

# Letters



HARVEY AND ELLEN FACTOR, of 100 Market St., Potsdam, (center) are shown participating with various academicians from around the country in an "Audio Recording" seminar at Berklee College of Music in Boston. The Special Music Educators Summer Studies program was conducted by noted Berklee educator, Joe Hostetter. The Factors are teachers at the College Campus secondary school at SUNY Potsdam.

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## Blasts Haley

Dear Editor: Dave Martin recently stated, "Dan Haley is a writer, not a fighter" has received a few comments. Haley's fighting position needs clarification. There is no doubt that he will fight furiously and unscrupulously to keep the job that gives him in excess of \$33,000 a year of taxpayers money (salary, lulu, expenses). Money coming from the taxpayers whose unemployment benefits have run out. What Martin really said was that Haley by making it known to the public that he contacted the Governor asking that unemployment benefits be extended after the legislative session was over. It was nothing but a grandstand election year play. Where has Mr. Haley been all year? He makes us think he doesn't know what the problems are in his district.

I cannot accuse Dan Haley of being stupid. From what I have been able to deduce the people for years. If he believed the unemployment benefit situation would be brought up at the special session, then he is acting stupid or purposely misleading the hopes of many. It was not placed on the agenda. Haley does not have the ability to propose beneficial legislation, never mind having anything passed into law.

Let's look at Haley's proposals of the need for full legislative session. Assembly members, Rosemary Gunning and Thomas Hanna have introduced legislation which would make the legislature a four month session. Assembly woman Gunning said, "There is no reason if the legislators would get down to work, ceasing meaningless debate and questions, and stop wasting taxpayers money with bills they know are copies of other bills or have neither value or future, they could not complete their work in four months."

The full time session proposed by several Democrats is for the reason to change the salary to \$44,800 with expenses and lulu would give Haley a \$55,000 a year job. We can not afford him at his current salary not to think of a full time session.

If Haley is re-elected, he will once again disappear for the first eighteen months of the two year term, traveling and whatever at taxpayers expense, only to return with more of his empty press releases and talk of bills that have no value just before election time. It makes no difference whether unemployment insurance runs out, whether this District has the highest unemployment rate in the State, Haley could not propose and get passed any legislation that would benefit the North Country. If elected, we get more of the same from Haley. Nothing!

Vera Massey member of "CLAW" Citizens for Clean Land, Air and Water.

Sincerely, Horace H. Rickett

## DIRECT DEPOSIT OF SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS

If you are having your social security or supplemental security income checks sent directly to your account in a financial organization, the Social Security Administration has a word of caution to you. According to John G. Joly, social security manager in Ogdensburg, you are still responsible for notifying social security of any changes which might affect your benefit payments.

Some things which you need to report are changes in mailing address, earnings in excess of \$2,760, trips outside the U.S. which will last over 30 days, and changes in marital status. Other events which must be reported are dependent on the type of benefit check received. Should you have any questions about your responsibilities as a social security beneficiary, Joly invites you to contact the Ogdensburg office. The address is 212 Caroline St. and the telephone number is 393-0880.

## Free lancer comments on Abzug's talk

Dear Editor: While I don't wish to become embroiled in someone else's political arguments, I do wish to disassociate myself from another writer's unasked for defense.

## Lauds MacLean

Dear Editor: Keith MacLean, the Recreation Director for the Town of Potsdam has recently resigned his job to return to his native Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to express to him what a pleasure it was to know him and to have worked with him. His receptiveness to new ideas, his ease with people, his genuine concern for the responsibilities of his position leave pretty big shoes to fill. On behalf of all the kids in this community, and their parents, who benefitted from his services I'd like to say "Thanks, Keith, for a job well done, and best wishes for the future."

Sincerely, Carol Beamer

I refer to Lillian LePage's most recent column in the Courier & Freeman, where she makes use of my story covering Rep. Bella Abzug's press conference in Massena earlier this month to justify a very opinionated commentary on several only vaguely related issues.

Let me first clarify that while I do write for the Courier & Freeman I am not working as a "staff reporter." More correctly I freelance for that paper as well as elsewhere and I was available to cover Abzug's speech. Mrs. LePage told the readers of her column on August 3 what questions she had asked of Abzug, commenting that she was "afraid she wouldn't get to ask a second question" so she threw them both out at once. LePage did go on to mention a few things that were discussed during Abzug's speech without going into detail. However, she soon dispensed with reporting to lash out, rather irrationally, on her own opinions of her own questions. This is all very interesting but it is not (to be polite) in any way responsible journalism.

In defense of Abzug, I might add that she was quite approachable. She seemed quite willing to talk with myself and two Watertown Times correspondents from Massena after her speech, taking time out from eating her lunch. Certainly Mrs. LePage had tried she could have spoken with the congresswoman from New York.

If Mrs. LePage, wishes to write about political candidates, she is certainly welcome to do so—but I hope that she would, in the future, keep to her subject instead of presenting us with personal opinions that aren't really on the topic. If she must continue with the opinions, maybe the Courier could put her in the "letters" section and off the editorial page.

Will Brady P.O. Box 481 Potsdam, New York 13676

## Writer pens GOP's epitaph

Dear Editor: Indeed, I do agree with Mr. Shelly. The Republican Party in this county is certainly asleep. Fast asleep. But perhaps it is more serious than that. Has anyone held a mirror up to its mouth lately?

Rest in Peace, Republican party—and let this be its epitaph: Here lies the remnants of a political party that tried to exist without moving...

Here lies a creed that always had a perfect excuse for doing nothing...

Here lies the old pachyderm, wrapped in its moth-eaten raccoon coat... fat bellies and Cuban cigars...

Now, let those who want to build rally around Dan Haley and the local Democratic Party. Given a decent chance, perhaps he can pick this country up off its feet, dust it off and put all its people—not just its fat cats—to work at last.

Sincerely, William C. Knott 47 South Main Street Norwood, New York

## DAR TO MEET

The DAR meeting on September 1 is a trip to Sackett Harbor. The group will leave at 11 a.m. and will lunch at Verellis at noon, followed by museum tours.

Those attending are advised to wear low shoes. For reservations call before August 25: Massena, Serena McDonald, 766-5586; Canton, Earl Horton, 386-9303; Potsdam, Louise Collins, 265-3968; Colton, Fred Cassel, 262-2858.

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**D.L. THOMAS** WOOD-MODE KITCHENS & BATHS Outer Market St. Potsdam, N.Y.

## No nukes in Metuchen?

Dear Editor: Recently we had summer guests who regularly "visit Aunt Vera, up in the country." One evening when I asked to be excused in order to attend an anti-nuclear meeting, they were surprised to learn we demurely did not want such a plant in this area since the St. Lawrence Valley is one of the high risk earthquake zones plus there is always the danger of human error; besides it would be cities in the vicinity in which they live that would benefit.

Our company thought this a very selfish attitude but when I suggested they were so enthused why not build a nuclear plant in Metuchen, which is much closer to New York City, we were told in no uncertain terms, Metuchen, New Jersey is a residential town and they are fighting to keep it that way.

Well, Waddington is also a picturesque residential town and we, also, would like to keep it that way. Although the population is small, life is just as sweet to us as to the hordes of people who would be benefiting at our risk.

As long as there are possible alternatives, why not develop them so no one, in large cities or small villages, is endangering their life?

Vera Massey member of "CLAW" Citizens for Clean Land, Air and Water.

When pioneers first began their work, forests covered about half the land in the United State. Two-fifths was a grass and herbaceous plants, and the rest was dry and barren.

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