

LETTERS TO THE LONG ISLAND EDITOR

A New Criticism Of Island Trees

The book ban is unfortunately just one of several recent misguided decisions of the Island Trees School Board.

Insofar as it is faced with the typical problem of declining enrollments, school closings and reduced revenues, I cannot understand this board's recent opposition to a proposed townhouse condominium on what is virtually their last vacant parcel of land. The proposed \$14 million development would have been a help to sagging neighborhood business, a major lift to a depressed construction industry and an attractive replacement to the debris-strewn site.

Vehement opposition was raised at a public hearing in January, created and fostered by an inflammatory newsletter the Island Trees School Board sent to its constituents the week preceding the hearing. At the hearing two representatives of the board, as well as the district superintendent, spoke against the development.

Their opposition was such as to leave the Town Board no choice to reject the proposed development. The

folly of the Island Trees School Board is becoming legendary.

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Mr. Axelrod was the architect of the proposed townhouse-condominium project.

A Vote Against Student Smoking

The article entitled "Where Smoking Is An Elective," (April 4) describes the situation in at least three Long Island high schools in which student smoking is permitted in designated areas.

That this has come about seems amazing. For by now it is incontestable that smoking is an addiction; that it frequently leads to serious pathologies in nonsmokers who are compelled to inhale their neighbors' fumes as well as in smokers themselves; and that it is anomalous to allow smoking in school by teen-agers who may not legally purchase cigarettes. That some parents condone the smoking of their teen-aged progeny does not justify, much less require, high school administrators to set aside school space for smoking.

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