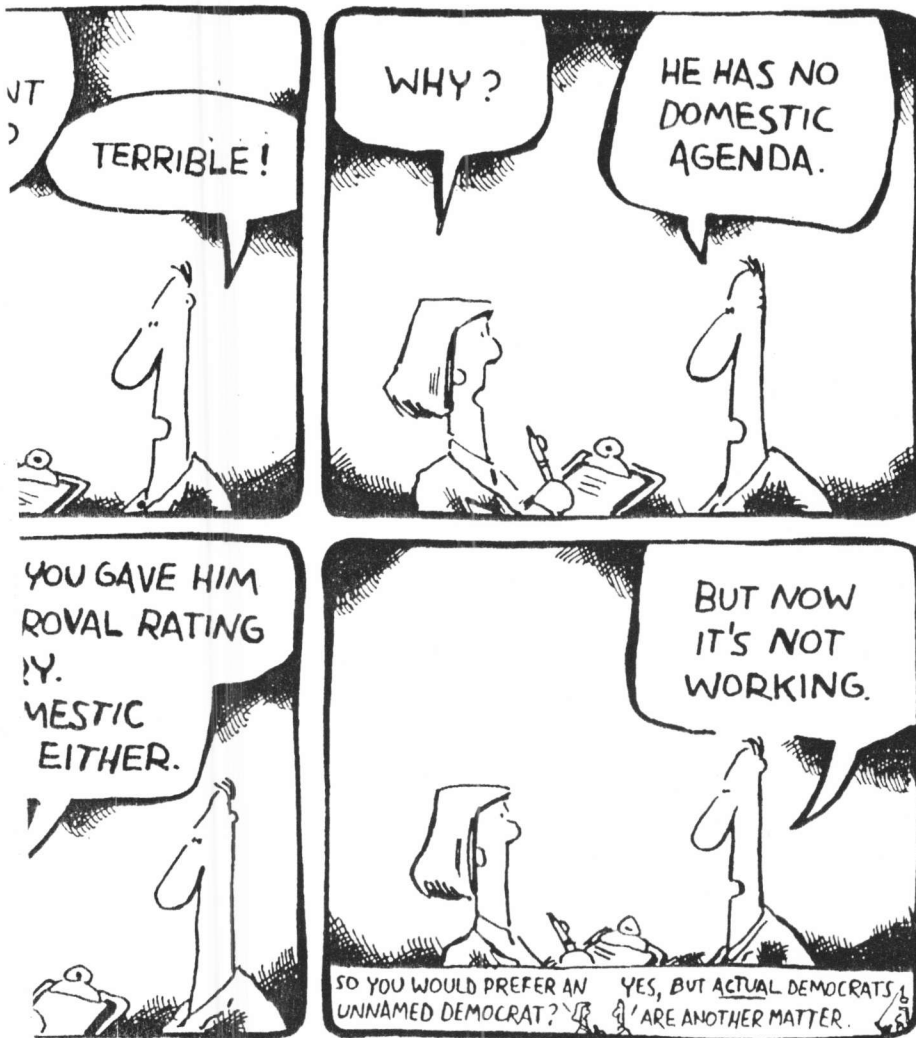


LETTERS



are a menace on the bench: They have no compunctions about ignoring the facts and the law in following the politician's golden rule: "Reward your friends and punish your enemies."

It is ironic that Sam Fredman and Sondra Miller — now judges sitting on the dais at the program covered by Ms. Keefe — should have presided. As practitioners, they both actively blocked legislation in 1980 that would have entitled women to a "presumption of equality" in the distribution of marital assets, thereby substantially reducing the time and cost involved in divorce litigation. That legislation was vigorously opposed by a powerful clique of the matrimonial bar — led by Sam Fredman and Sondra Miller — who instead supported a competing bill sponsored by then assemblyman, now Supreme Court judge, Gordon Burrows.

At that time, I was counsel to the National Council of Women of the United States and special counsel to the New York State National Organization for Women on the divorce issue, waging a statewide campaign against passage of the Burrows bill. In so doing, I earned the enmity of its supporters, when I predicted it would be a "bonanza" for lawyers, appraisers and accountants, and do grievous harm to women. The Burrows bill became law, to the detriment of divorcing wives who not have to prove in court their entitlement to any share of the marital assets.

The record shows that my predictions and the vigorous positions I took in defending women's interests have been validated by time. Had Ms. Keefe bothered to do the slightest research before putting her baseless opinions into print, the public would know precisely where the blame lies for the catastrophic effects complained of by women speaking out at the Oct. 22 forum.

DORIS L. SASSOWER
White Plains

Editor's note: Writer Sassower was ordered suspended from the practice of law on June 14 by the Appellate Division, 2nd Department of state Supreme Court for failure to cooperate with a previous order of the court. That suspension is still in force. Additionally, Justice Samuel Fredman found Sassower in contempt of court for not returning papers to her former client, Breslaw, and fined Sassower the costs incurred by Breslaw in retrieving her file.

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contribution won't really happen?
Can county leadership be so willfully determined to have its way that it would give up New York state's gift of \$4 million? That it would deny citizens their heritage by giving up the opportunity to have two historic buildings restored for public access without public expense? Worst of all, is county leadership so arrogantly determined to have its own way that it would spend so much money on a partial acquisition of the Jay property, despite the fact that a partial solution would be so self-defeating to the purpose of the acquisition?

It's time to give real answers to citizens' questions.

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN
Bedford

Keefe's column distorts truth

Nancy Keefe's Oct. 24 column is the latest example of Gannett's irresponsible journalism and persistent character assassination.

Comments about me were gratuitously made the focus of a column supposedly reporting on a 2½-hour program on "gender bias." I was not present at the program to defend myself, and Ms. Keefe did not even bother to give me an opportunity to comment prior to her publication of Evelyn Breslaw's insupportable statements.

This serious breach of journalistic responsibility has been fully condoned by Gannett's management. They claim that Ms. Keefe's column is one of "opinion," as if opinion not based on fact is worthy of publication. Gannett has refused to assign a reporter to examine the unassailable documentary proof and write a proper story, or even to allow me sufficient space to write one.

Ms. Keefe's reference to Justice Samuel G. Fredman as "one of the enlightened ones" likewise highlights Gannett's baseless, biased reporting. Ms. Keefe admitted to me that she never witnessed the way Justice Fredman presided over the Breslaw case — the best case study showing why politicians

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