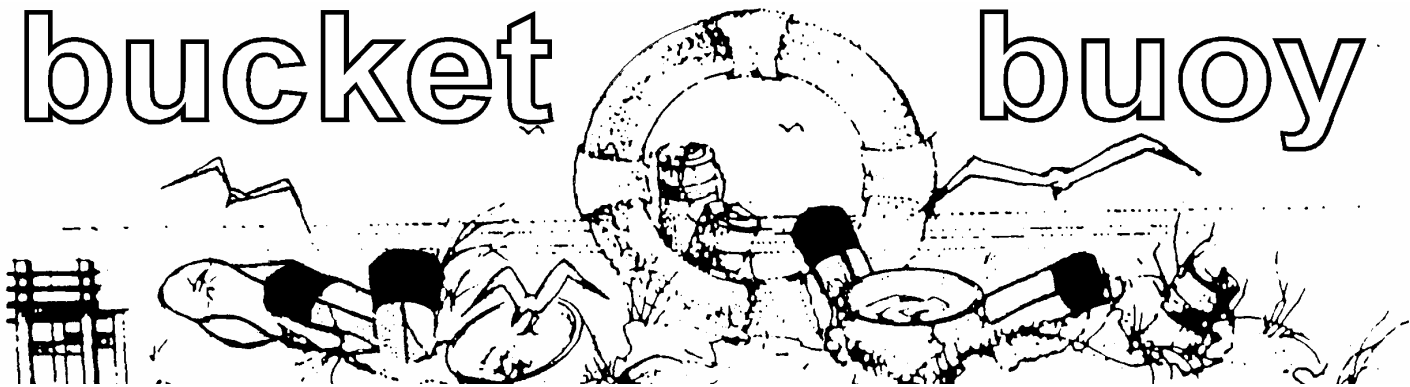


bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

What a way to start the summer season. An air show, sunshine and waves, waves, waves. I was one of the many that got sick after the rehire last Saturday and suffered the week with a cold/cough/fever malaise. Saturday morning I went to the Doctor for a blood test but had already heard the surf report. My one question to him was "Doc, can I go in the water today." His reply was "Blah, blah, blah ...but it won't kill you." That was all I needed to hear. What a way to start the summer! We are long overdue for a summer of good surf. And the Blue Angels were cool too (Much better on Sunday though.).

Now let's get down to what is happening with our members. Of the "17" that were not rehired (see last week's edition for a history) two were found to have been errors by the overzealous State and, once that was brought to their attention, they allowed those two to take the rehire. So far, however, none of the remaining 15 has been allowed to return to work even though this weekend we were short lifeguards for Sunday's record breaking crowds. Oh well, too bad Mr. and Mrs. Public.

In all fairness to the State and their attempts to protect the ocean swimming public, I do think we do have to expose some of the heinous crimes that these people have been accused of. Some of you may not realize it but, for years, many of you have been working side by side with a notorious *gas siphoner*. Yes, your wives, girlfriends and children have all been subjected to this fiend without your knowledge.

His excuse was that twenty years ago he ran out of gas on the Thruway and not having any money, siphoned \$0.25 worth of gas from a truck.

For twenty years this lifeguard has carried around this dark secret, hoping that time would erase his criminal behavior. He should have known better. Justice has a long memory and the State, who is charged with protecting the public from such fiends, takes their role very seriously. Could you just imagine a parent's horror if they found out their child's life was saved by a, oh I shudder to even say it, a "*gas siphoner*."

Okay, for those of you don't know it, the above was tongue in cheek. But it gives you an idea of the frustration that this Executive Board is feeling. All week we have been calling Albany to get some sort of resolution on this ridiculous and petty issue. Finally, Friday afternoon, at a few minutes before five, Elaine Bartley called me back to tell me four people had been cleared to take the rehire test (although not cleared to work). By the way, the gas siphoner was not one of those cleared...

The fact remains that we, as a Union, have an obligation to stand up for our members whether it be 17, 15 or one. Yes, it involves sacrifice and yes, it involves risk, but standing together as a Union will make us stronger for today and for the future.

The State is depending on us to buckle under the pressure and abandon our fellow lifeguards. Their "experts" have told them that the lifeguards are too "self-centered" to go out on a limb for their brothers and sisters. Their "experts" say that the lifeguards don't have the "guts" to take on the State and that is why the State can choose on their own who will work and when.

The "experts" say this because they are so far removed from lifeguards they totally underestimate our spirit. In fact, the only thing that their "experts" do know is how to do is criticize and condemn. They don't know about battling in solidarity for your brother or sister. They don't know what it means to stand up for a cause. And they certainly don't know squat about having a 485 member extended family.

Teddy Roosevelt spoke eloquently about these types of destructive people back in 1910 when he said:

"It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat

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and blood; who strives valiantly...who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at best, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

This year we have been thrust into the arena. We didn't ask to be there, we were put there. We are there because we care about our friends. We are there because we see wrong being done. We are there because we have to be there. **That is something the "experts" can never understand.**



How could these instructions on where to swim be any clearer

SEASONAL START SNAFUS

Every year, without fail, nature provides us with certain undeniable signs that summer is approaching. The days lengthen, the plants bloom, the temperature rises, and the State manages to screw-up the rehire test.

Every year, during negotiations, we address the rehire test. Every year we address the needless long lines, the wasteful waits and the useless duplication of forms and every year we are assured that it will be different. And every year, like Peanuts who is destined to never kick the football, we are disappointed.

How simple can it be? You know a hundred lifeguards are going to need their picture taken; have two cameras instead of one. You know all lifeguards are going to pick up their ID; make two or three lines alphabetically instead of just one. You know forms have to be filled out; so mail them out in the package.

I also can't fathom out why the State can't figure out who is working and who is not. While to us commoners it doesn't seem like rocket science, for some reason this concept is very difficult for the Lifeguard administrators. In fact, even though there was a list that 350 people saw at the rehire, the State did not even know that there was a list of lifeguards working the first weekend until this Friday afternoon. Wow!

Just a word of caution, however. The list that was distributed has a status attached to each person; (either part-time or full-time). Lately there have been calls to fields saying that some peoples' status has changed. Please make sure you get that in writing. We do not want to be in position of trying to defend someone who failed to show up because they were told their status was changed. Again, GET IT IN WRITING!



The Blue Angels and the much better Sunday show



Pete and Ben, warming down after the rehire run

YOU CAN'T WIN COLUMN

This year we were issued sunscreen with zinc oxide, supposedly the best sun protection there is. Now comes the following article. I wish scientist would make up their minds.

AP - WASHINGTON - Sunscreens made with submicroscopic particles pose a health hazard and should be recalled, environmental groups said Tuesday in asking the government to increase regulation of growing uses of the science of nanotechnology.

The petition asked the Food and Drug Administration to strengthen its regulation of sunscreens that contain nano-sized titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, saying particles of those minute dimensions pose health and environmental risks, including possible inflammatory and immune responses in the human body. Eight groups, including the International Center for Technology Assessment, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, filed the petition.

In a conference call with reporters, members of those groups said federal regulators are lagging in addressing the risks posed by nanotechnology, especially when it comes to sunscreens and the dozens of cosmetic products that companies are making with nanoparticles, which can be hundreds of times smaller than the diameter of a human hair.

"These companies are literally treating their customers like guinea pigs," said Lisa Archer, a senior campaigner for Friends of the Earth. Archer invoked asbestos, DDT and PCBs as examples of other substances where regulatory action came too late to prevent the health and environmental damage that ensued from their use.

Nanotechnology involves the manufacture and manipulation of materials at the molecular or atomic level, or the smallest things can get. At that scale, materials are measured in nanometers or billionths of a meter. Nanoscale materials, including particles used in some sunscreens, are generally less than 100 nanometers in diameter. A human hair, in comparison, is roughly 80,000 nanometers in diameter.

The FDA said last month that it plans an October meeting to discuss the new kinds of nanotechnology materials being developed for use in the products it regulates, including drugs, foods, cosmetics and medical devices. The FDA will review the petition, spokeswoman Susan Cruzan said. "We haven't seen any safety concerns that would cause us to regulate things differently," she added. Previously, the FDA and other federal regulatory agencies have said their regulatory options are adequate to cover nano-engineered materials. The groups behind Tuesday's petition said the FDA needs new regulations that take into account the unique hazards that "untested" and "unassessed" nanomaterials may pose.

"I would disagree with that," said John Bailey, executive vice president for science at the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, an industry group. "The amount of knowledge that we have for the safety of these materials is more than adequate to deal with their safety in the marketplace. That, combined with the FDA's authority to seek more information if they require, combine to form a powerful check and balance."



Notice the big confident smiles even before the swim



Newman (the one looking up to heaven) and the women

HELP WANTED - PLEASE!

By Scott Reigel

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.

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

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



Waiting in line instead of filling out forms - ??Why??

THE COMICS

I recently read that ten out of two people are dyslexic

* * * * *

Late one night John's doorbell rang. When he answered the door, he found a six-foot cockroach standing there. The bug grabbed John by the collar, punched him in the eye, threw him across the living room and then ran off.

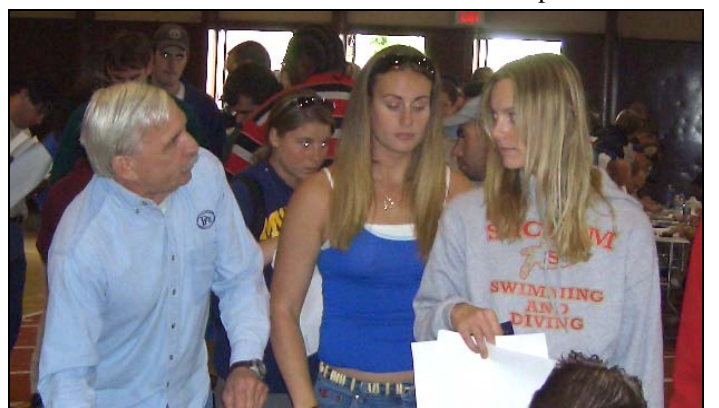
The next day, John went to see his doctor to have his bruised eye examined.

"Ah, yes." The doctor said when John explained what had happened. "There's a nasty bug going around."

* * * * *

"I'm afraid you only got three weeks to live." said the doctor.

"Then I'll take the last two weeks of July and the week between Christmas and New Year's." answered the patient.



Careful girls, that's a real pirate you're talking to