

Editorial

Honor Mothers On Their Special Day

This coming Sunday, May 11, is the day when Americans pay homage to the one woman who made them what they are today—their mothers. This Mother's Day is especially significant when we consider that it was 100 years ago almost to the day that Mother's Day was first celebrated anywhere in the United States. In Grafton, West Virginia, Anna Jarvis, a schoolteacher, organized the first Mother's Day on May 10, 1908 to remember her own mother, who had died in 1905. Jarvis went on to lead efforts to establish a national holiday in honor of mothers everywhere. By 1911, almost all states celebrated Mother's Day. In 1914, then President Woodrow Wilson officially declared the second Sunday of May Mother's Day in the United States, and so it is today.

In some quarters, it is fashionable—even de rigueur—to blame one's mother for everything wrong in one's life. Mothers, we are told, destroy their children's psyches by disci-

plining them too much or too little, using the wrong methods during various stages of upbringing, being too smothering or too indifferent. They try too hard or not enough. They care too much or too little. They never let go or fail to emotionally bond with a child from the very beginning. To listen to some people, it is nothing short of miraculous that anyone reaches adulthood with even a modicum of sanity intact.

We find it ironic that sometimes the people who take the most shots at motherhood are only peripherally acquainted with not only motherhood, but parenthood altogether. When one considers the awesome responsibility attendant upon someone who undertakes to endure childbirth and then to endure the 24/7 efforts required to raise a caring, considerate human being from birth to adulthood, we sometimes give wondering thanks that the species has lasted as long as it has.

Some studies show that the average

housewife and mother engages in work that would be worth a considerable amount a year in an average job market if it were done outside the home. Because these tasks are carried out for no currency but the satisfaction of watching a child grow up, they are considered in some circles as of no value. There are few avenues of human thought that are more in error. Our mothers, or the women who served in their stead, are the people who first undertook the serious responsibility of making us into the people we are today. They gave us the moral structure that enabled us to become civilized human beings. They nurtured us and fostered our talents and abilities so that we could become the best possible persons we have it in ourselves to be. Loving us, they enabled us to become loving. Their strengths underlie our courage. Whatever we are we owe to them. It is only fitting that on this one day we honor them openly, even as we honor them in our hearts on every other day.

only be relied upon as a scalpel to be used sparingly in order to eradicate defined targets. Broad use of our forces captures territory that we do not have the manpower or the resources to hold and secure. We also lack the treasury for prolonged occupations.

Realizing past policies are failures mandates evolving new ones that may offer alternatives to avoid future entrapments. The two Democratic presidential hopefuls do not address this issue by promising to withdraw from Iraq. [Republican candidate U.S. Senator John] McCain has declared his intentions of remaining on Bush's course for up to 100 years. Confronting growing threats in the face of failed policies requires the candidates to offer voters their plans to protect [the] nation.

Edward Horn
Baldwin, New York

McCain Is His Man

To The Editor:

Arizona Senator John McCain's 2008 Straight Talk Express has left the station and may take him to the White House as our next President.

Senator McCain is not your typical stereotypical Republican. He is a profile in courage and an authentic American war hero, having served his country and survived many years of captivity as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He is one of the few in Washington who consistently vote against billions of dollars in wasteful military spending. McCain refuses to join the annual bipartisan stampede for billions of dollars in pork barrel projects. He is independent of the Washington "Inside the Beltway" special interest groups and supports real campaign finance reform. His is the voice of reason on behalf of taxpayers. McCain crosses the political aisle to engage in constructive dialogue with Democrats on issues which transcend both ideology and party.

Senator McCain has a proven track record that appeals beyond the traditional narrow ideological conservative Republican party base. He has consistently been able to attract large numbers of first time, independent and moderate Democratic voters to build a majority coalition necessary for winning and governing. Republicans were wise to

select McCain who is their strongest candidate for President in 2008.

Sincerely,
Larry Penner
Great Neck

Land Use Rally Set

To The Editor:

The Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization that represents some 100 civic and community associations throughout Queens County, is planning a rally in front of Queens Borough Hall (120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens) on Monday, May 12, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

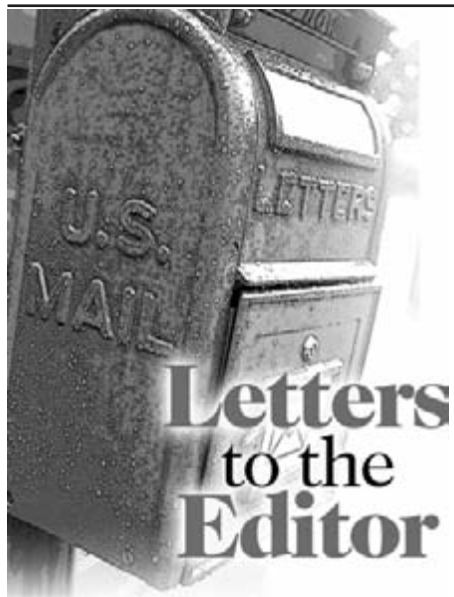
The rally seeks to call attention to those land use issues that will maintain and improve the quality of life for all Queens residents. Queens residents need to make sure that City Hall and City Planning hear our voices!

Those issues include:

- 1) Contextual rezonings of those communities not yet completed in order to curb overdevelopment.
- 2) New zoning designations for under-protected neighborhoods.
- 3) Landmarking of deserving buildings, districts and scenic areas.
- 4) Making sure any placement of a community facility in our neighborhoods is appropriate and in context.
- 5) The consistent and adequate enforcement of zoning and building codes by the Department of Buildings.

The positions that the congress takes on these issues are found in its platform, Civic 2030 (www.queensciviccongress.org/CIVIC2030.PDF). Elected officials and community board chairs who endorse the congress' positions on these issues will be invited to speak at the rally. They should read, sign and return the letter available at: <http://queensciviccongress.org/meetings/files/2008-05-12-Rally-letter.pdf>.

All community leaders and concerned citizens are urged to attend the rally to show support for the issues that affect our neighborhoods throughout Queens. For more information, please go to: www.queensciviccongress.org.



Letters
to the
Editor

Need New Strategy

To The Editor:

Threats to the security of the world arise from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Each and [the] others have a segment of their population so radicalized that they willingly blow themselves up in the name of Islam. This group has interpreted the Koran [as] legitimizing their barbarous acts.

Nations in the past have accepted maniacal ideologies releasing the worst attributes of man's nature. Nazi Germany and the war crimes by Imperial Japan still shock us. Germany prior to the Second World War was envied for its sophistication, culture and society. Yet Hitler's rule corrupted Germany's past, converting a nation into abominations.

The Axis Powers were defeated within five years of the U.S. entry into the war. We have been in Iraq longer and have achieved marginal and debatable results. Our policies have driven recruits to terrorist groups who hope to make the attacks of 9/11 seem insignificant. Internally we are weaker than we were at the conclusion of WW II. After years of war the U.S. had the means to enact the Marshall Plan.

Iraq has proven that force of arms guarantees the U.S. little in reducing or removing threats to our national security. Our military might should

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