

FINGER LAKES TIMES

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"The First Amendment ensures that all points of view may be heard; it does not ensure that all points of view are equally likely to prevail."

— **Michael McConnell, U.S. appellate judge, 2006**
Community Media Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Geneva Postmaster went above and beyond

To the Editor:
With all of the negative news that surrounds us, I am extending a public thank you to our local Geneva Postmaster Vernon Ficcaglia and his staff, for a service does not get recognized that went beyond the call of duty.

One month ago, I sent a package to a destination with the wrong zip code but with a correct address and my return address. This package never reached the destination and began "looping" (a postal term that happens when mail is lost and may eventually get returned or into the "dead letter" bin.)

Mr. Ficcaglia tracked the item and found it was looping between two states over nine times and then was stuck in a state. He got the Consumer Affairs office involved and matters seemed hopeful, until another delay, causing him to get yet another Consumer Affairs office involved in our state.

I am truly grateful, not just for his diligence and reliability but that he cared enough as a professional. He could have chosen otherwise. His perseverance demonstrated a trait I feel is worthy of an "unsung hero" award. Thank you, Mr. Ficcaglia.

SARAH M. CAREY
Geneva

PY Rotary gearing up for Radio Day auction

To the Editor:
To our many friends:
It's that time again to thank everyone in the community for participating in Rotary's Radio Day. The Rotary Club of Penn Yan is holding its 48th annual Rotary Radio Day Auction on May 10 — we have moved back to spring from its traditional February date (same times, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) If you

want to stop by, we are planning a live remote WFLR radio broadcast at Milly's Pantry at 19 Main St., Penn Yan. All proceeds from this auction go toward helping fund Camp Onseyawa campers and other community service programs. Rotary also decided to offer auction items online beginning near the end of April at www.BiddingForGood.com/PennYanRotaryAuction.

We hope there will be the usual and much appreciated favorites donated by local business owners, but this year's listeners can also bid for trips to Cancun, arts festivals, wine tours, overnight accommodations during the summer wine tour season and specialty items. There is already a donated handcrafted cedar blanket chest. Rotary would like to thank our many donors and auction participants without whom the auction would not be possible. Remember to listen to WFLR, bid online and/or watch in Milly's Pantry window, on May 10 and call in your bids.

Camp Onseyawa is a camp for special needs children located near Ovid in Seneca Lake. This camp is also the Boy Scout Camp, Babcock Hovey. There were more than 100 campers last year that Rotary clubs provided tuition for. The Rotary Camp's stated mission is "to foster independence and acceptance of others through social, recreational and educational aspects of life."

For decades, the Rotary clubs in Yates, Ontario, Seneca and Wayne counties have supported this summer camp for children with special needs, making this camping experience available at no cost. Anyone who wants to support this great program is invited to check out the auction items and bid generously on May 10. Listen for details starting May 1.

More than 200 generous businesses helped in our fundraiser in 2013.

CAROL WORTH
Rotary Auction Chair
Penn Yan



The very first

Congratulations to staff at New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls for earning the American Chiropractic Association's inaugural Chiropractic College of the Year Award. Talk about setting a standard for everyone else to follow ...



Go Orange

Experts say March Madness could cost U.S. employers up to \$1.2 billion in lost productivity as workers turn their attention away from their jobs and toward their NCAA men's basketball brackets. But the games sure are fun to watch!

WILL

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invincibly ignorant of social science who disagrees with this:

The family is the primary transmitter of social capital — the values and character traits that enable people to seize opportunities. Family structure is a primary predictor of an individual's life chances, and family disintegration is the principal cause of the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

In the 1960s, as the civil rights movement dismantled barriers to opportunity, there began a social regression driven by the explosive growth of the number of children in single-parent families. This meant a continually renewed cohort of adolescent males from homes without fathers; this produced turbulent neighborhoods and schools where the task of maintaining discipline eclipsed that of instruction.

In the mid-1960s, Moynihan noted something ominous that came to be called "Moynihan's scissors." Two lines on a graph crossed, replicating a scissors' blades. The descending line depicted the decline in the minority — then overwhelmingly black — male unemployment rate. The ascending line depicted the simultaneous rise of new welfare cases.

The broken correlation of improvements in employment and decreased welfare dependency was not just bewildering, it was frightening. Policymakers had long held a serene faith in social salvation through better economic incentives and fewer barriers to individual initiative. The possibility that the decisive factors are not economic but cultural — habits, mores, customs — was dismaying

because it is easier for government to alter incentives and remove barriers than to alter culture. The assumption that the condition of the poor must improve as macroeconomic conditions — which government thinks it can manipulate — improve is refuted by the importance of family structure.

To say that poverty can be self-perpetuating is not to say, and Ryan did not say, that poverty is caused by irremediable attributes that are finally the fault of the poor. It is, however, to define the challenge, which is to acculturate those unacquainted with the culture of work to the disciplines and satisfactions of this culture.

Nicholas Eberstadt, an economist and demographer, notes that "labor force participation ratios for men in the prime of life are demonstrably lower in America than in Europe" and "a large part of the jobs problem for American men today is that of not wanting one." Surely the fact that means-tested entitlement dependency has been destigmatized has something to do with what Eberstadt terms the "unprecedented exit from gainful work by adult men."

Next March, serious people will be wondering why the problem Moynihan articulated half a century earlier has become so much worse while so much else — including the astonishingly rapid receding of racism and discrimination — has become so much better. One reason is what Moynihan called "the leakage of reality from American life." Judging by the blend of malice, ignorance and intellectual sloth in the left's reaction to Ryan's unexceptionable remarks, the leak has become, among some factions, a cataract.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

HERREN

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were placed at even higher and more important levels.

Bill's expertise and skill set were of a broad-scope dimension, covering a multitude of talents ranging from hands-on mechanical aptitudes, electronic-engine analysis and computer systems, to diagnostic research and other family interests.

He and others worked diligently with our Ontario County Traffic Safety Board to obtain and carry out New York state grants for conducting some 100 "Sharing the Road" programs for area adult classes and high school students, all directed toward sensible and responsible operation of vehicles, particularly motorcycles.

He helped to arrange, coordinate and conduct local and multi-county legislative and/or safety forums encompassing (since 1995) the state Governor's Traffic Safety Board and the N-E regional (16 states) Motorcyclists Conference held in Canandaigua in 2004.

He was also involved in monthly sessions with Western NYS-ABATE members whose Ontario County chapter grew to over 200 while capturing the state's annual competitive Biker Rider Trophy for 13 consecutive years; public showings of motorcycle-related safety equipment and audio-visual presenta-

tions at Canandaigua Inn on the Lake, and two decades of integrated media coverage drawing attention to Motorcycle Safety Awareness Season.

Roadside temporary placement of signage over this western Finger Lakes regional 12-county network resulted in enhanced awareness of practicing better driving techniques and habits while saving lives, preventing injuries and staving off family tragedies. What began as a core group of only five counties in 2012, has now expanded to 22 in just two years — remarkable progress carried out mostly by volunteers.

Bill's name was synonymous with ethical conduct, common sense, clean humor, hard work, confidence and a passion for doing the absolute best in what you do; both as a mentor and tutor for those in all walks of life, all ranks of humanity, all ages, all interests. Notably, he kindled the conscience of decision-makers in choosing between right and wrong, fairness and bias, good and bad.

His endeavors have left an indelible mark on several generations and, while unwittingly, on each and every motor vehicle operator and passenger traveling anywhere, anytime. Uncounted friends and fellow motorcyclists, including my wife, Carin, and our three sons, truly benefited from nearly a quarter-century of trust and affiliation with Bill Cox, and can be openly proud to have had that once-in-a-lifetime experience.

George Herren lives in Canandaigua.

REYNOLDS

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removed from the bar. Maybe they should be put on the menu? Something was needed to fill out the dish. A second bolt of inspiration struck: celery and blue cheese dressing. The creaminess of blue cheese and coolness of celery would complement the spice of the sauce and the richness of the fried meat. The basic formula was set: an unbreaded chicken wing, cut in half, coated in a mixture of pepper-vinegar sauce and butter, served with celery and blue cheese.

Business boomed. The Anchor Bar expanded. Others wanted in. Dom Zanghi, a friend of the Bellissimos, recalled that in the 1960s local restaurant owners would sidle up to him, naked, in the steam rooms of downtown

Buffalo, offering to bribe him for the recipe.

The secret got out ... or the code was cracked. Either way, by 1969 Duff's — now the second biggest name in wings, then a run-of-the-mill diner — began selling its own version of wings (that is how they are known locally, by the way: "wings." Never "Buffalo wings" or "chicken wings"). LaNova Pizza soon followed, establishing the dual precedents of pizzerias carrying wings and of wings as an item to be delivered to your home.

The craze pushed east to Rochester, Syracuse and beyond.

"Wings arrived one summer," recalled a restaurateur in the Adirondacks. "By the next summer, every place had to have them." By the early 1980s, practically every upstate New York bar served wings. And the New York diaspora would soon bring them to towns across the country via startups such as J.R.

Crickets and Buffalo Wild Wings.

By the 1990s, chains including Pizza Hut (supplied by LaNova) and Buffalo Wild Wings, now with locations in every state, brought them to every remaining corner of the country (and for the first time to national TV sets via their ads). The wing became THE snack food for watching American sports, especially football. (Why is this? A journalist and I recently discussed this at length without reaching a satisfying conclusion but coming up with dozens of satisfying theories: the macho nature of eating ever hotter sauce; the fact that wings are good hot, cold and in-between; the macho nature of eating meat off a bone.)

American borders could not contain the wing and today you can eat them in Bangladesh, Russia, Africa and China. Here's a startling idea: Some experts think hot wings are the FIRST purely American food to have spread around the

world, since hot dogs, hamburgers, apple pie, and other foods we think of as quintessentially American, have roots abroad.

So, on the 50th anniversary of its birth, let us praise the Buffalo chicken wing.

And if you have a chance this month, lift one to your nose and take a whiff. What does it smell like? Hot sauce? Butter? America?

Postscript: What does Sicily have to do with this? Hot sauce was a staple ingredient in the kitchen of the Bellissimos because they were from Sicily. Italian cuisine, for the most part, is not spicy. Sicilian cuisine is.

Originally from Lyons and a former Finger Lakes Times reporter, Matt Reynolds is the director of "The Great Chicken Wing Hunt," a documentary comedy about Buffalo wings currently in select theaters and available on Hulu, iTunes and other VOD sites.

Make yourself heard

Here are the local addresses, phone numbers and websites of federal and state representatives who serve the Times' readership area. The best way to contact representatives is by going to their individual websites and clicking on Contact for further directions.

President

Barack Obama

Democrat
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Phone: (202) 456-1111
Fax: (202) 456-2461
Website: www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Governor

Andrew Cuomo

Democrat
State Capitol
Albany NY 12224
Phone: (518) 474-8390
Website: www.state.ny.us/governor

U.S. Senate

Charles E. Schumer

Democrat
Website: <http://schumer.senate.gov>

100 State St., Room 3040
Rochester, NY 14614
Phone: (585) 263-5866
Fax: (585) 263-3173

Kirsten Gillibrand

Democrat
Website: www.gillibrand.senate.gov

100 State St., Room 4195
Rochester, NY 14614
Phone: (585) 263-6250
Fax: (585) 263-6247

478 Russell
Washington, DC 20510
Tel. (202) 224-4451
Fax (202) 228-0282

House of Representatives

Tom Reed

23rd Congressional District
Republican
433 Exchange St. Geneva, NY 14456
Phone: 759-5229
Fax: 325-4045
1504 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3161
Fax: (202) 226-6599
Website: reed.house.gov
Includes Yates County, Seneca County, eastern Ontario County (including

Geneva) and much of the Southern Tier.

Dan Maffei

24th Congressional District
Democrat
30 Dill St., Auburn, NY 13021
Phone: 253-4176
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3701
Website: maffei.house.gov
Includes all of Wayne County and the Syracuse area.

State Senate

Tom O'Mara

58th State Senate District
Republican
105 E. Steuben St.
Bath, NY 14810
Phone: (607) 776-3201
Fax: (607) 776-5185
Website: www.nyssenate.gov/senator/thomas-fomara
Includes Yates, Steuben, Schuyler and Chemung counties, plus part of Tompkins County.

Michael F. Nozzolio

54th State Senate District
Republican
119 Fall St.
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Phone: (888) 568-9816
Fax: 568-2090
Website: www.senatornozzolio.com
Includes all of Seneca and Wayne counties, part of Ontario County (including Geneva and Canandaigua) and part of Cayuga County.

State Assembly

Robert C. Oaks

130th Assembly District
Republican
10 Leach Road
Lyons, NY 14489
Phone: 946-5166
E-mail: oaksr@assem.bly.state.ny.us
Includes all of Wayne County and part of Cayuga County.

Philip Palmesano

132nd Assembly District
Republican
105 E. Steuben St.
Bath, NY 14810
Phone: (607) 776-9691

E-mail: palmesano@assembly.state.ny.us
Includes Yates and Schuyler counties, Romulus and south in Seneca County and parts of Steuben and Chemung counties.

Brian M. Kolb

131st Assembly District
Republican
607 W. Washington St.
Suite 2
Geneva, NY 14456
Phone: 781-2030
E-mail: kolbb@

E-mail your letters!

Letters to the Editor and other opinion page content should be sent to opinion@fltimes.com.