

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

What is justice?

Most towns have a group of bad apples well-known to law enforcement officials. Recurring crime in the community can be tied to this handful.

Knowing they are involved and proving it are two different things. In the Town of Riverhead such a group of people have operated in what has appeared to be almost a vacuum.

There have been a number of burglaries and robberies and a handful of hard drugs. The cops know this, but the problem is behind all the individual causes justice sometimes to crawl at a snail's pace.

Three weeks ago, the Town, and County police and the Suffolk County District Attorney's office raided 821, East Main Street. They arrested 11 people for selling heroin.

Many of those arrested were allegedly suspected of being involved in other criminal acts. Some had been brought before the court before. They had been set free on what is commonly known as "turn-

stile" justice.

Riverhead Justice Richard Manning on arraignment set bail from \$25,000 to \$200,000. Judge Manning is known for being tough, but community, involved in a host of activities that keep his ear to the ground. He based these high bails on the past records and reputation of those arrested.

He has seen the acceleration of crime in this peaceful community. He has witnessed the devastation of young people caught up in the web of drugs. Kids he coached only a few years back in Little League and Pop Warner now mainlining because of

the easy access of hard narcotics.

Manning must have felt a sense of relief when these alleged drug pushers were brought before him and he could impose bail that would keep sources.

This relief was short-lived. The defendants had the bail reduced to \$10,000 bond or \$1,000 cash, the following day, by County Court Administrative Judge Frank L. Gates. Manning upon learning of this reduction was frustrated and bewildered as was most of the community.

What kind of justice do we have in Suffolk County when allegedly

hardened criminals accused of peddling death can be set free on the same bail the average wife might get if she wacked her husband over the head with a frying pan in a domestic dispute?

Who said crime doesn't pay.

A single heavy dope pusher can net over \$1,000 per day out of a good operation. Somehow, some way, our judges must be made to realize people of Suffolk County have rights as well as the law breakers.

What is the sense of having laws on the books, a police system, courts and judges if they are going to turn alleged law breakers loose on a piddling bail.

Manning was 100 per cent right in setting the bail that he did. Gates' judgement was wrong and he did a disservice to the community and to the people of Suffolk County.

This kind of justice can not be tolerated and should be looked into by the Judicial Review Committee. And why not?

We must face facts

Marijuana has been a hotly debated issue for over a decade. A magnitude of studies and scientific reports have been issued both pro and con on the hazards or safety of use.

Surveys indicate over one-half of our young people have tried marijuana, and the majority of these have continued to use it. Adult utilization of this substance has become somewhat of a phenomenon over the past five years.

Over one-third of our adult population has tried marijuana at least once. There even was a report of it being used regularly by a senior citizens group.

The prohibition against marijuana is similar in some ways to the prohibition against alcohol. You can make all the laws you want, but when it comes to something effecting an individual person, they will make up their own minds. The result is normal law-abiding people place themselves in jeopardy of being charged with breaking the law.

The State Legislature had before them a bill to decriminalize the possession of under one ounce of marijuana. One ounce is approximately the equivalent of two packs of cigarettes. Criminal penalties would still be in effect for the sale of this substance.

The bill was brought to the floor of the Assembly and withdrawn when it became obvious the bill might lose by two votes.

Governor Carey subsequently has come out strongly in support of decriminalization. He has offered to personally campaign for any legislator, whether Republican, Democrat, or Conservative, who votes in favor of this bill and is in trouble with his constituents.

Suffolk Life is not in favor of decriminalization, we consider it a contradictory measure. If you are going to decriminalize limited possession of this substance, you are in reality authorizing its use. Instead of taking a politically expedient way out, we would prefer to see the legislature totally withdraw these prohibitions and place the dispensing of this substance on a controlled basis as we do with alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceutical drugs.

Suffolk Life takes no moral or health stand on the use of marijuana. The reports scientists release are too contradictory. The use of this substance should be a matter of conscience. The distribution of this substance should be controlled and people should be free to make up their own individual minds whether they will indulge or not.

We ask our legislature to act courageously and go the full measure.

If they are in favor of decriminalization, then remove all restrictions as to possession of limited quantities of this substance. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

Social Security:

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Since I read your editorial "Is it time to retire Social Security", I have been so angry I couldn't even write this letter. I don't know how many children you have. However - after we have worked more years than we care to remember and paid happily into Social Security since its inception - my husband and I have finally reached the "Golden Years". Although we never expected Social Security to cover all our expenses from "retirement to the grave" we did feel secure knowing we were paying into something that would help us along when this time came.

As for your utterly irresponsible statement about Social Security smashing the family unit and stripping away the moral obligation of young people to their elders - you haven't looked into this very much have you? In the days when young people took care of their parents and grandparents both members of a family (husband and wife) didn't always have to work to keep their heads above water as they do now, so, even if their parents and grandparents grew too old to help with the offspring the mother was generally at home to run the household. I worked for sixteen years in a hospital where an important part of my job was to help families with plans for their elderly parents and/or grandparents and I've spend many an hour with heart-broken men and women who couldn't give up their jobs to stay home and care for their loved ones. And you choose to say that Social Security or anything else has stripped away their moral obligations and responsibilities.

You may be the type of man who would be happy to have no income and to sit idly by and be a burden to your children, who are undoubtedly having struggles of their own to survive in these days of inflation and hard times. As for my husband and I - we have five wonderful children who would gladly assume our care and problems, but we can think of nothing worse than having to be their responsibility in a world where they are raising their own children and working as hard as they can to do so. Truly this would be the greatest catastrophe that could befall any elderly person and would quickly tarnish their "golden years."

It seems to me that in the greatest country in the world, where our Government is helping so many foreign countries, where there is so much waste and money spent for unnecessary things, there must be a way found to keep Social Security what it was meant to be - and is - a system that we paid willing into over the years with the promise of help when we needed it. I only hope that your future does not find you - at retirement age - knowing that your children will have to deprive themselves and their children to take care of you! L-4m

Sincerely yours,
Elizabeth M. Henze
Medford

Dear Mr. Willmott:

On May 18, 1977, you wrote an editorial on Social Security with which I take exception. Ordinarily I greatly admire your editorials because they are consistent with my own views and I believe you're honest in your views. In the matter of Social Security, I don't believe you have got to the real core of the problem - we are now only facing the results.

I do not believe FDR gave the big lie to this legislation and if it had been left alone the probability is that it would still be relatively cheap and straightforward. But, with each administration and legislature something else is added on to the original bill. Eventually, these bills become such a burden that we are hard put to pay for them. This in the same manner applies to the Armed Forces Retirement legislature.

These bills - all in common - started so as to retire the active member that was involved in the possibility of a fair retirement benefit. Over the years wives were added, children were added, handicapped and medically and mentally unfit were added and I know not what else. This has eventually distorted the original participants benefits to a fantastic degree. I would imagine that if a real thorough research were done on these bills, we would find that the actual participants are in the great minority of the receipt of benefits.

I do not deny that these extraneous persons should have help and benefits, but I strenuously object to adding everybody in need on the bills that were originally meant for a specific purpose. These extraneous persons and money should be removed from the original bills leaving them for those they were actually meant for - the participants.

All others plus the extra money should be legislated into a bill meant to accommodate these particular people so there will be a clear distinction between these people and bills.

Those bills and the tax bills are extremely unfair to single people and people without a form of marriage whether there are children involved or not. They are forced to pay much more than they should to make up for the smaller amount the married ones pay and in turn receive less because they aren't married. This also at a time when we are trying to control the population growth!

If it were possible for this to ever come to pass - unlikely - it would be the means of adequately keeping track of where the money is going and who is getting it. Also a means of readjusting single bills that tend to get out of hand. Thank you for your time and interest.

L-2
Sincerely
Henry A. Simpson
Ridge

VOL. 17 NO. 25

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Get 'um!

Back in the dark archives of the ominous Suffolk County officialdom, King John's plutocrats gleefully planned out their strategy for killing off the last vintage of simple, free enterprise. They were setting up their war plans to wipe from the face of the earth its cruddy, unsanitary, filth-laden peasants who had the audacity to stay off the welfare rolls by peddling hot dogs from push carts, trailers, and trucks throughout Suffolk.

"License them to death."

"Charge them for the air around their truck."

"Make them have rest rooms, a men's room, a women's room and an its room."

"Make it so impossible these capitalistic scrounges will be forced to flee from the highways for their

lives. No one in King John's fiefdom should be allowed to make an honest living. Besides that, just think of all the millions in sales tax dollars we are losing because the ungrateful peasants are grabbing a quick hot dog and soda for a buck when they should have the common decency to go into an official restaurant and spend \$25 for a proper meal," decreed King John.

And so it went. And on June 1, 1977 with all the thunder, the strength it could muster, the Royal Health Department came clamoring down on the hot dog vendors. To sell the lowly hot dog in the great and mighty county of Suffolk, the vendors were ordered not only to have to have clean nails, bathe twice a day, use rose scented deodorant, but have hot water to scald himself with and elaborate

refrigeration units so the morgue would have a place to store their excess corpses.

To comply with the law, the hot dog vendors were also told to build official outhouses within 300 feet of their wagon if they wished to peddle hot franks and cold sodas.

The regulations were so preposterous, it would all be a laughing matter, if it wasn't true.

The idiot Health Department has ordered all this and much more in their attempt to drive the independent hot dog vendor off our highways and byways.

Many of these vendors are disabled or handicapped and have two choices.

They can honestly earn a living by working eight to 14 hours a day selling hot dogs, soda and coffee, or they can go on welfare.

To the best of our knowledge, there has never been a reported case of ptomaine poisoning coming from one of these vendors. Yet, the Health

Department in its overzealous attempt to regulate the hell out of Suffolk residents, have imposed these regulations supposedly for our own good.

As drivers of Suffolk highways, we all have appreciated the opportunity of stopping and grabbing a frank, eating an economical meal and saving precious time. We are free to pick and choose where we stop and if a particular vendor doesn't keep up appearances around his wagon or it does not meet the standards of cleanliness, we can avoid eating there.

Aren't you as a resident of Suffolk County, sick, tired and fed up with these overpaid bureaucrats making rules and regulations hindering your freedom and your way of life?

They are all part of King John's bureaucracy. They work directly for him and he approves of their actions. Why not let them know that you have had it. And why not?

Give them bread 'n water

Last weekend, Suffolk County's "honored guests" being detained at the Riverhead Hilton just west of the County Center disagreed with the management over the service they were being rendered. These "honored guests" won a free stay by robbing, raping, selling hard drugs and other related everyday accomplishments.

In our mixed up society, these men have gotten the impression these accomplishments somehow entitle them to the very finest that life has to offer. After all, man, they've got their rights.

It seems like their steaks are too well done, recreational opportunities are not up to their standards and their private boudoirs set up for conjugal visits were not equipped with waterbeds and vibrators.

A few of the good old boys decided to take the place apart and rough up a couple of their servants. They figured such dramatic action would give emphasis to their not-so-polite requests.

The dust hadn't quite settled, when the manager of this establishment, Sheriff John Finnerty, used the incident as a springboard to build

\$7,000,000 more in accommodations for these privileged Suffolk residents.

The hell with them! They are not there for a beauty rest. They are there because they willfully and knowingly hurt other Suffolk residents, either physically or financially. Jail was never intended to be a palatial place filled with amenities.

We do not see our bleeding hearts bending over backwards to make amends to the people that have crimes committed against them. Nobody is paying back the stolen property or making up for the broken and twisted lives.

Jail is what it is. If you don't like it, don't do anything to get yourself put into it. Tough, if it doesn't meet their standards. If the average persons, who are paying the taxes to support this establishment had their way, the jail would consist of a 6 x 9 foot cell without windows with bread and water passed into it once a day.

If the Riverhead Hilton once again became a jail instead of a place for R & R, those inmates would think twice in Suffolk before they committed crimes and Suffolk would be a better place to live. And why not?

QUEST COLUMN

'You need ERA, Phyllis Graham'

By Patricia S. Hogeboom

Are you also a wife and mother Phyllis Graham of an organization named Eagle Forum? If you are, it is time you looked outside your own home at other women and their problems instead of merely citing information lifted from so-called "fact sheets" of the anti-ERA movement.

Did you know Phyllis Graham, that there are thousands of women in our own county who have been working of necessity since the 1963 Equal Pay Act was passed who have yet to see that equal pay? Are you aware that 40 per cent of the work force in the USA today are women, but that the salary discrepancy between men and women has widened, not closed? That information was reported on ABC news May 10. Did you know that a qualified women phys. ed. instructor angered after all the years her extra-curricular pay was lower than her male counterparts finally sued for her rights. It took 2 years before the Human Rights Commission was able to take her case, they are so busy? She was right, and she won her case, and her back pay. But look at the time and the aggravation she suffered to get what was rightfully hers.

Are you aware, Phyllis Graham, that among the other problems the wives of the POW's suffered was the obstacles some states set in their way in regard to their legal rights to carry out the families affairs in their husband's absence? For example, many lost their homes when their power-of-attorney ran out. You see, "career homemakers," such as myself are in a pretty pickle, if something happens to upset what you call our "privileged husband support for ourselves and our children." If, for example, he decides to leave us, we can only hope he will pay the legal child support you seem so sure the courts will award us. If he doesn't there isn't much we can do about it, but harrass him through the courts and possibly have him jailed where he can't earn anything anyway. It would be nice if we could count on equal pay and equal job opportunity if we must be our families sole support.

Who don't the present laws have the strength to accomplish the justice they are meant to establish? Because they are subject to review and appeal which the Equal Rights Amendment will end once and for all, by

giving a firm, no compromise basis to these weak and vacillating laws. As precedents are established with the ERA as foundation, the courts will become less clogged with this kind of case.

You now claim that the only ones who need ERA are "Socialists"-"Abortionists" and "Homosexuals". All of these groups are guaranteed their rights to free speech and assembly in the constitution. We all have our right to be heard, including the groups we don't like. ERA isn't going to expand that right, or take it away. It doesn't, in fact have one thing to do with it.

May I remind you that the New York State Abortion Law as passed long before ERA became an issue in this state. I don't like that law either but it doesn't have anything to do with ERA.

You claim that the International Woman's Year is unnecessary, a ridiculous and insensitive statement in view of the women of this world outside our own America who suffer so blatantly in poverty and social abuse. You claim "the suspicions of a free-thinking people have to be aroused when an amendment so obviously unnecessary and unappealing to the nation at large is hurriedly rammed through state legislatures in secrecy." Where? In what state was the ERA pushed through in secrecy? It is much publicized, debated and discussed throughout the nation. Making these unsupported statements is a cheap trick. In none of the twelve states that presently have such equal rights legislation has any of the fears raised by the opposition been realized. Wyoming, for instance, has had an equal rights provision in its constitution since 1890, it hasn't succeeded and its residents still have separate bathrooms.

The Equal Rights Amendment is supported by such highly diverse and respected groups as the American Association of University Women, the National Assembly of Women Religious, the Council of Churches, the United Presbyterian Church, to name a few. It is greatly needed to guarantee our daughters their full rights in society whether they become working women or not, and to see that man's laws apply to all the people.

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Taking the profit out of the crime

Have you ever thought what happens when you lay down your money for a pack of cigarettes?

In New York State, 16 cents out of this money is supposed to go to the State Treasury. In New York City, it is a total of 24 cents.

Cigarette taxes in New York State are the highest in the nation, and because of this, organized crime has been put full force into the cigarette business.

Bootlegging cigarettes is big business. Organized crime has profited to the tune of over \$633 million in the last decade. This is money that was taken right out of your pockets. These bootlegged cigarettes, although appearing to be legitimately taxed, are not.

The taxes you pay on these go into the coffers of the various organized crime families throughout the State of New York. It is estimated that 1.2 million packs of these illegal cigarettes are sold every day, and this

figure is rising rapidly.

The money raised by organized crime in cigarettes is used to further their other criminal activities.

The funds are used to finance loansharking, which has enabled them to worm their way into many legitimate businesses. It gives them the funds for drugs, gambling and other activities.

The taxes not being paid on these illegal cigarettes have caused financial problems for the entire state. Worthwhile and legitimate programs have had to be suspended for lack of funding due to the syphoning off of these needed revenues.

It is almost impossible to stop the rampant bootlegging of cigarettes because of the sophistication and professionalism of the criminal organizations. Not only content with hijacking trucks, they have moved full force into the marketing apparatus.

Cigarettes are bought through legitimate channels, brought into New York and State Tax Stamps are counterfeited in processing plants. Then they are distributed by organizations controlled by the families.

The situation has grown to such proportions in New York City, Mom and Pop candy stores have been intimidated and physically threatened. They must buy their cigarettes from specific distributors.

The only way this situation can be halted is to take the profit out of cigarettes for organized crime. Cigarette taxes must be brought into line with neighboring states. A bill has been filed in the State Senate and Assembly to accomplish this. The bill numbers are A5420 and S3498. This bill will reduce the cigarette excise tax by 1 cent and remove the 8 cent New York State excise tax.

Passage of this legislation will make the prices charged by honest

cigarette retailers competitive with the prices charged by organized crime. This change has widespread support. It is being supported by a citizens' committee against bootlegged cigarettes. The committee is composed of leading law enforcement officials, judges, attorneys, corporate and civic leaders.

You should also support this measure. Once the taxes are reduced to a competitive level, organized crime will give up their involvement as the profit will be gone. These much needed tax revenues will again flow into the state.

Whether you are a cigarette smoker or not, as a resident of the State of New York, you have \$100 million at stake. We encourage you to write today to your Assemblymen and State Senators encouraging them to support the passage of these bills. And why not?

The Coast Guard's deadly decision

On almost any weekend, listening to Channel 13 on a C.B., you will invariably hear a boater's call for help.

The calls cover the gamut from non-emergencies such as running out of gas to maydays when a life is in imminent danger.

Despite the pleas for assistance, their calls fall on deaf ears, at least when it comes to the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard does not monitor Citizen Band radios. They only monitor VHF-FM radios. C.B.'s cost as little as 20 per cent of a VHF communications system, and are widely used and have been installed on most pleasure crafts.

The Coast Guard feels a VHF radio is more reliable. It provides a stronger and clearer signal than a C.B. They have chosen it as the official radio communications system.

Their reasoning is accurate, but their presumption that all boaters will install this more expensive and sophisticated equipment is faulty.

We would estimate there are probably 20 C.B.'s on boats for every VHF system in operation. The Coast

Guard does not concur with these estimates. In fact, when we wrote to them in October of 1975 on the matter, G.O. Thompson, Rear Admiral, United States Coast Guard, Chief of Operations, in Washington D.C. indicated to us they had conducted a survey in 1974 showing 246,497 boats were equipped with VHF systems compared to 129,777 equipped with Citizen Band radios.

It was hard to believe these statistics in 1974, but today, in 1977, after the C.B. explosion of the last two years these figures are totally erroneous.

The Coast Guard's refusal to monitor C.B.'s probably contributed to two lives being lost at Moriches Inlet last weekend. A sailboat was in distress, a C.B.'er spotted this and relayed the information to a base C.B. unit. The information was then telephoned to the Coast Guard and aid was requested. In the meantime, two fishermen in an outboard attempted to go to the aid of the sailboat but they themselves were capsized. This was witnessed by a C.B.'er on shore.

The Coast Guard, using the information that had been relayed and phoned to them, only attempted to aid the sail boat. They were not aware of the distress of the motor boat because they are not allowed to have a C.B. on board.

By the time this information was patched through the land phone to the Coast Guard, the fishermen had drowned.

If the Coast Guard boat had been equipped with a C.B., they would have been aware of this situation immediately, and it is possible that two lives might have been saved.

We agree with the Coast Guard that VHF's are far superior to C.B.'s. But C.B.'s are the most commonly used radio.

The Coast Guard's arbitrary decision in refusing to monitor C.B.'s

in hopes of forcing boaters to install VHF's is a deadly decision. Coast Guard units and boats should be equipped with C.B. radios. They could monitor a single channel for emergencies.

Even if they do not wish to officially communicate, they can monitor and only transmit in case of an actual emergency.

This would save lives and property which is one of the primary purposes of the Coast Guard.

We urge boat owners to write the Commander of the United States Coast Guard, Washington, D.C., their Congressmen, and their Senators requesting the Coast Guard be equipped with C.B. equipment at least for monitoring and limited transmitting purposes. And why not?

READERS' OPINION

'No prizes, awards or refreshments - just personal satisfaction'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This past spring I purchased a Chevrolet Blazer (which is a 4-wheel drive vehicle designed for on and off road use). After using my vehicle several times on some of our beaches I soon became aware of the fact that 4-wheelers are looked down upon by many people.

I must confess that in this time of strict concern for the environment I myself was concerned about the ruts in the sand and possible pollution. Fortunately, when used properly at reduced speeds, these vehicles do not cause damage to the environment.

Last Friday night I became aware of an even greater threat to our beaches. Out for an enjoyable evening of fishing on a North Shore beach east of Hallock Landing in Rocky Point I ran into a group of unruly teenagers.

The expletives which were cast at me as I nodded good evening were nothing when

compared to the mass of litter and beer containers strewn about the beach and parking area. Again I must make a confession, I also drank beer that evening, but my cans came back with me in a garbage bag.

Once again I'm afraid that the only consequence will be that the 4-wheelers who enjoy fishing, photography and the outdoors will suffer when these beaches are closed due to these immature young adults. Although we do not represent any organization, we would like to organize a group of 4-wheelers to clean up this beach. So on June 19th (Sunday) at 8:30 am any interested 4-wheelers are asked to meet at the Hallock Landing access ramp to clean the beach. No prizes, awards or refreshments - just personal satisfaction.

Glenn M. Olszewski
Peter A. Kowalczyk
588-4803

SUFFOLK LIFE

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Will you be able to afford to drive?

One out of every 10 cars you pass on the road is driving without insurance.

Most of these operators are not doing so out of choice, but financial necessity. Their insurance premiums have risen so high they can no longer pay them, a position most of us are rapidly facing.

A couple of years ago, New York State passed a "no fault" insurance law that was supposed to put a lid on insurance rates. "No fault" was strongly opposed by the trial lawyers, who had reaped millions of dollars in fees from accident cases. They fought the law bitterly and finally forced a compromise which produced today's "no fault".

Under true "no fault", a driver involved in an accident, regardless of blame, would collect only the damages he had sustained. There were no massive awards and there were no incentives to sue with the hope of collecting, regardless of whether you were entitled or not.

The provision of the bill we ended up with provided a basic "no fault" coverage amounting to genuine expenses being covered by your own insurance company, but leaves the alleged injured party free to sue for whatever their imagination can conjure.

As we have read in many of the daily newspapers, your imagination does not have to be very vivid. Doctor and hospital fees for accident victims are double those they normally might charge an uninsured person, or one hurt on the job and covered by workmen's compensation.

It is almost a common practice for auto body shops to charge one figure on an insurance job, and another for cash out of the customer's pocket.

Some law firms are getting rich by specializing in handling accident cases strictly on a contingency basis. The injured party does not incur a penny of cost or risk and the law firm receives a percentage of the take. This percentage ranges from 33 to 50 per cent.

The result is everybody sues everybody, and because of the enormous expense in defending cases, insurance companies make large out-of-court settlements. Those generous

settlements are reflected along with all the other abuses in the rates we pay.

The concept of true "no fault" that bars suit except in extremely unusual cases is part of the answer.

Our state legislature has not been able to pass such a measure due to the influence of the various attorney groups who have lobbied against it. In fact, many Assemblymen and Senators are lawyers themselves.

The real solution to the problem is to change our own attitudes.

Most of us look at insurance companies as something to rip off. We are all paying high premiums to them and there is a great temptation to beat the system by getting back as much as you can by making a claim on everything.

We look at insurance companies as a faceless third party.

In reality, insurance companies are a pool of our own money that should only be drawn upon to pay expenses that we can't handle ourselves.

An answer to changing this attitude, might be the requiring for higher deductibles on all insurance policies.

A deductible clause in reality is a co-insurance provision, whereby the individual is responsible for the first portion of the claim out of his own pocket. The major portion, after this is satisfied, is covered by the insurance company.

We wonder if we would be so inclined to sue, or allow ourselves to be sued if we knew we would have to pay the first \$500 or a \$1,000 of the damages ourselves.

The acceleration of auto insurance rates are a major problem we all have to live with.

We must come up with a solution that will put a lid on these expenditures or more of us will be faced with the prospect of breaking the law, putting ourselves in jeopardy and financial ruin now and in the future.

We believe the answer lies somewhere between the state imposing limitations on payments, the elimination of attorneys taking law suit on commission, and a radical change in all our attitudes. And why not?

The State Department is at it again

The major opponent to passing the 200 mile limit, restricting foreign fishing in our waters, was the State Department.

The State Department's philosophy is it is more important for us to feed the world than to feed ourselves. After years of efforts and a virtual depletion of many stable fishes, Congress passed the 200 mile limit over the objections of the State Department.

As Americans, we were led to believe foreign fishing interests would only be allowed to fish in our waters for overstocked fish, and by permit only.

Not true.

The State Department found a technicality in the law and is allowing Japanese long liners to take in wholesale lots giant blue fin tuna, the one species of fish the federal government has had to place severe restrictions on because of the dwindling numbers.

A long liners operation consists of running a buoyed cable over a five to 15 mile area, attached to the cable, every few hundred feet, are long fishing lines hooked and baited.

They are set out in deep waters and large fish, such as blue finned tuna, marlin, swordfish and sharks hook themselves and remain there until the cable is reeled in, or they are devoured by another fish.

These Japanese long liners almost singlehandedly ruined the sword-fishing while working off the Virginia coast, a few years back.

Blue fin tuna, between 150-350 pounds, are the prime breeding stock of this species. It is illegal to catch and keep a fish of this size, either commercially or by sport on a domestic boat.

Giant tuna over 350 lbs. are limited to one per boat, and there can be no

more than 2,000 of these fish taken during the year. When this number is reached, the season is closed.

These restrictions were imposed, as were limits on the commercial harvest of the species, because the Department of the Interior is concerned with the dwindling numbers of these fish.

The restrictions severely cutback both commercial and the sport fishing activities which resulted in lost American jobs and an increase in the tuna prices we pay at the supermarket.

Sport and commercial fishermen alike have obeyed these rules, knowing that, in the long run, it would be better to have some fishing than no fishing at all.

The State Department is aware of these facts, yet, they allowed the Japanese long liners to set their lines within the 200 mile limit of our Southern coast line and take wholesale numbers of these fish unrestricted.

Their catch was so devastating that marine biologists are questioning whether the species can ever rebound. To further complicate this situation, the Japanese long liners set up their lines in an area that is suspected to be the breeding and hatchery for these fish.

We ask our Congressmen and our Senators to investigate this matter now. It is not fair to ask Americans to give up jobs and recreation and pay higher supermarket prices to help feed the Japanese a fish they consider a luxury, bringing as much as \$24.00 per pound in Japan. We are not talking about a basic food stuffs or feeding the underprivileged. Giant tuna is on par in Japan with lobster and caviar in this country. And why not?

READER'S OPINION

'The Town of Brookhaven better wake up'

Dear Mr. Willmott

My husband and I had been breeding, raising and selling Arabian horses on Long Island for 20 years when we moved to our Virginia farm. After 3 years in Va., we decided to return to N.Y., clean up our old farm, which was rented and sell it. We are here a year now, and can't wait to pack our horses and return South.

Not only does it cost 4 times more to exist on Long Island, but the people aren't the same. The Lakeview Stable public meeting was evidence of this. Brookhaven Township has always been a hindrance on boosting the economy for over taxed residents.

The opening of the new Parr Meadows Track means employment for many now unemployed, but Brookhaven Town makes it very difficult and expensive now to operate a working horse farm. Firstly, breeding horses is agriculture, no different than raising chickens or dairy and cattle. Yet, they have changed the zoning on horse farms to be L-1 Industrial. What difference is there between selling a raised product, whether it be potatoes, eggs or horses?

In 1958, we applied for a zoning change on our 9 acre farm. The zoning was not changed, but a "Special exception to raise, breed and sell horses" was added. This allowed our farm to stay at the "C" residence tax rate. Why do they make it so difficult now for prospective horse breeding residents, which Lakeview neighbors complained of rats and flies. The jar of flies which was produced

at the public hearing were not stable or horse flies. They were the shiny black and iridescent green flies attracted by rotten meat or fish used as bait. These are the same flies seen at the beach on dead fish. Breeders of fine horses do not want flies or rats! They carry disease and are controlled.

In fact, we are having a rodent problem now. 670 homes (Rustic Ridge) are being built on our north side and 91 homes (Randall Estates) on our south side, the field mice and rats have no place to go, so they visit us, but when the new owners move in, we will be blamed for a problem they caused. Hopefully, we will have sold the farm and be back in Va. by that time.

Lakeview owners were also accused of advertising in the yellow pages. There is only one listing for horses - we advertise our stallions at stud and circulate flyers. How else would we get customers for our product.

We have mares boarding, many coming great distances (Ga. & Ky.) to be bred to our stallions. They usually stay 2 months. In fact, we take back horses which we have sold as babies and train them to ride for their new owner. That, like racing, is part of a breeding farm.

The Town of Brookhaven better wake up before it's too late if they want to join our neighboring townships in the success of the new Parr Meadows track or they'll be stuck with a lot of empty developments. L-1P
Elaine Lange
Randall Road, Ridge
Ridge

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Going to the dogs in Brookhaven Town

Brookhaven Town, like most towns, has a dog problem that is created by a people problem. People acquire dogs with good intentions, but soon tire of them and refuse to accept the responsibility of taking care of them. They abandon the animal and they roam free.

They contract disease and spread it. They attack livestock and sometimes people. The responsibility for controlling and capturing these

dogs falls on the dog warden.

The chief dog warden of Brookhaven is Jack Bryant. He supervises the wardens and runs the pound, where strays are held for up to seven days and then exterminated.

Bryant has been the chief dog warden of this town for close to two decades. He has served admirably under both Republican and Democratic administrations. He is one of the hardest working public

servants in the town and as professional as you can find.

Brookhaven has an additional people problem, with a small group of activist animal lovers. They are against any dog being put to sleep and want the Brookhaven Dog Pound to become a permanent home for all unwanted animals.

To obtain this end for the past two years they have been at war with Bryant and the town. He has constantly been subjected to harassment through undocumented charges, for the sole purpose of having his authority undermined.

These ludicrous charges reached a point of ridiculousness at a town meeting last week. They charged Bryant and 27 of his 30 assistants with being sadistic, and torturers, who get great pleasure out of deliberately inflicting pain and hurting the animals in their charge.

Many of the accusers are not even Brookhaven Town residents, but come from Smithtown, Islip, and other communities. We have been at the dog pound on a number of occasions both day and night. We have watched Bryant's successful attempts to administrator this pound humanely and efficiently.

He appears to have total authority over the people working for him and provides for the animals expertly and humanely.

If the cost were not a consideration, more could be done. These costs, though, are paid for by the real estate holders of Brookhaven Town, who are suffering from outlandish taxes and these taxes would have to be raised to accomplish all their aims.

As an example, these animal lovers are opposed to the extermination of any animal. They will not be satisfied

until the town agrees to keep all animals alive until they are adopted, or die of old age.

Under normal circumstances, the Brookhaven Pound processes from 200 to 400 dogs a week. Strays caught without licenses are kept five to seven days, those with licenses are kept at least seven days, giving the owners an opportunity to reclaim them.

Those, who are not reclaimed or have not been adopted, must be put to sleep. Conceivably, the town could be housing as many as 15,000 dogs within a year's period of time.

This group now wants all dogs captured to be dipped to kill ticks and fleas, and have these dogs vaccinated even though the chances are within a five to seven day period they will be exterminated.

These two procedures alone will cost close to \$10 per animal, and if their request is honored, will cost the taxpayers of Brookhaven Town over \$150,000 a year.

This small group of activists claim they are only interested in the humane treatment of animals. We question why they feel that humane treatment does not apply to human beings.

The constant harassment techniques they have unleashed against Bryant, the undocumented and unfounded charges that they have accused him of are as cruel and as inhuman as they protest against.

Viciousness, whether towards an animal or a human being should not be tolerated. Hopefully, the residents of Brookhaven town and the town board will let this small group of animal activists know that they will no longer listen or accept undocumented or unfounded statements and charges. And why not?

Drop Social Security for teachers

Under a newly enacted provision of the Social Security law, municipalities and school districts can drop their participation in the Social Security system. Prior to this change they were mandated to take part in this system.

The Three Village school district is seriously considering this move in an effort to reduce the cost of education.

They rightfully reason educators are already covered by a very lucrative retirement system and the participation in the Social Security system is, in affect, giving these people double benefits.

It costs school districts hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to be participants. This cost could be eliminated and hopefully passed on as a tax reduction for property owners.

Educational costs have moved over the 50 per cent mark and in some districts have reached 60 per cent of the total real estate taxes. As more and more budgets are being turned down, school boards are looking for every avenue to reduce costs while maintaining the high levels of

education offered on Long Island.

The biggest factor in the cost of education is lavish fringe benefits received by educational personnel. Depending upon the district these fringes cost the taxpayer from 38-52 per cent of the gross salary paid. The elimination of Social Security is an ideal way of cutting back on these fringes.

The educators already have retirement coverage with their pension system. They themselves would be a direct beneficiary of the elimination of this system because the net take home pay would be increased by 5.8 per cent.

As the Three Village school district is considering this move, we encourage all other school boards to consider the ramifications. The cost of education has to be brought into line with the taxpayers' ability to finance it.

The elimination of a duplication of benefits is sound and should be supported by taxpayer and educators alike. And why not?

Happy Father's Day

Fathers are many things to many people. Some abandon their responsibility of being a father upon making a woman pregnant. Others take the responsibility dead serious. It is these men that we honor today.

From the time the child is born they give of themselves fully. They work with this new life to help it understand and cope with the world that it has come into. They spend time talking with the children telling them what makes things tick and asking them their feelings and opinions.

Most fathers by necessity can't spend the time they would like to with their children, and before they know it, they have grown up around them

and have become adults themselves. This is particularly true with your suburban father who often has to commute to work and hold down a second job to make ends meet.

The role of father in today's society has been diminished by the economy and shattered, in many instances, by the emerging women's movement. Even with conditions as they are, most men take the responsibility of being a father seriously. They give of what little time they do have, to make this time as productive as possible. It is these men who take the responsibility seriously that we salute. And why not?

Energy independence

A story we heard the other day makes you wonder how sincere our country is about achieving energy independence.

There is a man in one of the western states who foresaw the energy problem coming. Two years ago, he built a windmill on his property to generate electricity. Although it's functioned, it did not provide the maximum energy needed to fulfill all his needs. On his own and with nothing more than a high school education, he built a small dam across a brook that ran through his property and created a hydroelectric system. The combination of this hydroelectric system and wind power produced enough energy to sufficiently meet his normal needs.

When the power company realized that he was not buying the amounts of electricity from them he had in the

past, they served notice. He was going to have to pay them a minimum service charge of \$30.00 per month, even though he was using no electricity at all.

He had kept his power lines connected as a backup in case there was a breakdown. The power company reasoned, as LILCO has with the ratchet clause, effecting the motels, "the occasional user must pay the maximum rate for their electricity because they must keep it in sufficient quantity to meet demands when needed."

It seems to us you can't have it both ways. You can't encourage people to become energy independent and then penalize them for cutting back on their consumption. Yet, this seems to be just what our government and the power companies are doing. And why not?

The highest calling

There is no higher calling than to place your life on the line in service to your fellow man. This is what volunteer firemen do everyday of the year. Partially out of training, knowledge and luck, Long Island volunteer firemen have suffered few fatalities.

This past Saturday, the wheel came to a stop and Edward Bellefontaine and Richard Sycz died in a house fire in Greenport. The fire itself was not spectacular; it was a common structural fire. A mother thought her little girl was trapped inside and Sycz and Bellefontaine went in searching

for her. Their air supply gave out and they were overcome and asphyxiated by smoke.

There aren't words that can express people's deep sorrow for their families' loss or are there words that can accurately express the Long Island communities' sincere appreciation to all volunteers who place their lives on the line every time that whistle goes off. We can only say thank God for men with this dedication and for families who give them support and understand their needs to be of service. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



READERS' OPINION

'GOD knows how united we would be'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Reading the article, What is justice? we as residents of 821 and the community agree that it's a fifty, fifty situation of knowing the involved and proving it as being somewhat truth. The law tells their side and the criminals have to set back and take what they feel we should have. This isn't justice because we're being treated like barbarians behind closed doors and when we're brought in front of society, they, the law, act as if we were treated like human beings. Oh no! They're demons behind closed doors and if it were possible for you to interview the prisoners of Suffolk County, the majority would say the same thing about the law.

In the raid at 821 on May 10, those arrested were black. The public, more so the Suffolk County police and 7th Squad Detectives were enthused because they felt the drug situation had come to an end finally. They labeled us as being pushers or profiteers but during the raid, drugs nor money was found. What is a raid? I'm sure it consists of more than just arresting human beings. Bails were set unreasonable regardless of one's criminal background. When you serve time in prison or jail, you've paid your debt to society and the past should remain in the past. We'll

never be considered citizens of society if the law continues to throw your past in your face, especially in front of the DA and judge. Besides, if we were pushers, profiteers, whatever, we all would have made bails and been on the street. Like was said, the law gives us what they feel we should have, not what is rightfully ours concerning crime. If Judge Manning was frustrated after bails were dropped, then how do you think we felt when we were arrested? By the way, are we human beings or are we the laws' escape goats? When law enforcement agencies can break or bend the laws, they are sworn to uphold, who then is the criminal? You know who you are.

We're not only treated unjustly but racism plays a big role in the Riverhead community. Again you know who you are. If we hadn't been robbed of our knowledge, true knowledge, then as human beings as well as citizens, the world would be better. Less racism, less bloodshed, less criminals etc. It's a pity, not a shame. If we black brothers and sisters as well as white could have another chance in society, GOD knows how united we would be!
D.N.E.S.

"The law states you are innocent until proven guilty."

Dear David:

I hope I don't offend you, but I just have to comment on your Sunday editorial. You, I hope, have never been in there, I have. I worked there 4 years, my husband 9 years, as correction officers, and I just don't think you are aware of a few things.

The Suffolk County Jail accomodates termers (those serving 2 years or less a sentence), exams (those waiting to be arraigned), and grand jury cases those waiting for a decision from the grand jury). The cell blocks are divided into categories, minor termers, adult termers, minor grand jury, adult grand jury, minor & adult exams. They are kept separate, however; all treated ALIKE! The law states you are innocent until proven guilty. Why then should they all be treated like convicted criminals? Why should one of our teenagers, (over 16 years is held there) who perhaps attended a party where some nuffy kid had a joint and passed it along; the party be raided by our local police, and he or she is arrested with the

others, may not be guilty, and they are incarcerated and treated exactly like the other criminals. Would you like to see one of our children eat bread and water or sleep a night or two in a 6x9 cell without windows?

Our county jail only holds those persons who have been sentenced 2 or less years of time. The chronic robber, raper or hard drug user or pusher is not kept at the county jail. If he is there, doing time, it's the judge's fault to only giving him 2 years. Should they be sentenced to more than 2 years, they do their time upstate. I am sure it's not a hotel, nor should it be.

I don't know if John Finnerty should get \$7,000,000 for more accomodations, but I do feel the sentenced termers should be housed completely separate from the others; and lose all their privileges for that period of time. If this takes \$7,000,000, then it should be done.

Thanks for being you, and letting me express my feelings.
Dotty Spatafora

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Did you pay your dues today?

When you plunked down your 65 cents for a pack of butts this morning did you pay your dues to the mafia?

If you unknowingly bought a pack of bootlegged cigarettes the Don thanks you for paying his organization 16-24 cents that should have been paid to the state tax bureau, but instead went directly to the mob.

Chances are the cigarettes you bought were bootlegged. It is estimated that over 1.2 million packs of illegal cigarettes are sold in the state every day of the year and the figure is rising.

Bootlegging cigarettes is big business for organized crime. They're in it because of the stupidity of our state government.

Our state raised the taxes on cigarettes to encourage people to cut their consumption. Smokers didn't stop, the state didn't get rich by all these additional taxes, but the mafia did. A new avenue was opened for the mafia to operate in.

Organized crime can only operate where the government itself makes it profitable for them to do so. These areas are where the government imposes unrealistic restrictions against the people's will or imposed taxes that can easily be circumvented.

When the state imposed a 16 cent a pack cigarette tax and allowed the city to tag another 8 cents on top of it, they put out the welcome sign for the mafia to come forth.

Since then, they have been smuggling cigarettes into New York, putting counterfeit stamps on packs and distributing these cigarettes through their own operations.

The situation has gotten so far out of hand Mom and Pop stationery stores have been threatened at the point of a gun and forced to buy these cigarettes from organized crime distributors.

A Citizens Committee Against Bootlegged Cigarettes, comprised of some of the state's most noted law enforcement officials, judges and lawyers, recommends the taxes on cigarettes be reduced by one cent a pack state-wide and the eight cent a pack New York City tax be repealed.

This will eliminate the lucrative profits now being collected by the state's organized crime factors. It will make legitimate cigarettes competitive with bootlegged ones.

A bill has been filed in the Assembly A 5420 and in the Senate S3498 to accomplish this.

We support this measure and we encourage you to do so also. You have been ripped off for over \$500 million in the last 10 years.

This is money you could have been using and should have been used for good social programs and might have even been able to keep the tax rate down.

Write today to your Assemblymen and State Senators. Encourage them to vote in favor of both these bills. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

The Catholic problem

The fight between Father Julian Wenda, pastor of Saint Isidore's in Riverhead and the parishioners over the renovation of that church has been in the headlines of this newspaper and others for almost two months.

We had hoped it would come to an end, peaceably this past Sunday with the intervention of the Bishop of the Rockville Centre Diocese. It did not. We have been reluctant to editorialize on this matter because we felt it was a Catholic problem between the pastor and the parish.

But in last week's Suffolk Life, there appeared a letter from the Bishop pleading for an end to the strife that has torn this parish and could well tear apart other Catholic parishes throughout the diocese.

The Bishop appealed to Catholics' sense of fairness and obedience, but totally failed to be understanding of the problem at Saint Isidore's and at other parishes.

The problem at Saint Isidore's was centered around the pastor's desire to renovate and remodel the church. He wanted to replace the wood shingles with aluminum siding, install air

conditioning and refurbish the interior by changing the pews, the altar rail and the altar.

Saint Isidore's was built literally by the sweat and blood of the parishioners. The building itself represents the proud Polish-American heritage of the community. Families have literally lived and died within these walls.

Each pew, painting and decoration holds many emotional feelings for these people.

This was not the real issue though. The issue is Catholics reassuming the responsibility for running the physical and financial end of their Church. After Second Ecumenical Council, parish councils were formed in an attempt to bring the congregation into closer relationships with the clergy and to assist the clergy with the operations of the parish.

Parish councils in many parishes have been a dismal failure. They were stacked in from the beginning with parishioners who believed not only in the divine religious authority of the pastor, but also in his infallible

financial and social authority.

This was not what modern Catholics were looking for. They wanted the clergy to provide good spiritual guidance from the pulpit, in counseling and in education of the parishioners.

They themselves wanted to build the parishes into community centers that would be a reflection of Catholics of all ages.

In many parishes it became obvious the people's concept of a parish council and the hierarchy view of their role were different.

The disgraceful situation at Saint Isidore's, now public, threatens to spread throughout Long Island and effect every parish, unless the Bishop and the pastors in various communities allow parishioners to take an active part in the development of the parish.

We hope that the diocese will not try to further whitewash this situation.

It is serious. It is contagious, and the attitude will drive more people away from the church. And why not?

Fuel oil to go up 6-8¢ per gallon

The House Ways and Means Committee agreed to impose President Carter's energy tax on crude petroleum.

This will not only force up the cost of gasoline, but it also will kick up the cost of your fuel oil from six to eight cents a gallon. Proportionally it will increase your electric rates as well.

This measure will have to be voted on by the full Congress and hopefully it will not be passed.

When Carter proposed his energy plan, he recommended the additional revenues, raised by this tax on petroleum, be returned to the people in a socialistic scheme of rebates.

The House Ways and Means Committee just plain refused to agree to return any of your money to you.

Most Long Islanders heat their homes with oil or electricity. Either way, we are going to be affected.

You may be able to turn down your thermostat a couple of degrees, you can put in all the insulation, weather stripping, and storm windows possible, but you still will end up using at least 60-70 per cent of your present oil consumption.

Heating is not a luxury we can do without.

The House Ways and Means Committee realized that, yet failed to take this into consideration.

This is your government run by people you elected. If you do not mind paying 30 per cent more for your fuel oil, forget this editorial.

If you can't afford it, or the principle of your government ripping you off bothers you, pick up a pen and write to your Congressmen, Otis Pike, Tom Downey and your Senators Pat Moynihan and Jacob Javitz. If you don't, don't complain. And why not?

READER'S OPINION

'My heart was broken'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I have just read your article in the June 15th Suffolk Life regarding the dog pound.

I'd like to tell you my story. It is most unfair to people who would like to adopt a dog there - they are crowded in kennels and evidently no prevention of disease.

I am 77 years old, completely alone and felt I would like to take an older small dog (all this travelling costs me plenty - I have no car and had to taxi). I found an adorable tiny dog I thought was 3 or 4 years old. The next day I took it to my veterinarian. (I have two older larger dogs).

As soon as he heard it came from the shelter, he said most of those animals have a disease - and sure enough after paying \$8.75 for a license \$23 for shots & taxi, in less than three weeks, it had to be destroyed. Distemper.

My heart was broken - I loved the little girl and was even planning to have her spayed.

That is not all - As my dogs were in contact I had to have booster shots. Taxis again. Can you imagine what it cost me - and I didn't have my tiny pet in the end!

If people are kind enough to adopt - these dogs they should be given a shot as soon as they are picked up. I would discourage everybody from adopting a dog c' that miserable Brookhaven pound and I most certainly shall. I am strongly disappointed in you for speaking well of such a lousy institution. (My two dogs are still under quarantine for three weeks. I hope dear God, they will be OK. (L-4R)

Sincerely,
Mrs. Bernard J. Grimes
Mastic Beach, N.Y.

SUFFOLK LIFE
NEWSPAPERS

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In 13 market zone editions on Wednesday and Sunday

North Fork
South Fork
Riverhead
Hampton West

Mastic/Moriches
Patchogue
Medford/Holbrook
Sayville
Ronkonkoma

Coram/Middle Island
Selden/Cataraugus
3 Village/Port Jefferson
Rocky Point

Suffolk County Life, published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip, Town of Riverhead, Town of Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson.

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willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

And off to jail

The story ends on the American Watergate scandal with John Mitchell, the former attorney general of the United States, the nation's highest enforcement official surrendering to prison officials in Alabama.

By June 22nd, this giant of a man was reduced to nothing more than a number...a common criminal paying for his crime.

It is with mixed feelings we witnessed this. It just doesn't seem believable that a person, who could obtain such a powerful and important office, could be reduced to such a lowly status in life. It did happen.

On a positive vein, the jailing of Mitchell proves our system works.

Not even the high and mighty can escape justice. The incarceration of Mitchell should make even the most skeptical of us see a glimmer of hope for our Democratic system, which we have lived under for almost 201 years.

Under our system, there are the rich and the poor, the weak and the powerful, but when all the cards are laid out on the table, we stand as individuals judged on the merits of our deeds. And these deeds determine our future.

Mitchell betrayed his office, his country and the people. He will have two and one-half to eight years to meditate on this. And why not?

Failure for not trying

A bar association study claimed the New York State drug laws, implemented under Governor Rockefeller, have been a total failure.

These drug laws, the toughest in the nation, were passed with a hope they would stem the ever increasing tide of illegal drug traffic. The sale or transfer of hard drugs such as heroin, cocaine, LSD, etc. subjected the pusher to mandatory life sentencing. The law allowed no room for plea bargaining or discretion by judges in sentencing.

Life imprisonment should have been enough of a deterrent for anyone who might contemplate selling these drugs. It wasn't because the laws were not enforced and the professional pushers found ways around them. It became nearly impossible to enforce these laws because of the tremendous backlog in cases that developed.

Most of our crimes are settled under a plea bargaining system. When a person is caught in the act of committing a first degree crime, they are able to plead guilty to a lesser charge which often results in no more of a sentence than time served or probation.

Using this system, most cases never get to court. When drug pushers realized they couldn't plead

their cases, they demanded jury trials often times lengthy by design. They tied up and caused a court backlog.

The cops were told to lay off the pushers except for the worst offenders. The courts could only handle so many cases at a time. In this void, the pushers operated with almost immunity.

To further protect themselves from prosecution, the big dealers employed youths under 16 years of age as pushers. Under New York State law, a person under sixteen years of age cannot commit a crime and therefore cannot be tried for one or subjected to the penalty of the crime.

New York State's tough drug laws are basically good. Particularly as they apply to hard drugs and their sellers. It is the judicial and the penal system that has failed not the law itself.

Hard drugs are being sold damn near openly right here in Suffolk County. The system is so frustrated, it can't deal with it. If our government can't devise a system that works and functions to stop the open proliferation of drugs, can it blame fathers, who take the law into their own hands to stop their children from being made members of the walking dead. And why not?

The problem of welfare housing

Three years ago, Simon Ulian, the owner of Riverhead Motel Apartments sat in my office with tears in his eyes.

He had taken back the mortgage on this complex, and just finished rebuilding and renovating all the units.

They were modern, efficiency units, ideal for singles and older couples. The rentals were reasonable in fact, under what welfare was paying for apartments in Suffolk.

He had a number of vacancies and prospective tenants. Prospective tenants, though, were fearful of signing leases because of the amount of welfare in the Town of Riverhead. Ulian asked what we could do to help him.

With vacancies and rents that were below and, therefore, meeting the welfare criteria, he was having a hard job fighting them off.

We ran a story which generated some interest, but not enough to ward off the inevitable.

Today, just 36 months after our conversation with him, these units are a shambles. The house that once was his well-kept, stately home, is a wreck and an eyesore to the community.

Newsday last Friday had a feature article indicating the new owner was ripping off the county by running slum housing.

The violations alleged consisted of broken windows, ripped screens, and kicked-in doors. Newsday missed the point. There was nothing wrong with this housing three years ago. The people who have been allowed to inhabit it have demonstrated a lack of responsibility, regard, or appreciation towards this property.

Sure, some people on welfare are illiterate and don't know how to live in a house properly. This is a very small percentage of the welfare community.

Most welfare recipients know right from wrong, but they just don't give a damn. As soon as they ruin what they are living in, they can be transferred to another house and ruin that.

There is no need for responsibility, so why assume any.

If the window is stuck, it is easier to put a bottle through it, then try to fix it. Why use the doorknob when you can put your foot through the screen to get the door opened. Why use a plunger on a clogged up toilet when you can let the water overflow and scream about unsanitary conditions.

Slum housing in Suffolk County isn't a problem of substandard housing, as it is of substandard people, who do not have any incentive, drive, or reason to keep up, and improve their standard of living.

This garden apartment complex is not an unusual example. It is a common happening in Suffolk County. Every town has their individual homes and apartment complexes that are in good condition, until inhabited by these who are not paying the bills. Within weeks, the grounds and the building shows the neglect and within months a single building that has become a slum spreads through the area.

Welfare recipients must be responsible for their actions.

They must maintain their houses and apartments in compliance with the communities standards.

If they refuse to inhabit a structure in a decent and proper manner they then must be evicted and taken off the welfare rolls.

As the community has a responsibility to take care of those who financially cannot take care of themselves, those who are asking for aid have a responsibility to the community to help maintain the premises they are living in and the community which they are a part of. And why not?

READER'S OPINION

'I believe he has abused his editorial license'

EDITORIAL REBUTTAL

Mr. Willmott's recent editorial "Give Them Bread 'n Water", raises some pretty serious questions.

First, I believe he has abused his editorial license by publishing his personal views, devoid of the barest of facts, in the form of a professional editorial.

As the owner and publisher of this newspaper he has the right to say he may print whatever he wishes, which of course, is his privilege. Indeed, he is entitled to his opinion -- as we all are.

But, as the Editor and Chief of a large county-wide newspaper, he has an obligation to his readership to be factual and accurate -- particularly in an editorial -- which is the official voice of any newspaper.

Hence, to simply condemn the prisoners at the Riverhead County Jail, as he did, just for the sake of condemning someone, is not in my opinion, the sign of an objective or responsible Publisher.

If he feels this strongly about conditions at the jail that he thinks it is a Country Club, then instead of blindly striking out without facts as he did in an editorial, he should assign some of his reporters to do an in-depth article on conditions at the jail. He has the staff and his paper has the circulation to warrant a series on the subject.

In his personalized editorial, he indicated that a riot took place, but fails to explain the actual reasons. Worse, he shows more annoyance than concern over the riot.

A riot, to me, is drastically wrong, and indicates that something is drastically wrong. Apparently, Mr. Willmott has forgotten the bloody lessons our society has learned or should have learned from the carnage at Attica.

Then using his pen as a bull whip, he goes on to suggest that we should treat the prisoners like animals by recommending that they should be placed in a 6 ft. by 9 ft. cell without windows and fed bread and water once a day.

This kind of suggestion coming from a Publisher of a large respected countywide newspaper is tragic. It is also as wrong in purpose and principal as the riot he wrote about.

One wonders after reading Mr. Willmott's epistle if he is as outraged by the preferential treatment accorded "Officials" when they are arrested or indicted. When they are they are conspicuously spared from suffering the indignities that the ordinary citizen must endure when he runs afoul of the law.

If Mr. Willmott is looking for a country club atmosphere to write about, then I strongly suggest that he start at the top with the politically favored, and then work his way down to Devil's Island in Riverhead. L-9T
Thomas Donnelly

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Commissioner should know our problem

Governor Carey nominated Peter Peyser to be Chairman of the State Public Service Commission. Peyser, a Republican-turned-Democrat is a late Congressman from Westchester with bigger aspirations.

His credentials to be PSC chairman are sparse to say the least. He has virtually no experience or background in the business of regulating utilities. He even lacks the knowledge of what it is like to exist as a middle class New York resident.

Peyser comes from the blue chips of Westchester County. He has never known the pains of not being able to feed your children the way you want to, being behind and facing the third payment on your mortgage, being meaningfully unemployed or any of the other normal plights the average consumer faces.

The purpose of the Public Service Commission is to monitor and oversee the operation and the rates of the utilities. Up until recently, the public has been absolutely convinced the Public Service Commission was in the hip pocket of the utility companies, having been bought and paid for, lock, stock and barrel.

The Public Service Commission over the last decade has allowed utilities to raise rates recklessly and the cost of obtaining these services have forced people to change their way of life drastically.

Carey is making a serious political mistake by attempting to fill this ultra-sensitive position with a political hack, particularly one who has demonstrated a wishy-washy political philosophy and who jumps party lines to serve his own selfish interests.

Carey should fill the chairmanship of the Public Service Commission with someone who has expertise in the operation of utilities, but not from the utilities.

Preferably, this person should know the plight of the average middle class person of New York State, and be able to relate to rate increases from the consumer standpoint, as well as legitimate needs for realistic increases by utilities.

Better yet, he should take the chairmanship of the Public Service Commission out of its appointed status and make this office an elected one, so the people can put into office a person who will represent their interests first. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

No suit insurance

If a vehicle is to be licensed in New York State it must be covered by insurance.

The fact a car is covered by insurance and an individual will not be paying the bills leads most citizens to the conclusion when involved in an accident to sue for whatever they can get out of it.

New York State has a limited 'no fault' insurance law that has the person's own insurance company pay for the claims and at a later date determines who is responsible for the accident.

The passage of this measure was interred to eliminate costly and needless lawsuits. The trial lawyers' association was successful in weakening the bill by including in it a person's right to sue for all personal damages over \$500. These damages cover suffering, anguish, loss of services, and ability to work, etc.

'No fault' insurance in its original form, would have reduced the cost of automobile insurance substantially. Instead, in its weakened version, it has led to enormous rate increases people cannot afford.

It is estimated one out of every 10 cars registered in the state of New York is being driven without the benefit of insurance coverage.

The State Legislature is wrestling with this problem. Typically, they are going about it piecemeal. They are attempting to patch back the guts into the original 'no fault' bill. They are being opposed and subjected to intense lobbying efforts by the trial lawyers association.

Instead of piecemeal action, the legislature should be investigating the entire automobile insurance system from top to bottom.

Serious consideration should be given to the state itself setting up an escrow pool paid for through the registration of vehicles and the licensing of drivers in lieu of insurance.

This pool could be administered by the state. When there is an accident, the victim of an accident would go before a compensation board, similar to a workmen's compensation board, and an arbitrator would make awards along the same lines as compensation cases are handled.

This would eliminate most of the middle men and would reduce awards. Having professional arbitrators with expertise in this field handling only automobile claims, would allow them to sift out the real from the fabricated.

If lawyers are to be used to plead a victim's claim, they should be paid on a flat fee, out of the fund rather than a contingent fee based upon the award.

This system stands as much chance as a snowball in hell of ever getting passed. It would be workable, it would reduce insurance costs, it would speed up the awarding of settlements and it would stop needless and senseless suits that are easier to settle than fight.

This system, however, wouldn't enrich the lawyers who today are the primary beneficiaries from our hodge-podge auto insurance system.

And for this reason, it probably never would be enacted. Over one-third of our state legislators are lawyers or hold law degrees. They are in Albany to feather their own nests.

Any system, no matter how good for the consumer, that is going to take money away from lawyers is sure to be fought.

We do not expect much improvement to come out of this year's state legislature in regards to our auto insurance system.

As insurance rates rise more people will be forced to illegally drive without insurance, more pressure will be brought to bear on the legislature to make this system workable and equitable.

A professional compensation board dealing only in auto accidents is a plausible solution whose day will come. And why not?

Move for blue

The next time you see a revolving blue light in your rear-view mirror, pull over. It is not some hippie kid with the latest light display, it is a volunteer fireman on his way to a fire or other emergency.

We are all familiar with the law governing our giving way to a flashing red light. The same applies to a flashing blue light.

Many of our summer residents are

not aware of this since the use of blue lights on private vehicles responding to a fire is not normal in the city.

Here, volunteer firemen use this light to notify motorists they are approaching there is an emergency and they must pass. Volunteers are not paid for the risks they take.

Don't place them in a position of additional risk by failing to yield to the flashing blue light. And why not?

READER'S OPINION

'Your blaming the Coast Guard seems most unfair'

Dear Editor:

I have read your editorial, "The Coast Guard's Deadly Decision", and I feel that a reply is in order.

I, too, deeply regret the loss of two very brave men's lives due to a lack of communication. These terrible sort of tragedies should never occur.

Your blaming the Coast Guard, however, for not monitoring Citizen Band radio frequencies seems most unfair.

In all safe boating courses and safety literature, the Coast Guard makes it perfectly clear that it does not guard or operate on any of the CB frequencies and it discourages boaters from using CB as a primary means of communication. Their reasons for this are well founded and based upon many years of expertise in the area of radio communication.

As a boater, I have operated on A.M. marine frequencies, VHF marine frequencies and also on Citizen Band Radio. It has been my experience that the marine radio frequencies (Coast Guard monitored) are much more reliable than the CB channels. CB does not provide the kind of strong and clear signal that VHF provides, and it is continually cluttered with unnecessary traffic and used by people who refuse to follow proper Federal Communication Commission's procedure for safe, clear and precise communication. With the CB fad of the past few years, the channels are becoming more and more of a disaster. Rather than advising your readers to write to

the Coast Guard about monitoring CB frequencies, may I suggest that you advise your readers to heed the advice of the experts and use the tried and true method of safe communication when on the waterways. It may cost more, but one's life cannot be valued in dollars.

The Coast Guard is an under-staffed, under-financed and frequently unappreciated branch of the military whose primary function is to save lives. They frequently operate magnificently with out-dated equipment or equipment which has been repaired over and over again. In spite of the new two hundred mile limit, the Coast Guard has not received any authorization for additional man power or equipment. If you are going to advise your readers to write their congressmen, may I suggest that you ask them to request that some extra money and personnel be budgeted for this valiant branch of our military. Maybe it's time to cut some of the massive defense budget and to spread some of our tax money in an area of great concern to all. Perhaps this sort of action will help prevent tragedies such as the one you described. L-8T Sincerely, Walter Seely

ED. NOTE: We did not blame - we suggested they might have been saved if the Coast Guard monitored CB. We agree VHF is better, but is not in widespread use, particularly on smaller boats. The Coast Guard should monitor CB.

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