

NASW-NYS Political Post

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Karin Moran, MSW

Jeremy Darman, MSW, MA

Eye of the Tiger – The Working Families Party endorsed former boxer (and Democrat), “Baby Joe” Mesi for the soon to be vacant 61st Senate District seat, a seat currently held by (soon to be retired) Senator Mary Lou Rath. Baby Joe’s previous experience in the ring will no doubt lend itself well to what promises to be a 13 round bloody brawl over the Senate Majority this year. In other boxing news, Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno is hoping to serve up a knock-out punch to gas tax suspension naysayers. In a recent flyer issued by the Senators office, Bruno is shown delivering a jab while proposing a cap on state gas taxes over the summer months. For more on this story, log onto www.senatorbruno.com or <http://blogs.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/7392>

Things that make you say, hmm – In a recent expose, the Albany Times Union is questioning the validity of the New York State Legislative Ethics Commission, a purportedly “independent ethics watchdog” developed to police the activities of legislators and their staff. But according to the TU, the commission is “anything but” independent and merely an “an extension of the legislators' own team of lawyers, particularly the counsels of the majorities -- the Senate Republicans and Assembly Democrats. For the full story, you can visit the Times Union website at <http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=687734&category=STATE&newsdate=5/11/2008>

Campaign Chatter – Senator Hillary Clinton easily cinched the West Virginia Primary earlier this week; however, she continues to trail Senator Obama in the race for super delegates. John Edwards offered an endorsement to Senator Obama while Republican nominee Senator McCain delivered a speech in Columbus Ohio Thursday where he laid out his fist term vision which included a statement that he believes “the Iraq war can be won within four years, leaving a functioning democracy there and allowing most U.S. troops to come home.”