

There is no vision, the people perish."

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NEWS

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OPINION

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Scratching deal as best bet

The state seeks another Aqueduct or, re-examine Belmont stance

The state's latest attempt to cash in a multimillion-dollar bet for racino revenues never got out of the starting gate. The Paterson administration scratched its award for electronic slots contract to Aqueduct Entertainment after the bidding process was exposed as hope-wed and blatantly political.

Weeks of pounding criticism, AEG was officially re-named some of the big names in its proposal refused to do background checks, while others were caught up in a federal criminal investigation. The track record around demands the state field an entirely new card deck, not just pick some also-rans.

Even of Islip's car talk

trying to curb this perk

Her painful entry in the lemon-juice-poured-on-our-er-cut ledger: While private-sector workers struggle to get by in this brutal economy, the Town of Islip legally take town cars away from employees who mostly to get back and forth between home and work. Still, the town workers' union didn't even have to extract provision — there is none — to reverse Super-1 Nolan's sensible 2008 decision to take back about an administrative law judge for the state's Public Employment Relations Board has ruled that, despite the lack of language, the cars are a "past practice" that the town is away without bargaining with the union.

Now, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy was able to unty fleet from more than 600 to just over 300, on the at some essential workers need cars, but too many just to commute. So leaders like Nolan must keep trying the brakes on this perk. There's no excuse for letting c servants take us all for an unwanted ride.

Walt Handelsman's view

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LETTERS

If Fawcett was out, singer should be, too

The executive director of the film academy said Farrah Fawcett was not included in the "in memoriam" segment because she was better known as a TV star ["Left out of Academy's 'In Memoriam' spot," News, March 9].

Remind me, what was Michael Jackson best known as? Dennis Rosenberg Oceanside

gration reform. The centerpiece of reform is an earned path to legalization, for immigrants who learn English, play by the rules and come under the umbrella of the law.

Maryann Sinclair Slutsky Port Washington

Editor's note: The writer is director of Long Island Wins, a group promoting practical solutions to immigration issues.

know the right people, it is truly the land of opportunity.

Gene Towba Plainview

If Levy has a plan, we need it now

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, what are you waiting for?

If you have such a specific plan to save New York from bankruptcy ["Lazio: Levy is no Republican," News, March 6], why wait for your possible election as governor? Run, don't walk, right up to Albany now and give Gov. David A. Paterson your help as a volunteer. Prove yourself now and help keep New York from going down the tubes.

Gail Connors Bay Shore

Immigration reform works for everyone

Most people recognize that fixing our broken immigration system will be good for everyone — whatever your immigration status, or if you're native-born ["Proposed fine not fair to legal immigrants," Letters, March 10].

We need to get all immigrants on the right side of the law so they can come out of the shadows and fully contribute to our economy (though many are doing so already by paying income and sales taxes, while avoiding using government services).

The way to do that is through comprehensive immi-

No time to restore take-home car perk

It is interesting that Judge Elena Cacavas finds that despite no contractual obligation, Islip Town workers should continue receiving the perk of a take-home car because it was a "long standing past practice" ["Workers get perk back," News, March 10]. Amazing!

Common sense dictates that for now, a take-home car for most of the titles mentioned is an excessive benefit at the taxpayer's expense. With \$200,000 a year police officers, \$100,000 teachers and tons of patronage jobs, no wonder immigrants want to come to Long Island.

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