

Sacred Right To Choose

SACRED RIGHT TO CHOOSE

We celebrate this year the 200th anniversary of the Constitution of America. Throughout this great land of ours we pay homage and due respect to this document, the blueprint for the rules and the government under which we live.

Unfortunately, here in Suffolk County we have a very perverted way of paying homage. The Suffolk County Legislature last week was asked to accept a citizens' petition that the people of Suffolk County, in an open election, be allowed to vote on the form of government they wish to be governed by.

The legislature was not asked to approve one form or another, only to give the citizens, the voters of Suffolk County, the right of determination. The measure failed when legislators who had promised in campaign rhetoric they would vote to put the measure on the ballot broke that promise, and Tony Bullock, a Democrat from East Hampton, in an act of cowardice, abstained.

Now the organizers of the petition drive have only 60 days to raise an army of volunteers who will have to go door to door to secure the 16,000 signatures on petitions for this measure to be on the ballot this November. This is not an easy task as the organizers of this petition are few in number, and are not totally organized throughout the county. The petitions themselves are filled with potential possibilities for technicalities that may be challenged, and thus thrown out even if the 16,000 signatures are collected.

The cards are totally stacked against the implementation of Initiative and Referendum in Suffolk County. They were deliberately stacked against the citizens, preventing them from using this

mechanism to bring about change. We cringe at the actions of the legislators last week, at their audacity in saying to the people of Suffolk County, the very same people who put them into office, "we can't let you vote on this because we don't think you have the intelligence to make the right choice."

Wasn't this the thinking of the King of England which brought about the American Revolution? Isn't this the thinking of the communist leaders such as Lenin, Stalin and, just off our shores, Castro? Is there any difference in the mindset of the county legislators who abstained or voted no and these communist conspirators? They all perpetuate their personal survival by denying the citizens the right to vote.

Bullock, and Legislators Gregory Blass and John Foley had pledged to this paper and the people of Suffolk County that if given the opportunity, they would vote to give the public the right to determine the form of government they wanted, a County Legislature or a Board of Supervisors with a weighted vote. They went back on their word, reneged on their pledge. They used the weak-kneed excuse that if the county was governed by a board of supervisors, Shoreham would be opened. We consider this political hogwash, an attempt to use the Shoreham issue for their own selfish motives. No one has been more feverish and dedicated to stopping Shoreham from opening than the editor and staff of this newspaper, and we do not believe that the county supervisors would have been any less sensitive to the wishes of the people than the county legislature has been.

Most of the supervisors, those who currently are in office and those who no longer serve, stand head and shoulders above their legislative

counterparts. They work harder, accomplish far more, and are more accessible to the public. They generally have been men and women of their word who, although you may disagree with their viewpoints, you can trust to be consistent. It has amazed us over the years, the difference in the calibre of people who are attracted to the supervisors' positions versus those who are attracted to the legislature's circus.

We fought a revolution to have a Constitution, a document that gives us the right to choose the form of

government we will be ruled by, and the people who will implement these rules. The right to choose is not one we will give up easily.

We think it is a travesty that we have people in the legislature who feel they know better than the citizens who elected them to office. People who use their elected position to deny the public its constitutional rights. These people should be brought up on charges, with the verdict announced by the voters on Election Day.

And why not?

Protecting The Trough

Back in 1986, Suffolk County Comptroller Joseph Caputo was asked by the county legislature to conduct an audit of the Suffolk Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation to determine why revenues due to Suffolk County had drastically declined. After a long, long delay, that audit has finally been released. Unfortunately the delay in its preparation did nothing to improve its quality. Caputo's audit was nothing more than an echo of audits already done. Coming from a county office that pretends to be a "watchdog" for public spending, it was a disgrace.

Caputo tried to explain the shortcomings of his audit with the following gobbledygook: "The examination was made in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards as promulgated by the Comptroller General of the United States. These standards state that auditors should only rely on the work of other auditors to the extent feasible. Consequently, based on our review and evaluation of the independent auditor's and New York State Department of Audit and Controls' workpapers, we determined that full reliance could be placed on the results of these examination. Therefore, a full scope financial audit was not conducted. Instead, we relied on the work of others and determine that the audit should be restricted to the purposes previously indicated."

According to Gerald H. Thurman, Caputo's chief auditor, the examination was made to determine if OTB complied with New York State Racing, Pari-Mutual Wagering and Breeding Law regarding the distribution of new revenue to the county; to determine the reasons for the significant decrease in revenue available for distribution to the county for the year 1985, and to determine OTB's response to audit exceptions in previous state audits.

Caputo's audit, not surprisingly since it was little more than a carbon copy, reached the same conclusion that the state audit did: OTB "under-distributed to Suffolk County \$2,229,409." The methodology used by OTB to distribute revenue "is not fully in compliance with the law." The OTB has agreed to repay the money, but over a two year period,

not immediately.

Ignored in the Caputo audit were such questions as whether the OTB, known as a hotbed of political patronage for both political parties, operation is being efficiently run, if it is overstaffed, if the expenses are legitimate, if its leases are proper and all bidding procedures required by law are followed. "...we did not review OTB's internal controls to determine whether they provided adequate safeguards against the loss or unauthorized disposition of county assets and the reliability of accounting data for the preparation of financial statements," Caputo's audit concedes. According to a spokesman for his office, Caputo's comptrollers did not feel it necessary to duplicate the work of the other audits which they felt were reliable. But were they complete? Not according to the State Comptroller's Office, which noted: "Our review was more limited than an examination of the the financial statements conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards."

Anyone with a concern about county revenues must wonder why the Suffolk County Comptroller could not find the time to do a total audit. After all, he is the man who raised a storm about the expenditure of county funds for newspapers, and insisted that county employees clip food coupons from these newspapers for distribution to the Social Services Department to justify this expenditure. He is the man who refuses to pay the acting county executive the full county executive's salary, a reduction of about \$500. And yet here is the OTB shortchanging the county millions over the years and Caputo says not a word. Where was he when this was happening? Why did it take a state audit to uncover this can of worms. Why wasn't he doing his job?

The answer, we believe, lies in the fact that the OTB is the political goldmine for the political parties. Patronage is the key to employment there. If you are not politically connected, you don't stand a chance of getting such a job. Patronage people are the ones who carry the petitions, and work in the campaigns.

Caputo is a man with patronage on his mind. He has already announced

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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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Protecting The Trough...

Continued from page 3

he will run a primary against Acting County Executive Michael Lo-Grande for the Republican nomination for county executive. Lo-Grande received the backing of the GOP, Caputo was not considered.

In kicking off his campaign in letters to Republicans, Caputo wasted no time in declaring how important patronage is in his mind. He bemoaned the fact that "...committee members are asked to work for the party and get nothing or very little in return from those who are elected to high office."

That would change, Caputo vowed, if they supported him. In return for that support, for their vote, he would dole out county dollars via county jobs. In his own words: "I will commit to you that should you support me in this race, there will be an absolute change of attitude regarding the input of committee members concerning positions in Suffolk Coun-

ty. Qualified Republicans recommended by Republican committee members will be given priority consideration for positions in my administration. I can promise you that."

He went further: "Any help that you can give my campaign would certainly be appreciated and will always be remembered." He boldly emphasized always.

Anyone who would so blatantly offer county jobs for personal votes would certainly soft-shoe through an audit of a patronage-plagued OTB operation, even though the public gets shortchanged in the end.

The county legislature should immediately arrange for an independent outside audit of the OTB operation. Caputo's audit may serve his political purpose, but it sells the public short. The public deserves the truth it didn't get in Caputo's audit.

And why not?

and leadership on the part of Long Island's Albany delegation. Isn't it time our state representatives start truly representing the people who

elected them, rather than their own political motives?

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

'An open letter for compassion'

To the Editor: an open letter to all concerned physicians and nurses

Under existing law, U. S. physicians having under their care patients suffering excruciating pain of terminal cancer are prohibited from prescribing heroin, which in many instances is the only drug which has been found to alleviate their suffering.

The Compassionate Pain Relief Act has been introduced into both houses of Congress by Sens. Daniel Inouye (D. Hawaii) and Dennis DeConcini (D. Ariz.) and William Hughes (D. N.J.) along with twelve other representatives, but largely because of the general apathy of

the public and medical profession, nothing has been done despite the fact that physicians in both Britain and Canada have been permitted to prescribe this drug under the same strictly controlled conditions as are provided in the legislation now pending before Congress. Hospitals and doctors here have long dealt with equally danderous drugs, such as morphine.

I hope this letter will serve to enlist medical and public support for this humane legislation and will result in letters being written to your Congressmen in sufficient numbers to ensure its passage.

Maryann Sawicki, L.P.N.

"Live by the rules of the parents"

Dear Editor,

"Who's Responsible?" Should I pay for the support of your child just because you've failed to raise that child properly, and are now unable to control him?

We are not talking about a special child here. A child is generally emancipated when either the parents have lost control of their homes or are acting in a way detrimental to the child. Their failing to give the child a proper upbringing

does not and should not relieve them of their financial responsibility to that child. And why not?

Edward P. McTiernan
Maatic Beach

Ed. note: Should not the children who declare themselves emancipated be responsible for paying their own way? If they can't, they should stay home and live by the rules of the parents.

"Pirates of Penzance" class act"

Dear Editor,

The local folks who did not take in the Riverhead High School Blue Masques' presentation of "The Pirates of Penzance" really missed a treat. It was truly a "class act" - one of which our community can be proud. It is difficult for me to describe the quality of its entertainment - you just had to be in the audience to appreciate what director George Moravek did with his classy cast of local school kids. From the ushers to the orchestra to the entire cast, it was superbly created - what a value at \$3 a seat!

I am reluctant to speak individual praise

because all of the students involved were so dedicated, filled with energy, and proud to be on that stage. So I won't. Hats Off - to each and every one that made the commitment, put in the time to learn, practice, and prepare. All of the flowers delivered stage front at the show's end were well deserved - and more.

This charming and devilish cast brought great credit to themselves and RHS, as well as to their families and all others whose support helped make "The Pirates of Penzance" come to life on our local high school stage. WELL DONE!

CDR James F. Roth

'What happened to dignity?'

Dear Editor:

Smithtown has come upon sad times, from one who remembers a beautiful village, where the inhabitants respected each other and our "Town Fathers" held their offices with dignity.

Many years ago I worked in the Town Hall for ten years, never heard the disrespectful, low class use of language used by some of the elected officials of today. By one or two of our Town Board. Especially our Supervisor. Is this the example being set not only to the people of today, but to the generation to follow?

Gentlemen like our Councilman Mike Lanzarone and Superintendent of Highways James Dowling are the butt of what is probably the street wise upbringing of the ghettos of the city, where there never was respect and dignity. It was "Dog eat Dog;" now it's here.

As a seventy-three year resident of Nesconset, I beg the people to realize what is happening to "Our Town;" It's being changed from a town of respect and dignity, to something we will all be ashamed of.

I was in shock and grateful to the Suffolk Life, who printed something that spurred me on to write this letter.

I've been a committee woman (many years ago) and very active in politics.

Thanks to our town leader, Mr. Quinn, and those of the Town Board who have courage and foresight to try to right, what's wrong for the people of Smithtown. That's what we voted them in for.

Juliette Kieselstein
Nesconset

"Stop spending"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

So LILCO has decided to spend more of my money for advertising!

I've been away for four months only to return to radio advertisements and new signs on every LILCO vehicle telling me that LILCO is doing their best. Well, I don't buy it and resent having to pay for it!

When someone does their best, there is no need to advertise the fact. The efforts are automatically acknowledged and appreciated. LILCO has not received either the acknowledgement or appreciation for obvious reasons. They haven't earned it.

Stop spending my money, LILCO!

Sincerely,
Cheryle Arena

Lack of Leadership

State Senators James Lack and Kenneth LaValle have raised their voices in opposition to a nomination by Governor Cuomo for a seat on the Public Service Commission. While they are throwing around their criticism, they should look in the mirror and give themselves a tongue-lashing, for had they exerted some leadership months ago, the seat could have been filled by a Suffolk resident with a long history of battling PSC decisions which favor the utilities over the public.

Lack and LaValle claim the nominee, James T. McFarland of Tonawanda, failed the "litmus test" on the issue of Shoreham. McFarland, during recent confirmation hearings, said he did not know if Shoreham should be opened or not. "...If it's not needed, then it shouldn't be built. But if it's built and it's needed and it can be used and the NRC says it can be safely used and...the attitude of the consumers is consistent with use, then what's the problem?" The problem is McFarland doesn't know a diddly wink about the issue, the lack of a safe evacuation, an over-sized plant stuffed into an under-sized containment building, the allegations of shoddy construction.

The real problem, however, is that Suffolk would have been represented by someone who does know the issue had Lack and LaValle and other Long Island senators and assemblymen united in a display of leadership. That someone, who was first nominated by Governor Cuomo, Frank R. Jones, knows the real facts about the Shoreham issue because, as a deputy county executive, he spearheaded the county's fight against the plant. He knows the arrogance of LILCO,

and the overwhelming problems of soaring electricity rates. The nomination of Frank Jones was stalled because Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson, the senate leader of Lack and LaValle, stymied action. He was miffed because Jones' nomination was not discussed with him before it was made. The truth is Anderson is pro-utility, connected with an upstate law firm which has utilities among its clients. Anderson didn't want a Jones-type fighter, he wanted a McFarland.

The problem is Anderson will probably get McFarland because there was no leadership on the part of our state representatives. LaValle, in fact, did not support Jones, he was pushing for Assemblyman John Behan who was not nominated by Cuomo. The lack of unified support gave Anderson the opening he needed to stall the Jones nomination. Had Jones, and others nominated by Cuomo, been confirmed without delay, we believe he would have served the public well. With his nomination stalled, and Anderson declaring he would never be seated, Jones later withdrew his name and agreed to serve as Islip Town supervisor. We warned then that if the Long Island delegation did not stand firm on behalf of the Jones nomination, we could well wind up with no Long Island representation. And that is exactly what happened.

The cries of anguish now coming from Lack and LaValle would be humorous if it were not for the fact that Long Island lost a prime opportunity for some real pro-consumer representation on the PSC. This loss is just another example of how Long Island keeps losing out because of the lack of unification

Assemblyman Albert Vann Is Responsible

A few weeks ago, we asked this editorial question: "Who is responsible for 16-year-old kids being turned loose from parental supervision and then allowed to apply for Welfare payments, to be supported by the taxpayers?"

Social Services, as a rule, goes back to the parents and demands retribution, claiming that although the courts freed them from parental control, their parents are still responsible for them financially.

There are five bills filed in this year's legislature that address this problem. They are numbers 2024, 2084, 2637, 3478, 3479, currently stymied in a committee headed by Albert Vann, a Democrat from the Bed-Stuy area of Brooklyn. Using the powers he has as committee chairman, he has refused to let any one of these five bills out of committee to be discussed and voted upon by the legislature.

Vann, acting as a dictator recently at a hearing, displayed an attitude that says: "I am the head of the committee and I don't have to listen to citizens of the State of New York speak about anything I don't want to hear." Parents who had gathered in Albany for the opportunity to take part in their government were shattered.

We have seen too many young people whose parents have

slackened the reins fall into drugs and alcohol, crime and prostitution, because there was no one there who gave a damn and could tell them the difference between right and wrong.

We don't know what kind of game Vann is playing, but we doubt very much that his parents turned him loose at 16. If he has children, would he allow them to live an independent life and just send them a check? That's what he is allowing the state laws to do.

The legislature still is in session. There still is time to change New York State rules to protect the children. Vann should live up to the responsibility that he accepted when he took office. Under his oath of office, he pledged to protect the health, welfare and life of the residents of New York State. Giving 16-year-olds a blank check and their freedom is a violation of this pledge, both as a legislator and as a man.

Whether you have children or not, we ask you, as a concerned New York State resident, to write to Albert Vann, not only requesting, but demanding that he stop holding these bills hostage and release them for debate. His obstinance and procrastination are causing the needless death of young people.

His address is: the New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248. And why not?

Reagan Sold Us Out

President Ronald Reagan has proposed the name of Kenneth Rogers to serve as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Rogers, if confirmed by the senate,

would replace Commissioner James L. Asselstine who is known as a watchdog over the nuclear industry.

Rogers is a known nuclear advocate. He is president of Stevens

Institute of Technology, and sits on the Board of Directors of the Public Service Gas and Electric Company of New Jersey, which owns or has an interest in three nuclear power plants.

Reagan's last two commissioner nominations were individuals who are also pro-nuclear. Reagan's nomination of Lando W. Zech Jr., a pro-nuclear advocate who currently serves as the chairman of the NRC, was conveniently made during a time when the senate was in recess, which effectively circumvented the normal senate confirmation proceedings. If Rogers is confirmed, the deck will be totally stacked against pro-safety forces here in the United States.

Asselstine has been a breath of fresh air in the corrupt backrooms of the NRC. He is not an opponent of nuclear power, he has voted with the majority in a number of instances. But where there is reason for concern--and Shoreham is a prime example of reason for concern--he has raised his voice and voted against actions designed to benefit the nuclear industry at the expense of the safety of the public. He is the only NRC commissioner, for example, who has voiced opposition against the proposed rule-change that would eliminate the need for participation

by local governments in evacuations.

Because of his integrity in such matters, we had little hope that Reagan would reappoint Asselstine, or nominate anyone who is not directly tied to the nuclear industry. With the cloud of corruption that now hovers over the heads of many in the Reagan administration, we did hope, however, that he would at least have the common sense to appoint someone with an open mind, someone who could be objective and not just another flunky for the nuclear industry. His nomination of Rogers is nothing more than an arrogant move to replace objectivity in the NRC with total allegiance to the nuclear industry, without regard for human safety.

Our only hope is that our senators from New York, Alfonse D'Amato and Patrick Moynihan can raise enough ruckus that they will make the confirmation hearings totally uncomfortable for Rogers, and he will back down. Maybe it's time for a good, old-fashioned, bi-partisan filibuster. Between Moynihan and D'Amato, there is no shortness of hot air.

If that were to happen, New York State residents would, at long last, see some tangible action out of this pair, rather than just promises.

And why not?

Swift Action Taken

In an editorial last week, we reported that an audit of the county's off-track betting corporation conducted by the office of Comptroller Joseph Caputo fell far short of what had been requested by the county legislature. Caputo's audit was nothing more than a carbon copy of one done by auditors hired by OTB, and another very limited in scope done by the state comptroller's office. We suggested the legislature should consider hiring an outside, independent auditor in order that a full scope managerial and financial audit could be conducted. We're happy to note that suggestion has been heard.

Presiding Officer Gregory Blass and Legislator Sondra Bachety of

Babylon have co-sponsored a resolution calling for the independent audit. We applaud their desire to fully air, once and for all, the operation of OTB, an agency used as the political treasure chest by political leaders in the doling out of patronage. There have been many reports of abuse of such actions, it's time to get the truth, the whole truth, about waste and unnecessary positions.

We fully anticipate political pressure being applied to kill this resolution. We would hope that the legislators have the political gumption to stand firm against such pressure. Those who cave in should be thrown out in November.

And why not?

"What is a Veteran?"

Dear Editor:

WHAT IS A VETERAN

He's the guy who put his life on the line for his country. He's the guy that as soon as they stop shooting at him, they start taking his benefits away. He's the guy who never got some kind of deferment, or ran away somewhere. He's the guy that was paid a pittance while others were making top dollar and enjoying it. He's the guy that without him, we would not have all of our freedoms. He's the guy who was fortunate enough to survive, but had the misfortune of seeing his buddies fall so we can enjoy the things that many take for granted. He's the guy we all should be proud of when you see him in the uniform of our Armed Forces. He's the guy that knows loneliness and the feeling of separation from his family and friends and in some cases, not seeing his children grow up. He's the guy in some cases who's having a hard time readjusting. He could be young or old. He could be your neighbor or the guy you pass on the street. He comes from

the big city, small town and rural areas. He's the guy they don't have a special license plate for with a flag on it showing what he fought for. He's the guy that gets moisture in his eyes when he sees the flag of the United States and hears the Star Spangled Banner played.

The next time you see the flag of the United States, take a good look at the red it it, it represents all the blood that has been shed throughout American history. Let's be thankful and proud of our veterans, not just on certain holidays but the other days also and give him a fair shake, for he's given us more than one, with his sacrifices throughout history.

I think by now you should have some idea of "What is a Veteran;" God Bless them, past and present.

Sincerely yours,
Frank F. Belsito
Post Commander, American Legion Pearl Harbor Memorial Post No. 1941
Pt. Jefferson Village

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Examining The Bar

The bar, the Suffolk County Bar Association, came under critical observation this past week.

A member of 30 years, a prominent judge, Chief Surrogate Ernest Signorelli, resigned in disgust. The Suffolk County Bar is a gentlemen's club of the legal establishment. Its membership is comprised of men and women who make their living by practicing before the judiciary of Suffolk County. These men and women, whose conduct is scrutinized and their earnings, in many cases, are determined by the judiciary, have declared themselves judge and jury of the judiciary. In other words, if the judiciary washes the attorneys' hands, the attorneys wash the judiciary's hands.

These learned men and women of the law, through this club, screen all potential candidates for judgeship. They rate the potential candidates as "not qualified," "qualified," "highly qualified." Based upon these ratings, the electorate is supposed to have some kind of guarantee of the quality of judges they are voting upon in the general election.

We agree with Signorelli; the process stinks. We have seen it abused time and time again. Qualified judges who have proven track records are shunted aside for political favorites of the parties. You may ask yourself, why. The answer is simple, sitting judges, during their terms of office, did not play the games the political leaders wanted them to. They did not rule the way the bosses told them. They did not dispense patronage the way the bosses wanted. Once they became judges, they became their own men, not the politicians who had created them. Ungrateful? Maybe. Honest? Probably. Poor jurist? No. Living up to their judicial and constitutional obli-

gations? Yes.

Signorelli got into a match over his refusal to allow fees to be paid to a political leader's brother that he felt were not only unethical, but illegal. A lesser judge might have gone along to get along. After all, it was only \$30,000 out of a dead woman's estate. Signorelli said "no," and earned the political leader's wrath. He not only had to run a Republican primary, but a general election, with the insiders of the Republican party dead set against him. The political leaders had gotten to the bar, and through shenanigans too long to list in this editorial, had twisted the rules, and some of the members, to only find Signorelli, "qualified" after he had sat for eight years as chief surrogate. They found his opponent, a criminal court judge of just a few years duration, "highly qualified" for a job that he had no experience in handling. The voters saw through this charade and overwhelmingly made Signorelli their choice for re-election.

The bar association was stung by this episode. They promised reform. It never came about. The boys in the backroom preferred to stonewall it and keep the club as it is. This, a year after the episode, has led to Signorelli's resignation from the Suffolk Bar Association in disgust.

Signorelli recommends, as does Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals Sol Wachler, that instead of the bar being the judge and jury, evaluation of the qualifications of all candidates be made by a non-partisan, independent commission of unaffiliated leading citizens from all walks of life in the community. Why should the lawyers, who make their living practicing before judges, determine who will be our judge? Shouldn't it be, "we, the people?"

We congratulate Signorelli for not letting this despicable situation die a natural death. We encourage other lawyers of integrity to follow his example and resign from the Suffolk

County Bar Association as notification that they will not take part in an organization that refuses to clean its own house.

And why not?

Campaign of Rhetoric

The campaign for Suffolk County Executive was kicked off last week in Albany in the form of a state legislative report criticizing Islip Town's handling of its garbage crisis. If this kickoff sets the tone of the campaign, we're in for a lot of rhetoric and little of substance.

The report was produced by Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey (D-Saugerties), chairman of the Legislative Commission on Solid Waste Management. Hinchey's 14-page report on the garbage barge fiasco was prepared at the request of four Long Island assemblymen, all Democrats. The letter was authored by Assemblyman Patrick Halpin (D-Lindenhurst), the Democratic candidate for county executive. In his letter, as he has been in public comments, Halpin was critical of the actions of Acting County Executive Michael LoGrande in handling Islip's garbage disposal while LoGrande was supervisor of the Town of Islip. Hinchey's report claims the garbage barge fiasco was the fault of Islip officials because they did not accept the bids of three other firms for transporting the garbage out of the town.

Hinchey's action serves to give credence to a political report that filtered down from Albany shortly after the election of Assembly Speaker Mel Miller. Halpin, one of Miller's first supporters, seemed destined to gain some prestige and status on the Albany level because of that support. At the least, Halpin seemed headed toward the chairmanship of an important Assemblyman committee. When that didn't happen, a report came that Halpin's reward would come in the form of Albany help in his run for the county executive seat. Hinchey's report has the aroma of the kind of political help planned.

What is almost humorous in all of this is that LoGrande is being criticized by Halpin and Hinchey in the handling of a crisis that was imposed from the Albany level—with Hinchey and Halpin as key players. Hinchey and Halpin were the prime movers of the legislation which bans the use of landfills in 1990. All they did was say "stop using the landfills," they didn't

say what to do with the garbage, or provide the bucks to do it.

Although the landfill ban goes into effect in 1990, the State Department of Environmental Conservation has advanced the disposal crisis by refusing towns to expand current landfills. Ironically, Islip is the one town in Suffolk that was the leader in the move toward resource recovery, which may one day haunt us with problems of pollution just as landfills have. Islip sought a permit to expand a landfill until their resource recovery plant was on line. The DEC refused.

All of this is old news. It has been reported time and again. Halpin and Hinchey are rehashing the problem for political gain, but ignoring the need for a solution. Taxpayers would be better served if tax dollars went into a search for that solution instead of for legislative reports which are nothing more than campaign rhetoric for a political candidate. Our message to both Halpin and Hinchey is this: "Stop telling us what we already know. Start telling us how we're going to solve our garbage problems so there are no more garbage barge fiascos in our future. Stop spending our taxpayers' dollars for political games. Spend those dollars to determine now—not after millions of dollars are spent in resource recovery plants—just how much pollution will result from burning our garbage. A confidential DEC memo indicates the ash from an upstate resource recovery plant contains lead residue above allowable limits. What are you proposing to do to solve that? Why does a state agency, one of your responsibilities, label such information confidential? "To hide it from the public?"

Garbage is a serious problem, not something to play political games with. And there are many more serious problems that must be addressed here in Suffolk County. We would suggest Halpin's friends on the state level pay more attention to curing their ethics problems, and not compound them by wasting taxpayer dollars with phony political "reports."

And why not?

We're Mighty Proud

Week in and week out, deadline after deadline, the members of the Suffolk Life news team have proven themselves to be talented and dedicated journalists who work hard and long in covering their assigned territories. We are proud of our news

department, and are bursting with pride for the recognition they earned in the Seventh Annual Media Awards presentation last week by the Press Club of Long Island Chapter Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Pro-

Cont. on page 4

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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and Suffolk County Life

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Letters to the Editor

Mighty Proud...

Cont. from page 3

Professional Journalists.

More than 700 entries were submitted in this media awards competition which offers recognition for the best efforts in varied categories. Judging the large number of entries were professional journalists in New Jersey and Florida. Suffolk Lifers scored two first place wins in the competition and were listed as finalists in several categories.

First place in coverage of Health and Science, weekly newspapers, was awarded to Doreen Ercolano, Michael Graca, Joey Mac Lellan, Elizabeth Tonis and Don Meyers for a series of articles on "Crack," its growing use and impact.

A First Place Award for Feature Reporting, weekly newspapers, went to Doreen Ercolano for a feature article entitled "Vito's Sky Pics Bring History to Heights."

Daniel Aug was a finalist in the category of Coverage of Local Government, weekly newspaper

division. Dan regularly covers Suffolk County government as well as important stories on the regional and local levels.

Michael Graca, a member of the award winning "Crack" team, also earned finalist status in the Feature Reporting category for his description of how "Welcome Woofs Await Visiting Veterinarian."

And this column, "Willmott's and Why-Nots," was also a finalist in the category of Editorials, weekly newspapers.

We'd like to pay a tribute, too, to a fellow journalist, Frank Brinka, news director of WALK radio, who was named by the Press Club of Long Island as Journalist of the Year. Frank truly deserves the honor and we salute him.

We tip our hats to all the winners in all the categories, and a very special "Thank You" for a job well done.

And why not?

become contaminated. In the event that upstate water has to be piped into Nassau, the cost would be quite prohibitive.

In contrast, the Suffolk Legislature has developed an enviable record on the critical question of water. While many of the towns have been in a mad rush to pave the landscape with concrete, the legislature has moved towards the preservation of the Pine Barrens. Beneath the floor of this ancient forest is a vast reservoir of water. On Long Island, our water supply comes from beneath the ground and not from a distant reservoir. This question of water is so significant that the future of the entire region may hinge on its purity.

Richard Salmon

"We all have an obligation"

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Thank you for writing about the anguished letter from a mother, "Who's Responsible? In your May 13th issue. Enclosed you will find some information on Parents on the Move (contact Dorothy Holmgren, director, at 516-421-9272), an organization that has been working to amend the PINS law (Persons in Need of Supervision), for almost three years now. There have been numerous hearings at the city and county levels, the first state hearing was held on April 17, in Albany (my personal testimony is enclosed and was only one of many).

We have many legislators, such as Assemblyman James Tedisco, County Legislator Ed Romaine (a copy of his legislation is enclosed), Assemblywoman Tony Rettalata, schools, administrators and clergymen, such as Father Frank Pizzarelli, executive director of Hope House Ministries, supporting us. But, the law sits in one man's committee, Chairman Al Van, who will not let it out of his committee to be brought up to the Assembly. We are all going through hell as parents, we have the support of some important people, but this gentleman will not even give us the courtesy of

It's always possible, of course, that the legislature has been too successful. The political bosses, the backroom people, frown on too much independence, in elected officials. Perhaps the party powers-that-be would like to rid themselves of a self-ruling legislature. In estimation, party bosses have no business interfering in the processes of a democratic government.

This essay is obviously not meant as an endorsement of individual legislators. Rather, it emphasizes the viability of this representative body. As an independent voter, I fervently hope that the Suffolk County Legislature will live for a long time as a positive force in society.

acknowledging our phone calls or letters. Our devotion and efforts to this cause is to save our troubled youth and save the families as well. We don't understand how one man can hold all these lives in his hands and sleep at night. Is he blind to the school drop-out rate? Is he blind to teenage alcoholism and drug abuse? Is he blind to teenage pregnancies? Our children are the future of New York State, "who's responsible" for that future?

You have heard one cry for help, there are thousands more like it. Please, sir, let people know they can help and get help, by working together to get the PINS law amended. Our children are not adults at age 16, the contradictions in the law cause chaos at this age and we all have an obligation to save these kids from a law that is destroying them and their families. Anyone can call the above number, or write to Parents on the Move, or myself, for more information. Save a piece of the future.

Thank you for your time and efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,
Grace Boudreau
Mastic

'Students deserve our recognition'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Unfortunately, all too often, the only teenagers from Long Island who receive publicity are those who are on the wrong side of the law. I would like you to be aware of one group of young people, and the honors which they have brought to the community that is served by Sachem High School.

On May 7-9 a contingent of students from Sachem High School North and South participated in the National History Day Fair, in Buffalo. These students were selected to attend this competition after placing first or second in the regionals at Hofstra University.

The theme of this year's fair was Liberty: Rights and Responsibilities, and students were permitted to choose a genre in which they excelled, to satisfy the topic.

Students from Sachem, competing against schools throughout the state, placed first in every category in which the school competed. First prize winners were as follows: for his

individual project, Vadd Karnes; for her individual performance, Cheryl Mantone; for his individual media presentation, Tom McDermott; for his historical paper, Christopher Wolf; for their group project, Pamela Adelstein and Kimberly Nelson; for their group performance, Janet Carracciolo and Jeanine McGann; Second prize winners include: Carolyn Blume and Melissa Marks, group performance; and Robert Yates, individual media.

Further competition was held on the national level on June 9-11 in Washington D.C.

I believe these outstanding students deserve our recognition and praise for a job well done.

Sincerely yours,
Diana Wolf
Ronkonkoma

Editors Note: We do too, that's why you can find many articles and photos in Suffolk Life giving credit to the accomplishments of our youth.

"Congratulations"

Editor,

Jack Ellsworth, Long Island's foremost radio personality, will be celebrating his 40th year on radio this month. This is quite a record and he is still going strong. It will, no doubt, go down in the record books for, in an industry which is beset with hiring and firing, it is remarkable that one man has been able to survive so long.

However, Jack is known as a survivor and it couldn't happen to a nicer guy. He has given so

much of his time and talents to so many organizations over the years, all for free, and is even working with me as master of ceremonies with the Hal Hoffman Orchestra in raising funds for many Catholic churches around Long Island. Congratulations, Jack, on being a survivor and may you have another 40 years of success.

Jerry Kelly
Bayport

'Unanswered questions'

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your constant assistance in helping Suffolk residents fight for their rights, especially with regard to the opening of Shoreham.

Has anyone ever taken a poll to find out how many people would willingly leave their homes in the event of an emergency evacuation? Here are a few of the questions I would like to have answered:

1- If their children were in school, how many mothers would get into a bus or car and take off? (I would have to be carried out bodily if my grandchildren weren't home).

2- Do you think the teachers who can't maintain discipline in the classroom could control the children under such circumstances?

3- Would these teachers rush out to find their own children (a normal reaction) and leave the others unattended?

We can have drills until we all carry them out like robots, but if and when the real thing comes, we will have chaos, panic and thousands of needless injuries, deaths and people emotionally scarred for life by the trauma.

I hope these thoughts will help to change the minds of those still in favor of opening 'Pandora's Box.'

Sincerely,
Marjorie Hunt
West Islip

Letters to the Editor

"A most crucial issue"

Dear Editor

Enclosed is an essay, in defense of the Suffolk County Legislature, which I hope you'll run. It is surely a most critical issue.

I teach European history for a living and, I might add, I am not affiliated with any political party.

There is, of course, no obligation on your part for this article.

Sincerely
Richard Salmon
Lake Ronkonkoma

In recent months, there seems to be a growing intensity by influential forces in Suffolk to abolish the County Legislature. There is even the distinct possibility that the powerful Republican leadership may join this effort. As an ordinary citizen, I believe that the planned extinction of this body would be a shame. Such a move would represent disaster for both good government and the democratic tradition.

The scenario, as I perceive it, is to replace the present political structure with a weighted Board of Supervisors. Not too many years ago we had such a system, without the weighted vote. One of their last acts was to establish the scandal-ridden Southwest Sewer District. Let's face it, town supervisors don't have the time or energy to legislate and supervise for two sometimes competing layers of bureaucracy.

At the meetings of the Suffolk County Legislature, one immediately senses a real spirit of independence. No bossism here. On the contrary, there is a healthy presence of no-holds-barred debate and hard work.

As a general rule, written reports are readily available from the legislature. In some towns you virtually have to file a freedom of information form to get the time of day. Never mind that they may not have the information available. Now there is a move afoot to have these town rulers govern the county. No, thanks!

As you know, the supervisors are the elected representatives for the various townships. Under this new proposal, they would be ordained to rule the county. Aren't you tired of people being appointed to positions of trust without the benefit of an election? Elections are the lifeblood of our free system.

Actually, there is a core of absurdity at the center of this issue. Why should we stop with having the supervisors guide both town and county? Let's telescope the same system onto the state level. The possibilities for a weighted system of town supervisors are almost endless. Why not include the federal government? The whole idea of political telescoping is simply too silly.

The proponents of the supervisors claim that it will save money. I seriously doubt that contention. Even if the economic advantage was true, the proposal would damage the essential form of good government.

We must be willing to nourish democracy. In fact, there should be a sort of creative tension between the various levels of government. Most certainly, one level of government shouldn't simply swallow another, like some ferocious fish.

It also makes good sense to have different people at the various levels of our system. The whole idea is to enlarge our vision of society through a variety of viewpoints and a good mix of mental juices. We don't need the supervisors with their town-oriented solutions.

For example, the legislature continues to play a critical role in the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant issue. In this context, the demise of this official body would be a disaster. Its enlightened view of the plant have proven to be correct. Quite literally, there's no room on Long Island for a nuclear accident. Yet, at least one of the town supervisors is a trustee of an organization which actively promotes the opening of the nuclear facility.

In a weighted board situation, it would appear that Brookhaven Town would be the controlling factor by 1990. Have you seen the results of their handiwork and insight? If not, take a careful drive along Middle Country Road in the Selden-Centereach area and note the disastrous impact of their policies along this commercial corridor. They have turned this once elegant old turnpike into one of the ugliest eyesores in America.

Just on the vital question of Long Island's groundwater, the record speaks for itself. Under the guidance of the Board of Supervisors, Nassau County has been paved over. Not surprisingly, much of their water has

Consumer Alert

Your New York State Legislators are playing with your pocketbook. State legislators are not the most accessible people, and because they do their work up in Albany, we often do not hear until it is too late the damage they may have done.

Your assemblyman and state senators currently are considering the passage of three important bills that will affect your buying power. The first is a bill that would allow banks to charge you interest from the date of purchase on any item you charge on bank credit cards, such as Master Charge, Visa, etc.

Under current regulations, banks cannot impose service charges or interest unless you fail to pay for your purchase within 30 days. After 30 days, you pay these banks an average of 18 percent interest until you clean up your balance. If you clean up your bill within 30 days after receiving your statement, you pay no interest. About 40 percent of the people using plastic pay off their balance each month and pay no interest. The banks, not satisfied with the high interest they receive from those who do not pay off their balances, want to charge those who do. Your legislators are considering giving their approval, and unless they hear from you, they probably will.

Several months ago, the courts struck down the laws prohibiting the importation of out-of-state milk as restrictive and noncompetitive. This resulted in a reduction in the retail price of milk and a savings to the consumer. There is a bill in Albany that, from what we understand, the legislators hope to sneak through that would reimpose restrictions, guaranteeing the wholesale milk companies fixed prices which the consumer could pay. Again, you have to let your legislators know that you know what they are up to and de-

mand that they vote for the consumer, not the special interest.

The third bill of note should be of interest to beer drinkers. The legislature passed a bill called the 180 day law. Because of the existence of this law, beer in New York State, according to an ad in the Legislative Gazette, is twice the price that it is in Florida and other states where free competition exists. We can see no logical reason why the distributors of beer should rake in windfall profits at the expense of the average consumer. Shouldn't New Yorkers be allowed to buy beer as cheaply as anyone else? We can't, because the New York Legislature passed the "180 day law." They should be working on its repeal as it affects most of their constituents.

Why not send off a letter to your legislators today. Tell them in no uncertain terms to get their hands out of your pocket, stop protecting the vested interests, and start protecting the consumer.

Printed below is a list of New York State Legislators from Suffolk County. The addresses are Senate Chambers, Albany, New York 12224 and New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248. Write them today.

And why not?

State Senators: Kenneth P. LaValle (R-C), James J. Lack (R-C), Caesar Trunzo (R-C), Owen H. Johnson (R-C) Ralph J. Marino (R-C).

Assembly Members: Joseph Sawicki, Jr. (R), John L. Behan (R-C), I. William Bianchi, Jr. (D), Robert J. Gaffney (R), Paul E. Harenberg (D), Robert C. Wertz (R-C), Thomas F. Barraga (R-C/RTL), John C. Cochrane (R-C), John J. Flanagan, Jr. (R), Antonia P. Rettaliata (R-C), Patrick G. Halpin (D-I).

negotiate with LILCO for the takeover of the company. As history tells us, the negotiations were futile. LILCO refused to take seriously the law that had been established to take over the company.

The authority, made up of seven members, itself, got off to a bad start when the membership agreed to place a veil of secrecy over their operations. Meetings were closed and the members were reluctant to talk to the press, either on the record or off. This has kept the public in the dark.

Meetings have not been planned on a regular schedule. They have been hit or miss and, as a result, little of what could have been accomplished has been.

The authority ordered yet another study to look at the effect the takeover would have on the

ratepayers. There have been five economic studies already performed, each has indicated that rates charged for electricity will be less under a public operation. The authority ordered Lazard Freres & Co. to perform a new economic study. The study was to be completed by June 15, but now they say they cannot have it completed before August 15. This should be totally unacceptable to the authority members, yet, we hear almost nothing from them.

This investment house can take as long as it wants to release the information they are gathering, because the authority failed to write into the contract a performance provision tied to a date, delivery and a fine for non-performance. To us, this would have been critical as we all know the whole Shoreham controversy has revolved around money and the investments that Wall Street has made.

The legislature is not helping the matter either, in its refusal to clarify their fiduciary responsibility to the members of the authority. Needless to say, in a massive takeover of a private corporation such as LILCO, there will be lawsuits and the members, acting on behalf of the public, must have insurance against the suits. The question comes down to whether this insurance will be

provided by the authority or by the legislature, which created the authority.

Initially, common sense would tell you the insurance must be provided by the State of New York, at least until the public authority is funded and can carry forth its duties. We also find it strange that no one is talking about the second part of the law, which calls for condemnation of LILCO's assets.

The law states that the authority will take over LILCO either through a stock offering or a condemnation of the assets. Currently, LILCO's stock is selling for about \$9 a share. Most economic studies have been based upon a public takeover of the company at between \$13 and \$18 per share.

If the assets were condemned and the liabilities taken into consideration, the public might be able to take over LILCO for less than a stock offering.

We hope to hear from some of the vocal voices who are now members of the authority. It's time for these members to put aside their gentlemen's agreement and speak out about the delay and the lack of progress. Time is of the essence and we cannot afford to waste any more.

And why not?

Raking In The Bucks

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has long been the target of charges that it is far too cozy with the nuclear industry. The basis of these charges are the many decisions favorable to the health of the nuclear industry at the expense of the safety of the public. It has also been charged that there is a serious conflict of interest in the fact that the NRC enhances its own future by enhancing the growth of nuclear power. But the problem is even more serious than that. It's a matter of

bucks, with the dollars coming from the nuclear industry to support the existence of the NRC.

In 1986, congress passed and the president signed a law which permits the NRC to charge nuclear plants an annual fee. That annual fee is--are you ready for this?--\$950,000 on each operating power reactor, regardless of differences in the size of the reactor. In addition, power reactor licensees must still pay fees imposed under the Independent Offices Ap-

Continued on page 4

Unhappy Birthday

In a few day we will celebrate the first anniversary of the passage of the bill that created the Long Island Power Authority.

The authors of this bill gave the governor until January 15, 1987, to set up the authority. Most of us who were instrumental in the passage of this bill criticized this feature as we felt that six months was too long to wait. We settled for the six months in the belief that the governor would quickly announce the authority members and during the interim, they would set up the structure and commission any studies that would be needed to be done so when the bill finally became law, they would be off and running.

Whether by design or neglect, the governor waited until the eleventh hour to announce his selection. He used this time to have an emissary

SUFFOLK LIFE

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Raking In...

Continued from page 3

appropriation Act of 1952. That act permits the NRC to assess fees based upon the value to the licensee of any "special benefits" rendered to the licensee by the NRC.

In reality, do you know who really pays these fees? The utility's customers. That's you. And us.

The NRC estimates it will collect approximately \$96 million (about 24 percent of its annual budget) from annual charges under the law passed last year, and another \$37 million (about 9 percent of the budget) from fees assessed under the IOAA, resulting in a total of \$133 million, or 33 percent of the NRC's budget during the fiscal year 1987.

That's for starters. Now it is proposed by the federal Office of Management and Budget and the NRC to raise the percentage of the NRC's operating budget recovered through fees from 33 to 50 percent.

Think about that. Every time the NRC approves a license for a nuclear power plant it can depend on getting a fee of almost a million bucks a year, every year. Isn't that an incentive to be insensitive about public safety? The more plants the more bucks. Thirty-three percent this year, 50 percent next, and who knows what the year after.

When will this insanity stop? How long will our federal government continue to sell off the safety of the public? With a million plus bucks a year at stake, and more as the fee schedule is hiked in the future, is it any wonder the NRC changes the rules almost on a daily basis to help put more plants on line?

For those of us here on Long Island, the news is even worse. Now

the NRC wants to require those licensees who require the greatest expenditure of NRC resources to pay the greatest annual fee, rather than having all power reactors pay a uniform fee. If the NRC approves a license for Shoreham, we're in big trouble. That monstrosity is going to cost us billions of dollars a year just for user fees alone. And with such a financial boondoggle available to pump funds into their treasury, it becomes increasingly clear why the NRC puts public safety and evacuation issues aside and continues to rush headlong toward putting Shoreham on line.

There's been a lot of talk about corruption in New York City and in Albany. But what's happening in Washington puts the question of ethics in those areas in the kindergarten category.

The problem is in congress where, just as in the back rooms of the NRC, financial gain takes precedence over public safety. The nuclear lobby supplies the bucks for campaigns, and God knows what other kinds of goodies, and many congressmen--Congressman Norman Lent in Nassau County is an example--supply the votes.

This is the year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our Constitution. It would be a good time to put "We the People" back in that document, by taking the corruption out of government. You can be a part of that effort by speaking out. To your congressman. Your senator. To the president. Let them know that you are damn mad and you're not going to take it any more.

And why not?

"Our decision proved correct"

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the letter asking "Who's responsible? in the June 3 issue of Suffolk Life. I believe the problem would be compounded if the parents were forced to financially support the decision of the child to leave home seeking independence.

Our 16 year old decided to leave home. She quit school, said she would get a job and live life by her rules. Here is a child who would tell me that, "it's nothing you have done. If you didn't punish me, I would wonder why you didn't. I know I can talk to you and that you will listen and even try to meet me half-way, but it isn't enough. I need to be free." This was not a trouble-free youngster. However, control was not the issue. There has to be a desire to work together. This desire was not present in our child. Her mind was made up. She was in pursuit of her independence.

It was not an easy decision. However, we all agreed it would be best for her to get this out of her system. Our agreement was a phone call at least once a week to let us know where she was and what was going on in her life. She was

to come for dinner at least once a week and there would be no financial support. I thought for sure she would weigh the options and stay at home. She decided to leave home and had been on her own for two months. With great effort on our part, we were able to keep open the lines of communication and enable our daughter to keep to our agreement.

I feel we have had a greater influence on her life since she left home. Although I still believe her decision to leave was not in her best interest it might prove to be the best thing we did for her. It was our hope that she would learn the reality of her decision. Realizing it is not fun to be alone, out of work and at times hungry.

Throughout it all I wondered where we had failed her. Should we have let her go? and to tell her we would not support her? For us the decision to let her go without financial support proved correct. She tells us she would like to give home a fair chance.

Thank you for the the opportunity to express my feelings.

Jane Doe

'Airport situation'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

We are thoroughly disgusted residents in the immediate vicinity of MacArthur Airport.

It hasn't been necessary to set our alarm clock to wake us up in the morning. The planes are doing a good job of that, but much earlier than we plan to rise. Just last week, we had an eye-opener at 5:15 a.m., followed by another at 5:45, and 6:50. This is not the first time. I keep calling the airport complaint number. The information is taken down and I receive a post card acknowledging my complaint and it doesn't mean darn a thing.

It's very frustrating knowing that there is no consideration for the many residents in this area. I was born and raised in Holbrook and still reside on the same street. I feel it's just a matter of time before we are forced to leave.

Since I was here before the soldiers in World War II practiced parachuting there, I don't think what is happening is fair.

It seems when the airport officials get an inch they take a yard. Soon the take-off time will get earlier and earlier because of these sneaky flights.

All we ask is that they obey the 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. rules so that we upstanding citizens in the community get a full night's sleep, enabling us to give our employers a good day's work.

I'm urging my neighbors to join me in trying to keep this situation under control.

Send a letter to Airport Manager, 100 Arrival Avenue, Ronkonkoma, N.Y. 11779.

Do it now before it's too late.

Mrs. Richard Hedrick
Holbrook

"...Not possible"

Gentlemen,

I live eight miles away from the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. I am embarrassed, or rather ashamed to say I have never protested Shoreham's opening, written a letter condemning its opening, or done anything about its portentous existence.

I have read hundreds of articles on Shoreham these past few years. I have heard the disgusting reports of gross mismanagement of funds, shoddy workmanship, and abhorrent cost overruns to the tune of billions. I have read all the ups and downs of court decisions and followed the brave tenacious efforts of the activists constantly battling to keep this plant closed.

I guess it's time to say my short and simple little piece. Written by one of the thousands of silent non-participating little people.

I cannot comprehend how the NRC can have so much power that it can change rules mandated by congress, permitting the licensing of a Nuclear Power plant when its local government will not participate in an emergency evacuation. When its local governments have proved that a safe evacuation of the eastern end of Suffolk County is geographically not possible.

I find it absolutely unbelievable that the NRC can do this when the people of Suffolk County are vehemently against this plant. The local government is against the plant and the Good Governor of New York State is adamantly against it.

Who are you fat bureaucrats anyway? It's very obvious you do not care about the safety of the people who live here! No one wants the damn plant open except you and Lilco.

Ex-Congressman Carney sold out his constituency and our beloved President Ronald Reagan promised he would never circumvent local government.

Congress ordered you to mandate evacuation plans for a 10 mile radius around a nuclear facility. How can you change that mandate. A safe evacuation cannot be implemented without the leadership and support of local government and you do not have that support, nor will you ever have that support.

If you think the great management team at Lilco carries any respect with the people of Long Island or the remote ability to carry out an evacuation plan themselves, you gentlemen have your head buried in your mire.

Mark E. Carney
Manorville

'Gee, we're sorry!'

Dear Sir,

Some months ago, President Reagan spent 3 days in the hospital for well publicized prostate surgery. In fact I understand it received world wide attention.

Last week, I spent 7 days in Brookhaven Hospital undergoing the same procedure. As of this writing, there has not been a word or

picture on T.V., not even L.I.'s Ch.12. Nothing on the radio. Nothing in the papers- not the N.Y. Times, Daily News, Newsday, not even Suffolk Life.

And why not?
George Adams
Shirley

Editor's note: Until now, we didn't know!

'We are responsible'

Dear Editor:

As a Legionnaire representing The American Legion Pearl Harbor Memorial Post No. 1941, I attended the services for the POW-MIA's in S.E. Asia, that was held at Bald Hill, on May 2, 1987. I was very touched by some of the things the guests had to say.

One guest, a woman, mentioned responsibility. She said we were responsible for sending our men over there, we were responsible for bringing them home, we are responsible for those who were killed, and we are responsible

for those who remained there, (POW-MIA'S). I was also very impressed when the helicopters flew over, at that time a loud yell came from the Viet Nam veterans who were present, this sounded like a yell you would hear from men in action, when they see relief is coming. Then it went through my mind, I wonder how those men still alive in S.E. Asia would feel if they could see that very sight, right now.

"Let's Remember"
Russell Hunter

Letters to the Editor

'Program a great success'

Dear Mr. Grasso:

The 1987 Skin Cancer Screening Program was again a great success. Your support and involvement in the program was crucial and I know the many patients screened by the volunteers and physicians are most grateful.

This year nine dermatologists and many volunteers from the Stony Brook University Hospital Auxiliary, American Cancer Society and the physicians office staff screened 273 patients, up from 196 last year. One hundred ten patients were referred for treatment and the

presumptive diagnoses are listed below.

Actinic keratoses: 57, basal cell carcinoma: 28, dysplastic nevus: 6, melanoma: 3, squamous cell carcinoma: 3, other skin related problems: 19. The American Academy of Dermatology and the Suffolk County Dermatology Society sincerely appreciate your effort.

With best regards,
Gavan D. Moynihan, MD
Bay Shore

'Offer incentives for electricty'

Dear Editor:

In response to Newsday's editorial "Where Albany's Plan to Power L.I.," I strongly disagree. Even if I agree with your views, which I do not, the solution is very simple. Offer attractive financing and/or other incentives to people who have electric stoves, ovens and possibly electric heating systems in locations that have natural gas available.

In addition to the benefit of removing power hungry appliances during the summer months

in the cases of dryers and electric stoves, they're much more cost effective to operate. These gas appliances also conserve our natural resources because it is more efficient to burn gas in a dryer or stove to create heat than it is to burn oil or gas in a power generator to transmit over wires that have losses in transmission and generators that operate at less than 100% efficiency and require overhauls.

Ralph Muller
Bay Shore