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## Letters to the Editor - 5/18/2009

Published: May 18, 2009

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Don't give up

Editor: Regarding your May 13 story (At-risk students find dropping out just not worth it): Never surrender or quit, Mason Sauls!

My heart bled for the 16-year-old from Forest City High School after reading the article about him possibly dropping out of school.

As a past supervisor for a large utility company, I had the opportunity to hire summer help to meet workload demands. A few times I had to reject very favorable students because they had no high school diplomas, which were required.

As I read the story, I thought of Mason as a most energetic and ambitious student who was disgusted because he was the oldest student in his freshman class.

I don't look at Mason as the oldest student in his class but one who will be the smartest student because he doesn't surrender or quit. He will graduate. He will teach others how he did it.

MICHAEL CHOMKO

THORNHURST

Retain film credit

Editor: Recently, several misguided legislators have introduced three bills (HB 407, SB 262 and SB 652) that if passed, would destroy the film industry in Pennsylvania and eliminate thousands of jobs and state and local tax revenue. Why would anyone want to eliminate a program that has brought over \$300 million into the commonwealth from film and TV production companies?

The tax credit has directly and positively impacted regional economies by hiring Pennsylvania-based businesses and employees - allowing producers to thrive and stay in Pennsylvania while generating much-needed tax revenue for our local economy.

Please urge Rep. Ron Marsico, Sens. Patricia Vance and Jeffrey Piccola to keep the film tax-credit program because it works for Pennsylvania by providing high-paying jobs that positively impact regional economies like Scranton and Wilkes-Barre.

Times have changed in the film industry. With approximately 40 states offering competitive tax incentive programs, producers will simply go where it is most affordable for them to shoot. If the film tax credit program is eliminated or reduced, productions will leave the commonwealth and will take their high-paying jobs and million-dollar production budgets that are spent in our local stores, hotels, dry cleaners, car rental businesses, etc. to neighboring states with more attractive tax incentive programs.

In these tough economic times, I'm challenged every day to examine available programs offered by states in order to stretch dollars further. It is clear that Pennsylvania needs every advantage to compete nationwide with others.

SCOTT SPINUCCI

Wilkes-Barre

Moderate failures

Editor: Many say the Republican Party is losing popularity because it has moved too far to the right.

People with this view need to look at what has taken place over the last few years. They will find that Americans are fed up with moderate Republicans, not conservatives.

There is no doubt that the Republicans lost many seats in both the U.S. House and Senate during the 2006 and 2008 elections. What tends to get overlooked is that far more moderate Republicans lost their seats in those two elections than did conservatives. A good example is in the New England states where the Republicans lost nearly every race, but virtually all of their candidates were moderates.

The Republicans fell out of favor in 2006 as was reflected by the results of the 2006 and 2008 elections.

It is now obvious that the American people became disenchanted with the six-year run between the 2000 and 2006 elections when the Republican Party had more power than it had in decades by controlling the presidency, the U.S. Senate (for most of the period) and the U.S. House. In this period moderate Republicans with a few exceptions almost always gained the upper hand over the conservative Republicans in regards to the legislation passed. This can be revealed simply by looking at the federal budget, which averaged an annual increase of about \$100 billion during this period.

It is obvious that the George W. Bush administration was moderate, not conservative. This is evident by the large

increases in entitlement spending, education spending, farm subsidies and that the level of spending in most areas of the federal government went up.

During this six-year period the only really conservative action on the part of the Republicans was the approval of the appointments of Justices Samuel Alito and John Roberts to the Supreme Court.

To those who claim the party has moved so far to the right, I ask when did Republicans ever pass any really conservative legislation?

WILLIAM SPEARE

SCRANTON

Push convention

Editor: It is necessary to adjust our Pennsylvania government for the benefit of future generations. Throughout 75 years, the acknowledged wishes of citizens increasingly have been ignored, and this state's subtle corruptions, financial lobbies and wasteful neglect of our natural resources and open-space lands is well recognized.

Many people have never read the Pennsylvania Constitution. Otherwise, inadequate transportation, land use planning, population adjustments and crushing living costs would not control taxpayers.

From Article I, Declaration of Rights, "All power is inherent in the people. They have at all times... right to alter, reform or abolish their government..." However, this is not true since citizens are not allowed to force change or "redress" government, say through referendum, excepting two issues.

In addition, protecting the spirit and intent regarding elections and our natural resources is both distorted and misleading because of negative politics. Senate Bill 340 (was 1290) is stalled after passage late in 2008, and urgently needs your taxpayer recognition and support for Sen. Mike Folmer's "Citizen's Constitutional Convention" proposal.

ROBERT McLANE

Millersville

Lancaster County

One-way freeze

Editor: Just last week our government has come out with the news that more than 50 million people on Social Security will not receive any cost-of-living increase for the years 2010 or 2011. Just how do they know that prices will not go up?

Now does that mean that all consumer prices will go down or freeze for these two years? I don't think so. Why just last week the price of gasoline went up by 15 cents per gallon, and Memorial Day isn't even here yet.

Will the cost of medical insurance, hospital care, prescriptions, bread, milk, clothing, etc. be frozen until 2011? Will state, local, and school taxes stay the same through 2011? Will our elected state and federal officials also not

get a cost-of-living raise? I don't think so. You can bet that they will get their raises, one way or the other, and it won't be just 2 percent.

The article stated that COLA is intended to preserve the purchasing power of Social Security recipients by giving us increases to keep up with prices. So it looks like we have nothing to worry about. Everything will stay the same for the next two years. Dream on, brother.

ALBERT AUGUSTYN

Factoryville

Left out in COLA

Editor: Here we go again. No cost-of-living adjustment for people on Social Security in 2010 and 2011. Every time the powers that be want to cut expenses they hit the ones who need it most. Let them tighten their belts. Let them try to live on less than \$10,000 a year.

I got the 5.8 percent raise this year. All of the utilities raised rates. I have less left over than I had last year.

I hope all of the decision-makers sleep well tonight.

BEVERLY QUIMBY

OLD FORGE

Seniors to suffer

Editor: President Obama has stuck it to the seniors of this country under the guise of giving aid under the stimulus. He is giving Social Security recipients \$250 but there is projected to be no increase in the Social Security COLA for 2010 and 2011.

The stimulus will result in increased spending and the president will take credit for the stimulus working. But in the next two years, the elderly will suffer. Some beneficiaries will face increases in their Medicare Part B premiums.

WILLIAM NEFAK

OLYPHANT

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Mr. Cruciani,

Thanks for your kind words. I would hold that Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowicz, Hannity, O'Reilly are classic RWA (right wing authoritarians) as described by John Dean in his recent book "Conservatives Without Conscience."

[Report](#)

Sted, May 20 2009 - 1:38PM

Mr. Cruciani,

Ok, your defense of "conservatism" is commendable, and you've clearly done your homework. Darn liberal media had me foolishly using conservative and Republican interchangeably. I guess its unfortunate that a man like Dr. Ron Paul must run for Congress and for the Presidency as a Republican. Brings up the question of the efficacy of a third party. However, I also must ask if there is a difference between judicial conservatism and political conservatism? Some might say "a horse is a horse is a horse," but because judges typically claim to have an apolitical agenda, and politicians are always engaged in politics, they must be two different philosophies. Thus, I might be tempted to call your defense of political conservatism using judicial examples of conservative thought a non sequitur. However, for the sake of the message board, I won't do that.

[Report](#)

The Vipe, May 18 2009 - 10:02PM

"Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2009 to 2019

(CBO anticipates that the yearover-

year change in consumer prices for the third quarter

of 2009 will show a decline, which implies that next

year's cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security and

most other benefit programs will be zero.)"

[Report](#)

U NO HOO, May 18 2009 - 8:40PM

Dear Vince Cruciani, if...that...is...your...real...name, Korrect you are sir, Sarkasm, at my best.

[Report](#)

U NO HOO, May 18 2009 - 8:30PM

Mr. Cruciani,

Ok, your defense of "conservatism" is commendable, and you've clearly done your homework. Darn liberal media had me foolishly using conservative and Republican interchangeably. I guess its unfortunate that a man like Dr. Ron Paul must run for Congress and for the Presidency as a Republican. Brings up the question of the efficacy of a third party. However, I also must ask if there is a difference between judicial conservatism and political conservatism? Some might say "a horse is a horse is a horse," but because judges typically claim to have an apolitical agenda, and politicians are always engaged in politics, they must be two different philosophies. Thus, I might be tempted to call your defense of political conservatism using judicial examples of conservative thought a non sequitur. However, for the sake of the message board, I won't do that.

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The Vipe, May 18 2009 - 8:12PM

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Where you stuck in any holiday traffic this weekend?

- **Yes, it was a hassle**
- **No, I'm suprised**
- **No, I stayed local**

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