

READERS WRITE

Columnist's comments on sports offensive

To Mr. Michael D'Innocenzo,
Your recent piece regarding the abolishment of tackle football in the United States frustrates me.

This is not a result of the person that you are or the beliefs that you may have, but the manner in which you convey your beliefs is offensive.

I have been playing tackle football since age 5 and just finished my career at Cornell Uni-

versity this past fall.

Throughout this journey, I have never experienced such resentment from anyone for participating in this sport.

The usage of words and phrases like barbarism, savage violence, manslaughter, and assault paint a pretty clear picture of your perception of the general character of a football player.

Additionally, your snarky comment referring to the lack of civic engagement that the NCAA

fosters is the finishing touch on this grotesquely opinionated piece, and here is why:

A football player is a competitive, hard-working individual who has nothing but respect for his opponent.

In my personal experiences, this game was instrumental in the development of the work ethic, determination, time management, respect, and community engaged qualities that my football peers and I now

have and will cherish for life. Although football is physical in nature, society has to remember that it is still just a game.

No football player would walk down a neighborhood street and tackle someone as if it were a game.

Just like no baseball player would swing his bat, no hockey player would stick check, and no soccer player would slide tackle because these would all be grounds for "assault" or "man-

slaughter."

In addition to being civilized men in society, my football peers and I strongly value community engagement through the various NCAA and team-sponsored service projects we conduct throughout our careers upon which I will elaborate in my next letter.

Matthew Testani
Williston Park
Cornell University '16

Return Sixth Precinct in Manhasset to full operations

Dear County Executive Mangano, Police Commissioner Krumpter, and Legislator Nicoletto:

The Nassau County Executive, County Legislature, and the Nassau County Police Department are hereby called upon to take the appropriate actions necessary to:

1. Reopen the Sixth Precinct in Manhasset to serve as a fully operational precinct including re-instituting plain clothes officers, full administrative staffing and the 6th Squad exactly as it was prior to the merge.

2. Reinstate the full five officer POP Unit in the Sixth Precinct.

The merging of the precincts in Nassau County was touted in 2012 as being a huge cost saver for taxpayers with no reduction in services.

The reality is a failure in the objectives upon which it was based; Cost savings have not been realized, and services have been reduced. The financials no longer support the merging of precincts, as evidenced in the decision to reinstate the Fourth and Fifth to their original locations as separate precincts and to abandon the plan to merge the First and the Seventh.

While the Third Precinct leadership has done its best to be

responsive to the needs of Three North, the reality is these high level officers and their staff have been asked to do more with less, which due to Three North and Three South serving different populations with different types of concerns, the needs of Three North are sacrificed, losing its resources to the higher crime areas in Three South.

While sector cars still patrol the areas they have in the past, 911 calls and acute needs in neighborhoods in Three South routinely deplete the resources of Three North.

Residents are being told that service has not been reduced but in reality, Three North has lost its four plain clothes officers upon the merge while Three South retains its plain clothes officers.

Furthermore, the removal of the Problem Oriented Police (POP) Unit has dramatically affected Three North.

The lack of targeted patrol within the fabric of the community that address crime, safety and quality of life issues in Three North have negatively affected the safety and security of residents, motorists and pedestrians.

Sector cars must respond efficiently to radio calls and therefore do not have the resources to address concerns being brought up by

residents, schools, elected officials and local civic leaders and ultimately prevent crime.

This critical part of community policing is a program that must be reinstated as was promised when those officers were "temporarily" moved to other duties to cover a shortage in police officers, and I am pleased to hear that a partial reinstatement is already underway.

With the swearing in of the newest and largest class of officers in twenty years, the POP officers must be moved back to their positions to address the issues faced by each community of the precinct.

It is totally and completely unacceptable to the communities in the former Sixth Precinct to have an insufficient POP Unit, no plain clothes officers and to remain fully absorbed by the Third Precinct.

The Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations unanimously hereby demands the full reinstatement of the Sixth Precinct on Community Drive, reinstatement of the full POP unit of five officers, its plain clothes officers, administration and detectives.

Richard J Bentley, president
Council of Greater Manhasset
Civic Associations Inc.

Thanks to G.N. Park District residents for re-election vote

Last evening the voters of the Great Neck Park District returned me to office for an additional three years as one of their park commissioners. I am humbled, and I deeply appreciate the strong support that I received.

Great Neck's parks are a jewel within our community, and I promise to work harder than ever to

preserve them as we look forward to celebrating the park district's 100th anniversary.

Thank you all for placing your faith with me once again.

Bob Lincoln
Great Neck

NHP Fire District lacks transparency

In response to the recent article (Incumbents keep seats on 10 commissions) Dec. 11, 2015.

First of all congratulations to Mr. Michael Bonura for winning his uncontested re-election for another five-year term.

Not a very difficult task when you run unopposed.

My wife and I did in fact cast the two write in votes for myself, realizing that those two votes would certainly not win the election, but to make a point.

When you run as elected official, you represent all of the constituents in the district. When a person addresses the board of commissioners he or she should be treated with respect.

Their body language, smirks, eye rolling and eye contact with other board members indicates their lack of etiquette and proper way of addressing the public that voted them into office.

It is true that I did run for commissioner in 2013, but that campaign was squashed by the NHP Fire Department machine, which did their best to get Mr. Bonura's father-in-law into that seat, in order to keep an outsider out.

After all, I would have been the eyes and ears of the taxpayers and would have seen and voted on how their money was spent, but they did see to it that I would lose by a landslide.

At the night of the election, after the votes were counted, I congratulated my opponent and stated on the record, I would attend their meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

The meetings are held at the main firehouse at 1555 Jericho

Turnpike.

In the article, Mr. Bonura states that they are "trying to take care of things that are going to make a big difference" when asked about posting the minutes of the meeting on their website.

Mr. Bonura states that it "could put further stress on staff and budget already faced with equipment and infrastructure upgrades."

If they didn't waste money on new conference room tables with a piece of veneer peeling off; and those ridiculous race cars that deafen the residents running up at Tulley Park all summer long, meaningless trips to New Orleans to see fire trucks being built by people who don't have a clue to the proper construction of these massive machines, maybe they would have some funding to provide what the residents need in this town.

Lastly, I would urge certain members of the board to stop the smirking and grinning when their constituents address them. I would also suggest that when an issue is brought up, and the response is that the board will "take it under advisement" that does not mean it should be forgotten about.

When they take it under advisement, an answer to that question should be provided within a reasonable amount of time.

I urge the residents to attend one of these unprofessionally run meetings. After all it is your tax dollars at work. In fairness, when asked to respond to an emergency, the firemen, EMT's and emergency personnel act professionally and quickly.

Vincent La Porta
New Hyde Park