

LETTERS

Letters to the editor—in prose, not poetry—are welcome. Sign the letter and include your full address and a daytime telephone number, so that we may verify that you wrote it.

If you like, enclose a photograph of yourself, which we'll use with your letter if it reproduces well.

We edit letters for brevity, clarity, libel and propriety. We prefer that they be timely and about 200 words, so that we may publish many offerings. To give everyone a chance, we generally limit you to one published letter every 30 days.

Write: Letters to the Editor, One Gannett Drive, White Plains, N.Y. 10604. Or fax it to us at 694-5150.

Troubling pattern

There comes a time when incumbents can grow so accustomed and comfortable in their office that they start to relax. It may start imperceptibly at first, but as it grows, it becomes pronounced and evidenced through a series of tangible events.

Andrew O'Rourke is in that situation today. His focus on the county relaxed when he was up for a federal judgeship. Only the anticipation of the election of President Clinton caused the Senate to hold up his approval.

But O'Rourke's failure in his duty of service to the people of this county goes beyond political ambition. His snugness in office reduced the vigilance that was necessary to maintain his

integrity.

In 1990, the accounting firm employing the son of Flora Lowe, O'Rourke's companion, received a contract from the county for \$50,000. More recently, it has been discovered that O'Rourke granted \$2.8 million in county contracts to a law firm that employed his daughter. He also procured employment for Flora Lowe herself. In addition, Gannett in an editorial noted that Peter Delaney, who is being tapped to be O'Rourke's campaign manager, is still in control of granting public contracts.

The voters should consider this pattern when they decide how to vote in November.

— Willy Gissen
White Plains

(The writer is director of support services for the Westchester County Democratic Committee)