

# editorials & commentary

## What's Ahead For ERA?

It had the marks of a sure winner on a fast track, back there in 1972. Behind it was a decade of rights-expanding, consciousness-raising momentum. In the first year of submission to state legislatures, it picked up a quick 30 of the 39 approvals needed for ratification.

But here it is 1978 and the Equal Rights Amendment is still three states short of ratification, plagued with defections among those already lined up and with prospects of making it to the finish line at all riding on congressional extension of the deadline for ratification.

It has been a discouraging six years for the cause of sexual equality before the law, the consequence in part of initial over-confidence on the part of supporters, and possibly some over-selling of the necessity of and the benefits to be derived from ERA. There is a considerable body of sympathetic thought which nevertheless believes adequate protection against sexual discrimination already can be found in the 14th

Amendment. Add to this under-estimation of the extent of opposition and the frequently irrational extremes to which it has been willing to carry the fight against the amendment.

The original seven-year mandate for ERA ratification expires in March. The House Judiciary Committee has recommended a 39-month extension which, once it gets through the full House, could run into real trouble in the Senate in the form of a filibuster.

Nevertheless, the extension recommendation is the best news for ERA in some time. It would mean time to rally public support which soundings show is still there. The latest Gallup Poll favors ERA by 58 percent to 31 percent opposed, with male support at 62 percent, actually exceeding that among women, 55 percent.

Whatever the outcome, ERA is evidence again that sure things can be as undependable in politics and social evolution as they usually are in horse races.

## Another Kind Of Unemployment

Item: In 1960, 35 percent of Americans 65 and older remained in the work force.

Item: In 1978, the proportion of the over-65 population still on the job or actively seeking work is down to an estimated 15 percent.

Congress may this year have raised the mandatory retirement age to 70, but the new law would appear to be bucking a longtime trend in the opposite direction. An increasingly larger proportion of the working-age population has been dropping out of the job market at increasingly earlier ages.

Retirement, however, is only one of the reasons. Layoffs, dismissals and outmoded skills also contribute to the growing numbers of at-liberty Americans, with particularly painful consequences for those in the 40-to-60 age range. The prospects for their reentry into a labor force weighted toward youth are not encouraging.

The newly retired, often prematurely so, and the involuntarily jobless now form a distinct population category which is coming to be regarded as a national problem.

This is not how the situation should be viewed, according to Dr. Patrick J. Montana, an expert on the subject. The real problem is not the "rapidly increasing supply of the able older Americans who are sophisticated, healthy and active," but the absence of demand for their services and outlets for their special abilities.

Dr. Montana is president of the National Center for Career Life Planning, a research and advisory program established by the American Management Associations to assist both employers and their employees in dealing with often difficult mid- and late-career situations. Operating on the theory that prevention is the best cure, the center stresses both pre-retirement planning and preparation for changing job requirements so that older workers need not feel discarded and "unnecessary."

Working through a Council of Industries with such heavyweight representation as IBM and Ford, the center functions as a research center, sponsors conferences for corporations interested in retirement and career planning, assists in setting up company programs and has developed a human resources planning survey to help firms increase productivity, job satisfaction and morale.

The problems of joblessness are not only individual but institutional. Industry, in Dr. Montana's analysis, heretofore has not taken the time to know or to utilize its older workers very well. It should now be actively developing programs "to keep older workers productive, satisfied and adaptable to new situations," viewing them as a resource rather than a problem.

## No Strategy For Tax Revolt

Another income study comes to a conclusion about the typical American family which any typical family knew all along.

In the race with inflation, it has been a case of running hard just to remain in the same place economically.

According to a study of household income and outgo since 1970 by The Conference Board, New York-based economic research organization, the average family has had to increase its pretax income by at least two-thirds to prevent deterioration in its standard of living.

For examples, a middle-income family of four with a \$13,000-income in 1970 needs more than \$22,500 today to continue living in the style to which it has been accustomed. At the lower end

of the economic scale, a family at the \$6,500 level than now needs \$11,000. For the affluent, \$20,000 in 1970 means \$34,000 now.

The Consumer Price Index went up 56 percent in the period under study, but that is not the full story.

Taxes of all varieties are taking increasingly larger bites out of incomes. As a national average, the share of personal income consumed by taxes has been increasing and in 1977 stood at 23 percent, with the federal share (including and Social Security) at 14 percent and state and local levies accounting for 9 percent.

Between prices and taxes, family income is caught in a long-term two-way squeeze.

## A Bargain In Seats

Not all prices are on a never-ending upward trend.

A seat on the New York Stock Exchange recently sold for \$7,000 less than the previous sale the week before. It was going, going gone for

a mere \$48,000. Which says something either about the state of the stock market or about the advantages of being in the right place at the right time when bargain hunting.

# Letters

## Giannell Announces Taxpayers' Probe

The sovereign people have reason to reject the official decision not to return any indictments in the PURA affair at the federal level and not to conduct any further investigation at the state level (Courier & Freeman Aug. 8, 78). The crime involving the \$1003.33 paid to the non-existent contractor "Harold Clark" is too obvious, and the rest of the Potsdam Urban Renewal Agency's wrongdoings too numerous for any slide into oblivion. This would only encourage more mismanagement of this so-called PURA business, such as the current misdealings with the Holiday Inn developers.

The PURA affair, which is now turning into a full-fledged PURA-gate, must be solved directly by the sovereign people in participatory democracy, since the officials in charge apparently have been too negligent to solve it, or too involved in the cover-up. Interpreting the wishes of the sovereign people, we are going to conduct a taxpayers' investigation with the help of criminology students to solve this problem once and for all. To this effect, we are demanding that all PURA files be opened to public scrutiny, both with regard to past and current events. We maintain that such files are the property of the public, and that there is no legal justification for keeping anything secret, including the replies to the letters requesting the return of the disallowed PURA payments. Unless, of course the PURA and village bosses are so impudent to claim, a la Nixon, that such secrecy is justified by national security.

Since we live in one of the most important education centers of Northern New York, it is imperative that we preserve an atmosphere of integrity, dignity and freedom for the education of our students, without this mounting contamination of political corruption. We do not want our students to feel, even for one moment, that the PURA way of doing business is the acceptable way for them to adopt and follow in their future careers.

We want to educate our students to live a normal, legal and sovereign life, in an atmosphere where everyone will be able to afford the luxury of integrity.

Cordially yours  
Dr. A. Steven Giannell de Jannell  
Little League Chief  
Calls Season 'Success'

Another season of little league baseball has ended and for the Tri-Town League, and it has been most successful. This letter is to thank an enormous number of people who volunteered their time to make the season as good as it was.

To the managers and coaches, the parents who worked on the field and in the concession stand, to Louise Simons and Tony Mariano who handled the umpiring chores, to Pauline Pernice who handled the concession stand, to the Board of Directors, to the parents who supported our efforts, and mostly to the great group of boys and girls who make it all worthwhile—many thanks.

Richard E. Merchant  
President  
Tri-Town Little League

## Athletic Chief Asks For Revote At M-W

To the Editor:  
The following is submitted as an open letter to the editor.

To the voters of the Madrid-Waddington School District. I am amazed, angered, and hurt by your recent decision to vote down interscholastic athletics. Last year, over 350 boys and girls participated at various levels in 18 different sports. That's well over half of the student population in grades 9-12. However, because of your vote, they, and many more will not be able to participate this year. We will not have interscholastic athletics at Madrid-Waddington this year.

I'm amazed because I never thought I'd see the day when you would value the dollar more than the over-all welfare of your children.

I'm angered because I feel many of you got caught up in the emotion of some sort of a "protest vote" against the administration, teachers, or, against bureaucracy in general and lost sight of the consequences of a negative vote. If your goal was to "strike back" or, to hurt someone, you accomplished it. You've hurt the entire student population in the district. Administrator's salaries and teachers' salaries are negotiated contracts and are not subject to voter approval. The only people you've affected by your vote are your children and a few of the coaches.

I'm angered when I hear that many of you who have had your sons or daughters participate as an athlete and no longer have children in school, now feel that other children are not entitled to the same opportunities your child enjoyed with everyone helping to share

## Finds Feds Unbelievable

To the Editor:  
It is unbelievable that the Federal Government allocates millions to fix sidewalks, drains, parking lots while the countryside is littered with the shacks of poverty-stricken people. An agency like HUD can enrich hundreds of local politicians but cannot build one decent house for people who need help.

The government is becoming a ruling class of callous fools. Pizza Huts abound where houses once stood. Every jerk straw town in Northern New York is determined to look like Sunset Strip. The Banks are doing an exclusive business with the fat institutions of insane bureaucracy.

Where does this leave the half starved, half frozen, idle, castaways of society whose numbers increase daily? Why in the prisons which these fat, rat rich pigs have built to hold all the ragged people.

Mr. Government man, your solutions are just another problem! Maybe it's time for a real American Revolution. Maybe Today is a good day to die.

Mike Ploof  
Massena

## D.A.V. Post Says Thanks

To the Editor:  
The Elmer J. Murphy Post 164 of the Disabled American Veterans would like to thank WPDM radio, T.V., the Courier and Freeman, Watertown Times, and the people of Canton, Potsdam, and Norwood for their support in the past week on our drive for funds.

Thank you  
From all members  
and commander

## Poetry Corner

Editor's Note: The following poem was submitted to the editor as a tribute to Richard Grover, Winthrop, who died last week at the age of 16 from an injury sustained in a bicycle accident.

TRIBUTE TO RICH  
Rich walks the passage broad and far;  
No need to run, he'll make his destiny;  
No need to crawl, he has nothing to hide;  
Yes, our friend died.

He was young,  
But left after his song had been sung.  
The plague of torment inflicts us all,  
But ne'er shall we idol like fools—we'll stand tall.

Now, to us, he sleeps—waking never,  
But his soul will awaken to a new world forever.  
Death is a law, not a punishment at all,  
Rich will watch over us, won't let us fall.  
I envy him now; his earned heritage,  
Home of the brave, ne'er again a hostage.

And if, by chance, I stumble to his land,  
He will make the road shorter, take hold of my hand.  
He will reach the piece of foreign sky,  
The one we can't reach, for it is much too high.

His character like a tree, he stood very tall,  
Roots extending deep, wouldn't let him fall.  
His reputation was like the tree's shadow,  
Everyone knew he could reach 'cross the meadow.  
He'd pick us all flowers, we'd watch them bloom,  
I can't believe he's not coming home soon.

Our memories flash through our minds,  
I only wish feelings were as simple as rhymes.

Debbie Koch

## From Our Files

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following information, reprinted in the Courier and Freeman, comes from an 1828 day book of the local Parish agent.

October, 1828—West Stockholm butchering trip. Fifteen men and boys have been employed for nine days in getting the hogs to St. Regis, butchering, packing the pork and delivering it to the dock at St. Regis. Bosses paid \$1 a day. Asa Seaver and Ralph Perkins, 75 cents. Francis Goodale with team, \$1.50 a day.

1820—Cost of road building. Foster Brownell, clearing 20 acres of land and burning one acre, \$217; Reuben Hosmer, clearing and chopping two miles, \$70; R. Newton, three days making causeway, \$3.75, one day ox labor, 75 cents; Luke Brown, building turnpike at a cost of \$640 per mile, 31 chains and 42 links, \$251.36 (note: a chain equals 66 feet, 80 chains equal one

mile); Russell and J. Livingston, three days work on road, \$3.37, one half day, 56 cents and 1 1/2 days with two oxen of oxen, \$2.25.

1850—Dick Dibble was winner of the Potsdam boy of the year at the Boys Club.

February, 1860—Sleigh ride regals Slab City group. H. Dygert and Ward Burdick furnished teams and sleds for a sleigh ride. More than 30 4-H members went and returned to West Potsdam school for games and refreshments.

February, 1925—The Potsdam Hospital will open in about ten days in the Brown residence on Waverly Street. Room available for 11 adults, four children and four infants.

Compiled by  
Earl Pattison

the cost.

I'm angered by those of you who have had your children benefit from the program but chose to deny other children those same benefits due to some ulterior motive. I'm also disturbed to know that too many of the athletes (18 years old and over), past, and present, did not get out of our sports program and our achievements over the past 14 years that I have been coaching at Madrid-Waddington. I'm proud that our coaching staff has always put the child first over winning. I'm proud that our teams have done well and are respected by their opponents. I'm also very proud of the fact that I've helped over 350 boys in the last 14 years turn Madrid-Waddington into one of the most respected soccer powers in the North Country. I thought you also shared in this pride. I'm hurt because you apparently don't care. Unfortunately, there are over 350 young men and women who do care and who are waiting for their turn to carry on the traditions you've established, but they will not get their chance. You have voted them out.

The complete cost of continuing interscholastic athletics at Madrid-Waddington for the 1978-79 school year is \$27,525 for 16 different sports for boys and girls. Included in that figure is: transportation—\$4,000; officials and timers—\$5,335; supplies—\$8,525; equipment, \$1,390; and coaches' salaries—\$9,675. Coaching salaries are based on length of sport season, variety of J.V. length of sport season, and the number of years coaching that sport at Madrid-Waddington. For example, the Varsity soccer coach gets \$700 for 2 1/2 months work and 14 years of experience. That comes out to less than \$1.50 per hour. No coach in the system receives more than that amount per hour.

In order to finance athletics at Madrid-Waddington for the 78-79 school year, it will cost you the following amount per thousand of assessed valuation in the various areas of the district: Lisbon—\$5.63; Louisville—\$6.34; Madrid—\$1.83; Potsdam—\$5.06; and Waddington—\$5.62.

The total amount of money that the average taxpayer in any one of these townships will have to pay to "keep sports in" ranges from \$20-\$25 for the year. Some people will pay as low as \$5 and the more affluent property owner will have to pay more.

I refuse to believe that you are unwilling to spend that amount of money on a program that will benefit your children for the entire school year.

By voting out athletics, you have "torn the heart" out of the school community. You have destroyed the pride in the school spirit, and "the pride" in school that is associated with your athletic teams. I can't help but feel that this will carry over into the communities of the district, if it hasn't already.

I refuse to believe that a majority of you just don't care about your responsibility to each child in the district. Therefore, I am asking all the athletes, boys and girls, to gather together to petition every voter in the district for support on another vote to reinstate the athletic program for the 78-79 school year. If enough names are secured, I will present the petition to the Board of Education at their next meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 22, and ask them to set a date for a revote on, or before Tuesday, Aug. 29.

In the meantime, I'm asking you to give your decision to vote down athletics at your school some careful thought.

Sincerely yours,  
James A. Kiske  
Athletic Director  
Madrid-Waddington Central School

## Head Start Class Offers Thanks

To the Editor:

Potsdam's Head Start had a marvelous time this year. Thanks to our parents, past parents, grandparents, and friends of our Head Starters who participated in our bazaar and bake sales, our toy party, our Stanley Products party, and our two raffles we earned enough money to take two trips plus a dinner for our parents and staff. With the money that was earned, Head Start staff, Head Starters and their parents went to Parc Safari in Canada on May 23. Then on June 13, they went to the Land of Make Believe in Upper Jay. Each child received money from our Parent Fund to spend as he wanted. Money came out of the Parent Fund to pay admission for each child and the adults at both places. The parents had also raised enough money to go to the Town House restaurant for a Parents' Dinner on June 17.

We wish to thank all the people who came in to Head Start to help our parents to better understand our children, ourselves, and to find out what to do and where to go if any kind of problem arises.

Mrs. Sharon Youngquist and Mrs. Alice Serlis and the Head Starters took numerous field trips during the year. With the help of our two class aides, Mrs. Joan Cary and Mrs. Diane LeBel Charlebois, they went to Higley Flow to play in the sand; to Don Kingston's farm to see his big pumpkin patch and to pick out a pumpkin; six days to State College skating rink; and took tours of the Potsdam Hospital, Potsdam Police Station, Potsdam Fire Station, Mr. Romeo Forbes and Wayne Fullerton, and McDonald's for a free lunch. We thank each and every one for letting us go and visit you.

We wish to thank everyone for the volunteer hours they put in. This includes parents, past parents, friends, and college students from the area colleges. The hours averaged about 200 per month.

These are the children who attended Head Start during the 1977-78 school year: Donald Birdon, William Briggs, Joelen Burnap, Donna Clark, Ramona Crump, Nicholas Eurtis, Robert Forbes and Wayne Fullerton, Loretta Gardner, Rita Gillo, Betty Jo Gonyou, Elizabeth Gonyou, Daniel Herne, Milesea LaPage, Christopher LeSeige, Dennis Lippman, Michael Matthis, Jason Merigis, Tina Moulton, Scott Newton, Danielle Paul, Rodney Rowe, Craig Simmons, Mark Smith, Ian Soehla, Emily Vallance, Scott Weaver, and Merris Weber. Two children enrolled at the beginning of the year and then moved away. They were Roger Hartson and Johnnie Pelkey.

The Head Start Class

## Courier & Freeman

A Park Newspaper

Published every Tuesday, by the Courier-Freeman, Inc., 71 Market St., Potsdam, N.Y. Member of The New York Press Association, The National Editorial Association and Audit Bureau of Circulations. The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the exclusive use for the publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited to this paper. Subscription rates Carrier home delivery in Potsdam 20 cents per week. By mail outside Potsdam in St. Lawrence County, \$8.50 per year and \$9.00 elsewhere in United States and Canada. Entered in the post office at Potsdam, N.Y. as second class matter.

HAL STOKES, Editor  
MABEL MAXFIELD, Business, Circulation  
DOUG GILSON, Advertising  
PAUL LASHOMB, Production

Use  
Epi  
ALB.  
dust"  
--among  
New Y  
Pro Y  
nations  
release  
Abuse  
The  
revels  
young  
million  
state,  
shency,  
percent  
accordi  
Nation  
the Na  
The  
revels  
school  
--83.0  
the 30  
--anc  
least 10  
stient  
PCF fo  
This sh  
spread  
accordi  
cy's B  
Reade  
PCF  
The Bul  
lowest  
report  
In ad  
the stuc  
used of  
The  
and Ap  
35,371  
student  
schools  
first st  
States  
student  
data on  
When  
analyz  
will reg  
accordi  
Klepek  
In an  
Albany  
by the  
68 per  
District  
progr  
many c  
intervi  
were t  
20. All s  
Hoi  
Work  
of Pot  
project  
Robert  
Jura  
Freem  
area ar  
for sev  
up ar  
bid-  
So f  
plicati  
first-c  
actual  
Septen  
able  
comple  
are rec  
Some  
membe  
off as e  
VI em  
affecte  
lay-off  
budget  
Jura  
are pa  
include  
Neigh  
project  
NEW IN  
being r  
Work of  
photo)