

# Editorial

## Use Profits To Find Fossil Fuel Alternatives

The stock market is a truly democratic institution. The last time we checked, anyone who wanted to could purchase a share in any publicly held company and become a shareholder. Shareholders are the people who really own a company, and it is they who determine its policies and practices, if not directly, then through the directors they democratically elect and the executives named by those directors.

One such publicly held company, ExxonMobil Corporation, recently released its financial statement for fourth quarter 2006. The oil company made a profit in the billions of dollars—a figure that probably exceeded the gross national product of many small countries. It's fashionable in some quarters to view that much money as obscene and to denounce all corporations as run by greedy people who are the equivalent of the robber barons of the late 19th century. We cannot share this view. Corporations are run to

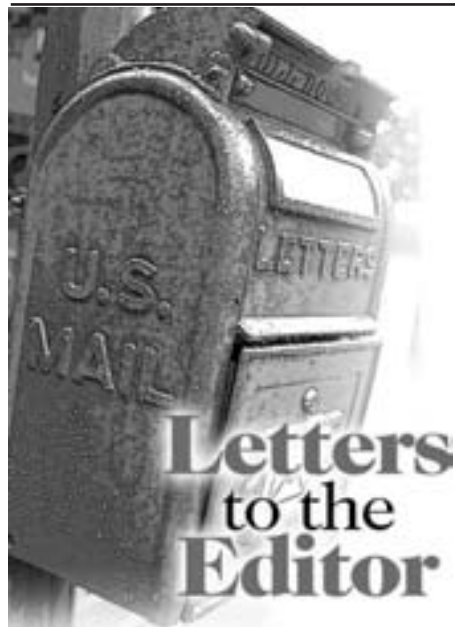
make a profit for their shareholders, and, as we outlined, shareholders have the power to determine the direction a company takes.

By the directives of its shareholders, ExxonMobil has already demonstrated a willingness to contribute to the public good in many ways. We congratulate the company and the people who run it for making invaluable contributions to our daily lives. The shareholders and those who do their bidding give every indication of their willingness to continue the corporation's philanthropic practices.

We would suggest that ExxonMobil continue to do good while making good by using some of the billions it counted as free and clear profit to investigate alternatives to fossil fuels. Whether or not any credence can be placed in scenarios of impending doom wrought by fossil fuels that emanate from some quarters, it is readily apparent that in order to continue

to lead the world, America must end its dependence on fossil fuels, especially oil imported from countries that support our enemies even while they sell us oil at prices they set. On the day we no longer need to import oil, some countries and the people who run them will find themselves bereft of the good life that oil profits showered upon them. They will have to look for other ways to settle their disputes besides open warfare or terrorist acts.

America's oil companies, led by ExxonMobil, have it in their power to put this nation permanently ahead of other countries, especially those who would do us harm, by joining in a major push to eliminate fossil fuels. The shareholders who are their owners should call for research into alternative fuel sources immediately and should direct companies such as ExxonMobil to use some of their profits to spur the effort. It can't happen too soon.



### Deplores House Vote

A copy of the following letter was received by the Gazette.

[To the members of the] Congressional Delegation of Queens County, N.Y.:

I am truly disheartened and angered by your yea vote for H.Con.Res.63 [on Friday, February 16]! All those who voted for this measure have done, is send the "white flag" up the staff to all of America's, and our Allies' enemies, and to the terrorists world wide! This was a sinful expression of pure "political football". At least the Senate had the courage to see beyond political gain, and kill the measure. On several occasions, I forwarded to your office the American Legion's position paper, our "Resolution 169, The War on Terrorism". It seems as though your staff failed to review it, and/or inform you of our side of this issue. If you would like another copy, I will drop one off at your Washington, DC office on Tuesday March 6, 2007; as your American Legion constituents from Queens County, New York will be stopping by during our American Legion's Annual Washington Conference.

Until then, I remain,  
Respectfully yours,  
John N. Severa  
Legislative Chairman  
Queens County American Legion  
Forest Hills

### Arverne Is A-Building

To The Editor:

In your recent article [Immigrant-Run Businesses Flourish by Richard Gentilviso, February 21] you reported that Arverne by the Sea is "completed". Although ABTS is already a great success, a number of phases will be completed in the future.

One of those phases is the "Breakers" neighborhood, which will consist of 133 beautiful two-family beachfront homes. These new two-family homes are already under construction and, although many are already sold, a few homes are still available. In addition, as Mayor [Michael] Bloomberg recently announced, construction of a new Super Stop and Shop supermarket and YMCA Community Center will begin shortly. If you would like to tour ABTS or require any additional info on ABTS please feel free to call 516.369.8685. Thank you.  
Gerry Ronski  
Project Executive, Arverne by the Sea

### Film Distorts Facts

To The Editor:

Another attack upon Christianity is about to take place and this time it comes from filmmaker James Cameron, director of "Titanic". He has made a documentary that claims the resurrection of Jesus never happened. The story, according to the *Time Magazine* Web site, starts 27 years ago when Israeli construction workers in Jerusalem suburb of Talpiyot unearthed a 2,000-year-old cave holding 10 caskets. After 20 years of archeologists' examination, the names on the caskets are: Jesus,

son of Joseph; Mary; Mary; Matthew, Jofa, and Judah son of Jesus. The documentary also claims Jesus had a child with Mary Magdalene. We seem to be reviewing some of the same suspect information provided by *The Da Vinci Code*.

What really should be getting Christians up in arms is that this documentary came to light during Lent and right before Easter. This sounds to me to be very suspicious and there seems to me there are forces at work in the media to malign and discredit our religious beliefs, all for the sake of making a fast buck. Well, I do not know what others will make or believe about this documentary, but as a Christian my faith will not be shaken. For I believe Jesus is the son of God and man and died and rose on Easter Sunday and that is that.

Sincerely Yours,  
Frederick R. Bedell Jr.  
Bellerose

### Praises Padavan

To The Editor:

Governor [Eliot] Spitzer is off base in targeting Republican state Senator Frank Padavan for defeat in 2008 in an effort to regain control of the state senate for the Democrats.

The senator is one of our hardest working elected officials. He is responsive to the citizens who he represents, he is not afraid to take independent stands on issues that his party leadership may not agree with and he can always be counted on to act in the best interests of his constituents. I know, I live in his district and I am a witness to his many accomplishments over his years of service to the residents of Northeast Queens.

The governor should focus instead on trying to clear the senate and Assembly of dead wood, be they Republican or Democrat. Too many elected officials coast along doing little for the people they

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