

## Happy Mother's Day

It's my customary practice before I go to sleep to pray. I thank God for the strength, the wisdom and the opportunity to serve him that he has given me during the day. I pray for my deceased parents, asking for forgiveness of their sins and that they are now resting at peace, in heaven.

Other night it took me longer than normal to fall asleep. I was thinking back on both my Mom and Dad, the good times and the bad we shared together. How I would like to be able to reverse time and have them both back with me. I thought of the many times, the opportunities I had to share parts of my life, to spend time with them, and failed. It always seemed something else was more important. Time spent with them could be taken for granted and put off. Yet, looking back, I can well remember when I was growing up all the times they had made themselves available to me when it wasn't convenient for them.

Those of you who are lucky enough to have a mother, spend some time with her. Particularly if she is elderly, remember many of her friends may have already gone and, loneliness is her worst enemy. It doesn't have to be long extended visits, sometimes even an unexpected phone call can break the monotony and be a joy. Try to do just a little bit of what she has done for you. Most Moms gave up a big chunk of their life so that you would have a better life than she enjoyed. Show her that you care, that you love her.

This Sunday is Mother's Day, but it isn't only this Sunday that we are talking about. Pay special homage to her Sunday, but give her the respect that she has earned and deserves the rest of the year as well. Do this now and you won't have to regret it when you can no longer do anything about it.

And why not?

around the reactor, as do most here in the United States, but not all. Many of the U.S. plants are boiling water reactors. Many of the plants here in the U.S. have a containment area around them that, in theory, will contain radiation from being released over a wide area. It won't in a worst case disaster where there is an uncontrolled core meltdown.

The Cuomo Commission heard testimony from a noted nuclear physicist who explained what could happen to one of our reactors if it went critical, as the Russian reactor did. Presumably, if the cooling system and the backup cooling system failed, the uranium fuel would go critical and reach a temperature that would cause the boiling water and the cooling water system to become steam. The pressure from the steam would cause the containment area, most likely at the top, to break apart.

The top of the containment vessel would be propelled 2,200 feet skyward. The radioactive steam and the waste caused by the fuel burning uncontrollably would cause devastation over an area from Boston to Washington. Thousands of people, those closest to the plant and downwind of the explosion, would be killed immediately. Others would receive a lethal dose of radiation causing death within days, weeks or months. Hundreds of thousands of others further away from the plant would contract cancer and be doomed in the end. There is no cure for radiation poisoning. Once you have received a lethal dose, you are dead.

We as mortal men have been tampering with nature and God's providence with nuclear power for too long. The facts about the future are plain enough for all to see. The accident that happened in Russia could have very well happened at Shoreham if it was licensed, or could happen in any one of the 80 odd nuclear power plants in operation in the U.S. today.

The nuclear industry has cloaked the dangers of nuclear power in secrecy and our federal government has fed this deception. We have heard charges that this accident happened in Russia because the plant was ill-conceived and built by people who are sloppy workers and did not care. Aren't these the same charges that gained our attention and developed our early suspicions about Shoreham?

Are we not talking about a plant built deliberately by a company over a running artesian well that they attempted to plug? Are we not talking about a 820 megawatt plant that has been compressed into space that originally was allocated for a 520 megawatt system? This compression caused huge changes in design, retrofits to piping, plumbing and electrical service, all which may be fatally flawed.

Are we not talking about a plant

that was constructed while allegations of drunkenness by workers, feather bedding by unions, deliberate sabotage to systems were rampant? Are we not talking about a plant its management knew could not be operated because they had purchased faulty backup generators, but were willing to bet they could get the N.R.C. to approve them? Are we not talking about a plant that has been physically inspected less than one per cent by N.R.C. inspectors? Are we not talking about the management of a plant that, although under close scrutiny, falsified training certificates and training of workers, allowing incompetents to operate this system? Are we not talking about a federal government, in its quest to license this plant, changing rules and regulations to make the situation fit their criteria for licensing? Are we not talking about the federal bureaucracy ignoring states' rights in determining that local police must be part of an evacuation plan, an issue ruled upon by the State Supreme Court? Are we not talking about an honest Emergency Preparedness Director, Frank Petrone, being fired because he refused to lie and would not delete a warning that evacuation was not possible and safety could not be guaranteed by the federal government?

What we are talking about is the financial community and the Reagan administration doing exactly what the Russians did, casting aside concerns for the safety of the people in their quest and greed for a return on their investment. When the president's right hand man, Donald Regan, concedes there can be no evacuation from Long Island and then suggests the answer is a bridge across Long Island Sound, something stinks in Washington. When another top official also concedes evacuation is not possible, but then says there have never been any concerns about safety problems at Shoreham, the smell gets worse.

We now have unequivocal proof that a worst case scenario can and will happen. People will die by the thousands, the lives closest to the plant are the most disposable. But even those hundreds of miles away will not escape without harm. Their problems will develop later.

A nuclear power plant is a disaster in worst proportions to earthquakes or hurricanes, a disaster made by men to kill men. We know what the facts are, why do we choose to continue to ignore them? Shoreham must never be opened. Chernobyl's tragedy must not happen here. We have been warned by this terrible disaster. We must heed that warning to protect the people of Long Island from having to endure the horrors of Chernobyl.

And why not?

More on page 4

## They Said It Couldn't Happen

The "impossible" has happened. A nuclear power plant has had a core meltdown. According to nuclear proponents, the odds of a core meltdown were one in 100,000 years. Nuclear proponents said no one had ever died because of a nuclear power plant.

The Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratories Report, which was kept covered up for over ten years, predicted that if there was a core meltdown in the United States of the magnitude that took place in Russia, there would be 40,000 immediate deaths, 75,000 injuries, 35,000 latent cancer deaths. The fatal radius within Suffolk County in proximity to Shoreham would be 17.5 miles, extending to part of the State of Connecticut. Peak injury radius would be 50 miles, including all of Suffolk County, Eastern Nassau County and a part of the State of Connecticut. Property damage

would amount to \$157 billion calculated in 1982 dollars. Ten million people within a 700 mile radius would be affected.

We have heard reports that have placed immediate deaths at 2,000 caused by the Russian nuclear disaster. How many actually died we may never know. Nor will we ever find out the full impact this disaster has had on the Russian people because of that country's policy concerning secrecy.

Nuclear proponents are saying the Russian disaster could not be repeated here in the United States because of the differences in the systems. Plain and simple, they are full of crap. We are angry at these proponents for attempting to cover up what is fact. The Russians encase their uranium in graphite. We do also in a few plants here in the United States. Some of the plants in Russia have a containment area built

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General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and cannot be returned for any reason.

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369-0800

News  
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369-0810

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Office  
369-0820

## Who's Lying Now?

We have that uncomfortable feeling that we are not being told the truth about the Russian nuclear disaster. From the Russians we have no expectations of truth. From our own government, we do.

Watching television news about the disaster, reading our daily newspapers, we were left with a feeling that great parts of the story are missing. We have been told that we have one of the finest military systems in the world. Our spy satellites and our intelligence sources can tell momentarily when there are any movements or actions at military sites of our adversaries. The lack of concrete information in the United States and the length of time it is taking to get any information about the accident at Chernobyl makes us highly suspicious.

Is our own government deliberately covering up the Soviet nuclear accident to protect the nuclear industry here in the United States? If the Russian accident took place and created a huge atomic hot spot on Wednesday or Saturday, why did it take three to five days for an announcement to be made, and then only when radiation levels were detected in Sweden and Finland? Why wasn't it possible for our spy satellites to detect this disturbance?

While our government is blasting the Russians about their secrecy of the disaster at Chernobyl, and rightfully so, our own top officials have suppressed information concerning "significant nuclear safety incidents" which occurred in 14 non-Communist countries with operating nuclear power plants. That information was contained in a report prepared last September by the General Accounting Office, but the report was never released. Instead it was listed as classified to prevent it from being made public. The report was made public last week by Senator John Glenn, a Democrat of Ohio, but important portions had been deleted. Why?

If nuclear power is as dangerous as we have feared, why is the government deliberately suppressing information we should have on this subject? We believe the American public has been deliberately misled and lied to, and should now, in the wake of the Russian disaster, be given full disclosure.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate should be conducting full Congressional hearings on the cover-up of this information, and the condemnation of those who are responsible for it.

And why not?

## Lawyers Defending Lawyers

County Attorney Martin Ashare has started a policy of seeking damages from those who sue the county but lose from their attorneys as well. This practice, allowed under the law, is a good one and can only help to eliminate some frivolous suits which are brought only because the county has deep pockets.

The county, like so many other people, is the victim of far too many frivolous lawsuits brought on very weak grounds by eager beaver attorneys. No matter how frivolous a suit may be, however, it must be defended. This defense can run into the thousands of dollars. Ashare not only has sued and won judgements against litigators and their attorneys, but has made a practice to let them know, clear and simple, right up front that he would sue if the county won the case.

These unhappy lawyers enlisted the aid of former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark to speak out against this practice. Clark was defending an attorney who has reportedly brought numerous law suits against the county and who Ashare had won a \$50,000 verdict against.

Suffolk County Bar Association President Josh Pruzansky joined Clark in condemning Suffolk's practice, stating, "that it discourages

attorneys from representing low income clients." We would think Pruzansky could come up with something better than this. Few attorneys get themselves involved on a pro bono basis in protracted litigation. If there isn't something in it for the attorney, cash or name recognition, they are plain not interested.

Suffolk's law is a good one. Ashare's policy of suing for costs is an excellent practice and one that should be practiced not only by municipalities, but by corporations and individuals who are the victims of frivolous law suits.

In our legal system anyone can sue for any reason. They do not have to have a case, or even have been damaged. All too often people are sued or threatened with suits to shut them up or intimidate them. Victims of frivolous law suits face the emotional and financial strain of having to defend themselves needlessly. Only if there are laws that adequately protect these victims, that would make not only the litigant but the attorneys responsible for their actions, will there be justice.

We hope that Ashare does not yield to the pressure from his peers and discontinue this practice. In fact, as a routine we hope that Ashare sues in every case that the county is vic-

torious, for restitution of costs and legal fees. When verdicts are won, we hope he does not compromise and accept a settlement, instead demanding dollar for dollar restitution

and compensation for the time and the strain these frivolous suits have put upon his office.  
And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Animals deserve kindness'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I am a real animal lover. I read the March 12th article, "I Love Animals," and I feel the same way.

What I'm mainly concerned with, though, is stray animals. People who only live in Shirely in the summer keep animals, (dogs and cats) but by the time autumn begins, these people leave their summer homes and keep their animals tied up outside with absolutely no food or water. These animals eventually get loose

and become strays. The animals wander around the neighborhood looking for food.

Eventually most of them die from starvation or wind up getting hit by car.

I really think this is a terrible critical situation and something should be done about it. Animals should not be subjected to such harsh treatment.

Sincerely yours,  
Donna Rogowski  
Shirely

### 'Shoreham is not wanted'

Dear Editor:

I cannot resist applauding Valerie Flach (4/2/86) for her down-to-earth, sensible letter.

She asks the questions on all our minds, which the many technical, verbose, detailed articles leave not answered. Of particular interest is the last question. It all boils down to

one opinion:

The majority of the people in Suffolk do not want Shoreham! I have never yet met anyone who did!

Marianne Reilly  
Ridge

### 'Study area before action'

Dear Editor:

The attached is an open letter to the Town Board of Brookhaven, that may be of interest to your readership.

Dear Supervisor Acampora & Members of the Town Board:

I understand that you will be considering a proposal to establish a community residence for the mentally ill at 87 Pinelawn Avenue, Shirley, at your 4 February 1986 Town Board Meeting.

I have been in contact with several area residents, and have discussed the particular situation with other persons familiar with the process, and would like to express serious reservations at this time. My primary objection concerns the fact that, from what I have seen,

sufficient study has not been made to assure that the Shirley area is not already unduly saturated by community residences and similar establishments. I comment especially in light of a December 1981 Resolution of the Brookhaven Town Board, copy attached, that sets forth conditions for the establishment of further residences in this area.

I must urge you to hold any decision on the F.R.E.E. residence at 87 Pinelawn Avenue until it is determined that the residents of this area will not be unjustly impacted.

I thank you for your attention to my concerns. Best regards.

Sincerely,  
John L. Behan  
Member of Assembly

### 'Single parenting sorrows'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Could you please print this one for everyone who seems to think that when you all of a sudden become one parent it is so easy to start over and everything will be fine. After 11 years of marriage and four beautiful children I was left for a 20 year old, to finish raising my children alone. It is far from easy and so much has to be held inside until I am alone to cry where no one else can see. The children have an even harder time than I. Please print this one so the words, (You'll make it) won't come so easy.

Thank you,  
Broken Hearted  
Medford

The Single Mother

They seem to think we'll be alright  
But they do not see how hard we fight

Trying hard to keep us together  
Looking for ways to make things better  
When daddy walks out he starts off new  
We're left behind with not much to do  
Four little children the oldest of nine  
Now all the problems of growing are mine  
Trying & wondering how bills will be paid  
Sitting & waiting to get social aid  
Trying to keep our tempers down  
Wondering why life has been turned around  
Holding all this hurt inside  
So I don't blow up & children don't cry  
Trying so hard to do my best  
Until they get older & do the rest  
I pray to God he keep watching me  
Until it's happy one day we'll be  
So when I get angry, look at my face  
Know it's not easy in this crazy place.  
Written By: Broken Heart  
Medford

### 'Urge reconsideration on building'

Dear Mr. Bekkenhuis:

At the February membership meeting of the Civic Association of the Setaukets a unanimous vote of opposition was recorded to Exxon's announced plans to rebuild its East Setauket station with a large overhead canopy and the addition of a convenience store.

Until this time, we have expressed our opposition through our representation on the Rt. 25A Advisory Committee, but are now of the opinion that further direct expression of opposition may be useful to carry the message to

Exxon. The membership and officers of this Association, therefore, records our protest over what we regard as inappropriate architecture for the community, and any plan to add a convenience store on this dangerous curve.

We urge the Exxon Corp. to rethink it's stand on this issue and to drop plans for the rebuilding of this station.

Sincerely yours,  
Ferdinand Giese, President  
The Civic Association  
of the Setaukets, Inc.

# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Impossible to Evacuate

During the Shoreham controversy there has been much discussion about the need and the size of an evacuation zone surrounding the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. The realities of life have come to bear with the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Russia.

According to the limited reports coming out of Russia, the 20 mile area surrounding the nuclear disaster is, for all intensive purposes dead, radiated beyond human endurance. Areas spreading out over the next 100 miles are in serious jeopardy and the fact that the Russian citizens, who are highly regulated and obedient to their government, are fleeing Kiev in droves is an indication of the wide-spread destruction and potential danger to people.

Putting the Russian disaster in perspective to Shoreham, it is now only ludicrous to consider a ten mile evacuation zone. We must look at Shoreham realistically. When a disaster such as Chernobyl strikes Shoreham, all of Long Island, including New York City, must be evacuated. People will be on the move from Boston to Washington regardless of what they are advised by their government. The entire Northeast will be one major traffic jam as people flee with nowhere to go.

During the Shoreham controversy we have heard many statements claiming the containment area will withhold a release of radiation. It has now come to light that the Chernobyl plant had a containment system which failed. Some of the pro-nuclear people have argued that theirs is not as superior as ours. But other noted nuclear physicists have stated that their system actually is superior to ours. The fact of the matter is we, as mortal men, were not able to contain the radiation release when a nuclear power plant went amuck.

The Cuomo Commission on Shoreham heard testimony from a noted nuclear scientist warning that this was the case. His testimony was

discounted by the pro-nuclear forces, even ridiculed. The accuracy of his words, unfortunately, have now been proven.

We are no longer working with suppositions or computer models. We are now working with reality and facts that prove beyond a shadow of a doubt, no matter how we try, no matter how good we are, no matter how perfect the design of the system is, an accident has happened and will happen again, causing needless loss of life and the destruction of mother earth.

Every nuclear power plant in the world is a time bomb waiting to go off. The Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant is particularly prone because of its design, its construction, its management, while under construction and currently, and its proximity to millions of people who live not only in the metropolitan area, but on the shoreline of Connecticut and Rhode Island. The sensible and prudent thing to do would be to stop any further attempts to open this potential catastrophe. Take our losses when they are only dollars and not lives.

Knowing what we know today, it would be irresponsible and a total wanton disregard of the safety of people to allow this plant to go forth. If it takes an uprising of the people to stop it, it is better to lose your life fighting for your life than lying back, allowing yourself to be killed because bureaucracy deemed it necessary.

One might compare complacency on Shoreham with that of the Jews and Eastern Europeans who allowed themselves to be loaded into box cars and be taken to an almost certain death. After the holocaust the world cried out "never again." But is this not what we are allowing here on our own Long Island? Is not the enemy the same? A mindless bureaucracy of a federal nature who considers lives disposable in their quest for the almighty buck.

The facts are there, plain and simple for all who care to see. Our

eyes have been opened, and we doubt we will be given a second chance. Stop Shoreham now or accept the

inevitable and the fear of not knowing when you will be affected. And why not?

## Lab Under Scrutiny

The Brookhaven National Lab has come under scrutiny of the Suffolk County Legislature for allegations of releases of radiation and contamination of our natural resources.

For years we have heard these allegations, but the lab was considered a "sacred cow" by most in governmental office. The lab is a major employer, cloaked in secrecy that allows little or no public information to be disseminated.

In recent years there have been alleged instances of higher levels of radiation than permitted by law being reported outside of the lab facilities. Better than ten years ago, a county health department official announced to a group at a citizens meeting that high levels of radiation had been detected in an East Moriches farm field that was being used for dairy cows, and they were going to confiscate the dairy's milk. The contamination was believed to have come from the labs.

One of the old time baymen who works the mouth of the Peconic River has persistently complained about what he claims to be radiation poisoning of the river. His allegations were not backed by scientific fact and, therefore, dismissed by the scientific community. Our experience has indicated we should take the word of that bayman more than that of a scientist.

Several years ago a friend of ours owned a private pond to the east of the Brookhaven Lab facility. A mysterious fish kill developed. Fish were sent to the state labs for analysis. No report was ever forthcoming on the findings. Our friend, being persistent and of the medical community, was told, off the record, the fish kill had been caused by radiation but that no

report would be forthcoming.

In some areas surrounding the lab, fresh water has shown some traces of radiation which indicate that there may be some leakage coming from the lab.

An Air National Guard pilot was flying a helicopter over the lab. The helicopter is equipped with a device to detect radiation. While flying over the lab, the device indicated a reading of radiation. The only plausible explanation was that the lab, at that moment, was allowing a discharge of radiation into the air. Of course we were never told about such releases.

Almost two decades ago workers at the lab told Riverhead residents that the lab was dumping waste in 55 gallon barrels into a swamp on the lab's property. This could not be verified because of the secrecy of the lab. Further, it was of little concern because most of us were not aware of the danger surrounding radiation.

Rumors and allegations have persisted. Hopefully the legislative investigation can cut through some of the red tape and get real answers to real questions. If the lab is guilty, either out of early ignorance or arrogance, the mess must be cleaned up before it can do any further damage to our population.

We hope the lab will fully cooperate with the investigation, opening not only their books but the facility for a thorough and complete examination. Failure to do so could be construed as an attempt to cover up an admission of guilt.

We congratulate Legislator Gregory Blass for taking the bull by the horns in developing a committee and the investigation. It is long overdue!

And why not?

## Track to Reopen

Suffolk Meadows, formerly Parr Meadows, will reopen on May 20. This quarterhorse track reopening is of vital importance to all of Eastern Long Island. It not only will provide an interesting night's entertainment, but can be the impetus needed for the continuation of the development of horse farms and the open space needed for them here on the East End.

Quarter horse racing is both exciting and fun. Quarter horses, most of western heritage, are powerful horses capable of great bursts of initial speed. These horses and their ancestors were culled out of the great herds that wandered west. They are the cowboy horses we romanticize about.

Suffolk Meadows is located at the intersection of the William Floyd Parkway and the Long Island Expressway. The grandstand provides excellent viewing of the race from start to finish. Paramutuel betting

will be allowed, which will add excitement to a night at the races. A restaurant and a V.I.P. section will be open to the public.

We encourage all Eastern Long Islanders to support this revitalized enterprise, whether you gamble or not. It's an enjoyable way to spend an evening and the excitement is contagious.

We wish the new owners much success and hope that the facility can be turned, in the future, into a full fledged racing facility featuring not only quarter horses, but trotters and thoroughbreds. The fact that this facility has stood vacant for the last nine years is tragic.

Our vacation economy can be bolstered by the addition of this attraction, and their success can aid in the preservation of the environment. Suffolk Meadows could very well become an important asset to our area, and we wish it well.

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