

GLEN OAKS Ledger

Thursday, February 19, 1998

Vol. 6, No. 8

THE NEWSPAPER OF GLEN OAKS, BELLEROSE & FLORAL PARK

50 cents

Times/Ledger, Thursday, February 19, 1998

11

READERS WRITE

New Alliance preserves the 'big tent'

The Times/Ledger missed the mark — badly — in a recent editorial concerning a new Queens group, the Democratic Alliance. The alliance functions as a think-tank and a resource. Those who participate in our efforts seek not to supplant Democratic organizations and clubs. Many of us play active roles in the Party and many of its organizations. The lack of success by some of our major candidates and defections to the other side in several of the last elections — including a large number of public and Party officials in the 1997 race for NYC mayor — highlight the need to look inward. Democrats voice a strong and special message: Opportunity — we've done so for more than five decades.

We know the appeal of this message, properly defined and delivered. We know also that both Democrats and Republicans can bring a balanced budget, can slash red tape, can help strengthen the family and can, yes, fight crime.

The Democratic Alliance recognizes that supporting officials on the other side does more than recognize success in areas where no differences exist between us. It supports the policies advanced by the other side. We find some policies harmful, others reprehensible.

Parties and Party labels matter. Democrats envision a society where everyone — rich, poor, young, old, native, immigrant, black, white, Christian, Jew, Muslim, and each and every other group — in our society has the opportunity to live a safe and comfortable life. Democrats know the market as the best economic system devised, but a scheme that still fails to consistently deliver safe drugs, foods, workplaces, housing and consumer products. Despite this major weakness — correctable by government intervention — Republicans believe

the market never fails.

Many public officials speak of a tale of two New York Cities, a parable that applies to our society in general. Republicans see no problem with Wall Street gaining at the expense of Main Street. Democrats know that the 1990s productivity increases reflect no gains in the average worker's paycheck, rather the productivity gains go almost solely to corporate profits. Democrats advance policies to address this basic economic inequity and prevent Wall Street from clobbering Main Street. The Democratic Party stands for investment in opportunity.

Democratic Party Family Values mean paychecks; they mean security; they mean hope. Democrats honor family values. How? Every time we create a job. Every time when their parents work, children have a safe place to go. Every time we secure a working person's pension. Every time we move a young mother from welfare to work, or help a worker get better skills, or help someone who has lost a job to find a new one.

The Republicans, Conservatives and the Radical Right relentlessly assault these core Democratic beliefs: the government of the richest nation on earth holding up a safety net for its most vulnerable; in times of sacrifice, the wealthiest should be expected to pony up like everyone else; and government support for public education.

The alliance's emphasis on opportunity and Democratic Family Values helps to distinguish Democrats from Republicans. It helps to remind our officials to withhold support for officials on the other side. It does not prevent our standard-bearers from commending the efforts of their counterparts on the other side in areas where we do not differ.

On the state and local level, differences abound as well. Republicans assault affordable housing, oppose tax reform, reject local input in service delivery, try to make recycling fail, block civil rights legislation, slash funds for our schools and public colleges and cut day care.

The Democrats, as the party under a big tent, always feature people holding up a hundred different banners. The Democratic Alliance and many others seek to help patch our once waterproof, solid tent. When we argued inside our tent, all felt safe and protected from the harsh elements outside. Democrats patch our tent by making it a whole lot clearer to everyone inside and out what we Democrats stand for and where we want to take our society. The alliance seeks to help return the focus to this basic. The alliance also seeks to help develop a message that clearly communicates what it means to be a Democrat. A message that resonates will help our candidates succeed, strengthen our party, keep officials from straying, and — most important — help our society grow stronger.

The Democratic Alliance invites interested Democrats and those interested in Democratic values to join us and support our efforts.

For more information call Democratic Alliance Steering Committee Members Lois Marbach at 229-4201 or Corey Bearak at 343-6779.

Corey Bearak
Bellerose
Michael Brady
Bayside
Morshed Alam
Jamaica

GLEN OAKS *Times/Ledger*

Thursday, February 19, 1998

Vol. 6, No. 8

THE NEWSPAPER OF GLEN OAKS, BELLEROSE & FLORAL PARK

50 cents

Times/Ledger, Thursday, February 19, 1998

11

READERS WRITE

New Alliance preserves the 'big tent'

The Times/Ledger missed the mark — badly — in a recent editorial concerning a new Queens group, the Democratic Alliance. The alliance functions as a think-tank and a resource. Those who participate in our efforts seek not to supplant Democratic organizations and clubs. Many of us play active roles in the Party and many of its organizations. The lack of success by some of our major candidates and defections to the other side in several of the last elections — including a large number of public and Party officials in the 1997 race for NYC mayor — highlight the need to look inward. Democrats voice a strong and special message: Opportunity — we've done so for more than five decades.

We know the appeal of this message, properly defined and delivered. We know also that both Democrats and Republicans can bring a balanced budget, can slash red tape, can help strengthen the family and can, yes, fight crime.

The Democratic Alliance recognizes that supporting officials on the other side does more than recognize success in areas where no differences exist between us. It supports the policies advanced by the other side. We find some policies harmful, others reprehensible.

Parties and Party labels matter. Democrats envision a society where everyone — rich, poor, young, old, native, immigrant, black, white, Christian, Jew, Muslim, and each and every other group — in our society has the opportunity to live a safe and comfortable life. Democrats know the market as the best economic system devised, but a scheme that still fails to consistently deliver safe drugs, foods, workplaces, housing and consumer products. Despite this major weakness — correctable by government intervention — Republicans believe

the market never fails.

Many public officials speak of a tale of two New York Cities, a parable that applies to our society in general. Republicans see no problem with Wall Street gaining at the expense of Main Street. Democrats know that the 1990s productivity increases reflect no gains in the average worker's paycheck, rather the productivity gains go almost solely to corporate profits. Democrats advance policies to address this basic economic inequity and prevent Wall Street from clobbering Main Street. The Democratic Party stands for investment in opportunity.

Democratic Party Family Values mean paychecks; they mean security; they mean hope. Democrats honor family values. How? Every time we create a job. Every time when their parents work, children have a safe place to go. Every time we secure a working person's pension. Every time we move a young mother from welfare to work, or help a worker get better skills, or help someone who has lost a job to find a new one.

The Republicans, Conservatives and the Radical Right relentlessly assault these core Democratic beliefs: the government of the richest nation on earth holding up a safety net for its most vulnerable; in times of sacrifice, the wealthiest should be expected to pony up like everyone else; and government support for public education.

The alliance's emphasis on opportunity and Democratic Family Values helps to distinguish Democrats from Republicans. It helps to remind our officials to withhold support for officials on the other side. It does not prevent our standard-bearers from commending the efforts of their counterparts on the other side in areas where we do not differ.

On the state and local level, differences abound as well. Republicans assault affordable housing, oppose tax reform, reject local input in service delivery, try to make recycling fail, block civil rights legislation, slash funds for our schools and public colleges and cut day care.

The Democrats, as the party under a big tent, always feature people holding up a hundred different banners. The Democratic Alliance and many others seek to help patch our once waterproof, solid tent. When we argued inside our tent, all felt safe and protected from the harsh elements outside. Democrats patch our tent by making it a whole lot clearer to everyone inside and out what we Democrats stand for and where we want to take our society. The alliance seeks to help return the focus to this basic. The alliance also seeks to help develop a message that clearly communicates what it means to be a Democrat. A message that resonates will help our candidates succeed, strengthen our party, keep officials from straying, and — most important — help our society grow stronger.

The Democratic Alliance invites interested Democrats and those interested in Democratic values to join us and support our efforts.

For more information call Democratic Alliance Steering Committee Members Lois Marbach at 229-4201 or Corey Bearak at 343-6779.

Corey Bearak
Bellerose
Michael Brady
Bayside
Morshed Alam
Jamaica