

# bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

August 13, 2006

There is an old saying; "When you're taking flak, you must be over the target." Judging by the reaction of the State to last week's article (where it was suggested that some in State Parks may be fostering an anti-Semitic agenda) I would say we are definitely "over the target."

The first thing the State did after the article came out was, by an e-mail from Sue Guliani, attempt to ban the **Bucket and Buoy** from State beaches. So, as of now, you are reading an "underground" newsletter. When asked if this ban was because of the anti-Semitic article, Sue refused to answer. I guess we may have hit a nerve somewhere in the Administration. It appears that Parks may have some dirty little secrets they don't want exposed. Why else try to shut down a paper that has existed for over 33 years?

The next thing Sue did was to ban the Jewish Captain, who had spent 49 continuous years in the service of Parks before being arbitrarily denied a medical leave, from going into his field's shack. He now is the first lifeguard ever to be specifically named as prohibited from going into a shack.

In the many years of JBLC service no former lifeguard, even those few who, many years ago, were arrested for crimes while on duty, were specifically forbidden to go into their former work site. One has to wonder what heinous act this Captain had to have committed to suddenly be banned from his former crew. Could it be his crime was breaking the State's code of silence on their perceived racism? Or even worse, was his crime just being the wrong religion?

We then go east to Robert Moses where a Lieutenant is being considered for charges because he let a week-ender work additional hours at his beach to fill a gap in manpower. Logically speaking there is nothing better than letting a week-ender pick up hours (because it is cheaper for Parks being the hours are not overtime). Both the public is served and the State saves money. One would think this would be a win-win situation. Then why consider the Lieutenant for charges?

Could it be that the lifeguard he allowed to work was one of the Jewish lifeguards that alleged discrimination by the State? Coincidence? Yet what lifeguard has ever been considered for charges for allowing a week-end to work additional hours to make up for a shortage that affects safety. Or could it be because this Lieutenant spoke out against Police action being brought against a young lifeguard who had just returned from the Maccabiah games? Coincidence again?

Yet what continues to amaze me are those ardent coordinator supporters who insist that no problem exists because, after all, it hasn't affected them. All I can say to them is "not yet it hasn't." **Wake up!** Cancer, when it starts, affects very few cells. It is only after it is ignored that it spreads to consume the entire body.

However, what is worse is, when one looks at the larger picture of State Parks and their attempts to "purify" the Lifeguard Corps there is one aspect that is so insidious that I am amazed it has been allowed to continue. That aspect is the use of a State Police force to attempt to intimidate and/or persecute those the State wants to get rid of.

One only has to look back over the past few years to see the facts of this charge. Four years ago a lifeguard Captain falls out of favor with the State. Suddenly the police of the State of New York are conducting a criminal investigation of this Captain for theft of a bench that the State itself said **wasn't missing!** Numerous lifeguards are interviewed and perhaps intimidated by these police before the investigation has to be dropped for complete lack of substance. The message comes across loud and clear, "don't mess with us or we will get our police to investigate you." That is a very scary message to come from a State agency.

Next fast-forward a year or two. An Afro-American lifeguard works his way up the ranks to become the Corps only Afro-American lieutenant. The next step would be becoming a Captain. Suddenly he finds himself arrested for failing to disclose a former

misdemeanor arrest on his lifeguarding application. Keep in mind that this year 17 others were accused of failing to disclose arrests on their applications and not one of them were arrested (and, coincidentally, not one of them was Afro-American either). When this lieutenant went to court he was offered a plea deal wherein, in order to escape all the felony charges the State had put against him, he had to agree never to work as a lifeguard again. Coincidence yet again? Maybe, but the fact remains, in the eyes of some, without an Afro-American Lieutenant, the Corps remains "pure."

These are not isolated incidents. Executive Board members, past and present, have been "interviewed" by the police. The message is clear – "don't interfere with what we are trying to do."

As mentioned before, last week a lifeguard just back from the Macabiah Games was "interviewed" by the police about his CPR card. The lifeguard that stopped the interview, himself a former police officer, is now being considered for charges. Coincidence one more time? Maybe – a pattern, **definitely!**

In America the use of police to advance a private agenda is consider abhorrent. These are the things that happen in third-world totalitarian countries, not here. Police in America are supposed to be to bring us a feeling of security, not fear. A government that allows the police to be used as an instrument of fear is corrupt. I don't want to yet believe that about New York State. I hope, for all of our sakes, that I am right.



Part of Our Junior team showing the West how it's done

## THE JR LG NATIONALS

This week twenty-two junior guards traveled across the country to Huntington Beach for the Jr. Lifeguard Nationals. Despite being outnumbered by the California Teams, our Juniors represented Long Island extremely well. Jones Beach ended up with a Firsts in the Boys "A" Run-Swim-Run and the Distance Swim, both by Tom Luchsnger, another First in the Girls "AA" Swim by Alyssa Siano and a Second in the Boys "A" Run by Dave DeSalvo.

There were also numerous other high ranking finishes that didn't make the top three but showed the incredible depth of the JBLC Junior Lifeguard Program.

While there were hundreds of Juniors who showed up from throughout the nation, what was most noteworthy was the support that the municipalities give their Juniors. Huntington Beach's program, for example, is a five day a week deal that runs the entire day. They even have their own building and their own trucks. That support was a common theme throughout the Nationals. I offer my congratulations to those municipalities for their forward thinking.

Finally, when watching the Juniors perform it brings into perspective the efforts we all are going through to preserve the Corps and the spirit of lifeguarding. Most of us have now, or will one day have, children. We want there to be a Corps for them to join if they so desire. As they say, nothing worth keeping ever comes easy.

SURFBOARD FOR SALE - 1960's 9' 6" Hap Jacobs; good shape, water tight. Call Scott, 516-698-8104 or at Field 6



*Heather beats out Jake in a final Jr Beach flag run*

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday night we will have our first General Membership meeting in the last three years. The meeting will take place at Mulcahy's in Wantagh at 8:00 pm. and is open to all age lifeguards (wristbands will be used for under-aged guards). In order to conduct this meeting in an orderly fashion we are going to limit comments to 3 minutes and questions to an index card written format. That means questions must be submitted on index cards - they will be available at the meeting ahead of the Question period (*you can choose to remain anonymous*). After all questions have been addressed, the floor will be open for a final round of questions. Questions and comments will not be entertained from the floor nor will shouting out be permitted. There is much to discuss and we are trying to get it done in a rational manner. For that reason, it is asked that all indulgences in alcohol be postponed until after the meeting.

The agenda is as follows: 1) Introduction - 2) Overview 2005-Present - 3) Specific Issues - 4) Issues Ahead - 5) Questions



*The question is, what has 4 eyes, 2 smiles & hangs in a pool?*

## INTERBEACH RACE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, Aug. 17th at Robert Moses 2** (Sunset 7:51 pm)  
Surf Rescue 5:45 p.m. - 1 Man Line Pull 6:00 p.m. - 2 Man Line Pull 6:15 p.m. - Run Swim Run 6:30 p.m. - Beach Flags (All Age Groups) (Prelim.) 6:45 p.m. (Finals) 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, Aug. 18th at East Bathhouse Ocean** (Sunset 7:49 pm)  
Iron Man 5:30 p.m. - Individual Kayak Race 6:00 p.m. - Individual Surfboard Race 6:15 p.m. - 2 Mi. Run (All Age Groups) 6:30 p.m. - 10 Guard Ocean Relay 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, August 19th at East Bathhouse** (Sunset 7:48 pm)  
Surfboat Race 6:00 p.m. - Board Relay 6:15 p.m. - Surf Swim (All Age Groups) 6:30 p.m. - Kayak Relay 6:45 p.m. 10 Guard Running Relay 7:00 p.m. - Tug of War 7:30 p.m. Pool Races (All Age Groups) 8:00 p.m. - Pool Relay 8:30 p.m.

**PARTY AFTERWARDS**- Food, Soda & Music



*The JB Juniors prepare for the beach flags at the Nationals*

## LIFEGUARD NATIONALS

This week, along with the 22 Juniors, 10 members of the JBLC flew out to California to compete in the Nationals. Cary Epstein, Matt Caines, Chris Nellen, Mike Guadi, Roy Lester, Brad Hepworth, Eric Florio, Scott Zanville, Mike Capabianca and DJ Paulson went out and gave their all against the Californians.

While our medals were limited (Scott Zanville's 2<sup>nd</sup> in Beach Flags) we still managed to give a good showing. The Four Man Rescue had a heartbreak when being in first place they accidentally started pulling early before the swimmer reached the victim. Once the error was discovered, the line swimmer had to go back out to hook up again costing the team an almost certain medal. As they say there is always next year and these guys just keep getting better.

It is unfortunate that the National Team gets so little support from the State. In fact the NYS Parks has a reputation nationwide of being the most antagonistic management group any Lifeguard organization has to deal with. Hopefully the new Governor will see the benefits of having a supportive labor/management arrangement.



*Scott jumps up for his second place finish at Nationals*

## THE COMICS

*Due to increasing products liability litigation, American liquor manufacturers have accepted the FDA's suggestion that the following warning labels be placed immediately on all containers:*

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may leave you wondering what the hell happened to your bra.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may make you think you are whispering when you are not.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may cause you to think you can sing.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may lead you to believe that ex-lovers are really dying for you to telephone them at 4:00 am.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may make you think you can logically converse with members of the opposite sex without spitting.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may make you think you have Kung Fu powers, resulting in you getting your ass kicked.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may cause you to roll over in the morning and see something really scary.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter and better looking than most people.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may lead you to believe you are invisible.

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may lead you to think people are laughing WITH you.



*Reggie shows the EBH boys what a "Full Nelson" really is*