

## Nassau leaders must find a compromise

I am writing with the hope that my fellow Newsday readers can encourage compromise in Nassau County government on the issues of bond authority and funding of youth and drug programs, which have unfortunately been linked ["Tough balance of cuts, revenue," News, July 24].

Earlier this year, Democratic legislators refused to allow further bond authority unless certain unrelated redistricting issues were addressed, and Republican legislators promptly selected county drug treatment and youth programs for the chopping block, apparently because they were deemed "Democratic" concerns. As of July 5, drastic cuts in those programs have begun to be implemented.

I have been practicing family law for more than a decade, and I see a constant stream of families in crisis in Nassau County — not just poor families but middle-class families, county employees' families — dealing with drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, separation and divorce. At any given moment there are thousands of such families in Nassau County in need of crisis intervention.

In the middle of these crises, I have watched the teens in these families, on their own, instinctively knowing they need help and finding their way to the various youth and counseling programs at issue. Because of these programs, most of these young people find their way and go on to become productive citizens. Without these programs, many would have troubled lives, and many would end up having their problems addressed at a much more expensive level by police, hospitals and courts.

Randall Malone  
Great Neck



The Olympic rings hang from Tower Bridge over the Thames River as London prepares for today's official opening of the 2012 Summer Games.

# Olympic green

I am waiting for the Olympics opening ceremony and the days of exciting competition. However, I will watch with a sense of nostalgia.

I miss the hype created by the amateur athletes who played for the love of the game and the love of their country. Today, most of the participants play for millions of dollars and make fortunes with endorsements.

The U.S. basketball team does not resemble the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" team that stunned the world with its talent and guts against the Soviets. It does not boast of a Bill Bradley who played the sport as a college athlete in 1964.

It's the same with the women's teams: no struggling amateurs there. Most of the swimmers, aside from Missy Franklin, are repeat winners who have been given the financial support of sponsors and endorsements. Their repeated appearances may have ended the dreams of up-and-coming swimmers. The same is true for soccer, volleyball and many of the other sports.

Historically, America has supported the concept that the Games were a venue for amateurs only. We remember how Jim Thorpe had to relinquish all of his medals when it was discovered that he had been paid for playing minor league baseball.

The games have changed. The inno-

cence is gone. The winners will advance because they had the funds to train or play full time. While we may feel pride as the flag rises behind our winning athletes, we also must know that like so much else, money is the underlying factor and motive.

Lorraine Mund  
Hicksville

The controversy over U.S. Olympic athletes' uniforms being made in China points again to the cause of our recession ["Not made in USA! USA!" Editorial, July 16]. Everything is being made overseas.

Here are the steps I would recommend to change this outrageous scenario. Place a tax on firms for each job outsourced. Second, renegotiate our trade agreements so that we export as much as we import from each country. Finally, President Barack Obama must use his bully pulpit to start a campaign for Americans to buy American products, even if they cost a bit more. Congress can pass a law requiring all products to state where they were made.

We financed world wars by persuading Americans to buy war bonds. With enough effort, we can be persuaded to buy American.

Irving Gerber  
East Meadow

## Notable on newsday.com

Edited comments from readers of Newsday's online opinion section

**On the Viewday blog posting about the late Sherman Hemsley's provocative comedy:** Watching the reruns is a good way to teach cultural history. They call them classics because the themes are timeless.

— EDNAUNGER

You can't think of a show like that today because no network is willing to push the envelope. Everything has to be politically correct.

— itzrocker

### On Washington's seeming paralysis:

This is characteristic of the beginning of the end of empires: an inability to govern; high taxes to pay for endless, pointless wars; home foreclosures; unemployment as jobs go overseas and industries crumble.

— shrubs

The most important issue of all is addressing the so-called fiscal cliff, which is already exacerbating a difficult economy and job market. Indeed, there are certain members of Congress — notably Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state — who have already made it clear that they're in no rush to resolve this issue until after the expiration of the Bush tax rates.

— qauthority

The fiscal cliff is leftist malarkey. The government needs to curb spending and increase tax revenue. Confidence in the American economy might increase as America starts to deal with its spending problems.

— nomoretaxes

### On the use of antipsychotic medications in nursing homes: