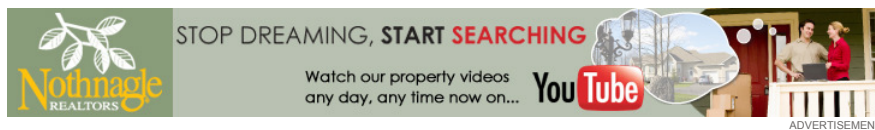


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RPD tactics at protest sound like overkill

The police displaying tear gas canisters before local protesters Saturday was overkill.

I do not know how the tear gas was displayed. I do not know why someone was reportedly tackled. The articles do not say how much force was used to arrest people. It does also not say whether the protesters were asked peacefully to move, get off the street, etc. The police are dealing with local people, not the Weathermen or the Black Panthers. Those local citizens should be treated as citizens, respectfully, and talked with and negotiated with. Force is supposed to be a last resort.

Protest is a basic American right and benefits all of us in bringing issues to the public consciousness.

JONATHAN WOLFINGER
ROCHESTER

Join mission to make democracy work for all

The League of Women Voters of Rochester Metropolitan Area commends your July 20 editorial regarding voter participation. The right to vote begins with being registered to vote. A member study showed that much of

Monroe County voter registration is below 48 percent of eligible voters with some areas in the city being below 9 percent.

In addition to working with the Rochester Voter Alliance, our League volunteers are meeting with church and civic organizations to encourage them to reach out to their relatives, neighbors and friends and ask them: "Are you registered to vote?" If not, we help them to do so.

Although we do not support parties or candidates, we do support active citizen participation in making our democracy work for all of us. We invite anyone who wishes to work with us to call (585) 262-3730.

GEORGIA DEGREGORIO
ROCHESTER
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Greece school district took important stand

Thanks to the Greece Central School District for challenging the Mall at Greece Ridge's application for tax relief via a payment in lieu of taxes program. This program was supported by the Country of Monroe Industrial Development Agency.

I specifically thank the Greece school superintendent for pursuing this challenge. With all the important matters the school district is facing, it would be easy to let this program go unchallenged. This challenge may be a first, and I hope others will now do their own analysis of these programs and have the courage to challenge when warranted.

It appears a tentative compromise has been reached. The reported compromise appears to be a major shift toward the school district's position. However, to the school district's credit, they have wisely postponed final agreement with this compromise until all the elements have been put in writing and thoroughly reviewed.

TOM KACKMEISTER

GREECE

Allowing cellphones in schools is a bad idea

I find it alarming that while teachers across the state are going to be held more accountable for student achievement schools are "welcoming" cellphones. Who would make such decisions?

JON DELVECCHIO

CHURCHVILLE



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