

Opinion

LETTERS

SEND YOUR VIEWS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: DON@NANTUCKETINDEPENDENT.COM

homework, chorus, band, plays, Junior Miss, dances, proms, field trips, meetings and family life. Some students even hold down a part-time job. That is a lot for a young person. Sometimes expectations are overwhelming.

Sometimes the "simple life" is not so bad. Who knows the answers?

The entire community has a great responsibility to our children. It is up to all of us to take an active interest in our youth. They are the future presidents of our country, the future doctors who may find the cure for cancer, the future teachers who will pass on what they have learned. Support the young people. Spend a couple of hours a week attending their activities — not as a parent, but as a community member interested in what they are doing. Believe me, the kids will appreciate it. Watch them grow. Listen to them.

God bless our young people.

Sincerely,

— Joanne Pimentel-Rocha

NEITHER ENDORSED NOR, MORE IMPORTANTLY, DENIED

To the editor:

In an article in last week's *Nantucket Independent* Peter Brace implies that the NP&EDC and the town are not in favor of the Cape Wind project. The voters spoke out against it in April of 2006, but the NP&EDC and the Board of Selectmen have not yet endorsed or denied the project.

After a presentation last winter by Jim Coyne, the town's consultant on Cape Wind, before a joint meeting of the NP&EDC and the Board of Selectmen, which I attended, it was agreed to seek more information as the permitting process moves into its last year — 2008. The NP&EDC and the Board of Selectmen will likely issue their final opinions by the end of the

year.

The site south of Tuckernuck Island has serious problems for a wind farm, including large waves, deep water, and lack of proximity to the mainland power grid. Deep-water technology is still 15 to 20 years away and is too expensive now. I am unaware of any energy company that has proposed a wind farm for the area south of Tuckernuck. Near shore technology is viable now and has been perfected in Europe for many years. While I applaud Congressman Delahunt's office for working on a federal energy zone for these waters with town officials, I would urge another look at the viability of Horseshoe Shoal for proven near shore wind technology.

As the price of oil hovers around \$100 per barrel, clean energy projects like Cape Wind can begin to help mitigate the effects of fossil fuel burning for electricity production. Since the town voted here in April of 2006 on Question 8, the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has asserted that humans are responsible for global warming. We need to take important steps now to address this dangerous trend. Clean energy, more fuel-efficient cars and trucks and energy conservation are all such steps.

Sincerely yours,

— Carl Borchert

GREENPEACE APPLAUDS DECISION

To the editor:

Upon initial review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cape Wind energy project, Greenpeace is pleased that Minerals Management Service (MMS) shows the Cape Wind project will be a positive step in the fight against global warming with minimal environmental impacts.

This latest assessment follows extensive review of the Cape Wind project over the past six years during which time the scientific consensus around global

warming has made the case for renewable energy projects like Cape Wind. Greenpeace has strongly supported the Cape Wind project, which would be America's first offshore wind facility and would provide clean, safe and renewable energy for nearly 75 percent of Cape and Islands. While the review is positive, it does point out that Cape Wind needs to minimize the impacts to avian species.

We, along with others alarmed by the climate crisis, look forward to participating in the public feedback process of this review and doing all we can to bring this important global warming solution to Massachusetts. This release of the DEIS should now pave the way for a speedy final review and permitting process for America's first offshore wind project."

— Kate Smolski

*Global Warming Campaigner,
Greenpeace USA*

VETERANS NEED OUR SUPPORT

To the editor:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars are trying to complete the building of their new home on Bunker Road. The need is approximately \$2 million. We need your support. Remember, if it were not for the Veterans you would be speaking Japanese, German or some other foreign language.

Please send your donation to VFW, PO Box 941, Nantucket Mass. 02554 or send it to John McLaughlin, 9 Green Meadow Drive, Nantucket, 02554 (Please make checks out to VFW building fund-Nantucket). Thank you. God bless our Veterans. "We were there for you. Please be there for us."

— John McLaughlin

STUDENT

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funny. He had a lot of good friends, good close friends who really cared about him."

Soverino loved baseball, and was a member of the varsity squad, but Pignato said it was his friendships with other swimmers that led him to the pool. "He came to swimming because of his friends and he put a lot of time and work into the sport. He was starting to get really good."

A 1998 graduate of Nantucket High School himself, Pignato said his experiences as a student could not compare with the tragedies today's student body has faced. "There was nothing like this," he said.

He also said he did not see any correlations or trends associated with the student deaths. "We've had three tragedies, but they are three separate incidences. You can't be grouping them together."

"It's been hard for our students," high school principal George Kelly said Monday afternoon. "But I'm very proud of how they have come together to support one another. I think they have been very sensitive to the Soverino family, to Will's memory and

to each other."

Although other high school sporting events took place over the weekend, last Saturday's scheduled swim meet with Nauset was postponed. A funeral service for Will Soverino was held Saturday at the Unitarian Church and was attended by hundreds of islanders.

The island as a whole was saddened and wearied by yet another student death, and Police Chief William Pittman said the schools need the community's support. "People are going to point fingers at the schools and it's not them, it's the whole community," he said. "What I've found since I've been here on Nantucket is that it's a bigger community than I realized; one that is suffering from big-city problems, even though it has a small town feel."

For its part, according to School Committee chairman Susan Genthner, "the school is looking to long-term solutions." One of these is the implementation of a system-wide student assistance program developed with the assistance of Nantucket Behavioral Health Services.

School Committee member and Nantucket medical examiner Dr. Timothy Lepore said the schools are committed to the welfare of the island's students. He said a school adjustment



Will Soverino

counselor position is part of the new school budget, and that the schools also must address "a variety of issues: drugs and alcohol, the stresses our students are under. We have to cut down some of the stresses on the kids. Adolescence is a confusing time — it's not that we're doing a bad job, but I think we could do better."

Selectman Michael Kopko said

Monday that "we tend to focus on the schools to look for reasons and solutions" but that the "selectmen are totally committed to the program" suggested by Dr. Macy, who has set up two dozen similar programs in the United States and 17 world-wide since 1995. Macy said his "program is very, very detailed" and would consist of an administrative team composed of town and school officials and include in-depth training for 30 to 50 people, including parents, clergy, coaches, primary care physicians and other youth mentors. He said two training dates will be arranged in the next couple of weeks, and that his program's "protocols must be customized to Nantucket." He also said he is committed to the success of an island plan that, he noted, can't begin without the "permission and consent" of islanders. "This is the first of what we hope are many town meetings," he said Monday. "Once the team is in place, you will have access to me through that team."

Macy said Peter Swenson will be the on-island contact person at 228-2689.

"It's your responsibility to understand what's most meaningful in your children's lives," Dr. Macy said. "The only way to find out is to ask them." ■