

YOUR OPINION

Management misstated the motives of Eger employees' union organizers

We all should take a look at our city and state government and health-care jobs. Most of us are either married to a union member or have relatives or friends who belong to a union. Without unions, workers would not have as many benefits, safe working conditions, and most important, decent union contracts to support our families in this economy. As workers we realize that the only way to protect our benefits and our jobs from the whims of the employer is a union contract.

Most of us have been employed by Eger Health Care Facility for many, many years. We have all seen many changes, especially when it comes to the employee handbook and Eger policies. Every day is an adventure with the policies. We witnessed these changes this past spring when Eger implemented its own budget cuts.

We are aware of the economic crises facing our state and our nation. Long before the final budget cuts were approved, all Eger employees received letters stating that Eger "will suffer a loss of over \$2 million ... no matter how the final budget plays out." Rather than applying all the cuts equally, the uniformed laborers lost three additional benefits: Time-and-a-half for holidays, uniform allowance and shift differential.

The writers of the previous letters in the Advance on July 30 and 31, are from the offices of Eger administration and nursing management.

These representatives of Eger administration would have your readers believe that the understaffing problem at Eger is caused by uniformed workers calling in sick. This statement is grossly misleading and does not address the fact that Eger management makes up the schedule without any input from employees. Many of us have come to work in spite of being ill for fear of being written up, even though we have earned sick time on the books.

Another letter published in the Advance stated that the supporters of the union were not dedicated and abused the work rules of Eger. We refuse to be put in the category of non-dedicated workers who abuse the facility's work rules.

We are very conscientious workers who have a deep commitment to our jobs and the residents who live at Eger. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work at Eger. As health-care providers, we will continue to give the best treatment possible and always strive to maintain the highest standard of quality care.

IGGY MOY-HING, Port Richmond
FABIENNE JOSEPHS, St. George
NANCY ERWOOD, Great Kills
SUSAN CAMPBELL, Westerleigh
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[The writers are members of the Eger Employees Organizing Committee.]

Cammarata appointment raises many questions

What does Borough President Guy Molinari's appointment of Jerry Cammarata to the New York City Board of Education tell us about Guy Molinari? We certainly know enough about Jerry Cammarata. He is very visible, controversial and pugnacious

member of the Staten Island School Board.

From his early days at New Dorp High School where he was labeled a "real character" by his fellow students ... to his recent confrontations on the School Board where he instigated one of the most divisive situations ever confronting Staten Island parents and educators ... he has been known for seeking the limelight.

Who hasn't heard of his escapades with regard to breaking records: for singing in a bathtub being pulled along by a truck, for eating the most doughnuts in the least amount of time, for collecting the most telephone books, etc.?

Frustrated in his attempts to become an actor, Cammarata turned to more traditional endeavors and became involved in teaching. No sooner, encoined as a speech therapist, he petitioned the New York City Board of Education for paternity leave.

His tenure on the Staten Island Board of Education has been filled with attempts to cause disruption, for example, his effort to oust the then chairwoman, Lilian Popp from her position. He later had to withdraw his motion.

In 1993, he was discovered carrying a gun into Eger Intermediate School during the counting of ballots.

Can anyone attest to Mr. Cammarata's stability, to his placing the interests of Staten Island's children above his own? Certainly, no one can answer that question in the affirmative based on Mr. Cammarata's record.

Then we must question Guy Molinari's judgment in appointing such a controversial person. We can readily understand his motives.

He believes Staten Islanders are conservative, looking for conservative appointees and Mr. Molinari is looking ahead to his bid for the district attorney's position. Could he not have appointed someone more qualified, more experienced and less argumentative?

This brings us to the question --- can we trust Mr. Molinari to be an unemotional, rational, fair-minded district attorney?

CATHERINE POLTRONIERI
Oakwood

Many Islanders wasting water despite drain on reservoirs

As most of us know, we have a severe drain on our reservoirs after the driest August on record.

However, there are those among us who still don't know this fact.

Therefore, I wonder whether you could publish this letter for the benefit of those who still water their lawns, wash their cars, wash off their sidewalks and otherwise waste water. In my neighborhood there are quite a few such individuals who do this daily with impunity, despite my entreaties.

Also, at this late stage in the calendar, what's happening with the installation of water meters on Staten Island? On my block there are several (particularly those water-wasters) who do not have water meters, and therefore have no compunctions about using water on a frontage basis.

What is the Water Department doing about this? The good citizens among us care, but what's the use if others don't care.

LAWRENCE SERVEDIO
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