



School budget 'D' Day has arrived!

Starting today and going through the middle of June, school districts will be presenting their budgets for public vote and candidates will be seeking school board posts in district elections.

The climate and the atmosphere surrounding school votes is far different than it was a decade ago. Then, only a handful of people turned out to cast their ballots.

Today, with school costs using up to 30% of the real estate tax revenue and educational expenditures making up almost one-third of the state budget, no one can afford to stay home.

If you have felt the pinch of taxes, if you no longer can afford to see your real estate taxes increase year after year, you must turn out and vote.

Any budget that you cannot afford deserves to be defeated. It's no longer for the kids, it is for those who make outlandish salaries and benefits from working within the system and want more.

If school budgets go down in substantial numbers across the Island, the message will be sent that the taxpayers have had enough; they are not

willing or financially able to give any more.

Even more critical than your vote on the school budget is who you cast your ballot for in electing your school board members. Be wary of those candidates that have the backing of the teachers' unions, particularly in districts where contracts will be up in the next year or two. The unions have spent thousands of dollars in support of their candidates, and in some districts have utilized smear campaigns to tear down their opponents.

Take special note of the smear ads being placed by the teachers' unions. If they attack a specific board member, ask why? Contact that board member to hear the other side of the story. Did he or she vote against a contract, vote to eliminate positions, or reduce the perks those union members receive? If you don't do this, and simply accept the claims in the ads as truth, you will be falling into the hands of the union leaders. You might just as well sign a blank check and send it to them to cover your next tax bill. They want candidates favorable to their cause—higher salaries, no staff cuts—and will go to

the extreme to get those people elected. You may receive phones calls extolling the virtues of their union-supported candidates. Know who you are talking to, ask questions, ask for documentation of any charges.

Taxpayers must take back control of the school boards. They must have representatives who have the will and the determination to say "no" to the unreasonable demands of the unions, and to cut back on administration and reduce the curriculum.

We have spent ourselves poor trying to improve the quality of education for our students. Unfortunately,

we are only achieving average results, while paying twice the nation's average.

This school board vote is your opportunity to put a halt to runaway educational costs that are reflected in your real estate tax bills.

It is up to you, your neighbors and friends. Get out and vote yourself and take your neighbors and friends with you. If you don't take part in the system, don't complain about the results. Just turn the key in the lock on your door and move to another state, as so many have already done to escape the crushing tax burden we face.

And why not?

Gaffneys's veto

Bleeding heart

The Suffolk County Legislature passed a welfare reform bill capping the amount a welfare recipient could be paid in Aid to Dependent Children funds based on the number of children they had when they applied for welfare. That is a step in the right direction to curb some of the abuse rampant in the welfare system.

Under the current system, welfare mothers get a raise for every additional child they have. Most taxpayers resent this. Most working parents have had to limit the size of their families because of economics. They do not get a raise in salary for each additional child.

The bill, to become law, had to be signed by County Executive Robert Gaffney. Evidently, the county executive is a bleeding heart liberal and felt that welfare families should not be held to the same economic realities as taxpaying families are. He called the legislation "morally bankrupt," ignoring the fact that the taxpayers are being financially bankrupt by the excesses of government.

To override the county executive's veto, 12 of the 18 Suffolk County legislators would have to vote in favor of the override. When the time came for the vote, it appeared that the 12 votes were lined up. Guess what folks! Conservative Rose

Caracappa took a powder. She was out in the hall when this vote was taken. This is the same Conservative Caracappa that for years has called for welfare reform in her campaign rhetoric. Some have suggested that this was a setup orchestrated by Gaffney and the leaders to avoid embarrassment to the county executive. Caracappa claims she did not know that the vote was coming up. We doubt that.

There will be another attempt made to override the county executive's veto. We hope no further political games are played.

You may want to contact those bleeding heart legislators who see the world through rose-colored glasses, as does our county executive. The legislators who refused to override his veto are: George Guldi (D-Sag Harbor), 852-8400; Nora Bredes (D-East Setauket), 854-1500; Brian Foley (D-Patchogue), 854-1400; David Bishop (D-Lindenhurst), 854-1100; Maxine Postal (D-Amityville), 854-5300; and Stephen Hackeling, (R-East Northport), 854-5500.

Call them, write to them, give them a piece of your mind. They deserve a dose of reality.

And why not?

Our 37th President

Richard M. Nixon

Like most Americans, we were saddened to learn of the death of former President Richard M. Nixon.

During his tenure as President, we had been a staunch supporter. During his era, Americans' largest concern was dying from nuclear annihilation. We were locked in a bitter cold war with Russia and China. We had been fighting an active war in Vietnam that found us not only opposing the Vietnamese, but their supporters, Russia and China.

Nixon was a brilliant foreign policy-maker and strategist. We felt safe under his helmsmanship. Most people found him cool and aloof on the domestic scene. We had met him once and found him formal but warm and congenial.

Nixon corresponded with us several times. His last letter was just days before his resignation. He thanked us for our belief in America and our support for him as President. It was not a form letter. He referred to some editorials and correspondence. When he resigned, we were saddened because it did not have to happen.

When news of Watergate first broke, I was on my way offshore with my friend, Doc Goode, in his 31-foot Bertram. We were discussing the incident as we normally discussed both local and national news on the long ride to the fishing grounds.

I said to Doc, Nixon would be wise to go on national television and announce to the people of the United States that, as the titular head of the Republican Party, he was taking full responsibility for the Watergate break-in. As President, he would

make sure that those who were responsible would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. He would ask Congress to upgrade the laws to prevent such incidences from happening again.

As the President of the United States, with all the duties that position entails, who would believe that he had the time or the inclination to be personally involved in a third-rate burglary. Someone in his administration may have been involved way down on the ladder but, surely, not the head of the United States who was so heavily involved in both domestic and foreign issues.

Nixon did not follow this scenario. Instead, he chose to stonewall it and eventually be dragged into the middle of a cover-up. Poor judgment, poor advice, history may tell us, but the end result was that he resigned and had to live with his mistakes for the rest of his life. Maybe now, he will be at peace.

Most politicians, particularly those who became President, are noted for their love of history and their examination of those who served before them. Our current President may not be the norm. He has made the same mistake that Nixon made. He has attempted to cover-up, soft soap and stonewall over the Whitewater issue. Like Watergate, Whitewater could be Clinton's Waterloo also.

Truthfulness and honesty is the only course if you want to govern properly and be remembered with total respect.

And why not?

Unneeded holiday

Last week, President Bill Clinton closed down the federal government on Wednesday, the day of the funeral of former President Richard M. Nixon.

We believe this action was inappropriate and wrong. Clinton's move cost the taxpayers a half-billion dollars in wages. It probably cost American businesses several times as much.

Nixon was not a sitting President. A few moments of public silence,

during the day, might have been a much more meaningful observance.

If a President is in office when he dies, we can see the logic of a national day of mourning. But for a President who is no longer in office, closure of the government is far too severe, and too costly.

Congress should enact a law eliminating this practice.

And why not?

The LILCO rate increase fiasco

Suffolk County Executive Robert Gaffney, in an action that can be best described as better late than never, has declared opposition to the Long Island Lighting Company's (LILCO) latest rate increase application, and has intervened on the matter with the Public Service Commission (PSC). That's a start. But there's a lot more he should be doing.

Gaffney, in a recent news release, claims the LILCO application, which purports to "freeze" rates for two years, with a 4.5% increase in 1997, is "incredibly misleading." Gaffney retorts: "At the same time they are trumpeting '0%' they are asking for non-base rate increases for the next three years. When you cut through all the rhetoric, there is only one fact that stands out: LILCO is asking for higher rates." He's right, of course, even if he is late in coming to this decision. The same argument has been raised in the past.

Gaffney declared, "I want the Public Service Commission to know that the people of Suffolk County and the business community of Suffolk County simply cannot afford any additional rate increases." He's right again, but there's more. The people and businesses of this county cannot afford the rates, the highest in the nation, they already pay. The cost of electricity, and the level of taxes, are primary reasons why people, businesses and jobs have been fleeing our area in record numbers.

One of the primary factors in LILCO's rate escalations is the Shoreham agreement between the utility and Governor Mario Cuomo. That agreement was labeled by Wall Street as a "sweetheart deal of the century" because of its lucrative, to LILCO, giveaway of ratepayer dollars. "The Shoreham agreement provided LILCO with over \$8 billion in benefits, not counting the additional

benefits LILCO received from the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) for writing off Shoreham," Gaffney points out, adding, "This is on top of the \$4 billion LILCO is receiving from guaranteed rate increases as a result of the Shoreham settlement." On top of that, but not included in Gaffney's comments, are all the Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) funds LILCO received while construction of Shoreham was ongoing.

According to Gaffney, "One of LILCO's own witnesses at the current rate hike proceedings has stated that LILCO has collected \$548 million more than was agreed upon in the Shoreham settlement." This windfall has resulted from lower interest rates and lower oil prices. Those funds, he said, should be used to reduce current electric rates.

Gaffney's on the right track, but, we fear, speaking in whispers when he should be screaming bloody mur-

der. Intervening with the PSC on the rate increases is an exercise in futility. The PSC has never seen a LILCO rate increase they didn't like. They have never said "no." They listen to the arguments and then give LILCO what it wants.

Since LILCO is enjoying a windfall from the lunacy of the Shoreham deal and the changing economic conditions of recent years, the PSC, on its own, should have rejected the LILCO rate increase request out of hand, and launched an investigation into how the terms of the Shoreham deal should be revised to meet current conditions. That hasn't happened, and undoubtedly won't, because the PSC was one of the players in the shaping of the deal. They came up with the facts and figures which have returned to LILCO far more than it expended on the Shoreham fiasco, threw in some profit to boot, after doling out the CWIP payments which kept the construction boondoggle alive. If the PSC had said noon CWIP payments, as public service commissions in other states did, LILCO, on the verge of bankruptcy, would have had to cease construction on Shoreham on its own without benefit of the Cuomo giveaway.

What is really needed is an aggressive demand for a full investigation into the shortcomings of the Shoreham deal, the PSC's part in enriching the financial condition of LILCO, a demand for a full audit of LILCO's expenditures and profit margins. Why were rates raised while windfall profits mounted? What it is going to take is a declaration of war against the terms of the deal and against the PSC. It's going to take leadership to fight for a fair share of low-cost power from the New York Power Authority (NYPA) which doles out a meager 800 megawatts to Long Island from the 8,000 megawatts of low-cost power NYPA wheels.

In short, it's going to take leadership and determination to solve this problem. Can we expect that from our county executive? And why not?

Applause, not castigation

Robins Island has been acquired by a private individual. The owner is working with the Nature Conservancy to protect the island and provide proper stewardship.

A special panel has been named to oversee the preservation of this island, a panel containing many of those who have adamantly fought for its preservation in the past.

The purchase of the island has removed the need for the public acquisition of this parcel of land. Suffolk County government had budgeted \$9.6 million for the public purchase of this land. The funds had been earmarked in the county's capital budget for this purchase.

Legislator Thomas Finlay (R-Brentwood) recently introduced a measure in the county legislature to remove these funds from the capital budget, since there is no longer a need

for these monies to be in the budget for the acquisition of Robins Island.

Seems logical? Seems fair? Seems like the right thing to do for the taxpayers? Not according to Newsday and some of the other armchair environmentalists. They want the money left in the budget for if and when another pristine piece of land or crown jewel comes around they will be able to buy it without going through public scrutiny and debate. They don't care that Suffolk County is still in a tenuous financial position. Homeowners are being forced off the land that they own because they cannot afford the tax burden put on them.

Finlay did the taxpayers and all residents of Suffolk County a big favor. He should be congratulated, not castigated. Leaving the money in the budget makes no more sense than your putting aside money to buy your

dream house, then having your Aunt Tillie up and die, leaving you such a home free and clear but you still continue to put this money away when it is needed elsewhere. Keeping the money in the capital budget for unspecified "future" acquisition leads to the abuses of the past, the political boondoggles that have enabled those politically connected to become rich in the land business. If those abuses are to come to an end, each potential purchase must stand the test of need, priority, reasonable cost, and actual environmental value. When each and every one of those tests are met, then, and only then, should money be set aside for the purchase, after total scrutiny.

Can't we let Robins Island live on in its glory under private ownership and end the investment by the public in this fantasy?

And why not?

Supreme Court declares

Ash is not necessarily harmless

The United States Supreme Court, in a ruling last week, reached deeply into the pocketbooks of every Suffolk County taxpayer, particularly those in several west end towns.

The towns had taken the stance that ash produced through incineration of garbage was not toxic, did not have to be tested as a hazardous waste material. It could be buried untreated. The Supreme Court had a different opinion. They said that municipal waste's ash is not exempt from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

The west end towns, in meeting the state's mandate ending use of landfills, have either built, on their own, or as partners, or have agreed to

act as repositories and ash sites for the remains of incinerated garbage.

Many of us have raised questions as to the toxicity of the ash and the potential danger it might pose to the residents. Suffolk Life additionally questioned what would happen if the federal and state regulators changed their minds as they have so often done in the past. Who would be responsible and pay for the remedial actions that would be required down the road?

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has mandated several different solutions for the disposal of garbage on Long Island. Each new set of rules and regulations contradicted the last and left the local taxpayers to fix the problems

caused by the state, without any assistance or funding by the state.

It was plain for anyone who cared to see that the municipalities who were acting as site receptacles for the ash were flirting with danger, both danger to the residents and danger to the financial stability of the governments.

The lure of quick cash was too much for some municipalities to refuse. Here was a painless way to take care of the economic ills caused by overspending and fiscal mismanagement by the politicians. Dig a big hole in the town, charge to dump the ash in it, cover the ash over, spend the receipts as politicians will do, and let tomorrow worry about itself. Tomorrow came sooner than most politicians would have liked to see.

Now the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled ash must be handled as a hazardous waste. It must be tested. The tests must be verified and if the ash is toxic, it is going to have to be properly disposed of in special landfills.

The towns that are now the receptacles of ash have just dug themselves into a big financial hole. They should come together as a unit, discuss an appropriate plan of action that takes into consideration the worst case scenario that financially could bankrupt any individual town. They must, for a change, put the lure of dollars aside and do what is right for the people.

And why not?

Time to hang tough, Senator Marino

The state budget, by law, should be adopted April 1. Seldom has this happened in recent memory. We are now in the middle of May, and the state budget is still an unresolved issue.

The creation of the state budget requires agreement by the governor, the Assembly minority leader and the Senate majority leader. The three men, with their staffs, negotiate the state's spending plan. The other members of the Assembly and the Senate have virtually no say in the creation of the state budget. That's the way the system works in Albany.

The majority of the Assembly and the office of the governor are under Democratic control. The governor and the power of the Assembly are from New York City, with support of the big cities from other areas of New York State.

The Senate is Republican-controlled with the majority of the Senate representatives coming from suburban

and rural areas. The Senate fights for interests that benefit their constituency, as do those in the Assembly. These interests often are opposite.

The Senate, being Republican, usually is more sensitive to the taxpayer and business interests. The Assembly and the governor rarely take into consideration where the tax dollars come from, they are more interested in spending, particularly on social welfare programs. Although the Senate has an equal voice with the Assembly and the governor, in the past, it has not been particularly expressed.

The budgets that are presented by this trilateral are always increased over previous spending, which has led to New York being one of the highest taxed states in the nation. We spend more per capita on Medicaid, social services, prisons and education than do our counterparts in surrounding states, even California, which has always been a hotbed of liberalism. This overbear-

ing taxation has resulted in over one million jobs being lost in New York State. We now have the worst financial rating of any state in the nation.

This year, Senate Majority Leader Ralph Marino has dug in his heels and said enough is enough. He is not going to go along any longer. We congratulate him on this tough stand and we say to his critics, who tick off the days that the budget is late, there is no rush, the state won't go bankrupt, work will not

stop. It is about time that the taxpayers get a break.

Marino, to survive as a leader, cannot back off now. He has the power to say "no." He must insist this budget reflects New York State's ability to go in the right direction, to reestablish ourselves as an economically viable region, or we won't have a budget at all.

And why not?

Here or nowhere

The members of the Suffolk County Legislature are fighting over who should pay out-of-county tuition, the county or the towns.

County Executive Robert Gaffney changed the system for funding out-of-county tuition so that the responsibility fell to the towns and not the county. This particularly affected the west end towns, which had a disproportionate number of township residents going across the county line to community colleges in Nassau County and New York City.

The question should not be who finances out-of-county tuition; it should be why are we financing these college educations? Individuals who choose not to go to school in Suffolk County, but still want to avail themselves of a community college education, should be free to do so. But they should have to pay for it themselves. No, Suffolk County can't offer every student a college education at a school that meets their fancy, nor should we.

A community college's purpose is to offer an education that fills the

needs of the vast majority, and specifically in those areas of education that will enhance the county's economic, environmental or social needs. Because students want to avail themselves of a special opportunity, or go to a campus that is prettier or has a better sports program than we have to offer, does not mean that we should have to pay for this education. But under the current New York State laws, we must and this is wrong.

Instead of fighting among themselves, and trying to dump this burden on the towns, legislators should be targeting their feisty words at the state level, where the blame belongs. They should insist that our state legislators rescind this law.

A community should support its students who go to a school that is already available within the county, already funded by taxpayer dollars, and stop subsidizing those who want to spend the Suffolk County taxpayers' money out of the county.

And why not?

At last, a good idea

The Gaffney administration has been slow, ve-r-r-y slow, in coming up with any ideas to improve Suffolk's economy.

At long last, they recently did. They are considering a plan that would utilize some of Suffolk's 28,000 acres of open space for the creation of golf courses. Golf courses that would be built and managed by private enterprise, without any direct funding by the county's taxpayers. The county would have a say in the rates and would receive a portion of the revenues for rental of these lands over the lease period, which is expected to be 20 years. At the end of the leases, the property and the improvements would revert to the county. Leases could be renegotiated, or the county could operate the

courses as their own. Currently, the county is looking to build three to nine courses throughout Suffolk.

Golf has become a huge, leisure-time activity and big business. Golf is no longer just for the rich and the famous. Not only do men continue to flock to the sport in droves, but women have become an influence in the game as well. The youth are learning to play, often at about the same time they learn to ride a bike. The only holdback to the sport is the availability of tee times at golf courses.

In Suffolk County, the great majority of golf courses are still private. Some clubs allow open play and the county has three public courses to meet the growing demand. Right up there with the beaches, golf is the

Winning to lose

The polls indicate, as just about any follower of government concedes, that Governor Mario Cuomo can be defeated this November if he runs against one, good candidate.

This year is probably the best opportunity the Republicans have had since the days of Nelson Rockefeller of capturing the mansion in Albany.

Four years ago, the Republicans had a good candidate, Herbert London. He had already secured the nomination from the Conservatives. At the 11th hour, the Republican leadership changed their minds and gave the nomination to Pierre Rinfret. This led to a three-way race that allowed Mario Cuomo to become governor with a minority of the vote. He was elected governor by only 15% of those who could have been eligible to vote.

This year, the Republicans have their choice of a half-dozen candidates, and again, London is one of them. It appears that the Republican leadership is again willing to give away victory by making the same mistake they made in 1990.

London has been promised the nomination by the Conservatives. He has indicated he will run whether he is the Republican candidate or not. Of the other candidates the Republicans have to choose from, none have good, statewide name recognition. None ap-

pear to have a real grasp of the problems facing the citizens of New York State. Most of the candidates are middle-of-the-roaders whose views, philosophically, are undistinguishable from those held by the Democrats.

Although the candidates have had six months to build an image, none of them are a household name. Even we in the media only have a surface knowledge of them, of their philosophies or their solutions to the problems that surround New York State.

London, on the other hand, has been traveling around the state, building grass roots support from both Conservatives and moderate Republicans. On a daily basis, he has attended small gatherings and major civic meetings. He has listened to the average taxpayer, the average worker. He is aware of the problems we are having with funding education and the quality of education. He has spoken out about the repressive taxes that drive workers and businesses out of the state. He understands the root causes of people leaving, which are taxes and overregulation. He doesn't pussyfoot around on crime. He offers common sense solutions. He promises us leadership rather than government by vested interest opinion. He is the only candidate that can bring the Conservative line to the race.

London garnered over 20% of the gubernatorial vote four years ago on this line alone. Four years prior to this run, the Conservatives came in fourth place, losing to the single issue Right-to-Life Party.

London offers a lot of hope to a lot of average people. His problem is, he doesn't offer much hope to the power brokers or the politicians who have brought us years of defeat and allowed New York State to become the welfare state of the nation.

The question is, can the rank and file convince the Republican leadership that it is time for a real candidate who has real ideas and who can win in November? Can we stop the leadership from making the same mistake they made four years ago?

And why not?

Let's hope that the "greenies" don't get in the way of this opportunity. We don't need this kind of progress being held up by tree-huggers and fans of the tiger salamander.

And why not?

Where crisis is

Bill and Hillary Clinton have been feverishly selling the nation the notion there is a healthcare crisis here in the United States. They claim this crisis is of such proportion that we must enact a gigantic socialistic program to cure the problem.

Approximately 87% of the American population has healthcare in one form or another. Who are the 13% that have no coverage? The truth is finally being revealed. The 13% are the people that are between the ages of 21 and 30, kids who come off their parents' plans and choose not to buy insurance on their own.

These people are the healthiest segment of our society. They feel invincible. They are not going to get hurt. They are not going to be stricken with a major illness. They have too many personal desires to invest their money in insurance, which is not their top priority. They want the stereo, the car, the six pack of beer. These things are more important to them than an insurance policy that they do not feel they need or want.

Take a look at it logically. The elderly have Medicare, the medical insurance provided as part of the Social Security system. The poor have Medicaid, which provides coverage we as individuals cannot afford for ourselves. Every hospital has public clinics that can not turn down or turn away anyone who is in need of emergency health services, regardless of whether they have money or not.

Most working Americans have health insurance provided by themselves or provided, in full or part, by their employers. To enact President Clinton's socialistic scheme, huge amounts of new money will have to be generated by the government. No matter what the politicians with their skill for rhetoric want to call it, it will be a tax.

How much more can we afford to pay? Right now, every working American contributes, between his and his employer's share, 15% of his earnings to Social Security. On top of this we pay between 20% and 50% in federal and state taxes. We have to add to this burden our real estate, sales, transportation and fuel taxes. These are the more visible taxes, but there are hundreds of others that are camouflaged as use taxes, pass along taxes and regulatory taxes.

Although it is not popular to say, we are re-entering an age of slavery, where the master extracts his piece of flesh from the commoners. This country does not need another tax to help itself.

We as individuals are responsible for our bodies and souls. Government should only be there to do what we can't do for ourselves.

Several months ago we offered a very sound solution to the medical problem. Individuals would be given a tax credit which would be deposited in an account like an IRA or 401K. This account could only be used for medical expenses. It would belong to the individual. Each individual would control the account, including the investments. Everyday medical expenses, as they were incurred, would be deducted from the account. Catastrophic insurance would be provided by the employer through his contribution and the employee's contribution. This would take care of the big ticket items that would run over \$2,000. It was estimated that a plan could be written covering just catastrophic needs for about \$1,500 per year per person. The plan made sense, was achievable and would guarantee everyone coverage.

What this country needs is a good dose of common sense, not socialism. And why not?

Dad and Disneyland

When we were growing up, money was very tight and my Dad used to work six-and-a-half days a week. Twice a year, he would take a Saturday off and devote it to the kids. This usually meant a trip out of my home town, nothing elaborate, a day at the beach, a picnic at a park, maybe even a fishing trip on a row boat.

Dad was from Brooklyn. He often spoke about the wonders of Coney Island. He promised he would take us there someday. It was probably in the late 1940s when he started hinting that the day was about to arrive. We could see ourselves at Steeplechase, dropping through the air on the parachute ride. We were filled with visions and anticipation as the day grew closer for our trip to fantasyland.

The day before our scheduled trip, a World War II bomber crashed into the Empire State Building. We vividly remember the front page of the Daily News, the photograph of the plane embedded in the world's tallest building.

The next morning, as we set off for Coney Island, Dad announced that he was changing the agenda. We were going to New York City to see the

bomber that had crashed. Mentally, we were caught in a dilemma. Yes, we wanted to see the bomber. Yes, we wanted to be part of history. But, in our young heart of hearts, we wanted to go to Coney Island. There were solemn faces on that long trip in. Our dream was not to be realized, but we would be witnessing history.

This moment of my past came back to mind as I read the report of Disney's intentions to build an Americana theme park in Virginia, adjacent to the battlefields of the Civil War.

Like with anything else there is local opposition. We watched television reports of some of the opponents protesting the development of Disney's plans. They were using the normal rhetoric concerning the environment, the changes to their way of life. They even threw in the psychological damage that would be done to the residents by having a theme park in their midst.

Disney will attract millions of people each year, people who would never on their own go to this area of Virginia. People who will go to Disneyland will be exposed to the various monuments and historical sites that are so meaningful to our nation.



Memorial Day, 1994

Yes, we remember

This coming Monday is Memorial Day, a day on which every proud American should remember those who gave their lives and sacrificed their time and efforts so that Americans could be free.

During World War I, World War II and the subsequent wars, the primary aim of the leaders of the countries we fought against was world domination. These leaders we warred with wanted to control how we thought, how we spoke, the religions we practiced, the schools we attended and our entire thought process. They wanted to insulate us, strip us of our freedoms, of our rights, make us slaves

of their world order.

It was only the willingness of our citizens to give their lives, their limbs and their time that saved us from the atrocities that could have befallen us. Because they gave, we survived.

This Monday we pay tribute to the fallen men and women and the surviving veterans who have endured the horrors of war. Go to a service, attend a parade, but, most importantly, clasp your hands together, look heavenward and thank God and ask for his blessing those wonderful men and women who truly loved America.

And why not?

White Crosses

By Jerry A. Towey
Written October 18, 1944,
somewhere in Europe
Here's to the millions of white crosses
laid out row upon row.
Under which are bodies
that you and I know.
Some are found on a hillside
that is barren and cold,
Where not so long ago wheat was
growing, looking like gold.
Others are found planted
in a valley so green.
And some are found to be planted
a few feet from a stream.
They are so silent, so white,
and so still,
Looking like snow, at a distance,
on a hill.
It's peaceful and quiet when you're
standing among them there.
And you have the feeling that God
is also about somewhere.
Watching over them
this night of nights,
These rows of crosses,
so pale and so white.
Here's to the white crosses
laid out row upon row,
They are at peace with a war torn
world that you and I know.
Let's both you and I pray that they
stand erect out on the plain
and that the next generation never
sees them again.

By the way, we did see the bomber, and had a wonderful time at Coney Island. Both memories remain as a testimonial to a great Dad who did a lot with a little.

And why not?