

Well, I'm surprised no one has written letters to the paper about this stuff. I'm dumbfounded how a story of this magnitude has flown under the proverbial PAVE PAWS radar for many, many months. If people knew what was happening, I'm pretty sure they would be up in arms about this news. The pitchforks would be sharpened. The torches would be refilled with that smelly citronella fuel stuff. Congressmen would be called. Selectmen would be harassed. Lines in the sand would be drawn, and some neighbors would never speak to each other again.

**Grant Sanders**

**YACK on: Cape Woodchuck**

I speak, of course, about the plans that a (greedy) off-island developer has to place a massive, genetically engineered woodchuck in the middle of Nantucket Sound. Cape Woodchuck, they call it.

I know. It's crazy. But it's totally, absolutely, 100 percent true. Really. I heard it straight from the opposition group's radio ads. This Cape Woodchuck will be over 690 feet tall (or more!). Taller than the Statue of Liberty, they say. Taller than former Celtics Hall-of-Fame center, Robert Parish. Taller than half of the Empire State Building (the tallest building in the world until 1972), even after the woodchuck is buried, knee deep, in the soft Horseshoe Shoal sand.

(I understand that the Woodchuck will be driven nearly 90 feet into the sand, which will take a long time and will be very, very loud, and, in all likelihood, cheese off the seals and whales and other marine mammals who will find the constant pounding upon the woodchuck's skull during the "installation process" to be extremely annoying. The whales and seals will find it annoying. The woodchuck will find the process to be somewhat enjoyable as woodchucks have thick skulls and, at that size, the genetically enhanced woodchuck, will interpret the pounding to be soothing petting. Go figure.)

Birds, including the endangered, politically-correctly renamed "long tailed" ducks will fly into the

woodchuck's mouth, to their doom. Thousands will die each day. Or so I'm told. By reliable sources!

Once installed, the woodchuck will be hooked up to the power grid and, according to several highly informed, yet completely unnamed and unchecked sources, will produce power at a rate that is 300 percent higher than the cost associated with oil, coal, nuclear solar and thermo electric, COMBINED. And, of course, we will all be FORCED to pay these higher rates, as there is no one to protect us from such gouging.

And who does the gouging? The Cape Woodchuck developer of course! This off-island, money-grubbing, industrialist has no concern for the environment or the people of Nantucket. All he cares about is money. Money, money, money. You just can't trust anyone from off island, you know. You can't.

And worst of all, the industrialist in question is using a federal loophole to engineer a shady LAND GRAB that means that pleasure boaters and fishermen will never be able to use the waters in and around the giant woodchuck again. Can you just picture the sailboats and ferries swatted out of the water by a massive woodchuck, angered by their white sail cloth? As Sammy Davis used to say, "Ouch, babe!" The waters in the sound will run blood-red with the remains of crews and boats knocked silly by the giant woodchuck who will pose a dangerous hazard for all boaters until the end of time. And if there are survivors, the U.S. Coast Guard will have a heck of a time getting a helicopter in there to rescue people because the whirling blades will get caught in the woodchuck's fur and then crash land in the foaming, grey surf of the sound. Sending many brave men and women to a watery grave. God rest their souls.

And what about the fishermen? Fishermen rely on the entire Horseshoe Shoal area for their livelihood, despite it being a just few feet deep in several spots and therefore dangerous for larger boats. And we all know fishermen have 10 to 12 children each who will go hungry because of the massive woodchuck. It's a shame. A crying shame.

And then there are the billions of small planes that cross the Sound every day. Despite being highly

trained and certified to fly at night above obstructions and genetically altered animals, , using instruments, the pilots of these planes are in grave (yes, GRAVE!) danger from the presence of massive woodchucks who are genetically predisposed to reach up and bat them from the sky, thinking that the planes are dragonflies or June bugs (a delicacy among woodchucks). And there's a rumor (not yet confirmed) that massive woodchucks interfere with FAA radar, and for that very reason, oversized genetically engineered animals have been banned in the U.K. And Luxembourg.

It's totally, absolutely, 100 percent true!

And what about the AESTHETICS? I mean, I don't want to have to stroll along the shore in Surfside or 'Sconset or Eel Point and have to look "out there" to see a behemoth woodchuck flailing about, and screaming those high pitched screams as only woodchucks do! I mean come on! It's a threat to our way of life as islanders. It's un-American. And even though a woodchuck can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, I think that woodchucks of that size are just wrong in the sound. It's like putting a massive woodchuck in the Grand Canyon or something! And we can't have that, can we?

And of course, if the woodchuck does not work, or pulls up lame, as all woodchucks eventually do, the developer will abandon him and stop feeding him woodchuck chow and the people of Nantucket will be left to clean up the mess! It's awful. And just a little bit icky.

I mean, I'm really concerned. And while all of the claims I've made above about a woodchuck in Nantucket Sound are just as totally, absolutely, 100 percent truthful as 99 percent of the claims made by the opponents of the proposed Cape Wind project, I still feel we should be totally, absolutely, 100 percent against the idea. Don't you?

YACK On. ■

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## WOOD

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taining friends and associates with tales of island residents and their histories. He possessed a talent for spotting valuable items, even if they were surrounded by junk, and had an extensive collection of artifacts and Nantucket lightship baskets. He was a fierce competitor in card games and could hold his own in the most heated political debates.

Once back on the island, he became involved with the community and dedicated himself to sharing his knowledge and antique treasures with organizations he respected and supported.

Bill Tramposh, executive director of the Nantucket Historical Association, said Mr. Wood stayed an active NHA board member as long as his health permitted, attending the association's Brown Bag lunch series featuring local speakers until recently. Mr. Wood also donated many valuable items to the NHA's artifact inventory.

"He left books, early 18th century documents, paintings, Nantucket memorabilia and early lightship baskets," Tramposh said. "He left us a potpourri, and we are extremely thankful for that. It will be known as The David Wood Collection. We hope to have an exhibition fairly soon as a sample of some of the things David gave us. And fortunately, we filmed some of his stories."

Mr. Wood was also a member of the board of trustees of The Coffin School and served as vice-president until his health became a factor.

"David has been a valuable asset to our group with his knowledge of art and historical artifacts," said Board of Trustees President Jean Hughes. "His expertise will be sorely missed by all the trustees."

Another trustee said of Mr. Wood: "David was a Renaissance man for sure. While serving as a Coffin School trustee his advice on our paintings and architectural details was invaluable. He knew the history of The Coffin School, complete with priceless anecdotes of peo-

ple involved over the last century. David had a keen awareness of how things should go."

Mr. Wood was devoted to St. Paul's Church for many years and succeeded Reggie Levine as the church's senior warden shortly after he returned to the island.

"David and I would meet at least twice a month and have dinner," Levine said. "The conversations were really encyclopedic. We talked of literature and the arts and politics. He was so informed in so many areas and a delight to talk with.

"He was a person who had an extraordinary sense of justice for the way people were treated and respected. He had a very strong feeling about the integrity of every human being. He was a religious man and a political man but the two were in harmony, and he loved to laugh. His laugh was infectious."

Long-time friend Robert Bennett has fond memories of their relationship and said he will miss what they shared.

"David and I have been best friends since 1930," Bennett said. "We were collecting antiques when we were barely teenagers. We were in and out of each other's lives but we stayed friends. He's been a large part of my life. David and I were glued together from way back."

Eileen McGrath may have found the ideal way to capture Mr. Wood's larger than life personality that will be long remembered by those who knew him.

"He was a delightful raconteur," she said. "He was side-splitting, I'll tell you."

Mr. Wood was predeceased by his sister, Edith W. Howarth of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass. and a niece, Licia O'Connor of Atlantic Beach, Fla. He is survived by his brother, James A. Wood of Jacksonville, Fla. and Contoocook, N.H. and his wife Constance O'Connor; his niece Signa A. Watts and her husband Dale of Concord, N.H.; his niece Kristin A. Dunklee and her husband Daniel of Concord, N.H.; and several grand-nieces and nephews.

Services for Mr. Wood will be held this spring on Nantucket. In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to St. Paul's Church, 20 Fair St., Nantucket, Mass. 02554. ■

## OPPOSITION

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tank for fire suppression and contributing an additional 20,000-gallon water tank for the village of Madaket itself. The club also would allow public access to its bowling alley on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from Oct. 1 to Feb. 1 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; host hunter education and fly-tying courses; and refrain from performing exterior construction from July 1 to Labor Day.

"Our primary target is Nantucket homeowners and primarily homeowners west of town," Feeley told the board.

Feeley and Cohen's case for their club was bolstered by several outdoorsmen in the audience, who said that such a sporting club is needed on Nantucket and would benefit year-round and seasonal residents.

"I believe that for me, a regular working guy on the island, this is the first thing on the island that I might be able to be a part of," Michael Watson said. "It really could benefit the entire community rather than a small portion of it."

The Planning Board shared its own reservations with Feeley and Cohen.

"Parking out there is a major issue, and once you exceed your capacity, that poses a problem and I think there will be plenty of watchful eyes out there," said Planning Board member Barry Rector. "I think the Westender hasn't been open for quite a period of time, so we've kind of forgotten what it's like to have that out there and it sort of posits a lot of questions."

Planning Board Chairman Frank Spriggs agreed. "I do have some concerns and I'm not leaning toward this project right now dealing with water and parking and the whole thing," he said.

The board continued the public hearing to its March 10 meeting. ■