

Letters to the Editor

We encourage readers to express their opinion, but request that letters be limited to 400 words or less and be submitted by the Monday before publication.

All letters should be signed and include the writer's name, address and a phone number for verification.

When writing letters, it is customary to specify affiliation with the subject if one exists.

All submissions will be considered, but if letters are libelous or in poor taste, they will not be published. -Editor

LILCO customers can call for gas system checkups

To the Editor:

A recent letter to the editor from a reader inaccurately stated that Long Island Lighting Company gas customers could not receive a checkup of their gas system from the utility.

To the contrary, our gas customers may call us any time and make an appointment to check their heating systems on a charge basis. In fact,

LILCO has maintained a preventive maintenance program for more than 30 years. However, because natural gas is a cleaner heating fuel than oil, annual service checkups are not necessary to maintain the heating system. A recent study conducted with the State University at Stony Brook demonstrated that natural gas heating systems serviced annually did not experience any

fewer system interruptions than those receiving yearly attention.

LILCO's mission is to provide all of our customers with unparalleled service, and attention to safe, reliable service is part of that mission.

Suzanne Halpin
Director, Media and Community
Relations
Long Island Lighting Company

Harenberg thanks voters for their support in election

To the Editor:

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to you, the voters, for again granting me the privilege to represent you in the New York State Assembly.

The victory represents your support for my style of independence and accountability to Long Islanders. It also represents a repudiation of negative campaigning.

During the next term, I will redouble my efforts to reduce State taxes and work to create new and well-paying jobs in our communities, lower LILCO's high rates, enhance our transportation infrastructure, toughen New York's criminal and DWI laws, and work to make life a little easier for our seniors. Additionally, my office stands ready to help my constituents with any problem that they may have.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who so generously gave of their time in making my campaign successful.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Suffolk County News' Editorial Board for its endorsement. I take seriously the confidence you have placed in me, and will do my best to deserve it.

Paul Harenberg
Member of Assembly

Blue Point resident will miss 'Mr. Mac'

To the Editor:

I met Mr. Mac in 1979 when I purchased property adjacent to the deli he owned on Blue Point Avenue. For a good number of years I used Mr. Mac's punctuality as an integral part of my daily routine. My alarm went off at 5 a.m. Mr. Mac would set off the burglar alarm every morning at 5:30 sharp, and that was my signal to get in the shower.

Over the years I came to rely on Mac's deli to be a full service conve-

nience store. A 30-amp fuse, mouse-traps, ham and cheese on rye with mustard, a six pack, aspirin for a hang-over, whatever. There were no holidays in his world, he was here to serve the public and serve them he did. Mr. Mac was also endowed with a brain that could beat a computer in addition or subtraction. Buy a bunch of stuff, anything in the store, before the last item was in the bag, he'd tell you how much.

Mr. Mac also dealt with the realities

of life. I felt sorry for the person that tried to elicit his sympathy with a bogus tale of woe. He'd stare you straight in the eye and tell you, in his own poignant way, "Get a life."

The good news is, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Mr. Mac's tradition of dealing with reality and mathematical genius will be carried on by his issues, Donald and Nancy.

Mr. Mac, I'm going to miss you.

William MacKay
Blue Point

Levy: here's the reason why I opposed the county's spending increase

To the Editor:

Over the last two weeks, the county legislature has been debating the fate of a budget proposed by the county executive which increased spending over the 1994 levels. In an attempt to stay within our spending limits, I introduced approximately 30 resolutions to cut more than \$45 million from the budget.

This was, by far, most tax relief proposed than by any other legislator. Unfortunately, but to the surprise of few, the resolutions did not garner the majority necessary for passage. Consequently, you will see no tax reduction in your county bill. That is why I had to oppose the proposed spending allocations.

To its credit, the legislature crafted a bill that was much superior to that pro-

posed by the executive. For instance, it eliminated the concept of borrowing money to pay for operational costs. Nevertheless, despite the fact that spending was cut in some areas to free up revenue, monies available in a surplus account were spent on other items, thereby creating a wash. It was my belief that the public would prefer to have that surplus money returned in

the form of a needed tax break.

In the coming year, I will use my efforts to help prevent these monies from being spent carelessly. Instead, I will seek to have much of these funds stored aside in an account that could be used in the following year for reductions in either our sales or property taxes.

Steve Levy
County Legislator

Thanks community members for helping to repair Sayville Menorah

To the Editor:

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to five local men who repaired the Menorah that was damaged late Friday evening or Saturday morning.

Francis Bodkin, a former resident of Sayville; Chris Bodkin, Councilman for Town of Islip; Kevin Bodkin, a Town of Islip employee who was instrumental in contacting Bill Daley of Oakdale and Gerry Kaler of

Sayville to help repair the Menorah. Although the damage was extensive, these five good samaritans had the Menorah repaired and in working condition Sunday morning; in time for the last day of Chanukah.

I sincerely want to thank these fine gentlemen for their good work. You all performed a "mitzvah" for the Jewish people.

I also want to thank the Christian people and good friends who expressed a deep concern regarding the damage to our religious symbol.

God Bless you all and may you have a good, healthy and prosperous Holiday Season.

Simon Stein
Sayville

Urges voters to cast ballots in Bohemia Fire Commissioner election

To the Editor:

On Tuesday December 13, 1994 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. at the Bohemia Fire Department Headquarters Building on Pearl Street, there will be an election for two open positions on the board of fire commissioners. One is for the three-year unexpired term formerly held by the late Alfred Clifton, and the other, a full five-year term.

Seeking to be elected as fire commissioner for the three-year term is a local businessman, George "Micky" Hellmuth, with a reputable business back-

ground. Our community finally has the opportunity to install one of its members who is not a member of the fire department, and has the ability to apply much needed fiscal financial and business capabilities to oversee the expenditure of taxpayers' funds.

For the five-year term, incumbent Robert Strauss is running unchallenged, and rightfully so. Bob Strauss, in my considered opinion, is one of the best fire commissioners our district, or any other district, was fortunate to have.

As an active member of the Bohemia Fire

Department for almost 63 years, presently serving as the treasurer of the Bohemia Volunteer Firemens Benevolent Association, and Recording Secretary of the Bohemia Fire Police, I feel fully qualified to recommend to our community these two fine gentlemen to serve as your fire commissioners for the terms they are now seeking.

I urge all registered voters to exercise this voting privilege we as Americans enjoy.

Barney Stejskal
Bohemia

