

# VIEWPOINT

## Random checks benefit us all

If you plan on smuggling anything across the border into the United States, be aware that U.S. Customs may have a surprise for you.

That surprise is a frisking of cars picked out at random by computer. That procedure was instituted this past weekend.

What happens is this: The agent in the booth as you traverse the border may get word from the computer that your car is to be checked.

You'll be asked to pull into a bay alongside the checkpoint booths. You'll then be invited to wait inside.

While you're waiting inside, a team of inspectors will escort a dog to your car to give it the once-over. If the inspection proves satisfactory for all concerned, you'll be thanked for your cooperation and sent on your way.

The whole process takes no more than five minutes.

Yet, it may be at the tail end of a long wait to reach the booth, which will mean your disposition may be frayed. Our advice is to do your best to maintain composure and remember that checks such as these are in your inter-

ests. The Champlain Border Station is a busy one. It's also crucial from the standpoint of intercepting drug and currency smugglers.

It's on the direct line from Montreal to New York via routes 15 in Canada and 87 in the States — a bustling thoroughfare for those trying to move drugs and money.

Increased vigilance by Customs and Immigration, while inconvenient for the innocent traveler, will in the end make our streets safer by playing havoc with the outlaws.

The criminal element must know that the chances of getting caught going through the border are better than ever. The government is doing its best to make illegal traffic not worth the risk.

So, if you're crossing the border and get stopped for a random check, don't get annoyed. Pull over graciously and know this minor inconvenience will benefit all of us law-abiding citizens.

Only the criminals have reason to be jumpy.

### In My Opinion

## Why do local voters reject Democrats?

By STUART H. BRODY

The elected government officials of Essex County were treated to a shock on Primary Day, Sept. 12, 1995. Every Republican incumbent facing a primary challenge, lost. This is a shock every bit as jarring — on the county level — as last year's congressional and state elections. The press was quick to interpret last year's results as the expression of a nation fed up with the status quo. Well, how then are we to look at last week's results? Clearly, that the people of Essex County are fed up.

Last week's revolt should come as no surprise to anyone who has watched the Board of Supervisors throw away our money on landfill incompetence, useless telephone systems, constantly hiring, then firing, managers, and grandiose building plans while our taxes have doubled in five years, just five years: a legacy of incompetence, waste and confusion that is the hallmark of the Republican-led Board of Supervisors.

What is surprising is that the people of our county keep turning to one party for solutions it has continually failed to provide. Frankly, this has led me, as the chairman of the Democratic Party and my Democratic colleagues, to ponder why this is so.

What are the objections to the Democratic Party? Perhaps it is that the Democratic Party is considered the party of irresponsible give-aways, rather than the party sensitive to the importance of the helping hand. Well, if this is true, then perhaps the Republican Board of Supervisors ought to return to Washington and Albany the millions we receive to build our bridges, repair our roads, clothe our needy children, provide drugs for our elderly, promote local tourism, subsidize fledgling businesses — in short, to keep this country afloat. Which one of these things do the people of Essex consider irresponsible?

Essex County receives from Albany in aid more than four times what it sends there in taxes, the highest percentage of nearly any county in the state. So why do Essex County residents embrace George Pataki, the Republican savior who launched a hare-brained tax-cut plan that would have hit Essex County harder than any other county? We were saved from the nightmare of this Republican fiscal plan by the Democratic Assembly.

Now, none of us wants to be dependent on feder-

al and state largesse. The key is to create jobs and to promote the interests of the working people. So, perhaps we should ask if the Republican Party is the friend of the working man. Well, you'd have to be a world champion double-talking fair barker to prove that one.

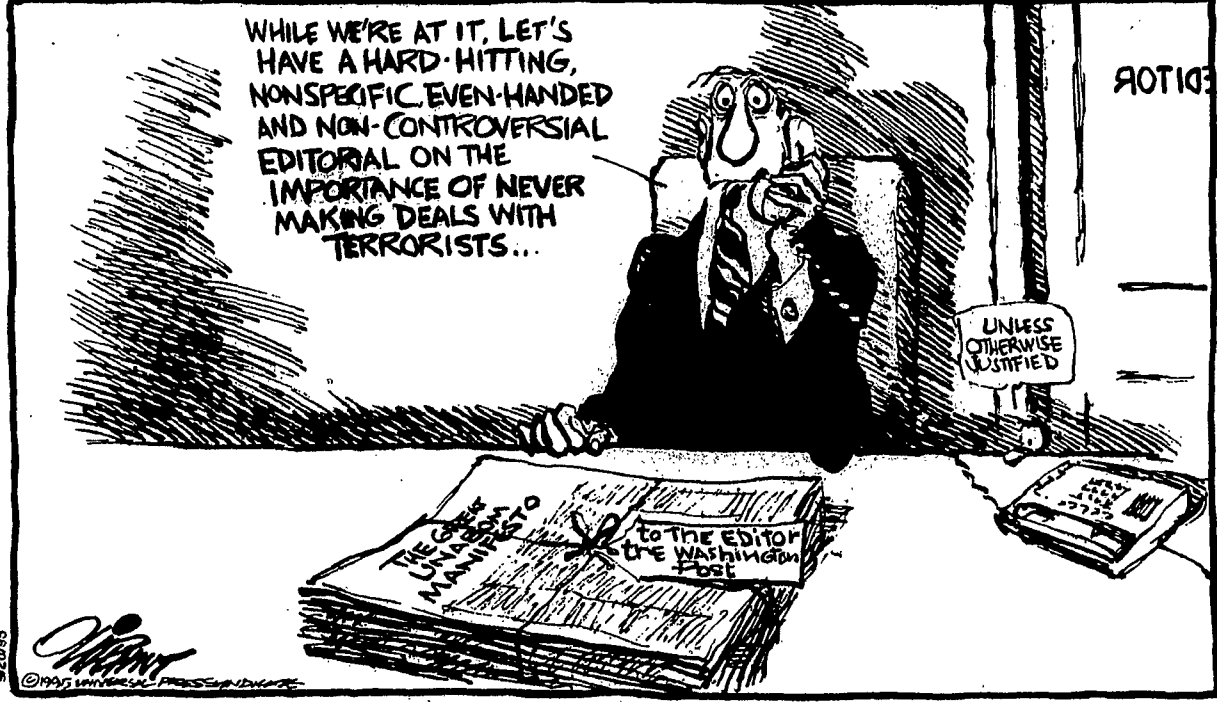
From 1980 to 1982 Republicans in Washington mortgaged the future of a generation by piling up three times more debt in 12 years than we did in 204 years of history before that. The Republican tax cuts to the rich launched a decade of greed and capital speculation that cost ordinary people hundreds of thousands of jobs and cost the rest of us our confidence in business and government.

When Bill Clinton, a Democrat, finally put together a deficit reduction plan, not a single Republican in the Congress voted for it, calling it a tax hike. Well that's true if you're making \$140,000 or more. For 24 percent of the taxpayers in the North Country, taxes actually went down. For everyone else, they stayed the same. How many North Country folks do you know making \$140,000? Perhaps they're John McHugh and Jerry Solomon's friends, our congressmen who voted against President Clinton's tax cut for the working class.

Or maybe Democrats are no longer popular because people in Essex no longer believe in some of the great principles that Democrats have brought to life by their tireless energy. Like social security and health care, and racial equality, and insuring your bank savings, and loans to middle class kids going to college. Do people dislike Democrats so much that they dismiss these great contributions? I'm waiting for answers.

Or maybe we've forgotten how this country has prospered under two-party rule. You know, where one party gets to watch the other and challenge its excesses. Well, right now, we've got a whole lot of excess and not much challenging. Would a few more Democrats help things in Elizabethtown? You bet they would. Because someone would be watching these guys with their secret caucuses and their sloppy financial practices. The time-honored system of checks and balances is invisible in Essex County. Or, more precisely, there's no balance to the checks that the board keeps writing, depleting our treasury, our patience and our trust.

Brody is chairman of the Essex County Democratic Party, Elizabethtown.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### No contract in Malone

**To the Editor:** We wish to inform you the general public of the "support staff" of the Malone Central School District. We are members of the CSEA Union (165 strong). This is our second year without a contract.

It is important for you as taxpayers to be aware of us the support staff. We are a large group, and an important "spoke" in the Malone Central School "wheel." With the large enrollment of 2800 plus students for the 1995-96 school year our responsibilities are wide and varied. The employees that make up our support staff are: food service workers, bus drivers, custodians, cleaners, maintenance workers, secretaries, library clerks, teacher aides, teacher assistants, monitors, health aide, parent facilitator, and guidance technician.

Our duties are to see that each child gets to and from school in a safe manner. We must insure that all buildings are clean and properly maintained. We want each child to receive good nutrition. Every student is entitled to a free, reduced, or paid breakfast and lunch. We answer telephones, give messages to students, and communicate daily with parents. We help with special needs and services. We read to the students, and monitor their activities to assure their safety. It is very important that every child receive the best possible education. They are our future.

**Raymond Pritchard**  
President, CSEA Unit No. 6855  
Malone Central School

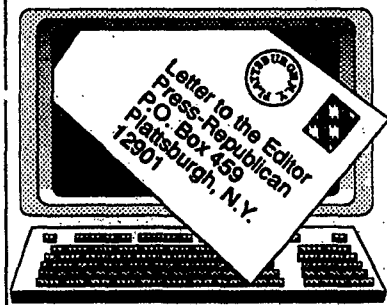
### Waitress intolerant

**To the Editor:** On Sept. 13, Wednesday evening, my husband's family was up from California and it was their 20th anniversary. So, we all decided to go to a restaurant. There was a total of about 15-19 people in the dinner party. We brought my daughter, 17 months, with us. I went to put her back in her high chair, she started crying. The waitress turned around and made a rude comment. It makes me really upset when you go into a restaurant and spend the money that our dinner party spent, and have your child, that doesn't know any better, get treated like this. Then your waitress knows that she did something wrong when she won't acknowledge that you are in her tables. It doesn't give the restaurant a good name when your child(ren) get treated like this. Now I know what kind of restaurant this is, since it was my first time having dinner here.

**Wendy G. Kane**  
Jay

### Hunts a disgrace

**To the Editor:** Recently scheduled sport hunts of residential Canada Geese in New York are a



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disgrace. Residential geese — nearly tame animals that live in our communities year-round — are accustomed to living in close proximity to humans and do not fear them. We watch them grow from goslings into geese each summer. Our children marvel at their natural beauty and grace in a world increasingly developed and paved over. Now, for ten days hunters are being allowed to kill up to five of these trusting creatures a day, because some people consider them a nuisance.

Although residential geese in urban and suburban areas do cause problems in isolated places, these hunts will do little, if anything, to deal with problems caused by interactions between geese and people. The fact is, in most areas where problems occur sport hunting is not feasible because people may get hurt. Where hunting is feasible, problems do not occur. Years of problem animal control have taught humane societies and others that you cannot solve a problem in one area by killing, or controlling, animals somewhere else. We need humane solutions that leave wildlife alive, but provide relief from problems. Certainly, any society that can get men on the moon, can figure out how to reduce problems between geese and golfers without killing geese.

Other than the geese, the major casualty in these poorly considered goose hunts is human sensitivity and compassion. Sport hunting of geese loosely justified as "lethal problem solving" desensitizes people to the callousness of killing them, and makes surviving geese scared of people, further distancing all people — not just hunters — from one of the few remnants of the wildlife that we need to enrich our lives.

**John Hadidian**  
Director of Suburban Wildlife Protection,  
The Human Society of  
The United States,  
Washington, D.C.

### Return 'Jeopardy!'

**To the Editor:** Re Kathleen R. Ivimey's letter of Sept. 12: I thoroughly agree with her and suggest those of you who feel the same way call WPTZ and voice your disapproval. Put "Jeopardy!" back at the 7 p.m. slot where the family can view it together. The last thing we need in that slot is another mindless comedy.

**Nicholas A. Masters**  
Plattsburgh

### One-term governor?

**To the Editor:** When I read the AP story by Ronald Powers in the Friday, Sept. 22 Press-Republican, "Pataki still is unhappy with GOP medical plan." I howled with glee. He wants more federal money than the GOP plan calls for. The growth would be limited to just two percent a year after 1996. And this, after the hypocrite has denied old retired teachers the supplemental pittance the Legislature passed months ago. This is not a COLA, just a few extra bucks, based on when a teacher retired and Pataki is holding us hostage because he cannot get his own way. What is that way you may well ask? Good old George wants to raid the pension funds of all retired employees, fire, police, CSEA, etc. to balance his state budget which, incidentally, was made up by about three top leaders of our morally bankrupt and stagnant state government.

George, how does it feel to be a one-term governor?  
**William W. Slocum**  
President, New York State  
Retired Teachers Association  
Northeastern Zone  
Altona

### In time of need

**To the Editor:** On Aug. 30, while driving north on I-87 in the Peru area and in the process of passing a large dump truck, I was suddenly forced off the passing lane and into the median. As the car began to roll over, I was already in prayer for the safety of my 8-year-old son, who was with me. When the car finally stopped, and while we were in the process of getting out, a nurse was suddenly there, and immediately began to give medical attention to my son. Close behind her was an EMT to help me. Within minutes the Peru Rescue Squad was there, administering their medical help to both of us and transported me to CVPH. The hospital ambulance transported my son. The CVPH Emergency Room staff quickly took over our care.

Our blessings were many that day. We greatly thank the special people who stopped and were first on the scene, the Peru Emergency Squad, and the staff of the CVPH Emergency Room, under the guidance of Drs. Osborne and Frostic.  
**Rev. Marion M. Moore-Colgan**  
Keeseville

## Your voices in government

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## DOONESBURY

Garry Trudeau

PRESS-REPUBLICAN  
PLATTSBURGH

## Leg fight heard

By M. J. Ottaway

WASHINGTON lawmakers and other North lobbying Congressmen save a governor program, or cutters were assault.

The 16-1 which annual income, New York elimination port remain Senate, although. A 10 budget is being.

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