

WILLMOTTS & WHY NOTS

DAVID J. WILLMOTT SR., EDITOR

Suffolk Life's 35th Anniversary

I would like to thank the residents of Suffolk County for giving me an opportunity to publish Suffolk Life over these last 35 years.

Back in 1960, when I developed this idea for the publication, I had no idea that we would grow to become one of the largest weekly newspapers in the country. I had no idea that I could build this business into what it is today. I put no limitations on myself and the paper grew on its own momentum.

I knew there was a need for someone to speak out on behalf of the average citizen, to give them recognition and allow them to see themselves as an important part of Suffolk County.

In those days, the average person rarely got their name or their picture in a paper. The weeklies were journals of the elite and the life they lived. Their editorials were bland and, rarely, did they take the position of the average person on the street.

We faithfully covered the everyday happenings of the local communities. We provided

the Mom and Pops with an inexpensive way to get their messages into every home. As the paper grew, and our circulation dramatically increased, the larger stores took notice and we helped them grow too.

Today, Suffolk Life is published in 35 local editions. Our circulation is over 511,000. We are found in every home in Suffolk County. An independent survey shows that 89.50% of Suffolk County residents read us every Wednesday. Even I have to say that this is an incredible accomplishment.

With this readership comes an awesome responsibility. A responsibility that none of us here at Suffolk Life take lightly. Your staff, my staffs, works diligently every week to make every word count whether it be in a news story or in an advertisement. We have tried to do what is best for you, our readers.

Today, we are publishing smaller papers than we did in the-eighties. Many of the Mom and Pops we depended upon for advertising have been closed down by the big box stores.

The faltering economy of the nineties hurt everyone. We anticipate a rebound and have positioned Suffolk Life to take advantage of it.

Today, you are receiving a redesigned Suffolk Life. This is a result of your participation in last year's readership survey and the information it produced.

Suffolk Life is easier to read and more vibrant. We will continue with our mission of publishing as much local news as we have room for.

Suffolk Life is a partnership between the publisher, the staff, our advertisers and our readers. We are all in this together. Readers are the most important element of this partnership. The newspaper is published for you. We want to print the news you want to read about.

The advertisers, through their support, pay to reach you with their messages. When you respond to their ads, you are telling them that not only are you reading the paper but that you appreciate them making the paper possible. That's why it is so important for you to tell the advertisers either you saw their ad in Suffolk Life or that you would like to see it.

Each week, the staff has the awesome task of remanufacturing a new product. Our reporters must go into the field, dig for the news, interview hundreds of people and then sit down and write fair, balanced and honest stories.

Our advertising people must call on countless businesses offering to assist them with ideas for promotions, copy and layout. Our production staff must then assemble all these pieces, and develop them into a graphically

pleasing presentation. Over an 18-hour period, our press people turn out your individual copies, address them and distribute them through the United States mail.

Over 100 people work each week to bring Suffolk Life into your home. The news and the ads change in all 35 editions. We try to customize every edition to the locality it is distributed in.

I have been at the helm of the Suffolk Life ship since the beginning. For the first several months of Suffolk Life's existence, my desk was my mother's kitchen table, my office was her kitchen.

I have piloted Suffolk Life through rough waters and calm seas. We fought many battles on our readers' behalf. Fortunately, we have been successful more often than not.

We have stood up for our readers' rights and attempted to keep the establishment at bay. We have only been able to do this because of your loyal readership, your support and willingness to join us when called to arms. With your continued support, your prayers and God's will, Suffolk Life will continue into the future to be the ears, the eyes and the voice of Suffolk County's residents.

The day may come when I may have to leave the helm of this good ship, but I hope, the course and the direction that I have steered her on for the past 35 years will continue to be true and always continue to serve the people we love, the good residents of Suffolk County. Thank you.

And why not?

Summer doesn't end on Labor Day

For many, Labor Day ends the summer season. For those of us living here in Suffolk County, and particularly on the East End, it is the beginning of the best part.

This year, with the season being so far behind, it is our hope that the summer season will go right through to November. Scientists and marine biologists have been saying since May that the conditions that they examine and keep track of on an annual basis have been four to six weeks behind normal years. They speculate that September can be more like a normal August and October and November, more September-like. If this is the case, it will be a second summer for those of us who live out here or come out here for weekends.

Traditionally, late summer and early fall is the best time of the year in this area anyway. The days are warm. The

evenings, pleasant. The winds are moderate and there is generally an abundance of bright sunshine. The hectic pace of the summer abates. The crowds thin out. The parties and social obligations taper off. Flowers are at their most brilliant, and the produce is at its best. Lobster shells are harder, their meat firmer. The clams are plump and seem to have more salinity.

More important, people aren't as tired. Smiles replace frazzled faces. Pleasantness replaces tension and anxiety. For those of us who live here, it is heaven. For those who are our summer visitors, we want you to know you are welcome back on weekends.

Just try to relax like the natives and you will find an increased appreciation for our area.

And why not?

Ending affirmative action

The Suffolk County Legislature last week passed a resolution ending affirmative action in Suffolk County as we know it. The county's affirmative action program had been based solely on race and gender. The resolution changes the criteria to one of economic need.

The legislature hopes that it has found a middle ground. The county's affirmative action program came under heavy criticism over the police cadet program that was designed to encourage minorities to enter the police force.

Minorities recruited were offered a free college education at Suffolk County Community College. When they graduated, they automatically would be brought into the police cadet training program and their eligibility would not be determined by their test scores.

The job of a Suffolk County Police Officer is one of the most sought after in the county. Entrance tests can draw over 30,000 applicants. Police can earn over \$100,000 with overtime. The benefits are superb and officers are allowed to retire after 20 years with a pension.

Minorities are not adequately represented on the police force. The federal government, by decree, had ordered Suffolk County to make an effort to increase minority representation. The change in the affirmative action program from race and gender to economic need may well still draw a larger number of minorities as minorities often are economically disadvantaged.

White males who meet the econom-

ic disadvantaged criteria will also be eligible, making the new program more balanced. The goals for affirmative action are commendable from a social sense, but we still believe government should be run like a business and the best person should get the job regardless of race, color, creed or gender.

People should not be kept out of a job because of race or gender. We all should be on the same playing field where the person with the best qualifications wins the right to the job.

The latest proposal based strictly on economic need will not assure that the county will get the best employee. In fact, it will discourage young people who want to become police officers from going out and trying to improve their economic status through hard work and diligence during the waiting period between the time that they get out of school and the tests are held.

We would not be a bit surprised to see candidates who are serious about becoming police officers deliberately taking low-paying, off-the-book jobs, so that they appear to be economically disadvantaged.

There is not a law written that does not have a loophole. There isn't a system that can be devised that people are not trying to beat.

The legislature made a good attempt to find a middle road, but this particular road has a lot of twists and turns in it.

And why not?

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

and SUFFOLK COUNTY LIFE

Offices and plant located at Willmott Plaza, 1461 Old Country Road, (Route 58)

Riverhead, N.Y. 516/369-0800

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-0167

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Medford • Holtsville
Coram • Middle Island
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Stony Brook • Setauket
Selden • Farmingville
Centereach • Lake Grove
Ronkonkoma
Holbrook • Bohemia
Sayville • Oakdale
East Islip • Bay Shore
West Islip
Central Islip • Hauppauge
Brentwood
St. James • Nesconset
Smithtown
Commack • Kings Park
Northport • Huntington
Huntington Station
Dix Hills • Melville
Deer Park • West Babylon
Lindenhurst • Amityville
Suffolk County Life

Drug Free Schools

Most public schools opened this past week. What kind of atmosphere did the children walk into? What was their expectation and their responsibility?

A recent national poll, just released, revealed that twice as many kids are using drugs now than they did four years ago. This is alarming. This is frightening. The biggest influence on kids are their own peers. We must find a way of getting kids off drugs. Keep them away from kids who have already been lost.

A week ago, a reader who lives on the edge of a park in Patchogue called to comment that night after night she sees cars driving up and sales going down. Occasionally, a police car shows up and the kids scatter. She expressed her alarm about the number of kids who seemed to be involved.

She asked the question, "Isn't there something we can do to stop this epidemic?" She then posed another question, "Why not start the school year with mandatory drug testing of every student, every teacher, every administrator and every bus driver?"

Also, have random drug testing performed throughout the year. Fire those employees who test positive for drugs, expel the kids who show signs of drug consumption, possession, or sale. Get them out of the system and away from the kids who are still clean.

Simplistic as this idea is, it can work. If someone employed in the system knew that he or she would automatically be fired, he or she would think twice about coming into the system having used drugs.

If a students knew that, if tested positive, they would be removed from the system, denied an education, and held accountable for their own actions, then the good and the bad would be separated from each other.

There are those who will argue that a system like this would violate the civil rights of the school employees and the students. What about the rights of the good kids who are there to learn and stay straight?

Some would argue a nation-wide, drug free school program would be too expensive.

We would argue that the cost of taking care of the "druggies," the crimes that they will commit and the ruined lives they leave along their path, will be far more expensive than the cost of the program. If we are serious about eradicating our drug problems, then we have to be serious about the measures we take to put an end to this national illness.

Do our elected officials have the courage to enact a program of this magnitude?

And why not?

Riverhead Hilton II

Last week, the involuntary guests at the Suffolk County Jail, dubbed the "Riverhead Hilton," declined to dine. These guests were protesting the innkeepers decision to ban all high top sneakers, and henceforth, these guests will be required to wear rubber sole flip-flops.

The guests consider this an indignity and a violation of their rights. At lunch time, so they refused to patronize their exclusive restaurant. They were teaching the warden a lesson.

The warden chose to ban high top sneakers as some of them contain metal arches that can be fashioned into weapons. The high tops also provide hiding places for contraband and weapons.

One has to remember that the Riverhead Hilton was not designed to be a luxurious spa. It's a jail for short-termers and those awaiting trial who cannot make bail.

As in any jail, it's a horrendous place to work because these guests hate their care givers while the care givers must put up with daily insults and threats of attack.

If flip-flops make the Hilton a safer place both for guests and workers, then that is the way to go. If the guests refuse to dine, so be it. The food is there for them to eat; if they choose not to they are saving the taxpayers money, and that is not a bad idea either.

And why not?

Is It Need or Greed

This past week we were exposed to two new stories trying to make the case for the continuation of big government and the subsidies funded by the taxpayers.

In western Long Island there is a day care center that is being threatened by the cutbacks in state program aid. The center only hires certified teachers to look after the kids in day care. They are able to hire certified teachers because of grants from the state.

In making the argument for the continuation of these grants, they interviewed a parent of one of the children. The parent, a teacher, is married and her husband works. She extolled the virtues of the center, but then said that if the day care center was forced to make cutbacks and hire non-certified teachers she might be forced to take her child out of the center and quit her job as a teacher. She might even have to apply for welfare.

In the back to school coverage, a news report dealt with one of the mid-Suffolk schools not having a taxpayer-provided lunch program. The example they featured was a young athlete, who only had junk food to eat during the day and was facing practice with an empty stomach. When someone made an inquiry as to why he did not bring his lunch to school, his mother said that brown bagging it was considered "wimpy."

What's wrong with this picture. In both of these cases individuals have sufficient income to take care of their children's needs. Out of greed, they have become part of the so-called entitlement society, people

who are demanding that others take care of their needs through their taxes, hard work and sweat. The so-called entitlement programs are not always based upon need; often, they are based upon greed. You pay for my kids so I can have my money to spend on myself.

This is what is wrong with this country. Each of us is responsible for our own self. We have no right to look to others to take care of us. We are squandering and wasting American resources by providing these programs for people from cradle to grave. This robs those truly in need of the funds required to serve them.

This is the difference between those in government who believe that it is the government's right to take from the workers through oppressive taxation so that the government can provide all the niceties for the chosen few.

But there are still those in government who believe, that if given the opportunity, the public wants to provide for themselves. Given tax cuts, they can. They do not want to become part of a social society where the government provides for them and controls them from cradle to grave. It is precisely programs like this that distinguish the Clintons from the Doles of the world.

This year when we go to the polls to elect a new president, we will be doing more than electing a man, we will be selecting a philosophy of life that we have chosen to live by.

And why not?

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- Coram • Middle Island
- Rocky Point
- Port Jefferson
- Stony Brook • Setauket
- Selden • Farmingville
- Centereach • Lake Grove
- Ronkonkoma
- Holbrook • Bohemia
- Sayville • Oakdale
- East Islip • Bay Shore
- West Islip
- Central Islip • Hauppauge
- Brentwood
- St. James • Nesconset
- Smithtown
- Commack • Kings Park
- Northport • Huntington
- Huntington Station
- Dix Hills • Melville
- Deer Park • West Babylon
- Lindenhurst • Amityville
- Suffolk County Life

Consider Manhattan to Greenport

By N. Anastasi

Greenport Village has invited the owners of a high speed ferry to visit the harbor area. Instead of hailing from Connecticut like other high speed ferries, this one would be coming from Manhattan.

In lieu of LIRR changes

Supervisor's association discusses station

By Sandra Krairideja

Town representatives in Suffolk County passed a resolution requesting the state comptroller review financing practices associated with solid waste management programs.

The resolution also seeks recommendations for a state local finance law which would give a municipality more flexibility in its use of waste facilities capital project funds. Supervisor Richard Schaffer of Babylon introduced the resolution at a luncheon for the county Supervisors Association on Thursday. "There should be a clarification on how funds can be spent on solid waste improvement projects," he said.

In 1994, Babylon used town employees who worked at the landfill to construct a town ashfill. Schaffer found that the town saved \$950,000 by doing this. The town was later criticized by the state comptroller for using county employees in a cost-cutting measure.

The possibility of the ferry coming to Greenport was discussed by Village Mayor David Kapell last week. The mayor stated that the ferry could be in Greenport "in the not too distant future."

Kapell stated that he had spoken with representatives of New York Fast Ferry regarding

the high speed ferries they are currently operating. Kapell, while touring the region on a private tour, had spoken to the New York Fast Ferry regarding the boats. He is contemplating running a line from Manhattan to Greenport.

October 11 and 12

Willing to host Asian conference

Model of Korean Reunification: Opportunity for Exploration: Gandhi After 125 Years: Global Indian Diaspora: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow and The Political Culture of the Cultural Revolution: Film, Painting and Politics.

Sam Pitroda, a native of India, is one of the world's leading advocates of introducing telecommunications in developing nations to stabilize democracy, strengthen the economy and improve the quality of life.

Other guest speakers include Dr. Ainslie Hume, advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to India, former dean of International Studies at the University of North Carolina, and Dr. Carol Gluck, a member of the Asia Society and Columbia University's Asia Studies Program.

The purpose of the New York Conference on Asian Studies is providing a forum for Asian watchers to share with each other and the general public--business, art and educational communities--the newest findings of their research. Asianists from America and abroad will discuss and debate present and future problems and prospects of East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia.

To make reservations or receive more information on the Conference call Professor Nim-bark at 244-3116.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR 1996-97 SCHOOL YEAR

BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED, PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ AT THE SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 245 UNION AVENUE, HOLBROOK, NEW YORK, AT 11:00 A.M. PREVALING TIME, October 2, 1996 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

B96-49 Security and Fire Alarm Parts

Specifications and bid forms are available at the Administrative Building, Office of the Purchasing Agent, The Board of Education reserves the right to grant awards within sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening. Bids which period bids shall not be withdrawn. This period may be adjusted if so stated on the Bid Proposal Form.

Central School District at Holbrook Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids that it deems to be in the best interest of the school district.

SCHOOL DISTRICT AT HOLBROOK
SCL-FULL RUN 9/18

funding, this group has opted to sell what it calls 'an unnecessary' portion of land to help resolve those financial problems.

That makes a lot of sense, especially since the property is north of the former Northrop Grumman site which has already been essentially excluded from the pine barrens core area.

In addition, almost every professional

Task force bets 'yes'

Governor Pataki empowered a task force to study the question of casino gambling in New York. The task force released its preliminary findings and indicated that it is throwing the dice in favor of gambling in New York State.

Two salient points were made. People who are going to gamble, are going to gamble. It doesn't make any difference whether it is legal or not. New York State is surrounded by states that have casino gambling. New York State residents are the prime targets of these casinos. These gamblers take their New York State money out of the state and spend it in Connecticut and New Jersey. There is nothing we can do to stop them.

New York State has a choice of being pure and maintaining that age-old puritan attitude or joining with the surrounding states in

will decide the fate of the Scouts' property, is comprised of the county executive and town supervisors of Brookhaven, Southampton and Riverhead and county planners.

This commission would be remiss if it did not approve the Scouts' request to be excluded from core area.

And why not?

allowing the creation of state-supervised casinos.

Last year, the legislature passed a bill allowing casino gambling in upstate resort areas. We asked them why not on Long Island? It seems like our local legislators dropped the ball.

A casino on the East End would keep our tourist industry going year-round. Combine this with a convention center and you might have a home run. Every voter should be asking their candidates for the state senate and assembly where they stand on this issue.

The candidates should honestly be able to give their own personal viewpoints, which will help us in making a decision of who will best represent us in Albany in 1997 and 1998.

And why not?



idea

Towle didn't put much thought into this proposal or its ramifications. A lot of residents of New York State feel it is an intrusion of their personal rights to be forced to be fingerprinted. How much time would fingerprinting applicants take? How many more hours would people be forced to stand in line to go through this procedure? What would be the cost of such a massive endeavor? Wouldn't the fingerprints then become part of the dossier "Big Brother" is collecting about us? If the program was only done on a statewide basis, what would be the value of it?

We believe Towle's proposal is nothing more than a cheap attempt to get some press, and it's bad press at that.

And why not?

thing

to throw this all aside. These so-called not-for-profit agencies operate with a profit motive. The more business they can do, the more they can pay the administrators in direct compensation, perks and bonuses. These agencies may be nonprofit, but those who run them can be driven by profit motives.

There are places for rehabilitation centers. They don't have to be plopped in the middle of purely residential neighborhoods at the convenience of the operators. The clientele that these alcoholic rehabilitation centers draw can pose a danger to the public at large. The clients are considered sick. Some physically, some emotionally, and some both. Why put children and members of the community in harm's way?

These centers should be built in areas designated as commercial, industrial, away from the general population. If it takes a change in federal legislation, let's do it. If changes must be made in the state health laws, the legislature and the governor should pay special heed.

In the meantime, the communities and the towns they are in should fight vigorously to stop this epidemic from spreading. Too often, the public is expected to roll over because big brother, the state or the federal government said you have to. We don't have to do anything. We are Americans and we have a right to fight for our health, welfare and safety of our homes and communities. Let's join hands and do it.

And why not?

WILLMOTTS & WHY NOTS

DAVID J. WILLMOTT SR., EDITOR

Make it an even playing field

With New York State's budget shortfall projected next year to be up to \$5 billion, the state is looking to cut its losses. One of the areas the state is particularly looking at is the state-funded hospitals, teaching and research centers. Stony Brook is one of them.

Throw into this mix the ferocious appetite that large medical establishments have for absorbing and consolidating and you have a real danger posed for Suffolk County.

There are 11 community hospitals in Suffolk County. Each serves its specific community. The staff at each hospital is concerned that if Stony Brook was taken over by one of the big medical conglomerates, these local hospitals would be put in jeopardy. They are looking at Stony Brook as a possible joint venture.

Stony Brook would become the center for 'tertiary care.' Tertiary, as described by the administrators, is the extra-ordinary services that local hospitals would not be able to provide on an individual basis. They would like to see a system put together whereby they would become the feeder hospitals for this major medical center.

The hospitals would become part of this medical system, have a say in the collective medical development, operation and mission while still maintaining a separate identity.

Suffolk Life has always been a big supporter of local community hospitals. They are

the first line of defense in accidents or illnesses. Medical care today is very sophisticated. Every hospital cannot be a universe unto itself. The cost of personnel and equipment is just too great.

A network of hospitals feeding a centralized facility is good, common sense. Our local community hospitals are in the process of developing plans for such a facility and organization. They expect that Stony Brook and the state will probably put out a request for a proposal (RFP) to meet those plans.

Requests for proposals can be good and bad. Good if well written, not too restrictive. The language in the RFP should fill a broad purpose and mission. Because of the nature of this RFP, the language should be written by all of those who have a possibility of bidding.

If written very specifically, to achieve a pre-designed conclusion, an RFP can generally eliminate competition, or at best, is nothing more than a scheme to give the appearance of being an open process while in reality it is closed.

If the state and Stony Brook decide to go the RFP route, it is incumbent upon our state legislature to make sure that our local hospitals play a part in the development and the review of these proposals. It's our health that is at stake, not the systems.

And why not?

Justice and guns

Last week, the Appellate Division threw out the conviction of a teenager who had willfully brought a gun into a New York City public school. Like most schools, this school has a policy banning weapons. The school is part of New York City.

The City has one of the most restrictive gun laws in the nation because of the Sullivan Law, which makes it near impossible for an honest citizen to obtain a permit to carry a gun. Possessing an illegal firearm is a felony.

The teenager was spotted by a security guard. The guard observed the handling of a gun sticking out of the teenager's pocket. He and another

If you are sick and tired of liberal interpretations of the law, think twice about who you are going to vote for this November.

security officer apprehended the individual after a ruckus. During the altercation, the second security officer felt what he believed to be a gun. The perpetrator was searched and was found to be in possession of a firearm. The teen was suspended from school and charged with the illegal possession of a firearm. He was subsequently sentenced.

The Appeals Court found that the teen's fourth amendment rights of 'search and seizure' had been violated. But based on this ruling, schools are powerless to keep guns out of school. The justices have contributed to making New York City schools official war zones and have set a dangerous

precedent for the rest of the state.

Liberal judges who place the individual's rights above the rights and the good of society are the product of liberal elected officials. In this particular case, the jurists must have been blind to justice. The first security officer visually saw what appeared to be a gun. In subduing the individual, the second security officer felt what he believed was a gun. The school had a law forbidding guns. The search turned up the gun.

Some liberal judge probably ruled that the security officers needed a search warrant. A search warrant would have taken hours or days to obtain. In the meantime, the perpetrator is left to go free, and he may have used the gun for his intended purpose.

If you are sick and tired of liberal interpretations of the law, think twice about who you are going to vote for this November. The next president of the United States will have an opportunity to change the balance of the Supreme Court and then appoint hundreds of federal judges in lesser courts throughout the country.

Do you want these judges rewriting the Constitution to fit their philosophies, or do you want judges who will adhere to the Constitution and limit their interpretation?

And why not?



Calling their bluff

The public school teachers' unions, and the educational establishment, have vigorously opposed giving parents the choice of where to educate their children.

A growing segment of society, however, has jumped on the bandwagon in favor of vouchers for private school education. This evolving group points out the great strides that have been made in private school education. Unfortunately, private school education is an additional financial burden many middle income families have difficulty absorbing. A voucher would put private, parochial school education within the reach of these families.

The school unions have constantly argued against this proposal saying that the private, parochial school system only works because it gets to pick the children that it is going to educate. The public schools would then be left with the 'rejects' because the law requires it to educate everyone.

In New York City, the archdiocese has offered to take 1,000 of the public school's worst students to educate them. The diocese is willing to put its reputation on the line. What an opportunity for these kids. Mayor Giuliani claims to have raised about half of what the tuition requirement would be. He believes he can raise the balance.

The school unions and the educational establishment have come out 100% opposed to this pilot program. Instead of giving these kids an opportunity, they would prefer to see them rot in the system that is not working for them. The unions do not want their precious franchise tampered with. They know that if these 1,000 students were educated properly and were able to excel, the value of public education would be brought further into question.

Parochial schools in the city are already doing a heroic job in educating the poor and minorities. In some of the diocesan schools, the majority of the students are African American and Spanish American, and they are achieving far better than their peers in public school. Many of these students are not only people of color but are not from Catholic homes. They do, however, have one thing in common: their parents are willing to go the extra step by not tolerating an inferior public school education.

Giuliani has started a war. He should be encouraged to win the battle because this bat-

tle matters to our kids, good or bad. If the educational establishment cares about kids and not just protecting its income, it would be looking for every opportunity to serve the students and not just itself.

And why not?

Fixing child molesters

One of the worst crimes imaginable is a young child being violated by a sex molester. Yet, this crime is more prevalent than most of us care to admit.

A few months ago, we read a detailed report on these crimes. Although once convicted, sex offenders are generally forced to go through psychiatric evaluations and therapy to rehabilitate them, the recidivism rate ranges from 75% to 90%.

California recently enacted a law requiring that convicted, second offender sexual molesters be chemically castrated upon their release. They are given weekly injections of Depo-Provera, a testosterone suppressing drug.

This law has already caused an uproar in the civil liberties community, which is claiming that this law violates the rights of the sex offender. The civil liberties community has instituted a suit to block the procedure saying that the offenders can only be chemically castrated if they volunteer for the procedure.

But hold on a second, what about the rights of that little kid who will be scared for the rest of his or her life?

These second offenders have been convicted twice of a sex offense. How many crimes did they commit that they were not convicted for? Without chemical or surgical castration, how many more will strike again?

Americans are tired of our wishy-washy legal system that turns the bad guy loose and makes everyone else the culprit. It's about time that we put aside some of our concerns for the convicted and show the same concern for the victims.

And why not?