



Mail

A reluctant goodbye

To the Editor:

I like most of what I read in *New Jersey Reporter*, but I can tell you I was most unhappy to read in your May issue that Virginia Sederis is leaving New Jersey. It is, of course, a basic constitutional right to live anywhere we please in this great country of ours (*Goldberg v. Kelly*, 397 U.S. 254, 1970), but somehow her departure should have been forestalled, for her verve and humor and style were unique, as shines through her hilarious piece "On leaving New Jersey." Something like sugar coating on a bitter pill of bad news.

I would not want you to think that there is anything like a romantic attachment between me and Ginny Sederis — not that I would mind, say 20 years ago if I were free — but my frustration is only as a New Jersey citizen.

She wrote a nice piece about me in your April edition — very kind, very sensitive. I shared it with my kids, all 10 of them — they loved it! When I received a polite call from Ginny for

an interview, I had answered with my usual flirtation with the truth, that I "disliked publicity," etc. But we arranged a meeting at my home, with morning coffee, and a lot of happy talk about New Jersey, its politicians, and idiosyncrasies. There was no hint of her coming defection in our talk.

Ginny described me as one of New Jersey's "natural resources." Let me pass that compliment back to her. She is a sparkling journalist, and was a "natural resource" we should not have lost. In saying a reluctant "good-bye," I add that most important wish, "God bless," to Ginny.

Richard J. Hughes
Lawrenceville

What Resorts didn't know

To the Editor:

There is one extremely important error of fact in Matthew Kauffman's otherwise very interesting and thought-provoking story regarding the relicensing of Resorts International's Atlantic City casino ("Where She Stops, Nobody Knows," *NJR*, May 1985). The article states that testimony surfaced

in 1982 that Everette Bannister had aided international drug smugglers, and that Resorts did nothing about it until 1984. This is not true.

The testimony before the Casino Control Commission, as well as the Bahamian bodies in question, shows conclusively that there was no evidence, or rumors for that matter, linking Bannister to drug smuggling until the Royal Commission of Inquiry in 1984. In 1982, a committee of the Bahamian Parliament looked at Bannister's activities for evidence of "influence peddling." That select committee report, which is part of the record, in fact found no evidence of "influence peddling" and recommended that the Bahamian Parliament not take action. In that report, there was no reference anywhere to drug smuggling, either by rumor or allegation.

I would be happy to go through this in much greater detail, but the fact is that the article leaves the wrong and unfortunate impression that Resorts could have known that Bannister was somehow involved in drug smuggling prior to 1984, when the entire testimony shows that no one could have known before 1984, and that when Resorts found out about this, it acted promptly. This, in my opinion, is one of the key reasons for the Casino Control Commission's decision.

Joel Sterns
Trenton

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Sinister sex-ed

To the Editor:

Considering the blatant liberal sympathy for free love, illegitimacy, and even homosexuality, can the state-mandated sex-ed courses ("The Facts of Family Life," *NJR*, June 1985) be anything but a sinister ploy designed to degrade New Jersey youth?

Howard E. Berkeley
Irvington