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Tom Toles

### EVERYBODY'S COLUMN

The News welcomes letters. Write to Everybody's Column, The Buffalo News, One News Plaza, P.O. Box 100, Buffalo, N.Y. 14240, or fax to 856 5150. Letters must include signature, address and a daytime phone number for verification. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing and condensation. Because of space limitations, we cannot publish all letters received.

## Danger of radiation means citizens must take charge

Lately, there has been much ado over the radon gas being emitted by the Niagara landfill in the Town of Tonawanda. This has caused another very serious health problem to be put on the back burner.

After a request was made by the union at Linde/Praxair for a health study to be done on the workers, the union was told: 1) there's no cluster of cancers to warrant a study and; 2) it would be very expensive. So much for the union's concern.

Now we turn to the residents' plight.

Recently, there have been concerns raised about the local residents' cancer rate around the five radioactive waste sites in the town.

Residents that have contacted me are expressing considerable concern that the cancers they are aware of might be caused by long-term exposure to ionizing radiation. Insofar as no

**"There is no dose threshold of radiation below which it is considered safe."**

study has been done for these people, how can we believe: 1) The Department of Energy when it says there's no problems, or 2) The State Department of Health when it says there's no cluster of cancers?

According to some of the top epidemiological experts, there is no dose threshold of radiation below which it is considered safe. In a nutshell, much of the research has indicated that if a track ("spark") from radiation misses the nucleus of a human cell, there's no problem.

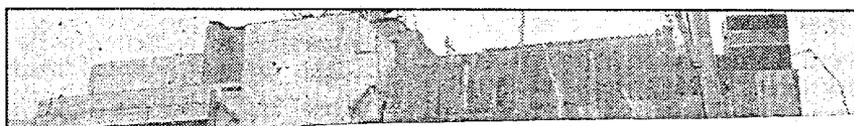
On the other hand, if a track

strikes the nucleus of one human cell, a mutation will occur and in turn may cause mutations of other cells. End result, after millions of mutations: cancer.

Perhaps it's time the local citizenry takes matters into its own hands and does a survey of the cancer cases in this localized area. Only then will we know for sure if there is a reason to be concerned.

In fact, we should go a step further and conduct a survey to determine if there are other health problems related to not only radioactive waste, but also the many toxic and heavy metal contaminated sites in the area. Who knows what lurks for the children attending schools around these contaminate areas?

DON FINCH  
Kenmore



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Upon looking at a popular woman

**VIEWPOINTS**

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