

# VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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## Abuse: A long road to recovery

**M**anhattan: I have no desire at this time to pursue any legal or civil case against the private school or the diocese under which it operated for the sexual abuse I suffered 45 years ago, at age 16 during my high school senior year.

But I can and will unequivocally attest to the length of time and hard work it takes for a victim to come to grips with and process the abuse.

After my abuse ended, I spent 20 years struggling with myriad issues and difficulties, including aborting my college education and drifting from job to job and relationship to relationship, without a clue that it was in anyway related to the abuse. It then took another 25 years of therapy and 12-step recovery to undo the damage and be able to speak out like I can today. I completely believed the lie that this must have been my own inherent failing and part of my very nature.

I am keenly aware of being one of the very few survivors to have been fortunate enough to not completely self-destruct before reaching some kind of peace and acceptance. The current laws actually work against a victim and make it more likely that they will not be so lucky. Assemblywoman Margaret Markey's Child Victims Act must be passed as she has written it.

Anything less is unconscionable with what we know today about the effects of childhood sexual abuse on a survivor's life.

Again, I thank the Daily News for its extensive and compassionate coverage of this critical issue.

*Brian R. Toale*

### Saudi standards

Edmonton, Alberta: The riveting editorial "No shield for the Saudis" (May 18) was sent to me by a

police station in the bus terminal, and the military also patrols the building? Also, when people make illegal turns with their cars sometimes they hit people, so it's



Jefferson Siegel