

## A Message To Our Readers

We would like to thank all our readers for their loyal support. We endeavor very hard here at Suffolk Life to be a meaningful newspaper to the people we serve. Although we have a relatively small news staff for the size of our publication, we have successfully been able to be on top of most major news stories, giving our readers both sides of the issue in depth.

We realize we have some shortcomings and are working to change them in the future. We are the first to admit that Suffolk Life is a hard paper to read because of the numerous sectionalized plates within the paper itself. Some pages run throughout all twenty-three of our editions, some pages run in a group of common editions and are changed in other like editions. Some pages run only in the local editions they are published for. The numbering and sequencing of these pages poses a monumental composition problem which leads to difficulties in the flow of the paper. We have some plans we hope to implement in the coming year that should make this problem less of one as time goes on.

We plan to bolster your news coverage in the coming year. We will run a paid subscription. The monies from these subscriptions will be used to increase our news staff and the news space for our reporters.

We welcome our readers comments about your paper. Constructive criticism is good for everyone. It is the design and plan of Suffolk Life to be the average persons' newspaper, covering the things that make life important to them here in Suffolk County.

We welcome your suggestions and elicit your support. Whether we be advertising people, editorial department workers or any of the other support people who conscientiously care about the quality of your newspaper, we are dedicated to serving you by bringing you the latest and the best in information about your life here in Suffolk regardless of whether it is news or advertising.

We thank you for the opportunity of having been able to serve you in the past. We look forward to serving you better in the future.

And why not?

The public came out the winners with the victory for Blass. The hand-picked choice of the political leaders, Gerard Glass, would have been little more, in our view, than a pawn. He would have sat in the chair, but the powers behind the throne would have been the leaders. They would have been in full control of the legislature, playing the political games that have been very costly for the taxpayers. And the election of Glass would have given former Presiding Officer Lou Howard, a staunch pro-Shoreham LILCO ally, a position of power from which he would undoubtedly have attempted to stymie the legislature's fight against the plant, as he did when he was presiding officer.

While Blass has his own political flaws—he has been accused of going back on his word time and again—he is not usually known for being the puppet of the bosses. It is comforting to know that both Mahoney and Romaine also have the political courage to do the right thing, rather than follow political orders.

Unfortunately, the political scheming that went on at the organizational meeting marred the debut of Acting County Executive Michael LoGrande. He was advised by County Attorney Martin Ashare and Legislative Counsel Paul Sabatino to call a recess of the meeting after the political effort to elect Glass was defeated. That scheme, one legislator told Suffolk Life, was

cooked up at the caucus held before the meeting. LoGrande followed that advice—very wrong advice in our view—and walked from the room leaving ten legislators fuming. He joined disgruntled Republican legislators and leaders Mike Blake and Tony Pace in his office for a caucus. The meeting turned into a shambles, and LoGrande must shoulder the blame for that happening. In doing so, he destroyed a goal he had sought to achieve: to eliminate the confrontational atmosphere between the legislature and the county executive's office. He must now prove he can stand strong against the orders of the political power structure, acting in fairness to all rather than catering to the political leaders. While they handpicked him for the county executive's seat, his first responsibility is to the public, not the leaders.

If the first legislative meeting of 1987 is any indication of what the year ahead will bring, there could be some interesting times ahead. Unless some more Republican legislators come up with the kind of political courage Mahoney applied last week, they could be writing the obituary of the county legislature as it currently exists, and hastening the day when the abolishment of the legislature becomes, at long last, a reality.

And why not?

## Courage Discovered

"...it is very doubtful there is a Republican who has the political guts to oppose the wishes of the leadership." Those words appeared in a recent editorial dealing with the election of a presiding officer of the Suffolk County Legislature. But we were wrong. There was one Republican who dared to oppose the wishes of the Republican leadership, and as a result the people of Suffolk County came out the winners.

The political leadership had it all figured out: Legislator Gerard Glass of Babylon was to be the handpicked new leader of the legislature. He would replace Legislator Gregory Blass in that position, because Blass and the leadership don't get along. Blass, it seems, has the habit of being a bit too independent, undependable when it comes to following political edicts. He gained the seat the year before by forging a coalition with the Democrats, and got the vote of one Republican who was planning

to resign and move to Florida. This year, however, it appeared that Blass was not to get another Republican vote to give him re-election against the wishes of the political bosses.

That's the way it appeared. But it didn't work out that way. Legislator Patrick Mahoney had the political courage we didn't think existed. He voted against Glass, and supported Blass. And that was all that was needed for Blass to win. Legislator Edward Romaine, himself a contender for the position for a while, also voted for Blass, as did Legislator Donald Blydenburg who may turn out to be the biggest loser in the whole fiasco. He had reportedly promised anti-Shoreham groups he would support Blass for re-election, and then refused to do so unless some other Republicans supported Blass as well. In the end he did vote for Blass, but when it didn't matter. Blass had already won.

## New NRC Scam

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, continuing in its steadfast journey toward putting the Shoreham nuclear power plant on line come hell or high water, recently unveiled a new ploy in an effort to justify reducing the size of evacuation zones surrounding nuclear plants. The NRC has created special panels of scientists to explore what would happen as the result of a serious nuclear accident in this country.

Selected to head this effort has been Herbert Kouts, chairman of the nuclear energy department at Brookhaven National Laboratory, who is a devout proponent of nuclear power, and of LILCO's Shoreham plant. Kouts, as a member of a blue ribbon panel created by Legislator Gregory Blass and of the state commission created by Governor Mario Cuomo, has been an apologist for the plant, voicing strong support to put it on line. With Kouts at the head of the NRC project, no one should be surprised when the final report gives nuclear power a clean bill of health and the evacuation zones are shrunk to three miles or less. That would make it possible for Shoreham to be licensed for operation.

Already there is controversy. Kouts has indicated that while information concerning the Chernobyl accident will be presented to the panel, it would be of limited value. "The Chernobyl thing is so related to the kind of reactor that the Russians built that nobody has been able to come up with anything like a lesson that can be applied to our nuclear

plants," Kouts is quoted as saying. But Robert Pollard of the Union of Concerned Scientists disagrees. While the technologies of reactors here and in Russia differ, Pollard said, "on the other hand we could look at the consequences of the nuclear material once released... and the consequences to the nation and to the public." Pollard insists there is a great deal that can be learned from Chernobyl, and we agree.

The Chernobyl nuclear disaster spread radioactive materials throughout the world, and caused the evacuation of an 18 mile area, at least, which continues as a radioactive wasteland. How in God's name the NRC can now even consider shrinking evacuation zones in this country is beyond us. We expect that kind of callous disregard for human life from the NRC, but we are shocked that the Brookhaven Lab and its officials would agree to be the pawns of such a devious scam.

We would suggest that the Lab spend a bit more of its time to eliminate the radioactive contamination of the water supply and the Peconic River from its own operations. Being involved in the NRC scam to shrink evacuation zones in an effort to facilitate the licensing of Shoreham and other embattled nuclear plants is adding insult to injury. Good neighbors try to help their neighbors, not be a party to schemes that will threaten their futures. Isn't it time the Lab begins acting like a good neighbor?

And why not?

## SUFFOLK LIFE

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NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

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Mastic/Morning  
Saville/Oakdale  
Colman/Selden  
Hampton West  
Hampton East

Mid Hampton  
Rocky Point  
North Fork  
Centersch  
Patchogue  
Riverhead

East Islip  
Medford



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## Let The People Decide Now

Initially we were reluctant to see a special election held to fill the seat of a County Executive. The cost is estimated to be in excess of a half million dollars. We felt this half million could be better used for people services than to solidify the chief executive's slot for a seven month period. We had hoped that political leaders and the elected office holders would act as statesmen and not politicians.

Unfortunately, Suffolk County is not a particularly politically sane place. Statesmanship is foreign to these political minds. The result is the County Executive's Office and the Legislature are in chaos. We are developing too fast here in Suffolk County to be governed by chaos. The selection of the County Executive must be done by the people. The County Executive must know that he is the choice of the people, and is not sitting there as the hand-picked candidate of the political bosses of either party.

The selection of Michael Lo-Grande by the Republicans at least went through a normal political process. There were multiple candidates, multiple supporters and Lo-Grande emerged the victor.

Democratic boss Dominic Baranello has hand picked his choice, Patrick Halpin. During a

special election the public would have a choice of not only these candidates but of any other candidate who could obtain 1,500 signatures on a petition and wishes to run. This low requirement virtually enables all candidates to have their names placed on the ballot if they so chose.

In effect, we would not only have an election but an open primary type of election that allows voters to select from a full menu of candidates. Once the victor emerges, he should be able to unify the various splintered political groups from throughout the county for the people will have chosen their candidate for County Executive. Once and for all, the deals of the boys in the backroom would be put to rest.

For a special election to be held, the Legislature must act by January 26. The legislature has set up a special meeting for that day to act on the measure.

Currently the eight Democratic legislators are in support of a special election. They need only a couple of Republicans to join them.

We encourage you to contact your local legislator and inform him that you, the voter of Suffolk County, want to choose your County Executive now.

And why not?

before the legislation became law so that the members would not have to waste time organizing and developing a transition team.

Mario Cuomo stated loudly and clearly in our offices here in Riverhead during our pre-election interviews that he intended to make the names public no later than December 15. If LILCO did not agree to close the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant by January 15, he would impanel the board with instructions to expeditiously move ahead in the acquisition or condemnation of LILCO, he vowed.

For Long Island, the establishment of L.I.P.A. is the number one priority. The governor in his State of the State Address only touched the surface on this very vital and important issue.

As of the writing of this editorial on January 9, no word has come from his office about his choices for the governing board of L.I.P.A., which comes into existence in six days.

A number of the Shoreham opponents had expressed grave reservations about the governor, his firmness and his integrity. We found ourselves arguing on behalf of the governor, reminding these people that the governor had stood side by side with us and he deserved to play the game according to his own scenario. We hope and pray we were not wrong, and the governor does not do a flip flop on the people as former County Executive Cohalan did. Being betrayed once by a man you trust is enough for anyone's lifetime.

The second pledge Cuomo made at our interviews concerned the windfall taxes the state will garner if New York State tax rates are not re-adjusted downward, as the federal rates were, to compensate for the loss of the deductions in the shelters that had been given up under the federal tax reform.

New York State collects its personal and corporate taxes on the same basis as the federal government. If the state keeps these tax rates the same as they have been in the past, yet denies the deductions that are now disastrous under the federal scenario, the state will take in an estimated \$4 billion in ad-

ditional revenue. The immediate effect of this windfall will be for the State Legislature and the Governor's office to spend this money on all kinds of new projects that are neither wanted or desired by the average taxpayer. The second effect, and the most damaging, will be businesses, industry and tax-paying residents fleeing the state because of the oppressive taxation here.

Under Governor Rockefeller and Governor Carey, New York State lost a huge amount of business and industry. Over one million jobs were moved out of New York State, not to the Sun Belt as is the popular conception but to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Vermont. According to a study issued by Lew Lehrman, Governor Cuomo's first opponent, 900,000 of the million jobs were transferred to areas that were within 10 miles of the New York State borders. We lost the jobs, the businesses and the taxes they paid. Cuomo is well aware of this fact of life. He brought it up during the interviews when he promised that, at a minimum, he would make the tax changes at least revenue neutral. He said, "this is only fair, it's the least we can do. You must remember N.Y.S. is still one of the highest tax states and we must change this or we will lose our competitiveness."

When we read his State of the State Address we expected the governor to restate this pledge that he had made to Suffolk Life and to the people of New York. Instead we find him referring to a "rainy day fund." That's pure hog wash!

We have just experienced here in Suffolk County the effects of a rainy day fund set up by politicians. When Suffolk County finally collected the back LILCO taxes, the county had a windfall which officials claimed would be put into a rainy day fund. This fund has been used as a political football and is no more of a rainy day fund today than we are suffering from a 90 degree heat wave in January.

Cuomo is off to a bad start in his second term, and is definitely making himself out not to be Presidential timber unless he starts delivering on promises made.

And why not?

## Didn't Hear His Promise

To us, Governor Cuomo's State of the State Address was marked not by what was said, but what was not.

During Governor Cuomo's first term of office we went from skepticism to support. Cuomo was known as an ultra-liberal. We prefer our brand of government much more conservative. More by his personality, warmth and intelligence, Cuomo slowly changed our mind. We thought we were seeing the man emerge as a statesman rather than a politician.

Cuomo was there on Shoreham, offering not only vocal support but the power of the governorship of the State of New York. He claimed to be in support of the Long Island Power

Authority. He signed the legislation. Many of us who had worked actively for the development of this public authority, which could be empowered to take over the Long Island Lighting Company and was mandated by the legislature to close the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, questioned why the starting date for the authority was January 15. Cuomo's office responded that the governor needed the time between the passage and January 15 to negotiate with LILCO, and to carefully select his appointments, which amount to five out of nine for the initial board.

It was hoped by the supporters of L.I.P.A. that the appointments would be made at least 60 days

## Here We Go Again

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has time and again utilized unique and controversial methods to overcome obstacles in the path of the full power license for the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. If the obstacle can't be resolved, the NRC simply changes the rules and regulations so that the obstacle no longer exists.

The NRC has violated scores of its own regulations to expedite the licensing process, has even changed judges when they didn't like the decisions handed down that were harmful to the NRC's determination to put Shoreham on line at any cost. Now comes word that the NRC is studying an in-house scheme that would shrink the size of the evacuation zones around nuclear plants. It is expected the NRC could act on this matter by mid-year, without benefit of a public hearing. Just in time to be

an important factor in the final decision about Shoreham's full power license!

The NRC proposal reportedly recommends faster evacuations of fewer people. A top official of the the NRC's nuclear research department has commented that "Evacuation appears only to do good two to five miles from the plant. One of the theories is that beyond that point it would be best for those people to stay indoors until the most intelligent assessment is made. Maybe some would only need to close their windows, or go in the basement." There is, of course, another possibility: maybe they would be trapped in their homes, unable to flee safely because the spread of released radioactive material was more lethal and spread more swiftly before that 'intelligent

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## SUFFOLK LIFE

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Hempstead/Hempstead	Coram/Selden	Centerchurch	
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## Here we go. . .

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assessment is made." Can you imagine what would have happened to the people in the area of Chernobyl if their government had dictated that they stay in their homes while radiation was falling on their homes for a period of several days? The number of casualties would have been in the hundreds of thousands.

The major stumbling block in the path of a full power license for Shoreham is the lack of a safe evacuation plan, despite LILCO's efforts to put in place a utility-supervised plan that would have LILCO employees guiding evacuation efforts. The court has already said LILCO does not have the legal authority to usurp police powers to implement that plan, and the LILCO plan continues to crumble little by little, with the loss of an evacuation relocation center, the radio station which was to have alerted the public, and numerous other withdrawals which make the initially unworkable plan even more unworkable in the eyes of everyone but the NRC.

How does one resolve this problem? Common sense would say the LILCO plan should be rejected because it cannot guarantee the safety of the people. But the NRC doesn't deal in common sense decisions. Instead, they are contemplating changing the regulations to eliminate the obstacle. LILCO wants a two-mile evacuation zone. Don't be surprised if they get what they want.

But wait a minute! What about the lessons learned from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster? We know for a fact that areas ninety miles away from Chernobyl received dangerous doses of radiation. Radiation affected food crops, water and animal life as far as 1,800 miles from the accident site. Entire reindeer herds in Finland had to be slaughtered because of high doses of radioactivity that the reindeer absorbed in their system from eating grass that had been contaminated. An 18-mile area was—and remains—evacuated there. That accident, which gives a true case history of what happens when radiation is released from a nuclear plant, had no impact on the studies leading up to the current NRC proposal. Why is that, we wonder. Does a Russian radioactive release act differently than a release of radioactivity would here in America? Does Russian radioactivity travel farther? Would radioactivity here magically stop at two miles and fall harmlessly to the ground? Does the NRC really believe anyone is going to believe that nonsense? Of course not. The NRC has in their own case files the reactions of normal people in the Three Mile Island area. The Governor of Pennsylvania recommended that only pregnant women and mothers of very young children evacuate that area as a safety precaution. Within a

24-hour period, 280,000 people evacuated from the Three Mile Island area, and no one had been ordered to leave.

This was before Chernobyl, and people did not know, as a fact, what the horrible impact could be from a nuclear accident. The people at Three Mile Island were lucky they could go on good roads to any point on the compass. Here on Long Island, we have up to two and a half million people, and we can only go west over a very limited road network. As Suffolk residents, if an accident happened at Shoreham, we are doomed to die.

The NRC official said one result of the Chernobyl disaster "...is that emergency planning areas could get larger although the evacuation consideration could get smaller." What on earth does that mean? We'll worry about more people but take action to safeguard fewer? What concrete evidence does the NRC have that "closing a window or going into the basement" will protect anyone? Are our homes so airtight that radioactivity would not seep in? Who wants to take that chance with the lives of their family? Even if, by miracle, that was the case, what happens when the food supplies in the home run out? What about the pollution of the water supply?

Changing rules to speed up the licensing process, and changing the judges in order to get a favorable decision is blatantly dishonest and arrogant. But changing the rules about evacuation zones, which could cause death and suffering, is criminal. It should be treated as such.

The NRC should not be permitted to continue with this insane action. The lessons to be learned from the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl must not be shuffled aside in order to protect the American nuclear industry, no matter how many dollars are involved. The lives of the people must come first!

The present administration is in turmoil over the sale of arms to Iran and the underhanded transfer of funds from those sales. The truth of that action is yet to be learned, and those who have lied about their part in this matter are yet to be exposed. Although that matter is getting a majority of the headlines, it is far less important, in our view, than the corrupt actions of the NRC, which are threatening the lives of our people.

We have long been critical of the NRC, but we are not alone. Just last week the National Research Council, an independent arm of the National Academy of Sciences, found that the NRC's program to improve the safety of commercial nuclear power plants is seriously deficient and in dire need of reform. That panel cited the NRC's failure to resolve safety

issues of long standing, combined with ineffective emphasis on the importance of safety. Although that report does not specifically indicate any of the currently operating plants are unsafe, the panel of experts declared that risks would rise significantly if remedial steps were not taken to assure that up-to-date research on safety was undertaken and applied. The NRC has consistently neglected to research the problem of human errors that might lead to an accident, and yet the human error factor—coupled with equipment failure—is considered the major factor in the numerous accident incidents recorded at nuclear plants.

There MUST be a full congressional investigation, by both the House and the Senate, into the NRC, its sweetheart relationships with the nuclear industry, the lobbying efforts by former and present administrative officials on behalf of the Shoreham plant. We must learn, by putting people under oath with the prospect of punitive action if they lie, why the NRC continues to shunt aside the valuable lessons that can be learned from Chernobyl simply to put plants on line here. There should be a moratorium on any new licenses, including Shoreham, until this investigation is complete and the complete truth about Chernobyl is known, and the truth is revealed as to why the NRC has consistently put the safety of the people on the backburner while they rush to put new plants in operation.

We must act now, before another Chernobyl-type accident causes tragedy here. We're talking about insuring the adequate protection of lives, a subject which should be on the top of any priority list.

It most assuredly should be at the top of the list of second term Senator

Alphonse D'Amato and Senator Patrick Moynihan. Moynihan had the opportunity of chairing the Senate Oversight Committee on the nuclear industry. Unfortunately, he felt, for whatever reason, being the chairman of the water resources committee was more important. In accepting this chair, he let the people of Long Island down, and should be well reminded of it two years from now when he runs for re-election.

D'Amato, fresh from victory, a Republican and a loyal supporter of the administration, should use every ounce of power and prestige he commands to take our case to the administration. He, himself, was made to look like a damn fool by the NRC when they would not even allow him, a United States Senator, to speak at a hearing on Shoreham.

The NRC is an agency out of control, allowed to be out of control by President Reagan and the administration he oversees. Regan's credibility as being the man in charge has suffered because of the Iran-Contra operation, another brazen example of government out of control. If Regan does not gain control of his administration, he will go down in the annals of history as a dottering old man who was ineffective and caused the corruption of America.

Senator Alphonse D'Amato can go to the administration with this message, and demand, as a United States Senator, that the NRC be roped in and brought under the direct control of the government that created it. This must be done now by D'Amato, or D'Amato by his silence will become part and parcel of the NRC scenario and an administration that brought shame to our good country.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Student Energy Research projects praised'

To The Editor:

I am very pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate students from the 4th Assembly District and their respective faculty advisors who were Round I winners in the sixth annual Student Energy Research Competition. The contest is sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the state Energy Office.

Since 1981, the Student Energy Research Competition has provided hundreds of high school students throughout New York State the chance to develop their own energy projects.

This year approximately 321 teams, each consisting of up to three students and a faculty project advisor, entered the competition. A panel of judges selected the top 105 project proposals and granted Round I awards of up to \$500. The Round I awards are intended to go toward the cost of materials needed to complete the projects.

For the past three years, students from the 4th Assembly District have won awards in the energy competition. I am very pleased to announce that this year Jonathon Karavolias of Port Jefferson Station and his project advisor, Mr. Huysman, representing Comsewogue High School, and Joseph Chau of Setauket, Brett McCormick and Andrew Cash of Stony Brook and their advisor, Ms. Kreiger, representing Ward Melville High, have been selected as Round I winners.

Next May, the students and their project advisors will bring the completed projects to Albany for the final round of judging.

As a parent and a legislator, I am proud of what these young people have accomplished and wish them well in the finals of this competition.

Sincerely,  
**Bob Gaffney**  
Member of Assembly

### 'Suggestion for distress signal'

Dear Editor:

Here is a suggestion for all who fear the Shoreham Nuclear disaster.

When purchasing stamps insist on the American Flag first class stamp, then affix your

stamp in an inverted position. This international distress signal will let all recipients know that we Long Islanders are in deep distress.

Sincerely,  
**Eugene H. O'Reilly**

## Brookhaven and Peconic County Now

The long awaited report on the feasibility of Brookhaven Town becoming a county is in. The report indicates that it is not only economically feasible, but governmentally desirable for the town to become a county.

Brookhaven Town is much larger than most counties in the State of New York and yet it is only a part of Suffolk County, which has become a costly octopus. The town should schedule a vote on this issue at its earliest convenience. As the facts are disseminated and the pros and cons of the establishment of Brookhaven County are argued, we believe the electorate will select a county form of government over that of a township.

The establishment of Brookhaven County could pose a peculiar problem in the fact that Suffolk County would then be split and be divided by a county. The East End has for years been attempting to become a county onto itself.

Based on the 1980 census, the East End did not have sufficient population to meet the requirements of the New York State law in becoming an independent county. We have often questioned the validity of the census figures because we know of areas, first hand, which were miscounted, which resulted in people not being counted and thus not being

reflected in the census.

During the past six years, the East End has undergone a building explosion and today, we believe, we have the population to meet the state's requirements. Economic studies have been done in the past which showed, as Brookhaven's study shows, that it would be more economical for the taxpayers to be governed by a separate county removed from Suffolk. We believe that with the tremendous growth and assessed valuation on the East End as an updated study would indicate, it would be much more economical for the East End to operate their own county government than to be part of Suffolk. Because of the huge growth in the assessed valuation in the towns of Southampton and East Hampton, the taxpayers are paying more in county taxes than they are paying in town taxes, which include governmental operations, police, safety, recreation, public works and a whole host of other services.

Suffolk should be split into three counties. Suffolk being made up of Babylon, Huntington, Smithtown and Islip.

Brookhaven County and Peconic County on the East End! There was never a better time to make this a reality!

And why not?

## Good Choice for Public Authority

The Long Island Power Authority came into existence on January 15. The Authority is empowered to take over the Long Island Lighting Company either through a friendly stock acquisition or condemnation of LILCO's assets. By law, the Authority must close the Shoreham nuclear power plant.

There had been much apprehension about the makeup of the initial board. The governor was to appoint five members, the assembly and senate two each. In 1991 the members of the Authority will be selected by the voters in an open election. It was feared that the initial members appointed by the gov-

ernmental bodies would either be stoolies of the utilities, or hacks that the politicians would control. Much to our relief, the assembly and the governor's choices appear to be excellent. The senate was expected to make an announcement of its choices this past Monday.

We are particularly pleased by the assembly's appointments of Irving Like and Steven Liss. Like is the granddaddy of the anti-Shoreham movement. His involvement goes back to the Lloyd Harbor group which successfully opposed the establishment of a nuclear power plant in Huntington. As an attorney he has been active and took part in most

hearings on Shoreham, and is intimately familiar with the utility and the issue. Like, in private practice, is not only an environmental lawyer but a corporate attorney. He has extensive background in stocks, bonds, mergers and acquisitions. Like was an initial member of the steering committee for the Citizens to Replace LILCO that brought about the creation of the Long Island Power Authority.

Steven Liss, the second assembly appointment, is the legislative aid to Assemblyman Paul Harenberg, the prime sponsor of the bill that created the Long Island Power Authority. Liss did most of the work in authoring the bill and is totally familiar with the wording and the meaning of each and every word and sentence. His intimate knowledge will be invaluable to the rest of the board.

The governor balanced out his choices between Long Island representatives and financial people. His choices appear to be well thought out and will give the board the balance that is needed.

We understand from a senate insider that Anderson will appoint members from Long Island, one from Nassau and one from Suffolk. Hopefully, his choices are as good as the assembly's and he does not place on the board a pro-utility obstinate who will be there for the sole purpose of doing LILCO's bidding.

We congratulate the assembly and the governor for getting L.I.P.A. off the ground with a well thought out board of directors who have in front of them a monumental job.

Typical of the arrogant managerial attitude at LILCO, they blew the opportunity they had to negotiate the closing of Shoreham and the saving of the corporation during the window of time that existed between the signing of the bill in the fall and January 15. Now LILCO must negotiate with the Long Island Power Authority board and cannot work out a deal with the governor, one that could have stopped the whole mechanism from being activated.

The L.I.P.A. Board should immediately notify the N.R.C. that they are requesting a withdrawal from the licensing procedure as they are mandated by law to close the Shoreham nuclear power plant, and it is in the best interest of the ratepayers and the stockholders to cease any further investment in this ill-fated project.

L.I.P.A. should also inform the New York State Public Service Commission of its intention to close the Shoreham nuclear power plant. They should request that the P.S.C. remove from consideration any costs that are associated with Shoreham in further rate making procedures. They should apply for a refund for monies charged the ratepayers for Shoreham, as the plant will not be used or useful.

Long Islanders have won a huge victory in the establishment of the Long Island Power Authority, but the fight is far from over. We must remain dedicated to eliminate the threat of Shoreham to the public, and restore rates to a sensible level.

And why not?

## Fed Buster Joins LoGrande

Frank Petrone, a former regional director of F.E.M.A., was selected by County Executive Michael LoGrande as an assistant county executive in charge of the county's opposition to the opening of Shoreham.

We congratulate LoGrande on this important choice, as it is by far the best one he could have made. Petrone recognized the fallibility of the Long Island Lighting Company's pseudo evacuation plan and refused to certify the plan as workable. Word came down from the Reagan Administration that Petrone was to do as he was told regardless of his conscience or his intimate knowledge that the plan was faulty. Petrone refused to be part of the Washington conspiracy

and resigned. This courageous act cost him his job, his income.

Petrone, before going to Washington, was an assistant county attorney. He was brought into the Coahan administration by John Gallagher, with whom he had worked when both were educators at a Long Island college.

The appointment of Petrone signifies a desire by LoGrande to get the very best people as his top aides. People who are not only qualified for the job but are the best available, regardless of politics.

LoGrande is getting off to a good start, and deserves applause for his actions.

And why not?

## Who Can We Trust?

The Shoreham controversy has been marked by many instances of political interference, conflict of interest, and self serving actions. We've had high ranking administration officials leave their positions and then use the influence they gained there for the benefit of themselves and LILCO. A prime example is the lobbying effort on behalf of LILCO, for a handsome fee, by Lyn Nofziger, a former top advisor to President Reagan. And now we have

the case of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's senior resident inspector at Shoreham who has accepted a job with General Electric, the company which built the Shoreham reactor.

John Berry, who had been the senior inspector at the plant from 1985 until last month, was on the scene at a critical time for the plant, before and during LILCO's low power tests of the facility. He was

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## SUFFOLK LIFE

Vol. 26 No. 23

NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

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East Islip  
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## Who Can We Trust? . . .

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the senior inspector when Shoreham's low power license was being pondered, and was there during the troublesome period while low power tests were underway. He was responsible for inspecting and passing judgement on the operation of General Electric's reactor. His departure from the Shoreham scene to accept a position with General Electric gives rise to questions about his inspection activities.

Did Berry court favor with General Electric to gain an employment

opportunity? Did he compromise what should be a tough inspection procedure to protect public safety to gain a future financial reward? When was the job offer made? What inspection procedures was he involved in after the offer was made?

Berry's sudden switch from the plant to the manufacturer of the plant's reactor may not be a cause for concern. But then again, it might. An investigation is in order.

And why not?

## Short Changed Again!

The New York State Public Service Commission has scheduled three hearings in February on a \$102 million rate increase sought by LILCO, which would cause another 6.6 per cent hike in electric bills. The hearings are designed to offer the public input, although the track record of the PSC indicates the final decisions on rate hikes are based on utility desires rather than public impact.

In the latest hearing schedule, residents of eastern Suffolk will be limited in their opportunity to express their views. Unlike hearings scheduled for both Mineola and Hauppauge, where both afternoon and evening sessions are scheduled, the February 10 Riverhead hearing is scheduled for the afternoon only. Residents who must work during the day to earn enough to pay already high bills for electricity will not have an opportunity to address the issue. They have been shortchanged again.

A PSC spokesman in Albany did

not know the reason why eastern Suffolk residents are being offered only an afternoon session to voice their views. He promised to find out why and call us back. He hasn't. In our view the answer is simple: the PSC officials who will sit at the hearing are too lazy to spend the extra time to offer the public ample opportunity to speak on the issue.

That's shameful.

PSC Chairman Paul Gioia should take steps to revise the schedule in order that the public has a full opportunity to be heard. Eastern Suffolk residents should have every opportunity to be participants in the procedure. Gioia, who will be replaced as chairman in the near future, will leave a legacy of favoring utilities despite the financial impact on the ratepayers. The very least he should do is permit the public an ample opportunity to be heard before he hands them another fiscal burden to bear.

And why not?

## Invest, Don't Spend

Riverhead Town, facing an explosion in growth, recently passed a set of innovative and new fees on builders who wish to build developments and multi-family housing in the town.

The fees are high and will generate hundreds of thousands of dollars, eventually millions of dollars, in revenue for the community. The board reasoned that these fees were needed to assist in providing the additional facilities that are required to service the people who will live in these new homes.

We applaud the board's adoption of these fees, but have great reservations about their use and application. The fees are dedicated for

capital improvement. We are concerned that the town fathers will rush out and spend them on projects that may not have long range value as intended. We would like to see these funds invested at the best rates, with only the interest spent on an annual basis. The interest would be used to pay off bonding on capital construction projects, but the principal would be held intact in perpetuity so that the interest will continue to be available to fund the renewal of the projects when needed.

How about the town board going the extra step and passing a resolution making this a law?

And why not?



**DINNER HELPS SUPPORT** - A "check" for \$215,000 is presented to the Suffolk County Council, Boy Scouts of America, by Michael J. Philbin of Smithtown, second left, recipient of this year's Distinguished Citizens Award. The money represents the proceeds of the DCA Dinner-Dance held earlier this month. Accepting the check is Tom Doherty, right, president of the Suffolk County Council, BSA. Others pictured, from left, are Richard C. Dunne of West Islip, general chairman of the dinner-dance; Eagle Scout Robert S. Smith, Troop 309, Dix Hills; and Eagle Scout Stephen C. Andrews, Troop 474, East Northport. (FULL 337-B)

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Views on proposed marina'

Dear Editor:

As a resident who had attended the meeting of November 24, 1986 on the proposed marina that is to be built on a large tract of land adjacent to the Smith Point Bridge, I feel that I must respond because the most focal point has not been addressed in the local papers. While I feel it is true that aside from jogging trails that have been proposed, more emphasis should be put on recreational facilities for our young people in this community. According to the accounts that I have read there is too much loitering by youths around the Pathmark and King Kullen areas. (A big club house for these kids in this community would be very beneficial to them.)

In reading comments on this proposed marina, phrases seem to imply that this will be a community venture and only for the community, which I wish were the case, but it is not. If this marina is approved, it will be built with Suffolk County money which means that anyone in Suffolk County can have access to this marina. I hope that this statement does not

imply one of selfishness but rather one of logic. The logic is that geographically this area is the wrong place for this marina. That is why I suggested to the Advisory Committee that they consider in their future deliberations the added impact on the traffic congestion, especially during the summer months, that will occur if this marina is built. Can you imagine the traffic on William Floyd Parkway? People who are going to the beach especially when the new homes and condos are built. I perceive bedlam because there are only two main roads coming in or going out to Montauk Highway, i.e., William Floyd Parkway and Mastic Road.

My opinion -- This area is already overbuilt and that is not taking into account the many homes that will be going up in the near future. If the problem of the traffic congestion in this area could be resolved, then I would love to see a marina built such as the one that our Legislator Ed Romaine has outlined.

Charles Novara  
Mastic Beach

### "Avoiding being framed and hung"

Dear Editor:

Just read your article on why I have declined to have my portrait hung on the wall with the other presiding officers of Suffolk County. Though I enjoyed the humor, I think you are way out of line to remark that I am "despised" by legislators. Aren't you getting carried away with such reporting?

For sure, it is wrong to try to be everybody's friend. As the saying goes, "Woe unto you when all shall speak well of you." Certainly I have had disagreements with some of my colleagues, and I know I will again. And there are several who do not like to be disagreed with, no matter what the issue. However, as presiding officer, I have worked hard to minimize the personal anger which, in previous years, the legislators felt, and often showed,

each other. That is one of the PO's major responsibilities, and as a result, during 1986, the County Legislature has done its job in a more open and productive atmosphere. While there is room for improvement, to suggest that some legislators dispise me, or others, is to dwell on journalistic melodrama.

You give me, again, another reason to keep my portrait off the walls where my predecessors are displayed. Especially after some of the things - some of the outrageous things - that Suffolk Life has written about me, I shall always try, whenever I can help it, to avoid being framed and hung!

Sincerely,  
Greg Blass  
Presiding Officer

### NEW LOCATION AND PHONE NUMBERS

1461 Old Country Rd. (Route 58)  
Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-2026

Main & General  
Office  
369-0800

News  
Office  
369-0810

Classified  
Office  
369-0820

## Good News, Bad News

Over the past decade the New York State Public Service Commission has acted as an advocate for rather than a regulator of utilities. The result has been that utility ratepayers have been unmercifully charged exorbitant increases in the rates they are forced to pay for necessary electricity.

The Public Service Commission has particularly socked it to Long Island through the rates they have allowed LILCO to charge its consumers. The attitude upstate has been that Long Island is a pocket of New York State's wealth and Long Island ratepayers can afford anything the PSC forces us to pay.

There have been six vacancies on the PSC because of terms that have expired, with Governor Mario Cuomo having the sole discretion to name people to this commission, who are then ratified by the state senate. It has been our hope the governor would use these appointments to demonstrate to the public that he is concerned about the people's financial health and not just that of the utilities of the state. Last week the governor announced his nominations for the seats. The announcement included both good news and bad news for the people of Long Island.

The good news is that former Chief County Executive Frank R. Jones of Sayville is one of the governor's picks. Jones, who spearheaded the county's opposition to the Shoreham nuclear power plant, is an excellent choice. We anticipate Jones will become a staunch advocate of the people, outspoken and firm in efforts to bring to a halt the ever escalating soaring of LILCO rates.

The bad news is the governor also nominated the current head of the D.E.C. to fill another vacancy. Williams has demonstrated time and again that he is totally insensitive to the plight of consumers here on Long Island. Some of William's critics insist he lacks a grasp of the issues, and his actions here give credence to that view. His solution to garbage

disposal problems on Long Island is to "truck it off the island," despite the overwhelming cost of such action. He has continued to act arbitrarily, unwilling to even sit with local officials in an effort to reach a compromise.

In Islip Town, his arbitrary actions have cost both citizens and local businesses inordinate increases in garbage collection fees. This despite the fact that Islip is the only town which is moving, as directed by the DEC, toward resource recovery to cope with a state ban on landfills. All Islip sought is an extension for use of a landfill until their plant is built, using landfill liners which have long been required by the DEC, but Williams said no. His refusal was based on his interpretation of the state landfill ban law. Legislators who approved that law insist his interpretation is incorrect, but Williams refuses to grant Islip's request despite the serious financial consequences.

The governor's selection of Williams boggles the mind. While we applaud the selection of Jones, in the case of Williams we can only declare, "say it isn't so." Why the governor would take a man who has turned the operation of the DEC into chaos and appoint him to the PSC, which goes right to the pockets of state residents, is beyond us. Surely there must be another place, one less sensitive and vital, where he can dump Williams.

Cuomo also renominated Gail Garfield Schwartz, a current member; and nominated Dr. Eli Noam, a college professor, and Robert Riordan, who has been an assistant counsel on the staff of Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson. Of this latter group we worry about Riordan because of his association with Anderson, a staunch utility ally.

During a recent visit to Suffolk Life, Governor Cuomo said he would carefully weigh each potential PSC nominee to be sure they would share his concerns for the consumer. While his selection of Williams might solve

one problem here--getting him out of the DEC where he has been a disaster--his lack of sensitivity to the financial plight of the public could cause a bigger problem at the PSC. We would hope Cuomo seriously re-

considers the selection of Williams before he has a chance to create a disaster in electric rates as he has in the matter of garbage.

And why not?

## Message to Warren

The appointment of former Chief County Executive Frank R. Jones to the Public Service Commission may run into problems in Albany because Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson is miffed. He claims Governor Cuomo violated protocol by not discussing the nomination with him before making the official announcement. Thus to soothe his political pride, Anderson is threatening to delay the long overdue, much needed revamping of the PSC, something the public has demanded for a long time.

We think there's more to it. Anderson is well-known as a staunch pro-utility advocate. His upstate law firm, according to repeated reports, has many utilities as clients. We have long considered that a serious conflict of interest. In the matter of the PSC, it borders on criminal.

We have often stressed the need for the Long Island senate delegation

to work as a bloc to prevent our area from getting shortchanged on needed legislation, and this is a prime example where unified action is needed. Our state senators, and others who may have ambitions of their own, should deliver a strong message to Anderson: "Don't mess with this. We need a restructured PSC. Soothe your political pride elsewhere, not on this. It's too important to the people."

The strength of their action on this important matter could be a good barometer on the strength of support they deserve the next time they face the voters. We need a staunch consumer advocate on the PSC to protect our interests. If they fail us now, with an immediate LILCO rate increase pending and more on the horizon, they should immediately begin planning new employment.

And why not?

## Talking Big, Thinking Small

Everyone, well, almost everyone, agrees there must be an effort to bring efficient operation and economy into our county government. Until their own ox is gored, that is. When that happens, they scream like loony birds, crying, "not me and not my department!"

A prime example is County Comptroller Joseph Caputo, who has never had a shy bone in his body when it comes to advocating spending reductions in various county departments. Caputo once made a big thing about coffee expenditures by county employees, and insisted that those who buy newspapers at county expense cut the coupons from those publications for use by the county Department of Social Services. But recently, when County Executive Michael LoGrande asked all department heads to make recommendations for five percent budget cuts in their departments to ease the burden of a skyrocketing county budget, Caputo said, "No." He refused!

Caputo claimed that eliminating vacant positions in his office would cost the county money. Filling the positions, he insisted, would save money by permitting his office a greater oversight over the expenditures of other departments (not his own, of course!). He estimated he could save the county some \$1.4 million. County Executive Michael LoGrande commented: "I've heard that before. You can save money by spending money. That's pretty good. That's our comptroller talking?"

Unfortunately, it is. Talking big, but thinking small.

Earlier this year when Caputo was sworn in for a new term, he took it upon himself to deliver to the legislators his own "state of the county" message. Caputo, who lusts for the county executive's seat, apparently wanted to share in the spotlight usually focused on the county executive who traditionally gives such a speech during the first meeting of the new year. In that prepared message he declared: "As chief fiscal officer for the county, I can easily substantiate many areas that can be trimmed, jobs that could be eliminated, and cuts that can be made without affecting the morale of county employees." But not in his own department, of course.

Caputo went on to point out some wrongs in the present structure of county government. The electronic Data Processing should be under the comptroller's jurisdiction, he declared. Federal and state aid is in the wrong location, and "should be under the jurisdiction of the county comptroller's office." Insurance and risk management "is another agent or arm of government which belongs under the comptroller's jurisdiction, Caputo declared. And, there "should be a change in the charter whereby the comptroller is granted the authority to veto encumbrances when waste can be identified." But not in his own department, of course.

For his own department, Caputo had other ideas. In one confusing

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