

SPORTS

# Newsday

http://www.newsday.com

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1999 • QUEENS

## LETTERS

A33

Viewpoints Q

### Left of Center

Rather than "quit" as advocated by Jacqueline Salit ["The Left has to Quit Democratic Party," Viewpoints, April 1], the so-called Democratic left with which I am identified must acknowledge how the political center in the Democratic Party and the nation as a whole has moved to the left.

The prominence of issues pollsters found most attractive to independent voters including access to government, campaign reform and electoral reform, demonstrate how the issues advocated by the progressive movement have taken hold among those considered the swing voters in national and many state and local elections. The problems of progressives relate more to packaging and presentation rather than substance. Often, the most well-known on the left gained attention as much if not more for their style as for their substance.

Most prominent figures among Democrat progressives recognize this. They temper their style, never their substance. People — the voters — listen. We Democrats stand for invest-

ment in opportunity. The other major party stands for Wall Street at the expense of Main Street. Any study of major donations demonstrates that Wall Street knows that all too well.

Democrats reflecting a progressive vision envision a society where everyone — rich, poor, young, old, native, immigrant, black, white, Christian, Jew, Muslim and members of every other group in our society — has the opportunity to live a safe and comfortable life. We 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 weakness, which is correctable by government intervention, Republicans believe the market never fails.

On the state and local level, Republicans assault affordable housing, oppose tax reform, reject local input in service delivery, try to make recycling fail, block civil rights legislation, impugn those who advocate independent monitors to combat police misconduct, slash funds for our schools and public colleges and cut day care. Democrats seek to engage the public through open government and dialogue and coalitions among our diverse communities to move our society forward.

Corey B. Bearak  
Bellerose

*Editor's Note: The writer, an attorney in city government, is president of the Queens County Line Democratic Association.*