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*Editor's Note: The writer is president of  
the Long Island Housing Partnership.*

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## Winning the Popularity Vote

After reading this year's list of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees ["Hall Calls Ramones, Talking Heads," Dec. 14], the more I realize it is a popularity contest.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation was established in 1983 to honor those who have made a significant contribution to the creation, perpetuation and ongoing development of rock and roll music. The foundation's nominating committee, composed of rock and roll historians, selects nominees each year in the performer category. Its international voting committee comprises

about 1,000 rock experts who vote each year on which artists to induct.

There seems to be a very real bias against progressive rock acts. The likes of Yes, Genesis and Rush are continuously overlooked by the nominating committee. Yet these groups continue to push the bounds of creativity in



**The rock group Rush**

the studio. Talk to young drummers today and they will list Neil Peart, the drummer of Rush, as an influence. If that is not a significant contribution to the ongoing development of rock and roll music, then I do not know what is. I see no significant contributions made by this year's class, and the Ramones, a three-chord group, got the sentimental vote with the passing of Joey Ramone this past April.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony is little more than a yearly opportunity for the music industry's well-moneyed insiders to throw a party and engage in gratuitous backslapping.

Ed Ceglecki  
South Coram

all the handicapped spaces were taken. What makes it even worse is seeing someone on that same rainy day running at full speed to a car with a permit in its window.

These people have been getting away with it for years. I have watched people park their cars illegally and then watch as a police car drives right by without even a glance, that is if I even see a police car. There are also too many of these permits issued to people who do not have a physical disability that requires a wider spot.

We need to tighten the rules concerning who can and cannot be issued a permit, and we need to make the penalties for using one tougher. Between the legal permits, many of which are not really necessary, and the thousands of illegal permits it's a wonder that there is ever a spot available for me. Many times there aren't.

Robert Phillips  
Hempstead

## Was the Old Way Best?

The article "A Debate Over WTC Collapse" [Dec. 9] was very informative, but I would have liked an opinion from both experts as to whether the World Trade Center towers would have remained standing after the air crash if the steel framing of the buildings had been in the old standard design of beams and columns spaced uniformly throughout the structure instead of the innovative design of a center core and an exterior surface doubling as a facia and column support.

As a structural engineer who has been in the structural steel business for more than 45 years, I simply cannot bring myself to accept the fact that a steel-framed structure should collapse like a house of cards under any circumstances.

Louis Goldstein  
Great Neck

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