

## What's Another Couple Hundred Million Dollars?

During the Shoreham hearings, when news was announced about the failure of the Duval backup generators, Ira Freilicher senior vice-president of LILCO, public affairs, made the statement that in the context of Shoreham, what difference does another couple hundred million dollars make. When we first heard this statement we were shocked, but then realized that when you are talking about a \$5 billion folly, the people who brought it to you can only have a mentality that would consider another couple of hundred million dollars pocket change.

We, as ratepayers, through P.S.C. ordered "Construction While In Progress" (QUIP) funds included in the rate base, have already paid almost \$2 billion of the cost of Shoreham, \$2 billion for a plant the vast majority of Long Islanders do not ever want to see open and operating. Our State Legislature and the Governor, hearing our plea, have enacted a law that will create a Long Island Power Authority to take over the Long Island Lighting Company, close Shoreham forever, and operate the utility as a public rather than a profit-making utility.

The timing of this law does not put the mechanism into the works until after January 1, 1987. As a result of changes in federal Treasury and tax laws, the utilization of arbitrage, the borrowing of private capital through a tax free entity and the investing of this capital at prevailing market rates, will be lost. Utilizing this method, approximately \$150 million could have been saved in the cost of acquiring LILCO.

The County Legislature realizing this, proposed the creation of the Consumer Electric Company, which has subsequently been ruled to be

illegal as the courts felt the county was interfering with state prerogative. This court ruling in no way hinders the state take over, it leaves the state's proposition valid and doable. The only difference is the state will have lost the opportunity of saving a couple of hundred million dollars if it had been able to act in time.

The plan to take over the Long Island Company as a public utility is still a very viable project that will accomplish its stated purpose. One, to close Shoreham forever and eliminate the potential of this nightmare from our daily lives. Two, under public ownership, of the Long Island Power Authority will charge rates cheaper than those being charged by the profit making LILCO. Third, with state take-over, through new professional management the publically-owned electric authority will be able to improve the facility, restoring the service the lighting company had provided for the area prior to their full time efforts and attention being directed opening the ill-fated Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant.

The county proposal was worth pursuing as it might have saved Long Islanders \$150 million in acquisition costs. The county gave its best shot. It was thwarted in Washington by the Reagan administration and here in New York State by the courts. This does not change the situation one iota. The public will take over LILCO even if it may be more costly than if the county took it over. To paraphrase Ira Freilicher, what's \$150 million in the context of Shoreham, particularly, if the rates we pay are lower and we can sleep at night.

And why not?

With Labor Day now behind us, the campaigns for the November elections begin in earnest. The next few months will be filled with political rhetoric, promises of all kinds, and more than a little double talk. It is a time to truly focus on the statements, and the motives, of those who seek responsible positions within our governments. To weed out truths from little white political lies or, in some instances, outright deliberate distortion of the truth for political gain.

A prime example of the latter comes to mind in the case of Suffolk County Comptroller Joseph Caputo who, until just recently, has been the most ardent supporter of the Shoreham nuclear power plant, and a firm ally to LILCO.

Caputo's actions in regards to the Shoreham plant have earned him the scorn of anyone who has ever voiced concern about the threats Shoreham poses to the public's safety. Caputo has insisted time and time again that the plant is absolutely safe. Of course, he has no inside knowledge about this safety, but LILCO told him it's safe and he echoed those views.

Caputo has said time and time again that evacuation is possible. If the roads are jammed, he said to everyone's disbelief, the people could be evacuated with the use of the private boats in the area. He never offered any proposed orderly plan for using the private boats. Just jump on a boat and get out of here, he seemed to be saying. What about the winter when the boats are up on dry land, and the bays are frozen? You can put on ice skates and skate to safety, he responded. His comments would be comical if the impact were not so deadly.

Caputo has done everything in his power as comptroller to thwart the county's legal effort to protect the public from the plant, raising questions about the legal bills, and becoming the spokesman for the open Shoreham effort in every pro-Shoreham publication around.

But the political handwriting is on the wall these days. Political polls of the public's views indicate some 77 per cent of the people do not want the plant opened. An incumbent congressman has been denied renomination because of his support of Shoreham and his outright refusal to fight for the public's safety. And so, as a candidate for reelection, Caputo has changed his position on Shoreham. Well...almost.

In a July interview with Suffolk Life, Caputo said: "I think Shoreham and LILCO are dead. I'm no longer 100 percent behind Shoreham or Long Island Lighting Company operation. I guess I'm zero per cent behind Shoreham unless there is a proven and safe evacuation plan that the county participates in and that proves workable." Such a plan, he added, "would take years to develop and I don't think that's possible

anymore."

Caputo's new position, he insisted, is not based on the fact that he is seeking election in a strong anti-Shoreham climate. Rather, he claimed, it is a result of the recent nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. "We have to realize there is new information," he said.

That's what he said in Suffolk Life, which is staunchly opposed to the plant. But in a pro-Shoreham Patchogue-based shopper, Caputo said something quite different: "I haven't changed my personal position, but, because of the pressure of the public being against it, I am no longer supporting LILCO and Shoreham 100 per cent." Caputo said, "I would have to go with what the public wants," adding he hopes Shoreham does not become an issue in this reelection campaign. Conceding his new position might be considered a flip flop on the issue, Caputo noted, "I'm comfortable with it. It satisfies the public. That's what it's for."

Truth, where art thou? Where are the concerns about the "new information" as a result of Chernobyl? Where are the concerns about a safe evacuation plan?

The truth is Caputo doesn't really care. The Patchogue shopper notes: "While he no longer plans to speak favorable of Shoreham unless asked, because he wants to steer clear of what is a politically unattractive issue for him, Caputo said he hopes other pro-Shoreham factions will continue to try to bring about an education process. For example, he said, the public needs to realize that Shoreham is a state-of-the-art plant, nothing like the Chernobyl plant that was the scene of the worst nuclear power station accident in history."

The truth is that Caputo hasn't changed his mind. He hasn't changed his position. He just keeps changing the side of the mouth that he's talking out of. He's hoping the voters are a bunch of fools who will not be able to see through his actions. His brand of self-serving politics isn't worthy of the Democracy that allows him to run.

Caputo is often involved in political scheming. His recent attacks on a county lease of Suffolk Life space for the storage of county records was motivated more, many believe, by a desire to blunt the criticism this publication has frequently aimed in his direction. "They're just getting back at me because I attacked that lease," we expect him to exclaim. He's wrong. We don't flip flop. We criticized him before the lease, and continue to do so now because he symbolizes, in our view, the scheming, "tell 'em what they want to hear but then do what you want after the election" type of politician that deserves to be sent into political obscurity.

And why not?

## SUFFOLK LIFE

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NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

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Islip/Bay Shore  
Brentwood

Sayville  
Oakdale  
Centereach  
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Ronkonkoma

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Port Jefferson  
Three Village  
Smithtown



Total circulation audited and verified in excess of  
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## Can't Stop Demand

Recently a professor from Stony Brook recommended that Southold Town zone its farmland for a minimum of 25 acre parcels. At the same time, Brookhaven has placed a moratorium on building on legal, sub-size lots. Both these measures are designed to stop building and the development of eastern Long Island.

Recently we returned to Nantucket for a vacation. For those who have not been to Nantucket, it was a beautiful island which contained vast tracts of rolling moors and meadows. Three or four years ago, Nantucket, like most resort areas, became desirable for second homeowners. The people who were already there, and the year round Nantucketites, adopted some very restrictive measures to control the development of the island.

We were told that they had zoned the vacant lands to five and 10 acre parcels, and imposed a 10% real estate transfer tax to be used to purchase open space. We were interested this year in seeing what affect this had on Nantucket. The harbor area is busier than ever. Businesses have expanded into every nook and corner. Prices have skyrocketed for meals, beverages and goods. Talking with merchants we were told that rents have doubled and tripled. The island's only five and dime store is going out of business after 38 years of continual operation, because the rent was tripled.

Older homes that three years ago were mostly occupied by year-rounders have jumped from \$40,000 to \$50,000 up to \$300,000 and \$350,000. The open lands that everyone wanted to see preserved, which were zoned for five and 10 acre parcels, are being rapidly developed. What used to be miles of fields and meadows now have single family dwellings in the middle of five and 10 acre parcels. The open space is broken by buildings, the feeling of country and wilderness is gone. It has become inhabited. The restrictive zoning has led to the development of areas that we suspect would

still be virgin if houses had been allowed to be built on smaller, more clustered parcels of land. The fact of the matter is, demands will determine development, restrictive zoning and regulations cannot stop peoples' quest for a piece of paradise.

Our yuppie population is much more affluent than their forebearers. They spend money and make investments that many of the older generation cannot.

Many of your more affluent yuppies live in urban areas, often apartments, they want a piece of the good life, a real home in a resort community. They can and do pay huge prices for choice pieces of real estate, and it is because of this phenomenon that rapid development is taking place throughout much of the Northeast resort waterfront areas. This poses further problems as there is not land or housing for those less affluent, but who are necessary to serve the wealthy.

Small size plots clustered near the business communities have traditionally been the answer, but in our quest to preserve the environment we have eliminated many of these building opportunities.

The entire East End is dotted with pre-filed subdivision and individual lots. Even these small plots have shot up in value and towns such as Brookhaven are attempting to eliminate their availability.

We must realistically face the needs of people, all people, as well as the needs of the environment. Realistic common sense approaches should be taken to both planning and zoning that will allow for property that average people with average incomes can build their homes on.

Areas such as eastern Long Island and Nantucket will quickly lose their appeal if there are not enough people to provide the support services at realistic labor rates. You can only have realistic labor rates if there are realistically priced housing and accommodations.

And why not?

## United States Senator Snubbed

United States Senator Alfonse D'Amato, New York, recently got a dose of what Long Island citizens have been getting from the Nuclear Regulatory Agency. D'Amato was denied an opportunity to speak before an N.R.C. board which is conducting hearings on the Shoreham/LILCO evacuation drill. D'Amato was brushed off and told that his testimony was not important, nor, in effect, was his position as U.S. Senator.

We are delighted that this happened because now D'Amato knows first hand the frustration that we as citizens have had in dealing with the Washington bureaucrats. We can only hope that this insult by the N.R.C. to one of the hundred most important men in the United States will wake the Senate up and make them realize that the N.R.C. has become a government agency out of control.

D'Amato has never been known for his calm demeanor. We can only hope he brings the full emotion of his temper to bear on those who would deny a United States Senator an opportunity to address a public government forum on an issue that is vital to the safety of his constituents.

After being denied the right to speak, D'Amato issued a statement condemning the N.R.C. for enter-

taining an evacuation plan that both the county and the state governments have refused to participate in based upon their knowledge that Long Island cannot be safely evacuated in case of an accident at Shoreham. We hope that D'Amato is angry enough to go directly to the president and blow the whistle on those in the administration who have virtually turned his regime into a dictatorship in this area.

Government should never be allowed to be above the people, particularly when it concerns their safety, welfare and health. Yet it is claimed by some Washington insiders that four of Reagan's top aides have insulated him from the Shoreham situation in their quest to push nuclear energy at all costs. We have heard the names and their past ties to utilities and manufacturers of atomic components. It has been suggested on more than one occasion that these ties may still exist, and that the individuals involved can personally profit by the proliferation of nuclear energy in the U.S. With these allegations being made and such shabby treatment of a United States Senator, Reagan should be personally contacted and the man to do it is the United States Senator from New York, Alfonse D'Amato.

And why not?

## Political Time Out

"I am calling upon the residents of Suffolk County to join this effort in order to impress upon the decision makers in Washington that the Shoreham nuclear power plant boondoggle must be kept closed."

So said Republican Congressional candidate Gregory Blass in a press release issued last week announcing a petition drive designed to keep Shoreham closed. Interestingly, that release was dated the day before Blass and the Suffolk Republican Party were slated to play host to a visit from Vice-President George Bush, the number two man in the administration that is behind the drive to put the controversial plant on line.

Blass had a better way to make a strong stand against Shoreham last week, but he blew it. He took a political time out, putting Shoreham on the back burner for the sake of political expediency, to raise funds for his campaign.

When the Republican Party invited the vice-president to town to help draw a crowd to a political fundraiser, Blass could have said: "I would welcome a visit by the vice-president to sit down and engage in a meaningful discussion about the serious concerns we have about the Shoreham nuclear plant, about the shameful way the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is putting aside safety considerations in an effort to license the plant, how the president broke a promise to the people of Long Island that he would not be a party to imposing an evacuation plan without local and state participation. I do not wish to break

bread with the vice-president for political gain. The safety of our people is more important than campaign dollars."

It was suggested to Blass that he arrange for a meeting between responsible citizens and the vice-president so that the problems surrounding Shoreham and the lack of a safe evacuation could be articulated. That didn't happen. According to Blass, the Bush advance people would not look favorably on that possibility.

Blass told a Suffolk Life reporter that he discussed the Shoreham issue with Bush during the car ride from the airport to the catering hall in Patchogue. He said he told the vice-president that the NRC is changing the rules to expedite the licensing of the plant, and that Bush said he didn't know that was happening. We don't know how Blass responded to that comment, but we know what he should have said: "Look Mr. Vice-President, we're not a bunch of local yokels here in Suffolk. We know that this administration is a full partner in the effort to put Shoreham on line despite the questions about its safety and the lack of an evacuation plan. For you to claim you don't know that is happening is an insult to our intelligence. If you hope to enjoy Suffolk support for your future presidential ambitions, you had better become more aware of the problems posed by Shoreham and act to stop the federal agencies and the utility from making the people of Suffolk sacrificial lambs for the sake of the nuclear industry.

Cont. on page 4

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# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Political Time Out

Cont. from page 3

If you have no interest in the safety of our people, you might just as well turn this car around and go back to the airport, get on your plane and fly back to Washington, cause you're not welcome here."

Strong words? Of course. Perhaps even a breach of political courtesy, since the vice-president was here to help the Republicans raise money. But the time for pussyfooting is over. A strong stand for public safety is, in our view, far more important than political fundraising. And a strong stand would have sent a message back to Washington far stronger than the one that Bush took back last week.

During the political rhetoric voiced at the catering hall, not one mention was made about Shoreham.

A television reporter noted that when asked why Shoreham was not mentioned, Blass said, "This was not the time." Indeed it was. We can only assume when Bush went back to Washington he told the president he didn't hear much concern about Shoreham, only some comments from Blass. But if he had been sent packing with the message that we are madder than hell and want nothing to do with people who put safety behind the interests of the nuclear industry, President Reagan would have a better understanding as to where the citizens of Suffolk County are in regards to the Shoreham issue. That's the kind of a message that's needed to impress decision makers.

And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Great White Shark dilemma'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

In the future, will you please spare me and others the trauma of having to look at a picture, showing people standing around and gloating over a Great White Shark that was harpooned when it did not take the bait offered and then was shot five times with a high powered rifle.

The shark either scavenges by eating dead fish, or if he does kill he does so to sustain his

own life as he does need food.

What is man's excuse? Is it killing just for the love of killing or is it supposed to be a sport? If it is a sport, did the shark have a sporting chance?

Just sign me disgusted

Sincerely,  
Stazia Percival  
Riverhead

### 'Attention Shoreham Opponents'

Dear Editor:

Attention Shoreham Opponents!

The Chernobyl tragedy has not spelled the end of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant debacle unfortunately. It's important that pressure be brought to bear on the following important people with a letter or a telephone call.

Gov. Mario Cuomo must move very quickly to make Public Power a reality. The Governor's address is: Executive Chambers, 2 World Trade Center, New York, N.Y. 10047. Tel. No. (212) 587-2100 (516) 360-6579.

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato who pretenses to be with us in his opposition to this plant should be doing all in his power to convince Pres. Reagan what an enormous mistake it is. The Senator's address is: 1 Penn Plaza, Suite 1635, New

York, N.Y. 10001. Tel. No. (212) 947-7390.

Last and far from least is President Reagan who should be reminded that he promised the Federal Government would not interfere with the rights of local government as regards to Shoreham. The President's address is: The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500. Tel. No. (202) 456-7639.

If each person reading the above made these contacts the impact would be impressive.

Sincerely,  
Bill Chaleff  
June Kluglein  
Kate McCormack  
Victor Telch  
East End Shoreham Opponents  
East Hampton

### 'An Epitaph to Poochie'

If you have ever loved a dog--if you have ever been disgusted with the cruelties perpetrated by our fellow "man," perhaps you can understand my feelings expressed in the enclosed.

Since it is the only thing I can do to show my appreciation for the love which was given to me, would you consider printing the enclosed memorial?

And why not?

Sincerely,  
Eleanor Braswell  
Pt. Jeff Station

#### EPITAPH

Yesterday a speeding death trap going nowhere took the life of my dearest and most faithful companion.

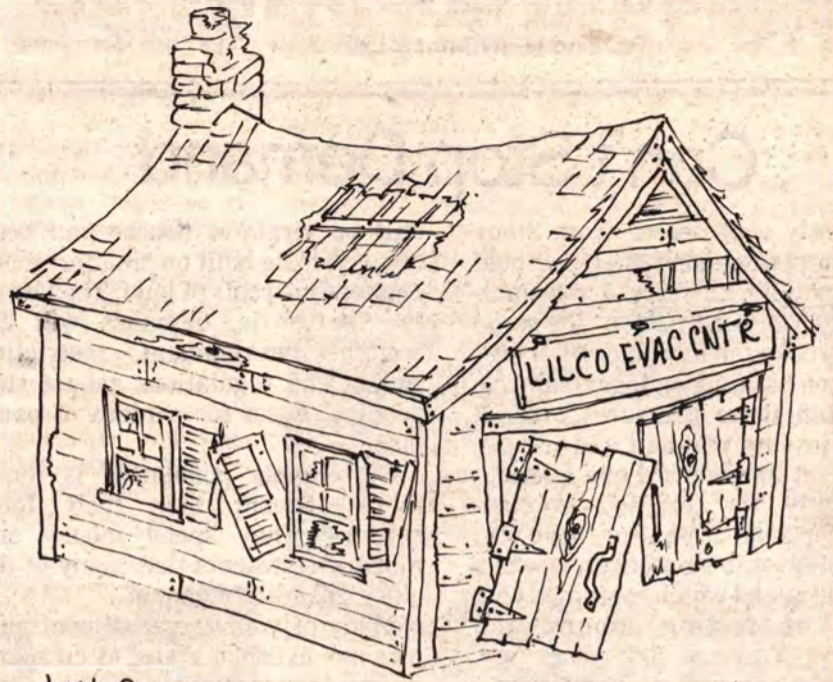
I adopted this little charmer less than a year ago from a home where he was abused and therefore distrustful, and on occasion aggressive out of fear of further harm. It was love at first sight. I showered him with loving care which was returned to me a thousand fold, and he became the joy of my life. We went everywhere together--he was my "co-pilot" in

the car, and as I drove, would reach over and touch my arm in a gesture of affection. He delighted in the fascinating activities at the harbor where we would go after morning mass; loved going on the ferry; on the beach, he was in seventh heaven running on the sands and exploring. When we swam he was at my side and upon tiring, would "hitch-hike" on my back.

He became my self-appointed guardian, ever alert to protecting me from real or imaginary harm. The only time we were parted was when I was hospitalized for surgery, and on my return his elation knew no bounds, and his loving presence made convalescence bearable. Meantime, during the eight days of separation, he did me the honor of turning visibly grayer out of worry.

He filled the void I am aware of when I have to listen to conversations about loving husbands and accomplished children and adored grandchildren, all of which have been denied me. Together we shared a mutual loving and fun relationship which few people could understand.

### THE WAY I SEE IT



LILCO  
"I THINK WE FOUND  
AN ADEQUATE  
EVACUATION CENTER"

NRC  
"THAT'LL DO JUST  
FINE"

Otto Schoenstein  
EAST MARION

### 'Name change for Shirley?'

Dear Editor:

Some residents of Shirley want to change the name to Floyd Harbor. Why change the name? Change the image, clean up the two shopping centers which are over run with smelly garbage where the gnats, bees, mosquitos, birds and rats have a feast.

Hire someone to clean this mess up and give out summons to the "Litter Pigs" who dump their home garbage especially at the Pathmark parking lot, which is a disgrace and a health hazard.

I hear that a real estate builder in Shirley who is in the process of building a big expensive complex off William Floyd Parkway is behind this name change!

Yes! I do object Shirley using the name of Floyd Harbor because they are stealing the name of William Floyd from the residents of Mastic Beach. We have the William Floyd Estate and the William Floyd Schools located in my community of Mastic Beach.

The late Walter T. Shirley who put Shirley on the map and did so much good for the Shirley community, doesn't his name count anymore? What would happen to our community library

in Shirley if Walter T. Shirley, Jr. decided to stop funding the Library which he has done these many years and is still doing it?

The law states that in order to change the name of a community, the new name must be filed with the Department of Interior Affairs and if the Shirley residents object to the name change (and there are many that I know of they have 30 days to state their objections to this department. Phone your local legislator or your assemblyman for the address. As quoted in the Moriches Bay Tide dated August 21st "the opposition to the name change emanates from persons living in neighboring communities" and as quoted by one member of the committee for the name change the member says "Why should they have any say in what the people most concerned want to call their community". Well I repeat again you are stealing the name Floyd from William Floyd's name, and I, resent this very much and I have a lot of support from Mastic Beach to back me up on this issue!

Sincerely,  
Sonia Homanock  
Mastic Beach

His life came abruptly to an end. The door was open as I was parking the car, and he dashed in and out of the house, dancin in eager anticipation of yet another trip, when he sudden darted into the street into the path of a speeding truck unaware of the potential danger, and my horrified eyes saw him crushed. After a few painful cries, he tried to use his waning strength to return to me, and then laid there broken and bleeding, unable to move because of the paralysis which quickly ensued. He was beyond human help, and his kind doctor mercifully eased him into release from further suffering.

As I washed his blood from my clothing, I washed away the last visible traces of his short life, but he will always remain a beloved memory for the void he filled in mine.

I am not ashamed to say I loved my little dog Poochie more than I could the devious creatures who call themselves members of the human race.

Eleanor Braswell



## It's Up To You

Your Suffolk County government has spent millions of dollars in an effort to protect the public's safety by preventing the opening of the Shoreham nuclear power plant. Suffolk Life has invested thousands of hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep you informed on the Shoreham situation, and to speak out strongly on behalf of the public's welfare. We are now at a crucial point in the fight against Shoreham. It is now the public's time to join in the battle wholeheartedly. Shoreham's fate could well be up to you.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Reagan administration have repeatedly changed the rules to benefit Shoreham. They have tried to depict the struggle against the plant as an anti-nuclear effort. It isn't. It is a battle against a poorly constructed plant owned by a mismanaged utility that threatens the future of Suffolk and its people. Everyone knows, and common sense dictates, that a safe evacuation is not possible in the event of an accident at Shoreham. And yet, without an approved evacuation plan, and despite the staunch opposition of both county and state governments against the plant, the NRC and other federal agencies have steadfastly pushed to put the plant on line.

The Long Island Lighting Company held a sham drill last February. It was a paper drill that moved people, not in reality but on paper. Mistakes in paper drills can be removed with an eraser. In real life they cost lives. We learned that from Chernobyl. And we learned from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster that accidents can, indeed, happen. Despite all the assurances from the so-called experts that they can't. We learned, too, that the horrors a nuclear accident can cause--the immediate deaths, the later cancers, the radioactive wasteland that remains--are very real, not exaggerated scare stories as the nuclear industry has

claimed.

The NRC, LILCO and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is responsible for the people's safety, have claimed the February LILCO drill was a success. But when a FEMA regional director in charge of the drill, Frank Petrone, issued a statement following the drill that the safety of the public could not be assured by the LILCO evacuation plan, he was ordered to retract that statement. He chose to resign instead of compromising his principles. He refused to lie. He took a stand. That's what you must do now!

And while it is normal procedure to hold a public hearing following such drills, FEMA refused to schedule such a hearing in the wake of the LILCO drill. The public was told, "You'll get your chance later, during the licensing hearings."

That chance is now! The NRC has scheduled three hearings on Long Island which offer the public an opportunity to speak out on the LILCO plan and drill. The first will be held Tuesday, Sept. 23 at the William H. Rogers Legislative Building in Hauppauge. The second is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, at the Riverhead Town Hall, and the third at the Nassau County Executive Building in Mineola on Friday, Sept. 26. The all-day hearings will start at 9:30 a.m., with lunch breaks from noon to 1:30 p.m., and a supper break from 4 to 6 p.m. The Hauppauge and Mineola hearings will end at 9 p.m., the Riverhead hearing at 8 p.m.

These hearings will offer the public a long-delayed and final opportunity to speak out on the evacuation issue. We urge every resident, every man, woman and child concerned about Shoreham and the impossibility of a safe evacuation, to turn out to speak, and to support the other speakers. This is your last chance to tell the NRC panel members--who live far removed from the threat of Shoreham--that you do not want the lives of your

loved ones threatened by the licensing of an unsafe nuclear plant in an area that can't be safely evacuated. They need to hear from you the traffic congestion problems you face on a normal day, and how those problems would be magnified by the need to flee for safety from an accident at Shoreham. They need to know how you feel, in your words, from you.

We don't believe in Santa Claus, but there is a possibility that if the turnout is large enough, and the testimony thoughtful, Washington will have a renewed respect for us,

the Long Island citizens of the United States of America.

Please! Plan to be there. Make your views and your fears known. If for some reason you cannot come personally, put your thoughts in writing, send them to us and we will deliver these messages to the hearing officials.

It's now up to you. It's your time to be heard, to deliver your message to the NRC judges and through them, to Washington. It's time for you to rise up to defend your family's future. It's time to speak up or suffer the consequences.

And why not?

## On The Side Of The Child

For the last six months I have quietly worked in the background trying to reasonably settle a dispute between Chief Surrogate Justice Ernest Signorelli and Commissioner of Welfare Alice Amrhein.

I might say, I respect both of these people as well-intentioned and professional. The dispute is over Signorelli's request for the social service department to perform thorough investigations of people who have been designated as guardians for orphaned children.

These people, in most cases, are relatives or friends of the legal parents of the orphans. Signorelli, following the direction of an Appellate Court ruling, has ordered the social service commissioner to perform the investigations in approximately 30 cases.

Amrhein refused, saying that she and her department do not have the staff. She questioned the legal authority of the Chief Surrogate to order her and her department to perform these complete and thorough investigations. She used the argument of "big brother." She questioned why government should question the wisdom of a parent who appoints a relative or close friend to raise their children in case of death. A good, solid argument, particularly to a Conservative.

Signorelli countered that he has a moral and judicial obligation to be sure the choice the parent made is in the best interest of the children. He points out, you make a will when your children are small. Then all too often you put it away and forget about it. You designate a relative or a friend as guardian of your child. At

the time, the choice that you made is a sound one. But let's say that circumstances change, but your will doesn't. The relative becomes an alcoholic, develops a psychotic condition, or any one of the other situations that would make them an unfit guardian.

The Surrogate is charged with making sure that the child's best interest, health and welfare is taken care of. Without complete, up-to-date reports, the Surrogate would be derelict in his duty if he appointed a guardian based solely upon the parents' wishes that may have been made years ago. Is this in the best interest of the child?

Who is better able to conduct these investigations than the Department of Social Services, which has a whole team of investigators, psychologists and social workers?

Although we respect both parties, we believe Commissioner Amrhein is wrong in her refusal to carry out the Surrogate's decree. It has been suggested that this refusal is politically motivated as she is the appointment of County Executive Peter Cohalan. Cohalan attempted to block the re-election of Signorelli, and the two are in the middle of a nasty political and personal feud.

We would hope that politics is not the motivating factor behind Amrhein's actions. We have always felt she is too much of a professional to allow this to happen. We do, however, question why she refuses, and if her refusal is not jeopardizing what is best for the orphans who have already suffered enough. We urge her to reconsider that refusal.

And why not?

## Cry Wolf ... Again

If the mismanagement of LILCO was not so serious, it would be laughable.

This past week we received in the mail a very expensively produced four page slick stock tabloid from LILCO. It was directed towards opinion leaders on Long Island. From what we understand, it was sent to thousands of people across Long Island.

The piece deals with LILCO's projection of an energy catastrophe that would hit Long Island during the summer because Shoreham was not on line, proclaiming there would not be enough electricity to meet the needs of Long Island. Ironically, this scare piece came

out months late, as the summer time has been here and is virtually gone. Typical of LILCO mismanagement. In the center of the piece are a number of pro-LILCO/Shoreham editorials from Newsday, the house organ of the Long Island Lighting Company. Not only was the timing of this piece bad, what is worse is the cost will be charged to us, the ratepayers.

The Long Island Lighting Company got itself in the jam on Shoreham by their fear tactics, claiming there would not be enough electricity from their current generating plants to meet the needs of the

## SUFFOLK LIFE

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General Information

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

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

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## Cry Wolf...

Cont. from page 3

public during the 70's and 80's.

Contrary to their fear mongering, we have had enough energy to meet even the peak summer demands when LILCO deliberately had parts of their system down. Did they hope that brownouts would occur and credence would be given to their dire predictions?

LILCO has spent its full-time, our money and all their efforts to open Shoreham, without attempting to se-

cure additional energy by working to bring transmission lines, interconnected to the Canadian and up-state hydropower system, that would have brought inexpensive and additional power to Long Island. Why?

How much longer will our government leaders allow LILCO to continue with this charade? Isn't it time it is brought to an end?

And why not?

## Going Too Far

Southampton Town has a problem. Mostly young people are congregating in shopping centers and parking lots, or at "hang-outs," and are drinking on these premises. The most notorious location is the I.G.A. Shopping Center on Main Street in Hampton Bays. A local bar, Ed's Bay Pub, seems to be a magnet. Although Southampton Town has laws that prohibit drinking in public places, the pub and the parking lot are private property and are not covered by law.

The Southampton Town Board last week held a public hearing on a proposed law to include private property as a place drinking would be disallowed. The only person who came out in support of the measure was the proprietor of Ed's Bay Pub.

The proposed law states: "Ownership of a particular place is not relevant. What is important is whether it is a place which is essentially public in character. Consumption of alcoholic beverages in places where the public and substantial groups of persons have access or are invited to is injurious of the public welfare regardless of the underlying ownership."

We believe the proposed law, as structured, has gone a step too far. Under the law as proposed, police could arrest citizens for drinking alcoholic beverages in almost any place that people tend to gather, privately-owned or public.

• Let's just put ourselves in the position of a normal Hampton resident. We are at one of the marinas, on our private boat or on the deck with some friends enjoying a couple of beers or cocktails, a very normal summer scene.

• We have a barbecue at our home, a keg of beer is tapped and friends and invited guests are enjoying themselves. A volleyball net is set up on the front lawn, the contestants and observers can plainly be seen drinking from the road.

• Southampton Hospital hosts their annual cocktail party on Hill

Street. Under the tent, socialites and "who's who in the Hamptons" enjoy cocktails at the society function of the season, plainly in view of the residents of the town.

• A rowdy bunch is gathered at the I.G.A. parking lot, mostly youths and motorcyclists, plainly passing drinks back and forth in plain sight of the public.

Under the proposed law, there is no distinction of who is drinking. This is the way it should be, laws should be blind to age, sex and wealth. If observed drinking in view of the public, whether on public or private property, the law calls for arrest, fine and imprisonment. The law paints the Town of Southampton with a wide brush. You are equally guilty whether you are a member of the Fortune 500 or the Hell's Angels.

It might be argued that the law would only be selectively enforced. This is wrong, for under our judicial system laws are to apply to all equally whether they be rich or poor, young or old. Our judicial system requires them to be treated alike. If it is the intention of the lawmakers to wink at this, they may find themselves in a situation where an over-zealous cop attempts to apply the law. Maybe they have a grudge against motorcyclists, or are ticked off at the rich capitalist exhibiting their wealth at a society affair, such as the annual Southampton Hospital outside cocktail party. In either case, the town will end up being sued and receive a black eye. The courts unquestionably would find the law unconstitutional and the taxpayers would end up footing the bill.

Let's shelve this well-intentioned effort by bad legislation. Go back to the drawing board and find another way, whether it be applying the laws that are already on the books or soliciting the cooperation of the owners of the properties where the offenses are occurring and having them clean up their trouble spots.

And why not?



"SCHOOL'S OPEN...Drive Carefully"--Suffolk County Sheriff Eugene T. Dooley reminds all drivers to exercise extra caution with the start of the school season. Children are not always aware of motor vehicles, therefore drivers have to be more careful. (FULL 336-K)

## 'Thoughts on regional fishing'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I read with great interest and approval your editorial, "World Class Fishery." I also was struck by the irony of the headline immediately above it, "Friends in High Places," as I tried to reason why two important fishery decisions were made recently by Governor Cuomo.

There is no doubt that the waters around Long Island are a "World Class Fishery." Your editorial did credit to the off-shore fishery of large predator fish, namely shark, tuna, and bill fish. But this is only one part of this "World Class Fishery."

I would like to draw the attention of our readers to another part, the striped bass fishery that has laid claim to world records. This fishery is an in-shore and surf fishery that doesn't require a \$100,000 rig to get to the fish. This fishery means hundreds of thousands of dollars to the recreational fishing industry. It also is the life blood of Montauk during September, October, and part of November.

The governor, in his profound wisdom, closed the striped bass commercial fishery because of PCB contamination, and continued the ban on the recreational fishery by not allowing a proposed one fish bag limit with a no sale provision. This was done because of what was described by the DEC, as an ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM.

I ask you, if the DEC could live with a two fish bag limit that could not be sold west of Moriches Inlet, but could be sold if they were caught east of Moriches, how can they now say a one fish bag limit ANYWHERE in the Marine District with a NO SALE PROVISION is an enforcement problem.

By removing the striped bass fishery from Montauk in the fall, it will create a tremendous financial hardship on the charter boat fleet and have a ripple effect through the entire com-

munity.

One wonders about "Friends in High Places" when one looks to Lake Ontario where millions of dollars are pumped into the region because of a documented highly contaminated salmon and lake trout fishery.

One wonders about "Friends in High Places" when leaders of the East End Commercial Fishermen say, "If we can't have them, nobody should."

One wonders about "Friends in High Places" when during the Public Comment Period, the cries were predominately for a limited bag limit with a no sale provision.

One wonders about "Friends in High Places" when in a related issue, the governor refused to sign the Parklands Bill after it zipped through both houses and drew again, loud choruses of "Sign the bill!" from Long Island State Park users who have been nauseated by rotting, unwanted fish discarded on the Parklands beaches by haul seine crews. And by others who have been harassed by these same crews with comments like, "We belong here because we do this for a living!"

Yes, indeed, Long Island is a world class fishery. What amazes me is that PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES fail to recognize the economic value of the recreational fishing industry on Long Island. A three year economic impact study is at the half way mark. This study is being conducted by Economics Professor James Kahn of SUNY Binghamton and financed by Sea Grant and the DEC. The preliminary analysis of the first year's data indicates that recreational fishing is worth over a BILLION DOLLARS to the Long Island economy, despite FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES.

Sincerely,  
Charles H. Johnson  
Executive Director  
Oakdale

## 'Teachers go back to school'

To the Editor:

"Back-to-school" is a phrase that strikes terror in the hearts of many children who've grown to love lazy summer days, late bedtimes and visits with indulgent grandparents. No so different is a teacher's reaction to that same phrase. They've grown accustomed to speaking in normal tones, evenings that belong to themselves instead of their lesson plans and life without super strength Excedrin.

Late August finds teachers first on line for Sunday's newspaper, sleepily muttering, "There's got to be a better way." They comb the "help-wanted" pages hopeful of finding that perfect job in the "real world" where they would earn more money with less stress. But, for most, their search is a half-hearted one because they're an idealistic lot. They know that although their profession is held in low

esteem by the general public it is one that can matter in this world that's in desperate need of positive changes.

In what other profession can a person steer a confused child away from drugs or cushion him through the trauma of his parents' divorce? What other job offers the challenge of leading a child smoothly, and sometimes jarringly, through the complexities of puberty and adolescence? Through a teacher's patient persistence the Michaelangelos and Einsteins of tomorrow are allowed to develop their innate potential.

Yes, teachers will always have those "back-to-school blues" but, thank God, they do go back!

Palma Cardillo  
Hampton Bays

## 'The Star prints letters'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

In Suffolk Life's June 25 story about Loretta Lynch's battle against drug use, you quote her as saying: "I must have been hitting too hard, the Star stopped printing my letters." Mrs. Lynch was under a misapprehension. Her letters have been published almost weekly since she began her crusade, including the

issues the day and the week after your story.

The Star has not altered its policy of printing all letters it receives, no matter how hard-hitting or controversial, within the bounds of libel law and good taste.

Sincerely,  
Helen S. Rattray,  
East Hampton

SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1992  
PAGE 4 BWGNABUJEF



# Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Preserving Our Older Residences

One only has to fly over Suffolk County to realize how undeveloped most towns are. Of course, on the East End there are many more large tracts of land, but vacant parcels between homes are numerous in Western Suffolk.

We have a housing crunch here in Suffolk County. There is more demand than supply. Developers and builders are filing, in record numbers, applications to subdivide property and for permits to build. Town boards are aware of the results of uncontrolled growth of the 50's and 60's and are attempting to control this demand for growth.

Town boards are aware that new individual residences do not pay their own way. An average \$100,000 home built on a half acre to an acre will pay taxes of approximately \$3,000 per year. These homes will produce 2.3 children which will cost the community from \$12,000 to \$20,000 per year in education costs for the next 12 to 20 years. This is on top of the cost of providing police, judicial, fire, recreational and other governmental services. Obviously when rapid growth comes, the towns, under the current tax system, will not have enough revenues to cover the cost of services without placing an additional tax burden on all the taxpayers.

In areas facing rapid development, the new growth will cause a substantial increase in real estate taxes for all residents. The town boards, in trying to abate the forthcoming tax crunch, attempt to stop the development by moratoriums, upzoning and placing bureaucratic encumbrances in the way of builders. This only further drives the costs of new homes upward. The town boards use as their weapons every ecological argument that can be made. The end result, however, is that the owners of the land have a right to develop it, and win out through court challenges or perseverance.

Instead of clouding the issue and slowing down the builders, driving up the cost of the housing with pseudo arguments, why not face the problem for what it is and develop a solution that is realistic and based on

common sense.

What we really are attempting to do is preserve our older original residences and protect them from a tax onslaught caused by the newer developments. Wouldn't it make sense to develop a multi-tier system of real estate taxes? Residences already built would be taxed at today's rates plus a percentage allowed for inflation. Their real estate taxes, in effect, would be capped.

New homes being built in the community would be taxed at today's base rate plus inflation, plus the additional cost to government for providing the new services that would be required to service the new homes.

In effect, the add-on taxes would be broadbased user fees and would be a cost that the newer homeowner could calculate as a cost of buying a home. The older homes would be protected from new costs, and would not have their real estate taxes go through the roof to support the new people in their community.

Most of the older residences are those without children, and are those that make the least amount of demands on governmental services. In effect, both classes of residences would be paying more in proportion to their demand. When an older residence is sold, it would fall into the category of a new residence and be taxed according to this current cost.

A plan such as this could slow down development as the taxes a new resident would pay will be higher than under our current system, yet the initial cost of the house, free of the stonewalling and the bureaucracy, could actually be lower as many of the needless encumbrances placed upon building could be eliminated.

We must learn from our past, the 50's and 60's were a nightmare for many of our older residents who had calculated the cost of their homes, lived within their budgets, but found themselves on the verge of losing their homes because they could not afford the additional taxes required to fund the cost of new residences in the community.

Newly-constructed single family residences must be required to pay

their own way if we are to preserve the character and quality of our community.

Let our towns develop a

"P.O.O.R." program, preserve our older residences. It's fair and it's just.

And why not?

## You've Gotta Be Kidding!

The Long Island Lighting Company has run into another snag in its efforts to force an unworkable evacuation plan upon the residents of Suffolk. A radio station that was to be LILCO's link to the public in the event of an accident at Shoreham decided to terminate that arrangement. We're not quite sure as yet how LILCO intends to overcome this little problem, but considering something that happened in recent days we suspect they will scatter a few LILCO trucks around the evacuation zone and utilize the truck radios as a communication link.

The reason we advance this ridiculous suggestion is the most recent proposal put forth by LILCO to settle another evacuation plan problem: the elimination of the Nassau Coliseum as a relocation center. You may remember that Fran Purcell, Nassau County Executive, a LILCO ally if there ever was one, had agreed to the use of the Coliseum as a means of helping put the plant on line.

But the Board of Supervisors, following opposition by the public, banned its use.

LILCO has been scrambling since to find another facility to use as an evacuation relocation center where people driven from their homes from an accident at Shoreham are to congregate. They finally came up with a solution. The utility is seeking permission from the NRC to use three LILCO corporate buildings, one in Hicksville, another in Roslyn, and the third in Bellmore.

We can just imagine the reaction of those who have had to flee for

safety congregating at the corporate facilities of the utility which is responsible for their plight. If the NRC is silly enough to approve this proposal, they had better make arrangements for lots of riot control people to be on hand at the relocation centers. LILCO's evacuation plan is based on the use of utility employees to direct evacuation traffic, which has drawn numerous comments concerning the safety of those employees dealing with angry residents. The proposed use of LILCO facilities for relocation centers, in such distant locations, is in keeping with the lack of sanity in the entire plan.

If you did not voice your opposition to this entire fiasco at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission public hearing in Hauppauge Tuesday of this week, you have one last chance. The NRC panel will be in Riverhead tomorrow, Thursday, September 25, at the Riverhead Town Hall to hear the public's views. Those sessions begin at 9:30 a.m., with a lunch break from noon to 2 p.m., and a supper break from 4 to 6 p.m. The evening session will run from 6 to 8 p.m. You can sign up to speak at the hearing.

This could be your last chance to become involved in the battle against Shoreham and the threat it poses to the future of your family. It's your turn. If you want to prevent a Chernobyl-type nuclear disaster from making a radioactive wasteland of this area, it is important that you speak up now. Or face the consequences later.

And why not?

## Hand Picking Candidates

All of the maneuvering that went on to secure a cross endorsement for County Executive Peter Cohalan to guarantee him a judgeship into which he can slide into obscurity tells something about the differences of the Republican leadership in Suffolk and Nassau counties.

Mike Blake, Suffolk's GOP leader, tried vainly to put together a cross endorsement deal between the Democrats and the Republicans to assure Cohalan a safe run, one that would not put him at the mercy of the voters.

But Blake ran into trouble trying to get the Nassau Republicans to go along with the cross endorsement scheme. Nassau County Republican Leader Joseph Mondello said his refusal was based on the desire to permit the public an opportunity to have a say in the matter. "All we are doing is placing the names of our candidates before the voters and letting the voters decide who should sit on the Supreme Court starting next year and until the year 2000," Mondello said.

Three cheers for Mondello! The public should, indeed, have the opportunity to make the choice, rather than fall victim to the king making

desires of the political bosses. It is the backroom deals which have turned the political arena into a power hungry circus, securing power for a limited few, and patronage jobs for the favored. Qualifications go out the window when the politicians play these games. It's who you are, and what you are, and who you know that counts, not whether you are the most qualified for the position. Or even if you can do the job at all!

It's bad enough when the politicians deal out the routine jobs based on political consideration only. But when they push their choices down the throats of the voters in the judicial arena for pure, blatant political reasons, it's time to speak up.

The Nassau and Suffolk Republican parties have had less than admirable reputations for political integrity, but it would appear that Mondello is determined to turn things around. Unfortunately, here in Suffolk, the name of the game is still the same, pure politics. The Democrats and the Republicans play cozy games together. The motive is not good government, but splitting the political patronage pot. It's pol-

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# Willmotts and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Hand Picking. . .

itical greed, pure and simple. Isn't it time we turn things around here in Suffolk County? How can we expect honest government when the politi-

cal system that puts forth the candidates is so devoid of integrity? Isn't it time for a change? And why not?

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Kudos to Mike Graca'

Dear Editor:

Please allow me to comment on the exceptional job your newest reporter, Mike Graca, is doing in his coverage of Brookhaven Town. Mr. Graca is a welcome member of the Press Corps that closely follows the events in Brookhaven.

In reading Mr. Graca's work, it is obvious that he has a working knowledge and a clear understanding of the region's major issues. His coverage is accurate and fair and the quality and quantity of his work is also com-

mendable.

There is no doubt that government and the people it represents are best served when a fair and hardworking press is on hand to accurately report events and issues. Kudos for Suffolk Life for its service to the populace and welcome to Mike Graca, the paper's outstanding representative in the region's press corps.

In all sincerity,  
Donald Zimmer  
Councilman  
Brookhaven

### 'Plea for humane treatment'

Dear Editor:

With the approach of the end of the vacation season many pets will be abandoned by their "Summer Owners". These are the pets who gave so much of themselves as a playmate or companion to a child during the summer.

These pets are not made of plastic, metal or wood but are a living creature and should not be discarded as a toy.

Pets that are abandoned will either die of starvation, freeze to death or be killed by an

automobile or predator.

These pets tried so hard to please you and your child. Please do not abandon it.

Prior to leaving the area, please make arrangement to find a suitable home for the pet or otherwise take the pet with you when you leave.

It is illegal and inhumane to abandon a pet. Thank you.  
Clayton Weymouth  
Southold

### 'Nothing more valuable than people'

Dear Editor:

I write this letter out of desperation, fear, concern and most of all disgust regarding the Shoreham issue. As a husband and father of three vibrant and growing children and someone who has lived in the Mt. Sinai area for 12 years it just plain terrifies me of what it would mean to us if Shoreham opened and an accident occurred.

As a retired policeman, I guess I've seen too much death and destruction over the years. I've seen the tear-streaked faces and heard the horrible cries of those who grieve for their dead. I've had to tell parents their children have died and see that reaction of stunned disbelief and unfortunately there were times when I've had to pick up the pieces of what once was a human being. Perhaps what has happened to me over the years is that I've discovered that there is nothing more valuable than people. Nothing more precious, nothing worth more in preserving. And I look at

Shoreham and I'm afraid.

I guess the disgust comes in when I see my government's actions in all of this. A government that has the gall to criticize the Soviets regarding Chernobyl yet bends and twists its own rules to license one here. A government that has failed miserably to hear the voice of its people on this issue. One wonders at times are words like "Government by the People and for the People" out of date. Maybe they're just lip service.

I think that we all should call the White House one day. We should let Ronald Reagan, a President I have admired and loved by the way, know that our voices are small, but collectively it is powerful. When the time comes for us to vote, the Republican Party will find itself shut out and in the cold. Actually, that will be more than justice because they have certainly shut us out.

Thanks,  
Pat Gerace  
Mt. Sinai

### 'Gratitude to sponsors'

To the Editor:

I would like to extend a special thanks to the following organizations and community members that made it possible for me to compete in China. Without your help, I would have not been able to win the triple jump (48'-0"), my third career best in the long jump (21"-4 3/4"), and participate as a member of the 4 X 100 meter relay team (43.1).

Westhampton United Methodist Church, East End Ladies Social Club, Monette Stone, Hurricane Booster Club, Gubbin's Running Ahead, Westhampton Beach High School Student Council, and Bohemia Track Club.

Also Lions Club of Westhampton, Judy-Vic Homes, Inc., Hampton Community Club, Department of Public Works - Yaphank, Dr. and

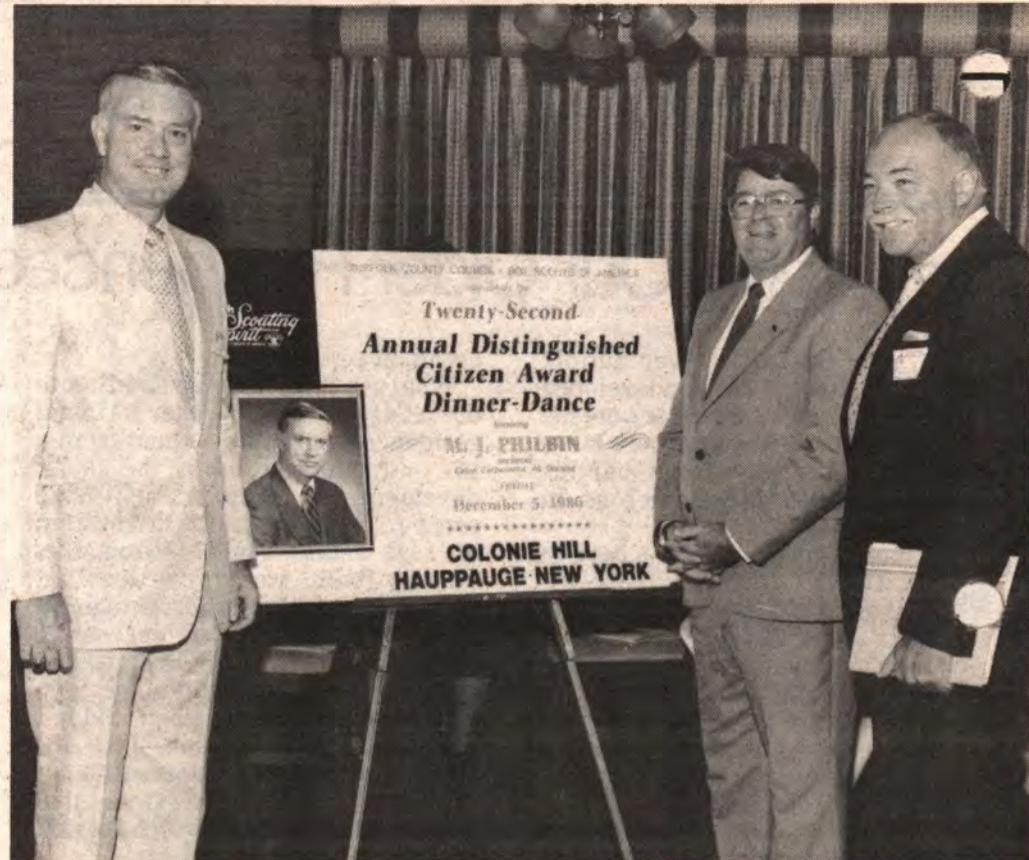
Mrs. James Merle, Dr. Rosenstreich, and Mrs. Jeanne T. Block.

Still others are Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Allard, Ms. Patricia W. Rose, Mr. Alfred E. Borneman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bangston, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Liggon, Mrs. Mason, Collin Stevens.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Chester E. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Wilkens, Dr. Arnold Liselotte, Dr. and Mrs. Lamons off.

And a very special thanks to Mr. Charlie Johnson and the Suffolk County National Bank, Westhampton Beach.

Thank you once again,  
Elvin Ottley  
Westhampton



**DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN'S AWARD--**Michael J. Philbin, left, president of Eaton Corporation's AIL Division, will receive the 22nd annual Distinguished Citizen's Award of the Suffolk County Council, Boy Scouts of America at the Colonie Hill on December 5. He was on hand recently for a planning meeting with AIL Division's Richard C. Dunne, right, general chairman of the event, and George T. Hoffman of Norstar Bank, who is journal chairman. Proceeds from the dinner-dance provides approximately 19 per cent of the annual operating budget of Suffolk County scouting. (FULL 330-L)

### 'Thanks for band coverage'

Dear Lou:

Many Thanks for publishing our Greenport Band Concert announcements all summer on your This Week page (also to Trudy Ash).

We have had a great summer with the old band that officially dates back to July 16, 1851. We're probably the oldest organized band in eastern Long Island, but sorry to say the band was not continuous through all those years. We know the old band gave concerts at Shelter Island's famous Manhasset House in the 1870's, and posed for an elegant picture in "full

dress" in 1895. The present Greenport Band under the direction of Frank Corwin, has been going steady since 1946. We used to be a parading band with as many as four parades in one day, (Memorial Day 1949), but in this present age, we are a sitting-down "Concert in the Park" band.

Thanks again for listing us, and our good wishes to you and all the staff at "Suffolk Life". Sincerely,  
Jerry McCarthy  
Greenport

### 'Comment on editorial'

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Your Editorial, The Reagan Conspiracy, was right on target, superb. I applaud you extensively. The editorial should be the lead for

a list of signatures thereunder. Thanks, Bob Fullerton  
Wading River

### 'Thanks to everyone involved'

Dear Editor:

As a parent of several children, I would like to thank those people who worked so hard to make the Holbrook Park a reality. I would especially like to thank Mr. Michael Wilson, of Holbrook.

Mr. Wilson went to the Holbrook Chamber of Commerce to get a pledge of funds for postage. With his own donation of labels and printing he was then able to mail approximate-

ly 5,000 post cards to the registered voters of Holbrook and Holtville. It may well be, those reminders were instrumental in getting people off the couch and out to vote.

Again, thank you to Mr. Wilson and all those who worked so hard in getting the people of Holbrook and Holtville a park.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Valerie Cafarelli  
Holtville

### 'Demand action on vandalism'

Dear Editor:

The Shore-Wading River School has once again been the victim of vandalism and extensive damage. This time the offenders were apprehended by the police. With such solid evidence to work with, we wish the School Board to take legal action. To press charges and have some disciplinary action taken.

Too often when these acts were committed, with no proof who the offenders were, we suffered our losses in silence. This time we have witnesses to testify who they were. Falling to accept this advantage will have the affect of encouraging an increase of these acts, when they can go unpunished.

At the present time there is legislation being proposed to hold the parents financially responsible. For certain, if MOM and POP, have to shell out bucks, there will be a lot more discipline at home. This has to take some of the load off the backs of the police. Saving the taxpayer more money. In passing we should give praise to the police for doing a tremendous effort with a staff much too small. Also

their hands are tied by too much legal nonsense in order to successfully handle the youthful offenders. Regardless of age, we all need to show respect for law and authority. Proper punishment in proportion to the crime is the only cure.

We expect the School Board to press charges with this last incident. Soon after the summer vacation is over, a special meeting should be arranged, to request residents to meet and have a voice in matters of this nature. To expect the school to handle it alone is too much. The combined efforts of the school, residents and police could overcome every problem. Vandalism is just one of many. But it's a start and to go on with the drugs, drinking and any others. We hope to see a notice to set a date in one of the schools newsletters.

We await a response to this letter, by the school in regards to pressing charges. Respectfully,  
Dominic Hanulec  
Shoreham