

Happy Mother's Day

This Sunday is Mother's Day, a day specifically set aside to honor the women of the world that we have neglected to honor during the other 364 days of the year.

Some of us have been lucky in that we have had super moms. Some of us were not as lucky and we had "okay" moms. But there are darn few people in this world who haven't had a mom who didn't go that extra mile to help us when we needed it.

My mom was one of these special people. As a kid, I remember although I did not realize it at the time, the sacrifices she made for myself and my sisters. By nature she was a career woman, highly efficient and effective. This she put aside to be a full time mother.

Growing up, never once did I hear her complain about being there to be our nurse, our cook, our house cleaner, our chauffeur. When I hurt, her antennas were tuned, she knew

it. Even when I didn't want to, she would get me to talk about what was bothering me. She prodded, even henpecked about doing homework, encouraging us to strive for self improvement, warning and cautioning about the world as it really is. My development as a human being and of my sisters, was her ultimate challenge and desire in life. I think my Mom was a great mother and I love her for being herself.

As I have watched her age, it has been with some sorrow for the roles are reversed and her pride will not allow her to take the help I want to give, offer the ear that wants to listen, the advice that is needed. It's the difference in the generations, the age gap.

Like all Mom's though, she is my sweetheart, my first, and I want for her the best that the world can offer.

Happy Mother's Day. And why not?

Gas Lines (1983)

You're kidding yourself if you think gas lines are a thing of the past. You're also kidding yourself if you think that the reason for the gas lines was O.P.E.C. and a lack of oil.

Currently, there is supposed to be a glut of oil on the market, caused by conservation efforts of industrial nations. There may well be a glut, there probably was just as much of a glut during the time when we were told there was not enough gasoline and oil to go around. It is our belief that this glut was manufactured.

The price we pay at the meter has nothing to do with normal supply and demand, but more so with manipulation of the market by those who control the marketing mechanism and the interference with this mechanism by the government.

Last week, in the financial pages of a daily newspaper, we noted that gasoline costs on the West coast had increased 3 cents a gallon. How can prices increase if there is a glut? Doesn't the law of supply and demand come into play? This increase was projected to hit the East coast within

a week to ten days. We also noted that the gasoline refineries were only operating at 65 per cent of capacity. At 65 per cent of capacity who can make money? Wouldn't it make sense in a competitive situation for someone of the refineries to up production, offer cut-rate gasoline and get the business? Of course it would, if there was not an agreement and there was genuine competition between the Seven Sisters, the major oil companies.

Also, further reading revealed that on the spot market, the difference between leaded and unleaded gasoline at the wholesale level, was 2 cents a gallon. The difference between regular and unleaded at the pump (retail) is eight to twelve cents per gallon. Government regulations require you to use unleaded in most cars so, of course, the oil companies gouge you for it.

It would not surprise us in the least that during next winter's heating season, we start to hear of spot shortages. Next summer when we start to use our cars more frequently,

gasoline goes up over the \$1.50 level. This will particularly become true if America returns to its love of large cars, forsaking the more economical models.

If oil-dependent companies like LILCO are permitted to institute advertising, campaigns paid with ratepayers' money to encourage additional use of electricity, we will again see energy problems. Such

advertising a year ago would have been considered sacrilegious. It is no less today.

We recommend you keep the speed down, drive no more than is necessary, cut back on your use of the air conditioner and other heavy electrical consumption products. Let's not create another manufactured energy shortage.

And why not?

Thank God For "The Quacks"

The interveners, the individuals, the organized groups who have fought the mighty Long Island Lighting Company's efforts to ram an unsafe Shoreham down our throats deserve all Long Island's gratitude.

Last week, *Newsday* published an editorial insinuating that these interveners were quacks. On one hand they complimented the County Executive for his recent gumption in standing up to LILCO and demanding a complete safety inspection. On the other, they criticized him for paying credence to these people and asking that their attorney be included in the negotiations, and that their demands for inspection be fully met.

Normally, a newspaper is concerned about the area it serves. Unfortunately, *Newsday* has done little to act as a watchdog of the Shoreham nuclear plant. This role was delegated by *Newsday* by fiat to the interveners. They became the watchdog the daily newspaper should have been.

It has been a long, cold, hard battle for them. Working with a limited means and limited professional staff, but an avowed, almost fanatical concern for safety in the future, they have asked, prodded, probed and demanded LILCO act as a responsible

member of the Long Island community.

LILCO's response has been antagonistic, arrogant and self serving. They have ridiculed the interveners' motives and actions. They have attempted to belittle their concerns, making light of legitimate and serious requests.

Through all of this the interveners held tight and now, at the eleventh hour, after the County Executive and the Legislature's intervention, LILCO appears at least willing to talk.

The County must be able to hire outside inspectors to answer all questions raised by the interveners. If LILCO's Shoreham nuclear plant is to go on line, we must be sure that it meets every criteria for safety proposed by the County and by the interveners. It is our life and the life of our children, the heritage of Long Island, our property and the future we are gambling with.

We would think Long Island's so called newspaper would recognize the legitimate fear and concern of the great majority of the people and, instead of cloaking their voices in support of LILCO, would demand peace of mind and protection for the people of Long Island.

And why not?

True Cost of Education

Taxpayers and voters will receive their annual dose of packaged confusion in the annual reports and budgets presented by local school boards for their ratification or rejection. When all the nonsense is stripped away, there are only a couple of figures you really have to keep in mind.

First, the enrollment this year, last year and five years ago. Divide the enrollment into the budgets and you will have the cost of education per student. How much has the cost of education gone up per student? If the cost of education per student has gone up more than 5 or 6 per cent, your school board has not done the job it should have. It has not controlled costs the way you have had to personally.

As a taxpayer, as a citizen, yes, even as a parent of a student in the system, do yourself a favor, vote "no." The school budget, our federal, state, county and town governments have been somewhat successful or at least are attempting to put a cap on taxes. They are attempting to control their appetite for spending the tax-

payers' hard earned income. School boards for some reason consider themselves sacred cows, who should be able to increase expenditures at will.

We are not advocating cutbacks in education, just holding the line. Six per cent should cover inflation, particularly when you consider a portion of school expenditures is for fixed, long term obligations that do not rise with inflation. Wages within the system, are higher than those throughout the nation. They may be entitled to increases to keep up with inflation, but not create inflation themselves.

Our recommendation, district by district, is to simply vote "no" against any district budget where the cost per student has increased more than 6 per cent.

We encourage everyone who is eligible to vote to turn out at the polls. It only takes a few minutes to go in and pull a lever. In doing so, you may be keeping your real estate taxes from increasing.

And why not?

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SUFFOLK LIFE

VOL. 21 No. 37

and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900 Classified Ads 288-5000
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Riverhead
Hampton East
Mid Hampton
Westhampton
Moriches

Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centerach

Selden
Covarr
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village



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Making The Most Of It

Memorial Day, the official start of the summer season, is just a short time away. Already we are feeling and enjoying the impact of visitors to this area.

These visitors are a literal gold mine. They bring to this area, fresh, new money and a willingness to spend it. They are initially attracted by our beaches, our water and our semi-rural way of life. From a governmental standpoint they require little in services. From an economic standpoint, they pour millions of dollars into our economy and the taxes raised help pay for year-round services.

These visitors are a valuable asset and should be treated as such. As you know from being away on vacation yourself, the friendliness of the natives is often more important than the weather or the natural beauty of the facilities available.

A smile can warm the whole day. "Thank you for your patronage" can be an invitation to come back. Calling a person by their name is an indelible sign of friendship. This is easily done in today's day and age of plastic where most people pay for their purchases with a credit card on which their name is embossed.

The "in" spot for a vacation is a changeable commodity. What's "in" today, is "out" tomorrow, usually killed by insensitive natives or greedy, short-sighted business people. If each of us who are involved with the tourist trade makes a commitment to be gracious, friendly,

and fair in our dealings, we can insure many years of good vacation trade. One sourpuss or gouging entrepreneur can spoil the system for everyone.

We here at Suffolk Life are putting our best foot forward with our Suffolk Life Magazine. This magazine has been created and is published for the vacation trade. We try to make it easy for our visitors to determine what is going on, where and how to best spend their vacation and their money. Editorially we feature a different aspect each week of our vacation land and how best to use these facilities. We offer our visitors a guide to the better restaurants, night spots, a comprehensive review of fishing and water sports.

We have deliberately kept the cost of advertising in this publication very low, so that all resort-orientated businesses can present themselves in the best light to our vacationers. The magazine is distributed every Friday, just in time for the weekend, through over 350 outlets on the North and South Forks.

It is our desire that all vacationers coming into the area receive a copy of this leisure review and guide to the greatest vacation land in the world, Eastern Long Island.

We hope everyone involved with our vacation trade will go that one step forward in making the summer of '82 on Eastern Long Island, the best vacation our visitors can ever have.

And why not?

Retirement Ripoff

Since July 1, 1976, public employees joining the State Pension System have contributed 3 per cent of their salaries toward their retirement. This is in contrast to most states that require 5 per cent, and some other states that require as high as 9.5 per cent. Employees who have come into the system since 1976, are called Tier 3 workers.

The State Legislature is under siege by the Municipal Employees Union and lobbyists, who are attempting to persuade this body to transfer the entire cost of funding pensions onto the backs of the taxpayers. The elimination of Tier 3 would increase the town's, county's and state's pension obligation from 9 per cent to at least 14 per cent of the payroll cost, and this percentage would increase each year as wages increased with inflation and more new employees entered the system. It is estimated that this unfunded liability will cost \$500 million.

The Municipal Employees Workers Unions know that this is an election year, a year when state legislators have a track record of caving in to self-serving pressure groups. If these municipal workers get their way, school taxes will be dramatically increased, as will the town's and county's portion of real estate taxes. State income or sales taxes will have to be increased, or necessary programs affecting those in need,

would be eliminated or cutback to offset this impact.

As it stands now, all state and local employees covered by the State Pension System receive, on top of their salaries, bonuses of 8.8 per cent that go into the pension fund. They want to revert to Tier 2. That will require us, the taxpayers, to increase this percentage to 13.7 per cent.

Most non-government unions are realistically looking at survival. They are giving back some of the benefits they received during good times. They realize to have any jobs, their company must be profitable.

Government workers care little if we are in good or bad times. They believe the taxpayers will pay more, no matter what the economic conditions are. They want more even though the people who are paying the taxes have less.

You can bet your Assemblymen and State Senators will cave into the pressures that they are under from municipal workers, unless they hear from you in droves, stating emphatically that you oppose the elimination of Tier 3. Write, call, talk to them today.

The Municipal Workers Unions are pressuring their membership into contacting these legislators. If you don't contact them, don't cry about the increase in taxes you will pay.

And why not?

Public Cars Should Be Publically Identified

During last year's Councilmatic races, we asked the prospective candidates whether they felt they should be provided with a car at the taxpayers' expense. The successful candidates in Brookhaven, Tony LoSquadro, Don Zimmer and Eugene Gerrard, all said "no." Before they even knew their way to the john, they voted to give themselves a taxpayer paid luxury car with free insurance, maintenance and gas.

Their sickening argument for going back on their word, deceiving the taxpayers, was that they were not qualified to keep the necessary records to receive taxpayer paid reimbursement for mileage actually used in government business on their personal cars.

It recently became known that not only were these cars at their disposal, but they were not identified through either license plates or town seals. Steve Burke, who has become notorious in his own right, claimed that the reason for a lack of identification was that they did not want the voters to be able to identify these cars when they were parked in front of a restaurant or a bar on legitimate business. He claimed that often they are at restaurants or bars for

meetings. Voters can see the cars and get the wrong impression.

These are the public's cars and they have a right to know where and what their officials are using them for. There may be occasional confusion, just as there may be occasional abuse. Councilmen are not saints and, to our knowledge, none of them are teetotalers. If we had our way, official cars would be painted passionate pink with maroon polka dots. From the front bumper to the back would be painted in one foot letters, "this car is being used by Councilman X X X, at the taxpayers expense."

We feel these councilmen and their senior brethren on the Brookhaven Town Board violated the trust by going back on their word and taking these cars in the first place.

We understand the County Legislature and several of the top executives are also using cars that are not marked "official." They, too, should be so identified, preferably with the name of the person the car is assigned to.

If these vehicles can be easily identified, we think those who are using them would think twice about abusing the privilege.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"To All Blood Donors"

Do you know what really happens to your blood? Unless a person (who needs a blood transfusion) has a really good coverage insurance policy or is on medicare, medicare, or welfare. They can not afford to accept your free blood.

A person paying their own way is charged by the hospital for blood tests and cross matching tests \$50.00 to \$100.00 depending on the hospital — then there is a processing fee \$50.00 and up depending on type of blood required and finally a charge of \$45.00 to \$60.00 for use of the emergency room to receive the free blood and extra charges for any equipment used — even the bandaid is charged for. So \$145.00 for a pint of free blood is a minimum charge.

It seems the hospitals have made a profitable scheme out of blood transfusions; the person with coverage doesn't question costs; so, only the person who pays their own way finds out how much the hospital charges to give you free blood.

I feel it is outrageous — if you the donor can give of your time (at hospital convenience) and your very body to help others it seems the least the hospital could do is to make all

services and tests to giving a blood transfusion free. Why shouldn't they match your generosity.

If all donors decided not to give blood in May, June and July the shortage of blood would bring all elective surgery to an end — slow down operating rooms and leave open beds in recovery rooms and the surgical care units. Perhaps this would be enough to change hospital policies; the financial lost in surgery would be much greater than to give the tests and transfusions free.

Think before you give again, it could be a relative of yours unable to accept free blood because of hospital fees, question the hospital — let then know your reasons for hesitating to give again; also, discuss this matter with the Long Island Blood Association 752-7300.

When you call a hospital to find out their costs no body has any answers; they switch you back and forth between departments — how is a hospital run if nobody has a price list, any other business has a price list and many are required by law to post these lists why not a hospital.

Yours truly
L. Donoto
Patchogue

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Controlling Renters and Rentees

Slums rarely develop where individuals own their own homes. Although it would be desirable, not everyone can afford to own their own home, so some must rent.

There are good landlords as there are good tenants and there are unscrupulous landlords and destructive tenants. A combination of the latter is generally the breeding ground for slums.

This problem has been addressed by town governments for years. Laws have been placed on the books requiring landlords to pass health standards and maintain their facilities in proper condition. This has not eliminated slums because it only addresses half the problem.

The Riverhead Town Board recently held a public hearing on a series of laws requiring owners of property to maintain them in good condition, and also limit the number of people that can occupy a structure, banning multiple families from residing in the same building. The law, once again, puts the total onus on the landlord.

We attended this public hearing and as testimony was developed, it became very clear that the Town Board should not only require per-

formance from landlords, but also from tenants. We recommended to individual members of the Town Board that they consider licensing both landlords and tenants within the town. Each upon receipt of a rental license or certificate would be required to sign a lease agreement which would spell out in detail the obligations and responsibilities of both parties.

If either party violated these principles, or the town is made aware of a violation, the license of either party can be suspended. If the lessor is at fault, the property could be taken off the rental rolls. If it is the lessee's fault, his permit to rent within the town would be suspended.

We have discussed this proposal with a couple of landlords who rent substantial amounts of property. They feel that a system of this nature would be workable, they could live with it. Tenants also felt that it would give them a legitimate mechanism for grievances, one they currently do not enjoy. The community itself would be the major beneficiary, as its housing stock would be upgraded, to meet the minimum community standards.

And why not?

Less Than Honest

Last week, the management of LILCO presented to the state their evacuation plan for the Shoreham nuclear plant. In typical arrogance, LILCO claimed that this was the plan Suffolk County had developed for the evacuation in case of an accident. Frank Jones, deputy county executive, was rightfully enraged at LILCO's assertion.

Jones insists the county has not completed an evacuation plan, they are just in the preliminary stages. They are currently only working with bits and pieces of information, and have a long way to go before completing their efforts. For LILCO to make the assertion that their plan is the county's plan is not only less than honest, but a fabrication of the truth.

If LILCO attempts such a blatant scam while under public scrutiny, what else concerning Shoreham should be questioned? This whole situation is frightening, particularly when you consider that any shortcomings performed or allowed by LILCO could, in reality, cause us to lose our lives and our property.

The development of a workable evacuation plan is a matter of serious consequences because there may well be an accident. There is no way that LILCO can guarantee that it won't happen!

A nuclear generating plant should never have been built on Long Island. There are too many people within a close proximity to the plant. Depending upon how the wind is

blowing, millions of people can be affected. Geographically, we live on an island, our only land escape is over the congested bridges and tunnels to the city.

The State must turn down LILCO's proposal based upon simple preliminary research by the County that, by any stretch of the imagination, is not a complete plan. Until LILCO can come up with a plan for evacuation that will cause the least amount of confusion and loss of life, LILCO must not be allowed to fuel this potential death bomb.

LILCO's efforts to have a less than complete evacuation plan approved

by state officials is nothing more than an effort to shortchange the public in the most important areas of health and safety. If LILCO continues to insist the plan for which they seek approval is workable, let it be put to an actual test with a full fledged evacuation drill before, not after, an accident happens.

If such a test indicates an orderly evacuation is not possible, further efforts to activate the plan should end. The lives of Suffolk residents are much more important than profit for LILCO officials and stockholders.

And why not?

Rebuild the Democratic Party

Last year, Democrats lost badly in almost every town. This was predictable in the early Spring. It had nothing to do with the quality of candidates or the differences in philosophy. It had everything to do with the organization and the lack of Democratic leadership.

In Brookhaven Town, one of the largest in the state, the organization went into the general election with a war chest containing less than \$10,000. They need at least \$100,000. In Southampton Town, the organization, for the first time, had a budget, but the party was split right down the middle in a conflict of personalities and philosophies. Other towns were also plagued with lack of funds and a lack of effective organization.

When the polls closed, it became evident that the Democrats had suffered one of the worst defeats in their history in Suffolk County. The Republicans had regained one party rule. One party, whether it be the Democrats or the Republicans, in total command is not healthy for the people or their government.

This year, the rank and file Democrats can do something to change the past. This is the official Democratic re-organization year. Every other year, all committeemen seats and all leadership positions are up for election in primary balloting.

If you are a Democrat and you do not know who your Democratic committeeman is you, for all intent and purposes, do not have a committeeman who is worth his salt. A committeeman is the foundation of the party and of our government. An effective committeeman not only knows all registered voters in his district, but regularly seeks out their opinion on party matters and on the government as a whole.

The position of committeeman is the most important link in our whole governmental system. It is the closets form of government we enjoy. Committeemen are the backbone of political organizations and the government.

The Democrats took a beating last election because the rank and file of the Democratic party were not represented or given an opportunity

to take part in the various races. Many committeemen spots were not filled with residents of the district. Those that were, had committeemen in them that did not work.

This September, on Primary Day, the Democrats can rebuild their entire party by bringing fresh blood into the organization, new committeeman and meaningful leadership. If you are proud to be a Democrat, if you believe in the philosophy of the Democratic party, you should consider becoming a committeeman. The first step in the process is to discuss your willingness to be a committeeman with your town leader. If he fails to recommend you for a committeemanship, and your district is not properly represented by the current committeeman, you should consider running a primary race against this person.

The procedure is fairly simple. You only have to gather signatures from 5 per cent of the registered Democratic voters in your district and submit their names in proper petition form to the Board of Elections to be placed on the ballot. A few inexpensive printed pieces about yourself, your qualifications and your philosophies should be the only expenditure you might incur.

Door to door canvassing of your district is a must. In most districts, there are between 100 and 200 registered voters, not an overwhelming large number of people to be seen. Most of these voters have never been visited by a committeeman. They have never been asked for their support. They will be flattered by your contact and may well even volunteer to help your cause.

If you and many other concerned registered Democrats go this route, you can rebuild the Democratic party into a viable, and needed political organization. When it comes to the general election, you and your counterparts will make the difference and elect qualified Democratic candidates to office.

We encourage you to become active and to rebuild your party so that Suffolk will be a two party county. And why not?

Letters to the editor

Dear Mr. Rosso!

Thank you for making our Mastic Beach a better place to live in especially for the Senior Citizens.

Fighting for our health center, clean water etc.

It was a pleasure to have voted for you and

to have spoken with you on several occasions.

Wishing you the best in life and may God grant it be a long one.

"I love Mastic Beach" and have lived here since 1963.

Mrs. Sonia Homanock
Mastic Beach

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LILCO Has An Ally

Which is more important: The completion of the Shoreham nuclear plant by early 1983 in time for its scheduled start up, in order to save additional costs because of a delay? Or, the safety of the residents of Suffolk County?

In our mind there is only one answer: The safety of the public comes first, above all financial considerations. The cost of LILCO's Shoreham fiasco has risen so dramatically through its construction stage because of mismanagement, it is ludicrous for anyone to voice concern now about added costs at the expense of total safety for Suffolk's residents.

And yet that is exactly what is happening. LILCO time and again declares there is no danger. They insist accidents will not happen, and thus there is no need for an evacuation plan, nor for any opposition to the plant. Anyone who says otherwise is labeled an "emotional alarmist." LILCO would have us believe Three Mile Island never happened. Nor did the nuclear mishaps at other plants. So called experts said the same things about the atomic bomb tests years back, and people are suffering and dying today because those "experts" were wrong. Experts said there was no danger connected with Agent Orange. But ask the people who were exposed. And who suffer. The experts were dead wrong, and many innocent people are now dead. Period.

LILCO has a strong ally in the form of Newsday. Time and again Newsday pours forth editorial opinions that would appear to come directly from LILCO's public relations office. A recent example came last Friday when Newsday took county officials to task for blasting LILCO's efforts to get state approval for an incomplete evacuation plan. Newsday claims evacuations have been carried out in other areas with no planning, and cites an instance in which 200,000 people were evacuated "in a day or so" from a Canadian city on Lake Ontario to escape a possible chlorine explosion. Newsday then claims Suffolk County should be able to handle a smaller, planned evacuation.

Both LILCO, which has used the

same example time and again, and its ally in the daily press, Newsday, apparently choose to ignore some major differences between the Canadian incident and a nuclear mishap in Suffolk, evacuation in a "day or so" to escape a "possible" chlorine explosion simply does not compare with the threat of radiation let loose into the atmosphere, spreading potential death wherever it goes. The impact of radiation exposure in the "day or so" would certainly have a more meaningful impact than did the "possible" chlorine explosion.

How many escape routes were available to those Canadian evacuees? How many are available to residents of Suffolk, an island which permits escape in but one direction — to the west. For East End residents that escape is directly toward the nuclear accident. Should the radiation plume head southward, the escape route is cut off. Comparing the Canadian evacuation with a Suffolk evacuation is like comparing cannons and water guns.

In another LILCO-like article, Newsday recently penned a scenario of an evacuation following a nuclear mishap. In that scenario, Little Johnny was bussed home from school, where he met his Mother, and they got into their car and headed west, toward Brooklyn where Father was going to meet them at Grandmother's house. Newsday envisioned smooth flowing traffic, and the evacuees reached their destination within five hours. Sounds great, just as LILCO would have spun that tale.

There is another version, however. Perhaps Mom was not home when Little Johnny got there — nuclear mishaps do not happen on schedule or with advance notice — and Johnny was on his own 'till she arrived. Their car got a flat. There was an accident on the Long Island Expressway, blocking two lanes. Earlier, cars coming from all directions converged at the entrance ramp, creating a tie-up that extended for miles and lasted for hours.

Perhaps these things can't happen in the wildest dreams of LILCO or Newsday, but they happen time and again during normal times. Are we to believe that people fleeing with their

families will not have accidents? Or flats? That there won't be traffic jams?

At what cost? If the deadly radiation is headed your way and you are desperate to get your kids and your wife to safety, are you going to stop to help someone fix a flat? Or wait patiently for another car to get on the highway before you?

Offering a scenario that projects only the smooth evacuation of thousands of people, when the opposite may well be the case, does a disservice to the public. To assume

the best is to ignore the worst. And people could die because of it.

Suffolk County officials who oppose LILCO's tactics in trying to have an incomplete evacuation plan approved are to be applauded, not condemned. They are acting in the best interests of the public. They are placing the health and welfare of the public before the consideration of construction costs and stockholder profits. And that's the way it should be!

And why not?

Let Us Not Forget

The war between Argentina and Great Britain over the Falkland-Malvinas Islands is a grim reminder this Memorial Day that wars are not a thing of the past.

Most of us who are over 40 have vivid recollections of World War II, the fright that was felt when the air raid sirens screamed their message. Of seeing friends and neighbors in uniform ordered overseas to fight for our liberty here in this country.

Their faces looked old to me then for I was but a mere boy. Yet watching television recently, and seeing the British Marines in training, I could not help but think: "But they are just kids." I remember how my parents wept when, in World War II, word reached home that some of those who went overseas would not be coming back. Others that I knew as a child came back as changed men, some physically, some psychologically, all emotionally.

Memorial Day is the day our government sets aside to remember all those who have fought, including

those who came home and those who didn't. During the Korean War, and particularly the Vietnam War, patriotism, honor and respect for those that put their lives on the line lost its meaning. Because it was a war that was not understood, and seemed to serve no purpose, many felt we should not have been involved in Vietnam. Only history will tell who was right.

But the fact of the matter is, American men and women volunteered or were drafted. Their country called them to arms, and they went. They suffered the indignities, the hardships, the maiming and killing, fighting for what the leaders of this country considered right.

This Memorial Day we ask every American to stop for a moment in their pursuit of happiness, look skyward and pray to God for the souls of those who did not come home, for His help to keep us out of war, and the end of hostilities between men and nations.

And why not?

What Value Is The U.N.?

To participate in and house the United Nations in New York City, American taxpayers spend millions of dollars each year. In theory it is a small price to pay in the quest of peace. In reality, the UN is nothing more than a bureaucratic maze of hot air.

Since its creation, it has never had the ability to settle disputes or maintain peace around the world. The UN's failure to achieve this goal has been pointed out all too clearly in the Falkland-Malvinas Islands conflict. If there ever was a situation the United Nations should be able to resolve peacefully, it was this situation.

Both Argentina and England are our allies. Between the start of the agitation and the time the first troops landed, there was ample opportunity for a strong world body to mediate a

solution. This opportunity came and went without the UN being capable of commanding world peace. Now over 400 citizens of Argentina and England are dead, hundreds more are injured. Millions of dollars in property has been destroyed, and both countries are on the brink of committing thousands of others to die because the UN lacked the power to act as a strong arbitrator and enforce a cease fire.

We should re-examine the value of the UN. Why throw good money after bad? If the United Nations can't be made to function, why participate? Having a body that is nothing more than an illusion of a peace-keeping organization is worse than having none. We hope the Reagan administration and Congress will re-evaluate our support of this body.

And why not?

Letter to the editor

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Now that the Southampton Town Board has decided to permit an unlimited number of housekeeping boats to berth in town waters for an unlimited duration, passage of any anti-windsurfing legislation is superfluous. For who would want to windsurf on Shinnecock Bay as it becomes more and more polluted from the discharges from innumerable residential boats?

Also unnecessary will be the expense of the annual clam transplant. For who will

authorize transplanting seed clams from one polluted area to another?

Sincerely yours,
Esther F. Russell
Quogue

Ed note:

They did not decide to allow, they chose not to disallow.

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