on June 8 to talk with parents and kids about his program, the resurgence of civics and civics class.

Dreyfuss has his work cut out for

to serve the community, whether by coaching in Little League, checking on neighbors or helping keep the neighborhood clean. A good citizen

of American exceptionalism.

In a piece he wrote for the *New York Daily News*, he said, "We allow vague conversations about American

Teacher-turned-talk-show-host Dom Giordano is heard on the WPHT (1210-AM) Monday through Friday from nine to noon. Contact him at askdomg@aol.com.

WRITE US

Sign your letter, and include your address, day and evening phone numbers.

By mail: Letters, Philadelphia Daily News, 400 N. Broad St. Philadelphia, Pa. 19130

By fax: 215-854-5691

By e-mail: Views@phillynews.com

All submissions become the property of the *Daily News* and may be republished in any form or medium. Writers are limited to one published letter every two weeks.

Commissioner: Despite story, our tap water is safe

LETTERS

RE your May 9 article *"Dread in the Water: High Levels of Iodine"*: I'd like to state unequivocally that Philadelphia's water remains safe to drink and that at no time — ever — did the Water Department's drinking water exceed federal standards for public health and safety. This holds true for Iodine-131 and all other regulated contaminants.

The chart used in Mr. Bender's article was just plain wrong. The Environmental Protection Agency assures us that the results reported for Philadelphia do not exceed any regulatory standard or level of health concern. If they did, we would be the first to notify our customers, which include our own families and friends.

The Water Department has volunteered to participate in the EPA's RadNET program since 1978 specifically so we can take every opportunity to be in the forefront of trends and issues in drinking water. We work with the EPA on a regular basis — exchanging information on research and activities that assist us in understanding the complexities of the natural water system and its implications for ensuring safe drinking water. But don't take any of this as a statement of complacency. In our efforts for continuous improvement, we have taken the following steps to guard us from any future water-quality anomalies:

- Enhanced treatment at our Queen Lane water treatment plants.
- Initiated comprehensive sampling at all treatment plants.
- Implemented an aggressive program with the federal EPA and state DEP to identify potential sources of any Iodine-131 into our source waters.

Protecting and preserving Philadelphia's drinking water is our top priority. Always.

Howard M. Neukrug
water commissioner

Omnibus budget reform

We all agree major budget spending reductions are necessary.

Many independent voters, especially seniors like me, see ways to cut some sacred-cow spending, namely: Stop being the world's cop, reduce the military and Pentagon budgets, retire some generals and admirals, reduce active military personnel, reduce foreign and military aid to Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Korea, Vietnam, Japan, even Israel, and all price-gouging oil-producing countries — you know who they are.

I also advocate tax increases for the very rich, and on oil-company and large corporate profits produced both onshore and offshore.

Finally, withdraw our forces from all foreign soil — to remain only if all expenses are paid by the country requesting us to stay.

Does our commander in chief have the courage to initiate this long-overdue reform of heavy, wasteful spending? If not, who does? I'll support and vote for him or her next election time!

The money saved should in time substantially reduce our deficit and bankruptcy track without busting our education programs, our hard-won senior entitlements and Obama's health-care law.

At the same time, secure all our borders and ports by all-out land, sea and air safeguards from terrorists and illegal immigrants. Negotiate conditions for longtime illegal immigrants in good standing who want to become U.S. citizens.

Yes, use our substantial military power to protect the U.S. this way instead of being the world's cop. Let's vote on it.

Joseph C. Wylie, *Lafayette Hill*