

Letters to the editor

Notes past boron seepage from LOOW site

Years ago, during my tenure as mayor of Youngstown, I was given some very disconcerting news.

One of our trustees was a horticulturist. He discovered many of his plants were dying. Investigation showed the water from his well contained boron, which was doing the damage.

The only suspected source of boron in this area was, and is, the LOOW site. The boron had, in 25-years, apparently entered the water table and traveled four to five miles to Youngstown. If that water killed plants in a greenhouse, one wonders what it will eventually do to agriculture between LOOW and the village.

Now our government "of, for, and by the people" is considering turning that site into a repository of nuclear wastes. We are assured, of course, that ground water seepage will be prevented from contacting those wastes for many years. Certainly! It took 25 years before anyone noticed any harm from the boron!

May I point out that by now that

Goods needed

Soon it will be time for the YWCA's rummage sale. Since the United Way cut the YW off from funding, the members and many other civic-minded people have come to her aid.

We have the volunteers and we have had donors, but we can use more household goods, furniture, jewelry, tools, etc. There are many stores and shops in the area which may have slightly damaged or discontinued goods that the YWCA would appreciate.

If you call, someone will pick up your donation.

Beatrice Prygon
Niagara Falls

poison must be contaminating Lake Ontario. And a tremendous amount of agricultural land. And the drinking water for millions of people around the lake shores.

Will our government even consider the recommendation of the Bechtel group? I will be tremendously disillusioned if that is true. For the sake of our children and grandchildren, I hope our federal government is, indeed, "for the people."

Watson C. McCalister
Youngstown

Some skepticism

Like many problems the government creates and then spends years and billions of dollars NOT solving, the problem of radioactive waste disposal is near the forefront. While the DOE stated that no further LOOW waste-site study would be made by Bechtel, what they didn't say provides some skepticism about the possible reasons for their decision.

The DOE may be counting on public forgetfulness, future decision reversal or possibly another contractor to study and manage the site. The site may be in worse shape than the DOE will admit publicly. A New York State takeover may be planned. A recent Wall Street Journal article pointed out that federal law requires all states by 1986 to either set up a low-level nuclear waste disposal facility within its borders or to join in a multi-state compact to create a regional site.

The decision made still falls far short of what we were originally promised. We must continue to work toward our goal of decontamination, certification and site release for unrestricted use.

Joe and Mary Clark
Lewiston

Hits salary raises for Newfane officials

On Nov. 11, there was an article in the paper stating that the Newfane Town Board had adopted a new budget for 1983, which amounted to \$3,034,782. For some unknown reason, the article didn't state how much larger the 1983 budget is over 1982's.

An earlier article in the paper on Oct. 20 stated what the salaries would be for all of the elected Town of Newfane officials for 1983. The article didn't state what their salaries were in 1982. By doing some research, I learned that Town Supervisor James Kramer Sr. received a salary of \$10,500 in 1982. The article stated that he would receive a salary of \$11,025 in 1983, a raise of \$525, with about 35 percent for fringe benefits

added to his salary. It is going to cost the town taxpayers \$14,884 in 1983 for this "part-time" job.

The Town of Wheatfield, at the last count, has a larger population than the Town of Newfane and its supervisor receives \$7,500 per year. None of its elected officials gave themselves a raise for 1983. Why should there be a difference?

Town of Newfane Highway Superintendent Philip Erck received a raise of \$1,015 for 1983.

Could this be the reason that industry has been leaving our town? Take a ride and see how much real property is up for sale. Several of the citizens are losing their real property and life's savings through the loss of jobs and high taxes in our town. Read the papers and see where over 100 names are listed for not being able to pay their real property taxes in the Town of Newfane.

Kenneth Enderby
Burt

Only the thorns

When I think back on all the issues I have fought for as president of my class, they all seem rather trivial compared to the issue at hand. The idea of LOOW becoming a repository for the radioactive waste of the entire Northeast just doesn't seem logical.

Why is it that our area is inundated with dump sites and landfills? Do they think they can save the rest of the state and country by keeping these hazardous wastes in just one area — Western New York? I think we have taken on more than enough of this hazardous waste in our area. Until a suitable way is found to dispose of these by-products, other communities should step in and take the responsibility of dealing with some of this waste.

If with every rose there comes a thorn, why is it that we are the only ones getting stuck with the thorns.

Glynis Campbell
Senior Class President
Lewiston-Porter Senior High

School

About letters

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor on issues of public concern. Letters should be brief and to the point, not exceeding 500 words, and must be legible. The Gazette reserves the right to edit them if they are libelous, in bad taste, or too long.

All letters must be signed and must include the writer's address and daytime telephone number for verification.

Writers who do not wish to have their names published must indicate the reasons. Names will be withheld if the Gazette considers the reasons valid.

