

VIEWPOINTS

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN | LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Hochul must work for New Yorkers

A headline on Jan. 15 stated "GOP can slow, but not stop electric vehicles, experts say." It's a clear example of how robust climate policy supports affordability and creates jobs for Americans.

Slashing electric vehicle subsidies for manufacturers won't magically enable U.S. automakers, retooled to build electric vehicles, to produce gas-powered cars. Making it harder for Americans to buy inexpensive, cheap-to-run American-made EVs restricts our freedom of choice and sticks us with unstable pump prices.

Gov. Kathy Hochul, who pounded the affordability drum in her State of the State/stump speech this past week, has also lost the connection between climate policy and the economics of daily life. After making an absolute commitment to introducing a cap-and-invest-policy, she did a complete and sudden about-face. She promises \$1 billion for climate investment, but whose \$1 billion is that? It's ours, instead of the \$3 billion the state should be raising by having polluters pay.

She's also lost the thread on the NY HEAT Act, which would directly lower New Yorkers' utility bills, another skyrocketing addition to the cost of living here, and prompt the long-promised gas transition that would lower our medical bills.

As the new administration works to roll back climate and environmental protections, with notoriously anti-environment Lee Zeldin as our likely new EPA director, it is Hochul's job to protect New Yorkers by fulfilling our climate mandate. That's how to keep our state a place people want to live.

Lynn Saxton
Warsaw

Birder, Audubon at odds on Zoar

Like many other birders, I was shocked to learn that Audubon New York is supporting the Department of Environmental Conservation plan to log hundreds of acres of public land at Zoar Valley.

Audubon's senior forester plans to use the DEC logging for a demonstration of their experimental silviculture, which involves clear-cutting followed by a slash wall of branches and torn trees to keep out deer and people. All of this without a thorough and scientific survey of the wildlife and vegetation in the areas where they want to log, and without fully considering the effects of logging next to the



NEW YORK TIMES

Migrants who had their asylum appointments with U.S. officials canceled hours after President Trump's inauguration on Monday gather for a meal at a government-run shelter in Juarez, Mexico. Trump's flurry of executive actions concerned many News' readers.

WE GOT MAIL

61 letters received this week

1. Trump's first 100 days
2. Environment
3. Municipal issues
4. Bills, Sabres, sports
5. Legislation



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Both federal and state action on environmental issues continue to draw reader responses.

protected old-growth forest. The mature trees that the DEC plans to take are 80 to 120 years old.

Audubon New York claims that logging the Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area will provide habitat for forest birds, citing the black-throated blue warbler as a beneficiary. But according to the Second NY Breeding Bird Atlas, this warbler needs precisely "large tracts of relatively undisturbed hardwood and mixed forest, with a closed tree canopy and dense undergrowth" in its breeding territory, and "clear-cut logging on its breeding grounds negatively affects

abundance of the species ..."

There is plenty of shrub and early successional habitat nearby for the use of our forest birds. We need to keep the old-growth and mature trees, our crown jewels of Zoar Valley, for future generations of birds and people.

Jean Dickson
Buffalo

Government benefits from voter apathy

Article I, Section 8, Clause 2 of our Constitution allows our political parties to borrow money on behalf of the United States.

Since 1981, our political parties have been significantly increasing federal government debt.

Based on Peter G. Peterson Foundation graphs, the annual interest on the 2023 debt required a payment equivalent to \$2,000 by every American citizen. The projected value for year 2034 is equivalent to \$6,000. The wealthy will have no problem making this payment. The key question is why should their payment be the same as that for a child living in poverty?

One of the key skills of our political parties is to take advantage of the apathy of American voters. Our growing debt is an

example.

Michael Patterson
Clarence Center

County program targets cervical cancer disparity

There are groups of people who are more affected by cervical cancer than others because they face more barriers to screening and access to care.

For example, Black women in New York state are more likely than white women to be diagnosed with cervical cancer and also to die from the disease. Bisexual and lesbian women have significantly higher rates of cervical cancer compared with heterosexual women. And women in rural areas are less likely to be screened than women in urban areas, making them at higher risk for a cervical cancer diagnosis.

The Cancer Services Program of Erie County works to reduce these health disparities. We provide free screening to people without health insurance who are 40 and older. We have partnerships with health care providers and community-based organizations that can reach people at highest risk for cancer and reduce barriers that get in the way of getting the right care at the right time.

People with a cervix who are 21 and older should be screened every three years or as often as prescribed by their doctor. Cervical cancer screening tests can find the cells that lead to cancer so they can be removed. This stops cancer before it starts. Screening also helps to find cervical cancer early when it may be easier to treat.

If you don't have insurance or a health care provider, call the CSP at 858-7376.

Lisa Milewski
Buffalo

Maybe U.S. should join Canada instead

As Donald Trump ruminates on why Canada would make a great 51st state, let's turn that idea on its head.

Might we be better off imploring our good neighbors to the north if they would accept us as their 11th province? Some advantages Canadians have: Canadians have universal health care, and their rates of murder and sexual assault are lower.

The best thing about becoming Canada's 11th province? It would diminish the effects of the rants of the 11th province's premier, formerly known as the president of the United States.

Let's discuss over a cup of Timmy Ho's and a Coffee Crisp.
Marty Walters
Derby

Athletes

From F1

Allergic reactions can be fatal without immediate treatment. EpiPens provide a relatively cheap, yet effective, way to reduce the potential life-threatening effects of anaphylaxis. Carrying and use of EpiPens at sporting venues would allow players, coaches and fans alike to significantly increase their chances of survival if suffering from anaphylaxis.

Heat illness is a common emergency medical condition, and one of the leading causes of death and disability among U.S. high school athletes. It can cause the body to shut down and lead to cardiac arrest. Coaches need to be educated about heat illness prevention and treatment. A 2020 study found that exertional heat stroke had a 100% survival rate when immediate cooling, such as cold-water immersion or constant cold water dousing, was initiated within 10 minutes of collapse. The Ideal EAP will seek to implement educational requirements, specifically addressing heat stroke and heat exhaustion. This will play a pivotal role in keeping athletes safe and help minimize post heat illness rehabilitation costs.

There also needs to be an increased awareness of

the dangers of exertion in extreme cold. A comprehensive EAP would provide guidance on when to cancel or suspend outdoor athletic events because of cold weather and would also provide guidelines for best practices for the treatment of cold-weather injury.

In all cases, simple procedures and relatively inexpensive safety equipment can mean the difference between routine recovery and serious or fatal injuries.

The findings of this research are crucial to American sports communities at all levels. Implementing the Ideal EAP would reduce the number of injuries that occur during sports activities at the youth and high school levels.

Targeting these levels of sports will have a broad impact and will protect youth participants who do not have the benefit of the medical resources available at the collegiate and professional levels. The existing apparatus of state oversight for youth and high school athletics provides a ready mechanism for implementing the Ideal EAP. Not only will injuries be mitigated, but costs associated with sports injuries will decrease.

Professor Helen "Nellie" Drew is director of Sports Law Clinic and the UB Center for the Advancement of Sport, UB School of Law. Drew

Kristof

From F1

TikTok didn't dispute the data collection in the Supreme Court case but claimed that it was "unlikely" that China would force the company to hand over information. Really? Chinese companies are required by law to cooperate with State Security. Even foreign-owned companies have wilted under the pressure.

Just ask Wang Xiaoning, a dissident whom China imprisoned for 10 years after Yahoo provided the government evidence linking him to emails and pro-democracy writings on Yahoo forums. If a major U.S. company kowtows to the Chinese government, how can one expect that a Chinese company will withstand the pressure?

I spent five years as the New York Times' Beijing bureau chief, living in a bugged apartment (one of my Chinese friends worked part-time translating private conversations in my compound for the Chinese government) and being tailed when I left the apartment, with Chinese staff forced to report to State Security on my activities. Once I pointed out to a taxi driver the way we were being tailed, and he glanced at me in astonishment. "What are you?" he asked. "A murderer?" All that may be inevitable for certain Americans in China, but we shouldn't help State Security engage in surveillance on U.S. soil.

There's another factor: About 40% of young adults in the United States regularly get news from TikTok, and researchers find evidence that TikTok's algorithm systematically manipulates information



NEW YORK TIMES

TikTok content creators livestream from outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington on Jan. 10, during oral arguments over the First Amendment challenge to a law that effectively bans the app. The court rejected the challenge.

to present users with a pro-China view of the world.

As a journalist, I'm hostile to government censorship. But we don't normally allow foreign ownership even of minor radio or TV stations, so why would we permit China to control a far more significant information source?

There's nothing unusual about China's trying to spy on Americans or promote itself. That's what countries do. China once bought a Boeing 767 as its presidential plane, the equivalent of Air Force One, and discovered 27 bugs embedded inside. We will spy on China, and China will spy on us — but we shouldn't make it easier.

The 2024 law passed overwhelmingly by a bipartisan congressional majority required TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, to sell it or lose access to the U.S.

market. A sale will be complicated, however, for the heart of TikTok is its algorithm, and as long as ByteDance controls the algorithm, the security concerns remain.

I'm also troubled by the way Trump switched positions on TikTok. He hasn't been clear on why he changed his mind, but the timing is curious. In March 2024 Trump met Jeff Yass, a billionaire who is a major investor in ByteDance; Trump says they didn't discuss TikTok, but it's around that time that he reversed himself and sought to save the app.

So at the dawn of his second term, we have Trump proclaiming his defense of America while taking actions that benefit a Republican megadonor and may assist China in undermining America's national security.

New York Times