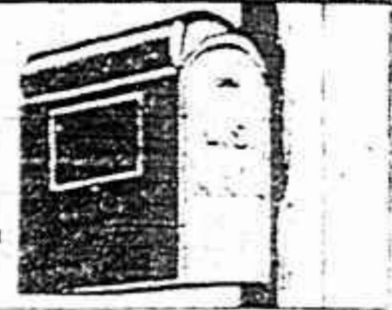


# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...



Letters intended for publication must be signed by the author and not exceed 500 words in length. If critical of any person or organization the author's name must be published.

## Military Spending

To the Editor:  
I am very intrigued by a recent report from our good friend, Rep. Otis G. Pike, on the subject of military spending, and there is a great deal of meat in what he has to say. However, towards the close of his article one would believe that all of this extravagance is on the part of the uniformed servicemen, whereas it, in reality, is the civilian officers of the services who seem to be somewhat blubbing in the administrative function and control. For example: the uniformed Navy has been most concerned with the block obsolescence of the active fleet and has been complaining most bitterly.

In addition, there is a moth-balled fleet that is 100 percent obsolete and on this we are dependent for the expansion of the fleet in case of war.  
To maintain the active fleet, a proper replacement at the close of World War II was between 35 and 40 ships a year and as years pass without replacement or replacement in an insufficient number to bring this fleet up to even an approximate modern fleet, the uniformed Navy feels that now a minimum of 60 ships a year should be appropriated for. However, our good friend says that the Navy was given all that it asked for. The Navy was given all that it was allowed to ask for this year, and it is an appreciable increase, but it is not the minimum required.

The press has been full of some of these so-called economy projects, and we see everyday and especially here on Long Island cancellations of contracts with unemployment resulting from these cancellations and get within the last six months we have seen contracts let for Navy and Air Force planes which fit the need of neither service and is going to result in waste because of this type of economy.

We have had the sorry spectacle of the Chief of Naval Operations relieved because he disagreed and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force having been put on probation, so to speak, because he, too, could not agree.

We have had the sorry reports from Viet Nam. In one breath we are winning it and then in the next breath our barracks and movie theatres are bombed, which, to me does not seem like winning.

We likewise have just had a belated admission that our Navy was inadequate to consummate a blockade on Cuba to say nothing of the inadequacies of the other services.

A year for two ago, we had a call-up of the Reserves and that I am sure you are conversant with.  
In "The Reporter" of January 20th, 1964, there is an article by Hanson W. Baldwin entitled "The Navy at Ebb Tide," and in the World Telegram of February 24th, 1964 an article of Henry J. Taylor, which I think you probably read.

There is no question that our defense is costing far more than it should, but there is a great need for a thorough overhaul of the ICBM program where the "overkill" capacity has been stressed, and our "massive retaliation" attained.



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Sadly enough this has been at the expense of the conventional forces so that they (and the Merchant Marine) are inadequate to cope with "brush fire" wars let alone a conventional war.

I would appreciate very much if you will print this or comment on Mr. Pike's item because I think that our community is entitled to know.

William A. Sessions  
Oakdale

## Opposes Marina

To the Editor:  
I was perturbed when I read in The Suffolk County News about the proposal of Islip Town to build a "multi-million dollar marina" in Sayville. Is it possible for our town officials to think of spending this kind of money for a grand place for people to berth their boats? Are we not catering to a small group of people that own a boat large enough to need permanent berthing or mooring, I say this realizing that there is a so-called "boating boom" and everyone is supposedly taking to the waterways. I venture to say, however, that the average town boat owner has the type of boat that can be quite easily put into the water and just as easily taken out and put on his trailer and taken home after the day's sailing is over. Perhaps Islip Town should provide more launching facilities along the town waterways, but as to a multi-million dollar marina, I would say an emphatic NO.

I am very much in favor of extensive recreational and athletic facilities but town funds must go to the recreational facilities that will provide the greatest benefit and activity to the greatest number of people. Keeping water activities in mind, I would personally like to see an increase in the number of public outdoor swimming pools operated by Islip Town, particularly since our Great South Bay is steadily becoming unfit for swimming. A fine swimming pool could be built at a fraction of the cost of a marina in the same general location in Sayville and a greater number of town residents would benefit from it.

Another area that comes to mind is Byron Lake Park in Oakdale. As I understand it, a swimming pool is part of the total recreational plan for this area, but I have heard that the funds for a pool are not now available. I sincerely hope that this park with a swimming pool is fully developed before any multi-million dollar marina is begun in Islip Town.

Let Islip Town finish some of the recreational plans now underway, keeping in mind the greatest good for the greatest number, and leave the marinas until later — much later!

John E. Mackay,  
12 Crestwood Road,  
Bohemia.

To the Editor:

The happy-happy article on the front page of The Suffolk County News of two weeks ago (I mean the one above the news about the probable rise in taxes) made it painfully clear that the Wet Pants Association will get its marina at the foot of Foster Avenue. I don't belong to the Wet Pants; I just live on Foster Avenue. But before the digging and the dredging and the dumping begin, I'd like to know a little more about this new pleasure spot, and why "we" need it.

Perhaps there is not enough traffic up and down Foster Avenue on a weekend in summer? (Call the kids in and lock the doors, folks, it's Friday night again!) Or maybe there are not enough beer cans, broken bottles, candy wrappers, wet towels and dirty socks dropped along Foster Avenue in the summer? (I really prefer the beer cans to the bottles. A king-size bottle bounced onto the front walk explodes into enough pieces to keep me busy all summer, and it's almost as loud as the firecrackers and cherry bombs. . . . But the best present I ever got was half a custard pie tossed into my baby's playpen—including the fork.) — Well, to get back to the marina, does it have to be a "replica" of the one in Bay Shore? Have you seen the one in Bay Shore? How is this unsightly jam-up of cars and boats, with its resulting deterioration of the neighborhood, any more desirable than the same mess at a drive-in theater or shopping center? Then, please tell us just how

the presence of all these oily boats will make the bay "cleaner." As clean as Brown's River? I'm awfully glad to hear that the bay is going to be so much cleaner, because there really isn't any good reason for building a larger public beach on a bay that's too filthy to swim in, is there?  
Yours 'til the dump trucks start rolling.  
Mrs. Eugene Lissandrello.

## On Peace

To the Editor:  
I noted Secretary General U Thant's quotation at the top of your Editorial page, "Let us call a truce to terror. Let us invoke the blessings of peace."

Let us all pray that God will speed the day when the Soviets will be guided by this admonition, concentrate on improving conditions for the Russian people and abandon their plans for the conquest of the universe.

James J. Cribbin, Sr.  
1 Bay Shore Road,  
Bay Shore, L. I.

## From Africa

To the Editor:  
When I returned to East Africa in January for the third time, I found the area in a temporary state of turmoil. I still do not have a clear picture of what took place in Zanzibar, but within the countries of the rest of East Africa the trouble was not very widespread and was soon brought under control.

No harm came to any of us working here and life in general went on as normal. Steps have been taken in Tanganyika to strengthen security with the hope that this young nation will move towards a better future in peace.

In a way, time goes much faster in the States than it does out here. This must be because people at home follow a rather set routine in life, whereas here each day has its new problems. The solving of these problems adds up to progress and fortunately some of these problems have been solved.

Things can happen that will destroy some of the progress that has been made, but much will remain. This happened, as you know, in the early history of Europe to an even greater degree than is happening here amid the young countries of Africa today.

Because it happened in Europe, though, is no excuse for it to happen here, except that human nature is pretty prevalent. It is unfortunate that these things happen; however, with proper guidance and the help of God, Africa can pass through its growing pains quickly and become a wonderful group of nations that are "black but beautiful."

Joseph Kelly, C. S. Sp.,  
Catholic Mission,  
Moshi, Tanganyika

## Thanks

To the Editor:  
The Connetquot Board of Education has asked me to write to thank you for the splendid coverage you recently gave to our plans for the John F. Kennedy Peace Arbor.

We hope this Arbor will be a place of beauty and inspiration and everyone is invited to participate to make it a living tribute not only to the late President but to the students and citizens of the community who help make it possible.

We always appreciate your interest and cooperation and you and your staff are to be complimented on the fine job you do.

Eleanor Heffernan,  
District Clerk.

## Likes Birch Society

To the Editor:  
Due to continuous attacks by your paper and several others, I have checked into the John Birch Society on my own. So far I have not found anything to prove that these people are hatemongers or extremists. They are extremists as far as not wanting communism in this country, if that's being extreme. It seems to me every American should be worried about communism in this country. These people are just trying to bring the facts to the people. I just hope and pray more people "wake up" in this country in time. Don't wait until they have us overpowered. Fight now while we still have the means and strength to fight. Take heed to what happened to the Hungarians, they woke up too late and did not have the men or equipment to gain back their freedoms.

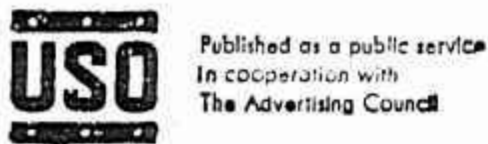
It seems to me these people are trying to preserve what we have long taken for granted and do not seem to think it is possible to lose.

Helena Miller  
Sayville.

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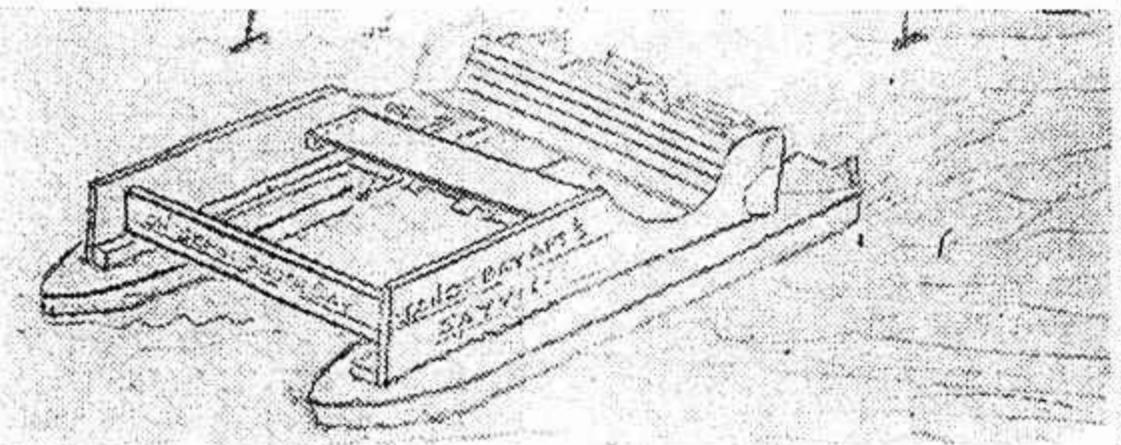
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