

# Bittersweet end of Shoreham

It's official! The ownership of the Shoreham nuclear power plant has been transferred from LILCO to the Long Island Power Authority. This means that the long struggle to prevent the plant from opening, threatening the health and welfare of the people of Long Island, has finally come to an end. This final step in the long journey to end the Shoreham threat is bittersweet.

There were many times in the long battle when those opposed to the plant would win a skirmish, only to discover somewhere down the road that the outcome of the war was very much in doubt. The opposition to the plant faced many obstacles including pressure from the very powerful and well-financed nuclear power industry which feared that

the end of Shoreham could bring the industry to its knees. The pressure applied in political circles made it possible for the nuclear proponents to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat time and again. Their dollars bought political favors and support, a sweetheart relationship between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which was supposed to regulate the industry and the utility and nuclear people, which kept the facility alive for years. Millions upon millions of dollars were thrust upon the shoulders of the ratepayers as a result.

In the end, it was the industry itself, the frequent reports of shoddy workmanship, the accident at Three Mile Island and the tragedy of Chernobyl which damaged the nuclear industry

more than the loss of Shoreham ever could.

There are many people who devoted endless hours to bring the Shoreham threat to an end. Too many people to attempt to identify here for fear someone would be left out. It is ironic, however, that the one instrument which offered a balance of power in the fight against the powerful utility and nuclear lobbies, the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), is now under attack with demands that it be abolished.

There are some who will attempt to grab credit for the Shoreham victory, but there is one inescapable fact—without LIPA, and the threat it held over the head of an arrogant utility, LILCO, the fight over Shoreham would have

ended differently. LIPA offered an alternative to LILCO—the threat of a takeover of the utility was the weapon used by Governor Mario Cuomo in forging his now-infamous deal with LILCO that brought their agreement to stop pushing for the plan in return for financial riches that will burden the people for years to come.

The Cuomo deal is the bitter part of the Shoreham aftermath. While Cuomo used LIPA as a weapon, he also stacked the deck of its membership so that he could control it totally. The Cuomo gang helped fashion the sweetheart deal with LILCO, and then became staunch salesmen of the proposal to garner agreement, even from the staunchest Shoreham foes, who argued it was necessary to kill the plant no matter what the impact on the people.

But it's over. Shoreham's nuclear threat is no longer in the hands of LILCO. The plant can now be decommissioned. And the fight will continue over whether it is economically wise to convert the facility from nuclear to natural gas. Those who do not want an alternative to the monopolistic utility stranglehold over the people of Long Island are urging LIPA be eliminated. It's interesting that many of these same voices were among the staunchest proponents of Shoreham. It makes one wonder what agenda they now have in mind.

Perhaps the most valuable lesson of the Shoreham battle is that the will of the people can make the difference. That no matter how powerful the foe, or how much politics rears its head, people can take a stand and say "NO!" and their message will be heard.

It is more important that this lesson remain a vivid memory. We have learned much from the Shoreham struggle. We were almost fooled once when we were told Shoreham would produce energy "too cheap to meter" and we ultimately learned that was not true. We were told nuclear power was totally safe, but the tragedy and the suffering of the people impacted by Chernobyl tells us different.

We were almost fooled once, shame on them. If we lose sight of what we learned from this battle, and are fooled again, shame on us.  
And why not?

# Deep pockets are empty

The recent announcement by the Diocese of Rockville Centre concerning the consolidation and closing of a number of parish Catholic schools provides an interesting and revealing comparison between parochial and public education. One has "deep pockets" and continues to dip into them for increased spending, while the other doesn't and must conform to financial limitations.

The Diocese plan calls for establishing seven regional schools, resulting from the merger of parish schools, which will cause the excessing of over 100 teaching positions and the elimination of five to eight administrative posts. The move was prompted, a spokesperson said, by a decline in the student population, the need for cost containment to ease the need for increased tuition, and limitations during current fiscal times in fund-raising capabilities. In short, sufficient finances were simply not there to continue as it has in the past, and changes were needed.

The same holds true for the public educational sector, with one big exception. The parochial schools do not have taxing capabilities, they are funded by voluntary participation and funding. The public schools simply increase the tax rates when the costs go up. Sure, the people can reject the school budget, but

if they do, an austerity budget is put into effect and in many instances there is little, if any, money saved. Meanwhile, the kids must walk, there is no sports activity, and a host of other "hurt the kids so their parents approve the budget" measures are also put into effect.

There is a growing groundswell of discussion over the need for public school districts to consider consolidation as a means of cutting costs. Consolidation will not come easy in the public education sector for a host of reasons. The potential loss of jobs, the loss of neighborhood schools, the "loss of local control" are but a few. Of course, the same applies to the parochial school arena—there was hurt and a host of concerns—but when there is a need for financial restraints and no deep pockets to dip into, there is little choice.

There should be a voucher system which would permit parents to send their children to the schools of their choice. Contributing to the financing with vouchers rather than tax dollars would go a long way towards encouraging good education. If parents feel a parochial education would best serve their children, they should be able to use their tax dollars to fund that school rather than pay additional tuition and tax dol-

lars to boot. If parents feel a neighboring district provides a better education, they should have the choice to send their children, and their tax dollars, there.

The mindset in the public education system is indicative of the problem. When consolidation is mentioned, public school officials are quick to insist that the state must provide financial incentives for such action to be considered. When a special committee was formed by the Diocese and that committee recommended consolidation as one means of cost containment, the action was ultimately taken. It was clear those who support parochial education could not be burdened with additional financial demands. While the same condition exists for those who support the public education sector, that realization has not yet sunk into the minds of those who control the spending habits.

It is time for an attitude adjustment in the public education sector. Time to realize that changes must be made to end the raid on the "deep pockets" of the taxpayers, which are now empty. Time to learn a valuable lesson from others who have taken the necessary steps to preserve education without bankrupting their financial supporters.

And why not?

# It's time for firm county leadership

It is no secret that Suffolk County is mired in red ink with a deficit that threatens to soar to figures in the \$200 million range. The fiscal crisis has cut into the police protection of the people of our county. They're paying more, but getting less. And, based on actions coming from the county legislature, there's little hope in sight.

The escalating cost of maintaining the county's police department, coupled with a belated awareness on the part of public officials that the taxpayers cannot bear any increases in taxes, has led to reductions in manpower and in the services rendered by the county.

has been proposed that the Suffolk County Police Department withdraw its coverage of state roadways, Sunrise Highway and the Long Island Expressway. This would free up at least 50 officers for use in sector car patrols in neighborhood areas. Since these are state roadways, the state should utilize its State Police force to patrol, enforce laws, and respond to emergencies, at state expense.

While little has been done to move on this proposal—a bill by Legislator Steve Levy which calls for a transfer of enforcement to the state police is still pending in the legislature.

county, according to cost analyses prepared at the request of Davis and Levy. What the cost analyses do not say, however, is how long it would take for the deputies to demand parity with the county salaries. How quick they would be to take legal action to demand "equal pay for equal work." Would our county legislators have the courage to stand up to these demands without buckling under the pressure? Have they in the past? The record is clear. The answer is "No!"

Critics of the proposal to have state police patrol the state roadways say the state does not have sufficient funds to properly maintain the patrols. And the

or lose the "need" for additional police which would bolster its membership ranks. It is a matter of pressure applied toward politicians who don't have the courage to stand up to such tactics. It is a matter of politicians coming up with a host of excuses, voiced without facts to back them up.

If Bob Gaffney wants to bring sanity to the fiscal affairs of this county, he will, without further delay, contact the governor and demand—not suggest or ask—that the state assume the responsibility of patrolling its own roadways. Gaffney should remind the governor that we have our own fiscal crisis, brought on in part by the state's mandates, reductions in aid revenues, and edicts which are costing millions in solving our garbage disposal crisis. The solution coming out of the state is a transfer. Lead-

Registration DISCOUNTS  
brookhaven country day camp  
OUR 24TH YEAR  
Call Today for DAVIS  
COLOR BROCHURE & VIDEO  
924-4033  
LONG ISLAND AVE.  
YAPHANK, N.Y.

With a deficit threatening to 475-0280  
Open: Daily 9:30-9  
Sat. 9:30-6;  
Sun. 11:30-5  
Open: Daily 9:30-9  
Fri. 'til 9 pm;  
Sun. 11:30-5

# Congress must take the cure

Most Americans are rightly fed up with corruption that is paralyzing Washington. Recently it was revealed that Suffolk County congressional representatives George Hochbrueckner, (1st. C.D.), Thomas Downey, (2nd. C.D.) and Robert Mrazek, (3rd. C.D.) have all regularly written checks for which they did not have money in the bank to cover, as did a large majority of other Congress people from California to Maine.

Writing a bad check is a sin most of us have committed once or twice over our lifetime. Normally we did some rotten bookkeeping, forgot to record a check, or just plain added or subtracted incorrectly. It was an exception, not the rule. With our congressmen, however, it was just the opposite.

There is a small majority of Americans who regularly kite checks or try to leverage or arbitrage checks to illegally make money. Banks cancel accounts if the practice persists. Generally, when it first happens the bank sends the check back to the person it was issued to and the culprit has to face the wrath of that person, who feels cheated. The practice puts credit ratings in jeopardy. Perpetrators who persist in this practice can end up going to jail because the practice is criminal.

Congress has exempted itself from these laws. Instead of the House of Representatives acting as the people's house, it is the privileged house. None of us should be surprised that Hochbrueckner, Downey or Mrazek took part in this practice. Through legislation they have supported, they have overspent and written bad checks by over-spending the federal budget. They have repeatedly spent more money than was budgeted, more than they were authorized to spend. This is not only poor fiscal management, but if you didn't have the ability to manufacture money you could go to jail. Congress, unfortunately, does.

Congress, in overspending our country's budget, has generally caused inflation, which has dissipated the real value of not only the country's money, but our own personal finances. As we have sadly learned in the past, inflation caused by overspending has reduced the real worth of a dollar. For every dollar we have in savings, or invested in bonds, the value is less. Each dollar we have has less buying power. It appears that Hochbrueckner, Downey and Mrazek have had an appetite for what they cannot afford, but lacked the fortitude and restraint to say, "We can't afford it." This whole scenario has carried over into their personal affairs.

Congress, as an institution, is insulated from the public. What they have done, how they have voted on specific bills, the public is generally unaware of. We have sent individuals back to Congress when we should have sent them to the unemployment line for their lack of responsibility, concern and ethics, and arrogant behavior.

We watched the final debate, on live coverage from the floor of the House, on this issue. The Speaker of the House, Democrat Thomas Foley, made a gallant effort to sweep this entire issue under the rug. He wanted to cover it up because of the embarrassment to Congress as an institution, and specifically to deny the American public full knowledge of the issue and of the size and scope of the abuses by the individual members. And because the scandal reflected upon the Democratic party, which has had sole control over Congress, the House Bank and the House Post Office.

As we watched the congressmen's attempt to defend themselves, it reminded us of a bowl of slimy worms as they tried

to slither out of their responsibilities for this scandal. If we had done the same thing and tried to use the same irrational reasoning, we would have gone straight to jail. Many representatives blamed the bank, which they controlled. Others tried to escape the blame by claiming their secretaries, their staff and even their wives were at fault. Some alluded to this as being a perk going back to the creation of the establishment. They claimed the bank was not a bank. That it was only their money involved, ignoring the millions of taxpayer dollars needed to support this congressional perk.

At the end of the hearing, the Speaker for the Minority, Republican Newt Gingrich of Georgia, made one of the better speeches we have heard to date. He pointed out that although the Republicans had no input into the congressional bank, that in the guise of congressional unity they were expected to be part of a nonpartisan responsibility. He pointed to many of the misrepresentations that had been made by his fellow congressmen. Most important was the revelation of a letter sent to all congressmen by the former House Speaker, Democrat Tip O'Neil, warning his colleagues that overdrafts would not be tolerated. If a check was written on insufficient funds and restitution was not made within 24-hours, the check would be returned to the Treasury as a bad check. This letter was sent out 14-years ago and it was a clear cut warning by the Democratic majority that this privilege was not to be abused. Congressmen who violated it would be embarrassed.

### Arrogance Vs. Honesty

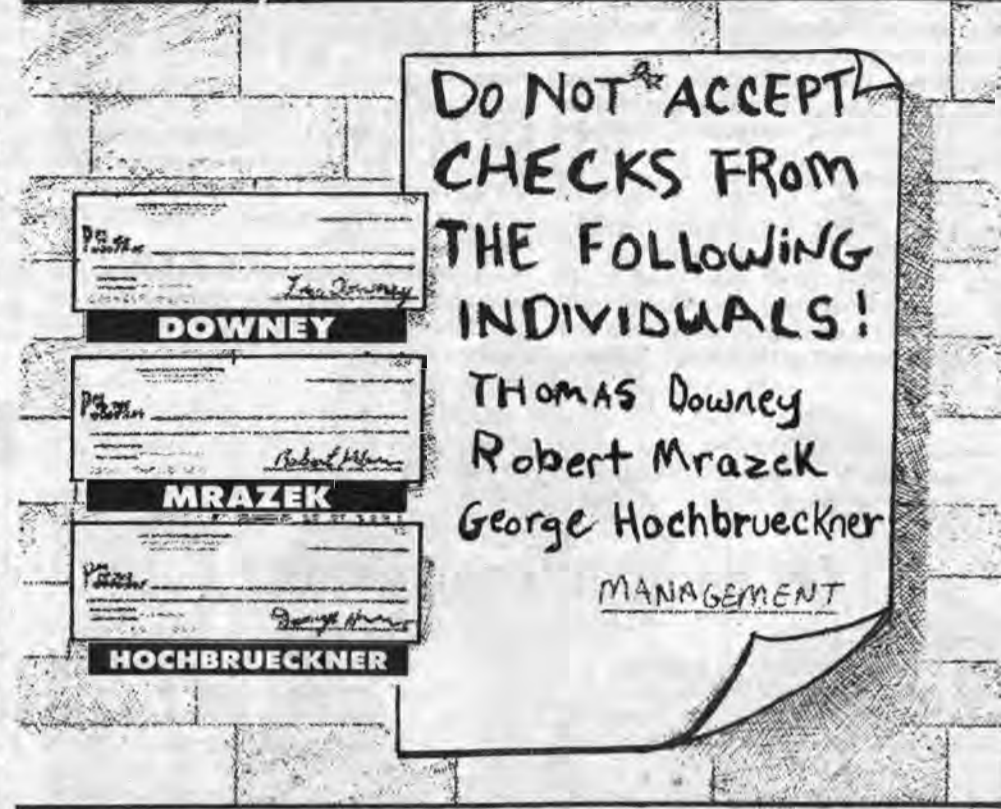
We personally have been embarrassed by our Suffolk County delegation violating our trust, and the pitiful excuses they have come up with to justify their actions.

Congressman George Hochbrueckner first denied he had written any bad checks. We had a tendency to believe him for George creates the illusion he is honest and sincere. Then we read where he justified his actions by saying that he followed a practice of writing checks for all of his bills the last week of the month, expecting his first of the month paycheck to cover them.

George is not a stupid man and he must have realized that you don't write a check before you have sufficient funds to cover it. It is a fraudulent practice that, if he was not a congressman and if he persistently did it, he would end up in jail. He alluded to the bank screwing up and not crediting his deposits in time. What would happen to you if you wrote checks and you had no money in your checkbook to cover them? You would be considered a deadbeat, pay penalties and have your reputation and credit ruined.

This is not the first time Hochbrueckner has been caught in a bending of the truth. During his bid for a second congressional term, George claimed to be an aeronautical engineer. He was trying to make us believe that as an aeronautical engineer he had special information and talent that would make him uniquely valuable to Long Island's airborne defense industry. We started to accept his argument when we recalled that during his State Assembly terms he had referred to himself as an electrical engineer who understood the Shoreham situation from this unique perspective. Hochbrueckner had a two or three year stint between being an assemblyman and becoming a congressman. We instinctively asked if during this period he had gone back to college and received a degree in aeronautical engineering? He said no, and then went into a defense by stating he really was a maverick engineer. As we had never heard of this term maver-

ick engineer, we pressed him further. It turned out that he did not have a degree or license as an engineer, as he had implied. A maverick engineer appears to be somebody who is not a graduate of an engineering college with a degree in engineering, but works in the engineering field without a degree or a license. Hochbrueckner has a likeable personality, he rarely is arrogant, but is not always truthful, particularly since he has become a part of the Washington establishment.



Downey, who has a propensity for being arrogant, stated that he had not bounced checks, they were only checks that were held. What bull. He can't even fess up to the truth when only an arrogant fool would fail to see it. He would have you believe it was his privilege as a congressman to take advantage of this perk.

Downey was caught with his pants down in another embarrassing incident when he was one of the subjects in a television news show which showed him on a vacation that was funded by lobbyists. He arrogantly defended this action by saying the lobbyist did not provide his transportation. Of course they didn't, we did as he flew at government expense. He made it appear that there was nothing wrong with a congressman enjoying a Caribbean vacation with many of the expenses being paid for by people who wanted to influence his vote. What do you think?

If you were in private industry and you conducted such an action without the approval of the owners of the business, you could be charged with embezzlement. If you were lucky you might be given an opportunity to resign. Your arrogance could not save you.

Downey has spent precious little time in his district. Technically he has kept a residence here, but his wife works in a patronage position for the House Sgt. of Arms, who ran the House Bank, and shares his life in Washington. His children are being brought up in Washington rather than in the district that he represents on Long Island. He is part of the Washington establishment, not a true representative of Long Island and its problems.

### In second spot

Bob Mrazek made the top ten of the list. In fact, it has been reported he is second biggest offender, and could well be vying for number one in repeat offenders. He chooses to blame the bank and the system rather than take responsibility for his reckless and illegal behavior. First he said it

was the tradition of the House. He then went on to further blame the House Bank for their incompetency, stating that the number of checks that he had overdrawn, numbering over 900, was in error. There couldn't have been that many. This tells you that if he wrote less rubber he should be considered just a little bit pregnant and therefore not guilty.

Mrazek, for the last six months, has been attempting to win the Democratic nomination for United States Senate. He has attacked the ethics of Senator Alfonse D'Amato, often times using innuendos which subsequently have turned out to be false. In good conscience, Mrazek cannot continue to pretend to be a saint when he has turned out to be one of the worst offenders in the Congressional Hall of Shame.

We are disappointed at the petty excuses by these three congressmen. Their arrogance shows through. There is little humility in the three men and there is a lot of apparent dishonesty in them. All three of the congressmen have violated the sacred trust that we have put in them. The three have attempted to blame the system, and it is the system that should be blamed. Any one of the three could have stood up in protest about the illegal and abusive practice by this institution, none of them had the guts, the courage or the belief in our system of democracy to do it.

The three of them go along to get along. People who have forgotten and do not fear the voter. They have each, individually, known about this abuse and many more that they are perpetrating on the American public. Even though they knew what they were doing was wrong, they did not have faith in the system that would have allowed a courageous congressman to stand up and go public for reform. Going against the leadership of the institution of Congress is tantamount to relegating yourself to hell.

This fear and this paralysis is paramount to ensuring the citizens of the United States will be abused. It has left most citizens believing that Congress is not an institution to be respected. Each congressional office costs us \$3.1 million. This is the total budget for the operations of a single congressional office. For the three districts of Suffolk County we are spending \$9.3 million. This investment by the citizens of Suffolk County pays for all the perks enjoyed by the individual congressmen, and produces the war chests

SEE Page 6

# Congress must take the cure

from page 5

they use every two years to get themselves re-elected. You think all the responses to your letters, the direct mail pieces you receive at home, the staff calls in answer to inquiries, as well as a number of other constituent services your congressmen provide are free? There is no free lunch.

Your congressmen are using your money to win re-election. You are paying through your taxes for everything that he does. You should seriously consider whether the \$6.2 million you give him to spend personally every two years is in your best interest.

Collectively and individually congressmen have broken their trust with you, the citizen. Not only have they broken the trust, they have treated you shamelessly, arrogantly, with complete confidence that they can do whatever they want. Chances

are strong that you will never find out about it, and they will continue to use your taxes to buy your vote.

This system has been going on so long that they feel they are immune from your individual reaction. Arrogance breeds contempt and Congress as an institution has shown blatant contempt for the voters and the taxpayers.

We, the citizens are responsible for the pathetic condition of our federal government. Our Washington representatives are so far away we don't have regular contact. We do not examine their voting records to find out if philosophically they are representing our beliefs.

At election time, we allow them to immediately go on attack, questioning the credentials of the challengers. We end up voting on personalities and keep the bums

in office no matter what crimes they are guilty of. We are the solution if we exercise our sacred right of voting, and vote for the right reasons rather than for the rhetoric or name recognition.

Knowing that we have this weakness we should be demanding congressional term limitations. Our founding fathers anticipated that representatives would be public servants, rather than greedy, career politicians. They believed people would go into public office, make a short contribution of two to four years and then leave office, having fulfilled their obligation, and return to private life. Today's congressional representatives, particularly the incumbents, have substituted self-service for public service. They look at Congress as a lifetime occupation. They seek out the office because of the numerous benefits and exemptions from the law that are enjoyed

by Congress. They spend more time preparing for re-election than they do on congressional business. They recklessly have fattened the congressional pie until almost all members look like stuffed pigs who barely can waddle while they go about rapping the public in the pursuit of self gratification.

Congress must know of the errors that they have committed. If they want to redeem themselves as an institution or as individuals, congressmen should immediately set about creating and passing a bill to limit the terms of Congress to two terms. Failure to enact into law a measure of this type should be a signal that Congress is more bent on continuing the pilfering than reforming itself.

If you are angry now, get angrier. There is more to come. And why not?



**SECRETARY SALUTE**--Arthritis Foundation's Salute to Secretaries Celebrity Chairperson and former New York Islander hockey player Clark Gillies, left, helps to "kick-off" the planning of the event, from left, with Finesse Promotions' Harvey Feinberg, WALK FM's Priscilla Lee and Chemical Bank Vice-President Dominic Scotto. The luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 22, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Melville. For information and a reservation form, call 427-8272. (FULL 354-K)

## Deficit plan...

from page 2

termination of 145 low-level union employees, of which 100 positions are filled and 45 are vacant to achieve a savings of \$1.5 million.

The Democratic proposal, according to Legislator Richard Schaffer (D-West Babylon), is not targeted at low-level county workers, but, instead, is designed to "whack political has-beens who do nothing for the county." He said he will vote against the omnibus package for several reasons, one of which, he said, is that the mandate relief provision offers "phony" revenues that are based on approval by state lawmakers.

Ryan said that the Democrats, who presented their layoff list to Gaffney after the press conference, spoke in "broad-based" terms and said they couldn't support the omnibus bill. "This is the first round of 'let's see who will bend'" he said.

So, according to Legislator Sondra Bachety (D-North Babylon), the legislature's minority leader, the battle lines appear to have been drawn, with Gaffney telling the Democrats that he has the necessary 10 votes to

pass the omnibus bill, and possibly 11 votes as of yesterday's meeting. None of the Democrats, she said, will support the package, including Legislator John Foley (D-Blue Point), who, she said, is against the layoffs.

Meanwhile, support for the layoffs offered by the Democrats has come from Charles Bender, president of Suffolk's Association of Municipal Employees, the county's largest union. "It sounds like somebody has finally woken up and realized the county should be cutting fat, instead of bone," he said.

As the melodrama was unfolding, a key player appeared to be Legislator Steve Levy (D-Holbrook), who proposed the Democratic layoff list, and who was being wooed by Republican lawmakers to support the omnibus plan. However, Levy said he won't support the omnibus plan unless certain changes are made, including tightening provisions regarding the hiring of outside legal counsel to close title on surplus county property; cutting some contract agencies but not abolishing some agencies outright; and incorporating

some of the layoffs proposed by the Democrats with those offered by the Republicans.

Levy, who labeled the meeting between the Democrats and Gaffney a "colossal waste of time," said that if the Republicans want his vote, they will have to work with him. "It's their call," he said.

However, the proposal offered by the Democrats has come under fire by Republican lawmakers, who said it falls far short of helping plug the county's deficit and is nothing more than "political showmanship," at a time when the county's financial stability is at risk.

Meanwhile, Presiding Officer Donald Blydenburgh (R-Smithtown) said he would be holding at least two caucus meetings prior to yesterday's legislative session to determine the level of support within the caucus for the omnibus plan. He rejected the idea of breaking the package up into separate components.

If the package goes down, Blydenburgh said he would file his own bill that calls for certain minor changes, but would also call for revamping the layoff provision.

## Redistrict plan...

from page 2

centage in Babylon to 46 percent by including more whites, and creates a minority district in Islip with a 54 percent black and Hispanic population. Like the GOP-sponsored plan, the Democratic initiative also draws the minority communities of Wyandanch and North Amityville into one district, but includes Amityville Village.

While the Democrats carved out a new district in Islip that includes Brentwood, Central Islip and North Bay Shore, the Republicans sliced up the Hispanic community of Brentwood into four separate districts.

Pointing out that the 1990 census would ideally allow for each of the 18 legislative districts to have a population of 73,437, Legislator Sondra Bachety (D-North Babylon), the legislature's minority leader, said the 18 districts proposed by the Democrats have popula-

tions that come within one percent of the mean number of 73,437. Variations of five and 10 percent from the mean that have been offered by the commission, she said, would defeat the purpose of redistricting, which is equal representation.

Bachety said the plan offered by the Democrats includes each village as a whole within a legislative district, while town boundaries were respected to the fullest extent possible. Hamlets and special districts, she said, are divided in some cases, but no more than is necessary.

Not so, according to Blydenburgh, who said the Democratic proposal was designed to eliminate his district and save the three Democratic districts in Babylon. And, he said, the Democratic proposal goes against the commission's suggestion of creating a minority district in Babylon.

Bachety disagreed with

Blydenburgh's assertions, saying the Democratic redistricting proposal was not aimed at "getting Blydenburgh," but was designed to unite minority communities in Islip, which, she noted, places Finlay and Rizzo in the same district. Yet, she said, the Democratic proposal also unites minority communities in Babylon, which, she said, affects her district, along with the districts of Legislators Richard Schaffer (D-West Babylon) and Maxine Postal (D-Amityville).

"So we tried to be open and conforming to the national voting rights act," Bachety said. "Are there elements of politics? Of course there are. But we tried to stay within one percent of the mean."

Bachety said the Democrats are willing to sit with Republican lawmakers and discuss elements of the Democratic redistricting plan, except for the minority district.

## Less than 5%

# Water rates rising

By Mark Woolley

The Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) Board of Directors was expected to pass a resolution last night increasing the authority's water rates by less than five percent, with the last rate increase coming some three years ago.

SCWA Chief Executive Officer Michael LoGrande said on Friday that the rate increase will cover a two-year period and will come to \$7.17 per year, or about 60 cents per month, for the average consumer. The authority's average consumer, he said, currently pays \$159.58 per year, and now will be paying \$166.75 per year.

"The increase is less than the cost of a can of Coke," LoGrande said, "and you're

better off drinking water."

With the increase covering a two-year period and no increase seen since three years ago, LoGrande said that means the authority's water rates have changed by only 12 cents per month per year over a five-year span. The SCWA's 300,000 consumers, he said, currently pay \$1.18 per 1,000 gallons and will pay \$1.24 per 1,000 gallons under the rate hike.

The single largest factor for the rate increase, LoGrande said, is the cost to the authority in electric bills from the Long Island Lighting Co. (LILCO) for operating the authority's water pumps. The SCWA, which has been paying LILCO \$10 million per year in electricity costs, he said, has seen an increase of more than 10 percent, or \$2 million to \$3

million, in electric rates over the past two years.

In addition, LoGrande said, the rate increase will cover the borrowing of \$55 million by the authority this year at an interest rate of six percent, the lowest interest rate seen in about 20 years. The borrowing, he said, will cover water main extensions, along with the purchase of seven water companies that can't meet water quality standards.

LoGrande said the state Public Service Commission has been asking the SCWA to purchase the water companies, and said the rate increase also will allow the authority to keep up with contemporary drinking water standards by putting in such things as carbon filtration systems in SCWA-owned wells.