

## The Post-Journal

Covering The Way You Live

The Jamestown Evening Journal  
Established 1826

The Jamestown Morning Post  
Established 1901

The Post-Journal  
Merged 1941

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PUBLISHER

JOHN D'AGOSTINO  
REGIONAL EDITOR

JOHN WHITTAKER  
MANAGING EDITOR

"Truth Above All Else"

## New Roundabout Pattern Working; Congestion Is Less

So far, so good. That is the preliminary report regarding the controversial roundabout that is located at Routes 20 and 60.

Yes, it is far from perfect as work is still being completed. Even the drivers are sometimes unsure about the new pattern.

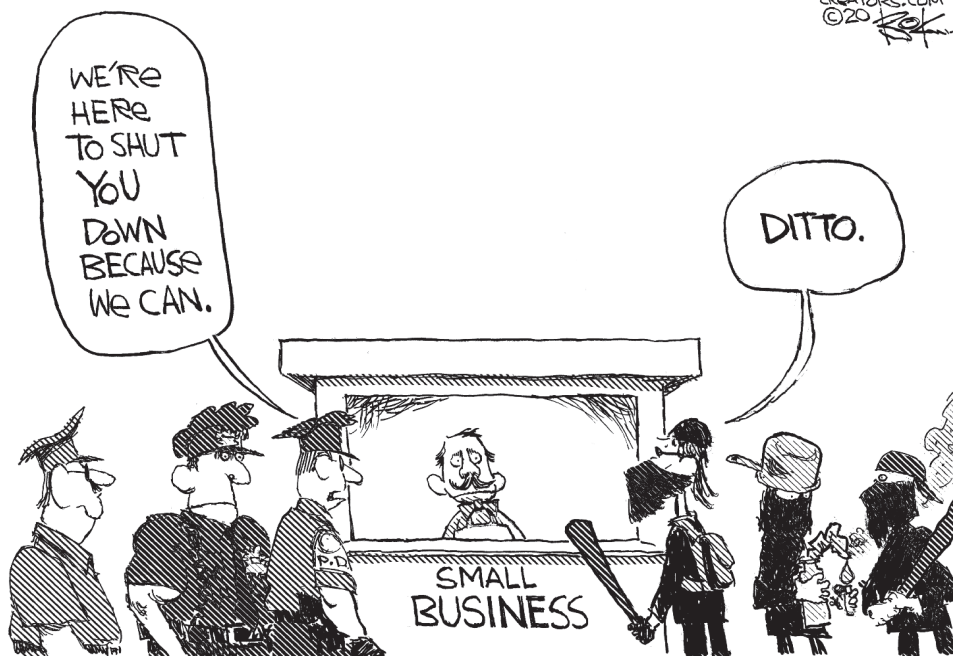
But it seems to be working. Congestion is less — and motorists are forced to slow down once they arrive at the traffic circle.

Capt. Eric Balon with the State Police has his Fredonia office less than a mile from the intersection. According to the article in last week's OBSERVER, he supports the project.

"Roundabouts are shown to be quite a bit safer than traffic lights in areas where they're used," he said. "People usually resist them at first but once they're in place they grow accustomed to them."

Change is never easy. This is drastic for some. We all, however, will get used to it.

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John Stossel



## Bad Cops — Bad Unions

For my internet video this week, my staff showed me clips of violent cops.

It's not just Derek Chauvin kneeling on George Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes — it's the other

cops who just watch.

It's the Buffalo cops who floored a protester and simply walked by as he lay unconscious, bleeding out of his ear. It's a cop in Philadelphia, swinging his baton into protesters, the Atlanta police needlessly tasing two college students, the NYC cops beating a bicyclist and dozens of cases where police lied about what they'd done until bodycams or cellphone cameras revealed the truth.

None of this justifies looting, arson and violence against other cops.

But I understand the rage. Policing is the rare profession given where employees are given a legal right to use deadly force. Most officers use that power responsibly.

But America has 800,000 cops. If just a fraction is racist or sadistic, that's a lot of racist and sadistic bullies.

What can be done about that? "The problem is repeat offenders. The system doesn't fire those cops," says Washington Post columnist Radley Balko. "The job of a union is to protect the interest of its members, really at any cost." So, bad cops keep policing.

The officer who killed George Floyd had 18 complaints filed against him.

A San Antonio cop was caught challenging prisoners to "take off your cuffs and fight for your freedom!" Then he did it again. Technicalities in his union's contract forced police to reinstate him, twice.

"There's a strong argument to be made that we need to get rid of police unions entirely," says Balko.

What's the union's side of the story? Cops have a hard job. They must make split-second decisions and act as peacekeepers, baby sitters, marriage counselors and more. They deal with people at the worst time of those people's lives. It may be why officers have a high suicide rate.

"Unions are there for a reason," says Larry Cosme, president of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. "You have to protect these men and women."

After two New York City cops drove into a crowd of protesters, I asked Cosme to justify that.

"Crowds are throwing bricks at them! You get to a state of panic. You can't go forward. Can't go backwards. So you try to get out of the situation!"

He added, "The police should police themselves."

"But you don't," I said. "They're not held accountable. Especially union officers. They do it again and again. It gets erased from their records."

Cosme disagrees. "They are disciplined. ... If you don't have these protections, then no one's going to want to be a police officer."

But only about half of America's police belong to a union. Where cops are not unionized, says Balko, "there's no shortage of police officers."

Police unions also make police departments harder to manage.

In crime-ridden Camden, New Jersey, union cops took so much sick time and family leave that, most days, nearly 30% of the force just didn't show up. So, Camden fired all of them.

Camden rehired some, but only those willing to go along with new rules that made it easier to fire and discipline.

The result: Murder went down, and Camden saved money.

Per-officer costs dropped from \$182,168 to \$99,605. That allowed Camden to double the size of its force from "bare bones" to "near the highest police presence of any city."

Extra police allow for community policing — more people walk the beat, talking to residents.

Unfortunately, today's protesters rarely mention police unions. Instead, they say: "Defund the police! Fund community programs, like job training."

But that won't stop crime. America has already spent trillions on job training and other government social engineering that rarely works.

Initially, the programs are staffed by well-intended people who want to help. But over time, they become wasteful, ossified bureaucracies, like most government programs.

We need cops. Police presence does reduce crime.

But we need cops who can be held responsible for their actions.

John Stossel is author of "Give Me a Break: How I Exposed Hucksters, Cheats, and Scam Artists and Became the Scourge of the Liberal Media." For other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## Randy Elf Cavalier Is Not The Same As Incorrect

Please imagine the sustained uproar — especially from those opposing President Trump, and particularly those in the press — if the president had said to black people not voting for him, "You ain't black."

Now cut the word black, and substitute brown, red, yellow, or white. Please imagine the sustained uproar then.

Now substitute any religion or subset of a religion.

How about Jewish? Muslim? Buddhist? Hindu? Greek Orthodox? Catholic? Baptist? Presbyterian? Lutheran?

How about women? men? Or pick any ethnicity.

The justifiable reaction may include these:

- Mr. President, why do you believe that people must vote for you because of their race, religion, sex, or ethnicity?

- To put it more generally: Do you further believe that people must hold particular political beliefs or otherwise think a certain way because they fit into a particular demographic category?

- Do you believe that some people who fit into any such category aren't able or sufficiently able to think for themselves or form their own opinions?

- Or do you believe people's genes, or some people's genes, determine their thoughts?

- Or is this it? Do you want some people to think for themselves in the voting booth only if that means voting for you?

- What will you do if they publicly support someone else?

- Do you believe that any government official has the power to decree who fits into any particular demographic category based on the person's thoughts? If so, please show us the law granting such power.

- Would such law violate the First Amendment?

- In short: What are you thinking, or aren't you thinking?

Any of these questions of the president would have been justified if — if — he had said to black people not voting for him, "You ain't black."

What may have made the president's remark — if he had made it — even worse is that the use of nonstandard English in these circumstances may not have come off well.

The president, of course, did not — did not — make this remark.

The person who made this remark is Joe Biden, the Democrats' likely presidential candidate and the president's likely 2020 general-election opponent.

Where is not just the disagreement with, or objections to, Biden's remark but also the sustained uproar over it?

Hmmm. Does the absence of sustained uproar surprise you?

Whatever the reaction, Biden later said his remark was "cavalier," and he shouldn't have made it.

But those are different from believing the remark was incorrect.

Many liberals — not all, but many — believe what Biden said. This is a reflection of at least two things.

First, this president and some other non-liberals have reached out to blacks, delivered in important ways, and are making significant progress in earning support from blacks. Many liberals know this progress makes winning harder for them.

Second, the behavior of many liberals is nothing new. They've long exhibited a particular form of intolerance toward blacks — and not only blacks — who don't hold "correct" political views.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas — please see the column of June 12, 2020 — is among the more prominent targets of such political correctness, yet he's far from the only one. It doesn't happen only to national figures.

A couple prominent in Chautauqua County in recent decades spoke of how hard it was for them.

You might have never known it from the never-ending cheerful and effective presence of this now-deceased pair, yet it was hard for them.

The courage that many show in the face of — and, yes, in defiance of — the "cavalier" is heroic.

Dr. Randy Elf believes in freedom of thought, and not just for people who agree with him.

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## Question Of The Day

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## READERS' FORUM POLICY

All letters to the Readers' Forum must include the writer's signature and the correct full name and address of the author as well as a telephone number for verification purposes.

The maximum limit is 400 words. The forum is designed for the discussion of issues, not personalities. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit all material.

## WHERE TO WRITE

Express your opinion to your representatives in the Legislature and the federal government. Their addresses are:

### NEW YORK

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer — 130 S. Elmwood Ave., #660, Buffalo, NY 14202; 716-846-4111; 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; 202-224-6542.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand — 726 Exchange St., Suite 511, Buffalo, NY 14210, 716-854-9725; 478 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; 202-224-4451.

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed — 2 E. Second St. Suite 208, Jamestown, NY 14701, 716-708-6369; 2263 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-3161.

State Sen. George Borrello — 2-3 E. Second St., Suite 302, Jamestown, NY 14701, 716-664-4603; 188 State St., Albany, NY 12247, 518-455-3563.

Assemblyman Andrew Goodell — 2-6 E. Second St., Suite 320, Jamestown, NY 14701, 716-664-7773; 188 State St., Room 545, Albany, NY 12248, 518-455-4511.

State Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, 700 W. State St., Olean, NY 14760; 716-373-7103, FAX 716-373-7105. Room 550 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; 518-455-5241.

## READERS' FORUM

### Thank You Mike's Nursery Of Lakewood

To The Reader's Forum:

The Women's Club of Lakewood would like to thank Mike's Nursery of Lakewood for growing and donating all the flowers for the Chautauqua Avenue planters!

Please take a walk along the Avenue and enjoy Mike's contribution!

Volunteers from the Women's Club planted the containers, and we are grateful for Mike's many contributions over the last twenty years.

Thank you, Mike!

Betsy Shepherd  
Lakewood  
for the Women's Club of  
Lakewood Garden Group

## TODAY IN HISTORY

### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, June 19, the 171st day of 2020. There are 195 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 19, 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was approved by the U.S. Senate, 73-27, after surviving a lengthy filibuster.

On this date:

In 1775, George Washington was commissioned by the Continental Congress as commander in chief of the Continental Army.

In 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War was over, and that all remaining slaves in Texas were free — an event celebrated to this day as "Juneteenth."

In 1938, four dozen people were killed when a railroad bridge in Montana collapsed, sending a train known as the Olympian hurtling into Custer Creek.

In 1944, during World War II, the two-day Battle of the Philippine Sea began, resulting in a decisive victory for the Americans over the Japanese.

In 1945, millions of New Yorkers turned out to cheer Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was honored with a parade.

In 1952, the U.S. Army Special Forces, the elite unit of fighters known as the Green Berets, was established at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The celebrity-panel game show "I've Got A Secret" debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1953, Julius Rosenberg, 35, and his

wife, Ethel, 37, convicted of conspiring to pass U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, were executed at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York.

In 1975, former Chicago organized crime boss Sam Giancana was shot to death in the basement of his home in Oak Park, Illinois; the killing has never been solved.

In 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law requiring any public school teaching the theory of evolution to teach creation science as well.

In 2006, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned North Korea it would face consequences if it test-fired a missile thought to be powerful enough to reach the West Coast of the United States.

In 2009, Texas billionaire R. Allen Stanford was indicted and jailed on charges his international banking empire was really just a Ponzi scheme built on lies, bluster and bribery. (Stanford was sentenced to 110 years in prison after being convicted of bilking investors in a \$7.2 billion scheme that involved the sale of fraudulent certificates of deposits.)

In 2013, actor James Gandolfini, 51, died while vacationing in Rome.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama used his weekly radio and Internet address to pin blame on Republicans for making life harder for the unemployed and for those who could lose their jobs without new federal intervention.