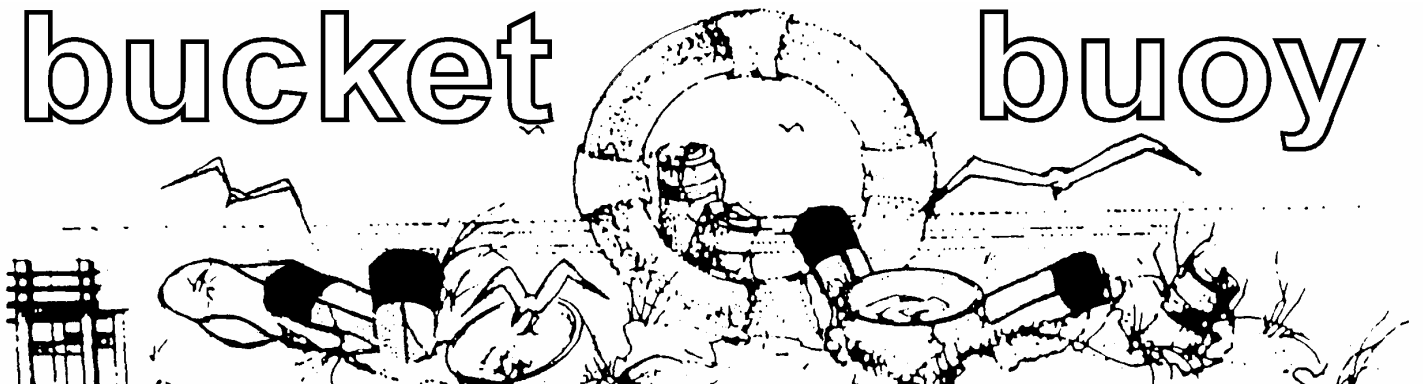


bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

May 20, 2006

At a certain point the reaction at the cross at the end of the chlorinated lane becomes automatic. Time to tuck and flip. Stroke after stroke, lap after lap, day after day, all for this minute (and twenty seconds or less) in time. Is it worth it? You bet! Because if you put in your time and the Neptunian gods are smiling on you, YOU are back once again. And so begins another summer!

There are few that are more anxious to get the winter behind them than your Executive Board. It has been a long and trying winter. From a trial that we can't mention because it is still on appeal, to the total inability to get the State to sit down with us till early spring, to "The 17" it has been a winter to remember.

Very little happened this year in negotiations. The uniforms were changed back to our old colors (blue and gold) and some more AED's were distributed. The real issues had to do with "The 17".

For those of you that don't know "The 17" are 17 of the 19 lifeguards that the State has refused to rehire. "The 17" were denied their jobs because they failed to list minor convictions on their job applications, some as far back as 25 years ago.

This witch hunt had its birth some three years ago when certain miscreant members of the lifeguard corps tried to get rid of an Executive Board member by claiming he lied on his employment application by not disclosing a prior conviction. Up to that time no one had ever even looked at these applications.

You see from the public's point of view, when their child was caught in a puss and needed to be rescued, they couldn't give a rat's ass whether the person doing the rescue had an "open container" violation years back that they didn't disclose. And up to a year ago the State didn't care either. What mattered was how well a lifeguard did his job.

However, when someone is out to destroy the Corps, safety didn't matter. These disgruntled employees did everything they could to try to harm the Executive Board including calling the newspapers and the schools to try to expose a non-existent scandal. Eventually it got to the Inspector General's office who then pulled the records of every LISPC lifeguard and cross checked them against their applications. What a wonderful way to spend taxpayers' money!

All of this was reminiscent of prior attacks on a previous Executive Board where secret letters were sent to their schools and to the fire department in attempts to ruin people's lives and jobs. What's most amazing that the cancer that did this is still with us!

The end result of this effort by this "cancer" was not in hurting the Executive Board but rather in getting 17 members fired for failing to disclose prior convictions. Some of these lifeguards have been down at the beach for over 30 years, had a minor DWI some 25 years ago and no longer mentioned it on their application. Well, that was enough of an excuse for the State to go after them as if they were Al Qaeda terrorists.

The State's position was unbelievable. Lifeguards who had given the State 10, 20 or even 30 years of spotless and loyal service were let go because they might have failed to mention a driving convictions decades ago. Meanwhile, the State who over the last thirty years had failed to check out applications that had disclosed convictions took no blame. The sad fact was that those that had answered that they had been convicted of a crime were never even asked what the crime was but those who were confused by the poorly worded question were summarily fired **without any type of notice or due process.**

When NYSCOPBA was contacted over a month ago they said that they would get right on it. They have a meeting scheduled with the Parks' attorney Elaine Bartley (who, to her credit, has been the most responsive official in trying to address this

issue) for next Friday. I guess that is their definition of getting "right on it".

The question then becomes, where does that leave us? If one asked what the most important function of a union is, I would say it is to protect its members. Sure the union's job is to negotiate benefits and wages but all that is worthless without a job. As a Union we have been very understanding and cooperative with management. We have been working for years without a contract or raise but you don't see us demonstrating. When asked to work overtime on short notice, we do it. When the State says that there is not enough money for adequate protection post season we work short. We try to police our use of overtime to save the State money and the loyalty of the Lifeguards to the State is second to none. What other group in State service has our longevity?

The State has a very odd way of expressing their appreciation. They have come after us as a whole dragging in about 80 lifeguards for a humiliating session of "I confess" under the threat of them losing their job. None of these infractions have the slightest relationship to a lifeguard's ability to perform their job but somehow the State feels the public is better protected by having a new and completely inexperienced lifeguard protecting them rather than having an expert lifeguard with thirty years experience who had a DWI 25 years ago. It certainly seems like there is another motivation here than "protecting the public".

So that finally brings us to the crux of the matter. If anyone thinks that this Union is not under attack I have a bridge... The big question is are we to sit back and let our selves be destroyed or are we going to stand up for ourselves?

There are many lifeguards out there right now that are saying, "Why should I stick my neck out for these guys? After all they made a mistake." The answer to that is contained in the poem and the quote that follows: The poem by Lutheran Minister, Martin Niemöller (1892-1984) states:

When the Nazis came for the communists, I did not speak out because I was not a communist.

When they came for the social democrats, I did not speak out because I was not a social democrat.

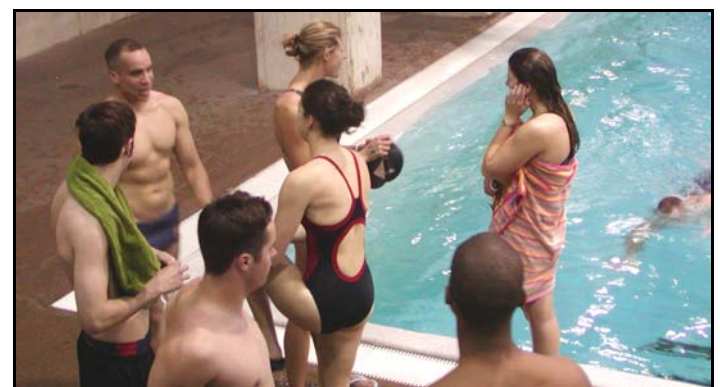
When they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews, I did not speak out because I was not a Jew;

When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.

And the quote by Edmund Burk is "**All that is needed for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.**"

This Union is at a crossroad. We have a choice. We can do nothing, blame our brothers and sisters for their mistakes, write them off and hope our turn never comes **or** we can make a stand. I hope this Corps makes the right choice



Scenes from last year's rehire by the warmup diving tank



Here it is Jan. 1, 2006 and these nuts are in swimsuits???

HELP US CELEBRATE FRANK RUSSELL'S LIFE

When: Saturday, June 24th at 9:00 am at the Veranda of the EBHO at Jones Beach State Park

What: A simple service will take place, which will include the launching of an ocean dory. The dory has been donated by the generosity of our friends and family in Frank's name to the JB RM Lifeguard Corps and will be assigned to Robert Moses Field 2.

RSVP: A favor of a reply via e-mail or phone would be appreciated so we can provide the caterer with an approximate number for light refreshments following the service. Please respond to David Russell: drlanyc@aol.com or 718-891-8146

Beach attire is acceptable. Please come rain or shine.



A wood dory and the late Frank Russell as a rookie

A NOTE OF THANKS

by Capt. Ed Peters

Now that the lawsuit involving myself and two other Executive Board members has ended not with a bang but a whimper, I can express my appreciation to the members of the JBLC.

From the very start of the lawsuit the lifeguards at West End 2 have been the most supportive crew that a Captain could hope for. Bob A, John Esq., Tom S, Big Bruce, (who had one spectacular deposition), Z Man, JZ, Bruce M, Harv, my son-in-law Mike, the ladies Grace /Jennifer and Lieut. Steve Casey who always testified truthfully.

A special thanks to Tom Meehan and Dr. Shemet who were not intimidated and never wavered from their convictions.

I will never forget how Al Uris, Steve Levy, Bob Adler, Jay Leiberfarb, and James Cash took the time to come to Court just to show their support.

My two children Michael and Corinne were more than a father could hope for. Their constant upbeat encouragement was very uplifting and reassuring.

Bob Lenti and Roy Lester the two other Executive Board members who were also sued, showed me the best side of human nature. Both were offered the option of having the lawsuit dropped against them and refused, saying to me "we are all in

-Till next time - Roy J. Lester - e-mail: BucketBuoy@AOL.Com

this together". How many people do you know who would go through 2 ½ years of a lawsuit just to be with a friend? I have nothing but admiration for these two spectacular friends.

And finally, my wife Jean who has been with me through it all. She has been a constant support and always by my side. Her belief that the truth will always prevail carried us forward. I consider myself very lucky to have her as a companion.

That, which doesn't destroy you, makes you stronger!!!!



The ever youthful Captain Ed Peter laughing with part of his world famous rookie training crew

JR. LIFEGUARD UPDATE 2006

By Scott Reigel

Tryouts: Sunday, June 4, 8-10 am West Bath Pool
Saturday, June 17, 8-10 am West Bath Pool
First day: Sunday, June 25, 8-10am at East Bath Pool

Just a reminder to all Lifeguards that help is needed as always. You don't have to commit to every Sunday morning, but we need 25 plus guards in pay status to make this a safe program. It would be a shame to lose this program due to lack of help so please step up and call me. We need group leaders and multiple guards to help out with each group so please call me.

The Junior Lifeguard Tournament is Monday, July 17 at East Bath House Ocean.

For info call 516-698-8104 or e-mail - Seafire124@aol.com



Scott having Juniors signup at last year's tryouts

THE COMICS

Having spent most of the winter in court – what else but lawyer jokes

A mobster was on trial, facing a possible life sentence, but his lawyer bribed a juror to hold out for a lesser charge. After hours of deliberation, the jury returned a verdict carrying a maximum of ten years in prison.

Afterward, the lawyer approached the juror. "You had me so worried! When the jury was out so long, I was afraid you couldn't pull it off."

"I was worried too!" answered the juror. "The others all wanted to acquit him!"

* * * * *

The lawyer wandered home at 3 AM. His wife became very upset, telling him, "You're late! You said you'd be home by 11:45!" The lawyer replied, "I'm right on time. I said I'd be home by a quarter of twelve."

* * * * *

Malborn sat in his attorney's office. "Do you want the bad news first or the terrible news?" the lawyer said.

"Give me the bad news first."

"Your wife found a picture worth a half-million dollars."

"That's the bad news?" asked Malborn incredulously. "I can't wait to hear the terrible news."

"The terrible news is that it's of you and your secretary."