

Your Home Could Be Worth \$7,500

Congress currently is debating either dropping, keeping or amending the Price-Anderson Act which limits the liabilities the utilities face in case of a nuclear accident.

Under the old law, the maximum liability a company such as the Long Island Lighting Company would have was \$700 million. The utility industry wanted congress to place the new limit at \$2.5 billion. Congress is expected to place the limit at \$7 billion. It is estimated that if a first-class nuclear accident took place at Shoreham, up to \$150 billion in damages would occur. Why should congress limit the losses that compensated to less than five percent of the potential?

In simple terms, this means that if you owned a \$150,000 house and it was contaminated by radiation, the most that you could hope to recover would be less than \$7,500. This is the value that Congress wants to place on your home. Ludicrous? ridiculous? Damn right! Where else in America do we have liability limited to five percent of the real value of the property? If we drive a car and we hit a house, we must have enough insurance to cover the cost of repairing or replacing the house, and so the scenario goes on, except for the nuclear industry.

This is something we all should have been aware of, for if you look at your homeowners policy, your automobile policy, even your boat policy, you will note that the insurance company eliminates any coverage for losses that take place because of a nuclear mishap. Ironically, it is these same insurance companies who have been heavy investors in

nuclear power plants throughout the country. They have taken your premium monies and invested them in nuclear power plants, yet excluded coverage when, and if, you suffer damages.

By all that is right, Congress should indignantly reject placing caps on damages that will occur when we have a nuclear accident of a Class One scenario here in the United States. According to statistics, an accident of this class will happen within the next 20 years, it's just a matter of where and when.

How dare the Congress of the United States say to people who have worked all their lives to own a home, a business, a farm, we are going to set a limit, an artificially ridiculous limit, that can be collected when your property is rendered useless because of an accident involving a profit-making corporation.

We are all intimately aware of this grave threat here on Long Island. We strongly urge that you write to your friends and relatives in other parts of the country, warning them and asking them to help us by writing to their congressmen and senators demanding an end to the Price-Anderson Act or the setting of any caps on the liability of utilities in case of a nuclear accident.

It's bad enough we have to live with this threat to our health and to our lives, there is no logical reason why we should have to subsidize utilities in providing coverage to protect us from an accident that they will be responsible for. Let's fight this insane effort!

And why not?

Rubble For Reef

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has banned landfills. Most towns have enacted laws because of this ban which prohibits construction rubble from being placed there. As a result, this rubble must be transported off Long Island. Some sources within the construction industry say that it is costing as much as 10 percent more to build new structures because of this regulation.

The other day, as we drove past a site that was being prepared for a new building, we noted dump trucks

taking away loads of concrete and steel-reinforced concrete, spoil that would make an ideal artificial, off-shore fishing reef.

Several years ago, the Shinnecock Anglers' Club, which is now the Shinnecock Marlin and Tuna Club, received permission to build an artificial reef approximately two miles south-east of the Shinnecock Inlet. Upon an old barge, they loaded the old railroad bridge and it was sunk in the designated area. It produced tons of fish for both the commercial and recreational mar-

kets. Over the years, the bridge has rusted and deteriorated and there is little left to create a haven for the fish. Not only is there an artificial reef off Shinnecock, we understand there are both designated and undesignated reefs off Fire Island and some of the inlets in Nassau County. All are deteriorated and none are being rebuilt.

The D.E.C. is supposed to both regulate and perpetuate the environment. The D.E.C., through its edicts, has created a problem that has led to the banning of clean, construction debris going to landfills. Shouldn't they be acting in a positive manner in directing this construction debris to be placed in the designated off-shore sites? Wouldn't it create an environmental atmosphere that will attract the desirable, eatable fish? Would this not be a less costly and more positive step rather than forcing the clean, construction debris to be hauled hundreds of miles away for disposal? If artificial reefs were built, as the Shinnecock reef was

built, all along the South Shore, the destructive wave forces that have been battering the shoreline might be abated and other benefits could be derived from this program.

Our understanding of waves is that they are created from the bottom up, the power is at the bottom. They are directed by the wind, but its force at the top is only minute as compared to the bottom. If the clean rubble was placed a couple of miles off the beach, we assume the force of the waves would be broken and, therefore, there would be less damage and erosion at the beach level.

We suppose it's much easier for the bureaucrats and the D.E.C. to issue a ridiculous edict that has resulted in a ban on dumping construction debris on Long Island than to offer an imaginative program that might produce a positive effect for the environment. What else can you expect from government? Common sense?

And why not?

Grave Environmental Loss

Although the bill to allow thoroughbred racing at Suffolk Meadows, passed in the assembly, it failed to even come to the floor in the Senate.

Owners of Suffolk Meadows stated quite emphatically that unless they were able to offer more than quarter horse racing, the track would not be open this year. As a result, the property would probably be developed as an industrial park in the future.

With the Legislature closed for the season, it appears that the track is doomed to become just another industrial park or shopping center. What an incredible loss to Long Island. There goes another grand entertainment opportunity, a chance for our region to join the rest of the world. More important, there goes a

reason for horse farms and agriculture to continue on Long Island.

Horse farming got the impetus to start with the announcement that Ronnie Parr was to build a race track in Yaphank. Out of a mire of greedy politicians, corrupt bankers and underworld infiltrators, Parr Meadows arose and opened to an abbreviated season.

Horse farms sprang up throughout mid-Suffolk and the East End. The track was re-opened and again, because of bureaucratic delays, got off to a late start and had to close early. It was apparent to all that for the track to be the success it could be, it needed to offer more than quarter horse racing. Thoroughbred and harness racing was the answer. A bill

Continued on Page 4

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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.

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Grave Environmental Loss...

Continued from page 3

was put into the Legislature that would have allowed it.

Long Island's Senatorial delegation typically, either out of a lack of wisdom or out of a lack of leadership, dropped the ball and the Senate never had an opportunity to vote on the merits of the bill. This was nothing more than a home rule message allowing Suffolk County the same privilege offered in other parts of the state.

It was the kind of bill that, if we had leadership within the Long Island Senatorial delegation, should have passed in a breeze. When the

bill was allowed to die in committee, we could not help but wonder why the various environmental groups had not pushed for its passage. Why did they fail to see how important this bill was to the continuation of our horse farms and equestrian facilities? Aren't these ecologically desirable?

Hopefully, plans for the development of this property will be stalled and our Legislature, next year, will have a shot at doing what is right for the right reasons.

And why not?

What's So Different?

My son recently came to me and posed a question that I have pondered on and I think you should, too.

For the past few weeks, we have heard, during the Contra hearings that some of the monies from the Iran arms sales were used to set up an off-shore radio station whose purpose was to broadcast the American side of propaganda to the citizens of Latin America. This station was set up by the United States government in violation of the international treaty, which prohibits such stations. In effect, it is a pirate radio station. A pirate radio station just like the one the two self-described renegades set up in international waters, on a ship flying a Honduras flag, known as WNY International.

After only four days of operation, the United States government came down with all its force and might on this amateurish attempt to broad-

cast rock and roll music into the metropolitan New York market.

The ship the station was broadcasting from was seized by armed Coast Guard troops and FCC officials. The owners have been charged with violating federal law and a host of other felonies. According to the owners, the government men not only seized the property, but cut the wires and dismantled equipment and thus ruined it. All this before due process, a trial and a verdict.

What is so different between a ship off Central America broadcasting political propaganda to our southern neighbors and a ship off Long Island broadcasting rock and roll and probably "hippie" propaganda to the New York youth market? Shouldn't it be, 'what is good for the goose is good for the gander?'

Let's stop being so hypocritical.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

Reader responds to "Airport situation"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This letter is in response to the "Airport situation" letter in the issue of June 14, 1987. I am sure the writer of that letter sincerely believes that her complaint in regard to operations at MacArthur Airport is justified. I too reside within a mile radius of the airport.

MacArthur Airport is a vital part of the Islip community. In addition to the convenience it affords the many travelers entering and exiting Long Island, it brings revenue to the Town of Islip, provides employment, and is a major force in the economic growth of the surrounding area, thus enhancing the tax base for the township. The advantages that accrue to the township as a whole should outweigh the inconvenience suffered by the few. Far too often people take the attitude that a facility or service is needed, but "not in my neighborhood."

Yes, restraints should be placed on airport operations. A suggested compromise would

be to limit flight activity to the hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. for a given period of time, and at the end of that period, gradually expand the hours of flight operations at the airport.

In a similar situation a few very vociferous people were able to convince the Governor of the State of New York to close the Downstate Correctional Facility at Brentwood, a very much needed facility. The governor acceded to the wishes of these people in order to buy a few votes, and did so at a time when both state and county were faced with correctional facility overcrowding.

I urge the people of Islip not to let this happen again. MacArthur Airport is a valuable capital asset of the Town of Islip. Allow it to operate and expand in an orderly manner. Do not let a few people in opposition to a program, any program, impose their will upon the majority. Exercise your democratic right and obligation. Advise your elected representatives of

your position in any controversial matter. Only with your input can they make an informed response to the wishes of the majority.

Harold R. Blake
Bohemia

'Water must be protected'

An Open Letter to the
Brookhaven Town Board Members

The officers and membership of the Manorville Taxpayers Association strongly suggest that the TDR (Transfer of Development Rights) concept not be adopted and thereby save the Town of Brookhaven from zoning chaos.

While it is agreed that the ultimate protection of L.I. groundwater through a comprehensive new master plan should be addressed with legislation in the very near future, the transfer of development rights concept has the following fatal flaws:

- 1) Time and market fluctuations will complicate the process, making "fairness" to individual landowners impossible.
- 2) Numerous property owners will not take part in the program.
- 3) Fraud will be tempting in land transactions.
- 4) Density will be too high in receiving areas.
- 5) Court cases will run rampant.
- 6) "The Bottom Line:" future pressure on 10 acre zone areas will eventually doom them to a far more dense development.

Since it has been concluded by the Federal Clean Water Act, the New York State D.E.C., and the Long Island Regional Planning Board's 208 study, that two acre minimum residential zoning will protect the deep aquifer recharge

area in the Hydrogeologic Zone III Region; The new master plan for all of Manorville and most of Eastern Brookhaven Town should instead:

- 1) Upzone vast A-1 areas to A-2 (1 acre res. to 2 acre res.)
- 2) Upzone vast A-2 areas to A-3 (2 acre res. to 3 acre res.)
- 3) Upzone B residence areas to A-1 where possible.
- 4) Re-zone most (currently proposed) master plan target areas from residential to business and light industry, being certain to:
 - a) provide fair balance to all school districts
 - b) implement input from all sources before changing these zones.

This plan is virtually assured of success, since the water will be forever protected, the State Supreme Court has upheld Brookhaven upzoning for water protection in the past, no property rights need to be legally transferred between owners, and large parcel (3 maximum) residential development is almost impossible to be made more dense in the distant future.

Sincerely,
Thomas R. Muller
President
Manorville Taxpayers Association

'Not an intelligent decision'

Dear Editor:

More political baloney!

State Senator James Lack and Assemblyman Robert Wertz are now sponsoring a bill, #5.61251A-8050, which would extend the operation of Kings Park landfill until 1994, instead of closing it in 1990 as required by legislation passed in 1984. (Senator Lack co-sponsored legislation in 1983 to close the Kings Park landfill in 1990.) This legislation will allow Smithtown to operate its own ashfill in addition to accepting neighboring towns' ash.

Incinerator ash is frequently contaminated with high levels of lead and is classified as a characteristic hazardous waste. Research has shown that ash contains dioxide along with other toxic chemicals. The proposed site for this ashfill is in a deepflow recharge zone and

will obviously - sooner or later- contaminate our drinking water. Of particular interest to local residents is that the trucking route for transporting ash may be right through the center of your town. Whether you live in Commack, Kings Park, Northport, Huntington or Smithtown, we all lose if this bill is passed. The proposal is wrong for all the right reasons. Residents of these towns had better move fast and voice their anger and opinion. To do absolutely nothing is condoning the contamination of our drinking water and environment. Jeopardizing Long Island's future is not an intelligent decision.

John Romano
Kings Park

'Lilco's professionalism'

Dear Sir:

Today I witnessed another illustration of Lilco's professionalism. At about 7:15 a.m. this morning I turned from Route 58 onto Northville Turnpike northbound and viewed an accident that had recently happened. A car had hit the electric pole on Northville Turnpike just north of Route 58 and broke the pole into 3 pieces. One, the base still in the ground, one hanging from the wires.

A Riverhead police officer was on the scene, directing traffic, as was a wrecker, and 2 Lilco trucks. Upon coming back to Route 58 about 8 to 10 minutes later, the wrecker and car were gone, the police officer was just leaving and the two Lilco trucks were on the scene.

Now we switch to the afternoon, same day, at approximately 2:45 p.m. I return to Northville Turnpike and there are now 5 or 6 Lilco trucks at the scene.

I returned to Route 58 again approximately 8 to 10 minutes later. All Lilco trucks have left, the wires are hanging in a big long loop from neighboring poles. The broken top of the pole

is gone but not the base, which is still in the ground. A new pole lays on the ground beside the road. Obviously work is over for the day. Lilco's vehicles all sport signs which tell us, "We are working harder to serve you better."

Bah, Humbug!!
More Lilco lies! Sincerely,
Herbert M. Rogers
Calverton

'Legislator writes'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I was pleased to read your editorial entitled, "Who's Responsible?" regarding the emancipation age in New York State (Suffolk Life, May 14). As Chair of the Human Services Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature, the issue was raised by several parents' organizations during a series of public hearings that we held on "Troubled Youth in Suffolk County."

The dilemma that you editorialized was echoed by large numbers of parents in Suffolk County. Children can, under the current law, stop attending school when they reach 16, but their parents are legally obligated to support them until they are 18.

The legislature unanimously voted for my Memorializing Resolution, which supported an amendment to the New York State Family Court Act, Assembly Bill 1145 and Senate Bill 789, which would increase the emancipation age from 16 to 18 for both males and females.

For those families who have questions about a PINS (Persons in Need of Supervision) petition, our committee had prepared a booklet explaining the procedures that are followed and the rights of both parent and child. There have been changes in this law and the booklet is being updated, but if any of your readers have questions, they can call my office, 681-3425, or the Probation Department, 360-4238 for further information.

Sincerely,
Sondra M. Bachety
Suffolk County Legislator D-North Babylon

'Make public aware'

Dear Editor

My husband and I are senior citizens, on a budget, so we have to do our grocery shopping carefully and watch how much we spend, that is why I've noticed the errors each time.

Pathmark (especially) and other stores have sales and people do not take notice of the price they are paying at the cash register.

I have found the scan machines at the register was not changed; this has happened at the middle of the week, which is wrong. We are not paying the sales price. It's a crime.

It's happened to me five times on different occasions. Housewives with children, loaded shopping carts get ripped off too, and I feel sorry for them.

Please make the public aware of this injustice. Thank you.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Silvestri
Bay Shore

The Race Is On

The starting gun sounded last week for what could be the most important race in the history of Long Island. At stake is the very future of the people of this area: will we live under the threat of a Long Island Chernobyl, or will the specter of a nuclear disaster at Shoreham finally come to an end?

The House of Representatives in Washington killed any hope last week that common sense will prevail in protecting the public from the threat of a nuclear disaster at Shoreham. A proposal that would have exempted Shoreham, and a Massachusetts plant, from a proposed Nuclear Regulatory Commission rule change was soundly defeated by congressmen who caved in to nuclear industry pressure and, undoubtedly, campaign dollars. Immediately after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, the NRC ruled that approved evacuation plans, with local participation, must be in place before a plant could be licensed. But state and county governments here, and also in Massachusetts, refuse to participate, saying a safe evacuation is not possible. Now the NRC wants to change its own rule to eliminate the need for the participation of local governments.

There is little doubt in our minds that the NRC, now bolstered by last week's vote, will approve the rule change that will put the safety of Long Island residents in jeopardy. The only plan--and that's using the term loosely--is the crumbling proposal put forth by LILCO, which would have its own employees, instead of real police, direct evacuation activities if there is an accident at Shoreham. LILCO's plan has been built on a foundation of mistruths, false assurances, and erroneous projections. But the NRC seems to care less. Its only goal appears to be

licensing Shoreham, Seabrook, and any other nuclear plant that comes down the pike, no matter how good or bad it may be.

Long Island's only hope against this travesty of justice is in the form of the Long Island Power Authority, created by hotly debated legislation, which would take over LILCO, handle the energy needs of Long Island, and kill the Shoreham plant. However, from the track record of LIPA thus far, it would seem the public is backing a long shot that may not even leave the starting gate before the race is over. Thus far the LIPA board has been more talk and study than action, with far too few meetings and an apparent lack of enthusiasm for the goal that brought LIPA into being.

There has been growing speculation that Governor Mario Cuomo was never too keen on LIPA to begin with, and his delay in naming members to the LIPA board only reinforced that charge. And now LIPA appears to be going nowhere fast, headed by a Cuomo appointee who has yet to display the leadership that is needed to move forward.

The members of the LIPA board must come to grips with one chilling fact: if they don't start moving forward, they're going to be left at the starting gate. All of the efforts to bring about the existence of LIPA, and all the hopes that it held for the people of Long Island, will have been in vain, wasted by the stumblings of a disorganized group. They will have violated the confidence placed in their abilities.

The LIPA board now has in its possession a long-delayed report on the feasibility of a LILCO take-over and its effects upon future rates. Had the LIPA board leadership been more efficient, it would have insisted upon a performance bond to ensure

that the report would have been finished on time. Unfortunately, much time has been wasted. Now the board must review that report as swiftly as it can, and start moving ahead.

Make no mistake about it: the

NRC, in its blind efforts to promote the future of the nuclear industry, will waste no time in its efforts to license Shoreham. It's time the LIPA board stops wasting time and starts moving.

And why not?

More Regulations, More Cost?

Do you want to drink pure water? This is the scare question politicians are using to conjure up support for new regulations and new taxes they want you to accept.

Glib politicians are quick to throw out the projections of undrinkable water in the future. They are slow to give you any substantiation to fortify the fear-mongering they are doing, other than to say, I heard somewhere, I read someplace. When pressed hard, they often refer to the famous 208 study which was supposed to outline the pure water areas of Suffolk County, and which has led to the hysteria over taking lands for watershed protection.

When we remind our political friends that the maps for 208 study, and the boundaries thereon, were drawn on a motel floor, based upon political needs as much as ecological input, they look rather aghast.

We all want to drink pure water. The political hype, hysteria and un-

founded charges are leading us down a primrose path of increased regulations and billions of dollars in public works projects. No one knows for certain the extent of the problems that currently exist or will in the future.

Last week, we had an aspiring politician in our office who spoke of putting in water mains from the East End to the West. That financial commitment would far exceed the cost of the South West Sewer District. He was glib, and had his lines down pat, but we detected very little substance in his proposal. There is nothing more the unions and the construction industry would love than to have another mammoth public works program, such as another South West Sewer District. It's coming, and we are being suckered into it drip by drip. It's time to ask some very hard questions of those who would spend our taxes like water!

And why not?

He's Got It Backwards

"This was a strong message from the House to the American people that there is a strong Congressional commitment to energy." Norman Lent - *Newsday*, August 6, 1987.

These were the words of Nassau County's Congressman, Norman Lent. Lent, LILCO's Congressional lackey, led the charge for opposition to prevent Shoreham and Seabrook from being exempted from the N.R.C rules that will make it easier for a utility to shove an unsafe nuclear power plant down the throats of citizens over state and local opposition.

When we grew up, we were taught the American system is a govern-

ment of, by and for the people. Lent's perception has indicated, by his own quote, that he holds holy his belief that Congress is a will unto itself, and the people are subservient to it.

Lent calls himself a Republican, we don't. Lent is a self-centered, egotistical friend of LILCO who is willfully thwarting the will of 70 percent of the Long Island citizens. He is the Bill Carney of Nassau County.

We only hope that the Democrats put up a strong, qualified candidate so that the residents of Lent's Congressional district can give him the boot in the butt he so richly deserves.

And why not?

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Remember Where the Taxes Go

A friend of ours recently received his tax bill. His property had been reassessed and his taxes were raised substantially. He demanded to know where his money was going. We gave him a brief outline of where real estate taxes do go.

Schools receive around 65 percent of all monies raised through assessments on real estate. This is in addition to state aid and other sources of funding a district may have. The county government takes

Continued on page 4

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Where The Taxes Go...

Cont. from page 3

another 15 percent to 20 percent, more in the western five towns where courts and police services are provided by the county rather than by the towns. The towns receive between 12 percent and 15 percent of all revenues raised by real estate taxes.

In the East End towns, this pays for police protection, courts, highways, recreation administrations and a host of other projects. Special districts such as fire, lighting and sewer, account for another two percent to five percent depending upon the services that are provided.

Our friend asked, "If properties are being re-assessed and more taxes are raised, how come I don't have a say over how it is spent?" We inquired as to the last time he had attended a school board meeting and voiced an opinion on the programs being offered, or the services being rendered beyond education by the school board. Did he bother to vote

on the school budget? Did he know anything about the members of the board of education, their qualifications or their expertise as fiscal managers? He looked at us as if we had a hole in our head. Yet, here is where 60 percent to 70 percent of the monies he is paying in real estate taxes are being spent.

Unlike a town, which only spends 10 to 15 percent, he can vote to approve or disapprove a school budget. We went on to inquire whether he had ever spoken to his supervisor or the council members to give his opinion on how the town was being run and the taxes spent. Our question was met with mute silence.

In a few months, we all will receive our tax bills which will be due on December 1. When we receive them and we gasp, we should remember that they are what they are because we kept our mouths shut.

And why not?

One of the most appealing aspects of the LoGrande plan was the revenue sharing with towns, and in making payments in lieu of taxes to the school districts which will lose tax revenues because of lands being taken off the tax rolls for open space.

LoGrande's plan shared revenues from the sales tax with the municipalities from which they are raised, to accomplish some of the goals we have all been working for, pure water and sewage removal.

Phil, it is amazing to me that you show such a lack of common sense. You are aspiring to

become supervisor of Islip Town. If you had done your homework, you would realize that the county and state legislature have created enormous problems for local towns by mandating altruistic programs, but then provide the funds to carry them out. The towns, to be in compliance with the county and state edicts, must go to the only source of revenue they have, real estate taxes to raise the funds necessary.

On-the-job training, unfortunately, is very expensive, particularly at the supervisory level.

"The destiny of the Island"

Dear Mr. Willmott

I'm disappointed in you, a man who obviously loves Long Island and wishes the best for its people.

I'm disappointed simply because you are either unwilling or incapable of looking at one of the greatest contributors to Long Island's eroding quality of life: overdevelopment. Please read on.

I'm sorry, Mr. Willmott, but for the life of me, I don't understand how you can compare Long Island with Florida's housing situation. You imply that were it not for the costly delays in construction permits and other red tape, we too could build new houses in the sixty to eighty thousand dollar range. Mr. Willmott, we can't even find the handyman's special in that range; we've got one of the highest costs of living in the nation, and it's gotten higher since the new boom began in '79.

I just can't understand how you let the big developers, investors, and speculators off the hook so easily. First of all, even when they build high density, they do it in high style - for the prosperous Nassau County, N.Y. City folk. That's where the money is. I know these guys want to make a killing, but you can't make a killing where there is no money. I know speculators are just dying to grab land from money-poor farmers, and I know they hold on to their land until it goes up in value even more, or until they build their fancy houses or condos. The rich real-estate class is taking land away from poorer people. This is boom-time complete with Wild, Wild West speculation.

You imply that all the red tape is slowing up development; Mr. Willmott, Long Island is one of the fastest growing regions in U.S. - how much faster do you want growth to occur? And in every region in the N.Y. City, Long Island area - there has been a corresponding increase in the cost of living with the phenomenal growth.

There is no further need for industrial growth of this magnitude. No further need for abatements for the rich. Why not turn some of the areas designated for industry over to affordable housing since we have no more unemployment anyway? Why not? Because there's not enough money in it for the developers.

Mr. Willmott, greed, pure and simple is at work here. And the greed of big developers, the senseless desire to put up a shopping

center at every intersection, the urge to build empires in Yaphank (Grant's Mall) or Setauket (Hypermarket) and on 25A in Rocky Point (McNamara's housing project - great road for it, huh?) is now hurting us. It's increasing the demand for services, driving up the price of land, ruining the aesthetics of rural Long Island. And it's not even lowering taxes. Why? Because the cost of services is so high that taxes go up when people move, especially yuppie types who demand the best of everything.

One day, sir, I would love to see you, in print, just make one statement implicating some of our windfall-minded developers for our terribly high cost of living. I would love to see you make a sincere statement on behalf of some of the nice things that don't require additional services - things like woods and farms. I'd love to see you say yes, the Town of Riverhead should recognize its rural roots - maybe build up the areas around the villages with a moderate mix of housing and industry - but protect the character of charm of Long Island's gateway to the East End.

People from out of town can't believe Long Island's continuous mess of traffic and suburban sprawl. Things are, however, still like they are in some saner parts of the country once you get to eastern Brookhaven.

I know you guys - the good old boys of politics and the economic powers of Long Island have the destiny of the island in their hands. I'm only writing to you, a man who is concerned about a nuclear power station in our backyard, stray animals, children and the true message of God - humility, peace and generosity, with the hope that somewhere inside of you, you'll see that what Long Island needs is maybe less materialism and hype, not more greed in the name of free enterprise.

You can see that I obviously read your paper - I look forward to your editorials and believe they are influential. I hope that I will find what I'm looking for in your editorials one day soon.

Sincerely,
Harry Katz

Wading River

Editor's note: Florida is ending up with a good mix of affluent and affordable housing. Most of the housing is well under \$100,000, including all closing costs. Vast areas are mandated to be left open. It appears they have thought of most everything and it is working.

Letters to the Editor

"Let's set the record straight"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your July 22 editorial, "Politics In The Raw," was critical of several County Legislators, myself included. Specifically, you were unhappy because I opposed Acting County Executive Michael LoGrande's ultra-expensive "Pine Barrens Preserve" bill and instead introduced a more modest bill to protect the Pine Barrens. I hope you will afford me the opportunity to state my case to your readership.

At its core, Mr. LoGrande's Pine Barren plan was sound. I thought it was a good idea to put a referendum on the November ballot, asking Suffolk's voters if they favor extending the 1/4 cent sales tax that is scheduled to expire in 1989, and using the revenues raised from that extension for the purchase of critical watershed areas in the Pine Barrens. If this was all there was to Mr. LoGrande's proposal, I would have gladly supported it. Unfortunately, this was not the case.

Under LoGrande's plan, which was approved by the Legislature at our last meeting, a whopping \$570 million in taxes will be extracted from Suffolk residents over the next 12 years. Only a little more than half the money raised by the sales tax extension will be used for Pine Barren purchases (LoGrande's original proposal allocated only a quarter of these funds for Pine Barren acquisitions). The rest will be used for items like payments-in-lieu of taxes, revenue sharing with the towns and other county initiatives.

Frankly, I believe this proposal typifies the "bigger is better" pork barrel style of politics that has haunted Suffolk for too long and helped make our county among the highest taxed in the nation. While I feel comfortable going to my constituents to defend the expenditure of funds to preserve the Pine Barrens, I cannot, in good conscience, justify the creation of a giant slush fund for the county and town governments.

For these reasons, I offered an alternative plan which, if approved, would have extended the sales tax for just five years and used all the money raised thereby solely for Pine Barren purchases.

My plan had several advantages. First, it was far less costly than LoGrande's proposal, in fact, some \$370 million less expensive. Sec-

ondly, my plan would have accelerated necessary land purchases. Instead of stringing out the purchases over a dozen years, and in all likelihood losing key parcels to development, my plan would have made all vital purchases within five years. Finally, I believe my proposal would have had a better chance of success than LoGrande's in the November referendum because of its lower cost and more concise goals. Perhaps that's why Newsday called my Pine Barrens plan "simple, direct and clearly the best of the lot."

Traditionally, Suffolk Life has acted as a fiscal watchdog in this county, so I am somewhat surprised by your support for the LoGrande proposal, which is the biggest spending initiative in Suffolk since the Southwest Sewer District fiasco. Your opposition to last year's \$60 million open space program on the ground that it was too expensive makes your support for LoGrande's plan only more mystifying.

For my part, I stand proudly behind the Pine Barrens bill I introduced because it would have protected groundwater efficiently and at the same time saved the hard pressed taxpayers of Suffolk County hundreds of millions of dollars.

Sincerely,
Philip C. Nolan
County Legislature
10th District

Editor's Note:
Let's set the record straight. Last year, We opposed spending \$60 million on open space through legislative initiative, without voter approval by referendum.

LoGrande's proposal required voter approval through referendum. Prior to the vote, all sides will be heard and then the taxpayers can either accept or reject the concept of continuing to have imposed upon themselves a quarter percent sales tax.

Quite frankly, we question whether there is enough ecological, valuable land that warrants saving for the expenditure you proposed. In your proposal, you do not specifically outline the individual parcels you plan to acquire. Your plan reeked of a crude political attempt to take advantage of another person's idea.

"Parishioner assembling history"

To the Editor:

I would like to enlist the help of your readers.

In preparation for the 125th anniversary of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church in Lindenhurst, I've been asked to assemble and write an in-depth history of the parish.

I would welcome hearing from any of your readers who might have memorabilia of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church -- photographs of parish events; church buildings; pastors and assistants; the parochial school, its students, nuns, lay teachers and other staff members;

church organizations; newspaper and magazine articles, programs or other mementos.

Further, I would like to know whether any of your readers -- particularly long-time members of the church -- would be willing to let me interview them. Their recollections could contribute a significant oral segment to the history I'm trying to assemble.

My home address is 33 Laurel Road, Lindenhurst, NY 11757.

John P. Brion
Lindenhurst

"Clarification concerning hospice"

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your article "Hospice Eases the Pain for the Dying, Families" which appeared in your paper on July 1. We greatly appreciate your interest in our program. There are, however, a few points which need clarification and/or corrections:

- the term hospice denotes a process of caring and receiving care.

- the names of Nancy Sullivan and Sister Rosemary McKenna should have been included as founders of the organization.

- Islip Friends has paid staff as well as volunteers.

- certification is necessary in order to provide dying patients/families comprehensive hospice care under Medicare, Medicaid and third party insurance.

- the cancer mortality rate in only one age cohort group is higher in Islip Township than of Suffolk County.

Again, thank you for your interest in our organization.

Sincerely,

Lucille McCue, Director
Mary Jane Ringkamp, Assistant Director
Islip

Not A Legislative Matter

Under the county charter, the county executive's office negotiates salaries and benefits with the employees and their union. The negotiations must be approved by the rank and file and the county legislature. Upon ratification and legislative approval, the county executive enters into contract for a stated period of time with the union. Any changes in the contract desired by either side are taken up at the next negotiating session just prior to the end of the current contract. This is the way it is supposed to work.

Unfortunately, under the Cohalan administration, labor was able to bully the county executive into breaching this protocol, particularly after legislative initiative.

Approximately a year ago, when Cohalan was still county executive, the clerk typists were dissatisfied with what they were making. Clerk typists, whose qualifications are a high school education and an ability to type 40 words per minute, start at \$14,144 annually, and their salaries go to \$20,410. This is for a 35 hour week. Clerk typists receive up to six weeks paid vacation, hospitalization, dental care, eye care, numerous days off for sickness and personal reasons, pre-paid legal expenses, a lucrative retirement system and a host of other benefits that employees in private industry would never dream of. These extras above salary cost the county taxpayers approximately 60 percent in addition to the base pay.

Clerk typists in private industry start at generally under \$10,000 and normally never receive more than \$15,000 per annum. In comparison to the public sector, the county clerk typists have a very good deal, a very generous deal but they still wanted more.

Instead of entering their demands into the collective bargaining process which would be the normal course to take, the typists tried good,

old-fashioned political arm twisting. They first took advantage of the waning days of the Cohalan administration. They received some encouragement, but Cohalan left office before the increases demanded by the typists could be granted. This unfinished business was dumped in the lap of Acting County Executive Michael LoGrande.

LoGrande let it be known quickly, upon taking office, that his management style was totally different than Cohalan's. Salary increases or change in grade must be part of the bargaining process and the contract. He would not negotiate with individuals or representatives of groups.

Not to be thwarted, the representatives of the typists went to the weakest target, the county legislature. Legislators are noted for their lack of political courage. "Give in, give everybody what they want and let the taxpayers pay for it" has become the credo of the funny farm.

True to its reputation, the legislature, in what might have been an attempt to embarrass Acting County Executive LoGrande, introduced and passed a bill raising the salaries of the clerk typists. The cost of this move to Suffolk County taxpayers alone for clerk typists would be \$1.4 million. The domino effect, where all others who then would be out of schedule could demand, because of the precedent, an increase in their salaries, would cost taxpayers an additional \$5 to \$7 million.

The initiative should never have been introduced in the legislature for the charter clearly states that negotiations between the employees of Suffolk County and their union are to be done solely through the county executive's office. LoGrande very wisely plans to veto this initiative, stating that he believes it is an issue that belongs on the negotiating table and as passed by the county legislature was probably illegal and unconstitutional.

We applaud LoGrande for this action. We believe, although not intended, it gives the voters a good idea of the difference in management styles between LoGrande and Cohalan.

LoGrande is facing a tough primary campaign for the Republican and Conservative nomination in September. He will be facing an even stronger challenge in November from Patrick Halpin.

The unions, a tremendous force to contend with, are obviously watching this move with great interest. We

hope the taxpayers are watching also. If LoGrande had approved the legislative measure he could have looked for union support. This would have meant four more years of giveaways with the taxpayers picking up the bill.

LoGrande probably cut off his nose as far as the unions are concerned but, because he stood up for the people of Suffolk County for what is right and for the right reasons, he should be standing tall on the issues of personnel management and taxes.

And why not?

Too Close For Comfort

A special committee of the Suffolk County Legislature is investigating the Suffolk County Police, an investigation that is long overdue, brought about by allegations by police officers of wrongdoings within the department. Some have described the investigation as a witch hunt, others as a needed public exposure of the inside workings of the police.

The Suffolk County PBA president, Michael Mahoney, is furious that some of the brethren have broken the code of silence and are speaking out about what they feel are injustices. He has threatened sanctions against those officers who have come forth. Mahoney's attitude is atrocious. Instead of trying to silence those who are concerned enough to speak out, he should be trying to clean out the bad apples in the ranks who give all police officers a bad name. Those who have the courage to speak out should be encouraged, not threatened. Mahoney's efforts to scare off those who reveal wrongdoings within the department is a prime reason why this investigation is necessary.

The cost of operating the Suffolk County Police Department has escalated year after year, but the quality of law enforcement in this county has gone down. Missing evidence and other snafus within the police department have had a tremendous impact on the conviction rate of major crimes. Coupled with this, the District Attorney's Office

has also been the target of controversy, and there has been much bickering between these two major departments of county government.

There have been accusations of favoritism, of selective enforcement, of political influence on the affairs of the department. While these charges should be investigated, they should not be the entire focus of the probe. There are many more issues that need to be thoroughly explored. For example, we know that organized crime has moved into Suffolk in full force, and in many areas of activity. We know that our streets and our school yards are supermarkets for drugs. The list goes on and on, and we need to know why such actions have been permitted to exist without solutions. Why haven't our law enforcement agencies been able to come down full force on the growing crime problems in our county? Is it really the lack of manpower? Or the lack of direction by those in command? Why are we paying more for law enforcement, but seem to be getting less?

It is time that all of these questions are answered, and if the investigation by the legislators accomplishes that, it will have provided a sound public service. It's time we get politics, and threats by union officials, out of this important part of our government. It's time to clean house, to get rid of the bad and give the good police officers a reason to feel proud again.

And why not?

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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.

When Less Is Better

Years ago, I remember my Mom doing her weekend shopping and coming home with two bags of groceries.

As a young man in the early 50's, I was a bag boy at Bohack's. Again, weekend shopping consisted of only three or four bags. Occasionally, there would be the order that would exceed six. In those days, we got to know our customers and it usually turned out that the shopping was for

a family of 10 or 12, or the family did their major shopping only once a month or every six weeks.

A few years back, I was doing the shopping for myself and the kids, five of us in total. An every other week shopping trip would result in 15 to 20 bags of groceries. We were not eating much differently, nutrition-wise, than I had been brought up as a kid. I often wondered why my mother

Continued on page 4

IF FOR ANY REASON,

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Willmott's and Why-Notes

David J. Willmott, Editor

Less Is More...

Cont. from page 3

would get everything she needed in two or three bags where it took me 15 or 20.

Picking up a box of cornflakes gave me the answer. A box that used to be half the size but contained twice as much cereal was the norm when I was growing up.

This morning I went to get a couple of Anacin. First I had to open the cardboard box and throw it away. Then I had to remove a plastic safety wrapper and throw it away. Then I had to remove the plastic top rather than a metal one; the plastic top will not disintegrate, the metal one would rust away. Inside the bottle was a wad of cotton, sufficient enough to be a bandage. At the bottom of the bottle, using about 40 percent of the container were 100 Anacin. The bottle, instead of being glass, is plastic which when disposed of will become a non-biodegradable product that will sit in a landfill for hundreds of years and still be intact.

The glass bottle would have shattered and taken up no more room

than a few grains of sand.

Garbage, it's everywhere. Mainly, a product of an imaginative packaging industry that believes that in order to sell the steak, you must sell the sizzle. The sizzle is the difference between three bags of products and 15. The sizzle is the difference between a landfill that took generations to fill and ones that are filled overnight.

Would I buy a box of corn flakes that was half the size, twice as full - the answer unequivocally is yes, as long as I knew how much per ounce I was paying for the product inside. Not knowing this, which few of us do, as we are accustomed to paying the package price rather than a unit price per ounce, we think we are getting a bargain by buying the bigger one.

Change the way we price things, simplify the packaging, and garbage will still be a problem but only a fraction of what it is.

And why not?

Willmott's and Why-Notes

David J. Willmott, Editor

'Is our fragile ecology being abused?'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

A recent letter sent to your paper by Pauline Jungreis, and printed in your paper May 27, prompted this letter.

Last year my wife and I were nearby the Grumman Navy Plant, in early May. It was a very windy day, and an Ag plane was spraying the fields and edges around the runways. We were annoyed that the material was drifting on to us even though we were a thousand feet away. The plane was yellow, and had no numbers or letters that we could see when it flew overhead on a turn.

Several weeks later, I was visiting a friend whose property adjoins the Navy property. I discovered that portions of his trees were badly stunted. We looked up the road away from the fence and the stunting ended; we drove around the Navy area, and the stunting was most evident. You leave the area, and the blighting disappears.

I have been in the field of arboriculture for over 35 years. The twisted leaf tissue was similar to herbicide injury, but not like any that I had ever seen. I suggested that he call Co-op Extension in Riverhead. I don't think they came out. But he did contact someone at Grumman; they said they did not spray herbicide, but a

fertilizer. If it was fertilizer, it was different from any I had experienced. I told my friend that if it was fertilizer, the damaged trees should come back.

This year the stunting has reappeared all around the property, plus areas where it could have drifted, and other areas are totally free of phenomena. This leaves out frost or climatic factors as the culprit.

Are our fragile Pine Barrens and Peconic headwaters unknowingly being used for yet another experiment? Last year may not have been the first year of so called fertilizing.

The last thing I want to do is malign my own occupation; you see I am a commercial pesticide applicator. I know that pesticides can and are being used safely without threat to our water or wildlife. And we are as concerned for the safety of the environment as those who think the world would be a far better place if no pesticides or chemical fertilizers were ever used.

I would be glad to pursue this further if it would help to clear up the matter.

With best regards,
Le Roy Parr
East Moriches

'No number of plans would work'

An Open Letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

I am a former president of the Dan Wall Republican Club in Massapequa Park. I was the president of a Better Business Bureau. I was the president of a chapter of the Defense Supply Association. I have held numerous other positions in the leadership of business, community and charitable organizations. During these times, I earned an income as part of the management in Nabisco and Dun and Bradstreet to support a family and raise three children. I recently retired and hope to live out my remaining years among my friends and the beauty of Long Island.

The above information is offered to indicate that I am not a radical or "whacko." Community

service was not self-serving nor used as an ego massage. It was something I was drawn into when I stated an opinion that others with an apathetic nature failed to do.

I live 20 miles from Shoreham on a side street one mile from the only access through the center of town. There are only two routes to take to either go west or east from my home. A few months ago, a truck overturned on Main Street causing an oil spill and a diversion of traffic. Gridlock upon gridlock ensued as motorists tried to find alternate routes through Smithtown. My street became one long parking lot. My driveway had two motorists trapped in it after they tried to turn around and traffic moved in behind them. The snarl lasted for hours. This was on a side street rarely used by

anyone but as a resident. I shudder to think of what might happen if these motorists' frustrations were compounded by terror because of an accident, or even a strong scare, at the Shoreham nuclear plant.

This is just one example of what could happen throughout eastern L.I. at any time. If there were many at the same time, no number of plans could be on line to take care of the situation.

I do not envy your position. You possibly are facing a "damned if I do, and damned if I don't" decision. However, isn't that damnation better to be received from a superior person?

Please stop trying to help Lilco's white elephant destroy people. Sincerely,
William R. Garcia
Smithtown

'Each school day is precious'

Dear Editor:

I read the letter entitled "Educator deserves better treatment" in the May 27, 1987 issue of the East Islip edition of Suffolk Life and felt compelled to react. I, too, work for a major Suffolk County school district--as an educational secretary. I am often responding to people who imagine how wonderful it must be to enjoy Thanksgiving recess, Christmas recess, winter recess, spring recess, and summers off. Unfortunately, I do not share that particular professional benefit. Unlike school teachers, I work twelve months a year and earn vacation time based upon my years of service.

I am appalled that a "dedicated" teacher with 23 years of "faithful service" would make wedding arrangements and plan a honeymoon at a time when students are in attendance. There are only approximately 180 precious days each year devoted to teaching students; educating students should be the number one priority of every teacher during these 180 days. And any teacher who "gives unselfishly of herself" 180 days a year for 23 years is merely saring her paycheck.

Given the limited amount of instructional time available, it is important that students have the benefit of one teacher who has identified and understands each student's weakness and develops techniques to insure that each student learns to his/her potential. Employing a substitute who is unfamiliar with each student's needs would certainly not be in the best interest of the students and would most definitely "interrupt the educational process." In addition, as a taxpayer I would question the legitimacy of the expenses (approximately \$500) to employ a substitute teacher for 10 days - given that fact that we remain approximately 185 days where a teacher is not a obligated to the district or the students.

The teacher and her fiance should be thankful that her administrators have granted five days leave during the school year. Given the unique work year that the teaching profession enjoys, it would seem all too easy to plan a wedding so as not to interfere with a student's learning time.

Lisa Beck
Islip

'Councilman looks to N.Y.S.'

Dear Editor:

Would you please consider for publication this open letter to the region's State Legislative Delegation?

As you may already be aware, the Brookhaven Town Board, on May 19, unanimously voted to support a proposal by the Suffolk County Executive to provide county funding to preserve the region's groundwater recharge areas.

This proposal, I'm pleased to note, would also provide payments in lieu of taxes to the school, fire and other districts which would otherwise have to bear the burden of taking land off the tax rolls.

The Brookhaven Town Board has been at the forefront of programs to protect our

precious environmental resources, but we realize that our local residents cannot bear the full burden of all the necessary preservation efforts.

Therefore, I am asking you to investigate the possibility of creating and approving state legislation that would assist local municipalities in their preservation efforts. I am aware of the fact that the State of New York already provides payments in lieu of taxes for some state-owned land in this region. It is my request that these types of payments be expanded to other parcels.

Sincerely,
Eugene Gerrard
Brookhaven Town Councilman

'Legislators, taxpayers complimented'

Dear Editor,

Our local legislators, Michael D'Andre and Donald Blydenburgh, are to be complimented on their introduction and passage of a resolution providing for over \$663,000 for a preventative drug abuse program in Suffolk County.

The program, among other things, includes a team which will train school district personnel in the "Growing Healthy" curriculum.

We are, indeed, fortunate to have such innovative and concerned individuals rep-

resenting us in the Suffolk County Legislature.

Sincerely,
George V. Andreozzi
Assistant, Special Services, Smithtown Central School District

Editor's note: Thanks should go to the Suffolk County taxpayers who will pay for this program - D'Andre and Blydenburgh will only provide us with their share of the taxes they pay. George, there is no Santa Claus.

'Concern for senior citizens'

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you in the hope that something can be done about the plight we senior citizens are in here at the Village of Brentwood, on Second Avenue and Brentwood Road opposite St. Anne's Church. Three cars were broken into Saturday night and damaged. They had to be towed away. It is the third time for mine. April 10 and May 3 it was stolen and recovered the next day by police, completely stripped, even the license plates. I had it fixed, and got it back again on May 28 and on May 30, it was broken into again. We are afraid for our lives here; so many people have been mugged. One is still in the hospital, three weeks now. Another became senile, and another died after being mugged. We are all afraid, even to go out

food shopping. Our landlord refuses to do anything, not even better lighting on the grounds. Can you help us by printing this in Suffolk Life?

Thank You,
Helen Battinelli
Brentwood

P.S. I have an alarm in my car, but it didn't help!

'A good time'

Dear Lou:

Well, the 1987 edition of the Riverhead Sportsmen's Club Annual Peconic Bay Weakfish Tournament has come and gone. Although the fishing was spotty, everyone seemed to have a good time. We had a record number of entries this year, due in part to the publicity given the tourney by Suffolk Life.

The tournament committee thanks you for again for your past and present interest in this increasingly popular event.

Thank you,
Ray Cheshire
Weakfish Tourney Committee
Aquebogue

Thanks from students

Dear Editor,

The student body of Lake Grove School would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the people who contributed to our car wash on Moriches Road on May 9, 1987.

Your contributions will enable us to have our student prom in the grand style to which we have always imagined. Thanks so much to everyone!!!

The Student Body of Lake Grove School
Lake Grove

Celebrating Our 27th Birthday

It was the fall of 1960. I, a 20-year-old, without a bit of experience in journalism or publishing, started to plan for a new newspaper. It was to be called Central Suffolk Life, published magazine size on a monthly basis, for just under 10,000 homes in the Riverhead area of Suffolk County.

The first edition was officially published on August 21, 1961. During the first year, circulation was expanded to cover both the North and South Forks, and the name was changed to Suffolk Life.

I fondly remember my first edition. I felt a deep sense of pride that can only be matched with the feeling of holding each of my newborn children in my arms for the first time.

The motive behind the establishment of Suffolk Life was twofold. As a young man, who had grown up on Eastern Long Island, and had gone to college, I found the job market very dismal and, therefore, I had to create work for myself. I recognized the need for a newspaper that would cover the daily lives of the average citizen and give them a voice to speak out on their behalf.

The newspapers of the early 60's catered to the elite. Rarely did the average person have his or her name published in the newspaper and, heaven forbid, a photograph. This privilege was reserved for the politicians and the elitists of the community. The opinions of the working populace, of the grass roots of the community, were rarely expressed. The editorial columns were controlled by the political parties, primarily the Republican party, as were the news columns.

I well remember an instance that happened during my first year of publishing. During the Christmas season I had attended an inter-racial,

Democratic Club Christmas party and had taken pictures of the participants which were published in the next month's edition. I approached a major appliance store about the possibility of advertising in Suffolk Life. The owner seemed quite interested in my presentation and the concept of saturation circulation at an affordable cost. As he was leafing through the paper, he came to a sudden stop. His face grew red, his voice quivered and he said to me, "I do not allow that in this town." Seeing the look of amazement on my face, he further said, "You don't know who I am, do you?" I acknowledged that I really did not know anything about his heritage. Then he revealed that he was the Republican town leader. I uttered a sigh of relief because he had my Irish up as I thought he was referring to the publishing of pictures of black people, at a time when black people could not get their pictures published in any paper. He went on to say that as a Republican leader he okayed everything that went in every paper, editorials, letters, news stories and pictures. He was curious that Democrats were pictured as human beings. If I hoped to be in business, I better learn to play by the rules. I didn't. I continued on my course of giving exposure to all Suffolk residents doing their thing, and a forum for expressing their opinions.

This column, Willmott's and Why Not's, was intended and it is still intended to be provocative, to create thought and then action amongst the people who call Suffolk home.

We often have been controversial, taking the unpopular side. Probably, the most salient of the issues that we have fought long and hard on is stopping the Shoreham nuclear power plant. Back in the late 60's, it was not popular to challenge a cor-

poration like LILCO. We questioned the safety, the liability, the cost and the honesty of the people who were making the claims that nuclear power could generate electricity "too cheap to meter." LILCO, at the time, had an image of being somewhere between motherhood and apple pie. We were harshly criticized for questioning their statistics and their integrity. Yet, we persisted in trying to get to the bottom of the truth, which has led to the public's awareness of the menace we have amongst us.

Politically, Suffolk Life reflects my ideology. The newspaper is independent. We have many friends and associates in all political parties. We believe it is a newspaper's responsibility to speak out on the public's behalf, to call an ace an ace, a spade a spade, whether those we are writing about are Republican, Democrat or one of the other political philosophies. It makes no difference whether those whose actions have caused the stories or editorials are friend or foe.

Our reporters are instructed and trained to present fair and unbiased coverage. They are to keep their opinions out of the stories. If they feel strongly enough about an issue and wish to make their opinion known, they are given the right to author an editorial or an opinion piece that will be published under their byline.

Suffolk Life has enjoyed a very solid and very rapid growth over the past 27 years. Today, we are the major factor in publishing newspapers in Suffolk County. Every home from Orient and Montauk Points to the Nassau County line receives a copy of Suffolk Life every Wednesday.

The total of our circulation, which now exceeds 470,000, is broken into 23

zoned editions. This enables us to cover the local news of importance to hamlets and school districts, while at the same time doing a first-class job of reporting on the towns and county.

We are still not as big or able to publish as complete a newspaper as we would like to. This will come in time as our resources grow stronger and we can reinvest in personnel and the expansion in the number of pages of the paper.

Many readers have written to us and asked how do you get paid? Once a year we ask our readers to voluntarily send in a payment of \$5 for their subscription to the paper. Thousands of people do respond and these monies are used to expand and broaden the news portion of Suffolk Life.

These \$5 voluntary subscriptions go a long way toward paying for the news that appears in Suffolk Life. If you would like, why not fill out the form published below and send in your voluntary subscription.

In our 27th year we intend to continue our solid coverage of life in Suffolk. We plan on being there when you need us, whether it be as a forum to express your opinions, to lead a battle on your behalf, or to present photo coverage of the affairs you have worked so hard to make a success.

Our reporters will be at the town boards, the zoning and planning hearings. They will cover the school boards, the county legislature and all the departments that are regulating your life.

The staff here at Suffolk Life, which now totals almost 150, is proud to be part of Suffolk Life and thanks you for your readership, your support and for giving us an opportunity to publish a great newspaper for you. And why not?

Cont. on page 4

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS Vol. 26 No. 54
and Suffolk County Life

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| Centereach/Selden | Mid Hampton | | |
| Smithtown/St. James | Coram/Ridge | | |

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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.

Happy Birthday Suffolk Life.

Here is my voluntary subscription.
Please enclose \$5 and send to P.O. Box 167,
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Continued from page 3

Would You Believe Them?

The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) scored a major victory for the people recently, not by any action taken but simply by being in existence. The mere fact that LIPA exists and poses an alternative to LILCO's arrogant ways was enough for our infamous utility to start withdrawing its greedy hands from the pockets of its ratepayers.

LIPA was born out of a desperation to protect the people of Long Island from the never-ending rate hikes demanded by LILCO, and from the threat of the Shoreham nuclear power plant. LIPA's mission is to proceed toward a possible takeover of LILCO to bring about rate stabilization, and the end of the Shoreham fiasco. A recent financial report commissioned by LIPA indicated rates following a LIPA takeover would be cheaper than they would be under continued dominance by LILCO. This is not the first report to say that. Four other reports have said the same.

LILCO has now come up with their own report, prepared by their very own people, to counter the LIPA report. The LILCO study claims that the utility will not require the kind of rate increases that were agreed upon in a 15-year rate moderation plan approved by the state Public Service Commission. Under that plan, LILCO's rates were destined to double, at least, over the next 15 years.

Now, however, LILCO says they can squeeze by with 20 to 25 percent less than were called for in the rate moderation plan. And so, the company declares, if LIPA takes over LILCO, LIPA would have to charge 20 percent more than LILCO.

It's amazing how the minds of LILCO officials work. Can they

honestly believe that the people of Long Island would fall for such an unbelievable ploy? LILCO claims their adjusted figures result from lower oil prices and changes in the tax code. We think the new figures result from the fact that suddenly an alternative exists to LILCO and its arrogant disregard for the financial and personal health of its ratepayers.

Under LIPA the high priced top LILCO officials and their Golden Parachutes would be eliminated. And the guaranteed 14 percent profit, whether the company is run for the customer's benefit or not, would be eliminated. The continuous flow of money into a white elephant nuclear plant would cease. And the public be damned attitude of a runaway utility would be ended, once and for all.

LILCO's new "the rate increases will be lower" scam appears to be a desperate effort to discredit LIPA and a takeover decision. But imagine what would happen if the takeover effort came to an end. Do you believe for one moment that LILCO would hold to its new estimates? Do you believe that a company which originally claimed their Shoreham fiasco would cost \$269 million -- it is now at \$5 billion and will most likely reach \$6 billion when the final tab is in -- can be trusted to accurately predict future rates? How much confidence can anyone have in a company which invests millions in a uranium mine that turns out to be a deep hole filled with water?

If anything, this new LILCO scheme should instill a greater determination in the people of Long Island to guarantee a brighter future by replacing LILCO arrogance with public power.

And why not?

Let Them Work

At this time of year it is common to see groups of teenagers just hanging around. It is at this time of year that idleness among these teens often gets them into trouble.

Being a kid between 13 and 16 can be rough. You are no longer a child, but not an adult. Your body and mind tell you that you should start to be productive, idleness breeds boredom and boredom can lead to trouble.

Back in the pre-depression days, kids were expected to go to work to help pay for the survival of the family. Some kids worked as early as five or six years of age. There were horrendous abuses which led to our Child Labor Laws. These laws were designed to prevent children from being abused, and to protect their safety.

Today's technology has changed, as has our economy. No longer is it absolutely necessary for most kids to go to work. Two incomes provide enough money for the families' needs and enough left over so the kids can be given funds to take care of many of their wants. Most kids, though, want more and would like to work for it. Yet, our current labor laws prevent most kids from working because they are still in their early teens. Just about the only legal jobs that are available to them are newspaper delivery routes, babysitting and odd jobs around home. Wouldn't it make sense to allow businesses to hire some of these kids to do routine types of jobs suited to their age and ability? Would it not make sense to allow a father to teach his son his trade?

We remember an instance where one of our employees in the mechanical trade had a son whose idle time was getting him into trouble. The employee asked if he could bring his son to work, for us to pay him the going, starting wage, and teach him skills. The young man was enthusiastic about this opportunity. His father saw many benefits coming out of the arrangement, including the possibility of re-establishing communication with his son on a professional level.

We were happy to cooperate as we did have the need for a helper. The boy, who was then 14, went to secure working papers and was denied.

Although the job would have only lasted through the summer, because there was moving equipment involved in the operation the law forbade the boy from working. He could not start to learn his fathers' trade until he was 18-years-of-age. As the kid put it, that's dumb. We agree.

How many kids could be taught to be productive, kept off the streets and out of trouble if they were allowed to work in a training-type position? It's time to change our Child Labor Laws, which were developed in the 30's, to make them responsive to the 80's.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

'Heroism' causes great concern'

Dear Editor:

Recently Col. North's patriotism and heroism have been praised profusely in all media. To carry out orders from superiors unquestioningly is extolled as a great virtue. Finally - so we are told - Americans have a true hero and freedom fighter - someone who presents the best of a dedicated Marine officer.

Much has been written about where to put the blame - surely not on Col. North, but his superiors who blatantly tried to circumvent the law of the land. While in no way diminishing the responsibility all the way to the President, it causes me great concern that no columnist, no commentator and none of the counsels of the Iran Committee have so far mentioned the danger of glorifying unquestioning allegiance to superiors. The Nuremberg trials taught us

that the glorification of such attitudes creates individuals who will do anything, including lying, cheating and killing. Those trials condemned for all times, zealous patriots who willingly and unthinkingly follow orders of their commanders-in-chief.

It seems that the counsels, members of Congress and the American people have fallen for the so-called charm and sincerity of the man. There was plenty of charm and sincerity displayed by the perpetrators of Nazi crimes. I was there! Let there be no misunderstanding - unless we interrupt emotional glorification of unquestioning allegiance to power we have learned nothing since Nuremberg and our democracy is in deep danger.

Marion R. Davis
Shoreham

'22,000 letters on one subject'

Dear Editor

I receive a lot of mail -- hundreds of letters every day. But what would you think if you received more than 22,000 letters in just one week on the same subject? You'd probably think that people felt very strongly about something.

This recently happened to me. I asked the people of the Second Congressional District if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should be allowed to change the rules pertaining to an evacuation plan and allow Shoreham to go on-line. The first week's count was 22,000 against opening Shoreham and 56 in favor of opening Shoreham.

In my 15 years of public service I have yet to see an issue on which the views of the people are as clear. I realize that this was an unscientific sampling, but how often have you heard of 99.75 percent of your neighbors agree on anything?

In a recent Congressional hearing, I conveyed this message to my colleagues. Without an evacuation plan that is approved and implemented by state and local authorities, I said, Shoreham should never be allowed to open. It is a matter of basic public safety.

Following these hearing, I submitted the mountains of mail I received from my constituents to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. These letters are now part of the official comments which will be considered by the NRC as they consider the rule change.

I will be working hard with members of the New York State Congressional Delegation, our two senators, Governor Cuomo, local officials, and the people of Long Island to keep the NRC from changing the rules in the middle of the game. After all, the message is quite clear.

Thomas Downey
U.S. Congressman

'Thanks for the memory'

To the Sachem Class of 1987

To the hundreds of young people who attended our son's graduation party on June 21st - Thank you!

Thank you for showing how great most of you are and how great the rest could be if they cared.

You earned respect and high praise from us and our neighbors and you all truly deserve it! To the two who tried to cause trouble, we

refuse to let it dampen a terrific memory of our son's graduation night.

Most of all, a deep and profound thank you to our neighbors for understanding that as long as the kids were here, they were safely off the roads.

Again, neighbors and kids alike, thank you, for creating a memory.
Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons
Lake Ronkonkoma

'Reader offers prayer solution'

Prayer in Public Schools: The Solution

Dear Editor:

A very wise public elementary school principal I know handles this dilemma expertly. Every child in his school must be in their seat and quiet for five minutes before studies begin.

Those who wish to pray can pray silently. The whole class settles in and gives the teachers undivided attention.

This man served in the U.S. Navy four years and went on through college, earned his masters and doctorate in education (attending Hofstra and Adelphi on alternate nights for 12

years) all with the help of Uncle Sam's G.I. Bill.

He believes in separation of church and state. Why can't all schools practice this manner of solving seemingly insurmountable problems?

Why not try it?
Rev. Madeline Albrecht
Smithtown