

Editorials

Making the best decision

The state seems to be leaning away from the Domes as the site for the new prison because its estimated cost of preparing the site is too high. At the same time, however, an official held out hope Monday the state may find another way to take over the Domes.

Assemblyman George H. Winner said Tuesday that state has estimated it will cost \$10 million to prepare the Domes site for a new prison. That is 20 times what Elmira officials estimated the work would cost. State Sen. William T. Smith said state officials estimate the top seven feet of earth at the site would have to be removed and replaced with gravel as the existing soils at the site are unstable.

Granted the difference between state and local estimates is huge, but perhaps state officials are including construction requirements we aren't aware of. If the state really would have to spend that much to build the prison at the Domes site, perhaps it would be better built elsewhere.

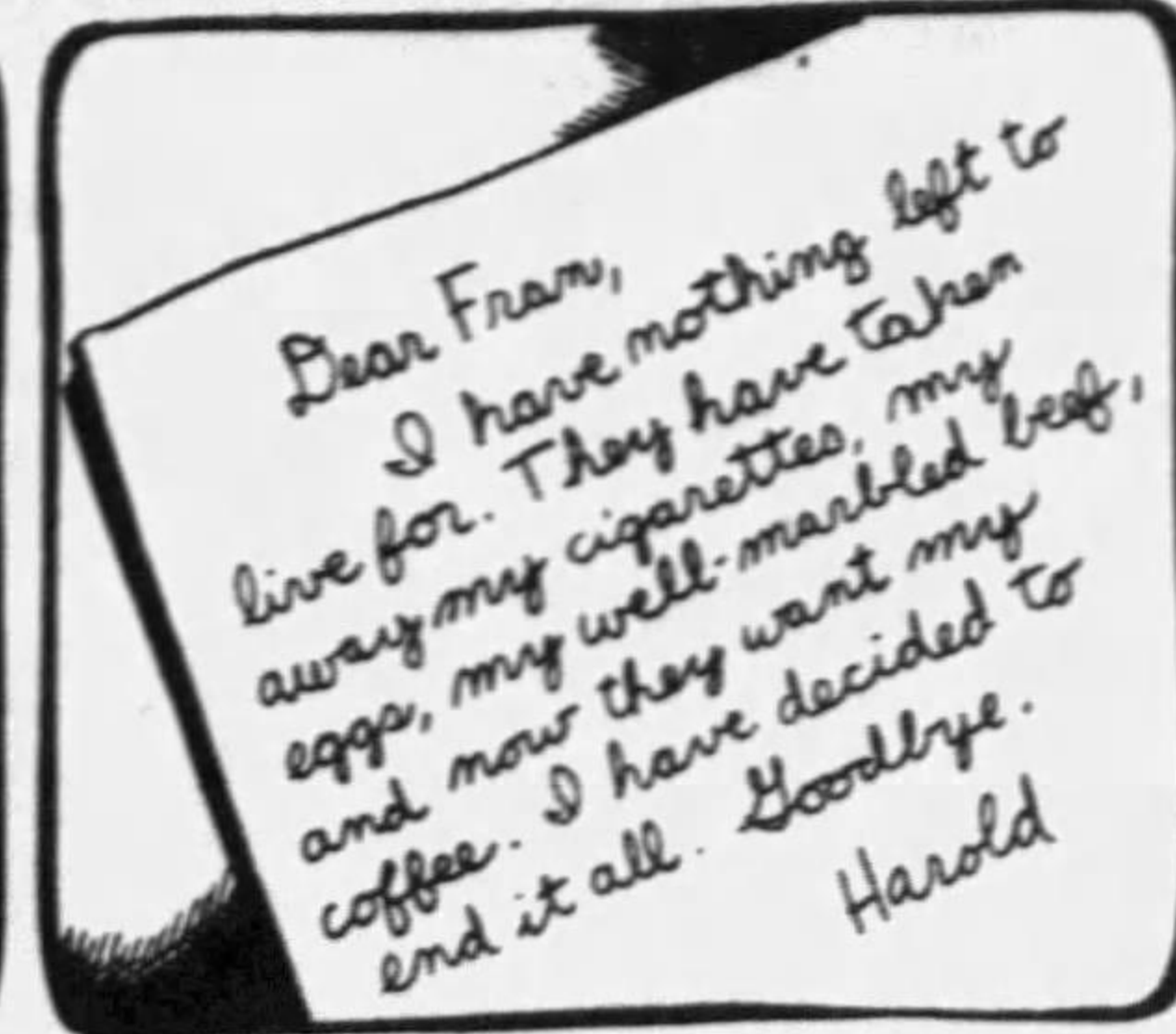
State Criminal Justice Coordinator Lawrence Kurlander said that even if an-

other prison site is chosen, the state may still take over the Domes. It might be used by prison industries, the Department of Transportation or for recreational purposes. "The governor is very eager to help Elmira with its economic development problems," Kurlander said.

Freeing Elmira College of the Domes would erase the \$2.8 million the college still owes on the construction and lift a \$600,000-a-year operations cost. In turn, that would permit the college to increase activities near the downtown campus, including a greater use of the proposed sports arena. The college has said its hockey team would play there.

We have supported the Domes site since early in the controversy but we are willing to listen to other persuasive arguments.

If the state will assure us of a solution to the Domes problem while building a new prison on another site, we very much want to listen. We urge the governor to act in the best interest of the entire community, whatever the decision.



Let's hear it!

Some like it; some hate it. We'd like to know what you think about the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce proposal to rename East Church Street as Mark Twain Boulevard.

The chamber's board of directors has asked the Elmira City Council to consider the change as a way to lure tourists into the city. The concept is that labeling the exit on Route 17 with Twain's name will attract more tourists. Mayor Stephen

Fesh said he would put the proposal on the Nov. 27 City Council agenda.

But the real power lies, as always, in the hands of the people. Some may already have suggestions on how to improve the proposal or other ideas to offer on development. In either case, we'd like to hear your suggestions. And to make it easier, we have included a write-in ballot for your convenience on today's local page. What do you think?

Letters

'Brain dead' hurt progress

To the Editor:

The past few months in Elmira should have enlightened many of us to the fact that Elmira is not dead, but the majority of the population is dead from the head up.

Take for example the public workshop where the Ad Hoc committee for the development of a Hockey Arena met to inform the public about on going progress with King Ice Enterprises. Many acted as though they were thieves or in some way trying to rip us off. Others complained about parking problems which exist only at the welfare office. Some complained about the addition of parking meters while we seem to have hundreds already in place in front of empty stores.

Those who complain other times about empty stores and vacant lots were upset with the idea of building new buildings and filling vacant lots. While most of the people were blaming city hall for chasing away business, at this meeting they were suggesting this man drop his \$5.5 million dollars in a vacant field in Big Flats.

Wouldn't it be great if Elmira experienced enough growth to suffer from traffic congestion?

We came close to chasing CTI out of Elmira with our accusations. Council worked real hard to get them here but we

never thought to say thanks to them or CTI.

We accuse our mayor of being "on the take" for being willing to invest his money in a new enterprise, so that he backs out as an investor. But if he wasn't willing to personally take a risk, we would accuse him of trying to sell us something he didn't believe in.

No, city hall's not Elmira's problem. Our problems are the "walking, talking, Brain Dead" who are afraid of progress. Many of which are afraid that they'll have to go back to work for a living and lose their position on the gravy train.

As long as our Department of Social Services passes out free rent and free food, they'll strip these people of life's greatest motivator—hunger. The only hungry people in our community are the working poor. Those who get up to go to work six or seven days a week to feed two or three families.

Thank you, King Ice. Thank you National Vitamin. Thank you CTI. And thank you Steve Fesh and your team. Thank you to each and every one of you for your faith and effort in bringing life back to Elmira, even against such opposition.

RAYMOND S. BAKER
GREYSTONE DEVELOPMENT CO.
80 Demarest Parkway

Site choice questioned

To the Editor:

In regards to your Nov. 14 Star-Gazette article on the proposed prison site; I fail to understand how our county site selection committee reached its decision.

Is there so much pressure from the college to bail it out of a bad debt, that the committee has overlooked the basic reason for having a prison here?

The real reason, I thought, was to boost the economy of Elmira and vicinity. What I would ask of the committee is that each member state their individual views of the advantages and disadvantages to our community of each proposed site. How each site would benefit schooling, shopping and housing in the Elmira area. And be realistic; don't try to tell us that employees at the prison are going to buy homes in Elmira, or shop in Elmira, or send their children to Elmira schools if the prison is situated on the Domes site. It's just too far out - as the college has found out.

I'm angry, very angry, and I think many more citizens feel the same, but fail to see what they can do about this kind of thing. I can only hope that other citizens will let the committee know that they do care about helping this wonderful city of ours. When a chance like this comes along, make the most of it. We, the people, are more important than one single institution. To all on the committee, give us reasons for your decision. And take into consideration the opposition of citizens that helped elect you. Give us an accounting of your actions on this. We deserve it! Elmira needs it!

MIMI RICHEY
Dutch Hill Road
Pine City

New group supported

To the Editor:

I was indeed very gratified to read about Mr. Joseph S. Pierce and other area businessmen coming together to form "Images," as a way of enhancing the image of our beautiful

area. I wish them God's speed in all of their endeavors. Gentlemen: You have my wholehearted vote of confidence.

PENELOPE PATROS
705 Riverside Avenue

DART for doctors story

To the Editor:

I think your stories about Drs. Abeyatunge and Anastasiu deserve a DART. From your articles it would appear that further investigation and trial of these two doctors is unnecessary. It seems that the newspaper has already tried and convicted them.

I think it was unfortunate, and perhaps not all your fault, that your readers got only one side of the story. The published one cited accusations, charges and a supposed chronology of events that had the obvious net effect of casting doubt on the character and ability of those two doctors. The problem seems to be that the "system" leaves the doctors defenseless against this type of attack. Apparently their legal counsels have told both of them to say nothing in public. It seems that they must respond to open pub-

lic attack in the relative privacy of the legal review procedures.

I think the slant of your articles was not sufficiently sensitive to this dilemma. I think you left the impression that since the doctors did not defend themselves in public, then the accusations were fact.

Both doctors are respected citizens in their community. Both are reputed to be good doctors who have probably treated thousands of people without complaint. I think that both are deserving of better than they got from the newspaper. I hope that both doctors are exonerated and the newspaper receive a LAUREL by giving that exonerated as much coverage as it gave the accusations.

ROCCO F. FRAGOLA
342 Summit Avenue
Watkins Glen

Coverage does disservice

To the Editor:

The Star-Gazette claims to "...serve the Twin Tiers" yet I believe your paper has done an unpardonable disservice to me and my community through your coverage of the alleged malpractice of two Schuyler County physicians.

Even murderers and rapists are guaranteed a fair trial in this country, yet your reporter has violated every right these two professionals have to anonymity, thereby biasing any and all who read your paper. The report mentioned in your article was most probably confidential - the physicians were given aliases for a reason - ie. just in case the allegations are false. Your journalism better suits the National Enquirer, I would think.

I don't have all the facts at hand, and neither was I present during the occasion in question. I do know that my husband and I have received excellent medical attention for a number of years from both physicians. I am sure that we are not alone in the hope that both men come out of this unblemished. Our community has been fortunate to have their services. I can only hope that they continue to provide them to us after what amounts to this defamation of character. Needless to say, I also hope that your paper gives equal coverage of the outcome of this suit.

KAREN CARPENTER MARTIN
319 Speedway
Odessa

'Twain Blvd. stupid idea'

To the Editor:

I think changing the name of East Church Street to Mark Twain Blvd. is a stupid idea.

First of all, Elmira has just about milked this Mark Twain thing for all it's worth. We have a couple of hotels, a road, performing arts center, antique store, golf course, travel agency and a restaurant all named for Mark Twain or his works. Let's quit beating a dead horse.

Secondly, if we want tourists to come into the area, why not make the names of streets the same the whole length of the street? Example: If you want to go down College Avenue all the way, you have to go down College Avenue and Park Place, then take a right, then a left to get back onto College Avenue. Depending on where you want to go on College Avenue, you might even have to go down North Main Street first. (I thought that was one way!) Boy, am I confused now. Also, we could direct tourists to the Clemens Center Parkway and

let them drive up and down that to see all the beautiful sights of Elmira (Ha!)

Come on, Elmira, let's get with the program. Let's work on rebuilding downtown, no changing the name of East Church Street. If there is nothing for the tourists to see here, they won't come in on East Church Street, Mark Twain Blvd. or any other street.

WALTER J. KENT
1882 W. Water St.

STAR-GAZETTE

Member of the Gannett Group

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Rock lyrics no joke to some parents

In the editorial on "censoring rock lyrics," your paper states that Congress has more important things to deal with than the effects of rock music on young people.

Richard Lynough in a "Your Turn" column on the same page referred to it all as "a big joke." He considers those concerned with rock lyrics as "obviously naive."

Evidently, neither Mr. Lynough nor the Star-Gazette editorial writer have ever dealt with desperate parents whose children are the victims of this murder music.

To those parents, it's not a joke. Watching their own teen-age children being destroyed by drugs, alcohol, crime, abortion and running away is far from a joke.

Last year over 6,000 teen-agers killed themselves. If Mr. Lynough were to suggest to their parents as they wept at their child's casket that it was a joke, I'm sure he would be set straight in a hurry.

Here at Freedom Village we have dealt with literally hundreds of young people who have been nearly destroyed by this music. To them, it's no joke!

I guarantee I could find hundreds of thousands of parents who would dispute the editorial writer's opinion that tax reform and farm programs are more important than watching their children's lives being destroyed.

No matter what the problems that brought these kids here, they all have heavy involvement in rock music in common.

I'm afraid Mr. Lynough is the one who's naive. His problem is simple ... he likes rock music and will go to any extent to defend it.

But how do you defend songs like the one by W.A.S.P. (We Are Sexual Perverts), entitled, "Animal, (expletive) Like a Beast."

How can Mr. Lynough refer to songs advocating and promoting incest, killing your parents, suicide, oral sex, homosexuality, sex with animals, sex with a corpse, demon possession and making plaster replicas of rock stars genitals as "art?"

Your Turn

Pastor Fletcher Brothers



It's not even close to art. Now who is really naive?

Mr. Lynough asks, "Why do people run to the federal government to seek strong-arm legislation which infringes upon First Amendment principles?"

Here Mr. Lynough proves his lack of knowledge on the subject.

Number one, no one is seeking legislation. It's already there. It's against the law to use profanity over the air waves or in print. Proof: (Animal Like a Beast). See, this paper can't even print the song title.

Number two, while many today run to the First Amendment as their defense, the First Amendment was never designed to be a license to curse and swear over public airwaves. Nor was it designed to give people freedom to advocate and promote that which is illegal (i.e., drugs, murder, incest, etc.). Talk about naive!

The major problem today is people just don't have any idea how vile, wicked, Satanic and depraved this garbage has gotten.

Many believe, as Mr. Lynough states, that rock music has a "comparatively harmless-effective impact." If only he weren't so naive!

You need to know the brutal truth. We have prepared an extensive Rock Music Report. You need this information. If you would like one of these free reports, write us at Freedom Village, USA, Lakemont, NY 14857.

Don't you be naive too!

Pastor Brothers is founder/director of Freedom Village, U.S.A. in Yates County.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

