

letters

to the Editor



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Diagnosis is key for ovarian cancer

First, I would like to thank The Bee Newspapers for the article on ovarian cancer to commemorate Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Since this is the deadliest of female cancers, it is crucial that the signs and symptoms are publicized.

I would like to clarify a couple of things. The article stated:

"They used to say that ovarian cancer was a silent disease," Tedeschi said. "It's not true. Obviously, the doctors are just not educated about it." I certainly do not want to imply that doctors are not knowledgeable, but the fact remains that according to the American Cancer Society Web site, "Women diagnosed with ovarian cancer, one of the most lethal women's cancers, might have a better prognosis if (Please turn to page six)



Correction

The Williamsville South field hockey photo was misidentified in the Sept. 19 edition. The photo was of senior Lauren Falzone, not Ally Liebel. The team's motto last year was "best season ever", not "best team ever," as also reported in the article.

EXCLUSIVE

Beepoll

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Click to vote on this Bee Poll TODAY!

Are feuds hurting Town's storm cleanup?

ONLINE POLL RESULTS
VOTE

Log onto
www.AmherstBee.com
today, to cast your vote
for next week's online poll!

Last week's question:

Should trans fat be banned from town restaurants?

You said:

70% YES 30% NO

How to reach The Bee

The Amherst Bee publishes community news free of charge. Mail items to The Amherst Bee, P.O. Box 150, Buffalo, NY, 14231-0150. Our telephone number is 632-4700. Our fax number is 633-8601. Our Web sites are www.BeeNews.com and www.AmherstBee.com. Amherst Managing Editor David Sherman's e-mail address is dsherman@BeeNews.com. Amherst Associate Editor Jessica Finch's e-mail address is jfinch@BeeNews.com. Senders should state on their contributions whether their e-mail address can be published.

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and are limited to a maximum of 300 words. Names will not be withheld unless the author demonstrates a clear reason for anonymity. No unsigned letters will be printed. You must supply your name, address and telephone number for verification. Authors are limited to one letter every four weeks. Letters are subject to editing.

Our deadline is 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. For engagement and wedding announcements, The Bee offers a form to list names and details. Call for a copy. There is no charge to publish engagements, weddings or anniversaries.

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Plenty of people worthy of positive press

Twice in the past month I've received phone calls from people who wanted to ask me why I don't write more about topics that would best be categorized as "good news."

One of these faithful readers told me that all I write about "is crooked local politicians and those scoundrels in Albany," while the other told me, "All you do is cry and complain about those jerks."

Both phone calls then ended with requests to show some love to some of the folks who make us proud to be from Western New York.

Duly noted.

Are all local politicians "crooked"? Are all of our elected officials in Albany "scoundrels"? Should any of the above be labeled as "jerks"? I'll let you, the reader, decide because this week it's time to present some positive press.

So we will now hit the pause button and step away from the ugliness that ensued from the Democratic primary for Erie County executive, ignore the latest exchange of barbs between Gov. Eliot Spitzer and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, and take a breath before the Jim Keane vs. Chris Collins war of words really gets rolling as we move closer to Election Day in November.

Never one to let down my fan base, here are a handful of local folks most worthy of some positive press:

- Keith Bender: This local elected official recently resigned from his post. But he didn't do so because he was accused of embezzling money or using his power to get friends and family village jobs or was found to be tapping the foot of someone in the next bathroom stall.

Bender stepped down from his position as a trustee on the East Aurora Village Board because he recently began a 400-day deployment in Afghanistan. A 10-year veteran of the military, Bender is now serving on a transition team to help train the Afghani army. While Bender's work as a village official is to be commended, it's the work over the next year serving our country that is truly noteworthy.

- Donald Quinlan: Orchard Park Town Supervisor Mary Travers Murphy tapped Quinlan to serve as the spokesperson of an advisory group that is researching possible ways to streamline

local government and make it more efficient. The six members of the ad-hoc committee have been busy studying how the town and village governments function and offering suggestions to town officials on how they may be able to work with their village counterparts to make local government agencies more efficient. As the man in charge of Graphic Controls, a multimillion dollar company based in Buffalo, Quinlan is working on a volunteer basis with the five other members of the advisory group to watch the bottom line for taxpayers. The discussion of shared services, possible consolidation and the potential dissolution of the Village of Orchard Park has proved to be controversial at times, and Quinlan has worked admirably to present the facts and eliminate the rumors associated with their study.



DAN MEYER

Political Columnist

- Beth Obad: The president of Erie County's chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving was recently selected to

participate in their radio and television public service announcements for the Armed Forces Broadcast Network. The PSAs, which were filmed and recorded this summer, will be aired to our troops here in the states as well as abroad. Obad's son, the late George Obad, was a sergeant who served in the Marines until he was killed by an impaired driver following an automobile accident in 1994. Obad also recently traveled to West Point to give her life-saving message of how more than 17,000 individuals are killed each year in needless and horrific crashes that are totally preventable.

- Dorothy Hanson: The recent recipient of an award presented jointly by the State Assembly and Lions Club International, this Hamburg resident was honored for her work as a volunteer for the town's Adult Day Care Program as well as the services she provides as a health insurance information counselor. Well into her 90s herself, she truly enjoys helping others.

(Daniel Meyer is a columnist for the Weekly Independent Newspapers of Western New York. For more information on WIN, or to provide feedback on this column, visit our Web site at www.wnynewspapers.com. Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

Voters should place 'Amherst first'

President Kennedy once invited all (about 20) living Nobel Laureates to the White House. He then commented that the presidential house, that evening, had collectively the most brain power it ever had except when Thomas Jefferson alone lived there.

Thomas Jefferson was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, which has guided us more than 220 years to the most advanced nation status. His brilliance and his vision are unsurpassable.

This great man, when he was going into politics, thought that political parties were a menace to the functioning of the federal government. However, we had people of differing opinions then as now, and two political parties emerged: Democratic-Republicans and Federalists. Thomas Jefferson belonged to the Democratic-Republican Party.

Political parties have since become a part of life, and most of us have decided to belong to one of them. The Town of Amherst has five parties: Democratic, Republican, Independence, Conservative and Working Families.

I decided to join the Republican Party because of its agenda: fewer taxes, smaller government, strong family emphasis, conservative values and support of business. We can do all that as we do in a family or in a business. To me, a town is an extended family, and we should manage the town as we would manage our family.

Jefferson once said, "The happiness and prosperity of our citizens...is the only legitimate

object of government and the first duty of governors." Many of the elected Town Board members have strayed away from this duty. They vote either on a partisan basis, to promote themselves or to benefit special interests. These groups combined make up less than 2 percent of the population, and it does not make any rationale.



SATISH MOHAN

Amherst Supervisor

Why does this happen? First, the citizens make wrong choices during elections, and secondly, these 2 percent groups are united or unionized. The remaining 98 percent of the citizens don't belong to any union.

Nov. 6, 2007, will give an opportunity for these citizens to vote for Town Board members who will put the people's agenda before their own, and the people's agenda clearly is: fewer taxes, smaller government and job growth in the town.

The town is not for Republicans only, Democrats only, or for any other party only. The Town of Amherst is for all citizens irrespective of party, class, race or religion. In two words, the town is for "Amherst First."

We, the elected officials, face conflicts every day, conflicts between special interests and the area residents, conflicts between business and labor, and conflicts between self-interest and the good of the people. To me, there has never been a state of indecision. I follow Abraham Lincoln's words, "I am for those means that give greatest good to the greatest number." To me, the people of Amherst come first and foremost. To me, it's "Amherst First."