

# OPINION

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## The Day

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1881

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"The newspaper should be more than a business enterprise. It should also be the champion and protector of the public interest and defender of the people's rights."

As written by Theodore Bodenwein in his will establishing The Day Trust.

### OUR MISSION

To publish the highest quality newspaper and to be the dominant source of news and advertising in the region.  
To be a strong, profitable company that serves the needs of the customer.  
To be a good employer.  
To lead in the growth and well-being of the region.  
To return the company's profits to the community to serve the public interest.

## A call to honest Republicans

The state's Republican Party leaders ought to hang their heads in shame for failing to be honest with Connecticut citizens and for lacking the courage to tell Gov. John G. Rowland to resign. Their lapses show both a casual disregard for integrity and a tacit acceptance of the governor's unethical conduct.

This is especially true after Friday's story by the Journal Inquirer of Manchester that Gov. Rowland and his top aides for years personally approved all big contracts awarded by state agencies. That story followed the disclosure that the governor was a partner in a private development group that included a paving contractor who got \$1.3 million in state work during Gov. Rowland's tenure.

In their cowardice, the Republican state leaders also damage their party's future and its relationship with the voters of Connecticut. Their instinct is not to do the right and just thing, but to protect the governor.

### GOP: Put the people first

But it is the Republican Party's responsibility to assure that Gov. Rowland resigns, for he has betrayed his party and the people of the state with his deceitfulness and his refusal to disclose all his conflicts. If the GOP leaves that nasty duty to the Democrats, it will produce a shrill fight between the two parties, one that does not improve political life in Connecticut and instead seeks only selfish partisan gain.

Republicans should not create such a poisonous atmosphere that would paralyze the state. Rather, they should tell the governor to resign now.

Gov. Rowland showed once again that he is out of touch with reality. His attempt to make the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce breakfast on Wednesday a launching pad for regaining political ground was shameful conduct. His wife Patricia's trip to the podium for a disingenuous poem attacking reporters who are telling the truth about the governor's lies was hypocritical and further damaged the governor.

The governor, with commissioners and office staff assembled — even members of the Tomasso construction company family were there — made abundantly clear his contempt for decency and honor in public life. Days after admitting that he lied and that William Tomasso and several top aides to the governor had paid for repairs to his summer cottage, the governor and his political lapdogs were staging a show designed to improve the governor's standing in the polls.

Kevin B. Sullivan, the Democratic president pro tempore of the state Senate, was exactly

right when he said Thursday that: "Gov. Rowland, his family and his political handlers need to stop campaigning and attacking at a time when the people of our state deserve better. ... The patience of us who have bent over backwards to be fair, considerate and deliberative in our actions is not without limits. So too, the people of our state."

Leaders scurry for cover  
Congressman Rob Simmons, moving one step beyond Congressman Christopher Shays and Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, stopped just short of calling for the governor's resignation. But the state party leaders and their minions in the General Assembly have largely scurried for cover.

It took Congressman Simmons and state Sen. Cathy Cook of Mystic more than three days to express to voters their feelings on the subject. The senior Republican from the region, state Rep. Lenny Winkler of Groton, and state Rep. Diana Urban, the Republican from North Stonington were the most honest in confronting Gov. Rowland's wrongdoing.

But at the state Republican Party and among Republican leaders in the General Assembly, ethics and honesty are apparently not high priorities. Protecting Gov. Rowland's job is more important to them.

"As I ask for your forgiveness, I also ask for your support to keep all things in perspective and keep all things in proportion — the good of nine years versus the bad," Gov. Rowland said at the Middlesex Chamber breakfast.

Connecticut residents would be more inclined to forgive the governor if he resigned. But what he was really asking for was not forgiveness, but rather their support to ride out this political storm of his own making. Political survival, not ethical redemption was his motive.

When the chief executive of the state lies to the people about who paid for repairs to his home and takes thousands in free services from people with vested interests, there can be no forgiveness without his resignation.

With a federal grand jury now burrowing in on the state construction contracts and a propensity of the Rowland administration to accept inappropriate gifts, the question is not: Will Gov. Rowland resign, but rather when?

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## LETTERS TO THE DAY

Bush's actions are in response to threats

**To the Editor of The Day:**  
I am writing in response to Randy Cole's letter to the editor, in which he insinuates that the cheerleading media and the White House are the people who were really responsible for Sept. 11, 2001, and a trail will lead to the White House. ("Bush lies make Clinton look like a choir boy," Dec. 18.)

Mr. Cole states that President George W. Bush lied to sell the invasion and this makes former President Clinton look like a choir boy. What lies does Mr. Cole refer to? The lie that Saddam Hussein killed, raped and unlawfully imprisoned people? The lie that 15,000 people were either killed or injured in Hal-abja? The lie that Saddam was a coward, in light of the fact that his own two sons and grandchildren gave their lives for his cause? The lie President Bush presented before the United Nations all of the information on Saddam and had the conviction to do what was right?

Or should we look at these facts: that numerous mass graves were unearthed, many French-German-Russian government and business leaders had contracts with Saddam's government, which turned a blind eye to these crimes. Iraq is now a safer place for its citizens.

A weapon of mass destruction need not be a physical item, it could also be the use of fear, terror and intimidation. Mass destruction can happen in an instant and it can also happen over time.

The United States took action against Adolf Hitler, Slobodan Milosevic and now Saddam, all in their own right, evil and bad people.

Yes, Mr. Cole is correct. Mr. Clinton was a choir boy, always having to be told what and when to sing, never wanting to be the soloist and always going with the trendy tunes.

Stephen Bessette  
Mystic

Homeopathy one way to battle illnesses

**To the Editor of The Day:**  
Homeopathy is a natural 200-year-old effective form of medication which is still widely overlooked in our country. It is used extensively in Europe and South America. The British royal family has been using homeopathic remedies since the time of Queen Victoria. Homeopathic remedies stimulate the body's vital force sending a healing message throughout the body. Homeopathic remedies are derived from minute amounts of plant, mineral, and animal substances.

One important homeopathic remedy to be considered by anyone concerned about the recent flu outbreak is *anas barbariae*, which is derived from the heart and liver of ducks. It is commonly marketed in health food stores and some grocery stores under the name *Oscilloccinum* by Boiron. It is also manufactured by Dolisos under the name *Flu Solution*. It works best if taken during the initial stages of the flu.

Remember the therapeutic value of old-fashioned homemade chicken soup? There is a connection with *anas barbariae* being potentized into a flu remedy. Homeopathy is effective, inexpensive and safe.

I have experienced remarkable results for a wide variety of ailments for over 12 years using various homeopathic remedies with my family. Dana Ullman's book "Homeopathic Medicine for Children and Infants" is second to our family Bible. "Everybody's Guide to Homeopathic Medicines" is also by Dana Ullman. He is one of the most widely-recognized authori-

ties on homeopathy in the United States. These books provide valuable insight into the innate healing process of our bodies.

Suellen Hampton  
Mystic

Rowland should admit he lied and resign

**To the Editor of The Day:**  
In his admission and apology statement, the governor of our state omitted two very important words: "I lied."

Even though he apologized and regrets the corruption that has been so prevalent throughout the terms he has spent in office, he never once said "I lied."

In an attempt to save what's left of his political fanny, our governor stated that he "provided incorrect information." Gov. John Rowland lied and he's been lying to the voters of this state since the day he took the oath. The honorable thing to do now is resign.

But please, before you do, have the decency, honesty and intestinal fortitude to say, "I lied." This will be your first step toward redemption.

Michael J. Gorton  
Waterford

State's first lady can use influence for good

**To the Editor of The Day:**  
It is sad to see Patty Rowland try to deflect the spotlight off her husband and onto others (as with her rendition of " 'Twas the Night before Christmas.")

I believe the news reporters are trying to give us the truth, something Ms. Rowland's husband has failed to do. Patty Rowland should tell the governor to resign.

Sal Sapia  
Old Lyme

Chamber mergers no guarantee of success

**To the Editor of The Day:**  
Timing is everything. Your Dec. 12 editorial, "Strengthen regional chamber," could not have been better, although your recommendations are way off base. To suggest the Mystic Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Westerly-Pawcatuck Area Chamber of Commerce should be "divisions" of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber is ridiculous. These two organizations have a membership that dwarfs the Eastern Connecticut Chamber. They have a retention rate that is higher, as they focus on delivering programs and benefits that have a positive affect on member's bottom lines. The Eastern Chamber may consider itself "regional" because it has members from several towns; that does not mean it adequately addresses business issues in individual towns. As evidenced by the fallout of members from Groton and Norwich, this chamber (ECCC) has lost site of the backbone of effective chamber operation — focusing on benefits to small businesses.

The Eastern Connecticut Chamber could learn from the Mystic and Westerly-Pawcatuck Chambers. For example, the way to grow a membership organization is to deliver a return on the dues investment so people want to continue their association with the organization.

Despite a merger between Norwich and New London chambers two years ago, the merged Eastern Connecticut chamber has been unsuccessful at growing its organization or delivering a unified voice for its membership. Westerly is part of Rhode Island and political clout for Westerly businesses could only be weakened if our local chamber were

to become a "division" of a disjointed Connecticut chamber

Your editorial was "Strengthen the regional chamber." Here's my suggestion for how they might do that — spend time finding ways to invest in members and less time planting political seeds of illogical "mergers." Such proposals are designed for padding financial coffers and egos of the leadership of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber, and not for providing added value to businesses in Mystic or Westerly.

Ronald Lawrence II  
Westerly

PAC petition addresses New London budget

**To the Editor of The Day:**  
LOI, a political action committee whose immediate goal is for no increase in the mill rate of the city of New London for fiscal year 2003-04, is circulating a petition for a referendum regarding the budget set by the New London City Council on Nov. 17. The committee is concerned about the failure of the City Council to address the expense side of the budget and a propensity to take from the fund balance. Additional concerns are the failure of the City Council to follow the recommendation of the city manager regarding budget reductions and the interpretation of the City Charter by New London's law director regarding additional referendums.

William Cornish  
New London

Route 11 project will benefit travelers

**The Editor of The Day**  
I am encouraged by the recent U.S. House approval for \$3 million dollars to begin completion of Route 11. Congressman Rob Simmons listens to the majority of his constituents by pursuing this project. One might think this is a questionable use of public funds given the opinions in these editorial pages. Route 11 has solid support from the Southeastern Council of Governments and a majority of voters.

I would like to correct misinformation regarding the cost of Route 11. The projected cost of completing Route 11 is \$440 million dollars, which includes the Interstate 95 interchange; a far cry from the billion dollars estimated in a recent letter. Changes for safety's sake should be made in this section of I-95, regardless of the integration of Route 11.

I am concerned about the thrust of the EPA study Will it consider the cost of not completing Route 11? As Rep. Simmons stated, there will be more roads constructed when suburban sprawl overtakes the area now mitigated by Route 11. Housing developments will break up the forest blocks required to maintain the habitat of species we want to protect. The Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission received \$1 million in funding to begin acquiring land for the greenway and is involved with planning phases of Route 11. The greenway will provide public hiking and biking trails. Factors that justify the completion of Route 11 include:

■ It is critical for economic development of new business and tourism.  
■ We need an efficient escape route away from Millstone in the advent of an incident.

■ Route 85 cannot handle the projected increase in traffic. The level of service that is currently marginal will become unacceptable.

I support completion of Route 11 for the good of Southeastern Connecticut, safety of more than 10,000 travelers per day and management of environmental concerns.

Anthony Griggs  
Salem

## A public-health victory

The New York Times published this editorial on Thursday, Dec. 18:

Science and public health triumphed over ideology on Tuesday when two expert advisory committees to the Food and Drug Administration voted 23 to 4 in favor of allowing the so-called morning-after pill, which can prevent unintended pregnancies, to be sold without a doctor's prescription.

The committees' overwhelming endorsement of making this kind of emergency contraception more widely and easily available has moved the nation a vital step closer toward a change in government policy that could sharply reduce unwanted pregnancies and, in turn, the need for abortions.

Whether that actually happens, however, now rests with the FDA commissioner, Mark McClellan. Dr. McClellan should rise above any political pressure that is put on him and promptly decide to follow the committees' advice.

The emergency contraceptive, known as Plan B, consists of two high-dose birth control pills. Treatment can be started up to 72 hours after sexual intercourse, although it is more effective if begun within 24 hours. The committees' decision to support over-the-counter availability was driven by the persuasive volume of evi-

dence that Plan B is safe, and could prevent as many as half of the three million unintended pregnancies in this country each year.

Opponents of the morning-after pill, including some religious groups, argue that over-the-counter sales would encourage irresponsible sexual behavior. But evidence and common sense do not support this. Studies indicate that improving access to emergency contraception neither encourages sexual activity by adolescents nor causes women to abandon their regular methods of contraception. Furthermore, it is hard to see how it would conflict with a strong abstinence message to teenagers.

Making emergency contraception available over the counter would merely recognize the reality that many teenagers are sexually active, and the wisdom of providing a backup when a pledge of abstinence or contraceptive use has failed. In France, where teenagers have easy access to emergency contraception, the rate of teenage pregnancy is four times lower than in the United States.

This chance to cut down on unwanted pregnancies and abortions safely is something that Americans on both sides of the abortion debate, including President Bush, should welcome. Dr. McClellan should not hesitate to approve it.