

OPINION

A14

YOUR VIEWS

NRC lacking imagination

It is inconceivable that concern about possible terrorist attack scenarios on a nuclear facility would not be near the top of the list for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Since at least 1975, Brian Michael Jenkins of Rand Corp. has been researching the relationship of terror threats and nuclear power. Almost 30 years ago I participated in a threat assessment program, coordinated by Brookhaven National Labs, at the request of the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy.

The assignment for my work group was to gauge counter-terror preparedness of a major nuclear facility in the South. This was obviously long before the 9/11 attacks and our current alert status.

The reported attitude of the NRC bureaucracy is all too familiar; we are not required to do it, so we will not. As a nation we do not seem to have learned from the past and are still guilty of the charge by the 911 Commission that we lack imagination.

Robert J. Loudon
LAKEWOOD



This car was in flood waters on Ocean Avenue at Deal Lake in October 2005.
(STAFF PHOTO: MICHAEL J. TREOLA)

Towns prepared, residents aren't

A little over a year ago, Deal Lake rose over its banks and swamped homes in Loch Harbour. People paddled around in kayaks and rowboats and TV crews beamed the footage of flooding around the world. I live on the other side of Deal Lake, on the highest point of Deal Lake Drive, and was spared. But should any of us along the coast feel all that comfortable?

It was shocking, post Katrina, how little preparation any of us had for such an even short-lived disaster. I remember getting a call from a desperate homeowner marooned at the Loch Harbour fire department who asked me for the name of a local hotel that would accept his dog. And here we are a year later. How many of us would know what to do if another storm threatened our homes — or our escape routes?

Each county has to file an emergency plan with the state. Monmouth County boasts, on the Web, of 100 percent compliance from its 53 municipalities. But in order to implement these plans, the officials will also need a compliant public. It's time they shared their plans with the population they serve.

Maureen Nevin
ASBURY PARK

Life's lessons can disappoint

Evidently the writer of the Oct. 26 letter "Depression treatable" missed the point of the letter he was commenting on. The original letter was not about clinical depression, which is treatable. It was about the fact that people who take a hard look at reality and don't see the world through rose-colored glasses will become depressed or saddened.

In the last 30 years, our leaders have embarked on two wars for strictly political reasons, knowing full well many thousands would die. Millions are killed in the name of religion. Acts of barbarity are increasing all over the world. The gap between rich and poor is widening. People come to the U.S. to do work we won't do and then we hate them. Friends and relatives are not what they seem and disappoint us in many ways.

Taking happy pills or singing songs at a nursing home won't change this. People who see reality will be sad.

Michael I. Frischberg
ABERDEEN

Equal rights for singles

There are more than 1,000 federal laws and countless

tuates a claim for the deer-damaged vehicle, as part of the claim, the insurance company should be required to pay into a fund whose sole purpose is to clear the road of carcasses.

When an insured has no collision coverage, the liability part of their coverage should kick in and pay for the removal. If a driver hits a telephone pole, the liability coverage pays for a new pole and other costs, including cleaning up the accident site.

For many years New Jersey's insurance companies have been getting away without paying for animal hit claims in full, literally "passing the buck" to the taxpayers. Companies also try to have the public believe that they're operating on a shoestring budget. In truth, they are earning record profits, with many new companies clamoring to do business in this state.

The bottom line is this: for every police report of a deer hit by an auto, the driver's insurance would pay \$100 to the municipality. Because of the nature of an animal hit, the driver's rates are not allowed to increase (something that is true today, but not well known).

This is what should be happening routinely, as part of the insurance settlement process. I'm sure the insurance companies could divert a small amount of funds from their advertising expenses to cover the costs. Until that happens, if you should have the misfortune of killing a deer and doing damage to your vehicle, note the location and call your local animal control to remove the carcass. If there's a cost, get a receipt and pass it on to your claims handler.

Believe it or not, expect to

Don't let this ugly Foie gras is unchapter in New Jersey healthy for humans. It

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