

## Shoreham Panel Needed

A special presidential panel created to investigate the circumstances surrounding the ill-fated flight of the Challenger declared last week that the decision to launch that mission was "clearly flawed." Serious questions have been raised concerning safety considerations which may have fallen victim to the constant push by the federal space agency, NASA, for more and more space flights in an effort to put more and more commercially-sponsored payloads into orbit. The question must be asked: did seven people die aboard the shuttle because safety took a back seat to dollars, as is being done in the nuclear industry today?

Our nation, in fact the entire world, was shocked and saddened by the death of our seven astronauts. We fought back our tears and declared that these seven brave people would not want the space program halted because of this accident. That they realized there were risks involved and took those risks knowingly to perpetuate the program. But would they have stepped aboard that spacecraft if they had known that their safety was being compromised for the sake of a schedule? We think not!

There is a parallel between the actions of NASA and those now underway by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Energy, members of the Reagan administration, and congress. In their hurry up efforts to put the Shoreham nuclear power plant on line, they are compromising the safety of the people of Long Island. In the case of NASA, few were aware that safety was taking a back seat to the financial success of future flights. In the matter of nuclear power, and more specifically Shoreham, however, the dangers and the warnings have been well documented, although ignored by the nuclear industry and its friends in high places.

For example: an engineer for the company that built the reactor at Three Mile Island had warned in a memo before the accident about the potential for trouble in the reactor's design. No one listened. The warning was ignored until after the accident, just as the warnings about concerns over the Challenger's launch were not fully aired until after the Challenger was destroyed in a horrible explosion.

More recent concerns have been raised as well. An NRC Commissioner, James K. Asselstine, in a recent speech offered the following comments: "One of the fundamental problems with current reactors is their complexity. In the rush to design and to construct the larger power plants which now comprise essentially the entire population of

nuclear plants in this country, mistakes were made...Substantial competitive and economic forces affected the design of nuclear plants and have left the owners with many hidden design vulnerabilities, unanticipated systems interactions, unresolved safety issues, difficulties in maintenance of the plants and widely varying quality throughout the plants."

Asselstine, an NRC commissioner who has consistently voiced grave concerns about Shoreham, added: "The industry and the regulators are today largely in reactive mode. Generally, we all wait for significant events to happen, and we then rush to develop narrow solutions to individual technical problems. We then breathe a sigh of relief and assert that since that narrow problem has been solved, all is right with the world. Time and time again we have been proven wrong. The TMI-2 accident, numerous ATWS events, station blackout, the Davis-Besse event, as well as the more recent events at San Onofre Unit 1 and Rancho Seco are among the examples of the many unanticipated problems which have occurred. In my view, we must all be much more pro-active and must actively seek reasonable solutions to the complexity problem. The current approach to safety," Asselstine said, "is largely based on the premise that we can postpone facing up to difficult issues by relying on the capabilities of utilities to ride through unanticipated events and then to remedy any errors in the designs of their plants. This presupposes a uniformly high level of performance by the nuclear utilities, and particularly by the people who operate and maintain the plants. Unfortunately, this solution is not adequate..."

Of even greater concern are the following comments voiced by Asselstine about the possibility of future accidents: "The Commission (NRC) recently told Congress that the probability of a TMI-2 or worse accident within the next 20 years is about 50-50. Both the NRC and the industry seem to find that risk acceptable...the industry and my colleagues on the Commission would freeze the level of safety where it is today, thereby accepting the 50-50 chance of another severe accident. I cannot agree with this attitude."

Nor can we. Nor should you. That 50-50 chance comment by the NRC is far different than the "highly improbable" nonsense being voiced by Brookhaven National Laboratory scientists and other pro-nuclear advocates. The BNL scientists and other pro-Shoreham forces have made the decision to put dollars before safety, just as they did with the Challenger. We think the public wants safety put first.

We should learn a lesson from the

Challenger tragedy. The Presidential panel will undoubtedly learn the facts, after the fact. They will learn why the tragedy happened and recommend changes in an effort to prevent such human errors in the future. But it's too late for the seven who died. Nothing will bring them back to life.

It's not too late to protect the public against Shoreham. Instead of working behind the scenes, in efforts by the NRC, the DOE, and FEMA, to pave the way for Shoreham to go on line, our President should create a special commission now to investigate the many warning signals about Shoreham. We need his concern now, not his tears later.

President Reagan must act now, before the NRC continues with its accelerated and flawed efforts to use

the recently held sham test of an evacuation plan for Shoreham as an excuse to grant LILCO a full power license. The NRC's actions must be investigated, as must the actions of the DOE and FEMA. The behind-closed-doors meetings between these agencies and LILCO must be fully exposed.

It's tragic that seven brave astronauts had to die because of the misplaced priorities of NASA officials. It would be criminal to expose the people of Suffolk County to a 50-50 chance, by NRC projections, of an accident at Shoreham because of the dollars before safety priorities of the nuclear industry, LILCO, and its federal friends.

Let's heed the warning signals before, not after, the next tragedy. And why not!

## You Can Do It, Governor!

**GOV. MARIO CUOMO, JANUARY 9, 1986:** "It is regrettable that the Public Service Commission has once again decided to grant the Long Island Lighting Company its entire rate request...This increase of \$68.7 million will add to the considerable burden on the people of Long Island who must struggle to pay exorbitant rates to LILCO..."

**PSC CHAIRMAN PAUL GIOIA, FEBRUARY 26, 1986:** "The increase was not out of line with those granted to other major electric utilities in 1985, and was less than the 4.7 per cent rise in inflation since the last LILCO rate case in September, 1984. The increase, therefore, was not extraordinary in any way."

The difference of opinion between Governor Mario Cuomo and PSC Chairman Paul Gioia on the matter of rate increases granted to the Long Island Lighting Company is nothing new. Cuomo has long advocated restructuring the PSC in order to make it more responsive to the consumers, while Gioia and some other PSC members have continually been more concerned about the financial condition of the utility, more so than the impact on the public of repeated rate increases.

In his January 9 remarks, Gov. Cuomo pointed out he has been saying since 1983 that the PSC as it is presently structured, cannot represent the interests of ratepayers properly. "I have recommended before, and will continue to pursue,

reforms to make this body a fair representative of the public interest," the Governor declared.

The Governor faces an uphill task in his quest to restructure the PSC, no matter how much it is needed. The utility lobby has been successful, thus far, in efforts to kill any attempt or legislation designed to revamp the PSC. The utilities like the PSC the way it is, and for good reason.

And the Governor was not successful in an effort to replace PSC Commissioner Edward Larkin of Nassau County when his term ran out. Larkin, a staunch LILCO supporter, and a friend of all utilities, was pushed for reappointment by Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson, whose upstate law firm represents a number of utilities. Anderson can be counted upon to oppose any PSC restructuring effort that comes up in his ballpark.

The irony of the situation is the fact that Cuomo has it within his power to bring about some needed changes within the PSC, and he can do it all by himself. He has it within his power to replace Gioia as chairman. Gioia's term as chairman has run out, and he continues to serve "at the pleasure" of the Governor. Although Gioia's term of office on the commission itself would continue, removing him from the chairman's seat, where the power lies, could be the start of something good.

Cuomo has been known to ask:

Cont. on page 4

## SUFFOLK LIFE

Vol. 25 No. 29

NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located at 1461 Old Country Rd. (Rte. 58) Riverhead 369-0800 Classified Ads 369-0820 Mailing Address P. O. Box 167 Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-0102

Suffolk Life is published in 21 market zone editions every Wednesday

North Fork	Medford	Sayville	Rocky Point
Riverhead	Patchogue	Oakdale	Port Jefferson
Hampton East	Mastic-Sharley	Centeresach	Three Village
Mid-Hampton	Moriches	Selden	Smithtown
Westhampton	Islip-Bayshore	Coram	
Holbrook	Holtsville	Ronkonkoma	

Total circulation audited and verified in excess of

**318,000 Circulation Weekly**

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of Town of Southampton Town of Islip, Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk, Rocky Point School District, Patchogue-Medford School District, 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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Subscription Rate In Suffolk County, \$4.99 per year Outside Suffolk County, \$7.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales, 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life, In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year, Outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year. Newsstand copy sales, 25¢ per issue

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# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

Cont. from page 3

"Who would I replace him with" when Gioia's ouster is urged. Originally, we had suggested Richard Kessel, head of the state consumer's office, but with Gioia's commission term continuing, there would be no opening to do so. While we think Kessel would be a hard-hitting, consumer-oriented PSC chairman, we have another suggestion: the Governor could make a significant start toward meaningful changes in the PSC's direction by replacing Gioia with Commissioner Anne Mead.

Anne Mead has not been a rubber stamp for the consumers, but, more importantly, she has not been an echo for the utilities. She is a former deputy Suffolk County executive under H. Lee Dennison, a former judge, and has earned respect from many during her service on the PSC.

She could bring meaningful change by clearly establishing that the utilities no longer run the PSC, as they do with Gioia as chairman.

It is not enough for the Governor to simply talk about restructuring the PSC, he must show that he is serious by removing Gioia, whose actions are totally at odds with the views the Governor expresses. If the Governor waits until he builds political support for PSC changes, leaving Gioia at the helm, we will be remain at the mercy of the utilities.

If the Governor is really serious about the need to change the direction of the PSC, he will take steps to change the chairman. If he is sincere about his concerns for the ratepayers, he will do so without further delay.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'NRC goof-up'

Dear Dr. DiCara,

Your letter in opposition to Mr. Willmott's editorial criticizing LILCO's evacuation plan, is in itself illogical.

You obviously have little knowledge of atomic explosions, meteorology or human nature.

You say there is no need to evacuate Long Island, this of course is ludicrous since weather conditions can alter the contamination pattern. It may even be necessary to evacuate the Connecticut Shoreline.

You say the average person can walk 3 1/2 MPH, but the atomic blast can travel over 100 MPH due to self generated pressure or a 40 MPH wind can carry the strontium-90 faster than one can run.

You say boats can take people out. Again, you discard the time factor and the source of such flotilla and its response time.

You are also making other assumptions, such as: people will not panic; vehicles will not break down clogging the road; the police and the National Guard themselves will not panic in self survival.

Let's face it Doc, the NRC goofed years ago when they approved preliminary plans without a thorough feasibility study which should have addressed the emergency planning and procedures. Then LILCO compounded the problem with poor management, followed by the poor workmanship on the plant.

I, for one, can put no price on human life, can you?

If your line is logic, you missed the boat by bypassing common sense and Socrates.

Steve G. Tsontakis, P.E.  
Consulting Engineer  
Riverhead

### 'Community involvement'

Dear Editor:

On Tuesday, December 10, 1985, the staff of the Dominican Sisters Family Health Service hosted a holiday party funded by Catholic Charities for 170 patients. We would like to thank St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Hampton Bays for once again making their beautiful hall available to us for this joyous occasion.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who made the day such an outstanding success: the volunteers who cooked, served, and cleaned up; Mrs. Dwyer's Glee Club from Hampton Bays Elementary School for the delightful entertainment; and the Villa Paula Restaurant for assisting us in providing the meat. Volunteers also entertained with singing and piano playing. Jolly Santa made an appearance with gifts and

candy canes for the patients to make the day even more memorable.

We are indebted to the Hampton Jitney for providing transportation for patients from Sag Harbor through Southampton; the Hampton Coach for local pick-ups; and the Peconic Ambulance who transported ten patients who otherwise could not have attended.

Due to the tremendous spirit and community involvement of so many dedicated people, the patients had a Christmas party complete with dinner, Santa, gifts, and entertainment. Fifty-five dinners were delivered to the home-bound patients who could not attend.

Very truly yours,  
Mary Carnicelli  
Health Service Coordinator

### 'Shuttle repercussion'

Dear Sir:

If Christa McAuliff and her husband had stopped to think of their children; that it was possible that she might not return from that outer-space trip on the Challenger, she would

not be scattered over the Atlantic Ocean today, leaving two children without a mother.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Anne Montgomery  
Greenport

### 'Rotary gratitude'

Dear Mr. Grasso:

The 1985 Rotary Community Fund Drive raised \$1,970.00, and 150 baskets of food were distributed to needy persons coordinated by The Long Island Council of Churches.

Thank you for your contribution to this

valuable Community Project.

Sincerely,  
Rotary Club of Riverhead,  
Ron Leuthardt, Chairman  
Community Fund Committee



SCOUT CAMPAIGN LEADERS--The Suffolk County Council of Boy Scouts of America is hoping to raise \$337,000 through its Annual Sustaining Membership Enrollment Drive. Selected to lead the campaign, front from left, are Walter Schwartz, sales chairman and Justine Aleschus, enrollment chairman. Pictured, rear from left, are Jack Brown, county scout executive; Rudolph J. Santoro, council treasurer; Michael McGarvey, council commissioner; Michael Shieck, phonathon chairman; and Robert Griffin, Boypower dinner chairman. (FULL 310-F)

### 'Who won the game?'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your sports writer must have been thinking wishfully in his headline indicating a Mariner win over East Hampton (February 5, Hampton/East Edition page 20A).

The body of the article correctly reports a Bonacher Victory in the January 31st varsity game between East Hampton and South-

ampton, but the headline clearly is wrong!

You owe the Bonachers, and your readers an apology.

Very truly yours,  
Susan Cradoll  
Amagansett

Editor's Note:  
We apologize!

### 'Illogical views'

Dear David:

I moved to Hampton Bays from Southampton 6 months ago. Something was missing here. I felt out of touch & I realized it was not getting Suffolk Life at my new address. Luckily, I started getting it again a few weeks ago and I was so pleased to see you have not changed your stand or view on Shoreham. I feel you are really speaking for the majority of the citizens here on Long Island or should I say Suffolk County!

Dr. Di Cara's letter to the editor hit me so funny! I think the whole Shoreham situation is beyond logic (even). Let's say we all can go safely and calmly in the event of an occurrence. Yes, we go on boats (I can see the marinas now) boat owners from Connecticut and elsewhere could even pick us up, those of us who don't know boaters, or we could all go walking to where? Or we could take some of the obscure roads on the map, to where? Or we could move North? East? South? or West?

Really? And after we all get safely to nowhere we have left what we all really moved to Long Island for in the first place; our homes in a nature setting free of catastrophes and big city life. Would we feel safe living on the Eastern End again, that is when we are allowed back? I think of the boat people, we could all be put on barges and float around harps and the sound checking to see how things are at home. "Sock it to them" as Warren Matthesen said in fewer words.

I too can't think logically about the whole Shoreham saga.  
Illogically  
Judy Goiden

P.S. I sent my clipping to Reagan at least!  
P.S.S. As you have said this is beyond logic; it's basic rights of people in our towns and communities to say no and not be usurped by federal organizations. Back to our basic constitution. And Why Not.

### 'Infallible or not?'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

With apologies to those bereaved recently, one cannot help but observe that the same scientific community that gave us the "infallible booster rockets" of Challenger now insist that

Shoreham is safe.

Sincerely,  
G. Brunov  
Mattituck

### 'Thanks for the coverage'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

On behalf of the YM-YWHA of Suffolk, many thanks for the prominent coverage your newspaper has consistently given the "Y".

We are glad to be part of your interesting

and informative paper.

Sincerely,  
Laura Willetsky  
Public Relations Coordinator

### NEW LOCATION AND PHONE NUMBERS

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Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-2026

Main & General  
Office  
369-0800

News  
Office  
369-0810

Classified  
Office  
369-0820



## Fudging the Facts

The Shoreham nuclear power plant has been the subject of controversy for a great many reasons, not the least of which is the lack of credibility of LILCO, the company which owns and hopes to operate the facility. Time and again, and just recently in a serious new revelation, LILCO officials have distorted the truth concerning events at Shoreham.

One instance, LILCO fudged the facts in the testing of the critical back up generators which have been the source of numerous problems. They did not run the generators at the speed levels required by the NRC testing regulations, but said they did. They were hit with a \$50,000 fine for not telling the truth.

They fudged the facts again last week, this time in another critical matter concerning falsification of information by members of the radio chemistry unit at the plant. "It is a very serious problem," said John Berry, resident NRC inspector at the plant. "It could have created problems in the chemistry data from the radioactive discharge. There was the potential the water could have been discharged with higher than permitted radioactive levels. This is serious stuff."

LILCO, in a press release, termed the source of the problem as "poor documentation." Berry had a different view: "What they found were problems with paperwork documentation recording. What we found was people credited with training and qualification that they never received." LILCO not only tried to downplay the problem in their recent press release, they never reported the matter to the NRC. Berry found out in January when an employee of the unit expressed concern. When Berry investigated he found evidence of falsified records. Not simply inaccurate transcribing of records. "It was blatant and intentional," he said.

The matter has reportedly been referred to the NRC's Office of Investigation. But in our view, this is

not enough. This entire matter should be the target of a full scale investigation by a special presidential panel, as we suggested last week. While we applaud John Berry for his part in bringing this shameful incident to light, we don't have the slightest confidence that the top officials of the NRC will proceed with the same kind of concern. They have been part and parcel of the federal push to put Shoreham on line despite the consequences. The NRC's charade of scheduling a test on LILCO's evacuation plan, which the courts say the utility does not have the legal authority to implement, has shown their true colors. They have already bought the big lie, that evacuation is possible. We have no faith they will be concerned about the lies about training, qualifications or test results.

Safety has been put on the back burner by so many federal agencies, local scientists, and the local congressman, that one wonders what it will take to get someone to strip away all the lies and focus on the truth. Must we wait for another tragedy, such as the Challenger explosion, to get action?

The fudged facts revealed in recent days constitute only the tip of the iceberg. How many other lies are hidden at Shoreham? How much information concerning the construction of that plant has been falsified as well? Numerous concerns were expressed during the Shoreham Commission hearings about a flawed quality control procedure at the plant. LILCO denied there were any problems. Was that truth? Or just some more lies?

Isn't it time that a special panel is called so that the dangers which lurk within Shoreham are fully investigated? Don't the people have the right to face the future without the threat of a nuclear disaster caused by financial greed on the part of a utility, with the federal government as a partner in the crime?

And why not?

## Clean Up Your Own Kettle

New York State Commissioner of Corrections William McMahon has been harsh in criticizing Nassau and Suffolk jails for overcrowded conditions. McMahon has warned he will impose fines and other penalties on the county governments unless they eliminate the overcrowding immediately.

We suggest that Commissioner McMahon clean up his own kettle before he calls the Long Island pot black. One of the conditions leading to the overcrowding of Nassau and Suffolk jails is the refusal of the State Correction Agency to immediately take prisoners who have been sentenced to state penitentiaries. Some of the prisoners are left in the county jails for two or more weeks. This is a big contributor to the overcrowding.

In Suffolk the number of these

prisoners can range from 30 to 80 at any given time which contributes to over 50 per cent of the overcrowded conditions. Suffolk County is in the process of adding on to its jail in Riverhead, as well as expanding the honor farm in Yaphank. These are not plans or studies, but actual construction is underway. What move could the conversion ask for?

Bureaucrats like Commissioner McMahon have a habit of snapping their fingers and want instantaneous solutions when they are not practical or available. The most instantaneous solution would be for McMahon to get his prisoners out of Nassau and Suffolk jails immediately upon sentencing, instead of demanding and threatening fines for impossible creation of new facilities.

And why not?

## When Planning Works

We recently were on a holiday in Florida, part work, part fun. Too much of the trip was spent in an automobile, but this gave us an opportunity to see many different parts and aspects of Florida.

Part of the time was spent in the Jupiter area, just above Palm Beach, which is undergoing rapid development. Almost everywhere you look, new shopping centers, office buildings, condos and single family homes are being built. Major north/south roads are being expanded and rebuilt. A number of the east/west access roads are being enlarged from two to four lanes.

We were extremely impressed by the coordination and planning that is allowing this section of Florida to develop systematically and properly. I spoke with developers, government officials as well as old time and new residents of Florida who report Florida's rules and regulations covering the ecology, zoning, planning and building are strict, but unlike New York, workable.

A developer knows what he must do to comply beforehand, and an application once made, is expedited, allowing for a smooth flow of work. There is a saying in real estate here that waterfront is your best investment because canals and waterways connected to the inland water way and the bays, opening up waterfront property for a host of people who would be denied this availability.

The ocean front is rapidly being developed with 15 to 20 story condos, giving the maximum amount of people ocean front views and living. These units, for the most part, are being put up for the out-of-towners who are looking for convenience, pleasant living and who have the funds to pay for it.

Florida does not forget its own. As these massive buildings are being built, so is affordable, inland, single family homes for Floridians who live there year round and work and serve the vacation trade.

Florida obviously has thought out its growth and has planned for it. The roads and sewers are being put in just ahead of the housing. In addition to planning in these fields, many

beaches are open for all to use.

Along A1A from the Keys to Sebastian, travelers are encouraged to pull over by the side of the road and partake in the beaches. No permits, no hassle, come enjoy.

In many areas throughout Florida we noted where the government has gone as far as to develop ocean front road side stops, complete with barbecues and picnic tables covered by grass roofs. Anyone is welcome to use and enjoy these facilities. In many different spots along the coast, piers have been built out onto the ocean for people to fish from. What a wonderful idea for young families who can't afford boats, and senior citizens who no longer feel comfortable maneuvering a craft themselves.

The shopping centers that have been built are modern, clean and efficient. Instead of being a proliferation of colored signs, each retail outlet is identified with a homogeneous sign that is keeping with the architecture of the complex. The uniformity allows for excellent visual identification, yet, the ugliness and unsightliness is eliminated. As complexes are being completed, aesthetically pleasing landscaping is put into place. Even in the older centers this seems to be a hallmark, and they are well maintained and kept up.

We returned to New York on Saturday. On Sunday we had to leave the East End to go to the west. We were saddened by this trip for we could not help but note the incredible poor planning here on Long Island. We are a hodge podge of ill-conceived ideas, over-restrictive, unworkable regulations that have neither protected us from ourselves or allowed for proper development.

When we look back at Florida, and then see Long Island, it's sad to think of what we could have been and what we are. Too late to change? No. Hope for our future? Yes. But not as long as our planning is bogged down with the same ideas and people who have given us our current tragic mess. It's time for a change.

And why not?

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## Outside Prosecutor Needed

There is a time to clean up your house from within and that time has come and gone for Suffolk County.

The Suffolk County Police Department and the Suffolk County District Attorney's office have had more than their share of fingers pointed at them. There have been outright accusations of corruption and deliberate subversion of the law in cases ranging from criminal mischief to murder.

Currently, the State Investigation Commission, the F.B.I. and other agencies are looking into allegations dealing with drugs within the Suffolk County Police Department. County Executive Peter Cohalan, in a grandstand play last week, announced the appointment of an in-house committee to look into these charges. At a press conference he pledged full cooperation with the outside agencies while, at the same time, Cohalan's County Attorney Martin Ashare was opposing the State Investigation Commission's subpoena for court records.

The head of the S.I.C., David Trager, charged Cohalan's assertions of cooperation were "outrageous."

Several months ago, at the conclusion of the 1985 district attorney's race, we suggested a total house cleaning of the D.A.'s office and the Suffolk County Police Department. There were too many allegations floating around about both of these branches of law enforcement. Allegations of cover-ups and corruption within the police department. Allegations of badly-flubbed prosecutions which resulted in defendants who had admitted their guilt going free.

One of the allegations brought by County Legislator Joseph Rizzo pertained to the son of a Suffolk County police officer who was involved in an accident that resulted in Rizzo's daughter's death. Rizzo charged that evidence was tampered with, reports were altered. Rizzo not only charged the Suffolk County Police, but also the Suffolk County

District Attorney's office, were involved in the coverup.

Numerous other allegations against both departments has left the citizens of Suffolk County with very uneasy feelings about their law enforcement agencies.

Just recently we heard of a case whereby Suffolk County police were notified of a possible burglary or illegal entry with intent of willfully doing damage to a home. The police were asked to provide surveillance. The house was broken into and ransacked and wrecked. The party who made the initial request called the commissioner of police to make a complaint about the damage and the alleged perpetrators. It took the police hours to respond; they told the complainant that they would not question the alleged perpetrator for another 72 hours as the investigator was going skiing.

It turns out that one of the perpetrators was the son of a Suffolk County cop. This type of incident does not measure up to the allegations concerning drugs and murder, but, it is symbolic of how deep the corruption and mismanagement of the police department goes.

We, as citizens of Suffolk County, should demand that County Executive Cohalan stop his political showmanship and call for the appointment of a special prosecutor to be assigned by the governor's office. If there is nothing here it will soon be determined. If the dirt and corruption goes as deep as most of us fear, indictments and convictions should be the outcome.

The time for shoving the dirt under the rug is past. A full-scale investigation by outside, independent sources is badly needed. Without such an investigation and review, who can have faith in Suffolk County government, the police department or the district attorney's office?

Let's get the investigation underway now so that we can put what appears to be a sordid blemish on Suffolk behind us as fast as we can. And why not?

## Truth, Not Opportunism

Political opportunism comes in many forms, usually employed by political leaders to take political advantage of a growing mood of the public. The most recent instance came in the form of creating new party labels, more particular the "Ratepayers Against LILCO." While the themes sound credible, in truth they are nothing more than a ploy on the part of politicians to garner extra votes.

The Ratepayers Against LILCO line received a surprising number of votes in last year's election, and in more than one instance spelled the difference between victory and defeat. The line took advantage of the frustrations of anti-LILCO and anti-Shoreham voters who were looking for somewhere to vent their anger. Those votes were more a vote against LILCO than a vote for the candidates.

Although most candidates who appeared on this line were Democrats, there were others who were adamantly opposed to LILCO who were not. But a recent development would appear to give the Democrats sole possession of the R.A.L. spot on the ballot. Last week, Democratic Committeeman Barry McCoy incorporated the line, which gives the Democrats full control of who will or will not appear in that slot. Thus the line loses its value as a place to vote against the arrogant actions of an arrogant utility.

Not to be outdone, the Republicans, on the other hand, have now come up with a new party:

Concerned Citizens Against LILCO. Political opportunism strikes again.

The troubling part of all of this is that the Democratic leadership does not have a strong record of fighting for the public benefit in the matter of LILCO's controversial nuclear project. The leadership pushed as its candidate in the last race for the county executive's seat a man who advocated an end to the fight against Shoreham, with an eye toward putting the plant on line. And the Republican leadership is staunchly pro-Shoreham. The sudden shameful switch by County Executive Peter Cohalan, according to knowledgeable insiders, was engineered by those closely involved with the GOP leadership.

Much as the Conservative Party has given away its political integrity--Conservative philosophy has little to do with the making of a candidate these days, cross endorsements are born of backroom deals--the Ratepayers...or Concerned Citizens...Against LILCO lines should be viewed as a grab for votes, not specifically proof of a candidate's stance against LILCO.

The voting public should watch and listen closely as candidates express their views concerning LILCO and Shoreham. Candidates should earn their votes based on their stated positions on how they will, as public officials, deal with the utility, rather than receive them as gifts from a frustrated public fed up with the LILCO threat to their future.

And why not?

## Finding Faults First

Concern has grown on the part of those involved with private and parochial schools over legislation filed in Albany which could have a drastic impact on the health services procedures which affect these schools. Although the latest information out of Albany is this bill has been withdrawn because of problems; the fact that it was filed at all points out a flaw in our legislative process.

The bill in question (S1865) was sponsored by State Senator Kenneth LaValle (R-Centereach). Currently, state law stipulates that the home district of a student attending a parochial or private school must contract for health care specialist/nurse provided by the district in which the private school is located. LaValle's bill would remove the requirement that the home district must contract for health services and permit that district to supply its own, if desired, instead.

A spokesperson for LaValle's office indicated the bill was based on a request from a public school administrator. That request was based on the premise if the home district had 100 students attending a private school in Patchogue, for example, the home district might wish to provide the health services (such as physical exams) for that district rather than contract with Patch-

ogue.

After the bill was filed, however, some problems came to light, LaValle's spokesperson said. If several home districts decided to take that option, the scheduling of such exams could have a major impact on the private school, the spokesperson said. But there are other problems to be considered as well. What about health emergencies? Now there is no question, the Patchogue District (in our example) would provide the services of a nurse. But if a student did not come from a home district that has contracted with Patchogue, wouldn't that be a problem? The bill does not, to our knowledge, stipulate what would happen in such instances.

What bothers us most is that there was no communication with the private schools as to the impact this bill might have on their operations, or the welfare of their students. We think there should have been. Senator LaValle told Suffolk Life his office had sent out questionnaires to some 700 school districts throughout the state to get their input on the bill. But none went to private or parochial school officials, he said, because the bill is designed to solve a public school problem. He cited instances where home districts were being charged more, by the outside dis-

Cont. on page 4

## SUFFOLK LIFE VOL. 25 No. 31

NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located at 1461 Old Country Rd. (Rte. 58) Riverhead 369-0800 Classified Ads 369-0820  
Mailing Address P.O. Box 167 Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-0102

Suffolk Life is published in 21 market zone editions every Wednesday

North Fork	Medford	Sayville	Rocky Point
Riverhead	Patchogue	Oakdale	Port Jefferson
Hampton East	Mastic-Shirley	Centereach	Three Village
Mid-Hampton	Moniches	Selden	Smithtown
Westhampton	Islip-Bayshore	Coram	
Holbrook	Hottville	Ronkonkoma	



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of

**318,000 Circulation Weekly**

Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of Town of Southampton, Town of Islip, Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk, Rocky Point School District, Patchogue Medford School District, 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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Subscription Rate In Suffolk County, \$4.99 per year Outside Suffolk County, \$17.00 per year. Newsstand single copy sales, 25¢ per issue. Suffolk County Life, In Suffolk County \$4.99 per year, Outside Suffolk County \$7.99 per year. Newsstand single copy sales, 25¢ per issue.

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# Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Finding Faults...

Cont. from page 3

trict, than the home district pays for the same services. Since the legislation could have an effect on the private and public schools, as is now argued, we feel they should have had the opportunity for input.

Senator LaValle now reports he will not move for passage of the bill until the problems are fully resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned. That's good. But it is unfortunate the opposition had to develop before the communications began.

This is not a problem strictly limited to this legislation or to Senator LaValle. Town officials have complained many times that they were not contacted about legislation which affects local governments. This communication gap has often led to angry feelings and poor legislation. It's time we start communicating and finding the faults first.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Murky interlocking of politics'

To the Editor:

It is now official that Peter "The Fox" Cohalan has appointed, at taxpayers' expense, ex-legislator Patrick Heaney to a no-show, do-nothing job as his personal representative for senior citizens' affairs on the East End.

This appointment is commonly known as the murky interlocking of politics, bureaucracy and Mr. Heaney's reward for turning his back on his constituents when he voted for Mr. Cohalan's Southwest sewer district sales tax.

We senior citizens are aware that Mr. Heaney never did anything for us when he was our legislator. He didn't even know where the

East End was located.

It is common knowledge that he is virtually incapable of promoting any activities that will benefit us senior citizens.

Also, it will become more and more evident that the primary objective for Mr. Heaney will be to harass and embarrass Tony Bullock, our newly elected legislator.

Consequently, both Mr. Cohalan and Mr. Heaney are not needed, not wanted, and not welcome on the East End.

Edward A. Boss  
Sag Harbor

### 'Community library support'

Dear Mr. Grasso:

We are writing this letter in order to clarify certain points which appeared in an article concerning the Middle Island Public Library on February 26, 1986.

It should be emphasized that the library's Board of Trustees, being well aware of the many varied problems associated with its rented quarters, has taken whatever steps were necessary to correct and improve what is best described as a deteriorating building condition.

Taxpayers' money has been expended to replace endless numbers of ceiling tiles damaged by roof leaks; to repair said leaks; to install gutters; to provide portable heaters among other steps.

Many, if not most, of the problems associated with the damage resulting from water leaks are the direct result of the landlord's failure to repair the portion of the roof covering the unoccupied portion of the building. Water has traveled numerous times from those leaks to our area of the building. In addition, water entering that part of the premises has often seeped under the wall into the library area causing flooding and destroying materials.

For many months the library board has worked on possible solutions and alternatives to the dilemma of occupying a location which

has consistently posed potentially dangerous situations and which has disrupted the flow of library service to the community.

Sites for renting are virtually non-existent in this area and of course, the board's ultimate goal is to have a new library building constructed which would serve and enhance the community.

The staff, administration and board have cooperated jointly in an effort to overcome the persistent problems that currently plague us at the library. We have appreciated the support and understanding of the public and staff who are to be commended for their dedicated service beyond the call of duty.

We trust that the above has clarified the fact that steps have been taken to cope with the problems; that they have not been ignored; that they are largely attributable to factors beyond our control and that the board and staff enjoy a mutually satisfying relationship.

On behalf of the board and the members of the Civil Service Employees Association unit, we urge the public to express their approval of the building proposition being presented on Wednesday, April 16th.

The community deserves a library in which they can take pride.

Yours truly,  
B. Allen Mannella  
Riverhead

### 'In praise of parkland'

To the Editor:

The Executive Committee of Save Good Ground Water applauds the decisive action of County Executive Cohalan and fourteen of our County Legislators concerning the extensive proposed parkland acquisition of some 4,500 acres.

Not only would this include Red Creek and other critical groundwater recharge areas of Southampton Town, but also valuable parcels of open space from Hither Woods in East Hampton to the Fresh Pond Greenbelt in Huntington. Prompt acquisition of these tracts offers an opportunity of a lifetime for residents of Suffolk County to see that these valuable natural resources are preserved for the benefit of future generations, as well as our own enjoyment and well being. What a magnificent

legacy!

Contrary to repeat claims of Councilman Gil - that removing parcels of land, such as Red Creek, from the tax rolls for parkland preservation would raise taxes - numerous studies have shown that increased development, with the necessary extension of services, police, roads, etc., inevitable raises taxes.

It is most gratifying to know that Supervisor Lang and Councilwoman Neumann publicly expressed their wholehearted support for the purchase of parkland.

No doubt about it - OPEN SPACE IS THE BEST BUY!

Sincerely,  
Lynn Buck  
Co-President  
SAVE GOOD GROUND WATER

### 'Freshwater ordinance proposal'

Dear Supervisor Lang and Town Board Members:

The Committee for Flanders supports the Town Supervisor and Board Members in their proposal to amend Town Code to adopt a local freshwater wetland ordinance.

We recognize that freshwater wetlands provide numerous important community benefits such as:

- storm and flood protection
- recharging of ground water supplies
- natural filter for contaminants
- recreational uses

- wildlife and plant life habitat
- preservation of open space
- pure aesthetic value

As more and more is learned about the value of freshwater wetlands, it becomes imperative that localities like ours take strong action to protect this priceless and irreplaceable natural community resource.

The Committee for Flanders' members urge the passage of this amendment.

Sincerely,  
Anna Lee Wilson  
Representative, Committee for Flanders

### 'Shoreham costs threaten'

Dear Mr. Gioia:

Your recent speech (February 13), in which you claim that LILCO rate increases are reasonable is an insult added to the injury that these increases already cause Long Island. Individual increases may not seem too outrageous, but the bottom line counts, and it shows that the PSC has given LI the second highest rates in the nation. The new creative financing plan, that you claim will reduce rate shock, will give us the highest. How can you pat yourself on the back for this?

You may poo-poo the loss of public confidence in LI's economy because of these excessive rates, but the Chairman of Grumman is correct when he says: "The cost of Shoreham threatens to destroy the economy of LI."

All of these excess costs are for an imprudent plant that is unnecessary, unsafe and that should have been killed off by the PSC a long time ago. Ten years late, more than fifty times over cost; and you dare to build these costs into our ratebase. Where has the PSC been all these years? Why don't you be accurate and change your name to Public Be Damned Commission?

With NY State proximity to excess Canadian power, and with power from NY's hydro projects; our rates should be among the lowest. We helped to pay for these projects, and we have been ripped off by LILCO and the PSC for 20 years.

Thank you,  
John Hurley  
Remsenburg

### 'L.I.R.R. station needed'

Dear Sir:

This is in answer to Mr. Robert E. Burns of Central Islip who is so concerned about the L.I.R.R. moving the Central Islip Railroad station one intersection east of its present location.

The area in question for a parking lot is not now, nor was it ever used by the school. It is partially wooded and has been a hangout for degenerates, dope dealers and whoever else finds it necessary to hide near schools. Many children use the area as a short-cut to another area and so far we have been lucky.

I feel it is far better to have an open parking lot under supervision of the L.I.R.R. Police Department than a partially wooded area near a school. Judging from the vote tally, so do most of my neighbors.

Speaking as a resident of Central Islip and an engineer on the L.I.R.R. it is far safer to have a train approaching and departing the Lowell Avenue intersection at slow speed due to the proximity of the station, than having no station and the trains cruising through at 80 mph.

The Railroad did not "hammer" the people in this community, we need a new station with a parking area large enough to accommodate a growing community. The L.I.R.R. is entering the 20th century and people like Mr. Burns prefer to live in the dark ages. Perhaps he longs for the days when we had horse and wagon transportation along Suffolk Avenue and it only took 2 days to get to N.Y.C.

Sincerely,  
John McCormick  
Riverhead

### 'Don't give up the crusade'

Dear Mr. Willmott

Have you given up on your crusade to save us from the holocaust threat of Shoreham?

I looked for one of the hardhitting editorials that gave all of us hope that we can really beat the LILCO Goliath-but, alas, it was missing this important week when we need your voice more than ever.

That New York Times "low" editorial trying to give legitimacy to that charade of an evacuation drill was no surprise in view of their constant support of LILCO for very obvious reasons. Your silence may give the impression that you too agree with them.

Jack Kamaiko  
Greenport

### NEW LOCATION AND PHONE NUMBERS

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

Main & General  
Office  
369-0800

News  
Office  
369-0810

Classified  
Office  
369-0820



## Happy Easter

We will enjoy an early Easter this year, on Sunday, March 30, which marks the anniversary of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of the Christian world.

Christians believe that God is of three parts, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. The Son in human form was a man sent by God to be born of a woman, Mary, to live as a man, to die as a human at the hands of others.

On Good Friday, we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the giving up of life so that the gates of Heaven could be opened for those who believed that God had sent the Messiah so that the soul of mankind, who had earned the right, could find its way home.

On Sunday the Christian world celebrates their most joyous holiday. After being placed in a tomb after his horrible death, Jesus rose from the dead, opening the gates of Heaven. Joy, for now our souls can find eternal peace.

Jesus during his lifetime taught those who chose to follow, peace, love and good will. He set down a path for those who believe to follow. The path is quite straight and simple enough for all to emulate: Follow the basic commandments, combine this with love for your fellow man no matter who or what they are. Share, show compassion, understanding, be willing to extend yourself to others in honest, forthright dealings. Re-

member always that Jesus is at your shoulder. He is with you every moment of your life. Live your life knowing this and be responsible for your actions.

Whatever your religious persuasion might be, we hope you will take solace in the joy of this religious season, seek out God, become his friend. Ask for his guidance and be thankful for his blessing.

Do this in the privacy of your home or, if you would like to enjoy a real religious experience, visit the outdoor Shrine of "Our Lady of the Island" in Manorville.

The Good Friday service centers on the Stations of the Cross, many of the various stations life size. Their size, and the fact that the services are held outdoors, brings new inspiration and meaning. Throughout the property there are numerous areas for people to stop, to meditate, to pray.

This very special place is removed from the commercial world we live in. It is very close to God. We have recommended this experience to a number of people of various religious persuasions. Those who have gone have told us that they felt something extra special and meaningful, and were grateful for the opportunity.

The staff here at Suffolk Life wishes all our readers and their families a joyous Easter, and we hope that the days ahead help you find the true meaning of God.

And why not?

quality of life and economic well-being, is without a doubt the single most important issue on Long Island. In most cases, once the spotlight has been put on a branch of government, a politician or even a profit making corporation, they clean up their act and become good citizens. We cannot think of a politician, a group of politicians, or even a political party thoroughly entrenched that comes anywhere near being as arrogant as the management of LILCO. Just look at the record.

In the beginning, LILCO falsely sold the concept of nuclear power as being so inexpensive it would not even pay to meter it. They knew this was a falsehood, but they persisted with the myth. When they started construction they selected a site that had a running artesian well underneath it. Arrogantly they did not inform the Atomic Energy Commission or any other agency. They just attempted to stop the flow. Six years after, in 1975, they informed the N.R.C. of this condition. By now the foundation for the reactor had been set and poured. Rightfully, the N.R.C. wanted the foundation tested to see what affect the artesian well was having on the base of this whole plant. LILCO refused to do so, maintaining that the test would interfere with the integrity of the foundation. Although concerned, the N.R.C. agreed to forego this important procedure for safety as it might cause the corporation to have to start all over again. Here you have a combination of arrogance, stupidity and cowardice.

Through the years, during construction, stories regularly appeared warning Long Islanders of the potential danger this plant would impose on the public.

There were news weeks when we had as many as ten incidents the public should have been aware of, yet we only had space to give the public information on one or two incidents.

During the Cuomo Commission hearings, right after the Blass panel made up of Brookhaven National Lab personnel gave a clean bill of health to all systems, the Duvall generators crashed. It came out during the commission hearings that LILCO was aware of the probable poor performance of this equipment, yet they were willing to go with them and, even with the spotlight directly on them, forged ahead arrogantly in an attempt to ignore the situation.

It was also during the hearings that testimony was given which indicated that LILCO had taken numerous short cuts in planning, design, education and certification of workers throughout the system. LILCO's quality assurance procedures were a sham, and the operating personnel they planned to

put in charge of the system did not have the necessary education, training or knowledge.

Recently, the N.R.C. announced that they have caught LILCO literally with their pants down. Personnel in the Radio Chemistry division had been falsely certified, and were not tested or equipped to perform the tests that are vital to the safety of the public. And that false information was recorded indicating tests had been made when they had not.

LILCO's evacuation plan ignores the human factors. Arrogantly they state no one will panic, no one will be concerned, everyone will obey their rent-a-cops and do as they are told in case of a real emergency. If an evacuation is called for three miles, ten miles or twenty miles, only those people within the perimeters would evacuate. They totally ignore the demonstrated fact that at Three Mile Island, when the governor recommended, not ordered, pregnant women and small children to leave the area, 280,000 people evacuated. LILCO today makes light of the number of cancer related deaths of those who did stay in the Three Mile Island area within the range of the plume. They call these statistics circumstantial, refusing to recognize the reality and destruction to human beings, because of arrogant incompetence perpetuated by a profit making utility in their quest for profits.

There literally have been thousands of stories, each a warning unto itself to LILCO management, the N.R.C. and the financial community that expects to reap huge financial rewards from opening Shoreham. Some of these stories we have reported, many we have not because of time and space restrictions.

We know our readers are concerned and as frustrated as we are. Why won't our federal government listen to us? Why are they so blind? What is so much more precious than our health and welfare? What will it take to get Washington's attention, a fatal accident killing 35,000 instantaneously and hundreds of thousands in latent deaths, billions of dollars in losses? Probably the only thing the idiots in Washington understand is the millions of dollars in loss of tax revenues which will result because that affects them.

Yes, we are as tired of Shoreham as anyone else. But as journalists we have a responsibility to report to our readers what is happening. The public must know what the threats are. The arrogant utility, the bureaucratic agencies, our do-nothing congressmen may successfully push Shoreham down our throats. But they're going to have to do it with the full spotlight upon them.

And why not?

## We Don't Make the News

We are as tired as everybody about Shoreham. Tired of listening, reading and writing about this subject. There are many other important stories we would like to be concentrating on. Yet, circumstances do not allow even a week to go by without new events which require stories and, in most cases, editorial comments.

One of our critics, a pro-LILCO supporter, asked why we continue to write about Shoreham. We answered, "We don't make the news, LILCO does. We just report upon it because our readers have a right to know the facts and not have them hidden from them."

Shoreham, because of the impact the plant has on our health, welfare,

## SUFFOLK LIFE

Vol. 25 No. 32

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## Heaven Help Us

Suffolk Life Columnist Karl Grossman last week reported on a Department of Energy proposal, known as Project Galileo, which would have sent aloft on a scheduled mid-June space launch a satellite powered by 47.6 pounds of plutonium. Heaven help us if this had been

scheduled for the tragic February flight of the Challenger.

According to Grossman, 47.6 pounds of plutonium, if there was an accident and it was widely dispersed, has the potential to cause mass loss of life. But the government insisted

cont. on p. 4



# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Heaven Help . . .

Cont. from page 3

that an accident was highly unlikely because of the high reliability of the shuttle. The Challenger tragedy, however, shows how wrong those governmental experts were. And information that has been coming out now, as a result of investigations into that tragedy, show there were many warning signals. But they were ignored. Because of ambitious launch schedules, NASA, the facts now reveal, has been playing loose with safety precautions and the lives of our astronauts.

Science, technology and exploration are critically needed in this advancing world. But for God's sake, what kind of monster would risk a massive loss of life by placing plutonium into space. Even if there was the remotest possibility of an accident, common sense would tell you not to take that chance.

The warnings ignored by NASA and our federal government's decision to launch a satellite with plutonium aboard, are not that different than the circumstances surrounding Shoreham. The warning sig-

nals are there, a tragedy waiting to happen. The frequent charges of shoddy workmanship, the problems with the vital back-up generators, the falsified tests and information, the impossibility of a safe evacuation, and the many other problems at that plant are all being ignored in the rush by the utility and federal agencies to put Shoreham on line.

Problems and warning signals concerning the space shuttle Challenger were ignored, pushed aside in order to meet ambitious flight schedules. Seven lives were lost as a result. Hopefully this will be enough of a warning to stop the incredible gamble Washington is taking with our lives.

We pray those involved with Project Galileo will rethink their plans now that the truth of risk has been so tragically revealed. And sincerely hope that clearer heads will rethink the Shoreham situation and avoid the accident that is waiting to be a catastrophe.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'What price is progress?'

To the Editor:

William Sexton's Column (Not Only Holidays Have Gone Astray In America Today, Newsday 2/18/86) is written "in full awareness that American technology just blew up the space shuttle, quite possible because of a glitch within the product of a private company and very likely abetted by the dubious decision-making of a federal agency". "But," says Mr. Sexton, "that's how progress is made, by test and trial and sometimes error. Thus 3-Mile Island. Still, progress is made."

Evidently it has escaped Mr. Sexton's notice that this country was founded by dissidents

who, on more than one occasion, were known to bellow: "We're mad as hell, and we're not going to take it any more." The day Long Islanders allow themselves to be lulled into laying their lives and those of their children on the line for LILCO, will be a black day, indeed, for democracy.

Making "progress" by becoming a nuclear statistic offers cold comfort --- even if we "do it for the Gipper" and the Long Island Lighting Company.

Yours truly,  
B. Hoye  
Shelter Island



12345687654321, is 11,111,111 multiplied by itself.

### 'Nope, they're not'

Dear Mr. Grasso:

Today I was reading a Wednesday, March 19, 1986, issue of Suffolk Life. As I looked through the pages, my attention was caught by a little boxed-in cartoon on page 31D.

Directly underneath the cartoon was a statement that read "12345687654321, is 11,111,111 multiplied by itself." This caught my interest and I decided to see if it was a fact. The multiplication product would not fit on my calculator, so I did it manually. To make sure, I did it twice.

My outcome was "12345687654321," which did not agree with yours. I believe, therefore, that the multiplication total in the Wednesday, March 19, 1986, issue of Suffolk Life (page 31D) is incorrect.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter.

Very truly yours,  
Patrice Banks  
Selden

### 'Clear up the facts'

Dear Editor:

With reference to Jeff Seiver's article of last week on The Hampton Animal Shelter, Inc., I would like to address what I consider to be two very serious flaws.

Firstly, so far as "defending my decision to let" these dogs go back to the shelter, let me emphatically say that this is absolutely untrue. I had no knowledge of these animals' return prior to the fact, and had I known, I would not have permitted it.

Secondly, I resent - strongly - any implication that Judge Gerard is not completely satisfied with my job as a receiver.

I have been the receiver at The Hampton Animal Shelter for more than one year -- at enormous personal and professional sacrifice, and with no financial compensation. During that year, we have been in constant communication, and Judge Gerard has shown nothing but support and encouragement for the job I have been doing.

Neither Judge Gerard nor myself wanted to see any animals put down unnecessarily -- despite the constant pressure on both of us to do so; fortunately, the long saga of The Hampton Animal Shelter has ended peacefully, and without loss of life. The Shelter is closed, the animals have been placed in fine homes -- many with the help of Suffolk Life, and the property is to be sold immediately.

All of this has been accomplished legally, finally and with compassion. It is hard to envision how Judge Gerard could be anything but delighted -- and he is.

Sincerely,  
Helen J. Rosenblum, ESQ.  
Receiver, The Hampton  
Animal Shelter, Inc.

Dear Judge Gerard:

I am enclosing a copy of the letter I just wrote to Suffolk Life, which is self-explanatory.

I am not going to pretend that I have not been extremely hurt by the article in Suffolk Life, particularly after our conversation this past Friday in which I asked you to protect me and also in which you were very complimentary about my work.

To be blunt, and with no disrespect, I am getting very tired of being punched from all sides for doing a controversial job to the best of my ability, and I don't expect it from you. I understand that people who are intensely involved with animals are often highly opinionated and judgemental, but the last thing I expected to read in the press is a statement from you that if a motion for my replacement is submitted you will consider it.

This has been a most embarrassing and humiliating, not to mention, unexplainable comment. All I can ask of you at this point is not to replace me, which idea is atrocious at this stage of the situation, and secondly, to give me whatever emotional support you can. I have done the very best I can, and I have done a damn fine job for you, for the community, for the animals who had the misfortune to be there at the time, and for all the animals who might have been there in the future.

I expect, in return, your support and your respect -- I deserve no less.

Sincerely,  
Helen J. Rosenblum  
Riverhead

### 'Reagan is responsible'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

You would not be so surprised and angry about President Reagan's betrayal of the people of Suffolk County on the Shoreham issue if you were old enough to remember and understand just what Mr. Reagan's political and economic philosophy really is.

Mr. Reagan grew up in a time when big business was allowed to do pretty much what it wanted to. One of my own relatives was required by a major industrial corporation to work in a laboratory where the fumes all but destroyed his lungs. Although the president of the company wanted to make some compensatory payment to him and his family, the company lawyer forbade it, because it would set a "bad precedent!" So my relative was discharged with the expectancy of only a few more months to live.

There were factories where the work quotas were stepped up and up to the limit of the worker's endurance, and union organizers who came to try to establish unions were beaten and even killed.

All sorts of phony stocks were sold to people who thought they were providing for their old age. Banks could lend money on very speculative propositions, and when they went broke, your savings were completely gone. There was no insurance on deposits. And on and on.

What President Reagan calls the burden of government regulation is the system established by President Franklin Roosevelt and other presidents to control the greed and bear pressures on many business and industrial managers. This regulation was intended to save capitalism by reducing its abuses to a tolerable level.

Once the fear of the end of capitalism was ended, the managers wanted to go back to the old days. Since Roosevelt died in 1946, they have waged an unending battle behind the scenes to destroy or completely water down every Federal agency and its powers which

they see as a restriction on their profits.

President Reagan was the perfect front for these people because he is a great actor and can talk about how he is trying to help all of us keep more of our paychecks at the same time as his policies have destroyed millions of high-paying factory jobs and created, in their place, low-paying service jobs. He can boldly claim he wants to help restore family life while he has added millions of us to the poverty class, often forcing families to break up to qualify for welfare. In actuality, our standard of living is dropping rapidly, and 20,000,000 of us, including, 1,500,000 of us in this great state of New York, don't get enough to eat. Yet 65,000 farmers are likely to go bankrupt this year because, according to Mr. Reagan and his appointees, too much food is being produced! Government warehouses are overflowing with food while millions of our children suffer stunted physical and mental growth!

At the same time as millions of middle-class people have dropped into poverty, the wealthy have become wealthier, thanks to a high tax cut they got in 1981. Mr. Reagan wants to cut their income tax to a maximum of 35%, which is half of the maximum before he took office. (Of course, most wealthy people had tax loopholes to reduce their tax rate well below the maximum).

Mr. Reagan has also poured hundreds of billions of dollars into the defense companies, many of which are in his home state of California. These companies are so greedy that they cheat the government even though their normal profits are excessive, and no one goes to jail for it!

The people in general are still fooled by Mr. Reagan's smiles and jokes, and want to believe he isn't responsible for the bad things his administration does, but he is!

Sincerely,  
Frederick S. Lightfoot  
Greenport

### 'Not worth the sacrifice'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your editorial, "Shoreham Panel Needed", (Suffolk Life, March 5th) is excellent in logic and rhetoric! Re: the Challenger tragedy -- now that the Presidential panel declared the decision to launch this mission was "clearly flawed," I think everyone is motivated to ask, "Would our brave astronauts have gone aboard the Challenger if they had known their safety was being compromised for the sake of a schedule?" I hardly think so. Let us now, Re: The Shoreham Nuclear Plant, be cautious of

the Brookhaven National Laboratory scientists and Shoreham advocates putting dollars and schedules before public safety despite inherent danger -- and let us pray and hope that our President will create that special commission to thoroughly investigate the many warning signals. As you say, Mr Willmott "Safety First!"

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Giacinta Cooper  
Greenport