

Discrimination, Pure And Simple

When the congressional tax reform bill was being sold to the nation, it contained permitted deductions for interest on second homes and on boats large enough to sustain living space. There is now an effort underway in congress that would continue the deduction for second homes, vacation condos, mobile homes and recreational vehicles, but would eliminate a deduction for interest on boats.

That discriminatory bit of convoluted thinking has been advanced by Senator John Danforth (R-Mo.). Danforth launched his effort during a recent hearing of the Senate Finance Committee on a "Technical Corrections" bill to modify the Tax Reform Act of 1986. He argued that it was unfair to allow "wealthy boat owners" to treat their yachts as a second residence, and thus the interest deduction should be eliminated.

We don't know where Danforth got his information from, but if he checked his facts he would find that the majority of the boats eligible for the deduction are those under 30-feet in length. They are owned by the highest tax paying group in the nation, the middle class. These boats have a couple of bunks, a portable stove, and a port-a-pottie. They are no more palatial than are the recreational vehicles that would still qualify for an interest deduction. And certainly far less so than the second homes in Florida or on the East End, which would also be eligible for interest deductions. Why then should boat owners be entitled to less than the RV or second home owners?

Boat owners already add to the government treasury through a 10 per cent surtax when they purchase their boats, equipment and fishing

tackle. In addition, they are being threatened again by a congressional move to impose a boat user fee. This fee allegedly would be used to pay for the services rendered by the Coast Guard. We support the concept of user fees, but there should be a service rendered before the fee is imposed.

Boaters at one time could call the Coast Guard for assistance if they experienced a problem, and the Coast Guard would respond. Now, the Coast Guard won't respond unless there is an immediate danger to the occupants of the vessel. The boat owner must arrange for a private towing firm, or a friendly boater, to provide the tow to a safe harbor. Sometimes that can take hours, and in the interim the seas can whip up. What starts out as a situation that does not pose an immediate threat to the occupants of the boat with a problem can change swiftly.

It's not that boaters do not pay their fair share. Boaters pay in excess of \$300 million in transportation taxes on gasoline, taxes that boaters were promised would be used for marine related needs, but now go into the general fund of the treasury. Just as the monies we pay for taxes on the fuel we burn in our cars and trucks, which is used for roads and bridges, the boat fuel taxes were supposed to be used to maintain the navigable waterways, our inlets, buoy systems and ancillary Coast Guard services.

The Washington mentality that now threatens boaters with the loss of an interest deduction on their vessels is out of step with reality and common sense. To treat boaters differently than the owners of second homes and recreational vehicles is

absurd.

Thus far only Senator John Chafee (R-R.I.) has stood up for boaters and challenged Danforth's vision of boaters as being nothing but wealthy fat cats. We would suggest that all our readers involved in any facet of boating write to Senator Chafee, and our own senators, supporting his

stand. When writing, address your letters to Senator John Chafee, U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510, with copies to Senator D'Amato and Senator Moynihan. Also send copies to your congressman to the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C., 20515.

And why not?

Manipulating The Dollar

During Reagan's first term in office, the economy stabilized. Inflation fell below six percent from its previous rate of close to 18 percent. The dollar was strong worldwide, the strongest it had been in decades. The cost of oil plummeted and the price of consumer goods held steady. Americans could travel abroad at bargain rates. Imports were bargain priced.

During the second term of the Reagan administration, some administration officials became concerned that we were exporting more dollars than products, that we were in a negative balance of trade position.

There were two schools of thought on how to correct the situation. The first was that Americans needed to increase productivity and quality. Foreign countries were no longer buying American products in the quantity they once did because we were over-priced, and the quality and the technology that we produced was not as superior as to what could be obtained overseas. The price of American goods was artificially high because productivity was artificially low here in the United States.

On the other hand, countries such as Korea, Japan and Germany were exporting quality built products to the United States. The prices were highly competitive, often times substantially under those asked for sub-quality American products. The most dynamic examples of this were foreign versus American cars. Consumers who had a choice were abandoning American models in droves in preference for the foreign competitors. Price was often a big factor, but more important to many consumers was the track record the cars had earned here in the United States. The repair ratio on foreign automobiles was substantially lower than on American built models. Economy of operation on foreign-built automobiles substantially surpassed their American counterparts. It was plain that Americans had to be more competitive price-wise and build a better mouse trap.

The other theory that prevailed, and eventually won out, was that the dollar was over-inflated in relation to foreign currency, in other words, the American dollar was too strong. The administration, in conspiracy with foreign money managers, de-

liberately manipulated the value of the dollar, reducing its purchasing power overseas. They set a spiral into place that has reduced the value of the dollar overseas by 40 to 50 percent.

"What does this have to do with me?" you may ask, "I don't understand international money markets and could care less." It has a lot to do with you and your buying power. We are now beginning to feel very seriously the effects of the administration's ill-fated plan right here where we shop. The cost of most goods, both foreign and domestic, have gone up substantially. Inflation is again beginning to rise alarmingly. We are not only seeing the effects in tangible items such as automobiles, appliances and clothing, but we are seeing it in commodities such as oil and paper. All these artificially increased costs will be reflected in what we are charged as consumers. Unless the dollar regains its strength overseas, we fear we will see double digit inflation once again, hurting the American consumer.

The theory behind weakening the dollar overseas was that if the dollar was cheap, imports would be expensive and Americans would buy American-made. Unfortunately, the American consumer does not react to theories. The American consumer is still buying foreign because they have faith in their technology and in their quality control. They are paying more in American dollars than they should. American products still are not bargain priced to encourage consumers here to "Buy American." Our manufacturers have raised domestic prices to foreign levels.

One must remember that the sole beneficiary from inflation is the government that sets the policy. The more it costs to survive, the more taxes the government garners. The more the economy is inflated, more people are pushed into higher tax brackets and the government not only takes more money from the earning public, but a higher percentage of what they earn.

We urge you to write to your Congressman, your Senators and the President and ask them to stop interfering with the value of the dollar overseas, let it float to its own real level as the market perceives its worth.

And why not?

SUFFOLK LIFE

Vol. 26 No. 34

NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located at Willmott Plaza, 1461 Old Country Rd.
(Rte. 58), Riverhead 369-0800 Classified Ads 369-0820
Mail Address P.O. Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-0102

Suffolk Life is published in 22 market zone editions every Wednesday

Three Village/Port Jeff, Brentwood/Central Islip, Ronkonkoma/Holbrook, Hauppauge/Northeast, Bay Shore/West Islip, Smithtown/St. James, Commack/Kings Park, Mastic/Moriches, Sayville/Oakdale, Coram/Selden, Hampton West, Hampton East, Mid Hampton, Rocky Point, North Fork, Centereach, Patchogue, Riverhead, East Islip, Medford



Total Circulation audited and verified in excess of 333,000 Circulation Weekly

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Easter, 1987: Set Me Free

Christians will celebrate the most joyous of their holidays this week. Holy Week is observed in recognition of God sending us His only Son to free our souls through His death and resurrection, so that the gates of Heaven would be opened to those who believe and observe.

When we are in our hour of grief, disillusionment, sorrow or pain, we should look back to those who lived before Christ. Men, women and children who faced death with the belief that their souls would wander aimlessly, never reaching Heaven, God the Messiah had not come. Imagine the pain of this to tortured minds knowing that they had no Heaven to look forward to upon death?

The few short years that Jesus spent on this earth, His life, His teachings and His examples have given us the ability to deal with pain, sorrow and suffering, happiness, joy and exhilaration. He taught us that life is filled with conflicts. For friends to be true, they must be full-weather friends, for there are those who are fair and those that are foul, but true friends are there in good and bad times. God Himself is a

full-weathered friend. He gave us His only Son in the body and spirit of man. He did this knowing full well that His Son would be born in a manger, His mother rejected from the inn. His Son would be brought up in poverty, to learn a trade, to work with his hands. That it would not be until He had personally experienced all the indignities and joys of life that He would become the teacher. His word would be questioned. His deeds would be looked upon with suspicion. He would be falsely accused, tortured, beaten, both in mind and spirit, and finally, crucified as his mother and friends stood by helplessly.

He would be resurrected and His resurrection would open the passage to Heaven where all who believed and who followed his teachings, while living their life to its fullest, would be joined with God. By Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we have been set free.

This Easter, we wish all the joys of this happy season and the eternal life that springs forth which is so vividly demonstrated during these Spring months.

And why not?

local municipality. If the authority deems it is in the public's interest to place a dump and incinerator, or an ash disposal site, in the middle of any or all municipalities, it can do so, for it is working with powers of eminent domain. An authority, once created, can be above the law, even the laws of right, reason and common sense. We fear authorities because there is no direct public approval, acceptance or rejection. It may be easier for government officials to solve the garbage problems through the formation of an authority, but this solution may be very painful to the people and the

community that becomes designated as a reception site for the county's garbage, its disposal and the ash that might be generated by incineration.

We think LoGrande's proposal needs extremely careful study. It is not something that should be rushed into without the safeguards of home rule veto. It is good to see LoGrande facing the problems of today and tomorrow rather than sticking his head in the sand as so many politicians have done in the past. But let's make sure the solution doesn't come back to haunt us!

And why not?

Bad Bet

Officials from O.T.B. argued last week against Suffolk Meadows being allowed to offer a mixed card of thoroughbred racing and quarterhorse racing at the track in Yaphank.

Officials said they believed that if the track was allowed to offer thoroughbred racing in addition to quarterhorse racing, the handle and participation of off-track betting parlors would decrease. We disagree 100% and believe these officials are barking up the wrong tree.

Thoroughbred racing would be a boom to the track and to the East End resort area. It would open up another avenue of entertainment and recreation. It would encourage and promote interest in horse racing and the betting that is a part of it. O.T.B. would benefit from this new interest, not lose, as the political doomsayers are predicting.

Just look at last week's Leonard/Hagler boxing match. People who would never go to a fight paid \$35 to \$50 to see the fight on closed circuit television. Millions of people were interested in the fight, people who never would have been interested unless it was promoted and made selective, but available.

Once people who normally are not betters go to the track and they become interested in the sport, they will bet both on and off the track. O.T.B. officials would be much better off spending their time cleaning

up their own house before trying to stifle competition. O.T.B. is a political dumping ground for both Republicans and Democrats. The officials who operate O.T.B. have run up administrative costs so high that they are eating up much of the profits that should be going to help reduce taxes.

Currently, the operation of O.T.B. is being looked into by several different groups. What has been uncovered thus far is appalling, and most scandalous. Suffolk Meadows is a struggling, privately-owned business that the politicians already have ruined once. We must not let them do it again.

The Legislature should do everything in its power to aid this track in opening and becoming profitable. They should, at the same time, repeat their demand that the Suffolk County Controller thoroughly audit the whole O.T.B. operation and if he refuses to do so for political reasons, develop a blue ribbon legislative panel, complete with subpoena powers to do so on their own.

O.T.B. should be immensely profitable, an asset to Suffolk County. It is barely breaking even because of the waste and the political patronage that is rampant. The residents of Suffolk County are not getting the returns they should. The Legislature should clean up this cesspool once and for all.

And Why Not?

LoGrande's Garbage Authority

LoGrande's Garbage Authority

County Executive Michael LoGrande has taken the bull by the horns and proposed a Suffolk County Garbage Authority, one agency to handle and dispose of all garbage and related problems.

Garbage is an immense problem plaguing every town. The edicts from the D.E.C. and the state Legislature's mandate to close all landfills by 1990 has many towns paralyzed because the cost of compliance is bankrupting in scope. A regional

authority to deal with the garbage problem is an appealing idea on the surface, for it shifts the responsibility from local towns to the county, but does not shift the cost from the taxpayers to someone else. It is just a matter of which pocket the taxpayers' money will be taken out of. It's illusionary at best.

Residents should look at this proposal with a jaundiced eye, however, for an authority has the power to circumvent and override any area's concerns, or even those of a

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Vol. 26 No. 35

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A Memo To Governor Cuomo

Count on us. We are 100% behind your efforts to form an independent commission and to fund it properly so that it can fully look into official corruption in the State of New York.

You have publicly said that if the Legislature will not approve the \$5 million that you are requesting, you will seek donations to fund the commission. We believe you are on the right track. The more the legislators waffle on this and try to protect themselves, the better we feel about

what you are doing.

You can count on Suffolk Life Newspapers and, I am sure, many of our readers, to contribute financially to this commission. We are tired of corruption in government. We want it cleaned up. We want to be proud of our state. We want to know that every dollar we pay in taxes is used wisely and not misused by bad and corrupt politicians.

And why not?

Power or Cash Shortage?

LILCO and their mouthpiece, Newsday, have been issuing almost daily predictions of gloom and doom for Long Island this summer. They have gone beyond suggesting, they are stating emphatically there will be a power shortage. They say LILCO cannot keep up with the demand without Shoreham going on

The Governor of the State of New York says, "hogwash." The State Energy Agency, whose projections of available power and usage, have historically turned out to be the closest to correct says "hogwash," and the residents of Long Island should say, "hogwash" too.

There may be brown outs, maybe even a black out. They will not be caused because Shoreham is not on line. They will be caused by the benign neglect of the management of LILCO to do what has been needed to be done to bring and keep this current system up to par and improved. Instead of taking care of what it has at 100%, LILCO's management has thrown its total energy into opening Shoreham. LILCO's own president stated before the State Commission 34 years ago that Shoreham was a mistake in the beginning. It is a mistake now, and we would never do it over again.

We must suggest that Shoreham's panic and Newsday's support has little to do with power shortages, but a lot to do with cash shortages of the corporation. The management of LILCO knows they cannot charge the ratepayers for the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant unless it goes into operation. They only have to throw the switch and bring the plant beyond low power testing, producing reasonable amounts of electricity needed by the public and the used and useful argument become mute. The plant will have been used and its product useful. The second this happens, LILCO can work into the rate base,

the rates we pay as consumers, 100% of the cost of this plant. Long Island consumers will face a doubling of the electrical costs by the snap of a switch.

At this point, the management of LILCO couldn't give a good damn if the plant ever operates again. The corporation and the stockholders will have won, the consumers of Long Island will have lost and will be saddled with paying for LILCO's mistakes over the next two decades. Not only will we be saddled with the cost of paying for the construction of the plant, we will be saddled with the decommissioning of the plant.

The experts do not know the cost of decommissioning a radioactively hot plant but have estimated that it will be at least the cost of construction. This will drive the final bill for the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant to over \$10 billion. Current rate projections based on the costs of building the plant warn of rates double those we now pay. The decommissioning costs can redouble them again.

Few businesses are going to be able to afford the utility costs if this happens here on Long Island. Those that can move their operations will move, those that can't will have to fold. Homeowners who are already stretched to the limit through mortgages and home equity loans, real estate taxes and other high costs of living on Long Island will not be able to afford escalated energy costs. Like the corporations, they will be forced to move, to give up the homes they love.

There are a number of areas LILCO has not addressed for meeting its energy requirements this coming summer. The Governor has said he is willing to put his office behind making sure that available power becomes a necessity for Long Island, if needed. Has the company asked for his cooperation? Has LILCO offered a recommendation to

businesses and homeowners with a schedule for hours to cut back on their energy requirements? The answer is no. Does LILCO have its entire system running at perfection? Again, the answer is no. Its benign neglect and imprudent management has caused a deterioration in the system over the past 10 years.

The memories of Gloria are still vivid. The comments by out-of-town utility crews that the Long Island Lighting Company's wiring system was the worst Mickey Mouse operation they had ever seen stays in our memories.

Just a few weeks ago, LILCO management's neglect of the system created a situation where three out of the four operating systems at Northport went down, or had to be taken down simultaneously. There are those of us who are so cynical about LILCO's management and the lengths that they will go to open Shoreham, that we question whether they are not deliberately setting up a scenario that will lead to brown outs and black outs creating a crisis situation of hysteria, whereby the public will put aside their safety concerns and demand that Shoreham be opened.

Putting Shoreham on line at this point in a safe reasonable manner is not a simple procedure that will

automatically allow the radioactive rods to become activated by the flip of a switch. Normally, it takes a responsible power company six to eight months after a system has received its final approval to be brought up to full power. During these periods there will be a number of shut downs for fine tuning and repair of defective systems. When the plant is operated at full steam, if it is as good as the best in the nation, it will only produce electricity at 55% of maximum capacity during the year. If it is as bad as the worst of them, you won't see 30% production out of the system during the first year of operation. So what's the big deal or hurry for LILCO to receive approval today? Even if granted, it's doubtful LILCO could produce sufficient quantities of electricity to merit its needs by summer.

In the panic move by LILCO to start the cash flowing, they are asking the N.R.C. to disregard all their current rules and establish a new precedent to bail them out. This is idiotic and illogical. The N.R.C. cannot be allowed to give their approval. It should recognize LILCO's request as little more than a scam to put Shoreham on line, and reject LILCO's proposal without further delay.

And why not?

Why Not Elect Suffolk County Water Authority Officials?

The Suffolk County Water Authority, along with Off-track Betting, has been a dumping ground for politicians from both parties. Between the two, they are the biggest patronage dispensing areas in the county. It is one of the few places where secretaries and clerks with nothing more than a high school education can earn executive salaries and benefits most corporations do not offer their senior management people.

The Suffolk County Water Authority board is comprised of hold-overs that no one has had the courage to remove. They are appointed to, and serve at, the leisure of the Legislature. Some of the hold-overs have not been re-appointed for years. There has been activity within the Suffolk County Legislature to replace the members, and all hell has broken loose. Legislators have picked their own fair-haired boys and girls to replace yesterday's political hacks. The members of the board of the water authority receive \$6,000 per year, plus cars, secretarial help and other niceties that few part-time people dream of receiving. In addition, they receive a whole host of benefits, including lucrative retirements for years of serving at the public trough. To us, it makes no difference whether the com-

missioners are yesterday's hand-picked favorites or today's. In most cases they are not chosen to serve on the board because of credentials. They were picked to serve because of past political donations, connections and services.

We know now, with the creation of the Long Island Power Authority, that authority board members can be elected by the people they serve. We suggest that the Suffolk County Legislature amend the appointment process calling for the directors to be elected at large by the consumers. The election should take place in the spring, and the terms of office should be limited. A member, under no circumstances, should succeed himself without a hiatus of at least one term in office. The candidates for the office should run at large, without political affiliation.

If we put true democracy to work at the Suffolk County Water Authority, we might wind up with qualified experts running the authority rather than the political leaders who are primarily interested in their own financial gain. Water is too precious to allow it to remain in the control of political motives. It's time for a change.

And why not?

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Cont. from page 3

Garbage And Bureaucracy

"The effectiveness, responsiveness and accountability of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)" will come under scrutiny at a public hearing to be held from 3 to 7 p.m., April 30, at the County Center Legislative Auditorium in Riverhead.

Ironically, the public hearing, sponsored by Assemblyman John L. Behan and Assemblyman Joseph Sawicki Jr., has been scheduled at a time when one of the DEC's momentous decisions is floating around at sea, looking for some place to land. A barge loaded with Islip Town garbage has been chased from port to port by southern officials who refuse to allow their areas to become the dumping grounds for Long Island trash.

The problem of the barge with no where to go originated with the DEC. In refusing Islip's request to enlarge an existing landfill facility until a recycling plant under construction is finished, the DEC has forced municipalities to truck their garbage off the island. The problem, however, is that no one else really wants it. Upstate locations have now turned thumbs down on accepting truckloads of Long Island's garbage and the entire garbage disposal crisis is mounting.

The notice for the public hearing suggests possible topics of comment: The DEC's involvement in banning the taking of striped bass; testing of shellfishing waters, Peconic River moratorium, restrictions on the farm community, and coastal zone erosion management.

Two other recommendations, the DEC's handling of the solid waste problem on Long Island and the landfill law, should target, not only on the DEC, but the state legislature as well. The 1990 landfill law which bans the use of local landfills is a product of state legislators who gave the DEC the enforcement powers now

being abused. Local municipalities are hardpressed to plan, fund and construct recycling and incineration facilities, and are being denied permission to expand landfills until such facilities are on line. The DEC has become the great enforcer. It has hurled bureaucratic edicts, "truck it off the island" proposals that don't work, but nary a buck to help the towns meet the added costs. And state legislators are equally responsible.

If everyone who has ever muttered a gripe about the DEC attends the Behan-Sawicki public hearing, it should be a long, lively gathering. If you've been stung by the DEC lack of action or senseless edicts, we urged you to speak your piece. If you don't like the idea of having to foot a growing garbage disposal bill, be on hand to state your views.

The hearing is a good idea if, and only if, something good comes of it. If the views expressed will bring about meaningful changes in the senseless way the DEC, with powers given by the legislature, impedes a sensible solution to garbage disposal problems, it will be worth the time. If the expressions of concern result in some necessary changes in the landfill legislation, and some dollars to support mandated proposals, the public hearing will be the only flicker of hope we've seen on this subject.

To kick things off we offer this recommendation: the DEC and the State Legislature should stop ordering and start cooperating with the towns to resolve the garbage problem. If the DEC wants garbage trucked off Long Island, they should locate and guarantee acceptance at the sites where it will be disposed. And the legislators should come up with the bucks to pay for the added costs. If mandated solutions don't work, those who do the ordering should foot the bill. And why not?

Although taxes are high, the school and library system is wonderful.

In changing the name of Shirley to some other unknown name would be a big mistake. Do you realize the cost involved? Changing names on buildings, road signs, stationery,

news prints, etc.

Changing the way of people, by keeping this area clean, and all pitching in would be a lot easier and less expensive.

So Let's Do It!
Louis Karson

"Society is in need of help"

Open Letter and plea for a change in state policy on Foster care

Each night before I go to bed I look in on my children. I pull up the covers and kiss them both, looking at them sleeping so peacefully makes me feel warm all over. Then I check my foster son, he's sleeping so soundly he looks like the little Angel his name suggests.

I wonder what his mom is thinking and how much she must miss him. Angel is more fortunate than most boarder babies, his mom is involved and wants him back as soon as she is able to care for him. The rest of the babies sit and wait. WHY? When there are so many families willing and able to care and love them right now.

So many babies born and forgotten. Some don't have a chance from the moment of conception. People worry about the troubles they will have if they are raised with a white family. I think the problems they have now far outweigh any that may come in the future.

Matching children with families of the same ethnic background is fine as long as there are enough families to meet the demand. If there aren't, then the policies shouldn't be adhered to. Update, review and revise these policies, for the times are changing faster than any preference or policy ever will.

I've been a foster mother for a month, some say I'm a novice, I didn't think it took experience to care and love our fellow man. The children don't care who loves them, as long as someone is there for them. What better way for us as parents to teach our children to love others than to give them the example in their own homes.

If society objects to whites raising minorities then it is the society who is sick and in need of more help than we mortals can offer. We can offer any child our help and love regardless of age, race or religion, and they will accept it without question and return it many times over.

All children in foster care need longer term commitments from the families who take them

"Superb job"

Dear Mr. Grasso:

Thank you so much for the wonderful article you wrote regarding Patch--the blind Golden Retriever puppy! Your staff did a superb job, as always, and the response was incredibly overwhelming!

We greatly appreciate your support of our organization, and thanks to you and your paper, many of our pets in Westhampton have found loving homes!

Best wishes always!

Sincerely,
Deborah Brown
Director of Public Relations
Bide-A-Wee Home, Assoc., Inc.

"Photogenic Felicio?"

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Would you please be so kind to pass on a budget saving suggestion to the Brentwood School District? I'm sure that they could save quite a tidy sum of money on the film that is used by Anthony F. Felicio of their school district, not to mention the postage to get his picture in your otherwise fine publication.

It has gotten to be a running joke in our house to see how many times his picture appears in your paper. We now look forward to Wednesdays. This week, we were not disappointed! Two times in almost the same picture! There is a strong feeling developing that Mr.

and the agencies who place them. So many grow up not trusting or loving anyone because they have been shifted from home to home with no one stable person to be their constant ground to life and love. We all need this, ever failing love to grow into caring and loving human beings. Without it we are all doomed to a selfish cold existence that will be worse than any hell we could imagine.

Thank you,
Debbie Tucker
Brentwood

'Barbarity'

Dear Editor:

I wish to draw your readers' attention to the death penalty in the United States. Most people are aware of its existence in many states (not in NY), but few people fully understand how it is used and the injustice found in the system.

One of the major problems is that of racial discrimination, and an example of this can be seen in that 92% of those executed in this country since 1976 had killed whites, while almost half of all homicide victims were black. Also in Florida between 1972 and 1977 blacks who killed whites were five times more likely to receive the death penalty than whites who killed whites.

Another problem is the sentencing of people not fully answerable for their own actions, namely juveniles and the mentally ill and retarded. In eleven states there is no minimum age at which you can be sentenced to death, and an estimated 15-20% of the death row population in this country "function at a substandard intellectual level."

Many people claim that the death penalty is a deterrent, but this would only stand true if the murder was calmly premeditated, in which case the individual rarely believes that he or she will be apprehended. Most people who murder, kill quickly in a moment of extreme anger or emotional stress or while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. As only about 3% of murderers end up on death row, how can such a lottery be described as a deterrent?

Given the additional fact that it costs, on average, twice as much for a first appeal to a death sentence as it does to keep a person in prison for life, and with the possibility of executing innocents, isn't it time this country became truly civilized and did away with the barbarity of the death penalty?

Yours sincerely,
Mr. J. Marshall
Port Jefferson Station

Letters to the Editor

'Change the people, not the name'

Dear Editor:

It is not the name Shirley that should be changed, it's the people. At least the ways of people. I'm not saying the majority, but a great number of people, who care little of what their town looks like, cluttering and throwing refuse around and letting the wind take care of their garbage. Broken down cars, appliances, etc., make up the streets of Shirley.

Changing the name of Shirley is not the answer; cleanliness, and everyone doing his or her share will make the name look brighter. Like the name of Roslyn, L.I.

Go through the streets of the Hamptons, South and East, you will see why those towns are a pleasure to enjoy. This could be the same if people living in Shirley would all do their share.

Walter T. Shirley, from what I read, was a good public minded man. If he were alive today, I'm sure this village of Shirley would be a bright spot on the map.

I bought my land in 1955, when Walter T. Shirley was alive, and these properties were more countrified, now with beautiful roads, stores, shopping and all conveniences, it is not appreciated how this village grew. We have a good sanitation department, streets are cleaned regularly, snow removal is prompt, better than New York City. The police force is well on the job. Here any kind of accident or disturbance, the police come as soon as they can.

Ambulance service is very good, the fire department is right on the job. Like the song goes "Who Could Ask For Anything More?"

Build A Reef

There are a number of sites off-shore of Long Island that have been designated as fishing reefs. These reefs, when maintained, are highly productive fishing areas. They convert the bottom of the ocean which is sandy into areas which offer a sanctuary for bait fish, which larger fish prey upon.

Reefs in the south, where they take fishing seriously, have tremendously enhanced both the recreational and the commercial fishing industry. These reefs are normally created through the sinking of a ship or a barge filled with concrete and metal. The last reef to be established on Long Island was the Shinnecock reef which was placed there with state and federal approval, by the Shinnecock Anglers, which has been merged into the Shinnecock Marlin and Tuna Club. This reef, about 10 years old, has now all but disappeared due to the corrosive action of the shifting sands on the ocean floor. It could be re-established if the contractor is allowed to dispose at the reef the center span of the old Ponquogue Bridge. The contractor currently has an application in asking approval for this proposal.

This application brought to mind a

possible dual solution for the disposal of the cement construction debris that the D.E.C. has banned from the landfills. Why not direct that this construction debris be disposed of on the established reefs of Long Island? The reefs could be rebuilt and the cost of disposal of this construction material would be minimized, as it now has to be trucked off Long Island. Two conservation purposes would be solved by a single action.

This is a common sense approach to a major problem, and it would be good for the D.E.C.'s image to propose it. They would be serving a dual purpose in creating a better environment for the fish, while helping mitigate against the disposal problems that they have mandated must be addressed, but have offered no solutions or bucks to accomplish.

As we all know, there is a barge floating around someplace in the Gulf filled with trash from Islip. No state will accept this material and at this writing, no solution is in sight. Like the trash, construction debris cannot be put in the landfills and must leave the area. Let's keep it here, but put it to proper use.

And why not?

\$80,000 range. Why could this happen in Florida and not on Long Island? Part of the answer came when we visited a local weekly newspaper editor who had been publishing in the area for the past 20 years.

This particular area of Florida, Jupiter, had undergone many of the problems facing us here on Long Island. During the mid-70's all building and development came to a virtual halt because of environmental and health concerns. The prices of existing houses skyrocketed, "snow birds", to a degree, shunned the area because of cost. Local families found that they could not afford to move up, and their children could neither afford the rents being asked or the cost of existing housing.

To break the logjam, first the community, in conjunction with an environmental and health planner, identified the legitimate concerns of the community. From this they set down certain criteria that builders would have to meet if they wished to construct any new buildings. These included the development of sewers, municipal water and a host of other criteria dealing with re-establishing and enlarging landfills and other health related facilities. The environmental plan pinpointed what had to be done and established the cost. The ball was back in the builders' and developers' hands. If they were willing to pay the price, they could build.

At this point at least, the builders knew that if they met the criteria, they could build. Along with the environmental and health related matters, the community established a plan for dealing with increased recreational facilities, parks, beaches and school. The price tag was also put on these items and the developers knew up front what they would have to pay before they made their application.

The building department established a set of building codes and requirements that included landscaping and maintenance. The town and county mapped out and established a network of roads that would be needed before the development took place.

And plans were made for what

could be built on and what couldn't. Certain lands throughout the community were set aside for green spaces, as well as lands within the planned development areas. Again, the builders knew up front what the cost of these items would be. When all these pieces were put into place, the permit process was opened up. The process was simple, for all the questions had been pre-answered. Applications were processed with little delay, and orderly development at affordable prices resulted. No longer were the builders subject to inordinate delays or harebrained obstacles that had no substance but could result in hearings that slow down the process.

The Jupiter area is not what it was 20 years ago. As the editor put it to me, "I came to this area because of what I saw. I have seen the changes. Up until 1975, they took place piecemeal, the result of hodgepodge planning, favoritism and vested interest. Jupiter is not what it was when I came here, yet, the things I cherish most are being protected by orderly, planned development. We couldn't keep the snow birds out, they were coming whether we liked it or not. As much as we don't want to change, we have to change with the times."

Isn't it time Long Island changed with the times? Decided what it is, what it wants to be, what the pressures of growth will dictate it will be.

Set down an orderly plan for development and eliminate the red tape that only drives up the cost and creates the hodgepodge development that we all abhor! It's criminal that a developer with a sound project has to wait several years, spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on legal and professional fees, before they finally win the right to do what they should have been allowed to do with the land that they own. These costs are all passed onto the consumer, and we end up with more expensive housing that the average person can't afford.

There are answers to our problems if only we will look for them, and it's high time that we start doing so.

And why not.

Clear Cut Guidelines Needed

The construction of much needed homes and commercial development here in Suffolk County is a mass of confusion. Lacking are clear cut guidelines on how, when and where new development can take place. Every application becomes an entity unto itself which results in needless delays and astronomical increases in the cost.

Recently on a trip to Florida, we

noted organized, orderly development taking place. Projects were being built along the intercoastal waterway, including docks and marinas. Multi-story condominiums are being built along the ocean and inland. Housing developments consisting of affordable two and three bedroom homes of excellent construction, the product of superb planning, are available in the \$60,000 to

SUFFOLK LIFE

Vol. 26 No. 37
NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located at Willmott Plaza, 1461 Old Country Rd.
(Rte. 58), Riverhead 369-0800 Classified Ads 369-0820
Mail Address P.O. Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-0102

Suffolk Life is published in 24 market zone editions every Wednesday

Three Village/Port Jeff
Brentwood/Central Islip
Ronkonkoma/Holbrook
Hauppauge/Nesconset
Bay Shore/West Islip
Smithtown/St. James

Commack/Kings Park
Mastic/Moriches
Sayville/Oakdale
Coram/Seiden
Hampton West
Hampton East

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Total Circulation audited and verified in excess of
400,000 Circulation Weekly



Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of Town of Southampton, Town of Islip, Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk, Rocky Point School District, Patchogue-Medford School District, Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of Town of Islip, Town of Riverhead, Town of Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson.

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Subscription Rate in Suffolk County, \$4.99 per year Outside Suffolk County, \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales, 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life, In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year, Outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year. Newsstand single copy sales, 25¢ per issue.

General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

Playing Dangerous Politics

The political games played by public officials in Suffolk County can be detrimental to the best interests of the public in far too many instances. When raw politics intervenes in matters directly related to the public welfare, such as health care or law enforcement, those games can become downright dangerous.

Several Democratic members of the Suffolk County Legislature, in actions that reeked of pure, raw politics, played a dangerous game last week when they blocked the appointment of James Caples as in-

terim police commissioner, a recommendation made by County Executive Michael LoGrande following the resignation of Commissioner De Witt Treder, who will leave the post on May 4.

Caples has been third in command in the police department in recent years, a police force veteran who later moved into the department's administration after gaining valuable knowledge of its operations. He has administrative experience, re-

Cont. on page 4

Dangerous Politics...

Cont. from page 3

spect of his peers, and would be a fine choice for interim commissioner of a department that needs some stability in light of recent problems that have tarnished the reputation of the department and weakened the morale of the police force.

It is the responsibility of those in power to ensure the department is headed by the most qualified individual until a permanent replacement is selected. Politics should have no part in the selection process. The appointment of a police commissioner is the responsibility of the county executive, as outlined in the county charter. The legislature's role is, and should be, purely administrative. The recommendation that Caples be named to an interim role as the head of the department has been well received. It should be approved.

But three Democrats, including the legislature's minority leader, voted against Caples' appointment, not based on his qualifications, but for political reasons. They argued that there was no provision ensuring that Caples would serve only as an interim commissioner, and said they wanted a written clause saying that LoGrande would make his final choice within three or four months.

LoGrande agreed to change the resolution to read that the final choice would be made on or before December 31, 1987. But when he would not set a three or four month

time frame, the Democrats voted against the Caples resolution.

Common sense says that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for LoGrande to find someone who would accept the post in July or August, with an election for county executive only months later. If LoGrande were to lose the election, the new county executive would likely pick his own person to head up the police department, and LoGrande's choice would be out of a job without his feet even having gotten wet.

Thankfully, 10 legislators, including five Democrats, applied better judgement and signed a letter to put it on the agenda at today's legislative meeting. We hope that the appointment will be approved.

In the meantime, LoGrande has announced a national search for a replacement for Treder. When his advisory committee nominates potential successors, he should select the individual who has solid administrative skills and an intricate knowledge of the law enforcement system. And the county legislature should put politics aside and work with the county executive so that the best qualified individual is selected as soon as possible to start the job of restoring confidence in the police department without delay. The people of Suffolk County, and the men in the ranks, deserve no less.

And why not?



AND THE WINNER IS... Acting Suffolk County Executive Michael LoGrande reaches in container listing the names of those who participated in Suffolk Life's "One of the Million" bumper sticker contest to select the grand prize winner, while Suffolk Life Promotion Director Sheryl Heather stands by. The winner of the \$1,000 prize is Lynn Denis of East Moriches, who was flabbergasted by her stroke of luck. "I never win anything, so the fact that I was one of the earlier weekly \$50 winners was enough of a shock," she said. "This is fantastic." The final weekly \$50 winners are: Rita LaFemina of Bay Shore; Geraldine Fargiano of East Quogue; Frank Nejes of Miller Place; Vicki Marotta of Hampton Bays; Steve Fulgione of East Islip and Penny Weeks of Patchogue. Photo by Maureen T. McEnroe. (U3F)

the East Moriches Fire Department, but in our opinion to the taxpayers of the fire district we protect as well. During 1986, the fire departments 74 members responded to 67 alarms expending some 1,642 man hours fighting fires. (The 69 alarms for last year as reported by The Hampton Chronicle-News in the March 26 article was incorrect) In addition, our members also spent 1,363 man hours on training during 28 separate sessions in the past year. Included is training mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Ad-

ministration (O.S.H.A.), and training in handling hazardous material incidents as well as our normal training to keep our rescue and fire fighting skills sharp. The fire department also held classes in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (C.P.R.). The C.P.R. course was open to the Moriches Community Ambulance and was attended by several of their members with the cost being absorbed by the fire district. Should the East Moriches Fire Department be responsible for providing an ambulance service, we assure the public we

would implement and maintain the highest level of training possible to provide the best emergency medical services to the residents of this community.

In closing, we would like to state that 1988 is the 100th anniversary of the East Moriches Fire Department and for the past 99 years we have never failed to respond to a call for help from any member of the community. Robert Kanas, Chief
Jim Romanowski, 1st Assistant Chief
Tom Kelley, 2nd Assistant Chief

Letters to the Editor

'Fire Department responds'

To the Editor and residents of the East Moriches Fire District:

After reading the article "Firemen Oppose Ambulance Tax District" in the March 26, 1987, issue of The Hampton Chronicle-News, the chiefs of the East Moriches Fire Department feel compelled to respond.

It is our opinion that the fire department was done an injustice by the article and several points that were made require a rebuttal. First, it is not the intent of the fire department to have the ambulance service "GIVEN" to us as the article implies. The basic feeling of our organization is that we wish the Ambulance Committee of the Moriches could survive as they are indefinitely. We do, however, oppose the creation of a special tax district to continue ambulance service to the community. To avoid creation of a new area of tax,

and of course a higher total tax bill, the East Moriches Fire Department would like the opportunity to absorb the ambulance service and their members into our organization. This system would not only provide more cost effective Emergency Medical Services to the community, but also increased benefits to members of the ambulance squad under the umbrella of the fire department. Ambulance squad members would be entitled to coverage for Accidental Death and Personal Injury, as well as Life Insurance for all active personnel. Most importantly, all members would be covered by the Volunteer Firemen's Benefit Law (V.F.B.L.) Coverage under the V.F.B.L. is not afforded to any ambulance company or ambulance tax district unless it is part of a Volunteer Fire Department.

Secondly, for the article to imply that the East

Moriches Fire Department is jealous of the Moriches Community Ambulance because they respond to more calls is most absurd and a disservice to our organization. The fire department takes pride in its Annual Fire Prevention Program at the elementary school every October and stresses fire safety for all families and businesses in the community. We have also made available quality smoke detectors to the public at wholesale cost and we urge every home to have them. There is a saying in the fire service, "there is no pride in fighting a fire that could have been prevented."

Lastly, the closing paragraph of the article states that Mr. Fagan and ambulance company members fear that their current level of training would not be maintained by the fire department. This fear is baseless and not only an insult to the dedicated members of

'Appalled at tax increase'

Dear Editor:

Having been an Islip resident since 1971, I am appalled at the increases in our taxes since that time. Upon purchase of my home, a three bedroom low ranch, my taxes were \$695. I received my tax statement last week and I was astonished that my taxes are now \$3,461.78. I think it is terrible that we pay so much to live in a middle class neighborhood. I have two children in school, and my school taxes are close to \$2,000 alone. People with no children in school pay that enormous amount also. We now pay sewer tax of \$356, whether you have sewers or not. And garbage collection is \$216.

I think it is unfair and disgraceful that Islip town residents have to pay so much in order to live in this nice "suburban" area. No wonder young couples are unable to buy homes in this

area anymore.

There must be a solution. If the reason for runaway taxes in Islip is our lack of industry, then state aid to schools should be determined on a percentage basis. If our town's industrial tax contribution equals 40% and another town's industrial tax contribution equals 5%, state aid should be prorated on those figures to remove some of the burden from the individual homeowner's shoulders.

Sincerely,
Linda A. Esposito
Bay Shore

Editor's note: School costs and taxes are the real killer. Approximately 2/3 of your real estate bill is for school taxes. The kids you send to school cost better than \$12,000 per year to educate.

'People are more important'

Dear Editor:

For the next several months the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be holding hearings on Lilco's Shoreham evacuation drill, which was held on February 13, 1986.

A Shoreham Truth Witness, having two main parts, has been organized. The first part asks Long Island's citizens to volunteer time to sit in the NRC hearing room and hold a symbolic "Torch of Truth." This truth symbol is a direct appeal to the consciences of the NRC judges, asking that they render a judgement on the Shoreham evacuation drill that is founded in truthfulness. Secondly, we are asking all Long Island residents to mail in pictures of their families, children, grandchildren, friends, etc.

These pictures will be posted on a bulletin board in the New York State Office Building in Hauppauge, where the NRC hearings are being held. The bulletin board is located where the NRC judges pass it several times a day. The pictures personalize the Shoreham evacuation issue for the NRC judges and appeal to their humanity - a common humanity shared by us all.

Pictures may be sent to The Shoreham Truth Witness, P.O. Box 4144, Rocky Point, N.Y. 11778.

Sincerely,
Pete Maniscalco & Lisa Pollicino
Coordinators
Shoreham Truth Witness