Everybody's Column

TO THE EDITOR:

An allegation of private school busing has been confirmed by a member of the school board in the Wappingers district.

Mr. Carney issued a statement that he is sending his son to a military school "because of the abominable conditions at Roy C. Ketcham. With the 9th grade scheduling, the kids are not getting a full education."

This poses a tremendous conflict to the school district taxpayer. On one hand, our administrators tell us of quality education to the students, and on the other we hear from a longtime member of the board that conditions are abominable to such a point that his child has to be transported 23 miles outside of the district.

Is it true that our tremendous tax dollars are really purchasing such low level education?

How can one serve on a school board when he, himself, sends his offspring to another school, and further proceeds to use our tax dollars to send his son 23 miles away with a sedan or station wagon that should be used to transport students within the district.

At a cost of $1.16 per mile, taking one student to Cornwall-on-Hudson is costing the Wappinger Central School system $108.72 per day and this does not include tolls. The cost per month is approximately $2,134.40, and for a school year the cost is approximately $19,209.60 for 16,560 miles of travel plus wear and tear on the vehicles. Two teachers could be paid with this money.

Do you the public, believe he should remain on the school board? We do not.

R. A. KLARES and C. DEMETROPS
Hopewell Junction

TO THE EDITOR:

If there are "abominable conditions at Ketcham" and "the kids are not getting a full education" (Mr. Carney's words), who is responsible for this disaster if not the Wappingers school board and the superintendent?

If Mr. Sturgis believes that Mr. Carney's child is entitled to transportation to a distant school because his education needs are not being met locally, what does this say for the rest of our children and the education they're receiving?

How can Mr. Sturgis be satisfied that "all students are treated exactly the same" (Mr. Sturgis' words) when Mr. Carney's child is picked up and dropped off every day at home in a tax-paid vehicle by (in effect) his own personal tax-paid chauffeur, while the rest of our children have to be transported to their "abominable conditions" standing on overcrowded buses.

What does it take to provide adequate transportation for the rest of the children in this district, not to mention adequate education?

And Mr. Carney believes he's owed an apology? Perhaps we ought to transport both these gentlemen right out of the district. I'm sure we taxpayers would be very glad to take on this onetime expense for transportation.

RITA V. SAPPE
Fishkill

TO THE EDITOR:

Assuming that the article concerning the appointment of Sanford Cohen to the Poughkeepsie Narcotic Guidance Council was correct, it appears that there should be a Citizens Council to Guide the City Government.

Mayor Ahmed's statement concerning Mr. Cohen's way of thinking more than borders on the edge of totalitarianism, and sounds like a dictatorship. Although it is democratic to have an advisory council, it appears, according to Mayor Ahmed's way of thinking, that although a person has a right to his views, they cannot be workable if Mayor Ahmed is in disagreement.

One question that really sticks in my mind concerning the NGC: Since the council hasn't had a meeting in almost three years, are the members being paid for their appointments?

WILLIAM H. JOHNSON,
22 Lexington Ave.

TO THE EDITOR:

I have been disturbed by the statement of Dr. Redmond, the county health commissioner, made a number of weeks ago at the Unitarian Fellowship in Poughkeepsie.

I asked him if we all were going to get cancer from the PCB's in the city water. At first I couldn't get a clear statement from him, but when I pressed him, he said, "We are conducting a 40-year human experiment. If you ask me in 40 years, I will be able to tell you."

There are many of us who don't want to wait for 40 years to find out if we will get cancer. Why does not the city give urgent priority to building a reservoir so we can have a safe supply of drinking water?

JORDAN HESS

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing this letter because I am concerned about the poor officiating in Mid-Hudson Basketball League games. I am most concerned about a recent varsity basketball game that John Jay played.

The two officials seemed to highly favor Jay's opponent. It is a shame that excellent high school athletes have to be deprived of fair officiating. I think coaches should be able to get together after every season and vote on what officials should stay for the following year, and those who are not competent should not be retrained.

I am sure many players, coaches and fans agree with me.

KEVIN MAURER
Hopewell Junction

The Journal invites letters from readers under the following terms:

1. Writers must sign their names and state their addresses. Letters without these basic requirements will not be published. No anonymous letters will be printed and requests to have a name withheld from publication will not be granted under ordinary circumstances.

2. All letters will be edited relative to taste, style, legal considerations and length.

3. Preference is given to typewritten letters of 250 words or fewer. They will be published whenever possible in the order in which they are received.

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TO THE EDITOR:

A most useful and informative symposium on solid waste disposal was held at Dutchess Community College on Feb. 26 under the auspices of the League of Women Voters of the Dutchess County Environmental Association.

Dr. Helmut W. Schultz, director, Urban Technology, professor of Chemical Engineering, Columbia University, presented convincing evidence in support of the Purox method of waste disposal for Dutchess County. From these data, and from other sources, there can be little doubt that the Purox technology is the one to use in Dutchess County. The reasons are:

1. Purox uses the sound, 200-year-old blast furnace technology of the steel industry. The problems still to be worked out are minor in terms of modern technology and should be easily worked out before our plant could be built. The system is far more advanced than others being proposed.

2. The Schultz data support the conclusion that the cost per ton of waste disposal is the least of those being proposed.

3. The system, with no stack emissions, is the least environmentally damaging.

Dutchess County should no longer postpone a session on this important matter.

MONICA HEALEA
Professor Emeritus of Physics
Vassar College

TO THE EDITOR:

With the advent of warm weather, it once again disturbs me to see the lack of tennis facilities in the City of Poughkeepsie.

For the past few years as tennis has consistently achieved an unprecedented plateau, Poughkeepsie, as usual, has done nothing to keep pace. In fact, the present facilities have deteriorated.

It's very frustrating for a "tennis buff" taxpayer to see funds allocated for softball fields and lighting, skiing facilities, skating facilities, golf courses, fishing docks, biking paths but practically nothing for the fastest growing sport in the country.

DOUG BOTSFORD
Mitchell Avenue

TO THE EDITOR:

One is tempted to suggest some British interests didn't learn anything from what happened in 1776, and are still looking for the last centennial laugh by trying to push the SST on us.

We had the wisdom to avoid an SST of our own for the same reasons we now oppose the one the other guys went ahead and built anyway. What kind of madness would justify our allowing others to do what we ourselves felt was wrong, and in our own back yards to boot?

George Washington wouldn't have bought it, either.

ROBERT P. ADAMS
Walden

TO THE EDITOR:

I am thoroughly disgusted with Mac R. Smith and his fund raising drive. Granted that the purpose of the drive is worthwhile, there are two important legal and philsophical issues at stake, which, while I'm sure not understood by Smith, must nevertheless be discussed.

Sheriff Quinlan is absolutely correct. Smith and his unionists are insubordinate. I doubt seriously that Smith and company do all their fund raising after duty hours. As long as fund raising occurs during duty hours, Smith and the unionists are insubordinate.

The second point is philosophical and, while understood by Sheriff Quinlan, would never be understood in a million years by unionists like Smith. Sheriff Quinlan pointed out that worthwhile activities could be accomplished by all concerned joining the Dutchess County Police Officers Association. Sheriff Quinlan means that the true role of the deputy, that of police officer doing worthwhile things, would then be reality. In other words, if you want to do good, do it as a deputy sheriff working for a sheriff.

Smith, however, does not, and I daresay, would not, understand what this means.

JOHN J. MANCUSO
Lyon Drive

TO THE EDITOR:

Mayor Bob Ahmed's discovery that the City Narcotics Commission had not met in three years leads to this suggestion:

If we had more civic bodies like this, we could interest more citizens into participation in public service.

LOU J. KUSTAS
Walnut Hill

MONS 037078