

Happy Fourth Of July

This Saturday, July 4, we celebrate our nation's birthday, the 200th Anniversary of the writing of the Constitution of the United States, the document which contains the rules and regulations of how we are governed.

This incredible document has withstood the test of time. It was written by a mixed bag of people, our founding fathers. They came from the rural countryside, as farmers with limited knowledge; from the cities where they were educated spokesmen; they were soldiers of fortune, and men of conscience.

They ranged the gamut from ultra conservatives to liberals. These framers of our Constitution worked hard and diligently to create a document that took into consideration almost every situation then and, more incredibly, situations of today.

Little did these men realize the rapid changing of the world, the advent of electricity and modern means of transportation, the changing social roles of men and women and families. What our Constitution had and has, is an absolute concrete foundation, yet flexible enough to allow for changing times without abridging the original meaning.

The Constitution is the standard operating procedure for daily life, daily freedoms and daily responsibilities. Because of this document we are allowed to publish our newspaper freely and as we and our readers see fit. We are not told what we can print or what you can read. Because of our Constitution you are free to discuss your opinions, and use your voice to challenge and change government. Your obligation is to respect the other person's right to do the same, for he or she enjoys the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as you do because of our Constitution.

We all take for granted the freedom and rights that we have here in the United States. Seldom do we think when making money and acquiring capital that this is an impossibility in many other countries. When we go to church, any church of our choice, we are not hindered nor criticized because of our beliefs. We are free to travel, to meet in private, to do as we please. We are free to send our children to schools that teach as we want our children to be taught. We are free to check over our children's books and if we do not like what we see, to request changes. If the changes are not made, we have the right to change the members of the board of education who have authorized them.

These freedoms have produced a vibrant economy. Through the levies on the economy we are able to raise funds so that all are fed, clothed and housed. There are some that say we are not doing enough, and others who argue that we are doing too much. But, through balance and compromise, which is allowed under our Constitution, we have found ways of taking care of the needy and, occasionally, those without legitimate need.

Our Constitution is great, maybe too great, for it lulls us into an apathetic role and no free government can stand forever without the involvement of the people themselves.

We are sure if our founding fathers could be asked what they want of Americans today, they would say personal involvement. Write letters to your elected officials, give your opinion. Join civic associations and other community organizations. Become involved in politics. Join a club that represents your philosophy. Become a candidate or work for the candidate. Do this unselfishly, being

a good American, giving back what we so amply have taken.

I am proud to be an American and to have a government by the people

and for the people.

Happy Birthday, America.
And why not?

Responsible For Your Children

Last week, millions of kids said, "Happy Father's Day." They were the lucky kids because they knew where their Dad was, whether he was living at home or away from home because of separation or divorce.

The unlucky kids not only haven't seen Dad, Dad hasn't seen fit to keep in contact personally or financially. Chances are these kids are being supported through creative financing, a little bit of Mom's work and a lot of public support which we are all paying for through our taxes. This support is called Aid to Dependent Children, which means that each of us who is a working member of society is collectively taking on the responsibility for feeding, clothing and housing these children because their fathers walked out on this responsibility.

Welfare was a system that was developed in the early days of our country to take care of the widows, orphans, the sick and the homeless. Separation and divorce was never considered part of the formula. When people married, they married for a lifetime. When they had children, the children became their sole responsibility. Families were a unit that looked after each other.

After World War II, divorce became easily obtainable. Divorced people were once highly criticized. Today, being divorced is almost considered fashionable. When the judge makes his decree and children are involved, he generally orders the working mother or the working father, depending upon who has custody, to pay support. In most cases not all, the woman ends up with custody, the father often is bitter as he has been put out of his home, stripped of his ability to be a co-partner in raising his children and is angry. This anger and frustration, and sometimes financial inability, leads to the child support payments stopping. Most single mothers, or fathers, are unable to earn enough to provide the minimum standards the

children deserve, and are forced to apply for ADC.

The father, or mother, rarely is pursued as this takes court orders, and few lawyers work pro bono. Social Services does not have the time to chase down and make the delinquent parent pay. It has become a common belief that you can beat the system and leave your children up to society to finance. This is totally wrong. An end must be put to this scam.

Parents are responsible for the financial support of their children from the day they come into this world until the day that they reach adulthood, whether they are living at home or not, whether by choice or court order.

We would think in this age of computers and data banks kept on people that if the government wanted to correct this situation, they could. Why not track the parents through Social Security numbers, find where they are working and order payroll deductions as we do for Social Security or for legal garnishments? Force the parents who have refused to accept the responsibility for what they have created to do so. Is this not fair and just?

We have heard the pained arguments from fathers who have been stripped of their opportunity to be a parent from insensitive courts and vengeful ex-wives. We sympathize with them, but hold no truck on their walking out on their financial responsibility to their kids.

My Dad used to have a saying that holds so true in this case, "play - pay." We have seen the devastation first hand that has been wrought upon children whose dad took a walk. We have seen the abject poverty they are forced to live in, the hungry bellies, the holes in their shoes and the tattered clothes. This should not be. You may be man enough to make a baby but you are a eunuch if you walk away from your responsibility.

And why not?

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Hampton East
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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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Politics '87

Our reporters have covered most of the nominating conventions where candidates were selected and announced for the upcoming town and county races.

We are now in the process of having the reporters follow these candidates on the campaign trail. Periodically between now and the November election, you will find articles written by these reporters

covering the issues of the day and the personalities involved. As a general rule, we do not assign reporters to cover press conferences. Although in the candidates' minds, a press conference is an important event, we have found that generally what is said at a press conference is political rhetoric without substance.

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Politics...

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We do delve as deeply as possible into the candidate's past and their plans for the future. Coverage, in the immediate future, will be centered on the primary races that are being run. Our reporters are instructed to be fair and honest in their coverage, being sure to present both sides of the issue.

Starting in September, all candidates for county legislature, supervisor and town council seats will be invited to be interviewed before our news and editorial staff. Candidates will be given a short period of time to introduce themselves on a personal level, then they will be jointly interviewed on the issues that are confronting them in the race.

Candidates will receive a lengthy questionnaire asking their position on various issues, both past and current. The issues cover the gamut from philosophy to specifics on important issues. The questions must be answered with a "yes" or "no" because that, ultimately, is how a public official must vote. The questionnaires and the candidates' answers will be published a few weeks prior to election day so that you, our readers, can compare your personal philosophy to those candidates who are seeking your approval. We will publish summaries of the various campaigns in our later editions before election.

The last week before election day, we will publish our editorial endorsements of the candidates we have interviewed. These endorsements are a consensus of the reporters, the editors and other members of the editorial board who have closely followed the individual races. Suffolk Life Newspapers is not affiliated with any political party; we are independent. The endorsements made are based upon the qualifications of the candidate, their knowledge of the issues, the innovativeness of their answers, their past track records and their integrity. When given a choice between endorsing a candidate that is honest and forthright who we disagree with and endorsing a candidate who is less than truthful, evasive or not qualified but who answers the questions the way he perceives we want them answered, we will choose, every time, the candidate who was honest. We know from experience you are better off knowing where you stand than having to guess.

In total, Suffolk Life will invest several thousand man-hours in this endeavor. We do this for our readers because we believe that their vote is one of their most precious possessions, and they should vote intelligently from a position of knowledge.

And why not?

Those Poor Babies

LILCO's management, led by Bill the Cat, Catacocaos, argued this past week before the N.Y. State Public Service Commission for the legalization of the golden parachutes they have awarded themselves.

These golden parachutes, which run into millions of dollars, according to Cat and Company, are needed to alleviate the stress caused by the residents of Long Island and ratepayers of LILCO. Because we, the citizens and ratepayers, have had the audacity to question the actions of management, to criticize their imprudence, to suggest that more logical, common sense management is available, these cry babies want the P.S.C. to allow them to charge the ratepayers a bonus for their

aggravation. We don't know why the hearing officers didn't fall off their lofty chairs laughing at such an absurd argument.

The parachutes are nothing more than an additional attempt to rape the ratepayers, after having insulted and abused them through unconscionable rate hikes, and the daily threat of their lives and welfare posed by efforts to put the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant on line.

If the P.S.C. had any guts, they would have ordered the golden parachutes thrown out, and, attached to them, the inept executives who have brought us the wicked world of Shoreham. Enough is enough!

And why not?

Shoreham.

I work with VDTs every day, sometimes not getting a break for three to three-and-a-half hours. My eyesight has become progressively worse in the last three years. I suffer from muscle spasms in my chest, as do many of my fellow employees. Chiropractors are making a small fortune off of us, due to neck and back problems that have developed over the past couple of years.

You refer to your employees at Suffolk Life using VDT's, however, I doubt you have the stringent rules that many of us have to work by. I work for a company that will squeeze every drop of work they can out of you. Every second of my work-day is accounted for.

Yes, this will cost companies money, but they can well afford it. The health of the employees should be a primary concern for employers. The loss of sick days and chiropractor bills that companies pay for will be alleviated to a degree, and would help offset the cost of yearly eye exams, and twenty-minute breaks every two hours.

Unfortunately, Mr. Willmott, the real world is not like the "family" at Suffolk Life.

Sincerely yours,
Cathi Abrams
CWA LOCAL 1110
Center Moriches

'Don't let a small minority take our dignity'

Dear Editor,

It is so often a fact of life that we in the black community have to live with the bigotry that is a part of the so-called American dream.

Then again, I'm not surprised at all when I read about the man whose only fault was working long hours at a gas station in Manorville, trying to pay for his son's operation, is shot in the face and chest by two blacks, all for the sake of the money this man is working so hard for, and knowing my "people," a good guess would be for drugs, as usual.

It's no wonder that we can't get good jobs, housing and respect that blacks like Rev. Jesse Jackson and Leo Payne are speaking

and writing about when a sickening act of violence is committed like this, be it in the subway of New York, or a rural area like Manorville. I hope that all people who have pride in their race and heritage, including the black community, will help the police bring them to the justice they so richly deserve.

We cannot let a small minority of a minority take away the dignity that so many have worked for.

Please get well soon, Mr. Wroblewski.
Sam Harris
Rocky Point

'Display Old Glory properly'

Dear Sir:

With the 4th of July approaching and 1987 being the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution I thought I would take this opportunity to help inform the community as to proper etiquette when displaying the Stars and Stripes:

When displayed from a staff projecting from a windowsill, balcony or building front, the union (blue field) of the Flag should always be at the peak of the staff.

The Flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or boat. When displayed on a motor vehicle, the staff should be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall the union should be uppermost and to the Flag's own right, and to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the Flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union (blue field) to the left of the observer in the street.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe summer. Please display your American Flag and remember those who gave and are still giving their all for us.

Thank you,
Joel Hoffen, Commander
V.F.W. Post 6249
Rocky Point

'Let's Stop wasting taxpayers money'

Dear Editor:

Recently, I was a witness for a claimant at a hearing held by the New York State Department of Labor Unemployment Division. The Labor Department alleged that the claimant was overpaid and thus, demanded a reimbursement.

The particulars of the case are irrelevant; the outcome predictable. It appears that all such hearings are presided over and judged by Administrative Law Judges employed by this same Department of Labor (other government agencies such as the Suffolk County Health Department have a similar system).

Furthermore, what is even more disheartening and lugubrious is the right to appeal. One

sends in a written rebuttal to the Department of Labor and, instead of being judged by one employee of the Labor Department, a tribunal of three Administrative Law Judges review the decision and mail you the results. You may then appeal this decision and be judged by an outside court.

Let's stop wasting taxpayers money. Eliminate the "Nicaraguan Type Court" and allow people to be judged by an impartial court of law. Even if the former procedure is not anarchistic, why give one this supposition? "Yours in Justice"

Steve Mallor
Rensselaer

'The Cross of Malta'

Dear Editor:

A number of people (including my daughter) have asked why some groups and even nations have chosen the Cross of Malta to stand for ideals or awards.

Besides the historical interest relating to medieval crusaders, we thought the accompanying article might prove interesting to your readers.

Sincerely,
G.R. Murtaugh
Publicity Officer
VFW Mastic Beach

taken from the Sermon on the Mount.

In the VFW emblem, the center where the four arrowheads join contains a representation of the American eagle similar to the Great Seal of the United States. The eagle's beak holds a banner with the words *Pro Deo et Patria*--for God and Country.

In addition to being emblematic of the VFW, the Cross of Malta provides the organization with a link to its three predecessor veterans' groups formed after the Spanish-American War. Each had the Cross of Malta as its insignia.

Thanks, Flanders FD

Dear Editor,

On behalf of my parents, I wish to thank the Flanders Volunteer Fire Department for their prompt response to my parents' fire on May 8th.

Thank you,
Leslie Klug Hysell
Riverhead

Letters to the Editor

'An employee's view of VDTs'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I was very sorry to see your editorial appear in Suffolk Life about the legislation

on VDTs. Your reference to all the studies that were made remind me of LILCO justifying

was like being a millionaire spending money. "It's not like that today," Robin commented. "My children are very dear to me. We had our own property in a barren dirt field." "The actual making of gotta be a bit of a showman."

SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1987
PAGE 4 ABCDEFGH

Fools Build On Sand

The Bible tells us what our ancestors knew 6,000 years ago: fools build their houses on sand.

This past week there was a Congressional hearing on what to do about the Dune Road dilemma. People, most from outside of Suffolk County, built homes on the sand dunes that face the Atlantic. The areas they chose to build their homes on over the decades have come and gone at the whim of Mother Nature.

The building boom of the 60's, 70's and 80's was propelled by the desire of residents to live on the edge of the water. The risk became acceptable because of taxpayer subsidized federal flood insurance, which indemnified the owners for the value of the homes if they were lost because of an accident. Prior to the federal flood insurance program, insurance was almost unobtainable. The only carrier that would write a policy to cover these homes against storm damage was Lloyds of London. The cost of the premiums was half the insured value.

With the cheap, taxpayer subsidized federal flood insurance, homes sprang up like matchbooks. Not affordable homes, but houses ranging from \$100,000 to several million. These homeowners have long been vocal and organized. They come from many of the influential communities having ties to government and to the financial and legal communities. They were successful in getting the county, state and federal government involved in using taxpayer monies to install a set of jetties east of the 600 block that built up the beach in front of their homes, and protected them from the ravages of Mother Nature. They got greedy though, for they did not want the public that was paying for the groins to have access to their beaches. They negotiated a "no public access" to

the public right-of-ways that were required to install and maintain the groins.

The right-of-ways, if open to the public, would have allowed possibly six to 12 cars to park, and the occupants of the cars to utilize the groins for fishing and the beaches for swimming and walking.

The landowners who had negotiated for the groins and for the no access right-of-ways, did not want their beaches contaminated by the common folk who were paying the bills.

This newspaper, among others, spoke out about this injustice. As we recall, our theme was "We Pay, We Play." We demanded that if any new jetties were built, the right-of-ways be open to the public. The owners of the properties felt that was unacceptable. The county legislature and the county executive began to feel the heat of the public who, at this point, knew they were being taken for a one way ride. The county pulled out of the project, the state and federal government followed. Since that time, the owners of the properties in the 600 block and west have been crying out they want the same protection their neighbors to the east have received.

Mother Nature has done her thing, washed out the beach, created new inlets and has taken houses built on sand out to sea. After several attempts to repair the roads and the utilities, the town has thrown up its hands and closed access to the beach east of the 600 block. The affected homeowners have sued the town and county for injunctive relief and have gained access. They have also argued that it is man's responsibility, the responsibility of all taxpayers to fight nature and pour the poor common folks' money into a losing battle.

The folks east of block 600 are influential. They had funds included in the Pure Water Act of 1986 which President Reagan vetoed as a "pork barrel," a veto Congress over-rode. These funds would pay for pumping of sand back up on the beach at a cost of \$55 million dollars but would not pay for any conservation measures that would permanently stabilize the beach.

A congressional hearing was held to let the residents and other interested parties voice their opinions. Some of the homeowners were loudly vocal and, in a few cases, insulting. Other more sane heads suggested working with Mother Nature, abandoning what had to be abandoned, saving what could be saved, and buying out the homeowners that were affected.

We all love water and its recreational attributes. Few can afford the luxury of having their own personal piece of the mecca. Those that can, if they can, should pay 100 percent of the price of it. Those that can't should give up the idea, for it is not right, just, equitable or fair to make those that can't afford it pay for it out of their taxes but not be able to use it.

George Hockbrueckner, congressman from the First District, who hosted the forum, should go back to Washington and tell his colleagues that this pork barrel is in trouble, it's a Catch 22 situation. The only sane thing to do is to buy out the homeowners on a basis of the value of the threatened properties. Turn what will become an island back to Mother Nature. Let her rebuild what she wants to rebuild, let her open what she wants to open. Instead of houses and roads, let her build sand dunes and sea grass which will capture the sand of the winter.

We well remember as a boy, going to Dune Road to enjoy the beach on Sundays. I remember the dunes being mountainous. Of course, that was from the perspective of a seven

to eight year old. But, the dunes easily towered 40 to 50 feet. Today, in the few areas where homes have not been built, the dunes are but a shadow of their former selves. In some areas there are flat plains.

An old-time bayman predicted to me when I was a teenager that if Dune Road was ever developed, it would find its way into the sea. He pointed out that the height and configuration of the dunes with the sea grasses, the wild roses and other dune vegetation, captured the sand at the dune line before it had a chance to be blown back into the sea. It was his contention that between Shinnecock and Moriches, sand flowed in a circular motion, being stripped off the beach during the winter and brought back into the bay where the northwest winds of winter dried the sand, allowing it to be blown back up to the dune line. He pointed out several inshore islands that had been developed from the west to the east. He maintained that they were not there when he first started working the bay 50 years before. They had only been mud flats that captured the sand, and the islands built themselves.

Over a lifetime, we have observed these islands growing, always from the west to the east. Although he was not a scientist, an engineer or even a college graduate, he had a fine-tuned understanding of nature and what made her tick.

He pointed out to us that asphalt does not hold sand. Straight driveways become runways for the sand to travel upward, back onto the beach, then the currents sweep it away. Gone are Mother Nature's odd-shaped dunes with vegetation that halted the sands before it was blown to the water's edge.

We can't fool Mother Nature forever, so we might as well pay the price now. Buy the affected land and turn it back to her whims.

And why not?

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Common Sense, Not Politics

Proponents of legislation regulating the use of video terminals have been trying for a couple of years to convince state legislators to adopt a law governing their use. Unsuccessful in those efforts, they turned to a weaker governmental unit, the members of the Suffolk County Legislature. There they succeeded.

Unfortunately, the county legislators were swayed by emotion and political motives rather than common sense and facts. Despite reports which indicate there is no conclusive evidence that indicates terminal users are subject to the various afflictions proponents claim, the legislators proceeded to past legislation that imposes requirements and restrictions upon employers.

Their action comes as no surprise. It is, after all, an election year. And there are a lot more employees using

terminals than there are employers who will be affected. And those employees add up in the vote columns. While their action in passing the legislation brings them immediate favor with those who pushed for its passage, the eventual impact on the employer, and thus on the employee, will be down the road, after the votes are counted.

There could have been a better way, and if common sense is finally applied, there might still be. There is some indication that Acting Suffolk County Executive Michael Lo-Grande will veto the legislation and appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to fully explore the truth of the matter. A committee that would include experts from the medical field, from business, from the employees who

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Common Sense...

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use terminals. A fact finding group that would be removed from the emotionally charged political scene, where factual information rather than vote potential receives priority consideration. And there is a possibility that LoGrande will move to put the restrictions into place in county offices while the Blue Ribbon Committee is investigating the subject.

Legislator John Foley, the prime sponsor of the legislation, described his proposal as "a chance to end what is tantamount to high-tech sweat shops." The comparison smacks of the kind of emotional pressure which succeeded in whipping legislators into line. Ignored were the concerns of business, the real possibility that the "high-tech sweat shops" might well look for other areas to locate, areas where politicians don't bow to the whims of varied pressure groups. What with the threatened high cost of electricity, and more and more governmental invasion into private industry operations with smoking laws, environmental restrictions, drug test and lie detector regulations, and assorted others, Suffolk County is becoming less and less inviting as a place to locate and do business.

There could have, and should have, been another way to address this matter. Foley's involvement is based on the fact that his aide's wife is a union representative who has been pushing for this legislation on the state level. Had Foley, or any other legislator who supported this

measure, been really interested in addressing this matter, they should have arranged meetings with both sides of the issue, the employers and the employees, to learn all the facts. They should have determined the financial impact their proposal would have. Unfortunately the majority of our legislators are politicians who jump to the side which has the most votes. They don't seem to care about right or wrong, or even good or bad. Just "How many votes will I get if I vote for this?"

LoGrande's proposed Blue Ribbon panel would be an application of the common sense approach lacking in the county legislature. Let's put rhetoric, exaggerations and emotionalism aside and get to the facts. If that panel determines regulations are needed, by all means put them in place. If they should be tougher than those included in Foley's law, make them tougher. Despite Foley's sweat shop mentality, the majority of employers are not a bunch of bad people who are unconcerned about the welfare of their employees. Shouldn't they have input into any proposed solutions before a confrontational situation is created which does little more than develop controversy?

LoGrande's proposal makes sense and should be supported. It's time our county legislators put political ambitions aside and put common sense to work in dealing with our problems.

And why not?

"No less appalling than innuendos"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Once again, one of your editorials is replete with misstatements. I refer to the June 17 editorial "Examining the Bar."

I am aware that a number of the misconceptions contained in the article have been brought to your attention by Herbert Kotler in a letter of June 18, 1987, however, there are additional errors and misstatements contained in the editorial.

To begin with, after the "Signorelli Affair" came to life, the Suffolk County Bar Association appointed a special task force to review the procedures of the judiciary committee. At the conclusion of the task force's report, extensive debate was had by the board of directors, and the recommendations of the task force, in most part, were adopted by the board of directors. However, before any changes can be made in the by-laws of the Suffolk County Bar Association, there must be a vote of approval by the membership. After a public debate in September of 1986, where the press was invited, and obviously you chose not to attend, the recommendations were not adopted by the necessary two-thirds vote of the membership.

To say that the bar association did nothing, is totally inaccurate.

The misrepresentations about the lack of action on the part of the bar association are no

less appalling than innuendos contained in the editorial alluding to alleged back room politics between the leaders of the political parties and the bar association.

The people of Suffolk County are fortunate to have the political leadership that exists, as well as the leadership in the bar association, for having seen the necessity for a review process of judicial candidates by a body aware of the requirements for service.

Your editorial does a disservice to the people of our county.

Very truly yours,
Peter D. Rubinton
Attorney at Law
Huntington

Editors note: The facts stand on their own. We stand by our opinion. When you have a person involved in a judicial candidate's campaign involved in passing judgement on his opponent's qualifications, you have less than an ethical procedure. You concede your own task force recommended revisions to your procedures, but your membership failed to muster the necessary two-third votes to implement the needed and recommended changes. Since this procedure involves the selection process for the election of judges, it is your membership, not our editorial, which does a disservice to the people of our county.

"Comments were based on facts"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your May 6 editorial entitled "Bureaucracy At Its Worst" presents an inaccurate description of the events surrounding the dredging of the channel approach to the Shinnecock Canal and includes an irresponsible and unwarranted attack on an individual state employee.

Your description of the facts and the circumstances surrounding this issue are incomplete and inaccurate. We believe your readers deserve to know the truth.

The dredging permit referred to in your editorial was issued by the department following extraordinary effort on the part of our staff to "fast track" a permit, as requested by the applicant, to take advantage of the fact that a dredge happened to be working in the vicinity of the channel. It was not legally possible to approve dredging of more than 500 cubic yards within the time frame required by the applicant because dredging a larger volume requires mandatory public notice and other procedures that would have extended the review time past the applicants deadline. Our staff fully investigated every option and bent over backward to reach the maximum accommodation to the applicant which was legally permissible. Their work merits praise for its

speed and flexibility, not the unwarranted criticism it received.

What we are most disturbed about, however, is your vicious, unwarranted attack on an individual state employee. Editorial criticism of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the manner in which the department implements its programs is your right. However, singling out an individual employee for criticism is unfair and inappropriate.

Sincerely,
Henry G. Williams
Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

Editor's Note: The facts as expressed in the news stories and the editorial were both complete and accurate. Commissioner Williams, if you had been doing your job and were aware of the attitude and behavior of people in your department, the editorial would not have been written. Our comments concerning the individual employee were based on the facts and on the power that your department allows him to yield. Use that power for the benefit of the people and there would be no need for criticism. Abuse it and those actions will be criticized.

Letters to the Editor

'Bar association is not a club'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I'm appalled, but not surprised, at the editor's article "Examining the Bar," appearing in the June 17 edition. The article reflects a total lack of understanding of the bar association, its judiciary committee and the method used in qualifying candidates for the judiciary. I'm not surprised because lack of knowledge and facts no longer seems to be important to much of the media.

The truth of the matter is that the bar association is not, as implied, an exclusive club. It is open to all lawyers -- men or women -- wishing to join, whether or not they are trial lawyers. As a matter of fact, many members seldom, if ever, appear in court.

All candidates for judicial office, whether incumbents or candidates, must appear before the judiciary committee, which consists of several senior members of the association that are experienced with trial practice and are familiar with the desirable characteristics of trial judges, that are willing to put in long hours in committee meetings and who are willing to stick their necks out by making unpopular recommendations, sometimes to their own disadvantage.

Each candidate appearing before the committee submits a detailed questionnaire in advance and then makes one or more personal appearances before the committee. The committee then evaluates the candidate based on his record, experience, education, training, reputation, demeanor and temperament. No one has ever suggested this method is perfect. However, I suggest it is infinitely better than a commission composed of lay citizens unfamiliar with the candidates, the nature of trial practice, the requirements for a trial judge or any of the other matters considered by the judiciary committee.

Perhaps Judge Signorelli, or others interested in changing the system for the better, should work within the system to change it, rather than disassociating, and perhaps editors should acquaint themselves with the facts of a situation before misleading others.

Very truly yours,
Herbert Kotler
Attorney and Counselor at Law
Huntington

'More on bar association'

To the Editor,

I too sometimes disagree, Lou....

...with a position of the Suffolk County Bar Association and that's perhaps not unusual after 30 some years of membership.

Your editorial position that attorneys join Judge Signorelli in resigning because of the bar's position in evaluating judicial candidates is immature, irrational and irresponsible.

The Suffolk County Bar Association is primarily an attorneys' organization with over 2,000 members but is also quasi public in nature and is subject to the oversight of the N.Y.S. Legislature as well as the N.Y.S. Judiciary. It is not a single issue organization. It's policy of interviewing and ruling upon the qualification of judicial candidates (including incumbents) is not unlike the function of other bar associations throughout the state and the nation. Its accomplishments on behalf of its members, the judiciary, the legislatures and the general public are outstanding.

I can fully respect the position taken by a personally aggrieved judicial or attorney member to resign. Nonetheless, it's the only game in town: you just don't use another utility company because you are against LILCO's Shoreham nuclear plant. Change, if any, can come only from within but certainly not from the judges and attorneys who are not members.

Belly back,
Sheldon D. Katz, Esq.
Riverhead

Editor's note: The membership of the bar association has clearly shown it is either unable or unwilling to bring about the changes needed to put integrity back into the system of

passing on the qualifications of judicial candidates. Based on the membership's refusal to vote for the necessary changes, any hope that change can come from within is a prime example of immature and irrational thinking.

"Captured spirit"

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the pictures of my 25th Anniversary celebration and the commentary which appeared in the May 27th Suffolk Life.

Both captured the spirit of the occasion!
Sincerely,
Sister Loretta Maggio, OP.

'Original poem'

To whom it may concern:

This is a poem I wrote. I thought you would like to put it in your newspaper. My name is Jaclyn Labozzetta. I live in Sound Beach and I go to Miller Place Primary School. I am six years old.
I wish I had a puppy
if I had my way
I could play with him all day.
We'll have so much fun together
and that's what I say.
Thank you,
Jaclyn Labozzetta
Sound Beach

Let The People Decide

Acting County Executive LoGrande has proposed a wide-ranging program to acquire ecologically sensitive land for fresh water protection, and to provide funding for new water districts and mains.

The program calls for revenue sharing with towns and special districts. The program is to be financed by the continuation of the quarter percent sales tax enacted to bail out the Southwest Sewer District. The sales tax comes to an end in 1988 unless extended.

LoGrande has proposed a solution to a host of problems using the funds from this sales tax after 1988, but only with the permission of the voters of Suffolk County.

We have some questions about the whole program, but we have no questions about allowing the voters of Suffolk County to decide the merits of the program or whether they want the sales tax repealed as promised. We believe the voters, through referendum, should be allowed to decide on important issues such as this.

Some legislators are arguing that they were elected to be the will of the people and they should solely act on the merits of the program. This is wrong, for it denies the average person the right to choose for themselves whether he or she wants additional taxation or pure water programs in the future.

Other legislators have attempted to play politics with LoGrande's proposal. Some don't want LoGrande to garner any credit for the passage of this proposal because he is facing an election campaign in November against Democratic State Assemblyman Patrick Halpin. There are reports of political pressure, including some from the state, for Democrats to stay in line and vote against LoGrande's plan.

Some are opposed to a portion of LoGrande's plan which would offer

revenue sharing money to town governments, funds that could be used only for environmental purposes. These legislators believe the towns are not responsible enough to spend this money wisely, that only they—the county legislators—have such wisdom. Which is an indication that the Summer Silly Season, which usually begins in the dog days of August, is already upon us.

Under normal circumstances LoGrande's program would have been hailed by most of the legislature as a wonderful opportunity to purchase valuable pine barren lands to preserve our future water. But these are not normal times, this is an election year for the legislators, and there are those in that legislature who can't resist the temptation to put politics above public service. Two of the most notorious players of this kind of government are Republican Gregory Blass and Democrat Wayne Prospect, the odd couple of recent times.

They are being destructive when they have an opportunity to be constructive. They have made every effort to prostitute LoGrande's plan, and have now come up with a proposal of their own which is filled with politics rather than good for the public.

LoGrande's plan has already been compromised. Any further dilution may make the program totally unacceptable and guarantee its defeat by the public. Blass and Prospect seem to forget that passing their plan in the legislature is only the first step. They must then justify their actions to gain support of the public in a November referendum.

We hope these particular legislators grow up in time to become public servants and not ruin a good thing by playing politics with it.

And why not?

Judge, Jury, and Prosecutor

Assemblyman Behan and Sawicki conducted a public hearing on April 30 on the actions of the Department of Environmental Conservation (D.E.C.). A large crowd attended, with hours of angry comment voiced.

This past week they released a report covering their findings, and by the tone, they found more than they were looking for. The report charges that the D.E.C. is the judge, jury and prosecutor, all wrapped into one on all environmental issues.

The D.E.C. has enormous power to levy fines and issue violations, not based on standards but based on the emotions and the vindictiveness of the issuing agent. There is no meaningful court of appeals. The Administrative Court judges are D.E.C. employees and, effectively, are nothing more than rubber stamps.

The D.E.C. is an agency created by the state legislature and is operated as an administrative function of the governor's office. The legislature gave the D.E.C. a wide range of power, but stupidly never placed

any checks on the authority given. The report confirms what many citizens have complained about, there are no actual standards for right and wrong. Only interpretations by individuals which will vary from individual to individual and day to day, depending upon which side of the bed the enforcer got up on.

The report covered the gamut of D.E.C. areas of responsibility from garbage to wetland protection. The report calls for a split of the D.E.C. into two agencies, one concerned with fish and wildlife protection, and the other, the environment. This is not enough, for the D.E.C. is a gun out of control, in the hands of authoritarian bureaucrats who on a daily basis answer to no one but themselves.

The state legislature must take back the authority it has given away so willingly. Environmental problems are tough issues to deal with, but they are issues that should be dealt with by elected officials.

The legislature is supposed to create laws. When they set up an agency with regulatory powers, they are abdicating their responsibility as elected officials unless they provide for checks on these agencies, which they did not do with the D.E.C.

The ball is in the governor's hands. He should exercise his powers to corral this agency and bring it under control. In the long run though, it is

up to the legislature to regain the authority and the control they have given away.

Behan and Sawicki should be looking to themselves and to fellow members of the legislature for the real hard answers, instead of looking for more studies and rhetoric. The D.E.C. is their creation and they should undo what they have done.

And why not?

Are We Hurting Ourselves?

New immigration laws have been put into effect that have businesses in a maze of confusion. The confusion stems from a host of anti-discrimination laws that forbid an employer to question the sex, national origin, religion, age, or marital status of a prospective employee. The immigration laws state that you must verify that any employee hired after September, 1986, is an American citizen, a naturalized citizen or, if an alien has a proper working certificate.

The laws are in conflict; you are damned if you do, damned if you don't. The penalties are severe for hiring illegal aliens. The burden is on the employer. Many businesses across the United States in need of help have hired who they can for positions that were open from entry level through professional situations.

Today on Long Island, there is a labor shortage. Technically, full employment takes place when unemployment does not exceed 4.4 percent. It is considered by labor statisticians that 4.4 percent of the work force is unemployable because of health factors, job abilities or work prerequisites. Currently, we have a 2.2 percent unemployment rate, which means that 2.2 percent of the people recently hired have been hired but are not qualified to work.

The labor market is in such a state that McDonald's brought to the United States several hundred Irish college students. They're brought here not only to work in the burger stores, but to help alleviate other em-

ployers' employment dilemmas. These Irish citizens are here through September when they will return to Ireland to finish up their college studies.

Talking with some of these Irish students, we found a great urgency in them to migrate, like many of their ancestors, to the United States. They spoke of the deplorable conditions in their homeland. It was the potato famines of the 1800's that brought about starvation that led to the early migration. Today, they speak of conditions being not much better. Potatoes still make up 60 percent of the diet. Work and money are hard to come by.

The cost of living is astronomical. According to these students who were introduced to me by my second son, who drives a beat-up old red Hornet that he purchased for \$300 last year, an equivalent car in Ireland would cost \$4,000 to \$6,000. A new car costs upwards of \$35,000.

Although well educated in specific fields, the students face working at menial jobs upon graduation. There is little hope that they can find work in their chosen fields.

They are industrious, hard working young men and women who, during the summer stay, will work at least two jobs, putting in 80 to 100 hours each week. They are more than willing to do what American youths scoff at, whether it be working in a fast food restaurant, being a mother's helper, or working as a domestic, cleaning stalls or painting

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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.

Are We Hurting Ourselves?

Cont. from page 3

fences—they'll do it.

They spoke of friends and relatives who have come to the United States illegally, with college educations in engineering, the sciences and in economics, but who are unable to take jobs in their chosen fields because they cannot get work permits. They take the menial jobs from employers who knowingly and unknowingly are breaking the law, but hope not to be caught.

Does it make sense to have such restrictive immigration laws that keep American businesses and industry from hiring trained and needed talent? Does it make any sense to open our doors to immigrants from Cuba and Haiti, and deny immigration to people from Ireland and other

northern European countries? Are not the reasons the same? No one denies that there is political and religious oppression in Ireland, also poverty and hunger. And yet, when a pool of talented, productive, potential citizens want to come here, we restrict that effort. Why not open our doors and allow in more of the people who made America great? Don't we have the resources and lands available still waiting for development?

We are in a world-wide economy today and if we continue to stick our head in the sand denying the best the world has to offer, they are going to go elsewhere and our position as a world leader will diminish.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

'Shoreham was never needed'

Dear Dave

Please find some answers to a Newsday article on Physics (by Mr. Cooke) that seems to encourage Shoreham. (enclosed)

This paper (the LI rag) may brag about the rights and responsibility of a free press; but with Lilco on an advertising spree—they have sold their readers out.

Hang in there, and feel free to use any part of the enclosed.

Thank you.

John Hurley
Remsenburg

Dear Mr. Cooke

You wrote an excellent article on super-conductivity in the Physics section of Newsday (May 12). However, the statement that "instead of building massive facilities like Lilco's Shoreham nuclear power plant, utilities might be able to import cheaper power from sources such as the James Bay hydropower project in Canada" (presumably only with super-conductors) is nonsense.

The technology for transmitting large amounts of power has been available for years. As a matter of fact, Hydro-Quebec transmits most of the output of James Bay to Montreal with less than an 8 percent loss. This is a distance of more than 500 miles. Connections between the Island and Hydro-Quebec would be less than 350 miles. (at Massena, NY).

It may be interesting to note that Hydro-Quebec is the largest electric utility in North America (with a triple-A bond rating vs. Lilco's near-bankrupt status), and that their surplus of hydropower is growing. Besides James Bay, there are plans to develop even more hydropower on the east side of the

Province; and they are more than willing to sell. One of the IEEE journals reported that there is such a summer glut of electric power, that they are even thinking of using it to dry lumber. This is the time of year when New York City and LI require the most power.

Besides Canadian hydropower which makes Shoreham unnecessary, there is our own hydropower. We are a part of NY State, and Robert Moses (a Long Islander) built the projects that make New York State number two in hydro. Even though New Jersey won a suit in Federal Court for a share of this power, we on the island, who helped to pay for the hydro-projects, receive only a trickle. Why?

Because of opposition from ConEd and Lilco. This reliable, safe, cheap and non-polluting source of power would be a boon for ratepayers. But it wouldn't make enough profit for the companies. There is more profit in unreliable, unsafe, super-expensive fiascos like Shoreham.

Around the world, where hydropower is available, it is the preferred source of power. On the West Coast, an old-fashioned transmission line called the Pacific Intertie saves ratepayers more than \$1 million a day; and we live in an area with more power and shorter transmission distances.

There is no reason to wait for a future technological breakthrough to get rid of Shoreham. It was never needed, is still not needed and its existence keeps us from our best sources of power, some of which we have already paid for.

Thank you.
John Hurley

'National Enquirer style abuse'

Dear Editor,

It's really a sad time for the American press and the people of this nation. The media has a responsibility to educate the public, to inform the public on world affairs, to report to the public the positions and views of candidates running for office, on the issues that affect our lives and the future of the nation.

The seven-day attack on Gary Hart's personal and private life was a gross display of the National Enquirer style abuse of the free press gone mad.

I do not invest my mind or my money on such trash. I do not care if Gary Hart entertained every model in New York and every actress in Hollywood. If he did, I would expect to see it in the Enquirer or the Star. I would not expect that

kind of trash to invade my home, via T.V. news reports and my local newspaper. I depended upon the media to enlighten me to who Gary Hart was, besides the ex-senator from Denver, the front-runner in the Democratic Primary. The national media failed to do its job of informing the public as to why Gary Hart thought he would be a good president and inform us, the the public, of where this candidate stood on the issues. The public was denied that kind of information. The public was denied the right to make up its own mind about this candidate. The power of the free press was abused and those responsible should truly be ashamed of themselves. I don't think it is the media's place to railroad a candidate out of any race for public office.

It really must be dull in the newsrooms these days when the two top stories that hold the headlines are Long Island's garbage at sea and Gary Hart's boat rides. We are supposed to believe a friend would say, "you could not

possibly have a man like that being president." (front page of Newsday, May 8, 1987. Dolores Murphy Galliser Mastic

'Reply on responsibility issue'

Dear Editor:

I have to reply to your July 10, 1987 Editorial questioning who is responsible for 16-year-old kids being turned loose.

What do you do with a kid who, since the age of fourteen, only wants to hang out day and night? The school got tired of trying to keep him there because he had so many cuts, they cut him loose not long after he turned sixteen. We, as parents, are getting tired of trying to get him to come home at a decent hour at night. We've had many hours of counseling to no avail.

We have tried everything to convince him that he should be a contributing family member, but he does as he damn well pleases, and when we try to tell him not to, his reply is "Dirt Bags Rule" of which he considers himself one.

I happen to support what Albert Vann is doing.

Sincerely yours,
Name withheld

Editor's note: You support doing nothing.

'Education of handicapped deserves'

Dear Editor:

The Education of the Handicapped Act amendment drafts are being made from the early spring days to the present to implement a comprehensive program for services rendered to handicapped children from birth.

More than all the regulations required, I feel it is important to be aware of the fact that the government is putting together regulations for funding to these children who are part of families and communities across the country.

Each child is unique in his lifestyle and environmental situation. Each parent is an individual who wants his or her family to maintain a comfortable and happy existence in their specific hometowns. How these children are educated when they are young makes them feel not handicapped but a true member of their hometown.

Just the fact that early surgery can often-times straighten a club foot on a beautiful little girl with big brown eyes and long eyelashes proves the need for early schooling to walk and use her new ability.

Each town and community has different expectations and ambitions for their children. In comparing the little boy who has outgrown his wheelchair to a school district which has earned a successful football team or prize-winning science fair — how can the two meet companionably?

For the handicapped child to be prepared to be accepted in school with his peers, very demanding and specialized work is required.

Funding for such endeavors is only a small part of the overall picture. But for a better place to start, all that can be recommended is to support the Government Planning Act Amendment P.L. 99-5457, vital to all schools, public and private, to remain in accordance with the community standard of living.

Only when a little boy or girl is handicapped can go to a school system in which he or she was born, can they be true members and citizens of the future.

Miracles are many times not part of our lives, but in the total life picture, mere smiles of acceptance and welcome, where children of all different physical and mental abilities congregate, are miracles to children with problems.

When the handicapped youngster is born he only learns and knows what we give him. The more services and funding we encourage, the more these little boys and girls can be made to feel that they are loved and are possibly miracles of life that this beautiful country can and does appreciate.

Sincerely,
Jane Redmond Broderick
Setauket

'Apologize, Mr. Halpin'

An Open Letter to Pat Halpin

Apologize Mr. Halpin. Apologize to the veteran's groups you slighted and to patriotic people everywhere for your shameful behavior these past three years when you continuously voted against reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening of every Assembly meeting. There is not one good excuse I can think of to vote against reciting the pledge. Especially galling is the excuse you gave that you and the rest of the Assembly Democrats could not allow a resolution to pass that was sponsored by the minority Republican Party. Come on, Mr. Halpin, partisan politics should not be important so as to cause you and your Democratic cohorts to hold the sacred "Pledge of Allegiance" hostage.

As a 10-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and as a pilot in the Air Force Reserves, I agree with those veterans in your own hometown of Lindenhurst, who refused to march with you in the local Memorial Day Parade. I would have

done the same even though you and the rest of the Assembly Democrats finally recanted and after three years, voted to recite the pledge. We all know that this sudden change of heart was due to the fact that ill political winds were about to blow and were not caused by a sudden rush of patriotism on your part. I read where you were not even present in the Assembly Chambers when the final, successful vote was taken, pulling one of your now-famous disappearing acts when controversial issues are due.

So, Mr. Halpin, when are we all going to hear an apology from you? We deserve it and until it comes, publicly, I will call on veteran groups everywhere to refuse to associate with you in any capacity, whether it be in parades or memorial ceremonies or patriotic celebrations.

Sincerely,
George Paul Schimpf
Bayport

'Essay on legislature appreciated'

Dear Editor:

This is to express appreciation for "Suffolk Life."

I am glad to have the opportunity to receive it, and believe it to be a very good newspaper.

The recent essay you published, submitted by Richard Salmon of Lake Ronkonkoma,

pertaining to the positive efforts of the Suffolk County Legislature, was so good to read.

Perhaps it might be a tool for preserving the legislature, should a referendum take place.

Marilyn F. Price
Amityville

'Up With People' a big success'

Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for your help. I really appreciated it. The show was a big success on June 4.

I hope "Up With People" will be able to come to the Mastic area again someday. Thanks again.

Setea Fuji
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Grasso,

Thank you for your support when "Up With People" was in your community. As a company, we look forward to working with you in the future.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Myler
South Dakota

Politics In the Raw

This past week, Suffolk County residents were exposed to politics in the raw. The setting was the debate over the extension of the sales tax. The idea, a new one, which is rare in politics, was first conceived by acting County Executive Michael LoGrande.

When LoGrande first took office he was faced with a host of problems that included land preservation, watershed protection, extension of water mains and sewers and no monies to accomplish these needs.

LoGrande realized that the special quarter percent sales tax enacted to bail out the Southwest Sewer District is due to expire January 1, 1988. Former politicians who had enacted this tax had pledged to allow the sales tax to die at the end of 1987.

LoGrande came up with a proposal, one that would require voter approval, to continue this tax through the year 2000. The continuation of the tax would allow the problems he faced to be addressed. Innovatively, he had developed a plan by which the school districts that would lose taxes from lands being taken for watershed preservation would continue to receive revenues so that those taxpayers wouldn't be burdened by the acquisition. In addition, LoGrande worked out a formula so that each town would receive a portion of the monies, the amount based on their population. This money was earmarked to be used by the towns to address their own individual sewer and water problems, and address other environmental needs.

The towns had long asked for sales tax revenue sharing with the county. There isn't a dime of sales tax collected that doesn't first pass through the towns before it gets to the county. Although the revenue is raised in the towns, they don't receive a share of

the taxes. All of it goes to the county and the state.

The third and most important element of the plan was the fact the voters had the final say at the polls in November. They could say yes, they could say no, but the choice was theirs.

But then came a whole host of political opportunists, looking to build their reputations, looking to wheel and deal. From the first proposal to last week's vote, the plan was amended 14 times. Still, there were those who were not satisfied.

The second ingredient of this scenario was the Conservative Party's attempt to have placed on the ballot a resolution that would allow the voters to decide whether they wanted to be governed by the county legislature, as they currently are, or return to being governed by a board of supervisors, which would vote according to a weighted vote system. The proposal was a reasonable proposition in a democracy, a democratic process of government, permitting the public to decide their own destiny. But into this scenario entered ugly, raw politics, and ugly, raw politicians.

Some of the legislators voiced great opposition to sharing any of the sales taxes with the towns. One, Wayne Prospect, went so far as to say the "towns are dark holes that we throw money into." The reasoning of these legislators was that the legislature is so much wiser and has so much more integrity than the supervisors, that only they should spend the money. Which, in reality, is about the funniest thing we have heard in years. Many legislators will tell you, individually, that the legislature is, as it has been called many times, a Funny Farm. The political nonsense that goes on is legend. One could find a more business-like at-

titude and common sense in a kindergarten class.

Presiding Officer Gregory Blass and Prospect came up with their own bill, demanding more of the money go to purchase lands, at the expense of the school districts and the towns. The fairness of easing a tax loss for school districts and working cooperatively with the towns to solve environmental problems never entered their small minds.

Legislator Philip Nolan came up with his own bill that would use all the money for land acquisition, leaving the towns and school districts out entirely. This is particularly strange because Nolan is a candidate for Islip Town supervisor and his bill would have shortchanged the very people he wants to represent. With Nolan's "the county can do it better" attitude, the people of Islip should think carefully about the kind of a supervisor he would make.

To get their way, Blass, Prospect and Legislator Steve Englebright held the LoGrande bill hostage. Englebright declared if LoGrande issued a Certificate of Necessity allowing the abolish the legislature bill to be put on the ballot so people could choose their own form of government, he would not vote for the pine barren measure LoGrande had developed. He and the others held a sound approach to water problems hostage to grab political credit and to protect their jobs in a brazen display of outright blackmail.

LoGrande was faced with a choice: the passage of his bill or watch it die because petty, conniving politicians were using it to kill the abolish the legislature proposal. Unfortunately, LoGrande succumbed to the pressures of the blackmailers and the Certificate of Necessity was

not issued, effectively killing the abolition proposal.

Also in this scenario came the Democratic Assembly coalition made of Assemblyman Patrick Halpin, who is seeking to replace LoGrande as county executive, and Assemblymen Paul Harenberg and Bill Bianchi. They issued an eleventh hour letter stating that the state legislature would not approve a bill that called for revenue sharing by the county with the towns. That's mighty strange since some 20 counties in the state currently share revenues with the towns. Why should Suffolk be any different? Politics was the issue here, pure raw politics from the state officials in favor of a local candidate, Halpin, which has put a severe dent in the integrity and believability of these three individuals.

Now it is in the hands of the voters. The pine barrens bill will be on the ballot in November. In its original form it would have been worthwhile. In its current form, we question whether it is in the best interests of the residents to continue to subject themselves to an extra quarter percent sales tax to pay for the whims of greedy politicians who have subjected a good idea to such raw politics.

On the same November ballot are the politicians who denied us the opportunity to vote on the form of government we wish to be governed by. While they denied us that opportunity, they can't prevent us trying to improve the kind of government we're now stuck with. We can do that by getting rid of the kind of raw politics they play. We can do that by getting rid of them!

And why not?

Can Ethics Be Legislated?

Last Tuesday night we attended a public hearing held by the special Committee on Ethics. We watched politicians posturing and using the forum for their own political gain. To be frank, it was distasteful.

The committee is looking into corruption in Suffolk County, and seeking ways to avoid it. They are trying to establish a code of what is right, what is wrong, what will be tolerated and what won't. Much of the corruption today is subtle, people selling their influence through subjective fees that are not directly related to the actions being sought.

Individuals have found ways to circumvent the law without regard to ethics. We question whether ethics can be legislated. There were state-

ments about the need for limitations on contributions, limitations on spending and limitations on the length of campaigns. Almost all the ideas had some merit, but each can be circumvented, with loopholes developed that would make these ideas, as laws, unworkable.

For centuries we have attempted to legislate morals and ethics, but each generation has set its own code. We all know the difference between right and wrong. We do not need a law to tell us. As an example, for years, presidential candidates have had extra-curricular affairs. The morals of the 60's and 70's permitted it as long as you were not caught red-handed. The morals of the 80's

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.

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Ethics...

Cont. from page 3

have changed. The public no longer is tolerant of flagrant improprieties. Gary Hart learned this the hard way.

The public will soon catch on to how they are being fleeced in today's current political environment, and when they do, those who have their hands in the cookie jar will feel the wrath.

Almost always, those who have given up their moral values and are

able to slide by on technicalities can't resist the urge to go one step beyond, and they are caught.

We wish the ethics panel well. They have a horrendous task in front of them. We do hope that they do not allow the hearings to continue to be political forums for self-serving politicians.

And why not?

Veto It, Governor

The New York State Legislature increased its salary in 1985 by approximately 20 percent. Legislators argued that they had not had a pay increase in years, they needed to catch up with inflation.

It is now two years later and our assemblymen and senators have again voted themselves and judges a whopping 34 percent increase in salaries. They pushed their salaries up from \$43,000 per year, for a part-time job, to \$57,500. Inflation has increased by 2 to 3 percent between 1985 and 1987. A pay increase of 5 percent or 6 percent might be acceptable. An increase of 34 percent is plain outright rape of the taxpayers.

Most senators and assemblymen have other jobs or businesses. They are not solely dependent upon the income from the state as their bread and butter. Furthermore, their salaries mentioned here do not include the fringe benefits which cost

us approximately 60 percent of the stated salary. Even without the raise, the New York State Legislature is one of the most expensive in the nation - why should it be?

Governor Cuomo, if you want New York to be thought of as a family, you should reprimand your greedy kids and explain to them the facts of life. The average New Yorker does not make the kind of salary for full-time work that these people do for part-time. The average New Yorker has not seen his pay increased 54 percent in three years. For this money, we should be getting our money's worth, but by this past year's performance, the legislature is not better and probably worse than it has been in the past.

Have the courage, have the guts, Governor. Do what is right for the people of New York State. Veto this bill!

And why not?

Executive's bill resulted in the purchase of the total acreage to be acquired from 24,000 to over 31,000 acres of vital Pine Barrens. I think that kind of commitment to ground water protection is something voters will appreciate whether voting for a Pine Barrens referendum through the extension of the sales tax, or voting for their elected officials.

The people always decide what's best, and voice that opinion every two years. Perhaps we should one day put your performance to the test? Your premature criticisms of my actions and the legislative process which helped expand the watershed protection elements of this landmark legislation may have many readers disappointed.

Sincerely,
Gregory J. Blass
Presiding Officer
Suffolk County Legislature

Editor's Note:

Yes, indeed, Mr. Blass, let's let the people decide. On the day the legislation was scheduled for a vote, you were quoted in a newspaper article as saying: "There are some legislators who want more acreage, there are others unalterably opposed to revenue sharing, and there's the politics of it and who gets the credit."

Politics, and credit, and not public benefit was the motivating factor in most of the preliminary activity concerning this bill. The Democrats didn't want the bill to pass because it was LoGrande's bill, and they didn't want him to get any credit. Phil Nolan came up with his own bill because he has always battled with LoGrande. And you and Wayne Prospect came up with your own version as a political tool designed to force LoGrande to capitulate to your demands. And that's not politics?

LoGrande's original plan called for returning to the people of the entire county--where the sales tax is collected--dollars needed to correct environmental problems in their townships. Surely you should know there are problems. Problems of an immediate need, not just for the future. Sure, it's visionary to talk about preserving lands to preserve tomorrow's water

supply, and gets a lot of support from environmentalists, but that doesn't do a whole lot for the people who must depend on bottled water for their drinking supply today because their wells are polluted. It doesn't give a resident whose tap produces impure water much glee to realize his public officials are saying their needs are not as important as preserving land "for the future."

"Working for a bill that puts more emphasis on preserving our Pine Barrens and less on subsidizing local governments sounds like good government..." to you, but to us it sounds like tunnel vision. Who is it that the local governments represent? The very same people who put you and every other legislator into office. Your attitude doesn't shortchange local government alone, it cheats your own constituents out of the funds to solve local problems.

LoGrande's initial proposal was an honest attempt to address all needs, today's and tomorrow's. To help resolve the environmental problems of today while acting to prevent others in the future. Unfortunately, LoGrande was coerced into weakening that proposal by those who held his bill hostage to achieve their own political agendas. That's not good government, that's politics pure and simple, and as presiding officer, you should hang your head in shame.

Mr. Blass, I wouldn't crow too much about having been victorious five times. Even a political moron could ascertain the candidates you had been opposed by, and their campaigns, were less than startling.

You seem to have a very short memory, for only last year when you finally did meet a candidate of substance, you went down to defeat. The voters rejected you.

I might remind you that they were the same voters who had elected a Conservative congressman. They made a hundred and eighty degree swing and elected a Democrat. This, in a district that is overwhelmingly Republican!

Greg, we suggest for your next campaign you adopt as your swan song, "To Know Him is To Love Him."

"You can't fight Mother Nature"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

In a recent paper there was a story about the washout at Westhampton Beach. I will try and make this letter as short as possible, but it won't be easy.

To start, I don't know how anyone in their right minds can imagine restoring that beach. All the sand in the world isn't going to stop Mother Nature when comes in with high tides and just plain bad weather.

When I was a child I lived in Babylon a lot away from what is affectionately known as "West Crick." Oak Beach was just across the bay from there. The only way to get there was by boat. There was also an Oak Island which today is accessible only by boat. Oak Beach had two (2) lanes of boardwalks between two dunes. Back in the 1900's the Baptist church held their Sunday School picnics over there. Over the years the beach washed away and formed two beaches. Now there is Oak Island and Democrat Point. I should have said Oak Beach, not Island.

The Fire Island Lighthouse was right on the point to the east of the Inlet. Today it is a good six or seven miles from the tip of Democrat Point.

So back to the problems at Westhampton Beach. In my humble opinion there is just no way to save that beach. Give it another 50 or 60 years and it will be like Oak Island, two beaches. I think the town should start right now and ban anymore building west of the west bridge. Some of the current owners say they will refuse to pay their taxes unless the town does something to rebuild the beach roads.

In another paper, there is a picture of the latest damage to Dune Road. They talk about pumping tons and tons of sand from the ocean. Another storm and away goes the beach then the roads, again. Oh, when will they ever learn that "you can't fight Mother Nature!"

On top of all that, we year round homeowners are left holding the bag, so to speak. Go back again and see what happened at Oak Island and Oak Beach. That tells the story.

Thanks for your time and hopefully, this letter will do some good.

Sincerely yours,
Fannie R. Huggler
East Moriches

Letters to the Editor

'What was the motivating factor?'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

In your July 15, 1987 editorial entitled "Let the People Decide," you accuse me of putting politics above the public's interest, and being "destructive instead of constructive." To this I say, "Let's let the people decide."

The Willmott-Grasso odd couple is correct in noting my reluctance to support County Executive LoGrande's initial proposal for a creative program to acquire sensitive Pine Barren areas vital to the protection of our groundwater, through the extension and use of our County's 1/4 cent sales tax. Quite simply, the initial plan called for only 26 percent of the \$570 million to be used for acquisition of Pine Barrens. The remaining 74 percent was earmarked for other County environmental projects and a revenue-sharing program with Suffolk's ten towns. Contrary to your hollow allegations of playing politics, I began the tedious process of working with the County Executive to formulate a program that more adequately addressed the urgent need to preserve our remaining Pine Barrens.

After eight different versions of this historic proposal, the Executive agreed the week prior to the July 14th General Meeting of the Legislature to devote 42 percent of the funds to land acquisitions. After the introduction of my bill to establish a sales tax program that would de-

vote 75 percent of its revenues to the acquisition of Pine Barrens, the Executive earned my support by agreeing to target 52 percent of the sales tax revenue generated through the year 2000 to such acquisitions. My bill was then withdrawn, as it had served a valuable purpose. Destructive? Working for a bill that puts more emphasis on preserving our Pine Barrens and less on subsidizing local governments sounds like good government to me, but we will let the people decide.

Your editorial further implies that voters should be permitted to vote on important issues, such as this, devoid of legislative input. On the contrary, the voters deserve not one man's ideas on the ballot, but the end product of a deliberate process of government, which history has shown, works in the best interest of the people. The give and take of that process is a far more honorable pursuit than clumsy and distorted journalism.

I might add that I was voted into office five times to represent the residents of Southold, Riverhead and Brookhaven to serve the best interests of our entire County. Your editorial accuses me of "prostituting" the plan, and claims that further "dilution" (I'd term it improvement) of the LoGrande proposal may "guarantee its defeat by the public." My efforts, in the days leading up to the adoption of the

'Thank you for your cooperation'

Dear Editor:

Thank you, on behalf of the cancer patients on Long Island and our American Cancer Society volunteers, for the excellent cooperation your publication has given our many year-round cancer control activities. Your dedicated public service has assisted the patient to cope better with cancer, the general public to protect itself more fully, and the American Cancer Society to do an even better job.

Cancer patients and their families have benefited by information on American Cancer Society services which you publicized. During the past year, 30,000 patients and family members were serviced through programs which include: Reach to Recovery, Road to Recovery, Cancer Information Service, and I Can Cope. All programs are centered around patient visitation, aid with equipment needs, and personal counseling.

You have helped save lives from cancer by your coverage of our life-saving education cancer prevention program. These programs provided information to 520,000 youth and 110,000 adults. Employee education programs were run in cooperation with Long Island

companies and 28,000 employees. Fresh Start Quit Smoking Clinics were organized to benefit 1,600 hopeful quitters. The Society also encouraged 129,000 Long Islanders to pledge to quit smoking during the Great American Smokeout in November.

Our local units' fund-raising events have helped us raise more dollars to support these programs, services, and vital research activities. You have enabled us to allocate over \$1.2 million in American Cancer Society research grants to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, North Shore University, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

As an expression of our deepest appreciation to you and your staff, we are enclosing our certificate of appreciation. We, and the community, need you and we thank you. Your continued concerned involvement in the conquest of cancer is eagerly anticipated.

Sincerely,
Gary D. Burd
Executive Vice President,
American Cancer Society

Fire Department Fund Drives Underway

Throughout Suffolk during the summer months, our volunteer fire departments conduct fund raising drives. They ask residents they serve, free of charge, without pay, to contribute to their fire departments, both to support the fraternal aspects of the fire department and to show the public's support for the thousands of man hours each department contributes toward keeping and saving our property from danger.

Each fire department is manned by volunteers. Men and women who are chosen for their abilities. Who go through hundreds of hours of intensive training. Who are willing to leap out of bed or leave work or a social occasion at a moment's notice.

Our volunteers do an incredibly phenomenal job of being professional, expedient and diligent. This is the work side of the fire department. To encourage and to keep members, the departments have a fraternal side. They have parties and dinners, tournaments and organized activities. They have parades and festivities. To fund these activities as well as a host of little league teams, softball teams, marching bands and other community endeavors, the fire departments seek the support of residents.

Once a year we are asked to contribute. The fund raisers take the form of direct mail solicitation, door to door appeals and, in some communities, barbecues, carnivals and street fairs. Whatever form your department chooses to raise funds, we encourage you to support their drive wholeheartedly.

If by some chance you are missed in a direct appeal, or are unable to attend one of their fund raising affairs, why not sit down and write out a check to your department? Go the one step further, in your own words, tell the department how much you appreciate them being there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, protecting your life and your property.

There are few fund drives that are as worthy as those conducted by the volunteer firemen. They appreciate every donation, whether it be one dollar, \$10, \$100 or \$1,000. It's not the amount, it's more important that these volunteers realize that the community does appreciate them and is willing to support them.

You can find the address of your local fire department in the phone book. Support the people who protect you!

And why not?

ecutive that there were no unusual health ramifications from working with VDT's.

VDT's are television screens attached or detached from keyboards that are used to input computer data. they are found in supermarkets, small retail stores, offices and factories.

Many of the complaints surrounding the VDT's came out of the New York Telephone Company's labor group. From what we have been able to gather, there has been dissension at the phone company between management and labor and instead of using the bargaining table, the union was using the legislature as a bargain chip.

Suffolk Life Newspapers, as well as most publishing houses, use VDT's as a regular work tool. The use of this equipment on one hand has been labor saving, but on the other, has created jobs. Most employers who use VDT's do not keep their employees strapped to their machines. The employees who use these machines, as they used typewriters in the past, to a degree, regulate their own work habits. When they have been sitting at a machine for a period of time, they get up, stretch, use the facilities, fix a cup of coffee or do whatever they have to do to break the tension and relax.

It is hard for us to envision that the same does not happen even in the telephone company. We believe it would be counter-productive to place an employee in an atmosphere that is totally constrictive.

Scientific reports and studies by organizations concerned with safety and health have indicated that there is no conclusive evidence that they have any more danger from VDT's than from any other normal appliance that we come in contact with during the day, and use.

Stress and skeletal problems are no more severe than are to be found with anyone sitting in a fixed position for a period of time, such as a typist or an assembler on a production line.

Eye strain is a problem as it is with typists working with small copy or doing proof reading, but is not

abnormal for the job being performed.

The Suffolk County Legislature was bulldozed into voting for the measure, not for health reasons, but for political reasons. As has happened too often, legislators who are vulnerable to pressure groups do what is politically expedient rather than what is right.

The county executive was lobbied hard by the unions and the pressure groups to pass the legislation. Passage would have put Suffolk County in a poor economic environment as we would have once again been hanging out the sign, "business is not welcome in Suffolk County."

Data processing can be done anywhere. Already, data processing has become a major industry in the Caribbean where labor is cheap and restrictions on labor few and far between. Input data can be transmitted instantaneously back to the host computer over wire and via satellite.

The place for legislation of this type, if warranted, is on the national level, it should not be a local law. With the County Health Commissioner's statement that there are no apparent ill effects from VDT exposure at this time, with the economic realities of this legislation, making Suffolk County an unproductive place to do business, LoGrande wisely vetoed the legislation.

He smartly went one step beyond and has said to the legislature, if we are so concerned, let us apply the rules and regulations to the county first. Let's see if the enactment of these rules makes a difference. He has gone one step further still, by appointing a blue ribbon panel to investigate the health effects. This panel will join with other groups that have been empaneled throughout the nation. If their findings are contrary to the studies already done, then there will be reason to enact legislation. If not, why try to fix something that's not broken?

It's good to see common sense return to government.

And why not?

LoGrande Vetos VDT

It's an election year and Acting County Executive Michael LoGrande is up for election.

LoGrande was given an ill-conceived and probably unconstitutional bill regulating the use of VDT's in Suffolk County.

Many labor unions and women's organizations were pushing for its enactment. The Commissioner of Health in Suffolk County, prior to the County Legislature's voting on the bill, stated emphatically in a letter to the legislature and the county ex-

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Similarities Are Frightening

As I have watched the Contra hearings on late evening news, I could not help but equate the similarities between this scenario and the Shoreham situation. Both are glaring examples of government out of control.

We can't help but wonder, having been a supporter of Ronald Reagan since his first involvement with the

Goldwater campaign, how a man of his principles could turn his back and fail to recognize in any way, shape or fashion, the injustices, deceptions and corruption of the N.R.C.? The circumvention of the law by Reagan's staff on Iran and the Contras, the same circumvention of the law

Cont. on page 8

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Similarities. . .

Cont. from page 3

with some of the same players on Shoreham.

The intention of Congress was clear, an adequate evacuation zone had to be set up surrounding a nuclear power plant. Local governments and the state were required to participate in a workable evacuation plan. Our Suffolk County government and the State of New York concluded that evacuation is impossible. Suffolk County residents could well die when an evacuation becomes necessary. A safe evacuation, therefore, is impossible.

Suffolk County government and New York State refuse to participate, therefore, the N.R.C. and some of the Contra players contrive a circumvention of the law, a change in the rules, that endangers the health, safety and welfare of Suffolk County residents.

If a Shoreham investigation of the magnitude of the Contra investigation was to take place, we are sure some of the same players would be marched before Congress and, under oath, would have to reveal the behind-the-scenes play, the deceptions, the corruption to get LILCO-Shoreham licensed at all cost. In the end, we would have President Reagan saying, Shoreham who? Nobody ever told me about it. After all, I am just the President of the United States, a figurehead who didn't know what the hell was going on.

The Contra fiasco dealt with matters in a far-off land. With Shoreham, we're threatening to kill our own people. Shouldn't that be important enough for a full-scale Congressional investigation? Or don't our people count?

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

'Handicapped want to be independent'

Dear Editor:

I read in the Suffolk Life paper dated 6/24 that low income housing is a civic lawsuit target. I would like to express my views and experiences about the subject of low income housing.

We are a family of four, where there are two hearing impaired adults, myself and my husband. My mother and daughter are hearing.

I just want the public to know that the only low income housing that exists are apartments in Huntington Station, where you must go through the housing authority. But you have to wait five years to get an apartment. My questions to the housing authority: Where are houses available for the low income families with circumstances that do not allow them to live in an apartment? Why is it that you never consider personal expenses on your applications, such as medical expenses, which actually make a person's income lower than it is? I was also told that the handicapped people who need apartments must be in a wheelchair. I am almost close to a wheelchair because I have a problem with stairs, and my mom is a heart patient. No one wants to listen to the problems that exist; no one wants to hear them in real life situations. I asked where the low income housing is in terms of a house, and all I get are phone numbers to call.

Our situation was that we had to get out of our rented house in May. We needed a house for a family of four, so I wrote to Bishop McGann, as he was involved in a program for housing for families with low income. I received no answer. After several attempts to call the Catholic Diocese, I got no information whatsoever, but more phone numbers. I did not need that. I wanted to know who had the exact information about houses for low income families. Worse, being hearing impaired, it is difficult to understand people over the phone and no TTY's exist for any agency on L.I. I was constantly getting a merry-go-round with agencies and I did not need that.

If you are going to inform the public of low income housing, say where and whom to contact, but do not let that person send one to another number or agency.

That is exactly where the government money is wasted -- these agencies exist but they will not do anything but give you phone numbers

to call. You can call all the numbers you want and be where you were hours before -- no information!!!

We need government inspection and control over existing agencies as they do not usually want to speak to handicapped people or a hearing impaired person who had a slight speech impairment. Let me tell you something, if everyone would cooperate and realize that low income housing is a serious situation on L.I., everyone would not have money on their minds and would let low income families work and stay off welfare and off the streets.

We also need to install TTY's or teletypewriters for the deaf in housing agencies so communication will not be a problem; but no one wants to be bothered. What we need is more public education and public forums to inform the public about the serious problems on L.I. which will eventually drive people out to other states, and only to start all over again.

The other problem that we had is real estate brokers. They usually do not want to be bothered with people who do not qualify because their income is low. Sending these people out of their offices does not solve any problems for the low income people. It sends them out of the state. It is very unfair. The real estate brokers who must deal with the landlords for rentals must inform the house owners of the need for lower income housing where the families work and are not on welfare. Just because the people are hearing-impaired does not make them less of a person to work and have a family, or exist. We are just as human as hearing persons and must work twice as hard to exist and have a roof over our heads.

One of the real estate offices in Kings Park refused to show us houses due to the fact that we have hearing impairments. That is unfair too. We have equipment in the house that tells us if the smoke alarm is on, or the clock radio, or the phone is ringing. We also have two hearing persons to help us out when we need that.

All real estate brokers and home owners must be informed that handicapped people are very independent in terms of finding things to help them deal with their handicaps. Also, they must be informed that the handicapped

people make a better effort to pay their bills so that they will have a roof over their heads.

In conclusion, let us all wake up and get this low income housing to exist, not just speak about it. Let us make it exist and have people in agencies dealing with this have the right information and not refuse to serve everyone

with lower income problems. There would be less people on the streets and less crime and mental illness. Thank you for letting me voice out to reach the readers of Suffolk Life.

Mrs. Liis Shay
Greenlawn

'Police officer's wife replies to LoGrande'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

My name is Veronica Adamchak. I am the wife of Theodore Adamchak, a Suffolk County Police officer. I am writing this letter in reply to Mr. Michael LoGrande's statement, "The public is getting a distorted view of the department because of the testimony of malcontents and misfits. My husband or any other police officer is a malcontent, if that means he or she criticizes the Government, which Mr. LoGrande has not been elected to run. As to misfit, I guess Mr. LoGrande never met my husband personally or never checked his personnel file at headquarters. Physically his condition is as good as when he graduated from the Suffolk County Police Academy 19 years ago. He is an asset and a good image when he wears the Suffolk County Police uniform.

The last seven years, before requesting Communications Bureau, 1978-1984, my husband received the Excellent Police Duty Award and also in 1974 he received the Suffolk County Police Professionalization Award. He has many precinct and command commendations and also many letters in his personnel jacket from the public thanking him for his courtesy and professional helpfulness which is a good reflection for the Suffolk County Police Department. The last three years he has never called in sick and never refused to work overtime. 1985 and 1986 he was the highest man in overtime in the Communications Bureau. Whenever the department needed the extra manpower this police officer was there to help. That does not sound like a "Misfit" to me, just the opposite, a hard-working energetic dedicated professional police officer who treats another person as he would have liked to have been treated, whether that person was under arrest or needed oxygen.

To add to his professionalism, my husband has put himself through college and received a Bachelor of Police Science degree from the New York Institute of Technology in Westbury. He is a man who speaks his mind when something is wrong or when a civilian complainant gets the

runaround from other police officers within the police department. With 19 years and one year to go for his pension, he still has the gumption to try and correct things he sees are wrong, and to speak out about them when others would turn their backs. Because this officer did not turn his back on a civilian complaint in the 6th Precinct on September 25, 1984, he was sent to South Oaks Hospital for medical evaluation because he stated to a supervisor if it were his family member the situation would be handled differently. His medical evaluation found nothing wrong with my husband and he received a letter of apology from then Commissioner Treder, stating that my husband's supervisor handled the whole incident wrong and said he was sorry.

Again after my husband made a complaint in reference to drinking in the Communications Bureau handling police calls on New Year's Day 1987, he was advised again via one of the chiefs he was going to be sent to South Oaks again, but then the chief changed his mind, saying "It would look bad to send you after you made a drinking of alcoholic beverage complaint.

So to the quote, "All we are hearing is bad, not one shred of evidence is good," Mr. LoGrande, I say to you, nothing was said unless it was the truth with evidence to back up these claims.

Thank you for the opportunity to reply to this article and to get the truth across.

Mr. LoGrande can speak his mind and so can this wife who is proud of her honest husband. We realize this is a political stance on the part of Mr. LoGrande; we are not naive to the facts that he needs the backing for votes in November from the Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association and the Superior Officers Association for his election. But not at the expense of the honest police officers, one being, Theodore Adamchak.

Sincerely, "a Proud Wife"
Veronica Adamchak
myself a police officer
for the Village of Southampton

'Teach consideration and respect'

Dear Editor:

It's a damn shame that in this day and age, parents do not teach their children respect for animals.

I live behind an apartment complex in East Islip where they have a dumpster and it seems everyone dumps their animals off there (especially cats and kittens) hoping they will find a home, but unfortunately, most of these animals either get hit by cars, starve to death, or are at the hands of children who mistreat them. It would be better if people would stop dumping their animals and just take the time to call an animal shelter and the shelter would come and pick them up.

This past weekend, someone, a child or possibly an adult, took a five week old kitten and singed its tail and then put it in a hole and covered it with boards so it could not get out.

This happened in the East Islip area. Thank God a kind person found it after hearing small meowing sounds and took it to their home. The kitten was taken to a vet and luckily it was in pretty good condition (considering it might have been in the hole for a day or two), but now it will be getting a chance at life with lots of love and care from the family who took it.

How sad to think that someone would do such a cruel and inhuman thing to defenseless animals, but then again, they do these cruel and inhuman things to their own children.

I think it is time for our schools to start teaching everyone how to treat other humans and animals with consideration and respect.

Carol R. Rice
East Islip

'Tired of reading about Harborfields'

Dear Editor:

I look forward to reading Suffolk Life. It is a well put together and informative source of local reading material.

I have one gripe, though, and that is that I, and I am certain many other people, are sick and tired of reading about the Harborfields School District and their forever problem with two extra schools sponging up all of their money. Sell the schools already!

It's even more boring to read about day care centers that have to move out. We're not really talking "Day Care Crisis" -- we're talking "Lease Lost -- Out of Business Crisis." (June

24, 1987 Issue Seek Approval to Sell Schools). Working parents have just to pick up the yellow pages to find many other licensed quality day care centers in this very same area. And, "the nice lady around the block" is still available. On my street alone, there are three very competent homes with available superb care for pre-schoolers. Come on, Suffolk Life, stop the publicity and free advertising.

I'm sure your competent staff can find some constructive newsworthy items on other school districts in the area.

Name withheld