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as an obligation to the state

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OTHER: 47509

Opposition to permanent PCB storage is growing

On any given date we have found that The Standard-Times has been very forth-coming but most importantly honest in its reporting what's been going on with the harbor cleanup and restoration. Being properly informed is only part of the solution; becoming educated about the information is the answer.

The Thanksgiving day article in The Standard-Times saying that opposition for dredged PCBs is meeting growing resistance is totally true.

No one, to our knowledge, is divided on this issue; as the article suggests, in fact, it's quite the contrary. Our elected officials, Congressman Barney Frank, State Reps. Joseph McIntyre, Antonio Cabral, Robert Koczera, and Allan Cass, the president of the New Bedford Fisherman's Fund, the North End Business Association and the Acushnet selectmen all prove that opposition to the EPA's current plan for PCB's using the terms *untreated* and *forever* is growing.

Proof of this was given to us in written form recently from the Acushnet selectmen, saying that with reservations, they would allow CDF's only as a temporary solution until a better technology exists, so as not to impede the cleanup process. Congressman Frank states the same concerns in his letter to the EPA.

Hands Across the River's position in this whole process is total commitment to working with the agencies and the Forum for a health-conscious cleanup and timely restoration project plan. Hands Across the River has proved this by being the only group on the Forum to bring a formal proposal to the table, stating we endorse CDF 7 because of its location and benefit to the city. This facility would be constructed as a bulkhead for large ships to dock at and allow the city to have a place to do maintenance harbor dredge spoils and allow EPA to clean up New Bedford's Pearl Harbor without the smoke (Herman Melville ships) and also to remediate two or three CSO problems in that area.

We have also suggested that the Coffin Avenue lagoon not be drained and filled with toxic material untreated and capped forever; it is in written form not from

JIM SIMMONS

The entombment of highly toxic material untreated forever on the riverbanks is unacceptable.

HARC, but from approximately 30 residents and homeowners. Some have lived there for 70 years and more. We have the mayor and City Councilor-at-large George Rogers on tape voicing the same concerns. The councilor for that ward, Fred Kalisz, and soon-to-be councilor of that ward Paul Koczera, feel the same way. We have proposed a ROD 11A and ROD 11B which seems to be very feasible for everyone.

All of us know that there is no magic, and this is far from a perfect world.

The EPA and DEP are offering a tour of the proposed CDF's today at 1:30 p.m. at Maritime International, Inc. All Forum members are invited and the public is urged to attend and become educated on how the EPA will enhance the North Terminal and extend the working waterfront and to see for yourself the difference between the river and the harbor CDF's. We truly thank the agencies for their tolerance on this issue.

However, the entombment of highly toxic material untreated forever on the banks is unacceptable. Can all of these people be wrong in opposing untreated and forever and so few be right? I think not.

We have identified the toxic dragon and agree it must be confined. It is our moral obligation to now speak of termination of this monster so it is not allowed to consume our future generations.

As stated in a recent Standard-Times editorial (Dec. 1) it would be a mistake for EPA to declare that it is CDF's or nothing and that this is the end of the line.

Keep up the good work on informing the public on these issues.

Jim Simmons of New Bedford is president of Hands Across the River.

offended millions

Is Ann Landers a racist? If not, why did she refer to the Holy Father as a "Polack"? This remark made by Ann Landers is an insult not only to Pope John Paul II and to the Polish people, but also an insult to millions of Christians and non-Christians alike.

GEORGE M. THOMAS
New Bedford

Change comes hard to New Bedford

The morning after the recent election, a local radio talk show host said that change comes hard to New Bedford's citizens, even when an election offers them opportunity to change. He mused, too, that it takes lots of effort and money to get someone elected to office. Yet, getting them out requires something really, really bad. It made me wonder, was the reason the old "devil you know" excuse?

Or, perhaps it's the same thing that bothered a Greek philosopher nearly 2,000 years ago. He was more worried how people perceived things to be than he was about how things really were. After the election, an article by Dick White described the totally contrasting styles of the mayoral candidates. Reading it made me realize that those contrasts were reflective of what divides this city, dulls its spirit and affects its future.

A hindsight view of the election helped me to understand that the mayor's campaign was endorsed by those who had the most to lose if she lost. The challenger's campaigners, on the other hand, believed the city couldn't afford to keep on losing. It should have seemed obvious, then, that what this city was in need of was not just a change in administrations, but a change in the power structure that created and benefited from it.

Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote that "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." Before Nov. 7, the Art Museum was done but not finished. The proposed casino was — 'absolutely, positively!' Change, as the talk show host pointed out, comes hard to New Bedford and yet, slightly less than 2 percent separated the dissatisfied from the complacent!

It's nearly a month later and the entertainment/gaming mecca continues to remain a two-dimensional concept looking up a very tall hill. The combined fine art repository and municipal annex is, well, still a multiple choice of open/closed/in progress. The mayor's supporters still believe they're right because she won. The challenger's folks can't believe he lost because they were right, and look, the beat goes on! Cameo Curtains' 250 jobs will be going, going, gone.

A friend, who knows I love to collect quotes, left this one from the Chinese sage Lao-Tzu on my answering machine the day after the election: "Do they have the patience to wait till (the) mud settles and

Quotables

"It will unleash an awful lot of talent ... to help push this country forward in the years

— House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, as the House adopted legislation to let Social Security recipients who continue working earn

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