

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

High hopes for Remington Woods

In the *Connecticut Post* article of May 9 regarding Remington Woods, "**Development plan faces several obstacles**," I was quoted as observing that, were the Woods preserved as a wildlife sanctuary plus tourist destination, about four scattered buildings could be sequestered successfully in its foliage.

No mention was made of the proposed nature of three of the structures; the fourth was described merely as a theater. A theater in the usual sense of the word is not something I would advocate. There are theaters everywhere.

The Friends of Remington Woods (FRW) seek preservation of the Woods either as open space per se or in combination with a tourist destination *unique* to Fairfield County — an attraction designed to draw the sophisticated audiences of New York, Long Island and Boston, a significant part of which, since 9-11, are known to wish to motor on their vacations rather than fly. Connecticut destinations interest them, and the "**Your Money**" section of the *Connecticut Post* noted that if things were different, Bridgeport would be a logical spot.

As well, experience tells me that realistic planning for the future of any port town must hew to the inevitability of two factors that demand very high priority for historical features, beauty and environmental health—namely, that any port town will become very cosmopolitan, and very wealthy. It's happening to

New Haven right now.

Beyond that, as Fairfield County is home to the highest income bracket and IQs in the United States, the county also houses a collection of the nation's most creative people. FRW's most enduring idea for an attraction in the Woods is a state-of-the-art show-and-tell facility (stage, screen, science lab, etc.) with which qualified people, through widely advertised programs, could test on audiences their works in progress and ideas for future work.

To combine such a facility with a spectacular lakeside restaurant containing different rooms tailored to attract different interest groups; a Remington/Olmsted museum done as a spire with an observatory at the top situated, let's say, where there's already a view of Long Island Sound (the high point of the Stratford section of the Remington land); and a fourth building, for study of the natural environs of the Woods, would seem like an interesting tourist draw.

The May 9 *Connecticut Post* article referred to me as the president of FRW. I'm the vice-president. Milan Bull of Connecticut Audubon is the president.

Susan Harris
Vice-president
Friends of Remington Woods
Bridgeport