

OPINION

LETTERS POLICY

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READER VIEW | RICHARD B. HINKLEY

Einstein's words hold true today

Success in life is a group endeavor. The group may be a family. In the successful family, the members empower and support each other.

A larger group is your community. In the community, you keep informed by buying the local paper and by buying local to contribute to the vibrancy of that community.

These groups you belong to by the accident of birth. Private enterprise is different in that you have to bring something to the table just to become part of the enterprise.

What you bring are your academic learning, your experiences and the emotional intelligence learned in school, experienced in community and nurtured in family. But once part of the working unit it is the group's success that your endeavors are to contribute to.

Companies move to areas for different reasons. But you can bet that they look at the infrastructure to be in place.

Not just a good education system, but also roads, sewer systems, power lines, water systems etc. These may be systems we take for granted because they are buried under our feet or strung over our heads.

However, companies know that their success is dependent on the resources being available in the chosen community.

This is all part of the

symbiotic relation between people, families, community and business.

The Republicans would have us believe that none of this matters. That it is individual hard work and focus alone that creates success. That successful people do it on their own and deserve everything they can accumulate. This is the ultimate narcissistic statement.

Albert Einstein in 1949 for the inaugural issue of the magazine the "Monthly Review" argued that 'unrestrained capitalism produced great disparities of wealth, cycles of boom and depression, and festering levels of unemployment. The system encourages selfishness instead of cooperation, and acquiring wealth rather than serving others. People are educated for careers rather than a love of work and creativity. And political parties become corrupted by political contributions from owners of great capital.'

To me this sounds like our situation today and what the Republican Party would have us buy into.

As a nation, is this how we want to define ourselves? Is this how you want to define yourself? Is this the way you want the nation to work? This is not how I can define myself! You see, both I and my communities help each other with success.

Richard B. Hinkley is a resident of Corning.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Romney should be embarrassed

To the editor | My family came to this country as English immigrants. They obtained jobs and become part of the working class of our country. The working class people that built this country.

When times of war came, we proudly served in our country's military. My youngest son joined our United States Navy last year to serve as his many family members had done through the generations. Every day, many families sacrifice to serve this country with pride. At my son's graduation from boot camp, I learned that only 7 percent of the country serve in today's armed services.

I believe, as I'm sure many do, that there is no greater honor than to serve our country. I know many families who spent many sleepless nights worrying about their loved ones who were stationed overseas in times of war.

I've had the pleasure of coaching young men and women in sports throughout the years. Many of them have went on to serve in our military. Some of

them have never returned, others have. They suffered both physical and emotional scars that will remain with them the rest of their lives, but they still remain proud of their service to this country.

To them and their families, we all owe them a debt of gratitude. I thank you all.

To Mr. Romney, your recent comments in regards to the proud servicemen and women who sacrifice daily, that they don't pay federal income tax. You should be embarrassed, they pay every day, some with their lives. When was the last time Mr. Romney, you spent a sleepless night worrying about a loved one serving our country? Whatever happened to, by the people, for the people? To all who read this letter, I ask that you truly do some soul-searching and ask yourselves, is this someone I want leading our country.

A man once told me if it's a mile into the woods, it's a mile out of the woods.

Unfortunately, the problems we have in this country weren't created in fours, we can't expect them to be solved in four years.

Samuel W. Share
Corning

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POLITICS | SEN. TOM O'MARA

Recharge provides economic spark

Here's the difference a state investment can make to help spark a turnaround in the upstate economy.

Late last week I joined other local and state officials at the Anchor Glass Container production facility in Elmira Heights, a century-old glass container manufacturer that turns out approximately three million bottles a day for companies across the nation including The Boston Beer Company, Mike's Hard Lemonade Co., F.X. Matt, Mott's and others.

As you can imagine, producing millions of glass bottles daily requires quite a current of electricity, and that's where a New York State investment called ReCharge NY (RNY) makes such a difference in our local economy.

Some of you might be wondering, What exactly is ReCharge NY?

Briefly, it's an economic development power initiative established by

Governor Andrew Cuomo and the Legislature last year to provide low-cost electricity to businesses and manufacturers locally and statewide.

Previously known as Power for Jobs, the reconstituted program now known as ReCharge NY has long been seen by many upstate legislators as critical to giving current and prospective manufacturers the long-term certainty and stability needed to attract them and the jobs they create to the upstate region.

The difference ReCharge NY makes to businesses, industries and manufacturers locally and statewide was stated this way last week by long-time Anchor Glass



TOM O'MARA

General Manager Mike Sopp, "This year, we celebrated our 100th year of operation at this plant and without [ReCharge NY], we may not have been able to reach that milestone. This has given us the ability now to compete in the market, but then by the savings, we've more than reinvested the savings back into the facility."

And that's the underlying mission of the RNY program: to encourage job creation and retention, and reinvestment in local economies. The specific reason we gathered at Anchor Glass last Tuesday was to announce that the company is receiving 6.6 megawatts in low-cost electricity through the RNY program that will allow it to retain 340 jobs and reinvest \$37.2 million in its facility.

In other words, this economic development power program is vital to preserving jobs and promoting economic growth and stability here in the Southern Tier and throughout upstate. Manufacturing plants in particular depend on this lower-cost energy to create and keep jobs, become more cost effective and, especially, stay competitive with manufacturers in surrounding states and globally. With nothing but higher energy costs on the horizon, RNY gives employers the long-term economic stability

they need and strengthens the state's overall business climate.

Through the RNY program, Anchor Glass is able to not only retain its 340 employees, but also reinvest in its Chemung County facility. When the program was created in 2011, it was estimated that the state's economic development power initiatives had helped sustain upwards of 250,000 in-state jobs at approximately 500 businesses and non-profit organizations in New York. Supporters of ReCharge NY believed the new program could help revitalize the manufacturing sector of New York's economy, a sector which has lost 288,000 jobs over the past decade.

Since 2011, the RNY program has allocated lower-cost power to numerous businesses, industries and other enterprises that, in turn, have committed to retaining more than 33,000 jobs across the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions alone.

You can find a full listing and other ReCharge NY information on my Senate website, www.omara.ny-senate.gov.

Governor Cuomo said last week, "Electricity costs are an important factor that businesses take into account when looking to expand and make new investments. The ReCharge NY program has given businesses and other enterprises across New York long-term certainty of stable electricity rate so they have the confidence they need to retain and create jobs. These investments at Anchor Glass demonstrate the state's new approach to improve our business climate, create jobs, and grow the economy."

Electric rates for businesses in New York are twice as high as rates in other states. Consequently, the creation of ReCharge NY was supported by numerous groups including the New York Farm Bureau, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Manufacturers Association of

Central New York, Environmental Advocates, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership and the Business Council of New York State.

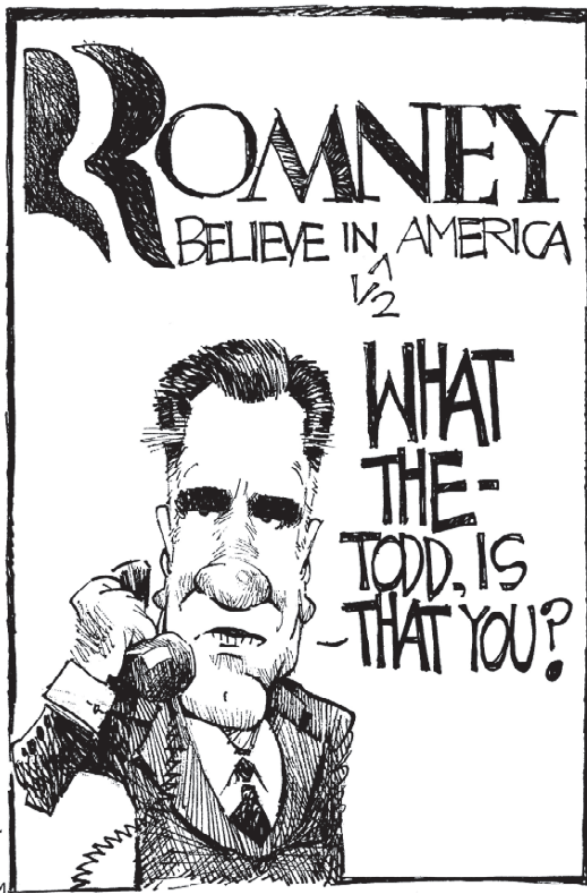
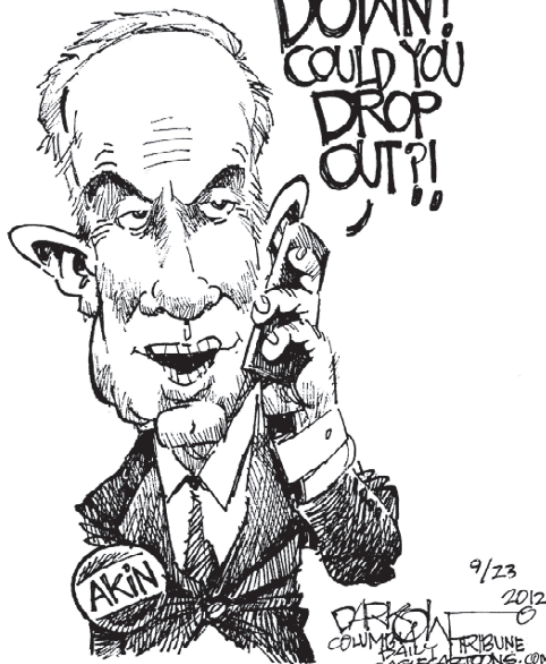
Speaking of the Business Council, I'll take this opportunity, on behalf of our entire region, to express our collective congratulations to Kirk P. Gregg, chief administrative officer of Corning Incorporated. At the Business Council's Annual Meeting last week, Kirk was awarded the 2012 Corning Award for Excellence, the Council's most prestigious award presented annually to a New Yorker who "has shown outstanding accomplishment and a deep and sustained commitment to the people of New York."

What a great tribute to Kirk, who represents the ever best of the Corning Incorporated mission - commitment to community, a unparalleled dedication to excellence and quality, and a fundamental mission to keep our state and our nation at the cutting edge of the 21st century economy. The Business Council couldn't have chosen a better representative of all that the Corning Award for Excellence is meant to honor.

Tom O'Mara is a Republican state senator from Big Flats.

ANOTHER VIEW

YOUR CAMPAIGN IS GETTING EMBARRASSING AND YOU'RE DRAGGING ME DOWN! COULD YOU DROP OUT?!



OTHER VIEW | KANSAS CITY STAR

Discipline the leaders of 'Fast and Furious'

The "Fast and Furious" project designed to track U.S. firearms given illegally to Mexican drug cartels was a dismal failure. Why did anyone ever think this would be a good way to halt killings by the cartels and to nab drug lords?

As we noted several months ago, the best way to deal with this controversy was to insist on a complete, thorough airing of how the effort went awry - and how almost 2,000 weapons wound up

in the hands of criminals.

A new, 512-page report by Justice Department investigators provides sobering answers and withering criticisms. Many are aimed at Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives officials who were involved in Fast and Furious and in a similar operation begun during the Bush administration.

Oversight was poor. Strategies were muddled. Judgment errors

were made. Misleading statements were given to Congress.

The Justice Department report should lead to discipline that includes dismissals.

The congressional investigation earlier this year into what went wrong also had its low points, especially the politically tinged and unprecedented vote by House Republicans to cite an attorney general for contempt.

Despite calls by the GOP for the resignation of Attorney General Eric Holder, the new report concludes he did not authorize the flawed tactics that doomed Fast and Furious, and notes he has taken good steps to repair the damage.

But that's small comfort to Americans. This was a regrettable, bungled project, the likes of which must never be repeated.