

Core Of The Problem

Much has been written about affordable housing. New schemes are proposed almost daily, yet almost no one wants to address the real reason we can't have affordable housing here on Long Island.

The core of the problem, although compounded today by environmental issues and health problems, has nothing to do with the original problems that lead to our government's attempts to restrict the number of children who would require an education. It wasn't that the town fathers were pro-family planning, abortionists or against children, they simply realized that children required education, education was expensive. The less children going into a school district, the less schools that would be needed. Their solution, which is now biting us back, was to make multi-family housing almost an impossibility. Drive up the cost of single family housing by requiring needlessly large lots and making the cost of improving these lots prohibitive. These devices have not stopped people from having children. They may have contributed to the smaller family sizes of today, but it has not stopped Mary and John from reproducing children. These kids need to be educated, and these educations are very expensive.

The cost of educating a child ranges from just over \$1,000 in parochial schools to almost \$14,000 in the Shoreham-Wading River School district, which is the Cadillac as far as spending is concerned of schools systems on the Island. These figures are not for a life-time, but are for an annual cost.

Back in the days when the town fathers conceived the concept of limiting population and drying up housing to control school taxes, the cost of education a child ranged from \$300 to \$500 per year. Inflation has played a factor in driving up some of the cost, but the real culprit has been

school boards who have reduced classroom sizes, added huge amounts of staff, both educational and administrative, so that they can teach all the extras that educators claim enhance the learning abilities of children.

The State Education Department sets down certain mandates. These mandates cover the basic courses required and the way a course is given and by whom. These state mandates, according to legislators, make up between 40% and 50% of the normal schools' offering. State aid, which is money taken from the state budget raised through business and personal taxes, compensates the average district for approximately 40% of their cost of operation. The remaining 60% must be raised through taxes on real estate. These taxes make up approximately 65% of the total real estate taxes. The remaining 35% is for county and town government, including police and courts, welfare, recreation, health and all other services provided. State aid is almost awash with state mandated educational programs.

The remaining programs being offered are electives put into place by the school board. These are items they are free to choose to give or to cut from the educational opportunities that are being offered in the specific district. If they choose to give them, the school district must follow state mandates in their offerings. It is the reason why school board members can get up before the audience at a budget hearing and, although not technically lie, not tell the truth when they say that 85% of the budget is mandated when, in reality, only 40% to 50% is actually mandated and must be offered.

School budgets are approved by the voters. They are presented in a lump sum package. Take it or leave it. When voters are feeling the pinch and taxes are high, they vote "no" on

these budgets and reject them. Many school boards then just arbitrarily re-submit the same budget, or a budget with some sugar coating on it, to the voters for a re-vote. Even though they are defeated, they can keep re-submitting the budget until they wear the voters down and it finally passes. In the rare cases where the budgets are not passed, and the school board puts the district on austerity, they play the game of knocking out only the most popular programs such as sports, music and adult education. Although they have it within their power to eliminate out of the budget any item that is not basically mandated by the state, they refuse to do so. Resident taxpayers are caught in a circle, damned if they do, damned if they don't, and this is the reason why the cost of education has accelerated far beyond inflation. There is no incentive and there is no true mechanism for harnessing runaway school costs.

Districts refuse to look at innovative ways of getting more out of their personnel and their facilities.

Schools could be operated on a year-round basis. Schools could be operated on shifts. Programs could be designed much better for specialized vocation and scientific training instead of forcing all students, particularly on the high school level, to take generalized courses which do not allow children who excel to have the opportunity to do so, and children who have no desire to go to college to be prepared in a meaningful way for career development.

If we are to find an answer to affordable housing, we must find the answer to the cost of education and the means by which we finance it. Educators and board members must be made accountable, and the systems must be made functional and economical.

And why not?

Bureaucracy At Its Worst

We saw an example of bureaucracy at its worst this past week. The channel leading to the Shinnecock Canal is badly shoaled over and, at mid-tide, has less than 30" of water, not enough for a normal boat which needs 3½ feet for safe navigation. This channel is highly used by recreational and commercial boats. It is the only channel boaters have available to them if they wish to go from Peconic to Shinnecock, or from the boat basins along the Shinnecock Canal to the Atlantic Ocean. Boats from all over Long Island and surrounding states use this passage.

Marine interests have been trying to get the channel dredged for the past three years. They've been stopped by a mindless bureaucracy, and at some points, by a lack of public funds. Just to the east of the channel is a badly eroded beach. Shinnecock Bay waters, at the times of high tide, is in the process of eroding the road bed and underlayment of Old Montauk Highway. This is a natural spot to pump the sand from this channel. Two needed projects could be addressed by a single solution. The need is there. There is no argument about that.

Gordon Jackson of Jackson's Marina and Roger Toffelson of Indian Cove Marina decided to take the bull by the horns and agreed to fund the dredging of this channel by themselves. They made application to the D.E.C. for permission to dredge the channel to a navigable six foot level, which would allow the boats that pass to do so without damage. The D.E.C. responded by giving them a permit so ludicrous in restrictions that it was totally unworkable, and those who were involved threw up their hands in utter disgust.

The permit was issued one day before the work was to start and to finish. The time allowed for the dredging was a grandiose four hours.

The maximum amount of sand that could be transferred for public use was five hundred yards, which is like a drop in the bucket as most everybody had estimated there was approximately 3,000 yards of sand clogging the channel. The D.E.C. demanded to have a staff member aboard the dredge at all times to act as judge, jury and prosecutor. At his sole discretion, the operator of the dredge would have to stop pumping and close down operations whether the job was done or not. The brain child of this hare-brained scheme was Charles T. Hamilton, who heads up the D.E.C. marine department out of Stony Brook.

Hamilton's name came up time and time again at the hearing held by two state assemblymen in Riverhead last week. He was described as a man who has one point of view, his own. He was charged with being non-compromising, arrogant, a virtual dictator who rules what happens when it comes to marine matters. He was cited as a man who is granted regulatory powers, but who does not have the common sense to deal with them.

Time and again the "lack of communication" was cited as a major problem concerning the DEC. We believe that. We put through repeated calls to Hamilton last week, and got none in return. Our last message informed him this editorial was going to be written, and we offered him an opportunity to state his side. He didn't respond. We can only assume he cares little for what anyone else thinks, or another point of view.

Last year when Governor Cuomo was running for re-election, he promised to look into the arbitrary and capricious actions of the D.E.C. here on Long Island. While there are

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Bureaucracy...

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many that need investigation, we would suggest the role of Hamilton in thwarting much needed projects here on Long Island is a good starting place.

Our marine resources are a treasure to preserve, to be sure, but they are also something that should be enjoyed. Needless restrictions that prevent the clearing of a clogged waterway used by many, many boaters simply make no sense. Who benefits from the fact that the clogged waterway will unjustly affect the enjoyment of those who wish to utilize their boats without bumping across a sand bar?

What is the rationale for preventing this dredging project from being accomplished? We can provide no answer because Hamilton doesn't have the courtesy to return phone calls.

Hamilton is the kind of bureaucrat who gives government a bad name,

and causes people to hold it in contempt. He apparently feels he need not answer to anyone but himself. We think he should answer to the Governor, who made a promise to eliminate such actions. Cuomo is his boss, and Hamilton's actions now belong in his lap. If Hamilton doesn't feel he needs to answer to the public, it is now up to the Governor to provide those answers. It's his administration which must bear the brunt of disgrace that such senseless actions deserve.

Make no mistake about it, a sign will be mounted on the sand bar clogging this channel that reads: "Compliments of Mario Cuomo and his little minded bureaucrats." When boaters run aground, and suffer large bills to repair the resulting damage, they should at least know who to blame. Charles T. Hamilton and Mario Cuomo.

And why not?

Ripped Off Again

The retirement of Dewitt Treder, Suffolk County Police Commissioner, has brought to the public's attention the grand rip-off of the Suffolk County taxpayers.

Unbeknown to most of us, department heads and managers are getting overtime the same as staff level employees. This is ridiculous. Managers are not hired by the hour. They are hired at a higher salary to do a job. There is no limitation normally, in commerce and industry, on the hours a manager puts in. According to the Wall Street Journal, the average mid-manager in commerce and industry works 54.7 hours per week. Upper management works even longer hours. It's part of the deal and it is one of the reasons, besides ability, that managers receive pay that substantially exceeds those of staff members.

In addition to this assault on the Suffolk County taxpayers, Treder will receive approximately 63% of his last year's salary by working the extra overtime. During the last two months he added to his salary, through overtime pay, an additional \$10,000, which means that we taxpayers will be paying Treder an additional \$6,300 each year in additional retirement benefits until the day he dies. Treder's base retirement salary without this little extra was calculated to be about \$65,000 per year. In addition, Treder will walk away from the job with a check for \$108,000, which is the cumulative total of his unused vacation time, sick pay and other severance perks. Most of this money comes from sick pay. Sick pay was meant to help the employee when he was sick, not to be an extra goodie that can be taken into retirement.

You're probaby scratching your

head and asking how did this all come about? Was everyone asleep when they were negotiating the contract? We suggest just the opposite took place. The people who negotiated the contract were the same people who also derived benefit from the contract. Management in the county negotiated with various labor unions. Management is supposed to be representing the taxpayers, but the way they have the deal set up, whatever the unions get, the management employees also enjoy. This is not a case of putting the fox in the hen house, it's a case of delivering the hen house to the fox's den and letting him choose when, where and how he wants to assault the taxpayers.

This change came about under the administration of Peter Cohalan, and a return to reality must come about under the administration of Mike LoGrande if he plans to seriously go before the public and seek their support as a manager of Suffolk County. The time to do it is now, right now, not after a primary or after the general election. While LoGrande reverses this give away, he should, at the same time, institute a comparative salary study of all management jobs as well as staff level positions throughout the county. Taking into consideration the scope and stress of the job, the total cost of benefit packages, base and overtime wages and comparing them with private industry. Those that are above the average offered in private industry should be rolled back so the county stops having an uncompetitive advantage with the private industry that funds these county expenditures through their taxes.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

'Evacuation? Forget it!'

Dear Editor:

On your article crisis planners oppose N.R.C.

I'd like to know what makes the N.R.C. think that in an emergency all the obedient servants of local and state government will stand and man their posts, and what posts will there be if there was no emergency planning involving thousands of people running for their lives.

What can they compare it to, never having had a nuclear accident before.

I'm glad that LILCO has faith in their employees by thinking that they will stay in a nuclear plant that's ringing out loud and clear EMERGENCY at Shoreham. Will these employees get locked in so they can't escape? What will they have to come out to anyway, destruction and death?

Nassau County roads will be jammed with hysterical drivers. When does Suffolk fit into the L.I.E. that'll be jam-packed with Nassau drivers?

The big shots in Washington have bunkers for themselves in case of nuclear attack. Do they care about the little guy? Hell, no! But the last laugh is on us. What'll the big shots have to come out to when the all clear sounds, if they survive? Death and destruction! They may well wish they had perished, too.

To answer the article in Newsday about any evacuation of Long Island in any emergency, no way! Cannot be done. Forget it! Cooperation of locals or not! Impossible! They're trying to sneak Shoreham in again. We're wise to them all.

Yours truly,
Lillian Brandon
Ridge

'...And more'

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen and resident of Suffolk County.

The future of Suffolk County lies in the hands of the politicians to see that the LILCO Shoreham plant in Shoreham, Long Island does not open. We don't need to see a Chernobyl tragedy in our backyard.

The public has been lied to about the safety of this plant because of the billions of dollars poured into this facility. Not only is the plant unsafe; in case of an accident we couldn't get off this island. Our expressways on off hours are bumper to bumper. Our future generations deserve more than to inherit deformities, unsafe ground water, air, and food. They don't need barren land and cancer as a legacy.

I appeal to you as a woman, mother and grandmother that we must leave our future benefactors a better quality of life than this bleak picture. I could write a book on why not; but I feel a short letter is enough.

Sincerely,
Arlie Cohen
Centereach

'Long overdue help'

Dear Editor:

By now a lot of Viet Vets, including myself, have seen the movie "Platoon." I, like a lot of other Vets, saw it by myself and was moved by it.

I might have added, if I was the director, another ten or fifteen minutes to the movie. The extra time would have been devoted to showing the apathy or actual hostility the Viet Vet was welcomed home with by the American public and government. It has only been in the last six or seven years that Viet Vets have been

given any positive welcome like parades, etc. For a lot of us this has been too late.

For Viet Vets who have not connected with a Vet group I suggest they contact the VVA at P.O. Box 63M, Bay Shore, NY, 11706. They offer employment opportunities, group meetings, etc. They are also open to Viet era Vets and their families.

Yours truly,
Tim Graves
Shirley

'The Great Communicator'

To the Editor:

The Great Communicator chooses not to communicate. President Reagan's latest ploy, feigning laryngitis to avoid speaking to the press regarding the Iranian-Contra mess, is infuriating but understandable. Either Mr. Reagan is not capable of communicating effectively on issues of substance without a prepared script or he has something to hide.

While the President may choose to play games or laugh and joke about such serious matters, it is not fitting but distressing to see Democratic leaders amused by his laryngitis antic. I refer to House Speaker Jim Wright and Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, who appeared on television laughing and smiling as our President found another means to avoid questions from the press.

We are well aware of his favorite tactic: keeping members of the press at a distance while he proceeds to and from his helicopter with the engine roaring. The press is often

criticized for their overzealous manner in questioning and reporting the news and sometimes, rightfully so. However, Reagan's tactic is humiliating and degrading to a reporter who must shout in a futile attempt to question the President. The press is not without blame, but they deserve better treatment than that. We should be thankful for a free press. Consider the alternative.

It is time to stop playing games. We can no longer tolerate, nor should we be amused by Reagan's light-handed manner in dealing with important issues because he does not know or elects not to respond. Reagan must be held accountable to the people of this nation on matters relating to the Iranian-Contra fiasco. By offering some answers, hopefully he can avoid becoming a bigger embarrassment to this country and the world.

Joseph Levorchick
St. James

'Brookhaven County'

Dear Editor:

As a senior citizen I know that making Brookhaven Town into a county would be a disaster for the people.

It could benefit only the (stinking) politicians. Their campaign is exceedingly well planned. They believe they cannot lose. Our only savior will be, we hope, the newspapers.

You have more influence than you realize.

If enough publishers and editors help, we will win.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Phil Robinson
Patchogue

Editor's Note: From what we have read at this point we like the company. It would mean government closer to the people.

Politics Is Polluting Our Water

"The Water Authority has been allowed to become the private playground of politicians. Patronage abuses, the handing out of insurance, consulting and construction contracts have become the preoccupation of the Water Authority. Dedication to protecting drinking water has taken a backseat to the perpetuation of political power and privilege. This political joyride must come to an end now! Politics and water do not mix!"

Those words were voiced on April 8 by Presiding Officer Gregory Blass at a press conference during which he announced a proposed slate of new board members of the Suffolk County Water Authority. That proposed slate listed James T. B. Tripp, a lawyer with impressive environmental credentials, as the proposed chairman of the board. The list of nominees, which must be approved by the Suffolk County Legislature, contained five new members to replace five holdovers on the current board.

That's the way it was on April 8. It is different today. Blass has changed his mind. Tripp is no longer his choice for chairman. Instead, Blass now supports Leon Campo, one of the nominees contained on the original Blass list. Campo's environmental credentials are nowhere near as impressive as are Tripp's. But Campo has something that Tripp doesn't, political clout because of favors rendered in the past.

Campo was once a credible community activist, and a leader in the pro-safety Shoreham movement. His credibility took a nose dive, however, when it was revealed last year that Campo was fronting for Suffolk Republican Leader Mike Blake and

was using his position as a Shoreham opponent to discredit Democrat Pat Halpin in his bid for re-election.

Campo had taken in excess of \$30,000 from Blake and purchased advertising aimed at discrediting Halpin. When this was made public, the effort faltered and failed. Campo ended up being discredited and Halpin won re-election by a larger majority than ever.

Informed political sources report that Campo's elevation to the chairmanship of the Water Authority was pushed by Blake and several secondary political leaders in the Town of Brookhaven. The reasoning is obvious: since Campo has had a working relationship with Blake in the past, doing his bidding and playing the political game, he is apparently a known entity as far as Blake is concerned, someone who will "cooperate" with the leadership. That cooperation comes in the form of patronage appointments and insurance contracts and a host of other benefits to the party leaders. And the raw political deals that have made the Water Authority a patronage dumping ground are more likely to continue with Campo as its chairman.

Tripp, on the other hand, is non-political. He is an environmental expert, the kind of person who Blass said was needed in the top spot. But Blass has caved in again. He didn't have the votes with Tripp in the chairman's spot, he claims. And so he gave up his support of the best qualified person for the person the leaders wanted. The political joyride continues.

If Blass truly wanted to end the political games that have been played at the Water Authority, he would

have told the political leaders to butt out. And if the other legislators can be bossed by Blake to the point they would refuse to vote for the best possible candidate, let it be known.

It's time our politicians end all the

rhetoric about our precious water, and start doing something to end the political slime that contaminates it. Water is too pure an asset to have it polluted by politicians.

And why not?

Garbage In, Garbage Out

In 1981, the New York State Legislature enacted a law mandating the closing of sanitary landfills on Long Island by the year 1990.

Typical of mandates passed by the legislature, they failed to give the towns which operate these landfills any alternatives, the technology or the money to carry out these mandates.

Most of the towns on Long Island have done little more than study the options, Islip is the exception. They have in place a resource recovery program and are in the process of building a \$50 million incinerator/disposal system. Islip will have this system up and operational by 1990, but currently their landfill system is almost out of space.

Islip requested permission from the D.E.C. to expand the landfill, to hold it over until the system was completed. Even though Islip offered to triple line the landfill to avoid any possible contamination of the water supply, the D.E.C. denied permission. In an effort to preserve what little landfill it had left, Islip Town government banned all commercial trash from this landfill. Carters are currently forced to remove all commercial rubbish from Islip.

As the world now knows, Islip's trash was loaded on a barge whose destination was south of New York. Originally it was to be taken to North Carolina where an entrepreneur had a disposal area for it. North Carolina E.P.A. officials got wind of it and forbade this trash from entering its borders. World-wide publicity has resulted and the trash laden barge has become a cause celebre as it is shunted from state to state, and country to country, looking for a port-of-call. But no one wants New York State's garbage.

We believe the only solution for this garbage is to have it come almost full circle. The barge should head north, up the Hudson and be berthed at the docks in Albany and left there until the legislators who wrote the bill find a solution to the problem that they have created.

After all, is it not poetic justice that garbage out should be garbage in?

The state legislature created this problem. It is their responsibility to find the solution. Maybe if they have to look at and smell this garbage every day, they will understand how ludicrous their good intentions but unworkable law was.

Garbage is a major problem, particularly in our disposable society. But creating a law that bans its disposal makes no sense whatsoever. Garbage is going to be there and it is going to grow every day. Passing an unworkable law will not make it go away.

We are all in favor of resource recovery systems, but what do you do with the byproduct that can't be recycled. We originally burned all our garbage in open pits, but then the D.E.C. banned open burning when it was polluting the atmosphere. The D.E.C. said bury the garbage. The towns complied. They invested millions of dollars in landfills, put in liners and buried the garbage between layers of dirt and sand. The D.E.C. once again reversed itself, after causing the towns to waste their hard earned taxpayers' money, and banned the landfills because they said the garbage was decaying and probably was polluting the water. The only alternative left was incineration, but the type of plants that are needed cost between \$50 and \$100 million, and our last attempt at it in Hempstead resulted with the plant being closed by the E.P.A. because it was emitting dioxins.

Even if the technology can be found to make an incineration plant pollution free, there is no current solution for dealing with the disposal of the residue ash. The disposal of the ash which will be laden with heavy metals and chemical components poses a whole new environmental threat. With no answer in sight, it is time for common sense.

Triple lined landfills may well be the answer, but the D.E.C. is refusing even to consider this proposal. In the meantime, Long Island becomes more famous by the day as our garbage that no one wants floats around the ocean. Bring it home; take it back to Albany as a perpetual monument to the legislature!

And why not?

Back From Whence They Came

Riverhead is the County Seat and the host of the Suffolk County Jail. For many years Riverhead residents could not understand why county residents to the west did not want a jail in their neighborhood. After all, a jail was an excellent employer, a secure facility that criminals rarely escape from. The problem is not the prisoners in the jail, it's the ones that are released.

Prisoners are brought to the Riverhead facility from all over the county. They are brought in cars, vans and buses, accompanied by a Sheriff's escort. But when they are released, they are turned loose at the front door of the jail, often times destitute, without the means or desire to go back home. These are the

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prisoners who have become Riverhead's problem, a problem that is growing in proportion each day.

We have had a number of complaints from Riverhead residents and business people about the number of prisoners who have been released and are showing up in the community. And about a system that brings them to Riverhead, and then dumps them there.

Wouldn't it make more sense for the Sheriff's Department to transport the prisoners back into their home communities? Return them from whence they came rather than dump them in one small community which has neither the resources or the ability to cope with them?

In fact, wouldn't it make a lot more sense to build a jail in the west end, where the new court complex is being proposed, to eliminate all the costs of transporting these prisoners from west to east? With all of the hue and cry about the need for additional jail space, why are there no plans to put the jail where the majority of the prisoners come from?

The answer is politics. Our public and correctional officials talk a good

case, but then bow to the pressures from the neighborhoods who simply do not want a jail in their back yards. The state jail in Central Islip is a prime example. It was built, it was housed with prisoners, and then it was closed because of a public uproar. And while there is a severe shortage of jail space for the increased number of prisoners--so much so that many are released early because of the lack of space--the cells in Central Islip remain empty.

Although political courage and sound planning is missing in the matter of creating new jail facilities, there is absolutely no reason why Sheriff Eugene Dooley should continue dumping released prisoners in the Riverhead community. He should immediately institute a policy of returning them to the area from whence they came. He certainly has enough Sheriff's cars running around the county to do so. If he refuses, we would suggest our legislators consider legislation mandating this procedure. If Dooley brings the prisoners here, he should also take them back! And why not?

Who's Responsible?

We received an anguished letter from a mother this past week pleading for help. One of her children, a 16-year-old, had petitioned the court to become emancipated, free of the control and influence of her parents.

The mother asked some very pertinent questions? We do not allow 16-year-olds to work without a permit or around machinery because they are considered by law not to have the maturity to abusing hurting themselves. We do not allow a child to drive at 16 because we feel they do not have the judgement to make proper decisions. We raised the drinking age from 18 to 21 because we find that 18, 19 and 20-year-olds are more prone to abusing the substance than older adults. Yet, as she questions, why then do we allow a child of 16-years-of-age to be freed from family observation and control? How can our laws say a child is

an adult at 16, responsible for themselves when all the other laws pertaining to the child say they are not? This is a good question for our lawmakers, and one they should address.

Furthermore, there is a quirk in the law that is absolutely ridiculous. Although the law grants the child freedom and allows them to move away from the control of their parents, the law says the parents are still responsible for the financial support of the child. If the child moves out and goes on welfare, welfare is granted, but then welfare goes back to the parents and demands reimbursement. That's wrong too.

It's not too late in this legislature to correct this situation. Do we have a lawmaker in Suffolk County willing to introduce the legislation?

And why not?

hospital, but Dr. Bickford never lost his composure, or, thank God, the ball. Upon arriving at the hospital, we walked the doctor with his fingers still in the infant's throat into the emergency room where the ER doctors stated that the child would most certainly have died had not Dr. Bickford acted so quickly in opening his airway and maintaining pressure on the ball. After fifteen minutes in the ER room the ball was finally removed.

The parents of the child were from New York

City and thought Dr. Bickford's office was a medical center. It is, in fact, a dentist's office.

I feel Dr. Bickford deserves the highest award for bravery and compassion, thank you, Dr. Bickford, for making everyone's Easter happy one!

Sincerely,

Ethel Warner

Emergency Medical Technician
Hampton Bays Legion Ambulance

"Please make readers aware"

Dear Editor:

I am contacting your newspaper because since childhood I have suffered from a rare, debilitating and potentially fatal disease called scleroderma. Not only did I feel frustrated and alone growing up, but to complicate matters, my mother recently came down with this devastating disease.

In our search for answers and support we eventually located the United Scleroderma Foundation. Not only did we receive information, we received a renewed 'hope' that we were no longer alone. We learned that this disease affects some 700,000 people and that President Reagan declared the second week

of June as National Scleroderma Awareness Week.

I'm so thrilled to no longer feel isolated that I want to shout from the rooftops so others won't have to suffer alone as I did these last 40 years.

Please make your readers aware of the USF, Inc., P.O. Box 350, Watsonville, CA 95077. Their toll free number says it all: 800-722-HOPE. They have information and answers I never believed existed. In California call (408) 728-2202.

Thank you for your assistance,
Barbara Wolniakowski
Anaheim, CA 92802

'Our purpose: to offer fellowship'

Dear Editor:

On behalf of G.A., I want to thank you and your newspaper for allowing us the use of your facilities to give a message of hope to people with gambling problems.

Your newspaper has joined many other newspapers as part of their service to the public in carrying out the message to compulsive gamblers who still suffer from this insidious illness.

We, of Gamblers Anonymous, feel that we can offer new hope and an opportunity for a happier, more productive life to the many people in this country who are destroying their lives through compulsive gambling. However, we need and respectfully ask the help of people in positions such as yours in delivering our message to those afflicted.

We do not crusade against gambling as such. Our purpose is to offer a fellowship for those who wish to stop throwing away their self-respect and very lives through compulsive gambling.

Gamblers Anonymous charges no dues or fees and accepts no outside contributions. We are entirely self supporting. We ask only the

chance to carry our message to those who still suffer.

Gamblers Anonymous has speakers available to explain its principles. We sincerely ask for the opportunity to introduce these principles to you and your group through these speakers. After so doing, we feel certain that you, in turn, will wish to introduce to our fellowship those under your jurisdiction who may be suffering from compulsive gambling.

At this time, we sincerely hope you will publish our attached message to the compulsive gambler in the community service section of your newspaper. If you elect to do so, we'd appreciate any information relative to the scheduling of our message.

Thank you for your care and support. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or require additional information, please write to us at Gamblers Anonymous, P.O. Box 353, Larkfield Road, E. Northport, New York 11731, Attention Public Relations Committee or call us at 587-1111.

Sincerely,
Gamblers Anonymous
Public Relations Committee

'Write to ask support'

Dear Editor:

Recently, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed a law enabling consumers to purchase reading glasses over-the-counter. New York, on the other hand, remains one of only three states where it is illegal to purchase reading glasses without a prescription.

As a physician, I believe this legislative oversight is significant. There are currently over three million older New Yorkers who suffer from presbyopia, the inability to focus on small print. I have to ask, why are these New Yorkers being denied a simple, yet effective product that could aid their vision?

The answer lies in the profit markup. Reading glasses retail for about \$12 in other states, but in New York the price can be as much as \$75. However, these glasses perform identically to reading glasses and cannot hurt the eye.

State Senator Joseph Bruno should be applauded for his bill, which would overturn the current, antiquated law and save New York consumers millions on unnecessary eyewear. The bill is expected to be voted on in the current legislative session.

I would ask your readers to write their local state senator and assemblyman to urge their support for this bill that will save New Yorkers millions of dollars in unnecessary health care costs.

Sincerely,
Dr. Calvin W. Roberts
Assistant Professor of
Ophthalmology, Cornell
University Medical College
Attending Surgeon-Director of
Cornea Service NYU Hospital
Cornell Medical Center
New York City

'Services are available'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

On behalf of the South Fork Geriatric Network, I would like to invite you to attend one of our meetings.

The South Fork Geriatric Network is a coalition of health and social agencies serving the South Fork. It was formed for the purpose of coordinating services and solving problems. Agencies represented include The Office Of Aging, Catholic Charities, The Dominican Sisters Family Health Service, and the Suffolk County Health Department. As Southampton Hospital's Director of Social Services and Discharge Planning, I represent the hospital.

The Network has become increasingly

aware that the general public is not informed about the gaps in services for long term chronic care. We would, therefore, like to expand press coverage of this issue. We can provide you with dramatic examples with rich journalistic possibilities.

The group usually meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Catholic Charities office in Bridgehampton.

Please contact me at 283-2600 ext. 656 if you would like additional information. I hope someone from your organization will be able to meet with us in the near future.

Yours truly,
Shirley Morrison, RN

Letters to the Editor

'An Easter miracle'

Dear Editor,

I thought your paper would like to know about an Easter miracle. On April 17th at one p.m. our ambulance pager went off with a signal 16, infant choking, at Dr. Bickford's office. Upon our arrival we found Dr. Bickford on the floor of his waiting room with a four month old infant choking. The child had a round wooden ball about the size of a dime lodged in his throat.

Dr. Bickford, after trying the Heimlich Maneuver and realizing the child was turning blue, stuck his fingers down the infant's throat. He

then found the ball and moved it up under his nasal passage, which opened up his airway. At this point the infant started to regain his color. The doctor could not remove his fingers from the infant's mouth because the ball would fall back into the infant's airway.

We then placed a short board under the infant and walked very slowly to the ambulance. All the while the doctor never let go of the ball. It was raining and the roads were very slippery. The Southampton Town Police gave us a police escort all the way to Southampton Hospital. It was a long and bumpy ride to the

A Grim Reminder

The tragic loss of 37 American lives aboard the U.S.S. Stark in the Persian Gulf offered a grim reminder of the real meaning of Memorial Day, offering tribute to those who make the supreme sacrifice for their country. Though our country is not actively involved in combat, those who serve in our military forces throughout the world stand on the threshold of danger. We too often take for granted those who serve in our armed forces. The tragedy of the U.S.S. Stark should jolt us back to the reality of their contribution to the freedom we enjoy.

In the aftermath of that tragedy, those whose loved ones perished in the missile attack on the Stark were struggling to cope with the grief that came with the news a loved one would never again return home alive. And yet, at that difficult moment of time, according to some published reports, families were being told by naval officials that they would have to make their own arrangements to attend a memorial service scheduled at the Stark's home port in Mayport, Florida. That transportation would be provided for only the wives of the victims. Later reports indicated that a final decision in that matter had not yet been made.

The fact that there was ever any question about providing transportation for the families of the victims to the memorial services is shocking. Thirty-seven American lives are cut short, men making the supreme sacrifice for their country, and we dare to quibble over who we are going to send to services and who we won't?

We have members of congress taking frequent meaningless junkets, many times with their wives, at tremendous taxpayer expense. These jaunts are supposedly to accumulate knowledge about the issues in widespread parts of the world. It is amazing how many of these trips to study "important issues" are to warm countries in winter weather, and to other tourist-type areas. Our government wastes taxpayers' dollars in so many ways it would take volume upon volume to list them. But we raise questions about providing transportation for grief-stricken relatives of sailors who died for their country?

The contributions of those who serve our country make us proud. The actions of those in high positions who seem to have forgotten what the words "a grateful nation" truly mean make us ashamed.

And why not?

simply to make it possible to license Shoreham, a plant opposed by the people of Suffolk County, county government and New York State.

The current rules were developed in the wake of the accident at Three Mile Island, the accident the nuclear industry said could not happen. When that accident occurred, the NRC was caught with its pants down, and it was painfully clear that the rules in effect at that time were not sufficient to protect the safety of the public.

At the insistence of congress, the NRC strengthened its rules, mandating that evacuation plans had to be put into effect within a ten mile area of a nuclear plant.

Even with those changes the NRC has only concerned itself with the ten mile radius and has refused to acknowledge the shadow effect of people evacuating from outside the ten mile zone. This is ridiculous, for they have the actual experience of Three Mile Island to draw upon. The Governor of Pennsylvania recommended that pregnant women leave the Three Mile Island area, and 280,000 residents fled in response. His announcement was not a full scale alert, it was just a recommendation. Imagine the impact of a full alert!

The NRC, in its quest to open the Shoreham nuclear power plant at all cost, is attempting to ignore the facts of history. It is ignoring the shadow effect evacuation which occurred at Three Mile Island. It is ignoring, as well, the lessons of Chernobyl where a zone of 18 miles was, and still is, evacuated. And worst of all, the NRC wants to authorize LILCO, the profit-making corporation which will be responsible for any accident

at Shoreham, to take over the police duties of the government. We all know that there will be chaos, and that a safe evacuation from an area such as Long Island will not be possible.

The NRC is playing a very dangerous game with our future. It is gambling that the plant is safe, despite all the charges to the contrary. It is gambling that state and county government will participate and, somehow, make an unworkable plan work. It is gambling with your future, the future of your loved ones. It is gambling with our lives.

The NRC's proposed rule changes are a travesty of justice. It is arrogance, pure and simple. It should not be allowed to happen. A huge outcry from Suffolk County residents who are the potential victims of an accident at Shoreham would demonstrate our deep concern. It would illustrate that we will not simply sit back and allow this to happen. That we will fight for what is right, and against what is wrong.

We encourage every family, as a family and individually, to write to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in vehement protest of this proposal. It may be your last chance to have any personal input into the decision of whether Shoreham opens or closes, whether you will have to live under the threat of radiation poisoning.

Address your correspondence to the NRC Commissioners, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. If you do not have time to write, just sign your name at the bottom of this editorial and send it off. They'll get the message.

And why not?

Last Chance To Be Heard

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has extended until June 4 the cut-off time for public input into the rule changes it is considering to bail out LILCO and its Shoreham disaster.

The NRC is proposing to change

the rules now in place which would permit the licensing of a nuclear plant even if local governments do not participate in emergency evacuation, which makes a safe evacuation impossible. That rule change would discard the safety of the public

Salute To The Barge

The Break of Dawn, the tug which towed a garbage-laden barge from port to port and back to local waters, returned to New York Harbor last week under the scrutiny of publicity, but without a salute of welcome. We think the Break of Dawn deserved better, for, more than anything else that has happened in the last few years, the strange journey of that vessel and its barge has focused attention on the stupidity of the state regulations which are the root cause of the problem.

The Town of Islip and officials from the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have been at odds for many months over the DEC's refusal to grant Islip approval to extend its landfill. The town sought that expansion to carry it through until its resource recovery plant is completed. Islip is the one town in the county well along on the road to putting such a plant on line. It needed to buy time until the plant is finished but the DEC, in true typical fashion, offered absolutely no cooperation.

Now we are expected to believe that a chance meeting in a Washington taxi between DEC Commissioner

Henry Williams and Islip Supervisor Frank Jones led to the agreement which brought the barge back to New York, and the garbage-- if the matter is finally resolved--back to Islip. We don't buy that for one minute. We firmly believe the DEC would not have changed its stance on the Islip landfill expansion if it had not been for the odyssey of the Break of Dawn. That odyssey focused the attention of the world on the garbage problems here.

The New York State Legislature approved legislation that mandates the closing of landfills by 1990. The DEC has refused to give permission to expand landfills now--in 1987--creating havoc with its actions. "Truck it off the Island," the DEC declares. Well, one firm did, via a barge, and the rest is history. Other garbage is now being trucked to off-Island locations, but it's only a matter of time before those are turned away at the gates just as the barge was barred from ports. And what then?

Officials were ordered by a Queens judge last week to reach

Continued on page 4

SUFFOLK LIFE

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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.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

Salute...

Continued from page 3

some kind of agreement that would take the garbage from the barge to the Islip landfill where it is to be buried. We think the judge should have order the officials, and the state legislature as well, to sit upon the bales of garbage on the barge until that decision is reached. We think our state legislators should convene in session upon the barge and stay there until they reach some sensible solution to the disposal of garbage.

Any Day Now

Is it really true that Governor Mario Cuomo has been moonlighting as the character in the banking ads that has become famous for saying, "Any day now..."?

Credence has been given to the rumor because Mario Cuomo has failed to do anything to help alleviate the intolerable shoaling situation in the inland waterways of Shinnecock Bay. Mother Nature may have caused the shoaling, but it is the people in the governor's administration who have perpetuated it with their senseless actions. The DEC has impeded corrective action to open these navigable channels. Even when private funds were to be spent to clear the channel, such restrictions were put on the dredging work that the project was called off.

"Any day now..." seems to be the attitude which is transmitted down into the governor's staff as well. The governor's personal governmental aide here on Long Island has left a string of broken promises, failing to

respond when called upon for a resolution to the problem.

This weekend was the official start of the 1987 boating season. The screams and curses heard at Shinnecock Canal were long and loud, with boaters facing the financial impact of repairs for damage done in trying to navigate a channel that is too shallow for safe passage.

"Any day now..." one of Mario's hotshot political friends is going to go hard onto that sandbar and we expect Mario will spring into action. In the meantime, the inaction by the governor and his staff, and the senseless actions of DEC officials, are threatening to raise havoc with innocent people who are simply trying to enjoy our waterways.

"Any day now..." Cuomo may wake up and realize he is the governor of this state, and responsible for the people who work under him who apparently don't give a damn about the needs of the public.

And why not?

this quote in a recent newsletter.

"We have added another issue to our struggle: It is to stop the spraying of treated nuclear waste on farmland. In 1982, N.R.C. gave Kerr-McGee a permit to 'test' treated waste (called RAFFINATE) for use as a fertilizer, as long as they used it on their own property. The situation has grown from a brainstorm into a nightmare. Kerr-McGee has bought up thousands of acres of farmland in the tri-county area where their facility sits, at a reported 80 per cent tax write-off, to spray the 'SLIGHTLY' radioactive waste containing 18

heavy metals."

Mr. Willmott, please look into this as other nuclear plants and their manufacturers might also be doing this without "We the People" knowing anything about it.

The implications are horrendous, far worse than the irradiation of our food supply with cobalt-60 and/or cesium-137. If people read labels and recognize the "radura" logo, they can avoid irradiated food.

Pauline Jungreis
Blue Point

'Letters are crucial at this time'

Dear Editor,

The following is an open letter to the readers of your newspaper concerning the role they can play in convincing the NRC to abandon its ill-conceived program to allow Lilco to open the Shoreham Nuclear Plant against the wishes of the people of Long Island.

Dear Neighbors:

Your immediate attention is needed to contact the NRC to oppose the NRC's attempt to change the rules concerning nuclear plant licensing by eliminating state and local involvement in evacuation planning.

June 4 is the cutoff date for the NRC to receive public comment regarding its proposed rules change, which would pave the way for the opening of Shoreham.

A letter from every family that feels threatened by the presence of a nuclear plant on Long Island would be the kind of demonstration public sentiment that could not escape the notice of even the NRC.

It is important that you write today. The address is:

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
Washington, D.C. 20555

It is only through this kind of public opposition that we can make the NRC understand the importance of this issue to the people of Long Island.

Sincerely,

George J. Hochbrueckner
Member of Congress

'Plea for blood donation'

Dear Editor:

Blood banks are clamoring, pleading for donors, which is the reason for this letter. The donation of blood in America is a disaster. Because so few give (only 4% of the eligible) America buys at least one-third of its blood supply from Western Europe. If it didn't, the blood shortage would be catastrophic. Our nation is one of the most generous in the world, except in donating blood. What's unusual about the fact is that giving blood is easy, disease-free and almost painless.

Several months ago I gave my 56th pint of blood and received for it a 7-gallon pin which I am proud of. It's nothing to brag about because many have given infinitely more. I gave my first pint at Bellevue Hospital, NYC, in 1947. Now, at 64 years old, I have only two more years to give. (Ages of eligibility are 17 to 67.) It is my hope that this letter will help correct the lamentable situation and encourage a large segment of the 96% who don't give, to give.

Pleas to the public have been sporadically successful but mostly unanswered and a failure. I have four suggestions which would eliminate our need of buying blood from Europe and provide us with a surplus. One, since most people look for an incentive in order to give, I propose that the IRS allow an exemption of \$50 for every pint donated. The cost to the government would be infinitesimal. If the incentive would help make us self-sufficient re blood, it would pay for itself by saving blood banks the high cost of importing blood, which has been in effect since 1970.

If it weren't for the incentives given by local governments and corporations such as Grumman, Hazeltine, etc., out blood banks would be worse off than ever. When incentives, usually days off, are taken away from the police, fire and sanitation workers, giving blood is considerably decreased, sometimes almost to a trickle. Actually, taxpayers should not subsidize local government largesses (forced upon them through unions) in the quest for blood.

Two, all public high schools and colleges should be "mandated" to hold blood drives at least twice a year. Even though the program would be predicated on encouraging and getting volunteers, it would be a plus.

Three, all those in the military academies (who receive education, room and board free) should be "mandated" to give blood at least twice a year. Since its members are extremely robust and healthy there should be almost 100% participation.

Four, in order to inaugurate a nation-wide crusade for blood, the 535 members of Congress should set the precedent and institute a blood drive, once a year. Since they basically live off the fruits and life-blood labors of its constituents, it would be apt contribution to the voters and country. If only half were eligible and gave, it would be a great gesture and an

excellent example for others to follow.

For those who are squeamish about donating blood, it should be categorically stated that it doesn't carry an iota of risk of catching AIDS or any other disease. All instruments are brand new and packaged in antiseptic coverings and are disposed of immediately after use.

There is no substitute for human blood. People are its only source. Your donation is the gift of life. So, please give. The great essayist and poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson, said rings and jewels are not gifts, the only true gift is a portion of thyself.

Long Island Blood Services is located at 155 Duryea Road in Melville. Their facilities and personnel are super. For information call 752-7300.

Fiat lux!

Yours sincerely,
Robert Guy Arthur
Kings Park

"Put a stop..."

Dear Editor

I work for a temporary agency who placed me for a while at Lilco, the Low Intelligence Level Co. What I saw there helped me explain my exhorbitant Lilco bills, i.e.:

They put up a \$9,000 balcony railing and are taking it down to put up a different one. They bought a beautiful, very expensive tile floor to install in the lobby. They put the tile in a storeroom and bought a very expensive WHITE carpet to put in the lobby where there is a great deal of traffic.

Thousands have already been placed in next year's budget to replace the carpet.

Someone ought to put a stop to the stealing of the public's money and force Lilco to account for their expenditures more closely.

Barbara Swayze
Brentwood, N.Y.

"Our Constitution"

Dear Editor:

Two hundred years this past February, five states had ratified the new United States Constitution.

Suffolk County will be celebrating this bicentennial year of our Constitution in the months ahead. A Constitutional Celebration Commission is in the making under the direction of our County Executive.

People interested in serving on this commission, or those who have suggestions concerning ways to bring attention to the Constitution, should contact the County Executive's office, H. Lee Dennison Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.

Sincerely yours,
John J. Foley
County Legislator

Letters to the Editor

'Educator deserves better treatment'

Dear Editor:

Can you believe that a school principal, an assistant superintendent, and the superintendent of schools of a major Suffolk County school district would summarily deny a teacher of 23 years tenure an d faithful service sufficient time off for her honeymoon? Believe it!

My fiancée recently requested 10 days off for what most folks would consider a wonderful an d worthy occasion. She was granted (5) personal days and not a minute more (even though she has accumulated almost 150 days sick leave). This woman has an impeccable record and has given unselfishly of herself for twenty-three years, including a two year period when her first husband was dying of cancer. She saw fit to continue working and not take time off when she had every reason to do so. Now, when she wants a little consideration, she is given a "back of the hand" rebuff that shows a total lack of sensitivity.

If you are wondering why I, rather than my fiancée, is writing this letter it is because she has only two years remaining to retirement and does not want to "make waves"-an admirable quality (for the school district). I even wrote to the Superintendent of Schools personally and politely requested his intervention. I was told

that "he does not deal with anyone other than the employee". Wonderful attitude-it stinks!!!

The outcome of all this stupidity is that a dedicated teacher is now thoroughly demoralized and is going to "go through the superiors whose only concern seems to be passing the buck and covering their proverbial butts. Funny isn't it?? The reason they gave for denying the extra days was that "It would interrupt the educational process." Really? She must be one hell of a teacher.

Hugh W. Dessauer, CLU, ChFC

'Crop radiation'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

You and your staff have done an excellent job of bringing the dangers of Shoreham to the public.

Now I should like you to know of another, even more insidious, more harmful plan by Kerr-McGee of the famed "Silkwood" "Accident" and movie.

"Native Americans for a Clean Environment" (Route 2 Box 51-B, Vian Oklahoma, 74962) had