

# Editorial

## Remember The Reason For Fourth Of July

It is not unreasonable to expect the coming Fourth of July holiday to be a little more boisterous than usual. The holiday comes on a Friday, giving many of us a three-day weekend. Many of us do not have to get up and face a workday on Saturday, so celebrations, especially the impromptu, off-the-cuff variety, are sure to be louder and longer than usual. Nor will the festivities be confined to just one day. We can expect something to be going on somewhere all the way through Sunday night, and probably long thereafter.

As we usually do on a national holiday, we will engage in a great many activities, only a few of which have to do with the fact that 232 years ago, the men we refer to as the Founding Fathers pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor in the creation of a new sort of political entity, one in which free men were considered capable and worthy of governing themselves. In the rush of parades, barbecues, fireworks and general revelry we let little matters such as seven years of warfare between the British and their whilom colonists fade from our collective consciousness. Too often, however, forgotten

things turn out to be sharp reminders.

Last Friday, flags flew at half-staff throughout New York state by order of Governor David Paterson. Paterson gave the order after word reached him that three members of the New York unit of the Army National Guard had been killed by a roadside bomb in Kandahar, Afghanistan. One of the three was a local man: Sergeant Andrew Seabrooks, age 36, of South Ozone Park. On Monday another such reminder jabbed us when the news that two more New York Army National Guard Soldiers had been killed, again in Afghanistan. One of the two, Sergeant First Class Joseph A. McKay, made his home in Cambria Heights.

Seabrooks, a mechanic in civilian life, was making valiant efforts to keep his family in their home, which his National Guard pay helped him to do. McKay would have celebrated his 52nd birthday on July 4, a fact which may have played a significant role in the Guyanese immigrant's decision to make a career of the Army National Guard. Both men and the other members of the New York Army National Guard who died with them had

motivation other than monetary considerations that led to their deciding to serve their country, although that decision put them in harm's way.

This Friday we will celebrate the birth of this nation. Even as we venerate those who died two centuries ago to give us our freedom and mourn those who died within the past week to maintain and preserve it, we would do well to remember that our democratic republic arose out of conflict—conflict of ideas and beliefs that led to conflict on the field of battle. Amid the parties and merriment we can and should take a few moments to honor the men who met in Philadelphia and on July 4, 1776 created a new nation and those who fell on the field of battle less than two weeks ago to ensure that nation's peace and security. We can revel in our freedom on this day because men like Washington, Adams, and Jefferson—and Rufus King and Francis Lewis—gave us this nation and Seabrooks and McKay and their comrades in arms died to preserve it. Let us pause in the festivities to remember that they are the reason we can celebrate at all.

drink should make responsible choices about when, where and how much they decide to drink.

Anheuser-Busch is committed to keeping our nation's roadways and waterways safe. We offer programs to encourage the use of designated drivers and skippers. Thanks to efforts like these and increased law enforcement, drunk-driving fatalities during the Fourth of July holiday period are down 31 percent since 1982, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

This holiday weekend, demonstrate your true American spirit by looking out for family and friends and helping to make sure everyone has a safe, fun holiday. Remember, Responsibility Matters!

Sincerely,  
C.A. Verdon  
Manager, Consumer Social Responsibility  
Anheuser-Busch Sales & Service Of New York, Inc.

### Oil Threatens U.S. Security

To The Editor:

The Saudis earn \$1.2 billion a day from oil. They are planning on forming an investment group funded with \$1 trillion to purchase assets in the U.S. and Europe. Daily, Americans are funding the selling of the nation to oil producers, many of whom hate the U.S. or at best are ambivalent.

The errors of permitting unregulated energy speculation at the bequest of Enron nearly bankrupted California and still impacts the nation's economy. The administration's affection towards big oil has rewarded the industry with subsidies resulting in profits never before posted by any corporation.

China and India's thirst for energy and natural resources is a competition that has boosted domestic costs for Americans and which over time poses a threat to our economic ability to compete in the world market. The search for natural resources has directed China's foreign policy

preventing the U.N. from acting in Darfur and Iran.

The U.S. is spending \$3 billion a week in Iraq. Oil production remains less than before the war. The future for Iraqi oil is questionable when considering the possibility for civil strife and the growing alignment of the Shiite-led government with that of a hostile Iran.

The security of the U.S. is threatened by the energy crisis. It is time for a Manhattan Project-like program to free us of foreign energy control.

Reallocating the funds spent in Iraq to create and develop alternative energy would end our dependence on those who wish to damage or control the nation. It would invigorate the U.S. economy while freeing us from the trap energy has become.

Edward Horn  
Baldwin, New York

### Save Skillman Ave.

To The Editor:

Skillman Avenue (and 43rd Avenue) is Woodside's lifeline, connecting residential and commercial Woodside and Sunnyside. It is the main artery in and through our communities. The biking advocacy lobby, Transportation Alternatives, maintains that Skillman Avenue is dangerous to pedestrians and bike riders, and that Skillman Avenue must be "calmed".

I am both a pedestrian and a driver. As a driver, I obey traffic signals. As a pedestrian, like other pedestrians, I jaywalk, crossing against the light, and crossing in mid-block. As a driver, every time I drive down Skillman Avenue I could hit pedestrians crossing against the light. Every time. If there is a pedestrian accident, it is because of pedestrian jaywalking. But the "speeding" driver gets the blame. (Just the other day, I started to parallel park on Skillman. As I started to back into the parking spot in mid-block, a jaywalking pedestrian started to cross right behind me! My



### Have Safe, Sane July 4th

To The Editor:

As American adults sport the red, white and blue for Fourth of July celebrations, Anheuser-Busch Sales & Service Of New York, Inc. reminds them to demonstrate true American spirit by being a designated driver or skipper. You'll join the 154 million American adults who have either been a designated driver or been driven home by one.

In addition, these tips can help keep your Fourth of July festivities fun—and safe:

**Buckle Up.** Ask everyone to wear a seat belt or a life jacket.

**Be an Attentive Driver.** Always be in control and aware of the drivers around you.

**Don't Speed.** Resist the urge to speed by making sure there's plenty of time to reach your destination.

**Drink Responsibly.** Adults who choose to

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