

letters

to the Editor

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Mohan should not be in office

I suppose I should not be surprised to hear Supervisor Satish Mohan accuse Guy Marlette of corruption (Amherst Bee, June 25). It is obvious that the supervisor, a man who made large and questionable campaign contributions in the form of a political advertisement in a failed attempt to pad the board with "yes

men," has an odd concept of corruption. The process of negotiation resulting in compromise and hopefully, consensus, is not corruption. It is fair business practice, and that is exactly what we expect from our elected officials.

Previously, Supervisor Mohan stated that he believes compromise is corruption. However, it is the supervisor's preferred method of insult and alienation

(Please turn to page six)

Correction

Information has been changed since "Sweet Home plans decades reunion — 1960-69" was printed in the June 25 edition. The mixer on Friday, Aug. 22, will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Scotch 'N Sirlain Restaurant, 3999 Maple Road.

'Baby Joe' Mesi would get KO'd in debate

Some random thoughts on a few items of interest that may or may not have recently made headlines ...

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Joe Mesi displayed some fancy footwork in the past during his days in the ring as a professional boxer, but his recent entrance into the world of politics has some wondering if "Baby Joe" has what it takes when it comes to addressing key questions about his platform and his stance on key issues related to his campaign for a seat in the state Senate.

Mesi bobbed and weaved during a recent radio interview with WBEN 930-AM's Kevin Hardwick, essentially sidestepping most of the tough questions by responding with very generic answers like "We need change" and "I'm a hard worker, and I love Western New York."

That's fine and dandy, Joe, but a basic fundamental understanding of what are the issues most important to your potential constituents and having an opinion on each of them are Politics 101. To say the former heavy-weight contender was clueless about the current status of certain policies and laws would be an understatement.

In fact, Mesi's obvious lack of knowledge shows that he has to really do his homework should he want to look like a contender and not a pretender for the race for the 61st Senate District.

The one thing Mesi has on his side at this point is time. He should be able to cram during the summer months and with the proper advice and tutelage from his close political advisers end up sounding like a more educated and well-rounded candidate.

If not, Mesi is in for a rude awakening, one that would include an early knockout should he enter the ultimate test of political prowess and agree to any type of debate with the other candidates vying for the nomination.

What's my advice to Joe; his father, Jack; and whoever else is in his corner? Decide now if this is what he wants and, if it is, dive into it and spend virtually every waking moment striving to educate himself on the issues.

Mesi claimed in the interview with Hardwick that he has a "passion for politics." If that's true,

that passion needs to resonate with clear, concise and well-thought-out answers to questions from people trying to decide if Mesi's worthy of their vote in September in what will likely be a three-way Democratic primary.

There's no shame in Mesi taking a step back and deciding that he may have set his ambitions a bit too high. Perhaps a run this fall for a Town Council seat in his native Tonawanda or a bid for a seat on the Erie County Legislature in 2009 would be more in line for Mesi, a really nice guy who, for now, appears to be all about style but unfortunately doesn't possess much substance.

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It's time for one of my somewhat regular rants about the continued decline of WKBW-TV after some recently published articles in the Buffalo News and some lively online conversations on Internet message boards got me to thinking about just how bad Channel 7's local news broadcasts are when compared with that station's dominant days. The technical blunders, the ongoing labor strife involving some of the station's behind-the-scenes employees and an obvious lack of long-term strategic planning for covering the local news stories that are important to us as viewers are extremely frustrating to me, especially since I personally know people who work there as well as some former WKBW employees.

As frustrated as I get, I can't imagine what folks still working at the station must think. What was once a great place to work is now a laughing-stock, not only in Western New York, but throughout the local television news industry.

It's sad but not surprising, given upper management's approach to running the station on a day-to-day basis. Whether it's the employees who work for them or the viewers sitting at home watching their sloppy broadcasts, it's quite apparent the corporate owners of 7 News don't value, and don't seem to care about, the most valuable resource of all — people.

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Joe Bruno announced late last month that he will not seek re-election this fall. Hopefully, his exit from the state political scene will be the first step in reintroducing representative democracy to New York. Let's keep our fingers crossed.



DAN MEYER

Political Columnist

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Family Health Fair celebrates 10th anniversary

Mark your calendar for a special event to be held on Saturday, Aug. 2 — one month from today — and plan to attend the 10th anniversary of the Amherst Family Health Fair.

Every August for the past 10 years, I've been pleased to co-sponsor this important event with Kaleida Health and dozens of area health care providers offering free health screenings promoting healthy lifestyle options for the benefit of seniors and families throughout our community.

While Saturday mornings are usually a busy time, especially during the summer months, I hope you and your family will make a plan to drop by and benefit from all that will be available at the Health Fair.

Soon you will be receiving information in the mail that will describe the specific events that will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Amherst Senior Center, 370 John James Audubon Parkway.

Free, confidential blood screenings are the most popular attraction at the event where participants can be tested for glucose (it is not necessary to fast before the test) and cholesterol levels.

Men can also receive a free PSA screening for prostate cancer. Hearing tests, chiropractic spinal exams, bone density tests and breast cancer information will also be available.

Other items of interest include healthy cooking ideas (and free samples) from Tops Friendly Markets Cooking School.

Upstate New York Transplant Services (UN-

YTS) will conduct a blood donation drive and representatives from many diverse health care organizations — from acupuncture to organic food nutrition — will be on hand to provide information.

Questions about medications? Members of the University at Buffalo Pharmacy School and the Pharmacists Association of WNY will be available to provide answers.

New York State's EPIC program will also have a representative on hand to answer questions about prescription drug coverage for seniors.

Organizing an event of this magnitude requires a great deal of planning and volunteer help. I am very grateful to the staff at Kaleida Health and the local health care providers who will be present at the Health Fair on Aug. 2. They are the ones who make the Family Health Fair the largest event of its kind in Erie County.

Thank you also goes out to the staff and many volunteers of the Amherst Senior Center who help provide logistical assistance throughout the day.

Please watch your mailbox and a future advertisement in The Amherst Bee which will explain in more detail all of the providers and health information that will be available to you at the Health Fair, absolutely free of charge.

Please note that it is not necessary to make a reservation, just pencil in time on your busy schedule from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2 I'll look forward to seeing you there.

In the meantime, please free to contact my local office at 634-1895 with any questions or concerns.



JAMES P. HAYES

New York State Assembly