn't understand, and the parents were upset for their children.

What was not so evident was the anger and concern of the board members. For several weeks they and the administrators had been dealing with unfounded rumors and untruths concerning the music department, not only at the high school, but at all levels within the district. We dealt with them as best we could, with the truth.

Many of the rumors were to do with: no band camp, not having a marching band next year, and a lot of other untruths. When it came to the meeting night, the parents and student were primed for confrontation. It all could have been stopped dead in its tracks with a simple letter. The person involved could have requested that the Board hold an open hearing on the issue and they would have been legally bound to do so! Any question he asked would have been answered publicly and everyone could have heard the answers at the same time. It didn't happen. So everyone was left with frustration, anger and tears. The only solution I have is: ask the person involved why the letter wasn't sent.

CAROL BYRNE

Dear Editor,

There is something almost indefinable about a great teacher, but we all know it when we are lucky enough to be in the presence of one. Here at Sacred Heart School, we have been blessed with a truly great teacher named Pat Martin.

For 18 years, Pat has shared her knowledge, talent, energy, enthusiasm, and faith with her students and her colleagues. As her students know, Miss Martin runs a tight ship, and she expects her class to meet her high expectations. She believes that they can excel, and she does everything in her power to help all of her students reach their potential. This is not a teacher who uses the same tried but true lesson plans year after year; rather she is dedicated to keeping her teaching approach fresh, interesting, and most importantly, relevant for the specific group of children sitting in her classroom. Pat affectionately calls her class "my kids", and in her voice we all hear it - that sense of responsibility she feels toward these young people in her care. She is determined to meet their equally high expectations of her. She never lets them down.

Pat has been a generous and supportive colleague to all of us who have

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will no longer publish anonymous letters. Any letter received without identification will be discarded.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length or to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject.

worked along her side these years. She always shared everything she had - her teaching materials, her knowledge, her time, and especially her sense of humor. She mentored countless young teachers in everything from teaching a difficult lesson to the politics of the supply closet and laminating machine. Through her dedication and hard work, Pat has inspired us all to be better teachers.

In keeping with her sense of adventure and zest for a challenge, Pat is starting a new chapter in her life. She is moving to Florida where she will continue to work her magic in a new school. Over the past few weeks, many of us, parents, students and teachers, have struggled to find the right words to express our gratitude. In the end, all we can say is thank you. You are an extraordinary teacher and friend, and we love you.

THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL
COMMUNITY

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter today after having thought about it since last Wednesday's graduation. My son graduated Wednesday night at Jost field. What should have been a wonderful ceremony for him and the graduating class, turned into a circus!

When the administration became aware of the weather system moving in, they should have made the call to move graduation inside to the high school. Instead, the leaders of the class were not permitted to give their speeches to their classmates. Also, when the students were reading the names of the graduates, due to the noise of the crowd, no one could hear the names being read.

Graduation is the most important day in the life of a child. It is a once in a lifetime event - and for it to be ruined as it was last week is unforgivable. I was a member of the Board of Education in 1990 when the same type of weather threatened graduation. The superintendent made the call to move into the high school - and while it took a while to get everyone inside and settled down, the graduation ceremonies took place in a manner that allowed the students to have their graduation in the manner in which it is in-

tended.

Unfortunately, this year, that didn't happen. And because of that, the graduating class will never get that back. How sad that is. I hope the administration and the current Board of Education (those that took the time to attend) are proud of themselves for ruining this year's graduation.

All I can say is that I am glad that I no longer have children in this system - The lack of concern for the students and the parents of this district is appalling.

SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY

To the Editor,

I would just like to react on the recent graduation ceremony.

Although it was beyond everyone's control that the event got rained out, I thought it was a very poor decision to cut short the ceremony by pursuing with the roll call of the graduates amidst the pouring rain. I felt sorry for the students, who have waited for their graduation day, some, maybe, are not even going to College, and to the students who have worked hard for their speeches which were never read. It was not only their last chance to address to their fellow students but also the event itself was a once in a lifetime experience and the graduates as well as the audience deserve that chance. Everybody was robbed of a very special, priceless affair. I guessed that a 30 minute delay (just to let the rain pass) would have not hurt anybody at that time.

Be that as it may, I congratulate the SPHS CLASS 2005 and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

SINCERELY,
ELIZABETH G. BUENDIA

To the Editor:

I would like to give my personal thanks to our high school principal, Dr. May, for making a complete disaster out of our graduation ceremony. Sitting in the very first row of 300 students in caps and gowns, I watched my classmates around me break down into tears as we were shooed through a line to grab our diplomas and go back to our seats. Mind you, everyone sat in the stadium through 20 minutes of pouring rain, unable to even hear the graduates' names being pronounced and watching the students literally being shoved forward to quickly get their diplomas. After all the diplomas were given out, our hats were confusedly thrown, and that was the end.

What is more is that because of the inclement weather, Dr. May decided to eliminate all of the speeches that were to be said during the ceremony.

(Continued on page 4)


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Several members of South Plainfield's Republican Organization celebrated Doug Forrester's win in the June 8 primary on election night at the Forrester Headquarters. They included Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Stephanie Tackach, GOP Chair Bob Jones and Bob Bengivenga. Pictured with Doug at a recent event are South Plainfield council candidates Matthew Anesh and Robert Bengivenga, Jr.

Fire Department Memorial Update

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company's Memorial Committee has asked the Observer to provide our readers with the following information to our readers.

As you may be well aware, the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company Memorial is now moving along at a rapid pace. The statue and its base were recently erected by the artist, Brian Hanlon Sculptures of Toms River, and will be the centerpiece of the park. Over the next six weeks you should notice substantial work taking place at the site. A contract has been awarded to On-Time Electric to install the underground electrical works and above ground lighting. Waist high walkway lighting will be installed the length of the paths along with highlight lighting specific to the statue. Middlesex Water Company will be installing a pit and water service to the site at no charge for maintenance purposes. A contract has also been awarded to James Patti Construction to begin the installation of the walkways and the bricks. This portion of the project will also include the construction of the Maltese Cross around the statue. At this time we would like to mention that bricks are still available for purchase. They are available for \$75 for personal and \$175 for business. Inscription space on the bricks is limited so please call ahead to obtain a form and ask any questions that you may have. You may obtain the form at the Bureau of Fire Prevention Offices at 123 Maple Ave. or by calling (908) 756-4761.

On May 21 a major cleanup project was undertaken on the waterway and siding adjacent to the park. This project came about and was completely organized by Dan Zalinsky of South Plainfield who used this endeavor as part of his Eagle Scout project. Dan organized approximately twenty-five people along with all the logistics to allow the project to come off in one weekend. The project included the total cleaning of the waterway, along with the removal of dead brush, trash and debris. The group removed approximately three truckloads of debris from the waterway and planted a number of plants and bushes to initiate the landscaping efforts. We are extremely grateful for the efforts of Dan Zalinsky



Fire Chief John Cotone, firefighter Mario Abbruzzese and sculptor Brian Hanlon.

and his entire crew to further our cause and wish him the best in his endeavor for the Eagle Scout award.

Landscaping efforts, donated by A-Tech Landscaping, will follow the installation of the wall, which will be situated behind the statue. The wall will contain the names of every person who has served in the ranks of the Volunteer Fire Company since its inception in 1907. As of today, there will be over five hundred names. The wall will be constructed of field-stone with black marble insets.

The dedication of the Firefighters Memorial Park is scheduled to coincide with the Fire Companies' 100th Anniversary in 2007. Times and dates will be posted when plans are finalized. Lastly, the Memorial Committee would like to express our sincerest thanks to all of our benefactors who have contributed to this project's success and especially the citizens of South Plainfield who have supported the fire company over its first 100 years.

RESPECTFULLY, CHIEF JOHN R. COTONE AND THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



Dan Zalinsky and his Mom.

Holocaust Survivor Describes Her Teen Years in Auschwitz

By Libby Barsky

To make the events of the Holocaust more meaningful for students history teacher Barbara Pinelli-McDonough invited the author of *Margit Feldman-A Teenagers Journey Through the Holocaust and Beyond* to speak to all South Plainfield Middle School eighth grade students.

Last month a gray haired Margit Feldman, now grandmother of three, returned to the time in May of 1944 when she was 14 years old in Hungary when both her education and her childhood ended. In March, 1944 Adolph Eichmann was put in charge of Jewish Affairs by Hitler to complete his Final Solution—to round up and send Hungary's Jews to be gassed and cremated at Auschwitz.

In three months time Margit's family had their farm, furniture, jewelry and money taken from them and they, along with other Jews, were ordered to march in rows of five to the train station. When they got there, 80 to 100 people were put in one cattle car where two pails served as toilets. During the trip the floor became slippery from the overflowing pails and there was little air to breathe.

"When the doors of the cattle car opened, they immediately separated the men from the women. I held onto my mother's hand. My father went out of line, came over to me and put his hand over my head as he did every Friday night blessing me. His last words were 'take care of yourself' before he was pulled away from me. The picture that stayed in my head forever was his face covered in blood after being hit by a guard and pulled back to the men's line," recalled Margit.



Margit Feldman

Standing with her mother Margit encountered a leather clad Dr. Joseph Mengele known for his horrific experiments on twins, directing each person to the right, to die in the gas chambers or to the left, to live.

"My mother and two grandmothers went to the gas ovens and were cremated that night. I went with my aunt to be registered for the work brigade. After being told to lie about my age, my aunt registered me as an 18-year-old so I wouldn't be sent to the gas chambers," said Margit. Margit

(Continued on page 14)

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Events

Scrapbooking Benefits Breast Cancer

July 9

Resident Jackie Vill is training for AVON's Marathon for Breast Cancer which is to take place on Oct. 1 and 2. To help her raise funds, there will be an eight hour scrap-booking event on Saturday, July 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church.

The fee is \$28, of which \$20 will go toward breast cancer awareness, education, screening, diagnosis, treatment, research and support services. The scrapbooking event offers snacks and drinks, unlimited use of cropping tools, chances to win door prizes and raffles, scrapbook gift bags, make and takes, project demos and mini workshops and a thank you gift.

Contact Dayel Giammarino by July 6 at (908) 754-4255 or The8Gs@aol.com.

Library Craft Program

July 11

The South Plainfield Library will host a special adult craft program on Monday, July 11 at 7 p.m.

The program will be led by "Practical Crafting" instructor Ronda Wisniewski. Participants will paint a decorative flower pot or a six-inch pillar candle. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. A \$2 materials charge is payable upon registration.

For information, call (908) 754-7885, or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Cultural Arts Presents Hellenic Dancers

July 16

Come Join the Circle of the Dance. The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey, outfitted in authentic Greek dress, will perform a Celebration of Greek dance on Saturday, July 16 at 7 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. The formal concert of music, song and dance will be followed by a workshop introducing the audience to Greek dance.

Entrance is free. Refreshments will be served. The event is sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission.

WOODLOCH PINES TRIP

The South Plainfield seniors will be sponsoring a trip to Woodloch Pines in the Poconos from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4. Full trip includes transportation from senior center, four nights at hotel, breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, hotel taxes and gratuities, all resort activities and nightly entertainment. Cost is \$475 for twin, \$465 for triple and \$555 for single.

A downpayment of \$100 is required and a \$100 payment per month, with final balance due on Sept. 1. Make checks payable to South Plainfield Seniors and mail to: Mickie Panzarella, 128 Clifford St., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. For more information call (908) 755-2487.

What's happening in JUNE/JULY

Daily Events
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool
(908) 754-1047

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9:00 AM-12:30 PM—CREATIVE PAINTING 10AM

Senior Center EVENTS

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UPCOMING EVENTS | Italian Night, Saturday, July 23 6 p.m. Cost \$3 Woodloch Pines Pocono Resort Oct. 31-Nov. 4 Info at Senior Center | | Weekly Shopping 30 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am | Bingo 10am-2pm 1 Lunch Available |
| | 4 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am | 5 Exercise Club 8:30am Line Dancing 10am Computer class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm | 6 COMPUTER CLASS 11am & 1pm | 7 Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm |
| CENTER CLOSED | | ATLANTIC CITY | | 8 Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available |
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For more details, phone Terence Julien (908) 226-5335.

PAL Charity Softball Tournament

July 16

The South Plainfield Police Athletic League will hold their Fourth Annual Charity Softball Tournament on Saturday, July 16 beginning at 8 a.m. Proceeds from this year's tournament will go to a fund for four-year-old Kevin Conroy.

The event takes place at the South Plainfield High School Ballfield on Lake St. The Open Division is limited to the first 16 teams and Charitable Division is limited to the first 10 team.

Teams can register by contacting Det. Gary Cassio at (908) 226-7663, Det. Chris Colucci at (908) 226-7662 or at the PAL on Maple Ave. at (908) 226-7714. Rain date is July 23.

Stress Factory Comedy Club

August 21

The Stress Factory Comedy Club will present a fundraiser to benefit the South Plainfield Rescue Squad on Sunday, Aug. 21. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. and show begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$30.

Feature performer will be Lenny Marcus. Reserve your tickets now. The Stress Factory is located on Church St. in New Brunswick.

For tickets call (732) 558-9076 or (908) 754-2324.

— Out of Town —

SinglesFaces Dance

July 1

A SingleFaces dance will be held on Friday, July 1 at Short Hills Hilton at 8 p.m. This is the largest singles event in New Jersey. Cost is \$20.

For information, call (732) 345-9900.

Singles Social

July 2

The Morristown Bar & Comedy Show Night Out will be held on Sat-

urday, July 2. Meet at the Cafe Calaloo Bar in Morristown. Cost is \$15 and starts at 9 p.m. Recommended for singles ages 30 to 49, but open to everyone. RSVP required by July 1 to (732) 764-9073 or AngelButterfly37@aol.com

SingleFace Dance

July 2

A singles dance will be held on Saturday, July 2 at Gibbs Hall at the Ft. Monmouth's Officers Club at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. Free American Flag pin to each attendee.

For information call (732) 345-9900.

Diane Surine at Metuchen Artworks

July 6

Metuchen Artworks is proud to present the artworks of multi-media artist Diane Surine, who lives and exhibits her work in her hometown of Metuchen, July 6 through 31. Artist reception is July 9 from 7 to 10 p.m.

For information, contact the gallery at (732) 603-9299 or visit www.metuchenartworks.com.

Middlesex East WOWs Dance

July 8

The Middlesex East Widows and Widowers, Carteret Chapter, will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, July 8 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at St. Demetrius Community Center on Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Live music and refreshments. Admission is \$8 for members and \$9 for non-members.

The Middlesex East WOWs meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 at the Carteret Community center in Carteret.

For information call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 575-0515.

Tri-State Model Contest

July 18

Talent Unlimited has announced the Mister/Miss Tri-State Model 2005 Contest will be held on Friday, July 8

at the Radisson Hotel in Mount Laurel at 4 p.m.

We are looking for single contestants ages 9-30, who will be judged in an interview and swimwear and formal wear. For information, call (856) 931-1962.

Starlight Socials Picnic

July 16

A singles picnic with volleyball and swimming will be held on Saturday, July 16 at 2 p.m. at 107 Oldwick Rd. in Whitehouse Station. Please no children nor pets. \$12 pays for entry and food. Feel free to bring bathing suit, towel and your favorite lounge chair.

RSVP Required by July 15 to (732) 764-9073 or AngelButterfly37@aol.com

Calling Handcrafters

October 15

Join the Merchantville Business & Professional Association as a vendor on Saturday, Oct. 15 for their Seventh Annual Handcrafts Festival. The event is a popular regional attraction bringing residents, neighbors and visitors together for a day of shopping, exhibitions and food in our historic downtown.

This is a handcraft only show and no resale vendors or products will be accepted. Information and registration forms are available online at www.merchantvillenj.com or email your name and address to merchantvillenj@comcast.net. For information call (856) 663-4001.

Class of 1980 Reunion

November 25

St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Edison will hold their 25th reunion on November 25 at the Double Tree Hotel in Somerset. A web page has been set up for fellow alumni.

Email amf831@aol.com to receive an invitation. For information, call Ann Marie Ferrante at (908) 756-6218 during the day and (908) 756-7543 in the evening. You may also contact Rich Fuentes at richk_ofc@aol.com.

IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

Tell me, why did I just spend the past four years striving for straight A's and a high GPA — so that my achievements could be blown off at one of the biggest nights of my high school career? Believe me, Dr. May's "I would like to apologize to Kathy, Amanda, Cassie, and Caitlin" did not do a whole lot to console me. The four of us took a lot of time and effort to attain the honor of our positions, perfect our speeches, and prepare for our commencement, but we certainly did not get the recognition we deserved. After being thoroughly soaked through from the rain, which slowed down by the time all of the diplomas were handed out, what were five more minutes to let us deliver our speeches? But no, Dr. May did not consider any of the other sensible options to allow us to celebrate our graduation appropriately.

Most of the tears that were seen after we threw our caps into the air were not tears of sorrow or happiness for leaving our school, but they were tears at not having graduated in a righteous manner. It really feels like we are suddenly moving on to colleges and careers without having graduated high school at all. So thank you again, Dr. May, for not thinking about how your actions would affect the hearts of your students, but only about how to find the quickest way to get everyone out of the rain.

I would like to give my most sincere thanks to the South Plainfield Observer for honoring your graduates as they should have been honored on June 22, 2005.

Congratulations to the SPSHS Class of 2005. Seniors...Enough Said.

**KATHLEEN ANN MORGAN,
VALEDICTORIAN OF THE
SPHS CLASS OF 2005**

To the Editor:

Mandated fluoridation of the water supply amounts to forcing the public to ingest toxic waste. Not only that, it would cost consumers more money for water. I am opposed to this scheme.

**PHYLLIS HAASE,
CEDAR OAKS CARE CENTER**

Handicapped Access Improved at Sacred Heart

A new raised walkway for the handicapped access has been completed at Sacred Heart Church. Wheel chairs can now access the main entrance door with ease. The walkway is located on the parking lot side of the main entrance.

The installation meant that several shrubs had to be removed.

This project is part of the ongoing refurbishing and repair program on the 40-year-old church as well as the 50-year-old school.

Other projects recently completed are installing new siding at the rectory, paving of the parking lot and the installation of a new organ in the church.

When the school year ended, work began on replacing the original boiler, along with the updating the plumbing in the school building.

All of this work is the result of the successful pledge drive which took place during the past few months.

Find it! Buy it! Use it! Sell it! Classifieds!

To place
your ad, call
668-0010

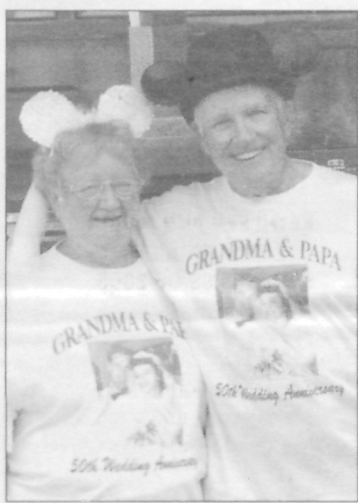
southplainfieldpeople

Milestones



Frank and Angie Cullen spent their fiftieth anniversary in Disney World in the company of their children and grandchildren.

Frank and Angie Cullen Celebrate 50th Wedding anniversary in Disney World



Frank and Angie Cullen

Frank and Angie Cullen of South Plainfield celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past week in Disney World. Frank and Angie celebrated with all four of their children and their fifteen grandchildren.

The entire clan of 25 enjoyed festivities with Mickey and Minnie, but most of all enjoyed the opportunity to be together. The group had special t-shirts made at AKA with the Frank and Angie's wedding picture on front and a huge 50 with rabbit ears on the back. The t-shirts were a great hit and drew comments from many while they toured Disney World.

Frank and Angie were married on July 2, 1955. They moved to South

Plainfield in 1956. The Cullens have three sons and a daughter. Two sons, Glenn and Frank Cullen both live in South Plainfield, daughter Kathy Genovese lives in Monroe and son Kevin Cullen lives in Phoenix, AZ

McKnight Named to Bucknell Dean's List

Jeffrey N. McKnight of South Plainfield has been named to the Dean's List at Bucknell University during the spring semester of the 2004-2005 academic year.

Jeffrey is the son of Gary and Gerilyn McKnight and a 2002 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

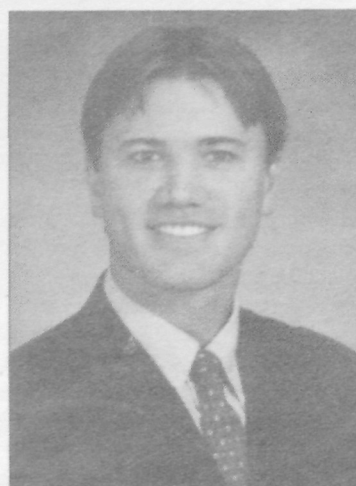
A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive Dean's list recognition.

Kania to Attend Fairleigh Dickinson University in September

Edward A. Kania, a 2005 graduate of The Lawrenceville School, will attend Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham campus in Madison this September. He is the son of Steve and Cota Kania of South Plainfield.

Fairleigh Dickinson University has two campuses in northern New Jersey, offering more than 50 associate and baccalaureate programs and special accelerated programs.

The University's College at Florham, located on the former Vanderbilt-Twombly estate in suburban Madison, Morris County, offers undergraduates a classic experience for the contemporary world in a small college setting. Its focus is on providing outstanding on-campus living and learning opportunities, hands-on learning experiences, strong gradu-



Edward A. Kania

ate and professional school preparation, and customized educational options – all framed by a global perspective.



A farewell party was held for Sacred Heart's Father Timothy Lambert (center), who has been transferred. He will be missed by all!

Share Your Good News... Send us your Milestones!

Email: spobserver@comcast.com Fax: 908-668-8819

Stallone Competes His Sophomore Year at University of Scranton

Daniel Stallone, son of John and Carolyn Stallone, recently completed his sophomore year at the University of Scranton majoring in Finance.

Dan has maintained a 3.4 GPA while competing in both ice hockey and lacrosse for the Scranton Royals (NCAA, Division 3). During the fall/winter season, Dan, a defenseman for the Royals Ice Hockey team, earned All-ECHA League honors. During the

Spring, Dan played 'Middie' for the Royals Lacrosse team where he was selected Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year.

In addition, he was named to the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Academic Honor Roll, recognizing the academic achievements of the conference's student athletes. Dan is working this summer as a finance intern for Johnson & Johnson.

ZERO EXCUSES!
SUMMERTIME
Celebration!

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SUMMER'S HERE!
OPEN 7 DAYS - NO BREAKS!

TODAY!

- Circuit Training-26 Stations
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ENROLLMENT BEGINS NOW!

The committee chairs of the Our Lady Of Czestochowa Feast of St. Anthony 2005

would like to acknowledge and thank the following
for their assistance in the success of this year's feast.

Mayor and Borough Council • Borough Clerk's Office • Bureau of Fire Prevention
South Plainfield Rescue Squad • South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department
South Plainfield Public Works Department • South Plainfield Police Department
Pinto Bros. Disposal, LLC • McCriskin Home for Funerals
The South Plainfield Observer • Roma Food Enterprises • The Corner Deli
Dave's Stationary • Sal's Spirit Shoppe • South Plainfield Knights of Columbus
• South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop •
And all those who attended this year's festival

Father Maciej Melaniuk, Pastor
Don Jackson & Al Musmanno, Co-Chairs

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Allan M. Kleiman

Ah, yes, summer's here! It's time to put your feet up, sip a nice glass of lemonade and settle in with a sizzling summer novel. But where to begin?

One place to start is with a new book, *More Book Lust*, by retired librarian Nancy Pearl. The sequel to *Book Lust*, can provide you with thousands of reading recommendations for every mood, moment, and reason. Some suggestions include: Fiction for Foodies, Cozies, Gone Fishin', Literary Lives and Nature Writing. Oops, I better return the book so that all of you can have a chance to enjoy it!

Another resource for reading suggestions is an online database that the library owns that is called, NOVELIST. Novelist can provide you with book suggestions based on things such as type of book, elements of the plot, location, characters, etc. You can even use it to find other books just like the one you've just read. It's a "novel" approach to good reading.

The Hennepin County Library in MN has a list of booklists that you can find of help in selecting your next book. If you like ... is available at their website on the Internet at: www.hc-lib.org/pub/books/fyl/index.cfm.

Another excellent reader's advisor site is the Morton Grove Public Library in Illinois. In fact, they wrote the book! Their librarians have long practiced the "art" of helping readers find the right book. Joyce Saricks, has written several books especially for librarians to gain expertise and knowledge in this area. Their web site is an excel-

lent source that librarians often turn to when they need some advice. So now you too know the secret. Find them on the web at: www.weblibrary.org/ts/rsmenu.html.

Are you too busy to read an entire book? Would you like to have new books delivered to your e-mail box? Well, join the library's online book club and start reading books each day. Everyday you'll get a five minute portion of a book e-mailed to you. If you'd like to finish the book, stop by the library and pick-up a copy. There is a choice of non-fiction, fiction, business, audio, teen, mystery, good news, romance, horror and science fiction. More information can be found at the library's web site: www.southplainfield.library.nj.us.

For the first year, in addition to our Summer Reading Club for children and teens, we will also be sponsoring a club for adults. See the staff for details and to pick-up a copy of the rules. As you read, you'll be able to enter your name for prizes.

Of course, the best resource for selecting a good book to read is the Library Staff! Each one of us has different areas that we enjoy reading in and can help you find that right book to read. Don't be afraid to ask! We're never too busy to help you!!

Finally, we'd like to announce the winner of the Father's Day Contest. The drawing was held on Thursday, June 16 at 7 p.m. There were 88 entries and the winner is: Louis Castagno. His entry was submitted by his children, Nicholas and Michael.

See you in the stacks!

Nominations Sought Parade Grand Marshal

Labor day is just around the corner and the South Plainfield Celebration Committee is seeking nominations for the Honorary Grand Marshal of the 48th Annual Labor Day Parade to be held on Monday, Sept. 5. The theme of this year's parade is "Civic Groups are the Heart of South Plainfield." If you know of an individual you feel has contributed outstanding service to South Plainfield, please send a letter stating your reason why this person should be considered for Honorary Grand Marshal. Include the candidate's

name, address, phone number and accomplishments. The deadline for accepting nominations is July 26. Send your nomination to: The Public Celebration Committee, John Sorentino, Chairman, 225 Hopkinson Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

The Public Celebration Committee is also seeking nonprofit organizations interested in having a concession stand at the PAL. Send your concession stand applications to the Public Celebration Committee, Kim Gallagher, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

New Listing by the Lacerda Team...

Custom Built Split Level on Cul de Sac



This custom-built 5 level split is newly renovated inside and out. New eat-in-kitchen with 42-inch cabinets, ceramic tile and upgraded appliances. Beautiful crown moldings and new prefinished hardwood floors. Formal dining room with Andersen wood slider leading to a deck. There are 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. There are 2 skylights, California closets and hardwood floors in all the bedrooms. There is a small office and a large, newly refinished basement complete with wet bar and fireplace sure to please everyone in the family. Convenient location on a cul de sac street, walk to Spring Lake Park and South Plainfield Middle and High School.

Call the Lacerda Team today for your personal tour!

Free Market Analysis of Your Home

If you are considering a move in 2005 or just want to find out what your home is worth, please contact us today for your complimentary market analysis.

All consultations are confidential and with no obligation.

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(908) 578-1166 Cellular

Email: LacerdaA@morettiirealty.com
Website: www.Lacerdateam.com



Andrea & Jesse Lacerda
"The Lacerda Team"

Merkler and Murtagh Receive PAL Scholarships

The South Plainfield Police Athletic League (PAL) recently awarded two \$750 scholarships to South Plainfield High School seniors William Merkler and Brian Murtagh.

William Merkler graduated with a 3.15 GPA. He was captain of the Varsity Baseball Team as a junior, was a 4 year member of the Peer Leadership Group and captain of the freshman football team.

Bill has been a volunteer in many activities in town, including: recreation basketball as a coach for pre-teens, the Adopt-a-Family Program, Senior Citizen Dance with Peer Leadership, several cleanup projects, Youth Tiger Football Camp, freshmen orientation and served as tour guide for new students, to name just a few.

In athletics he participated in baseball, both high school and American Legion as well as Fall Baseball. He also played high school football and recreation basketball.

Brian Murtagh graduated with a 4.0058 GPA and was ranked 17 out of 308 in the 2005 graduating class.

Brian has volunteered as a boy's soccer coach, the fishing derby, bike rodeo, PBA Golden Gloves tournament, South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club, Ponytail League, and the Elks Handicapped Children's Committee.

He played soccer, winter track and



Former Police Chief Robert Merkler with his son William, PAL President Chris Colucci, Brian Murtagh and his dad Sgt. Kevin Murtagh.

golf at the high school. He also participated in recreation basketball, the Junior Baseball Club and the South Plainfield Traveling Soccer Club.

He was active in the Jerseyan History Club, Spanish Club, Ski Club, Electronics Club and was a member of the Prom Committee.

During his four years at SPSHS, Brian has been on the High Honor Roll. He was also a member of the Spanish Honor Society, a varsity letter recipient for soccer and winter track and a member of the National Honor

Society, just to name a few of his awards.

William is the son of Bob and Doreen Merkler of South Plainfield. His dad was the South Plainfield Police Chief, before his retirement.

Brian is the son of Kevin and Nancy Murtagh of South Plainfield. His father is a sergeant in the South Plainfield Police Department.

Both Brian and William will be attending the University of Delaware in the fall.

Scouts Enjoy Old Fashioned Hoe Down

By Patricia Abbott

Friday May 13 was a lucky day for the Riley School Girl Scouts. Decked out in country farm garb they spent a fun-filled evening at their annual mother/daughter dance. The theme was an old fashioned hoe down complete with square dancing.

The dance was held by the fourth grade girl scout troops who worked hard creating invitations and decorations. The event was planned by Troop leaders Stephanie Wolak and Kathy Pittenger of Troop 475 and Mary Piekarski, Karen Kelly and Carolyn Parisi from Troop 530.

The guests feasted on a hot dog and nacho bar prepared by Stephanie Wolak and her family. The amazing dessert table was stocked by the scouts and their moms. Over 80 moms and daughters from troops #475, 530, 774, 843, 745 and 780 attended the



dance. The main entertainment of the evening was square dancing called by Ron Kapnic and his partner Ruth Edison from Cross Trail Squares in Caldwell. After a few attempts, the

girls and moms mastered the tricky steps and danced the night away. Leader Stephanie Wolak said, "The girls had a great time dancing and spending mother and daughter time together."

Recycling Center Holiday Schedule

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, July 5 because of the Independence Day holiday weekend. It will be open instead from noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6. The Yard Waste Site will also be closed Tuesday and open from noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Regular hours are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Yard Waste regular summer hours

are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Both facilities will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 2.

The Recycling Center will be accepting used paint for recycling from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 16. Sort

latex-based paint from oil-based paint.

2005 Yard Waste/Compactor Decals are available in the Municipal Clerk's office in Borough Hall. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline: (908) 226-7620.

Wesley Church

Sunday Summer Worship 9:30 a.m.
Starts July 3 through September 4

Thursday Praise and Worship 7 p.m.
Through July 28

Join us for a Special Outdoor Worship on
Sunday, July 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Kids and Parents love our
Summer Vacation Bible School
August 1-5 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Register today by calling the church office 908-757-2838

Come Join Our Family

We are called and committed to make disciples for Jesus Christ and to witness his love through the worship, study, and missions of Wesley Church.



Wesley Church

1500 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield,

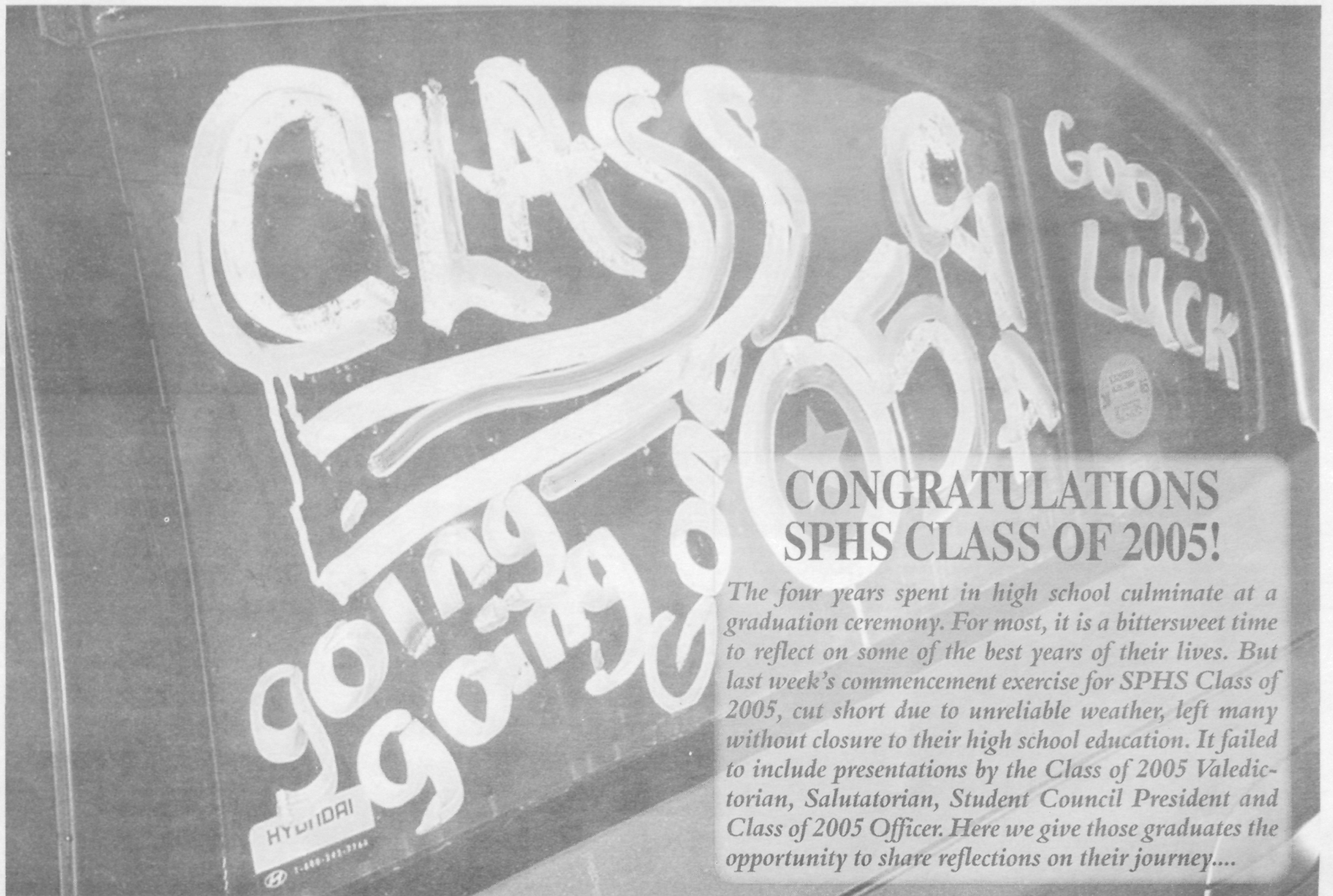
Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Thompson, Pastor
Church Office 908-757-2838 / Residence 908-756-1044
E-mail: WUMCSP@juno.com



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CONGRATULATIONS SPHS CLASS OF 2005!

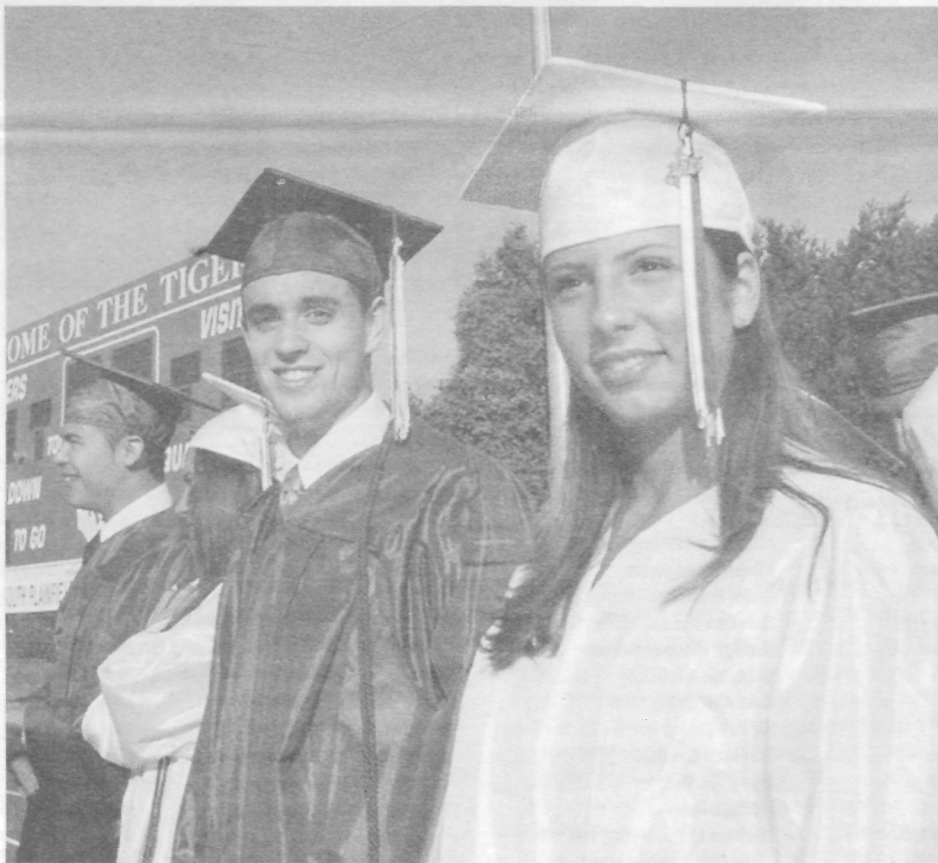
The four years spent in high school culminate at a graduation ceremony. For most, it is a bittersweet time to reflect on some of the best years of their lives. But last week's commencement exercise for SPHS Class of 2005, cut short due to unreliable weather, left many without closure to their high school education. It failed to include presentations by the Class of 2005 Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Student Council President and Class of 2005 Officer. Here we give those graduates the opportunity to share reflections on their journey....

Class of 2005 Valedictorian Kathleen Ann Morgan

After spending many years in the same places, with the same people, and doing the same things, tonight is where it all comes to an end. It is a shocking realization that tomorrow we will wake up and no longer be high school students. Tomorrow, we will start anew, all 300 of us going our separate ways to establish separate futures. We will leave everything behind us, only to exist as wonderful memories of our teenage years.

Adlai Stevenson once advised that "when you leave here, don't forget why you came." So, I ask you why did we come and why are we leaving? For our entire lives, we have been told that education is the key to our futures and indeed it is. With every book that we open and every discussion that we have, our minds are subjected to new worlds of information. This information becomes valuable knowledge that we will use to succeed in our careers and in life.

But education is not only about books. It is about the bonds we form, the relationships we make, the activities we take part in, and the hardships we overcome. It is about becoming who we really are. Ralph Waldo Emerson told us to "make the most of" *(Continued on page 10)*



Class of 2005 Salutatorian Amanda Joy Prybella

Well, we have finally made it. The day we have been preparing for all year is finally here. As I look out across the sea of green and white on the field, and up at all the smiling faces in the stands, I can hardly believe it is time to say goodbye and time to continue our journey down the road of life. Over the past four years we have traveled together as a class down one long road. Each of us following our own speed limit and traveling in our different cars, but together we have grown to become a second family and have made South Plainfield High School our home away from home. From the hallway decorating contests to the pep rallies, the aerobics days to driver's ed, and the amazing senior project to our senior prom, we have come a long way. And now, as we approach the fork in the road where we will all go our separate ways, we will not only remember the infinite memories we have made, but also carry with us the memories of all the people we have shared them with.

Every person encountered in your life, whether it was your best friend or just another face in the crowd, has left an imprint on you. It may have been a simple smile in passing or someone who

(Continued on page 10)

Class of 2005 Officer Caitlin Ruth English

E. E. Cummings once wrote, "To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting."

The class of 2005 exemplifies this quote. We are unique and diverse individuals who entered the halls of SPHS as young minds yearning for friendship, direction and knowledge. We now leave those halls with friendships that will last a lifetime, direction into the future of our lives, and knowledge that is pouring out in every direction.

On this roller coaster over the past four years something extraordinary happened to South Plainfield High School. It witnessed greatness. The Class of 2005 is not individuals graduating here today. We are classmates, we are friends, and

(Continued on page 10)



Student Council President Cassandra Lauren D'Urso

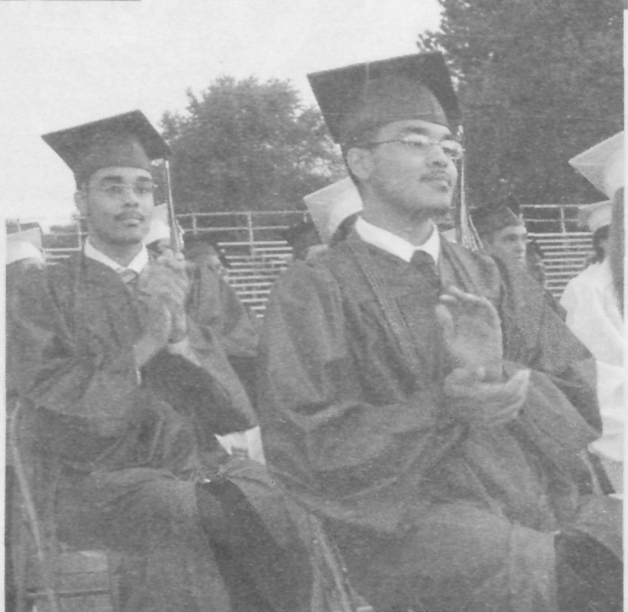
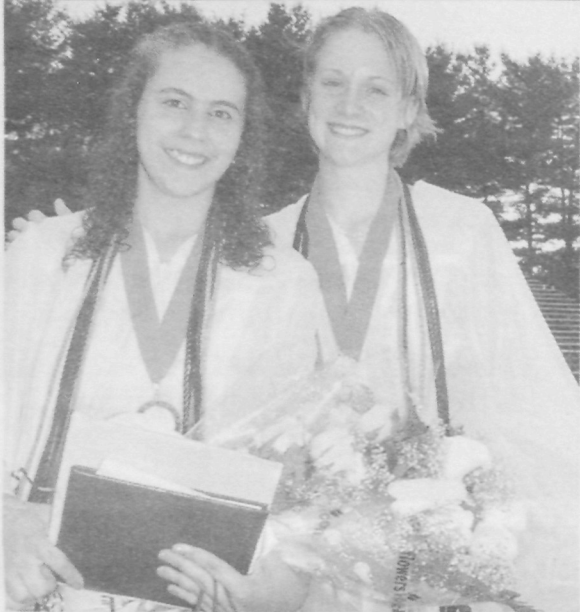
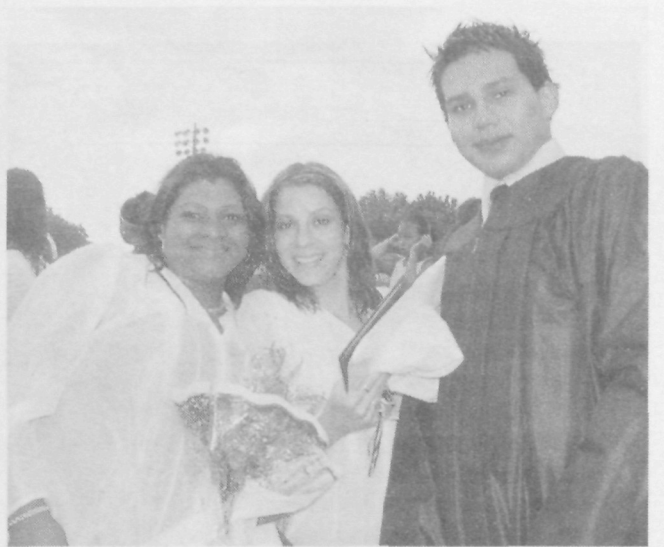
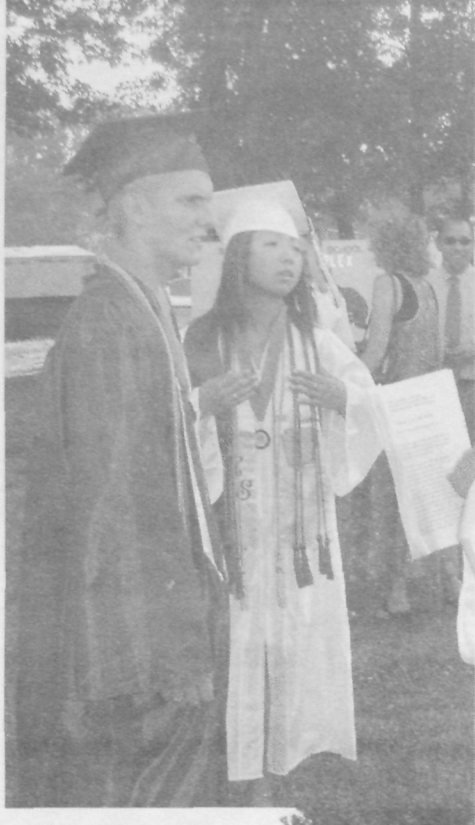
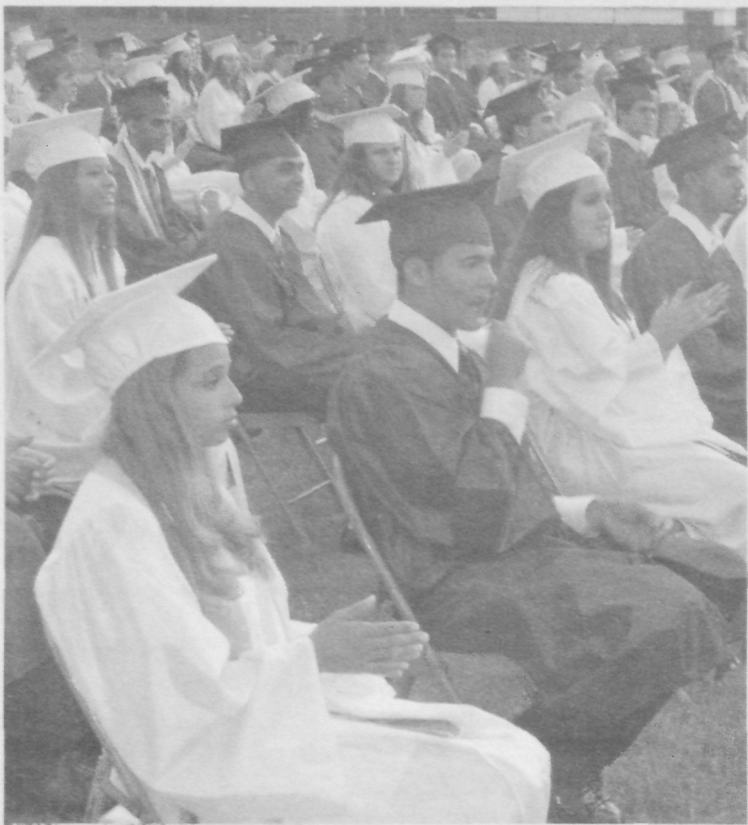
It is hard for me to stand up here as one person and talk about the high school through my own personal experiences because the school does not only belong to me, it belongs to the students you see before you today, the administrators, the parents, the teachers, the alumni here this evening, and to the community. When I look back to my freshman year, I can remember feeling like a grain of sand on this huge beach that was the high school. However, after being introduced to the academics, arts, athletics, and activities offered at SPHS, I learned that it is not a place where I show up at 8:00 and leave at 2:20. Rather, it became a home, a place where I was not a grain of sand, I was an important piece of the puzzle, where out of many pieces, all combine to create one image.

If there is one thing that the high school has taught me, it is the power of coming together and working together. The power of one.

This year, we lost a great world leader: Pope John Paul II. I admired him because he never allowed politics or popularity to dictate his message. Mark Hart, Vice President of a Catholic

(Continued on page 11)





SPHS Class of 2005

Tina Marie Aboosamara
Carlos Alfredo Aguilar, Jr.
Nicole Lee Aguilar
Kyle Patrick Alligier
Darshan J. Amin
Vaidehi Amin
Shakellah Amini * + #
Peter John P. Aquino + #
Danielle Elizabeth Arndt
Jonathan Ascencio
Peter Andrew Assad * ^ + #
Felicia Bacchus
Kristin Ann Badolato
Christopher Anthony Bakazan * + #
Kyle Patrick Baker
Karen Julieth Barrientos-Conde
Mohan Aaron Golez Bayona ^
Matthew James Bazsika
Michael Dean Benak * + #
Rose Lucy Benak
Dawn Nicole Besser * + #
Shakera Danielle Bond-Beverley + #
Amanda Bhoro
Adam Robert Bianchi
Ashley Nicole Bishop
Erika Lynn Blaszak
Christopher Anthony Frank Bojarski + #
Laura Jenny Boldo-Rojo
Matthew Douglas Boley
Jason Paul Bosse
Jennifer Lynn Braco + #
Ellen Theresa Bradley
Manuel Alejandro Bravo-Velasco
Stephen Joshua Andre Breland
Lucretia Devuane Brooks
Danielle Nakia Brown
Alyssa Christine Bubnick
Vijay Manindar Budhan
Justin Rene G. Buendia * + #
Janéa Rae Burchell
Gerry William Butrico * + #
Nina Eliza Byard + #
Pasquale Anthony Cantarella IV * + #
Trisha Marie Capparelli
Kristina De Ere Carigma + #
Justin Pierce Carpena

* National Honor Society
Scholastic Honor Society
+ World Language Honor Society
^ National Art Honor Society

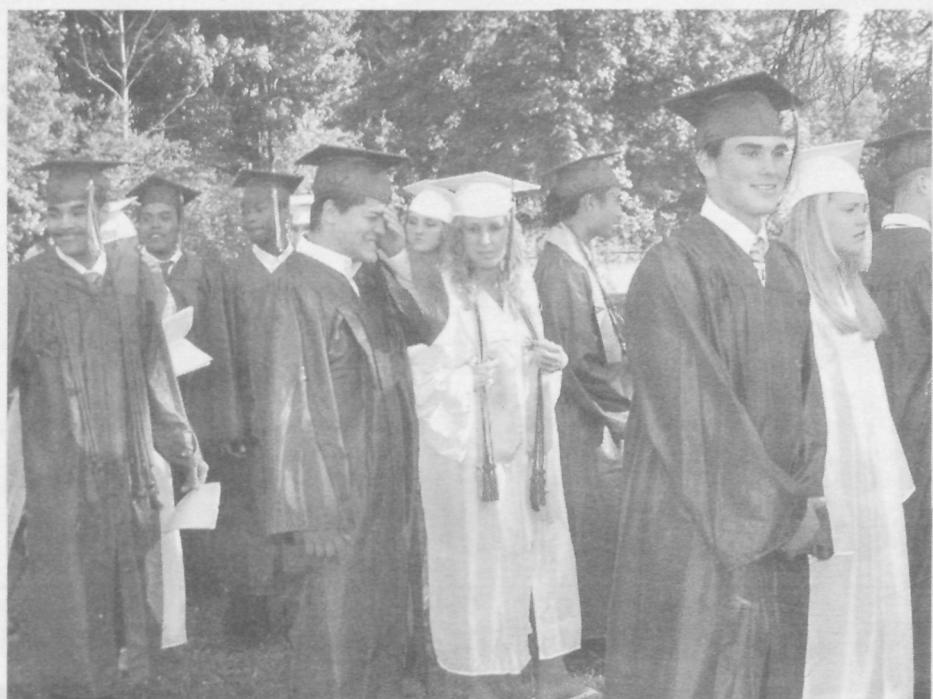
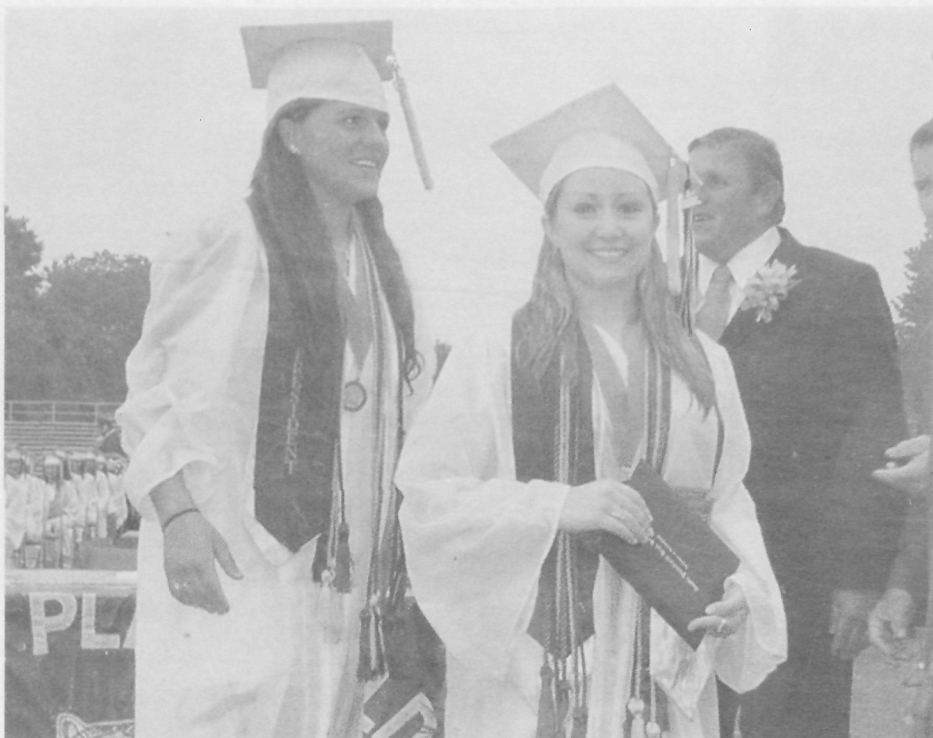
Fabian Fernando Casteblanco + #
Henderson Reimon Catlyn
Nicholas Bryan Cesare
Mary Gayle Nagallo Cespedes
Timothy Cheng * + #
Mallory Lynn Christ
Lauren Marie Clandella * + #
Toni Marie Ciccio * + #
Janine Nicole Clemente + #
Kristin Anne Coffey * + #
Paul Conan Corrado + #
Anthony Michael Costante
Jesse Cribb
Katie Crilley
Rachel Ann Cupido
Nicholas John Curcio + #
Leonard Lee Cursi, Jr.
Robert Edward Cusick
Cassandra Lauren D'Urso * ^ + #
Jessica Ashley Dabrio
Lauren Jessica Darr
Alissa Nadine Davis
LaSheryl Regina Davis
Peter James DeAndrea * + #
Louana De Los Santos
Crystal Ann DeSantis
Alissa DeCarlo
Siobhan Margaret Delaney * + #
Jacklyn Francis DeLillo
John Louine B. Demegillo
Allison Christine DiMeglio * + #
Stacey Marie Diana * + #
Cristina Maria Fernandes Dias
Douglas Thorman Dietzold
Christina Marie DiFrancesco * + #
Kaitlynn Ann Disch
Jonathan Bryce Donahue + #
Claude Douglas
Michael Scott Downes
Lori Ann Dranchak
Michael David Duquette * + #
David Arthur Eichler Jr.
Ashley Nicole Elliott
Jeffrey Adam Eng + #
Caitlin Ruth English * + #
Lia Esitashvili
Karen MarieValera Estonactoc
Shawn Patrick Ferguson + #
Anna Nicole Ferrer

Heather Ann Flood
Melanie Brooke Foscolo + #
Joshua Friedland
Kimberly Ann Gaub
Keenan William Gaynor * + #
John Edward Geczy
John Robert George
Allia Jamal Ghanim
Michael Ghigliotti
Grant Frances Gianneschi
Carolina DeLosAngeles Gomez
Kendall Niedner Green
Nicholas Jon Grego
Sara Ann Grillo * + #
Jeffrey Steven Grubesich * + #
Erin Mae Gyurisin
Joseph Hafner
Melissa Hansen
Michele Marie Hardgrove + #
Emily Suzanne Harkins
Lauren Marie Haus * + #
Justin Thomas Heffernan
Joseph John Helgesen
Jamal Armond Hessing
Jasmine Alicia Hessing
Kelley Marie Hrutkay
Eva Renee Humber
Phu Duong Huynh + #
Daryl Jamal Jackson
Quentin Damiyon Jackson
Joseph George Jaghab
Jamie Lynn Jakubik
Destiny Marie Jazikoff
Nicholas Alan Jefferys
Jon Jacob Jeglinski
Lingyan Jiang + #
La-Toya Denise Johnson
Tanyika Rashida Johnson
Edward Marshall Johnston
Colleen Laurie Kamen + #
Elyse Rose Kanaley
Peter Michael Kelly
Ryan Edward Kenny
Thomas Joseph Kiczula, Jr. * + #
Robert Michael Kitlasz
Jessica Marie Kizmann + #
George Samuel Kleinknecht
Veronica Paige Konya
Candice Marie Krinin

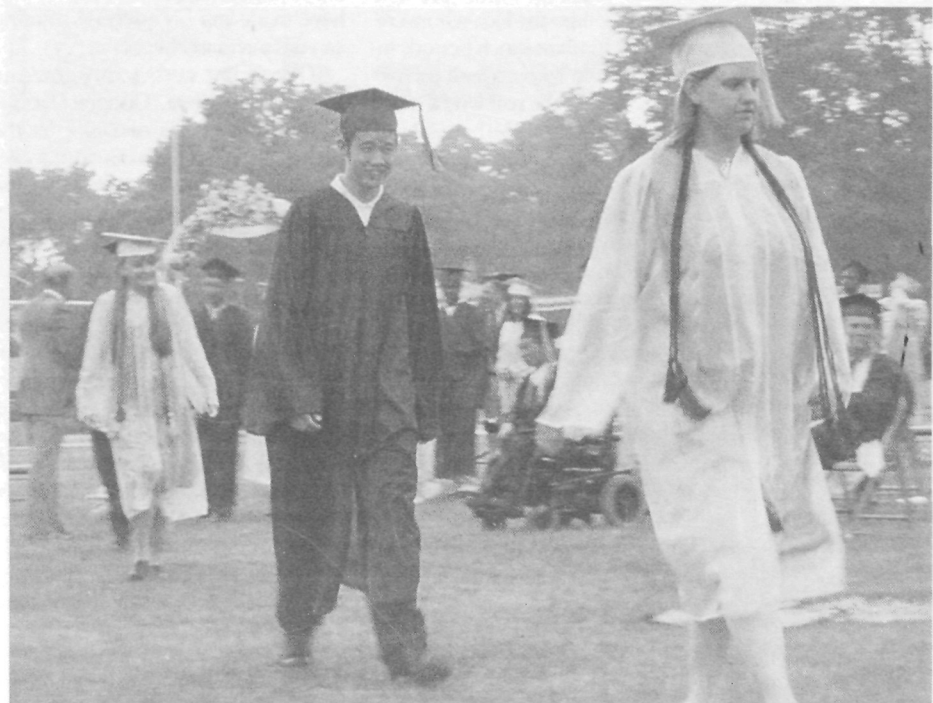
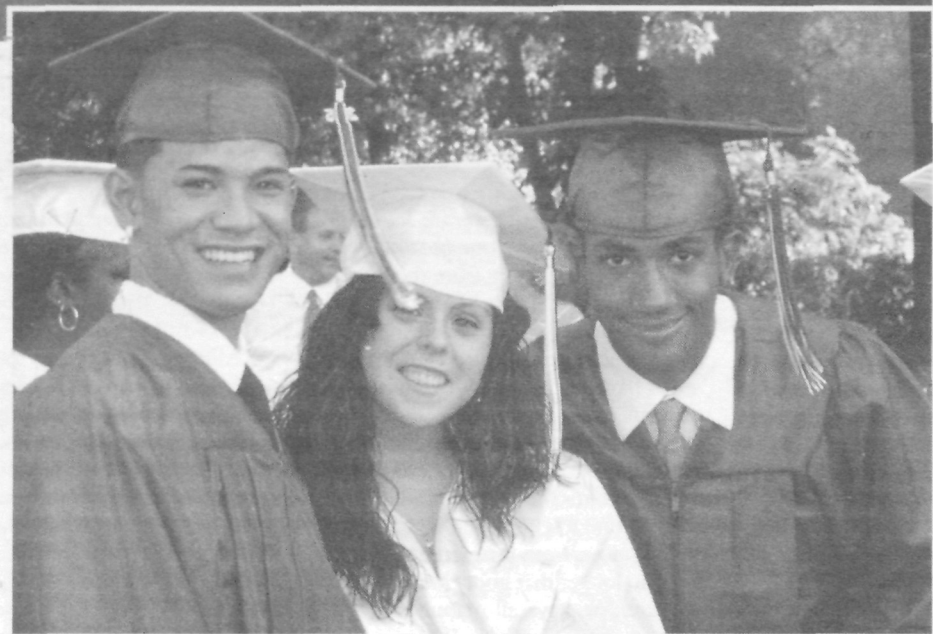
Ann Mária Kubovciková
Craig Andrew Kulick
Kevin Christopher Lahey * + #
Phi Huu Lai
Anthony Stephen Lara
Nicholas Alexander Lara
Linda Mikyung Lee * ^ + #
Fabian Andres Lopez Lozano
Johnathan David Lopez * + #
Jason Marc Lowe
Nicole Yvonne Samone Mack
Kurtis Charles Maglaque + #
Aimee Jean Maiorino + #
Alyssa Marie Maiorino * ^ + #
Robert Andrew Maistickle
Bryan Xavier Maldonado
Krista Lynn Malecki * + #
Silke Latrese Malone
Jessica Harper Manning * + #
Thomas Frederick Victor Manolio
Ashley Marie Martin
Christina Ashley Martin + #
Johnny E. Martin
Michael Thomas Martin
David Ryan Martinez
Joseph Daniel Matos
Marie Chris Maullon
Allan Peter Mazurak Jr. + #
Kayleigh Elizabeth McGovern
Christopher Ryan McKnight * + #
William Joseph Merkler
Jayne Hasbrouck Merlo * + #
Adam Francis Meyers
Andrew Edward Miller
Jessica Lynn Miller
Stefanie Michelle Miller * + #
James Aaron Milliron
Alicia Marie Miranda
Danna Airie Santos Mirasol
Samantha Jean Mitchell
William Jennings Moates III
Christopher Kevin Moore
Rosanna Grace Mootoo * + #
Michael Morales Jr.
Kathleen Ann Morgan * + #
Katie Marie Mott
Jacqueline Elizabeth Muglia + #
Salaam Ibn Muhammad
Brian James Murtagh * + #

Jessica Lee Musolino
Huan Khoa Nguyen * + #
Thao Thanh Nguyen
Jesse Robert Nietzer * + #
Debra Stephanie Outeiral
William Joseph Padula
Jean Reyes Pagdonsolan
Eigil Joseph Pantaleon
Abby Danielle Papa
Augusto Santiago Pasco
Valerie Jean Pasquarella * ^ + #
Deep Patel * + #
Dhruti Patel + #
Kevin Pankaj Patel
Sankalp Chandrakant Patel
Krutarth Pathak
Christopher Joseph Patti
Michael Alan Pedersen
Ashley Nicole Penny
Rachel Rae Perez
Jaquon John Pickwood
Daniel Thomas Piwowar * + #
Danielle Lindsay Plasse
Jeffrey Scott Pollin
Joshua Steven Prendergast
Lisa Marie Primavera
Marisa Silvana Christine Proietto
Amanda Joy Prybella * + #
Patrick Michael Pryor + #
Jalil Ahmad Qayum * + #
Dwight Vincent Quichua * + #
Daniel Benjamin Ramos
Patrick Edward Charles Reedy
Justin Scott Carmichael Reid
Allyce Michelle Rettberg
Eric Michael Rhode
Michael Brian Richard * + #
Paul Richard Ritchey
Shannen Alice Rivers
Todd Alan Rivers
Ashli Renee Roberts
Mayra Alejandra Robles
Jeremy Marquis Rodas
John Robert Roesch
Julia Anne Russell
Cristina Ester Almeida Sa
David Andres Sánchez
Selene Alejandra Sánchez
Ana Christina Santiago

Nicholas Alexander Sbordone
Alison Leigh Schmidt
Jessica Lyn Senz * + #
Rajiv Sewdat
Hina Hasan Shah
Paras Vikram Shah
Brian Julian Sheldon
Jaret Shelton + #
Justin Shelton + #
Lesley Ann Sideck
Erin Rita Sikanowicz
Melissa Araseli Silva
Darren Franklin Smith, Jr.
Derek Justin Smith
Trevor Arthur Lee Smith + #
Dominic Ryan Sobers
Alisha Marie Stasenko
Darryl James Stevenson, Jr.
Melissa Ashley Sticco * + #
Sara Gee Sukenik * + #
Ryan Matthew Suleski
Darshan Mañesh Suthar + #
Nicole Elizabeth Sutherland
Harold Tariq Tate
Joseph Adrian Teller
Kelly Michele Thomas * + #
Kurtia Faith Thomas
Kyle Anthony Thomas
Teresa Esperanza Thornton
Melissa Anne Tinana
Jeffrey Michael Toolan
Ashlen Sprague Udell * + #
Jennifer Marie Vasquez
Erik Zachary Vesper
Vlet Quoc Vo
Amber Kristina Walden
Kristine Elizabeth Werner
Kelly Anne Whitney
Michael David Williams
Coral Lyndsie Willis
Michael Ryan Wilson
Linda Naomi Wong
Ryan Allen Woods
Bradford Charles Wyatt
Robert Leroy Yuill
Philip Michael Zazzara
Brian Paul Zielinski



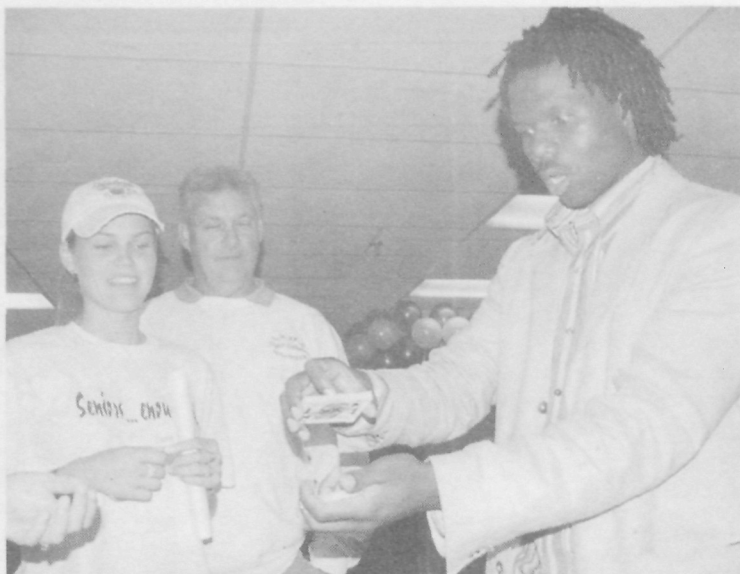
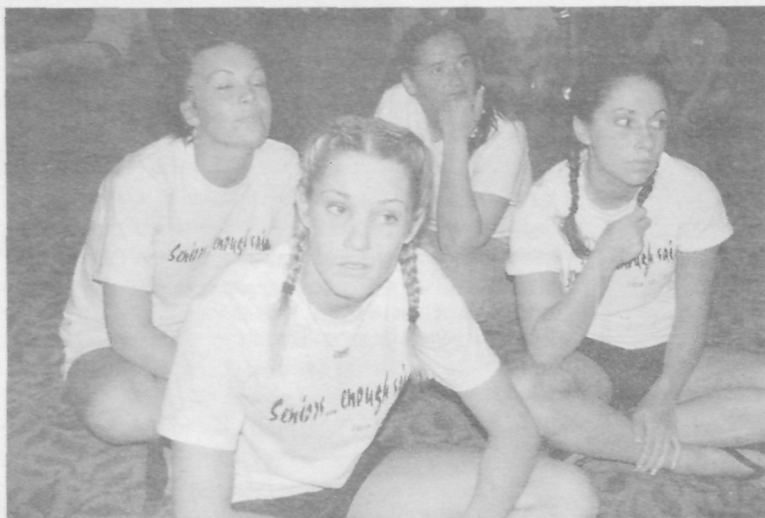
Congratulations!



SPHS Scholarships and Awards Recipients 2004-05

Mary Smylie Memorial Scholarship - *Jessica Manning*
 Franklin School PTA - *Gerry Butrico*
 Roosevelt School PTA - *Deep Patel*
 Suburban Woman's Club - *Janine Clemente*
 VFW Memorial Post #6763 - *Lisa Primavera, Kaitlynn Disch, Darshan Suthar, Michael Duquette*
 American Association of University Women - *Rosanna Mootoo*
 South Plainfield Wrestling Club - *Nick Curcio, Dawn Besser, Pete DeAndrea, Ashley Martin*
 South Plainfield Senior Citizens - *Cassie D'Urso*
 Claire and John Graf Family Foundation - *Carolina Gomez*
 South Plainfield Middle School PTA Christian DeRose Memorial Scholarship - *Ashley Bishop, Jayne Merlo*
 The Club at Ricochet - *Krutarth Pathak*
 South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop - *Katie Mott, Patrick Pryor*
 John E. Riley School PTSO - *Jessica Kizmann, Siobhan Delaney*
 John F. Kennedy School Betty Bogeatzes Memorial Scholarship - *Kendall Green*
 John F. Kennedy School Joyce Papp Memorial Scholarship - *Sara Grillo, Andrew Miller*
 John F. Kennedy School PTSO - *Joseph Helgesen*
 Joseph Delaney Memorial Scholarship - *Shawn Ferguson, Veronica Konya*
 Butch Bumback Memorial Scholarship - *Paul Corrado, Dawn Besser*
 South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club - *Brian Murtagh, Michael Benak*
 Sons of the American Legion - *Jesse Nietzer, Carolina Gomez*
 South Plainfield Football Eagles - *Mallory Christ, Krista Malecki, Andrew Miller, William Merkler*
 South Plainfield Parents' Ponytail Softball Association - *Jessica Senz, Jessica Miller, Dawn Besser*
 Rotary Club Adele deLeeuw Memorial Scholarship - *Michael Duquette, Patrick Pryor*
 South Plainfield Golf Association - *Pete DeAndrea, Billy Padula, Brian Murtagh, Doug Dietzold, Nick Sbordone*
 South Plainfield High School PTA - *Kelly Thomas, Patrick Pryor, Chris McKnight*
 Italian-American Progressive League - *Gerry Butrico, Cassie D'Urso, Michael Richard*
 SPHS Field Hockey Association - *Jacqueline Muglia, Kelly Thomas, Jessica Miller, Stefanie Miller, Lauren Haus, Cassie D'Urso, Katie Kelliher*
 Anthony S. Pompilio Memorial Scholarship - *Chris Patti*
 South Plainfield Education Foundation - *Patrick Pryor, Mike Downes, Brian Zielinski, Ana Santiago, Jaret Shelton*
 Jeannette Smalley Memorial Scholarship - *Dwight Quichua*
 Paul J. Fessock Memorial Scholarship - *Jessica Senz*
 Emil Leporino Memorial Scholarship - *Deep Patel*
 Giakas Family Foundation - *Lauren Haus, Andrew Miller*
 Robustelli Family Foundation - *Vijay Budhan, Kim Gaub, Michael Richard*
 Michael DeCarlo Scholarship - *Ana Santiago*
 Prudential Freedom Award - *Sara Sukenik*
 Chad Cook Memorial Scholarship - *Ryan Kenny*
 Boyle Memorial Foundation Scholarship - *Lauren Haus, Caitlin English, Johnny Martin, Andrew Miller, Ashli Roberts, Dawn Besser, Allison DiMeglio*
 South Plainfield Education Foundation Scholarships - *Rosanna Mootoo, Paul Corrado*
 Cooperative Education Scholarships - *Timothy Cheng, Jon Jeglinski, Ryan Woods, Jessica Dabrio, Trisha Capparelli, Joseph Teller, Ashley Elliot, Michael Pederson*
 KOBO Scholarships - *Mayra Robles, Allia Ghanim, Kelly Hrutkay, Candice Krimin*
 American Legion Scholarship - *Mayra Robles, Timothy Cheng, Veronica Konya, Candice Krimin*
 Commerce Bank Scholarships - *Mayra Robles, Ana Santiago, Annie Nguyen, Samantha Mitchell, Kristine Werner*
 South Plainfield Business Association Community Service Awards - *Brian Sheldon, Veronica Konya*
 Academic Team - *Justin Buendia, Sara Sukenik, Justin Shelton, Shakellah Amini, Jaret Shelton, Shawn Ferguson, Patrick Pryor*
 Bloustein Scholars - *Dawn Besser, Christina DiFrancesco, Allison DiMeglio, Jonathan Donahue, Jessica Manning, Chris McKnight, Stefanie Miller, Kathleen Morgan, Valerie Pasquarella, Amanda Prybella, Sara Sukenik, Kelly Thomas*
 ESL Dept. Awards ESL Award for Academic Excellence-Augusto Pasco; Most Improved Student in ESL-Hina Shah
 World Language Dept. Awards Outstanding Achievement in Spanish - *Michael Duquette*; Outstanding Achievement in French - *Justin Buendia*
 English Dept. Awards Outstanding Achievement in English - *Valerie Pasquarella*; Outstanding Achievement in Creative Writing - *Patrick Pryor and Tommy Kiczula*
 Physical Education Dept. Award Outstanding Achievement in Physical Education - *Danny Piwowar & Rosanna Mootoo*
 Mathematics Department Award Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics - *Kathleen Morgan*
 Social Studies Dept. Award Outstanding Achievement in Social Studies - *Kelly Thomas and Michael Duquette*
 Science Dept. Awards Outstanding Achievement in Biology - *Alyssa Maiorino*; Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry - *Amanda Prybella*; Outstanding Achievement in Physics - *Michael Richard*; Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Science - *Kathleen Morgan*
 Contribution to SPHS Stage Crew - *Valerie Pasquarella, Nina Byard*
 Principal's Award - *Kurtia Thomas, Kristine Werner*
 Performing and Fine Arts Wall of Fame Art - *Valerie Pasquarella*; Vocal Music and Drama - *Katie Mott*
 Presidential Award for Educational Achievement - *Shakellah Amini, Peter Assad, Keenan Gaynor, Jesse Nietzer, Daniel Piwowar, Jeffrey Grubesh, Nina Byard, Peter DeAndrea, Kevin Lahey, Jonathan Donahue, Michael Duquette, Siobhan Delaney, Stefanie Miller, Rosanna Mootoo, Dawn Besser, Justin Buendia, Sara Sukenik, Amanda Prybella, Shawn Ferguson, Fabian Castebianco, Pat Cantarella, Phu Huynh, Stacey Diana, Kristina Carigma, Thomas Kiczula, Augusto Pasco, Hina Shah, Ling Jiang*
 South Plainfield High School Leadership Program - *Peter Aquino, Michael Benak, Dawn Besser, Gerry Butrico, Nicholas Cesare, Timothy Cheng, Cassie D'Urso, Peter DeAndrea, Stacey Diana, Christina Dias, Caitlin English, Kendall Green, Lauren Haus, Daryl Jackson, Marquis Jones, Peter Kelly, Jonathan Lopez, Jason Lowe, Jessica Manning, Christina Martin, William Merkler, Andrew Miller, Stefanie Miller, Kathleen Morgan, Jacqueline Muglia, Jean Pagdonsolan, Amanda Prybella, Dwight Quichua, Michael Richard, Jeremy Rhodas, Cristina Sa, Darren Smith, Michael Williams*
 South Plainfield Education Association - *Kathleen Morgan*
 South Plainfield High School Guidance Department - *Krista Malecki, Jonathan Lopez, Siobhan Delaney*
 Mary Ann Helfrich Memorial Scholarship - *Krista Malecki*
 Plainfield's Chapter of UNICO - *Jacqueline Muglia, Stefanie Miller*
 Ventures Scholars Program - *Christopher Bakazan, Rosanna Mootoo*
 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program - *Kendall Green*
 David B. Crabiel Foundation - *Kelly Thomas*
 Prodigal Foundation, Inc. - *Krista Malecki*
 Rutgers University Merit Award Recipients-Shakellah Amini, Justin Buendia, Jonathan Donahue, Kathleen Morgan, Sara Sukenik
 Middlesex County Guidance Council Caring Award - *Melissa Sticco*
 Middlesex County School Boards Association 2005 Recognition Program - *Jesse Nietzer*
 Wellesley College Club Central New Jersey Book Award Program - *Cassie D'Urso*
 ETS-NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete Award - *Kelly Thomas, Chris McKnight*
 GMC Scholar-Athlete Awards - *Pete DeAndrea, Kathleen Morgan*
 NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete Award - *Kathleen Morgan*
 South Plainfield Historical Society - *Brian Murtagh*
 Presidential Award for Educational Excellence - *Kelly Thomas, Christopher McKnight, Allison DiMeglio, Christina DiFrancesco, Jeff Eng, Linda Lee, Toni Ciccio, Michale Richard, Valerie Pasquarella, Jessica Manning, Kathleen Morgan*
 South Plainfield High School Rotary Students of the Month - *Gerry Butrico, Cassandra D'Urso, Toni Ciccio, Marquis Jones, Stacey Diana, Rosanna Mootoo, Melissa Sticco, Sara Sukenik, Michael Benak, Kevin Lahey, Kathleen Morgan, Jonathan Lopez, Christina Dias, Ashlen Udell, Stefanie Miller, Veronica Konya, Cristina Sa, Michael Williams, Jason Lowe, Ashli Roberts*
 South Plainfield High School Student of the Year - *Sara Sukenik*

PROJECT



South Plainfield's Project Graduation party was the perfect follow up to graduating high school. While they are officially graduates, the youths enjoyed one last fling as classmates. The all night party began at approximately 10 p.m. at The Club at Richocet. The evening offered a wide range of fun-filled activities for the guests, including a comedian, DJ, caricatures, make your

own music video, karaoke. There were Polaroid key chain buttons, tattoos, swimming, poker, basket ball, racquet and volley ball and more. Contests ran throughout the night. Some students were on the run most of the night trying to fit in all the fun offered. While others relaxed with friends signing year books, sharing photos or grabbing a nap curled up with a blanket and pillow.

The event was funded by the Project Graduation committee made up of parents, faculty, administration and alumni.

Graduation

Salutatorian, Amanda Prybella

(Continued from page 7)

was there through all the bumps in the road, each one has molded us into the young adults we are today. I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to thank the people that have shaped me into the person I am today. To my parents, Robert and Angela Prybella, my heroes. I love you both and thank you for 18 wonderful years of dedication. Words cannot describe how much you mean to me. My brothers and sisters, Brian, Nick, Stephanie and Cindy—thank you for the many years of laughter. You all mean so much to me. I do not know where I would be today with out you. Together as a family we are living proof that we could overcome anything together. And to my family and friends in the stands, thank you for the many years of continuous love and support.

To all the teachers that I have had the privilege of learning from throughout my school career, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. It has been an honor to be your student and I will miss you

all in the future. I would like to thank one teacher that I was lucky enough to have for two years as my chemistry teacher. Mrs. Lehman, thank you for always knowing how to bring a smile to my face and inspiring me to further my education in chemistry.

And finally, to my best friends. Jen, Kristin, Pat and Joel, the four of you could always brighten my day and I will never forget all the laughter we have shared. To Ashlen, my partner in crime, I will cherish the infinite memories we have made these past four years and I am sure they will only continue to grow with the years to come. And last but not least to Kathy, who I am lucky enough to be able to stand side by side with today. Thank you for the years of listening, laughing, smiles, and an amazing friendship. A friendship that I am sure will continue to grow as we conquer the next four years at The College of New Jersey.

The Class of 2005. As Orrin Hatch once wrote, "There is a good reason they call these ceremonies 'commencement exercises.' Graduation

is not the end; it is the beginning." Graduation is the start of many new experiences. It is the time where we will end one chapter of our life taking with us the memories we have made and remembering the people we have met. But as we end this chapter, we will be starting a new one. I would like to wish you all the best of luck in all of your future endeavors and hope that each one of you may have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, and enough hope to keep you happy. Congratulations Class of 2005!

Amanda holds a GPA of 4.5853. She was on the Honor Roll all four years and had the following honors and memberships: Bloustein Distinguished Scholar, Scholastic Honor Society, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Yearbook Staff, Student Leadership Club, Executive Board Jersey History Club, Who's Who Among American High School Students, National Honor Roll, Unsung Hero Award, Girl Scout Gold Award. She will be attending The College of New Jersey.

Valedictorian, Kathleen Morgan

(Continued from page 7)

yourself, for that is all there is of you." Through the years, I have learned that there is no sense in hiding your identity. If you truly believe in yourself, then you should show the world what you are all about.

Who are we – the SPHS Class of 2005? We are leaders, taking pride in being able to influence others in a positive way. We are followers, listening to what others have to say, taking it all in and learning from it. We are winners, achieving our goals and setting new ones to strive for every day. Occasionally we are losers, making mistakes, but picking ourselves up and learning from them as best as we can. Most importantly, we are individuals, each of us having our own unique personalities. We all have our flaws and quirks, but that is what defines us.

I think that becoming ourselves is the reason we attend school every day. Picture yourselves when you were freshmen in high school, and look at yourselves now. I can guarantee that you are no longer that goofy kid you once were. We have all matured in some way, shape, or form. We, as a class, are no longer the kids who were forced to sit in silent lunch periods in 8th grade because we could not behave ourselves. This is the real world now, and we are adults in it. We have school to thank for bringing us this far; for giving us memorable experiences that we could have found nowhere else.

Now, why are we leaving good ol' SPHS? We are leaving because we have succeeded in this part of our life. Our diplomas will be written proof that we are ready to move onto something greater, something that will teach us even more than we have learned in high school, whether it be through college or a career. We are the Class of 2005, and we have made it.

Before I say goodbye, there are some very special people in my life that I would like to thank. First and foremost, my family – Mom, Dad, and Timmy – thank you for raising me, guiding me, and putting up

with all of my antics for the past 17 years. I could certainly not be here if it were not for you. I love you so much. Thank you to all of my friends who are always there to put a smile on my face, especially my best friend and salutatorian, Amanda Prybella. Thank you to all of my teachers and faculty who have taught me so much over the past four years, and also to our athletic trainer, Mr. Reilly, for all of your assistance with my injuries. To Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Vigneri, and Mrs. Fox, thank you for always being there for me when things got tough. You guys have definitely made my senior year unforgettable, and I will always remember you. Thank you to Mrs. Timko for your influential words and your endless advice and editing of this speech. You really encouraged me to discover my inner self. Thank you to all of my coaches, especially Mr. Milone and Ms. Zurka – you guys have been amazing coaches, role models, and friends, and you have become like family to me. You have truly inspired and motivated me to make my dreams become realities. Finally, thank you to my cross country and track girls, who have made my high school running career so remarkable.

That being said, I can now say my final goodbye. Congratulations to the SPHS Class of 2005; let the memories live on. Thank you.

Kathleen Morgan graduates with a GPA of 4.7866. Her activities include: Captain of Girls' Varsity Cross Country, Winter Track, and Spring Track teams. She is the co-editor-in chief of Tiger Times, the school newspaper; Journalism Club, Peer Leadership Club, Environmental Science Club, Jersey History Club, JFK junior volunteer, St. Michaels Church Youth Group and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Her awards include National Honor Society, Bloustein Distinguished Scholar, GMC Scholar Athlete, NJSLAA Scholar Athlete, The College of New Jersey Merit Scholar Award, Spanish Honor Society Scholastic Honor Society and Rotary Student of the Month. She will be attending The College of New Jersey.

Class of 2005 Officer, Caitlin English

(Continued from page 7)

along the way, became family. What we have accomplished is bigger than any one person. We ask questions, we break rules, we raise the bar, and we go the distance. In one year we did unprecedented things -- we won two state championships in wrestling and in softball. We raised more money in the "Penny Wars" and Tiger 24 than any other year. Our junior and senior proms were extravagant and memorable events. One hundred percent of the graduating class filled out applications to college.

One thing I have learned from my fellow students is that together we do not know the meaning of failure. We only know how to succeed. But we must not forget who helped us get to where we are today. On behalf of the Senior Class of 2005, we would like to wish the best of luck to those

retiring next year— Mr. Larto, Ms. Sciccolo, Mrs. Hill, and Mrs. Flanagan Wartz. We thank you for the years you enlightened the students here at SPHS, and wish you the best of luck in the future.

We would like to thank all the teachers and the coaches in the South Plainfield school district for filling our minds with knowledge and giving us the key to succeed.

Thank you to our class advisors, Dr. Bauman and Mrs. Vigneri. Your hours of sweat and aggravation paid off. Your leadership and guidance will always be remembered.

To my family -- Courtney, Josh and Liz -- thanks for being the best older siblings a kid could ask for. Between the fighting, the biting and the hair pulling, I learned to look up to each of you for your bravery, your courage and success.

Finally, to my class: Thank you for the last four years. Thank you for the inspiration, the laughs, the hardships and the memories that will last a life time. I leave you with a personal favorite of mine -- lyrics from the Green Day song, *Time Of Your Life*: "Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road. Time grabs you by the wrist directs you where to go. So make the best of this test and don't ask why. It's not a question but a lesson learned in time. It's something unpredictable. But in the end is right. I hope you had the time of your life."

Caitlin English holds a GPA 3.8645. Her activities/awards include: 2005 Class Vice President, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Prom Committee, Facilitator's Club, Soccer Team and State Champion Group 3 Softball. She will be attending University of Connecticut.

Cassandra Lauren D'Urso, SPHS Student Council President

(Continued from page 7)

Youth Organization called LIFE TEEN describes the Pope in this way. "He rose to the occasion, dealt in black and white, and answered in authenticity and not mediocrity. He was a lion, draped in the wool of a sheep. Watching the Pope was like watching a soul drag a body behind it." Though many wept and wondered what would happen after such a courageous voice became silent, many also came to rejoice in this one life that will forever stand as a living testament that one person can still make a difference.

The importance of one life has touched us all, whether it be a coach, a teacher, a family member, or a friend. These people often come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Some of the most important people came into my life for a season. A field hockey season. At the onset of my freshman year, I joined the field hockey team. The girls on the team were strangers to me at first. However, I soon found out that those strangers were just family I had yet to come to know. The field hockey team became my family, teaching me to take risks, overcome obstacles, set goals, and deal with stress. Each day, we practiced as a team. Every game, we played like it was our last. This year finally paid off when we earned the Group III, Section II championship title. I want to wish the best of luck to the remaining field hockey players. To my coaches: thank you for not only teaching me how to master the game, but instilling in me the importance of playing with sportsmanship, dignity, and class. Thank you Ms. Flannery, for being such a motivational leader and providing us with occasional comic relief. Thank you Ms. Zurka for being an awesome friend and placing the love of the game into my heart. It was through the power of this one team that we were able to outplay, outrun, outscore and outlast every other team.

After a highly successful field hockey career, I was reminded that the hands of destiny are not always tied to the hands of fortune. Unfortunately, my destiny was not only to excel in sports and extra-curricular activities. I also had to attend class once in a while. Somewhere between the procrastination, the homework, the studying for tests, and the pretending to study for tests, I learned that my educators were the most important people to me in the world, and without them, I would not be who I am today. Along with the required lesson plans, you taught us life lessons, respect, and prepared us for things to come after high school.

For this, and much more, I thank you.

A multitude of thanks goes to the administration as well. The class of 2005 truly understands the difference one day can make. As the first graduating class to experience the tragic events that September 11 brought our freshman year, I stand here amazed at the way we came together as one class and learned not to take even one day for granted. The high school staff and administration was always there to support us through the good and the not so good. For that, we say thank you.

The largest endeavors I conquered were through student council and the student leadership group. Through student council, I was heavily involved in pep rallies, spirit week, homecoming, volleyball tournaments, and upholding the organization of student council. The other side of the coin was student leaders, where my attention was focused more on community service such as spending time with senior citizens and adopting families. I have seen our class come together in the midst of these accomplishments, and we have proved our selves to be nothing short of amazing. First to our class advisors, Mrs. Vigneri and Dr. Bauman for always approaching our ideas with an open mind and giving so much more than what was asked for. You were valuable assets to our class. Thank you. To Mr. Baker and Mr. Diehl: thank you for being wonderful student council advisors. You taught me how to weigh my success on my own scale and no one else's. Thank you for all of your guidance. To Mrs. Martko, and all of the student leader advisors: thank you for being my mentors. Your actions speak volumes about the measure of true character and the importance of dealing with adversity. I am forever indebted to you for the confidence you have given me and the leadership principles you have showed me.

Lastly, to the seniors. Thank you for being who you are. Thank you for having the kind of attitude that gives our class such a good name. It has been an honor to represent you over the past four years. We have formed friendships and shared so much together through fundraising, our junior and senior prom, and by filling the bare hallways with life and laughter. Just when it seemed like we had reached our limit, we took on the senior project and painted the math hallway last summer. I am infinitely proud of the work of our classmates. We made it our mission to make it the best hallway in our school. Mission accomplished. One summer, one hallway, one exceptional senior

class to make it all possible.

I would be remiss if I did not thank a few remaining people. First, thank you to God – my driving force, and my reason for everything. I would also like to thank all of my friends who taught me how to love. It is that love that I carry with me in my heart this very day and that love that allows me to keep a smile on my face. Most of all, thank you to my family. Your love and support for me over the years is unmatched by anyone. Thanks especially to my sister, Gina, who gave me a reason to succeed and reach beyond anything I thought possible. You are my best friend. Finally, to my partner in crime, who deserves to be up here in place of me this evening: Gerry Butrico. We are great apart, but better together when it comes to mostly everything. Thank you for helping me plan numerous events to keep the high school alive with spirit. God bless you and your future.

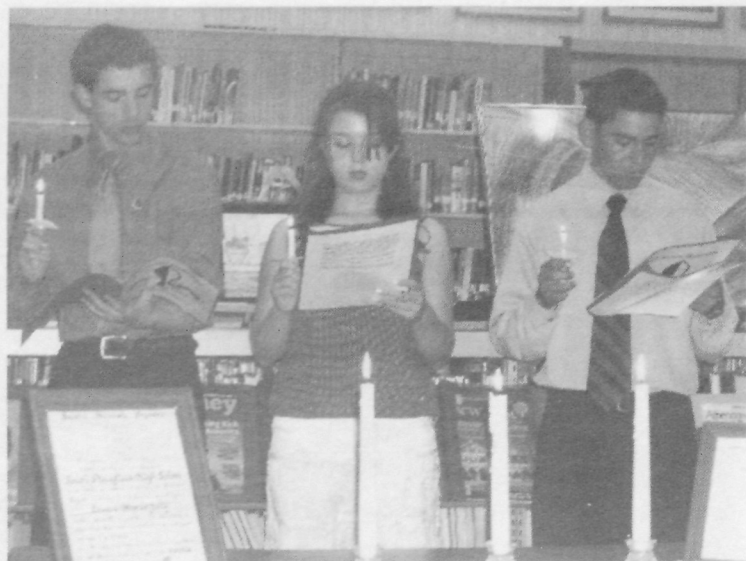
To my seniors: if you find yourselves heading in one direction and suddenly catch sight of the many other paths you could have taken, stick with the one less traveled, the narrow, the one where you cannot see around the bend, the one where you can learn the value of perseverance. As we turn this one last page of many in the book of our high school lives, may you have confidence that we will always belong to the record-breaking class of 2005: one class, one heartbeat. And now that the desks and chairs are empty, our pencils and erasers worn out, and the aerobics sessions and mile runs finally over, may we rejoice in our accomplishments and not sorrow over the ending.

Remember one thing, it only takes one person to change the world. Put your faith in the power of one, but also know that when two come together to make many, that unified group is more powerful than anything. Just like our class, it can move mountains.

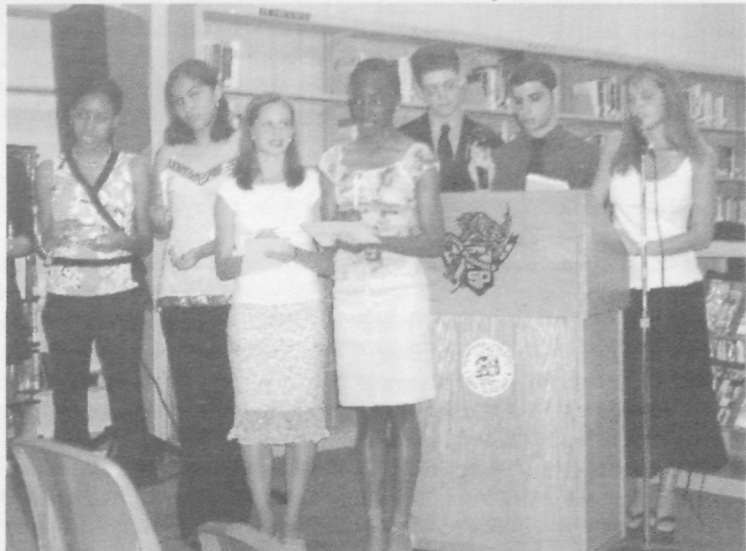
How lucky am I to have known so many people who are so hard to say goodbye to. Although time spent together is made better by time spent apart, it is with sadness, reluctance, hope, and love that I say this one final word to you all now: goodbye!

God bless you, the graduating class of 2005.

Cassandra D'Urso is Student Council President with a 3.9665 GPA. She is a four year Varsity Field Hockey player and a member of the Student Leadership Group, National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Rotary Student of the Month and many other activities. She will be attending Franciscan University, Ohio.



Members of the French National Honor Society.



New inductees of the Spanish National Honor Society are announced.

New Members Inducted into Art, Language Societies

(Continued from page 1)

has been active since 1980.

Five members inducted last year, Peter Aquino, Jusin Buendia, Johnathan Lopez, Patrick Pryor and Dwight Quichua were cited for their interest and commitment for promoting French in SPHS. Alex Nau and Gaelle Amazan spoke glowingly of absent French teacher Madame Pecola noting that this was her final year as she was retiring. They thanked her for her efforts in her final year and told her how much she meant to them.

After a brief statement by 2003 member Michael Duquette in Spanish, Stacy Diana President of La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica and Peter Assad, secretary took turns calling up the 48 new members and inducted them into the Honor Society.

The new members are: Hamed

Ahmed, Nicole Aiello, Peter Assad, Felicia Bacchus, Ashley Britton, Cristofer Burke, Eileen Cameron, John Carigma, Kristina Carigman, Jenny Cheng, Shaunique Cisson, Brian Cole, Christian Cordoba, William Daly, Amanda Deba, Joseph DeNitzio, Sandia Dundi, Kathleen Eder, Brittany Frazer, Dunia Galarza, Cassandra Hoffman, Brittany Hollis, Shivani Itwaru, Amanda Jaikaran, Kristi Lombardi, Christopher McKnight, Bryan Milicia, Jacquelyn Miller, Joshua O'Neal, Kelly Orlandini, Dipal Pael, Meshva Patel, Satyam Patel, Jalil Qayum, Karla Reyes, Ashley Rivera, Nicole Sacci, Courtney Sacco, Jessica Schwartz, Divya Sindha, Lauri Sobel, Zalak Soni, Sara Sukenik, Darshan Suthar, Stephanie Troia, Alexandra Viscosi, Krystal Williams, Megan Wilson, and Brinanie Wong.

ob.serve

(v.t.): 1. to

celebrate ceremonially // 2. to notice (something), to pay special attention to // 3. (a) to look at with attention // 4. to perceive, notice, come to know by seeing // 5. to comment, to note attentively

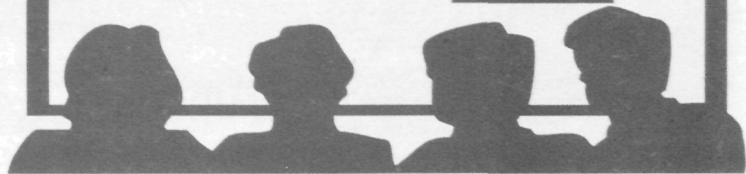
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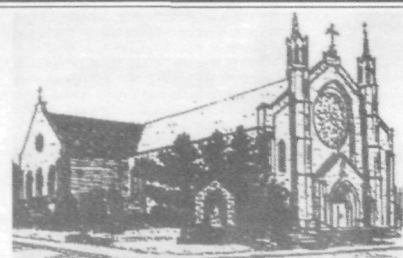
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Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

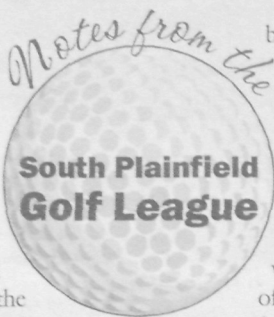
Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sports

Submitted By Bob Nilan



Plainfield Animal Hospital affirmed its claim to first place in the American Division by overwhelming last year's champions, Masters, 17-3. Mike Sikanowicz of PAH earned medalist honors for his team and tied the low round of the season for the league with a very impressive even-par 33. Sikano-wicz, who earned the Most Improved Player Award in 2004, has, amazingly, continued to improve this season. Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar fired a 38 and Keith Steele had a 39 for PAH to offset another good round of 37 turned in by Danny Griffin of Masters and Al Szumski's solid round of 39.

Jim Pornovets finally seems to have shaken off his early season problems and came through with a 39, the same score pitched by sub Rich Szakowski, to lead Pornovets to a 14-6 victory over KC's Korner. Dan Conti shot a 37, but didn't get much help from his teammates as KC's Korner slipped into fourth place.

Jay Coppolla of Twin City is a master of lighthearted banter around the first tee box, but once a match is underway, he's not only serious about his game—he's a real player as he demonstrated once again by shooting a beautiful even-par round of 33, to spark Twin City as they swept aside Patti's Construction, 17-3. Frank Capparelli's 37 was one more addition to the string of fine rounds he's registered for Twin City. Mike Behr's 36 was the low score for Patti's, who dropped their fourth match in a row and sank even deeper into last place.

In the National Division, Howard Adler showed why he is regarded as one of the top players in the league as he shot a three-over 36 to lead Witty's to a 12-8 victory over the outclassed VFW squad, despite Bob Nilan's valiant efforts for the VFW with a 38. Adler's teammate Kevin Bickunas had one of those roller-coaster rounds: he

birdied the first hole then took a triple-bogey on the second; on the 274-yard eighth hole, he drove through the green into the rough and made bogey. Stepping up to the final hole with smoke puffing out of his nostrils, Bickunas crushed a majestic drive, an awesome beauty that reached the green of the 309-yard ninth hole. But it was just not his night, he missed the eagle putt and ended his round with a 38.

Witty's moved back into a tie for first place as Aiello Chiropractic got hammered by the Hackers, 16-4. Jeremy Szoc, who is playing with tremendous confidence these days, had a 36 for the Hackers and Kevin Boyce and Bill Mann chipped in with a pair of nifty 37's. Bob Tumolo turned in an excellent two-over-par 35 in a substitute role for Aiello. Fred "Catfish" Kirchofer fired a 36 and Ed Banach had a 38 in the best-played match of the night. However, Aiello had just too many strokes to give.

Chad Hibbard's 39 earned medalist honors for Sport & Social as they squeaked by the Elks, 11-9. Jim Gash had a 38 and Chris Nuzzo had a 39 in a losing effort for the Elks.

Nuzzo seems to have a lock on the Low Net Award with the 34 he shot a couple of weeks ago when he had a nione handicap to give him a net score of 25. There are now five golfers tied for the Low Gross Award with even-par rounds of 33: Howard Adler, Ed Banach, John Cacciatore, Jay Coppolla and Mike Sikanowicz.

Jeff Johnson of Masters won the closest-to-the-pin competition on the third hole for the second week in a row, and Bob Besser stroked a beauty on the seventh hole to win the KC's Korner luncheon for two award.

Low Scores for the Night: Jay Coppolla, 33; Mike Sikanowicz, 33; Bob Tumolo, 35; Fred Kirchofer, 36; Howard Adler, 36 and Jeremy Szoc, 36.

LEAGUE STANDINGS:

| American Division | | | | National Division | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|---|---|---|
| | W | L | T | | W | L | T |
| PAH | 4 | 2 | 2 | Aiello | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Pornovets | 4 | 3 | 1 | Witty's | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Twin City | 4 | 4 | 0 | Elk's | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| KC's Korner | 3 | 4 | 1 | Sport & Social | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Masters | 3 | 5 | 0 | Hackers | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Patti's | 1 | 7 | 0 | VFW | 1 | 6 | 1 |

South Plainfield Sonics Flight Champions

The South Plainfield Sonics U12 traveling soccer team have won the Flight 4 of Mid New Jersey Youth Soccer League. Playing hard all season, the Sonics are proud of their flight winning record of 7-1-2.

The Sonics won the first of three possible playoffs games home on Friday, June 17, beating the Piscataway Sharks by a score of 3-1. The Sonics were awarded trophies from the South Plainfield Soccer Club for their accomplishment. We are all proud of their success.

The Sonics move on to play the Flight 1 Champion Parsippany Wolves in the semi finals. This is a must win for the Sonics and will be tough competition. We wish the Sonics success at your semi final game.



Standing: Asst. Coach Lanza, Jake Salerno, Shane O'Connor, Head Coach Hunt, Mike Zelasko, Will Mott, Danny Sticco and Asst. Coach Dispenziere. Middle Row: Dana Hunt, Shaun Alers, Danny Hunt, Lucas Goitiandia and Charlie Huber. Kneeling: Michael Dispenziere, Steve Lana, Kyle Junge, Jeff Gillen and Nick Ross. Missing from photo: Kevin Green.

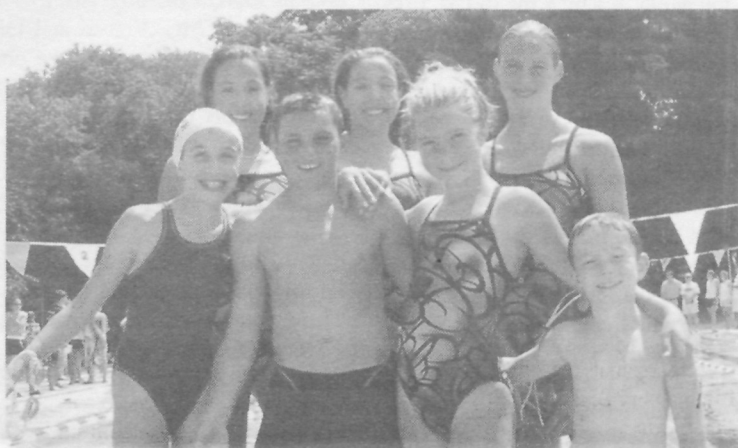
Tiger Sharks Swim Team Wins First Meet

South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Swim Team won its first meet of the summer against Cedar Hill Club of Somerset with a final score of 179-96. The Tiger Sharks took first place in 19 of the 26 individual events. The girls started the meet with the Individual Medley 10-and-under, winning all three places. Taylor Aljian—first; Kaitlyn Faustini—second and Kaitlyn Kenny—third.

In the 11-12 age group, Chelsea Cullen placed first and Sarah Konops placed third. In the boys 10-and-under 100 meter freestyle, Anthony Gurrieri placed first and Liam McDermott was second. Liam's brother Dylan McDermott placed first in the 11/12 100 meter freestyle, while CalvinJohn Smiley placed first and Chris Reed was third in the 13-18 200 meter freestyle.

The McDermott brothers took first places in the breaststroke in their age groups: Aidan McDermott, 8-and-under; Liam McDermott, 9-10 and Dylan McDermott, 11/12. Alan Kasmer also placed first in the 13/14 group. Michael Boyle-13/14 and Chris Reed-15-18, placed second in their age groups, while third place went to Enzo Butrico, 8 and under; Charlie Butrico-9-10 and Matt Moates, 15-18.

Swimming the butterfly stroke and taking first place were Kelly O'Brien, 8-and-under; Gracie Piekarski, 9/10; Chelsea Cullen; 11/12 and Katie Kaczka, 15-18. Second place went to Taylor Aljian, 9/10; Emily Piekarski, 13/14 and Nina Byard, 15-18. Finishing with third place ribbons were Madison Faustini, 8-and-under and Maggie



Valentino, 11-12.

Boy backstroke winners were: 8 and under Aidan McDermott with second place and Enzo Butrico third place. In 9/10 Anthony Gurrieri first place; Joey Valentino third place. In 11-12 Charlie Butrico second place; Mike Olano third place. In 13-14 Alan Kasmer second place and Michael Boyle third place. 15-18 CalvinJohn Smiley first place and Matt Moates third place.

The girls took eleven out of the fifteen ribbons in freestyle. Kelly O'Brien first place and Megan McDermott - third place in the 8-and-under group.

Gracie Piekarski first place, Kaitlyn Faustini - second place, Kaitlyn Kenny third place in the 9/10 group. Sarah Konops first place, Maggie Valentino second place, Kelly McLaughlin third place in the 11/12 group. Emily Piekarski placed second in the 13/14 year-

olds, while Katie Kaczka placed first and Nina Byard placed second in the 15-18 group.

In the freestyle relays the boys placed first in all age groups: 8-and-under: Enzo Butrico, Aidan McDermott, William McLaughlin and Nicholas Gurrieri; 9-12: Charlie Butrico. Liam McDermott, Dylan McDermott and Anthony Gurrieri; 13-18: CalvinJohn Smiley, Alan Kasmer, Matthew Moates and Michael Boyle.

Girls 9-12 medley relay took first place: Gracie Piekarski, Katie O'Brien, Taylor Aljian and Maggie Valentino.

The team is coached by Laurie Post, with assistant coaches Sarah Blessing, Shannon Dabrio and Mary Orlowski. The next swim meet will be away at the Willows Swim Club in Kendall Park on July 2.

Submitted by Cheryl Nagel-Smiley

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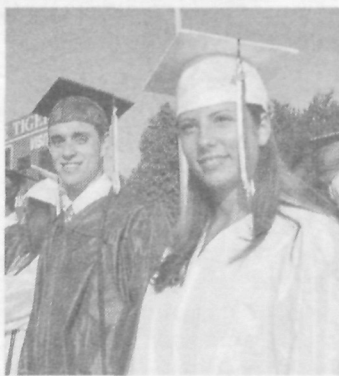
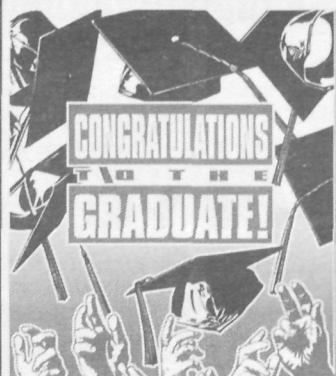
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Sports

C League Cardinals Take Crown



First row bottom (l-r): Ryan Walsh, Bryan Gillen, Mike Schroeder, Mike Olano and Nathan Persad. Middle row: Chris Burton, Sam Persad, Sean Cullen, Joey Hart, Tucker Merkler and Arshan Singh. Top coaches: John Walsh, Jim Olano and Glenn Cullen.

The C League Cardinals won an eight inning thriller by the score of 8-7 against the C League Orioles to win the League Championship. The win capped an undefeated playoff run with victories against the Orioles, Astros and Dodgers. The Cardinals rallied with three runs in the bottom of the sixth with key hits by Ryan Walsh and Tucker Merkler to send the game into extra innings.

The Orioles had built an early three run lead with key hits by Chris Graves, Bobby Eggert and LJ Scarpitto. Graves and Scarpitto also threw four strong innings for the O's. A home run by Charlie Butrico in the fifth nearly put the game out of reach. The Cardinals received a stellar extra inning pitching performance by Mike Olano, who threw two scoreless innings for the win. Sean Cullen broke the dead lock in the eighth with a single to left to drive in Arshan Singh for the winning run.



B LEAGUE CARDINALS TAKE SECOND PLACE—The B League Cardinals put in a stupendous effort battling a tough Red Sox team in a two game championship series to take second place in the league. Players are: Taylor Born, Kyle Brady, Chris Butrico, Diego Castro, Tyler Cline-dinst, Quinn Cochrane, Alex Dornick, Shenne Dugtong, Alexander Lundy, Matthew Ward, Joseph Yuill and Joseph Zipp. Coaches are Jack Brady, Wendall Born, assistant coaches Bill Butrico, Billy Cochrane and Joe Zipp.

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



With the regular season over, the Small Fry and Pony leagues held tournaments and champions were awarded in each league. In Small Fry C, the Cardinals defeated the Orioles. In Small Fry B, the Red Sox defeated the Cardinals. In Small Fry A, the Cardinals defeated the Angels. In Pony B, the Yankees defeated the Red Sox and in Pony A, the Astros defeated the Angels.

Our Summer Invitational Tournaments have started. The eight, 10, 11 and 14/15 year old age groups are under way. We are looking for a twelve and thirteen year old age coordinators. The coordinator would be in charge of 10 teams in one age group. Jack Brady is taking the eight-year-old group, Kevin Lykes the nine-year-old age group and Glenn Graves is coordinating the 10-year-old age group. Lee Flanagan is coordinating the 11 and 14/15 age categories. Flanagan will also be the site coordinator for the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken district tournaments for eight, 12 and 14-year-olds and the site coordinator for the nine-year-old State Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Tournament. Contact Lee Flanagan if you are interested in being a summer age coordinator.

Alan Maglaque, a South Plainfield resident from MAG PHOTO, is taking action photos of the SPJBC Summer Invitational Tournament while they are playing at the complex. If you would like to see some of his work go to www.maglaque.com and you can purchase photos from him.

The election of officers are now official for the 2005-07 season, the following officers were elected: Commissioner-Lee Flanagan, Assistant Commissioner of Administration-Mike Pellegrino, Assistant Commissioner of Communication- Glenn Cullen. Elected to Trustee positions for the 2005-2006 seasons were Wendell Born, Bill Butrico, and Tom Walsh. The Commissioner appointed Jim Olano days after the election process to the other Trustee position. We are still seeking a treasurer for the 2005-2007 seasons. If interested contact Lee Flanagan.

We have tickets on sale for a new Mercedes Benz. First Class Travel is sponsoring the second prize which is a trip for \$2,000 to any place you would like to travel to. Tickets are available from Nancy Salici or any Executive Board member or you can call the SPJBC.

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| ROSEMOUNT Chardonnay 7.99 750 ml | BERINGER FOUNDER'S ESTATE Chardonnay 7.99 750 ml | RANCHO ZABACO DANCING BULL Zinfandel 7.99 750 ml | SMOKING LOON Chardonnay 7.99 750 ml |
| This Chardonnay is broad and tangy. It is also lively with lime, pineapple and gently smoky flavors that linger impressively. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on May 15, 2005. | This wine is appealing for its supple and easygoing flavors and tasty sweet pear and spicy tropical fruit. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on June 15, 2004. | This Zinfandel is a very good value that starts with a touch of matchstick, but folds into toasty oak, black cherry, tart, tangy structure and dried berry notes that carry through the finish. | This Chardonnay is smooth and round, with balanced butter, citrus, apple, spice and sweet cream flavors that linger nicely on the finish. - Rated by the Wine Spectator as a Best Value. |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
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| SANTA RITA RISERVA Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay 8.99 750 ml | ECCO DOMANI Pinot Grigio, Chianti 7.99 750 ml | REAL Sangria 9.99 1.5 liter | SMOKING LOON All Types 7.99 750 ml | BERINGER FOUNDER'S Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay 7.99 750 ml |
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| KORBEL Brut, Extra Dry 10.99 750 ml | MOET & CHANDON White Star Extra Dry 28.99 750 ml | SUTTER HOME Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Grigio 4.99 750 ml | RODNEY STRONG Cabernet, Merlot 12.99 750 ml | RODNEY STRONG Chardonnay 9.99 750 ml |

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Holocaust Survivor Describes Years in Auschwitz

(Continued from page 3)

doesn't believe that just changing her age accounts for her survival. "Did I survive because she changed my age? No. I survived because of God, who had a mission for me to experience hell, to know what hell is like so we will do something about it," she said.

After registering, Margit had her hair shaved off, she was put in a room where everyone was completely naked then given prison uniforms made from potato sacks and a pair of wooden shoes.

She was soon shipped to Kracow in a cattle car to dig up and move stones. Nearby was a prison with political prisoners where she also cleaned up the blood after prisoners were executed.

Margit's day started with a piece of hard bread. "You would line up and an officer would count to 10 and shoot the tenth person. A truck came and we put those bodies on the truck with many still alive. They were dumped and covered with dirt," she said. Margit was shipped back to Auschwitz where she received her tattoo, A23029. It still has it on her arm and she will never remove it.

In Auschwitz, the chimney was going all day. "Burning human flesh has an odor I can't describe. It burns your eyes, burns your nose and burns your throat. It's very hard to breathe," she said.

Margit didn't stay at Auschwitz long. She was put on another cattle car and shipped to an ammunition factory to make bullets for the Germans. They were as-

signed a certain number to make each day, got a beating if there was an imperfection and couldn't leave their bench unless the amount was completed. The job provided "somewhat better" food and each worker had a cot to sleep on instead of the shelf like planks in the barracks.

The war was ending and Margit was marched to Bergen-Belsen. "The Germans didn't want any prisoners to be found alive so we were put on a death march in the middle of winter. We marched in the snow on foot, with no food, only the snow that you could put it in your mouth. At Bergen-Belsen everyone was covered with lice. We saw corpses piled up high and people were dying from diphtheria. My aunt died two or three days before the liberation."

"We were liberated by American soldiers commanded by Brigadier General H.L. Glyn Hughes at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon April 15, 1945. I was 15 years old, free but I was delirious. I remember being taken out of the barracks and being sprayed. I joined some girls who had made a fire and were cooking some vegetables, when there was a tremendous explosion. The Germans had mined the camp. I was sitting not too far from the explosion and got covered with shrapnel on my left side. I ended up in an Army hospital, half dead.

"I wanted this to be a nightmare and my mother and father would come and take me out. Instead it was Princess Bernadette from Sweden who came with nurses who took me to Sweden. It took a

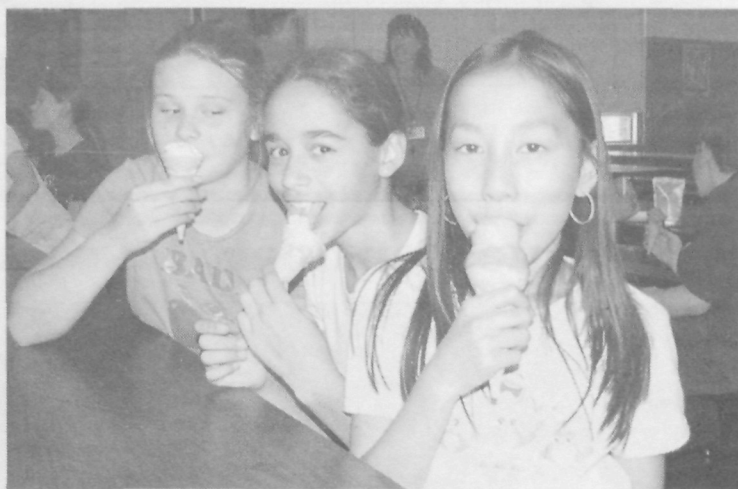
year to really gain back my sanity."

When Margit recovered, she knew she would not return to Hungary. Social workers found that 68 in her family were killed and one uncle survived, but relatives lived in America, three of her mother's brothers and two of her father's sisters. Social workers placed an article about Margit in an American Hungarian Newspaper and an uncle sent a telegram to Sweden for more identification.

"On April 19, 1946 I arrived in the United States and had the most wonderful welcome. I didn't go through Ellis Island. They had a tug boat pull up alongside the big ship I was on and were allowed aboard. I was summoned to the captain's office. My aunt looked just like my father and I saw my mother's face in my uncles," said Margit.

Margit lived with her aunt in the Bronx, went to night school and got a job. In 1946, she was found to have TB and was hospitalized. There she met Harvey Feldman, who had also contracted TB while in the National Guard. He became her husband in 1953. They are the parents of a son and daughter and have three grandchildren.

"My story is what happens when no one cares. Your generation must not be afraid to say no to racism, to say no to discrimination of any form. You must be willing to recognize what is wrong and say that it is wrong. You must understand that an attack against one person is an attack against all," explained Feldman.



Grant Students Enjoy Pizza and Ice Cream

Grant School students started off their Memorial weekend with a double treat with pizza and ice cream. The school parent voter cards were accidentally thrown away leaving the youths out of the running for a pizza party. When Roma Foods of South Plainfield learned of the error they graciously provided their own pizza party. While pizza was being distributed at one end of the school ice cream was being dished out at the other. The dessert was the school's reward for having the most participants at the Tiger 24 event.

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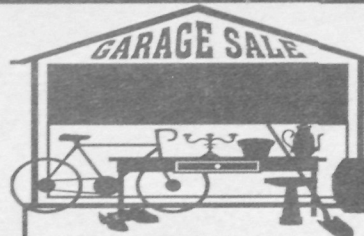


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Owner Jan George, with husband Gary and son Zachary enjoy brisk sales on the opening day of their new sports store.

Sports Memorabilia Store Opens

By Jane Dornick

Red's Sports Heaven, located at 176 Front St., celebrated its grand opening on Saturday, June 18 with free limited edition Yankee team wrist bands to the first 100 kids.

Aside from carrying Upper Deck and Topps baseball and football cards, even individual autographed ones, they also have autographed footballs and jerseys and other assorted items.

They also have a large selection of McFarlane's Sport Picks action figures. And for the Yu-Gi-Oh fans, packs of cards.

South Plainfield resident and owner Jan George says new items will be coming in often, so check back.

The store is open Tues. through Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call (908) 338-7369 or on the web at info@redssportsheaven.com.

Savage to Retire After 26 Years

(Continued from page 1)

sion. Phyllis explained, "RARE SPEECH became more of an idea and actions rather than the name of a group as the years progressed. We held our cultural and humanitarian events under the name of RARE SPEECH and the Human Relations Commission. It eventually became known as the Human Relations Commission, which was the first in a middle school in Middlesex County." Their biggest undertaking was an evening event that included 500 students. She noted, "I was so proud that so many students could monitor themselves and not have ONE disagreement." Some of the activities over the years include: Black History Month, Student Prejudice/Violence Reduction Workshop, Hispanic Heritage Month, Peer to Peer training workshop, Avon Breast Cancer Awareness Crusade, Grandparents Rights, German-American Day, Vietnamese Heritage Day, Irish Americans, Brotherhood Day and much, much more. Amazingly RARE SPEECH operated without a budget for three years until Union Carbide Corporation gave them a \$3,000 grant. The group received the Pride Award and the Aaron Flanzbaum Award for Cultural Diversity.

Middle School parent GERALYN Nuber said, "Phyllis Savage's concern for interpersonal relationships has always been of the utmost importance. Difficult situations in school were truly challenges to meet and work through, rather than confrontational clashes. She has a keen sense of the value of each person with whom she comes in contact, and treats each individual with respect."

Phyllis is certified in Elementary Education, supervision, K-12 and prin-

icipal K-12. She received her BA in Elementary Education from Paterson State College and her MA in Educational Administration and Supervision from Seton Hall University. She has completed a wide variety of additional courses as well including leadership/administration, technology as related to learning theories and motivation, Japanese Culture, algebra, instruction in teaching the disciplines, personality traits, learning styles, Madeline Hunter instructional technology and Spanish, Japanese and sign language at Rutgers University, New Jersey City University, Seattle Pacific University, Middlesex County College, in-service and the South Plainfield Adult High School respectively.

In November of 2000 one of her many courses of study, Japanese, paid off in a big way. She was awarded a Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar to Japan. The two week trip began November 14 and concluded December 1. Two hundred United States teachers and administrators participated. The government of Japan established the Fulbright Memorial Fund to show their appreciation of the Fulbright Scholarship Program, an exchange

program for Japanese college students and teachers.

Debbie Boyle, an active Middle School parent said, "Mrs. Savage could always be found perusing the hallways at the middle school, always with a smile on her face ready to help the children she loved being around. She had a great knowledge of education and is a kind and gentle leader, which opened the door for all the children to feel comfortable in approaching her for her guidance."

"Phyllis Savage always had a positive word and encouraged our organization in our many endeavors," said Debra Bishop, president, South Plainfield Middle School PTA.

Phyllis Savage's parting words: "My focus has always been the children and how I could assist them in reaching the goals of the district. Focusing only on this is not an easy task. However, it makes my days' work profitable for the children and rewarding for me. I also find that when I leave work each day, I usually have mental and physical energies left to invest in my personal life and to make my rising at 4:30 a.m. the next morning a positive one."

Downpour Curtails Graduation

(Continued from page 1)

the students at the High School. I am very proud that I have been part of the administrative team that developed the program to its current level.

Since 1987, when I joined the SPSHS Administrative Team, the program has been held inside only one time. Help from the Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Zushma has aided in the determination of the ceremony site. Each year hours are spent tracking weather patterns to make the final determination for the graduation site. Last year was a case in point where the weather pattern broke just minutes after the ceremony completed. Each year at the annual graduation practices, the seniors unanimously choose to have the ceremony outside. Obviously, the capacity at Jost Field far outweighs the seating capacity of the gymnasium and the auditorium. With large families and many relatives, the indoor ceremony does not meet the needs of all our students' families. The opportunities to postpone the ceremony to an alternate date do not meet the needs of travelers or work schedules or even the unpredictable weather.

The Class of 2005 is one of the most talented groups of young people to be heralded from SPSHS. The abbreviated

program was not only a disappointment to me but also to every other parent and relative in attendance. The accomplishments of this class were more impressive than the last. The Class of 2005 has set the standards for achievement in the arts, athletics, academics and activities that all classes must now reach. The students demonstrated their resilience to the adverse conditions and made the best of an undesirable situation. Plans are being discussed to offer our key note student speakers an opportunity to present their speeches to the school community and the South Plainfield Board of Education."

The students who were scheduled to speak had other opinions on the graduation. Kathleen Morgan wrote a letter to the editor which can be read on page 2.

Cassie D'Urso summed it up by saying, "It was a shame that the weather and the decisions that were made by the administration kept my class from being honored properly. While it will be remembered for years to come, that doesn't change the reality that many deserving graduates, band and chorus members and speakers are upset. I share that sadness and I hope that this never happens again in the future."

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE, that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with R.S. 39:10A-1, at public auction on July 8, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ, the below described motor vehicles which came into possession of the South Plainfield Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

The motor vehicles may be examined by contacting Traffic Safety.

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| 1990 | DODGE | 2B5WB3524LK706414 | Resale Ram Van \$3200 |
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\$52.50

July 1, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC NOTICE
RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

TO SOUTH CLINTON PARTNERSHIP AND DAVID H. JAFFE AND MARGARET JAFFE for public improvements at 4475 South Clinton Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, Lot 7, Block 476.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by South Clinton Partnership and David Jaffe and Margaret Jaffe for public improvements at 4475 South Clinton Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, known as Lot 7, Block 476 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on July 12, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, 07080.

South Client Partnership
David H. Jaffe
Margaret Jaffe

By: Barnett H. Epstein, Attorney
Epstein, Fitzsimmons, Brown, Gioia, Jacobs & Sprouls
245 Green Village Road
Chatham, New Jersey 07928

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July 1, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC NOTICE

June 23, 2005 - Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on June 23, 2005.

A. Case #91-03 - St. Stephen the Protomartyr Church, Block 177; Lot 13; 609 Lane Ave. The applicant's request for a (180) day extension of the previously granted use variance & amended site plan approval was hereby GRANTED w/ conditions as set forth in the Board's prior resolution.

B. Case #38-05 - James & Velma Keith, Block 499; Lot 4; 21 Universal Ave. The applicant's request to erect a (2) story addition was hereby GRANTED subject to voluntary condition.

C. Case #39-05 - Kathleen & Doug DeLisa, Block 338; Lot 1; 601 Hamilton Blvd. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to erect an above ground pool was hereby GRANTED subject to voluntary conditions.

D. Case #40-05 - Debra Horne, Block 128; Lot 19; 1903 South Central Avenue. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to erect a (1) story addition was hereby GRANTED.

E. Case #41-05 - Michael & Lynn Patzwa, Block 122; Lot 40; 111 Madison Drive. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to erect a covered porch to the front of their existing home was hereby GRANTED subject to voluntary conditions.

F. Case #42-05 - All Granite & Marble Corp, Block 528; Lot 46.03; 5001 Hadley Road. The applicant's request for a use variance & a variance for a 2" ground sign; together w/ a waiver of site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to voluntary conditions.

G. Case #43-05 - Theresa Tempe, Block 196; Lot 11; 129 Lee Place. The applicant's request for a lot coverage variance in order to erect a deck was hereby GRANTED subject to (1) voluntary condition.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

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July 1, 2005

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