

## Junk justice

In another bizarre ruling, a federal court judge ruled that it was illegal to release information about convicted sex offenders if their crimes took place prior to January 21, 1996.

Megan's Law went into effect on that date. Megan's Law requires that sex offenders register with the police and make their whereabouts known.

Megan's Law came about because a released sex offender, unbeknown to

the community, was living in their midst and struck again, killing a young girl. After this tragedy, both New Jersey and New York passed legislation requiring that the community be informed if there was a sex offender living in the area.

**Maybe Chin would think twice about his ruling if he had a daughter and she was molested by a released sex offender.**

Federal District Court Judge Danny Chin ruled that the law violates the constitutional rights of sex offenders who committed their crimes before the law was enacted. Isn't a parent's right to know that a sex offender, a child molester, may be living in the community more important than the day of the enactment of a law?

Maybe Chin would think twice about his ruling if he had a daughter and she was molested by a released sex offender. How will he feel if someday he picks up the paper and reads that some young child had been raped or killed by someone who had committed the same crime before and was not covered by Megan's Law?

Thankfully, Attorney General Dennis Vacco has become incensed and is going to appeal the judge's ruling. Hopefully, he will argue a good case and will have a judge who not only believes in the law but has some common sense.

And why not?



## Parents should have final say

A few weeks ago, we criticized Fred Towle for the bill that would require fingerprints on driver's licenses. This week, we congratulate him for a bill that he has introduced into the County Legislature that would prohibit children under the age of 18 from having their body pierced without parental consent.

Parents are legally and financially responsible for their children until their 18th birthday, and, in some cases, until they are 21. Consequently, parents should have the final say over what a child wants to do with his or her body or mind.

A number of years ago, when my daughter was eight or nine years old she came to me and asked for permission to have her ears pierced.

I explained to her that I thought piercing one's body was a very serious decision and not a decision that a child her age was capable of making. I told her that when she was 18 and responsible for her own body, it was a decision that she could make. She then would have the capability of dealing with this issue from her own developed reason-

ing and personality. She accepted my decision and just recently told me that she was happy that I had asked her to wait until she could fully reason out what she was doing.

It started with pierced ears, but in the last few years, young people are having their noses, their nipples and other parts of their body pierced. Truthfully, we do not understand this phenomenon. We have been told it is their way of expressing themselves, perhaps the last frontier of individualism.

It is one thing for an adult to abuse himself or herself, it is another thing for a child, because of peer pressure, to mutilate his or her body. This is a decision that one should be fully mature to decide.

If parents give their consent, it is one thing, but a child is not mature enough to make this decision on his or her own.

This is a good bill Fred--thanks for introducing it.

And why not?

**If parents give their consent, it is one thing, but a child is not mature enough to make this decision on his or her own.**

## Liars figure, figures lie

Newsday, the Long Island Lighting Company's mouthpiece, commissioned a study on the Public Service Commission's report which indicates that LILCO's rates can be cut up to 15%. The Newsday report found fault with the PSC's methodology and therefore suggested that LILCO's rates cannot be reduced.

Newsday and LILCO have long been in bed with each other. Newsday continued to support the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant after the safety question had been raised and it had been proven that the plant would not be economically feasible.

This incestuous relationship has been devastating to Long Island. It is not surprising that Newsday would come again to LILCO's defense by ordering a report that would be favorable to this utility.

When we served on the Shoreham Commission, we learned firsthand that liars figure and figures lie. LILCO persistently trotted before the commission consultants and self-appointed experts who twisted figures and came to conclusions favorable to LILCO's point of view. When other experts provided by the state government testified on the exact same items, they came to contradictory conclusions.

We came to the conclusion that if you have enough money you can always find some expert or consultant who will generate enough gobbledygook to justify your position.

LILCO's utility rates are the highest in the continental United States. We pay twice the average utility rates.

The PSC is finally acting on the consumers' behalf. The PSC, with new leadership provided by Pataki, is examining LILCO's rate structure and is calling for an immediate cutback of 5% to 15%. LILCO has cried foul. It claims that this kind of cutback will affect service. It refuses to look at the bloated bureaucracy or the economic maneuvers that management has ordered to prop up the stock value.

Under the Shoreham settlement, LILCO received windfall profits. Instead of using this found money to reduce its debt, it has used these increased profits to pay larger dividends to its stockholders.

The LILCO settlement was, in part, based on the cost of oil then and the high interest payments LILCO was paying on debt. The cost of oil has come down significantly. LILCO refinanced part of its debt at more favorable rates. These savings have gone to LILCO instead of being factored into the rates we are charged.

A 5% to 15% cut in LILCO rates is chicken feed compared to what can be accomplished if the Shoreham deal was reopened. The PSC is on the right track and neither LILCO nor Newsday should be allowed to derail it.

And why not?

## Political health risks

We may be old fashioned, but we were taught that lies are mortal sins. It is a violation of the Ten Commandments. We don't see where there is any difference between a friend lying to a friend, a husband lying to a wife or a parent lying to a child. Politicians' lies are just as grievous, in fact, more so, because they may affect how we live.

Over the last decade, politicians seem to be speaking more often with a forked tongue. Prior to election, they flip-flop around the issues, taking

positions they neither believe nor support, if elected.

Yet, there is no compulsion about speaking to the public and creating the illusion that they are something that they are not. We need truth from these candidates, and, specifically, we need absolute truth from the presidential nominees.

This year, we are electing a president. No matter which presidential candidate is being supported, one of the most important things we should

be looking at is how truthful this individual is. Are his stances consistent with his behavior? Has he contradicted himself, or has he stood fast and been a rock? What are the candidate's true beliefs before the election and after?

If you do not have faith in a candidate today, will you be able to have faith in him or her after January? Truth should be the first quality you look for in any candidate.

And why not?

## November surprise

Suffolk Life has learned that Democratic Assembly Leader Sheldon Silver of Manhattan's Lower East Side is considering calling the legislature back into session for the purpose of increasing the salaries of legislators and other top state officials. This cowardly maneuver has often been characterized as a November or December surprise.

In order for the legislature to increase its salaries, a vote must be held the year before the next term takes place. The authors of this bill tried to force the question of salary increases to be debated during the normal course of business.

Bringing the legislature back into session after Election Day means that the legislators will not have to face the citizens' wrath for another 23 months. Many legislators calculate that the good folks back home will have short memories and not take it out on them at the polls.

A legislative position is defined as a part-time position by law. The legislature is supposed to conduct its business within three months from the second week of January through the end of March.

This past year, because it delayed the passage of the budget, the members kept themselves in Albany through most

of July. They now want us, the taxpayers, to give them a bonus as a reward for their incompetence.

The New York State Legislature receives the second highest salary in the nation. The salary for members is fixed at \$56,000, but by the time their additional funding for per diems, chairmanships, bonuses, perks, travel allowances, medical and pension expenses are factored in, each legislator, under the current salary structure, receives compensation of over \$100,000.

When you consider the average per capita income in Suffolk County is less than \$25,000 per year for full-time work, a \$100,000 part-time salary is more than generous. Do you think the legislators are worth more and deserve a raise?

The only way we can stop this ripoff is to get an unequivocal pledge from each of the incumbents that they will not take part in this charade. If they refuse to make this pledge, we should vote them out of office. If they feel they are deserving of a raise and want to bring it up during the general session so that it has the full light of debate, we say to them, go ahead and try it. Don't try an end run, a November surprise, and expect us to have any confidence or trust in you.

And why not?

## No way to teach democracy

Schools are supposed to be the advocate and bastion of democracy. Unfortunately, not all schools practice what they preach.

A young girl in the Connecticut school system recently decided to circulate a petition among her schoolmates asking for the reinstatement of the school lunch program. When the administration became aware of this basic expression of democracy, they seized the petition and traumatized the student.

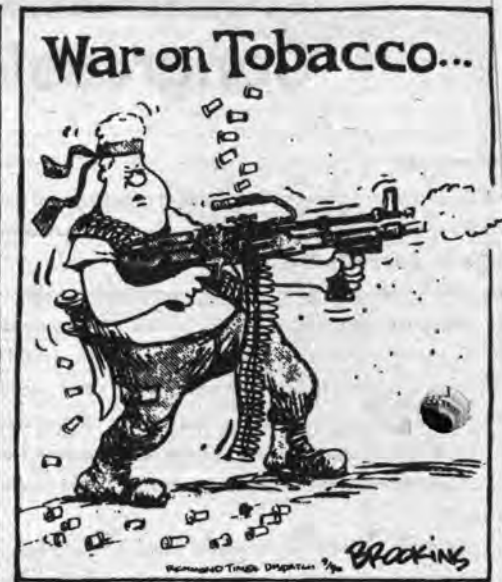
Petitions have long been a democratic way of expressing one's viewpoint. Sometimes we do not agree with the content of a given petition, but we will fight to the death for the right of people

to circulate them.

Once it became public that school officials had censored this Connecticut student, they partially backed off. They allowed the child to use a classroom as a place to gather signatures. But school officials required the kids who wanted to sign the petition to have the approval of their parents first. This was supposed to make everyone happy, but we personally think it is a lousy way to teach democracy.

When the school districts can make it difficult to petition the government, they are subverting democracy. What a lesson they are teaching our kids.

And why not?



## SUFFOLK LIFE'S Campaign Contribution

Suffolk Life Newspapers has a long tradition of being part of the election process. Our reporters cover the candidates, report on the news that the candidates make and compile profiles on each candidate.

The editorial board personally interviews each of the major party candidates from all districts across Long Island. This process alone requires an investment of over 400 man hours.

Probably the most important contribution Suffolk Life makes is the development and the publication of our questionnaire. The questionnaires have between 100 and 150 questions which have been developed over the years and are continually updated.

The candidates are required to answer the questions with either a 'yes' or a 'no'. This gives you, the voter, the opportunity of knowing how the candidate would vote or stand on each individual issue. It is probably the most important piece of campaign literature you will have an opportunity to examine. There are no right or wrong answers.

We suggest that everyone who is going to vote answers the questions themselves. Match your answers to those of the candidates you will be voting on. The candidate who subscribes to your philosophy, whose answers match yours the most, is the candidate you should seriously consider casting your ballot for.

If a candidate fails to answer a question, which is indicated with a blank space, the candidate generally does not

want you to know his or her position. In this situation, you can usually count on it being the opposite of yours. Any candidate who will not answer a question should be suspect.

This week, you will find published in Suffolk Life, answers from the Congressional candidates. Next week, the State Senators and State Assembly people will answer their questionnaires.

We encourage you to study this questionnaire and keep it for future reference. After the election is over and the victorious candidate goes to office, and the actual votes on the issues begin, use the questionnaire to remind the candidate of what he or she told you before Election Day. Check their votes to see if the candidate has lived up to the promises and pledges. Use this questionnaire to hold our elected officials accountable.

And why not?

**We suggest that everyone who is going to vote answers the questions themselves.**

## No-brainer makes politicians look stupid

Suffolk County threatened to pull the Suffolk County Police off the Long Island Expressway and Sunrise Highway, which would have forced the state to replace the county police with state troopers. These roads are state roads.

Throughout New York State, state roads are patrolled by troopers. It costs Suffolk County over \$7 million to fund the Suffolk County police to patrol these roads. The county was looking for the state to either put troopers on these roads or to compensate Suffolk, as it does in Westchester County, for assuming this state obligation.

This situation should have been a no-brainer for the nine senior members of the Long Island delegation in the New York State Legislature. It was a matter of fairness, need, and the state had the money.

Throughout our candidate interviewing process, we have learned that the delegation did not act because they claim County Executive Gaffney did not ask them to. This may or may not

be true, but it demonstrates an incredible lack of leadership by the individual assemblymen and senators and the delegation as a whole.

They are up in Albany to represent us. It is their responsibility to bring the 'bacon' home. The senators, almost to a man, claim that they weren't going to act because they felt that the Suffolk County Legislature was trying to blackmail them. What petty politics.

Don't they realize how stupid this stance makes them look? In Albany, \$7 million may not be a big deal when you are working with close to a \$70-billion budget. But, to Suffolk County, \$7 million is real money.

Thankfully, Suffolk Life has extracted pledges from most of the candidates, that if they are successful and go to Albany, they will make sure that this injustice is corrected next year. We intend to hold these legislative candidates' feet to the fire on this issue.

And why not?

# WILLMOTTS & WHY NOTS

DAVID J. WILLMOTT SR., EDITOR

## It's for the kids

Across New York State, the State School Board Association has been holding hearings on renewable tenure and tenure reform. Under current tenure law, when a teacher has completed three years of teaching in a district and their employment is continued, they are granted a lifetime guarantee of their job.

Most teachers continue to do a good job. Some do a lousy job and others who are complacent just go along to get along. Our children, who are in the hands of these incompetent teachers, are not educated properly and end up wasting not only that year of their life but are set back and have difficulty with subsequent years.

The New York School Boards publication recently published that, 'One in four U.S. public school teachers is poorly prepared or flaily unqualified for classroom instruction, according to the blue-ribbon national Commission on Teaching and America's Future.'

We were first made aware of this situation by a teacher, a teacher who had the reputation of pouring her heart and soul into her teaching mission. She had just gone through a horrendous year. The class had a very complacent and incompetent teacher the year before. At the start of the school year, she found herself in the position of not only having to teach the current year's curriculum but having to go back and teach the prior years' lessons. The kids were a mess. They had not mastered the skills that they should have, yet they had been passed on. She was facing another year of the same scenario, she had inherited the bad teacher's class once again.

Naively we said, 'why don't you complain? If the teacher is this bad, she should be fired.' She then explained how tenure worked.

In educating our own children, we saw good teachers, we saw great teachers, we saw lazy teachers and we saw misfits. As a parent we were very involved with our children's education. We started writing about the need for tenure reform nearly 20 years ago. We earned the wrath of the teachers' organizations.

Teachers claim they must have tenure or their voices will be silenced. What is really at the core of the teachers' fear of losing tenure is the misguided belief that school boards would fire older, higher-paid teachers in wholesale numbers.

Most school boards care about the quality of education. They balance this against the economies of education. They would not dare fire an excellent teacher, particularly a teacher who had the support of the parents and the children. Mediocre teachers, or teachers who have failed to keep up, would be in trouble and renewable tenure would put the pressure on these teachers to get their act together. The kids would be the winners. The taxpayers would be getting a bang for their buck.

Under the current tenure laws, the only way a teacher can be dismissed is on grounds of morals, commission of a crime or a total dereliction of duty. The process is called 2030A and it currently takes, on average, 18 months and can cost the district an average of \$180,000. And still, this process

does not allow for the removal of complacent teachers, those who put in their time, but not much else.

During our political interviews, discussed renewable tenure at length. One thing that has become very clear is that most school districts on the Island and throughout the state do a lousy job of evaluating and documenting the current staff.

Teachers who have achieved tenure sometimes are not observed or reviewed at all. Superintendents and principals rarely sit in and monitor classes. The teachers' lesson plans are seldom looked at with any seriousness. Kids are not encouraged to discuss the qualities of their teachers with principals or superintendents. Parents who oppose the administration are often considered troublemakers and are often given the shuffle.

Teachers themselves are in the best position to clean up the system. They are the ones who truly know who the complacent and the incompetent are. Good teachers and their unions should be working together, demanding that everyone on the staff be the best that they can in order to justify the salaries they are making.

In conversations with teachers, we learned of the peer pressure to keep their mouths shut. They claim it's impossible to clean up the system from within.

Almost no one has a lifetime guarantee of a job in either private or public work. Educators should have security, but not a blind guarantee that no matter how bad they can be, they will still have a job. It's now up to the New York State Legislature to develop a bill that will address this problem.

Assemblywoman Debra Mazzarelli, a freshman Republican legislator from the Patchogue-Medford area, last year authored a renewable tenure bill. She let it be known that she would give the bill to any Democrat who wanted to run with it. For a bill of this nature to get out of committee in the Assembly, it needs a Democratic prime sponsor because the Democrats are the majority party in the Assembly.

She also welcomed her Republican colleagues' input to her bill, "Help me make it palatable, workable and help me get it enacted." With the need to address this issue and with Mazzarelli's openness, one would have thought co-sponsors would have lined up to be on the bill. Sadly, not one other Assembly person from throughout New York would put their name on the bill. The reason is quite simple: it is considered political suicide.

The New York State Teachers Union is the most powerful and vindictive union in the state. No one wants to earn its wrath. The union has targeted Mazzarelli for defeat.

The legislator in your district should be convinced that it is the kids who are being hurt and their need for protection is much greater than the teachers or the unions. We have got to stop shortchanging our kids, they are too valuable to waste.

We need tenure reform. We need it now and only elected legislators who have courage will give it to us.

And why not?



## Suffolk vs. Suffolk

Each of the 18 Suffolk County Legislators represents the residents within their respective Legislative District. The Suffolk County executive represents all the residents in all of those 18 districts.

Suffolk residents find themselves in the uncomfortable position of suing themselves because Gaffney and the legislature do not agree on funding the Suffolk County Community College. The executive wants to keep the college's spending increases within the tax and spending cap established by the legislature. The Suffolk County Legislature wants to pierce that cap and spend as much as 25% more than what has been done in the past.

This matter has been the subject of prolonged negotiations, votes by the legislature, and vetoes by the county executive. The county executive utilized his right under the 'line-item veto' which the legislature did not over-ride because it believes it was an illegal move by the

county executive. This is the basis of the lawsuit, and Gaffney has instituted a counter suit.

We don't know how you feel about it, but we hate frivolous suits that eat up our resources. The residents of Suffolk County are paying for both sets of lawyers and lawyers are not cheap.

It has been said that county Republican Leader John Powell has been too instrumental in Suffolk County government. He is too powerful and too much of a boss. If this is true, Powell should convene a meeting of the Republican caucus of the legislature with the county executive. Behind closed doors, he should bang heads until an agreement is reached that both sides will hate but are willing to live with. This would be an act of leadership. We must stop wasting Suffolk County taxpayers' money by having our representatives suing themselves.

And why not?

## A long, hard, cold look

County Executive Robert Gaffney released his preliminary budget for 1997. It calls for a tax hike in eight out of 10 towns.

Southampton's share of county taxes will increase 20%. Other towns do not fare as badly.

One of the county's biggest costs is welfare. Since 1993, the caseload is down 30%. Sales taxes for 1996 are coming in at \$16 million above what had been predicted. Taking these two items into consideration, one would expect taxes to come down. Instead, Gaffney plans on increasing our tax burden while spending those revenues created from the sales tax increase and the reduction in welfare.

We think this is bad government. Suffolk County residents have endured a long history of tax increases. Those increases have contributed toward forcing longtime residents to abandon Long Island for more cost-effective areas. Most hard-working residents have little discretionary money left over, and they badly need a tax break—not a tax increase.

The legislature has an opportunity

to examine Gaffney's budget thoroughly and carefully. The BRO (Budget Review Office) should go over his budget, line by line. It is incumbent upon the legislature to look at this budget with a critical eye. Anything that is not a priority should be cut.

The economy on Long Island still stinks. We have not recovered from the recession. No one has replaced Grumman and there is no one on the horizon. Although Long Island has a great work force and many wonderful attributes that would normally attract businesses, new businesses aren't coming because they cannot afford to support the taxes demanded by government.

Until Suffolk County and all of its governmental entities can learn to be mean and lean, we will continue to be unappealing to businesses and we will continue to drive away our senior citizens when it comes time for them to retire.

Wake up, face the facts. We can't afford even a small increase in taxes.

And why not?

## Is it the Environment or the Pork Barrel?

When we first heard of Pataki's plan last spring to place an environmental bond issue on the November ballot, we thought we would support it.

Pataki had earned a reputation as being straight forward, economically conservative, and he swore to put an end to the various schemes that Cuomo used to fund New York State government.

In its original scope, the bond issue appeared to deal only with the environment. But by the time it came out of conference with the Assembly and the Senate, it was a totally different proposal. The Assembly and the Senate had added enough pork to the proposition to make New York the hog capital of the nation.

### No guarantees

There is a good chance the environmental bond issue is not even constitutional. The Constitution says that bonds must be issued for specific purposes. This bond issue is a catch-all that covers funding for not only clean water, river and harbor revitalization (including the Long Island Sound) but it has tucked away in the provisions a language that would make Sing Sing prison into a park and provide funding for bars and coffee houses in Saratoga.

Language in the bond act does not guarantee that the funds are even going for the projects that have been identified or spent in the regions they are allegedly planned for. In fact, there is language in the proposal that reads, "amounts allocated in paragraphs A, B, C, D, E, F, G in this sub-division may be interchanged between such paragraphs and may be interchanged to amounts allocated in paragraph H of this sub-division". Paragraph H refers to "unspecified state projects."

After the bond act has been passed, the actual spending on projects will be determined by Governor Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Bruno and Assembly Majority Leader Silver. This unholy trio were the three that were responsible for the state budget being almost three months late. When the three of them are together there is pure politics. Each represents their constituency so politics wins and people lose.

The bond issue will be paid back over 40 to 45 years. The amount the public is being asked to authorize borrowing is \$1.75 billion. The interest and the investment fees to place the bonds will bring the total cost of the bond issue to between \$3 billion and \$4 billion. The proceeds from the bond sale will make available \$120 million per year for 15 years.

### Highest debt in nation

Currently, New York State's debt is the highest in the nation. Our credit rating is the next to the lowest—the lowest distinction belongs to Louisiana. Currently, every man, woman and child owes more than \$12,000 each in state debt. When local debt is added to our burden, it comes to \$22,800 per taxpayer. Interest costs alone run each of us \$1,400 per year. This year,

Governor Pataki proposed and the Legislature approved, a 395% spending increase for the Environmental Protection Fund over the 1995-1996 levels. This amounts to approximately \$120 million, the same amount that would be funded if we passed the bond issue.

The Environmental Protection Fund was set up to avoid the need for bond issuances and to finance environmental projects on a more responsible pay-as-you-go basis.

The bond act contradicts the intent of the Environmental Protection Fund. It's a slight of hand maneuver which takes the funds from the environment out of the state budget and puts them into bonds which carry huge interest payments.

In 1986, voters approved an Environmental Quality Bond Act. This bond still has a balance of \$675 million in unspent funds, waiting to be invested in the environment in New York State. With this reserve, why do we need a new environmental bond now?

### Flimflam

Although the bond act has been sold primarily on the need for pure water, the Environmental Bond Act allows non-environmental projects such as parking lots, zoos and recreational activities including ski slopes, golf courses, lawyers' fees, roads, botanical gardens, aquariums and building renovations. Rather than paying for new environmental projects, the bond act allows the state to make payments for projects already completed and paid for, going back as far as 1993.

The public generally supports a clean environment with pure water, and should, but politicians learned a long time ago that they can package a lot of different things under the term "environment" and scare people into supporting their issues.

We have over \$675 million available to meet any emergency. Money that already has voter approval that has not been spent. We have established and we have funded the Environmental Protection Fund. The governor and the Legislature have promised to fund this to the tune of \$120 million per year. This is on-going, pay-as-you-go financing. It will allow us to continue to clean up the environment for the next 40 to 50 years. It will buy us four times the clean up than the bond issue will accomplish.

Why settle for 15 years of environmental spending at \$120 million each year when you can have 45 years of spending at \$120 million per year for the same tax dollars; or put another way, why have 15 years of improvement and 30 years with out them because you have to pay interest for 45 years on what was borrowed over the first 15 years?

Vote your pocketbook, not your emotions. You owe it to yourself and the generations that are going to follow you. This is your opportunity to vote for the environment and against the Wall Street bankers.

And why not?-

## Welfare Revolution Due

During its Legislative session this July, New York State will come face to face with a welfare explosion brought about by the changes in the federal program.

New York State is the 'welfare capital' of the nation. Our programs go far beyond those suggested or mandated by the federal government. Not only do we offer more programs, but benefits paid in New York far exceed those in surrounding states.

In New York, mostly city-based liberal Democrats control the Assembly. Their constituency has a heavy population of welfare recipients, and those Assembly members represent their pocketbook issues.

The way government works is, the Senate has been able to protect school aide for the suburbs. The Assembly has protected the welfare recipients. During budget battles, there is a lot of give and take.

### The past

Welfare programs were 50% funded by the federal government, 25% by local municipalities and 25% by the state. Where you weren't giving away a lot of your own money, our State Legislators found welfare a compromisable issue. The Senate, as long as it got its bacon for the school districts, were willing to make this trade.

Now, federal participation will be in the form of block grants. No longer will the federal government fund 50% of the programs. The state is on its own. The state will receive a set sum of money, based on population, to help administer the welfare programs.

Each state will receive a similar proportion of money based on population. Those states that have been more conservative and limited their welfare spending will make out very well. Liberal states, such as New York, that have substantially enlarged their spending on welfare programs will face a short fall if they attempt to keep spending at current levels.

New York could face a shortfall of up to \$2 billion. This shortfall can only be made up by eliminating some programs, changing rules, regulations and rate of compensation, or by raising taxes on businesses and the working people.

The Pataki administration has done a commendable job of reducing taxes in New York State over the last two years. New York is one of the heaviest taxed states in the nation, and it has been on a 15-year spiral of losing businesses and our work force.

### There must be jobs

Since the tax cuts have been enacted, New York State has gained 110,000 jobs. It is projected that New York State will grow 200,000 jobs a year if taxes continue to be reduced. Pataki and the Republicans can be counted on to dig in their heels and to refuse to fund any additions to welfare if it is going to cause any tax increases.

The welfare system is a huge bureaucracy. One candidate for the legislature this year alleged that more than 90 cents out of every dollar spent on welfare is

consumed by the bureaucracy. Only 10 cents out of every dollar that we invest in welfare actually finds its way into the pockets of the poor and the needy.

During our interviews, Senator James Lack, who heads the labor committee in the Senate revealed that there are over 400 agencies and departments that are providing just job training throughout the state. Many of these duplicate the efforts of the others.

Lack called for the consolidation of all these agencies under one department. We need so that the bureaucracy can be cut, duplication eliminated.

Each department such as Labor, Social Services, Health, and Education have their own fiefdom and no one wants to give up their power or see their manpower reduced. Consolidation must be utilized if the state is going to get through this financial dilemma.

A cornerstone of Pataki's plan is to impose severe restrictions on home relief. Home relief is an assistance program that currently has no limits. Ablebodied men and women, capable of working, can get a check for staying home.

Pataki also plans on putting limits on families receiving Aid to Dependent Children. Recipients in this category will be limited to five years of benefits. They will not receive increases in welfare grants if they have additional children.

Pataki also wants to limit New York State welfare grants to those being offered by the surrounding states. If we do not reduce our benefits, we will become a magnet for recipients from other states.

The whole idea behind reform is to get people off the system and into the work place. To accomplish this, an extraordinary effort will have to be made in the areas of day care, job training and education and job growth.

Coupled with this, the state must make sure that New York has an environment that grows jobs. We must go on making New York a place where businesses want to do business. A place where businesses want to expand.

Vice-presidential candidate Jack Kemp, in last week's debate, threw up a trial balloon which we believe has merit. He suggest welfare recipients coming back into the job market be allowed to earn 190% of their entry level salaries free of taxes. This makes wonderful sense as it will give those coming back into the job market time to pull themselves up by their boot straps and be able to keep those monies they earn, money that would normally be taxed, to buy their own day care, medical coverage and other necessities.

There are ways out of our financial dilemma. The Democrats in the Assembly are going to have to face reality. They will no longer be able to protect their welfare constituents as they have in the past.

This year, when you go to the polls, consider carefully those legislators whom you wish to send to Albany—they will have an enormous challenge ahead of them.

And why not?-

# WILLMOTTS & WHY NOTS ENDORSEMENTS

DAVID J. WILLMOTT SR., EDITOR

## First Congressional District

### Michael P. Forbes

Republican, Conservative, Independence, Right To Life

Almost everyone gives Forbes credit for being one of the hardest working congressman the First Congressional District has ever had.

Forbes was not even inaugurated and he started reaching out to the public for its input. Week after week during the last two years, Forbes has held town meetings and focus groups, asking residents of the First Congressional District their views on the issues. He spread a big table and invited all to come.

Forbes has been true to his word. He voted as he promised he would. He lived up to the Contract With America that has given the President line item veto, a balanced budget bill and numerous other provisions.

During this campaign, he has been attacked on voting for the Gun Control/Anti-Crime bill. Forbes points out that machine guns and guns having similar characteristics have been banned since 1932.

The Assault Weapons Bill made it illegal to manufacture certain weapons. But manufacturers quickly modified these firearms and circumvented the intent of the law.

The firearm, anti-crime bill was broken into two parts. The first dealt with the weapons issue. The second part, the most important, dealt with what people do with guns. It made it a federal offense to use a gun in the commission of a crime.

It provided for a mandated 20-year sentence on top of the penalty for the crime itself. If a gun was discharged, the perpetrator would face life in prison. If a person was killed in a first-degree murder and the weapon was a gun, they faced a mandatory death penalty. This bill put the emphasis on the crime and took it away from the weapon which is an inanimate object.

Because of congressmen like Forbes, we now have welfare reform. Even the Democrats admitted that our welfare programs have failed. It was locking generations into the system. It took the courage of the Republicans to 'bite the bullet' and come up with a program.

Throughout the nation, we now have welfare reform that is going to put people back to work, give them some dignity and pride, yet still provide a safety net for those who are truly in need.

Forbes should also be given credit for some of the small things he has done that have escaped most of the public's attention. Forbes found an appropriation by the former congressman for \$500,000 that would have been used for an experimental project for placing sewage in compost on the middle of some of our highways. Forbes was able to have these funds transferred and reallocated to buy buses and vans for our senior citizens.

Forbes' early intervention kept the Moriches Coast Guard Station open. Moriches was the cen-

terpiece of the rescue and recovery efforts for TWA Flight 800.

As conservative as Forbes is, his opponent is as liberal. Nora Bredes made her name in the closing of Shoreham. For this, she should be given credit. Unfortunately, Bredes did not know when to stop.

When Cuomo and Catacosinos came up with their infamous deal, she should have been hollering fire. Instead, she became an avid supporter of the deal that has led to Long Islanders paying the highest utility rates in the nation. Now Bredes admits that Suffolk County should have privatized LILCO's distribution system in Suffolk.

One of Bredes biggest weaknesses is her extremism. Bredes is pro-choice. Forbes is pro-life. Many people from both sides of this issue refuse to accept partial birth abortions. This is the procedure where the baby is partially extracted from the womb, the skull is penetrated, the brains sucked out. The baby is killed and then removed.

Bredes says she would not vote for the banning of this procedure. But Forbes did vote for the ban as did the majority of the Congress and the U.S. Senate. Unfortunately, President Clinton vetoed this measure. It is expected to come up for a second vote again in the new Congress.

Bredes does not agree with the welfare reform. She believes that government should pay

up front, \$750 per month for child care for those coming off welfare and going on workfare.

Altruistically, she believes that those on workfare should be provided a living wage that includes the ability to provide child care and medical benefits. She supports the government paying for two years of college or vocational training for welfare recipients.

To us, this sounds like a major expansion of the welfare system at a substantially increased cost. Didn't she ever hear of starting at the bottom and working up? This is the way that most of us have had to start.

Bredes does not believe that we can achieve a 15% tax cut and stated that it would be enormously damaging for working families in this country. If we enacted all of her liberal plans, she is right.

Bredes spoke the Democratic party line about targeted tax cuts with economic engineering to achieve social goals. She failed to comprehend that it is the taxpayers' money and they should be entitled to use as much of it as they can.

Forbes has earned reelection. He has worked hard for his constituents and he has been right on the issues.

Bredes is a Sixties liberal Democrat who is not in tune with the majority of her constituents in the First Congressional District.

Suffolk Life endorses Michael Forbes.

## First Senatorial District

### Kenneth LaValle

Republican, Conservative, Independence

State Senator Ken LaValle has come up for reelection every two years for the past 20 years and has continued to receive our endorsement because of his methodical and persistent approach to government. This year is no different.

His opponent Gerald Manginelli has much to offer, but is still the student to LaValle. Manginelli was a student of the senator's fourth grade class many years ago when LaValle was a teacher. Although Manginelli has some interesting philosophical concepts on how state government could change to better serve the public, he is a political neophyte and should look for more training on the local level.

LaValle, on the other hand, is a well-seasoned politician, who has a strong reputation for finding solutions to many of the problems facing the constituents of the state's First Senatorial District and the rest of the state.

We have not always agreed with the outcome of those resolutions or with the way in which a given solution was obtained, but throughout his tenure, LaValle has demonstrated the knowledge and desire to respond to the public's need. This is especially true in the area of education.

LaValle has sponsored successful legislative measures that protect the Peconic

River and the area's pine barrens. He sponsored the bill last session requiring all school districts to vote on the same day instead of allowing a staggering, confusing schedule to continue; and he has been instrumental in bringing more state aid to the local school districts.

He has also been working to push through a state property tax relief bill that would benefit anyone making less than \$75,000 a year, and the creation of a high-tech incubator as part of the redevelopment of the Navy property in Calverton.

LaValle is not without drawbacks. As a senior Senate member, he has the clout to garner a leadership role amongst Long Island's delegation of Republican and Democratic Senate and Assembly members. However, that initiative has not happened, despite the fact that the delegations from New York City, Buffalo, Rochester and other areas have done so, giving their respective region's constituents stronger representation. Good representation is important, but good leadership offers a promise of change that will benefit Long Island.

Suffolk Life endorses Ken LaValle and encourages him to take the leadership position in uniting Long Island's state delegation.

## First Assembly District

### Patricia L. Acampora

Republican, Conservative  
Independence, Right To Life

Patricia Acampora has been doing her job since she was hired as an aide to former Assemblyman Joe Sawicki. She is inquisitive, demanding and not afraid to stand up to those in charge. She offers strong constituency service, while aggressively doing her homework on various issues. She knows when to represent the public and when to represent her political philosophy. Acampora has had a successful first two years representing the First Assembly District and should be returned for a second term.

Therese Scofield presents herself as 'The Welfare Warrior,' and is predominately a one-issue candidate. Her concern is "expanding," not reforming welfare benefits within New York State because she says the poor need the assistance. While this is true and altruistic on her part, it is not practical because the public cannot afford to continue paying for one of the most inefficient and costliest programs in the country.

The State Constitution appropriately requires the taxpayers to assist the impoverished and underprivileged, but

the intent was not to break the fiscal back of the average taxpayer with an overbearing welfare system that simply inhibits its recipients -- especially since the federal government will no longer provide its 50 percent funding participation.

Scofield elicits Socialistic tendencies, and while that in and of itself is not offensive, she refuses to consider other important concepts such as whether or not the public can afford giving the underprivileged what it cannot afford for its own children.

Also, we were a bit disturbed when Scofield announced to our editorial board that she "encouraged" welfare fraud because she thinks that the recipients are not getting enough.

Pat Acampora believes that the welfare reform being proposed by the federal government and Governor George Pataki is a strong step in the right direction, and we believe the First Assembly District would be mad if it did not return her for another term.

# Fred W. Thiele, Jr.

Republican, Independence

Fred Thiele once referred to Evans K. Griffin, the former supervisor of Shelter Island and former chairman of the Suffolk County Supervisor's Association, as the "consummate politician."

Thiele has obviously followed in Griffin's footsteps and has established himself as a bit of a rambunctious maverick. Because of this, there are those who like Fred Thiele and there are those who dislike him. We find our selves in the middle of those individuals.

We are endorsing Fred Thiele because he is good on constituency service, and he knows what helps or what ails his district. He enjoys a reputation of being efficient, paying close attention to the smallest detail in any legislation he proposes or issue he stands up for.

As a town attorney for Southampton, Thiele was sharp. As a county legislator, he was hard

working and intelligent, and as a supervisor of Southampton Town, he united many common factions of the community.

Despite his pleasant arrogance toward political forces, Thiele is considered a champion regardless of their political affiliation. Fred is a likable fellow, who is quite versed with the ins and outs of most of the state's issues, and has served his constituency well.

As a State Assemblyman, Thiele has worked with a creative flare to allow the residents of the five East End towns the opportunity to vote on the idea of seceding from Suffolk to establish Peconic County. Some say it is a bad idea, others say it would be the best thing for the East End, Thiele has been adamant about letting the public decide.

His sometimes liberal attitudes, notwithstanding, Thiele favors welfare reform and estab-

lishing a child care program for those who qualify, but he is afraid of establishing the two year limit for single, able-bodied recipients or the five year limit for families receiving social services. No one wants to punish the children, but the parents are responsible for caring for those children as much, or more than society.

Thiele's opponent, Melissa Walton, is a good example of how the system should work. Because of marital difficulties, she was forced to go on social services. She then decided that obtaining an education would be the only way that she could drag herself and her children out of the welfare system into a "normal" life. She garnered grants and scholarships to pay for school and got involved in the school's work study program.

As a member of the Shinnecock Nation, she is a Native American and it is good to see the

area's Native Americans stepping out from behind the shroud of their sovereign separation to participate in government, but she needs more experience before taking on the State Assembly.

She has been willing to work the system well enough to drag herself away from the clutches of welfare, with the help of her family and the taxpayers, and is looking to participate in the reform of that system and government in general.

She believes there needs to be a "bridge" between the current welfare system in New York that would smoothly take the state into a more realistic assistance program. Good idea, but if that means continuing to dump good money into a bad system, that is ridiculous.

Instead of running for a state position, she should be starting with town government and working her way up as Thiele has done.

## 1996 Propositions

### New York State Bond Act Proposition Number One

The official title of this State proposition is the Clean Water - Clean Air Bond Act, 1996. It could also be called the Pork Barrel Act of 1996.

The State is asking for voter approval to issue \$1.7 billion in

debt that carries up to \$2 billion in interest. These monies will be used for a variety of projects, some purely environmental, some purely so that particular elected State officials can grab as much pork as possible.

Currently, New York has more debt than any other state, except Louisiana. We still have \$650 million left over from the last environmental bond issue that is available for any necessary ecological projects.

In addition, the Legislature agreed last year to fund the Environmental Defense Fund with \$120 million each year. This is pay-as-you-go financing was supposed to avoid the need for bonding. For the same tax money it will give us 45 years of clean up rather than the 15 years that the bond issue will buy. The bonds are planned to be issued with a 45 year pay back. The monies will be spent over a 15-year period which means there will be no monies for clean up in the next 30 years because of the interest payments that we, the taxpayers, will be making.

Suffolk Life recommends a No vote on New York State Proposition I.

### Southold Development Rights Purchase Proposition Number Five

The town board is asking for voter approval to issue \$2 million in bonds to buy the development rights of prime agricultural land.

Farming is one of the beauties of the North Fork. We have two choices, buy the

development rights or see houses spring up where potatoes and grapes used to grow.

If you can afford a slight tax increase, vote Yes to protect Southold's rural nature.

### East Hampton Preserving Farmland Proposition Number Four

This proposition asks the voters for permission to issue \$5 million in bonds that will be used solely for land acquisition in the community. It will cost the taxpayers

approximately \$9.00 per \$100,000 of value of your property.

If you can afford this investment, vote Yes.

### Suffolk County 1/4 % Water Protection Program Proposition Number 2 and 3

Under the current voter authorized quarter percent drinking water protection program, two-thirds of the funds raised must be used for land acquisitions. One-third of the money may be used for other environmental needs, or for county tax stabilization.

The environmentalists want 100 % of the monies dedicated to land acquisition, regardless of the effect it may have on the taxpayers.

In a compromise, the Suffolk Legislature proposed utilizing 98 % of the money to purchase environmentally sensitive land, while

allowing two percent to be utilized for other expenditures.

The harsh reality in this situation is that there are times when tax stabilization is more important to the people than land acquisition. For this reason, we encourage a No vote on both Suffolk County Propositions two and three.

Allow the County Executive and the Legislature to continue to have the flexibility to use up to one-third of these monies to ward off tax increases or to address other environmental needs without being encumbered.

### Southampton Economic Indicator Proposition Number Four

Southampton Town wisely placed limits on growth in the budget. This proposal seeks to change the terms and conditions which will lead to more spending by the town and more taxes from the taxpayers.

Town officials claim that the proposed change in that process would make it easier for the public to understand, but we firmly believe: If it's not broken, don't fix it. Vote No on Proposition 4.

### Southampton Open Space Bond Proposition Number Five

This proposal will allow the town to issue \$5 million in bonds for the sole purpose of acquiring land for preservation.

None of us want Southampton to look

like Nassau County. If you can afford it, vote for it. It will cost you about \$5.00 a year for each \$100,000 that your house is valued at.

### Southampton Budget Buster Proposition Number Six

This proposal would allow the Southampton Town Board to pierce spending cap that was established to keep expenditures by the town under control. It allows the town to pierce the cap to purchase open spaces.

The cap was established to stabilize taxes. Can you afford to give the Town Board a blank check? Vote No on this proposition, if you are voting your pocketbook.

### Southampton Tax Increase Proposition Proposition Number Eight

Again, the Southampton Town Board is asking for permission to pierce the budget cap. The town board wants to hire ten additional police officers. This will add up to a million dollars to the towns cost of operation. It will require a sizeable increase in local taxes. As the town grows, so does the tax base.

The town board should be able to live with these increased tax revenues and hire police as they are needed without having to pierce the cap.

We urge the voters to vote No unless you don't mind increasing your real estate taxes substantially.

### Peconic County Proposition

A positive vote on this proposal is the opening mechanism that can bring about the creation of Peconic County. It shows local support for the creation of Peconic County and asks the New York State Legislature to allow the five East End towns to have a binding referendum on this issue.

There is a safeguard built into it which

requires a four-fifths vote of each town board before any action can be taken by the towns of Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton, Southold and Shelter Island to advance the creation of Peconic County.

We support Peconic County and we urge a Yes vote.

### Shelter Island Water and Wetland Protection Proposition Number Five

Voters of Shelter Island are being asked by the town to approve the issuance of \$600,000 in bonds to pay for the acquisition of land for water preservation and wetland protection purposes.

The bonds will be issued for 30 years and

the monies will be dedicated to this specific purpose.

Shelter Island is a beautiful community that deserves every bit of protection its taxpayers can afford. The bonds will increase taxes a small amount. If you can afford it, vote for it.