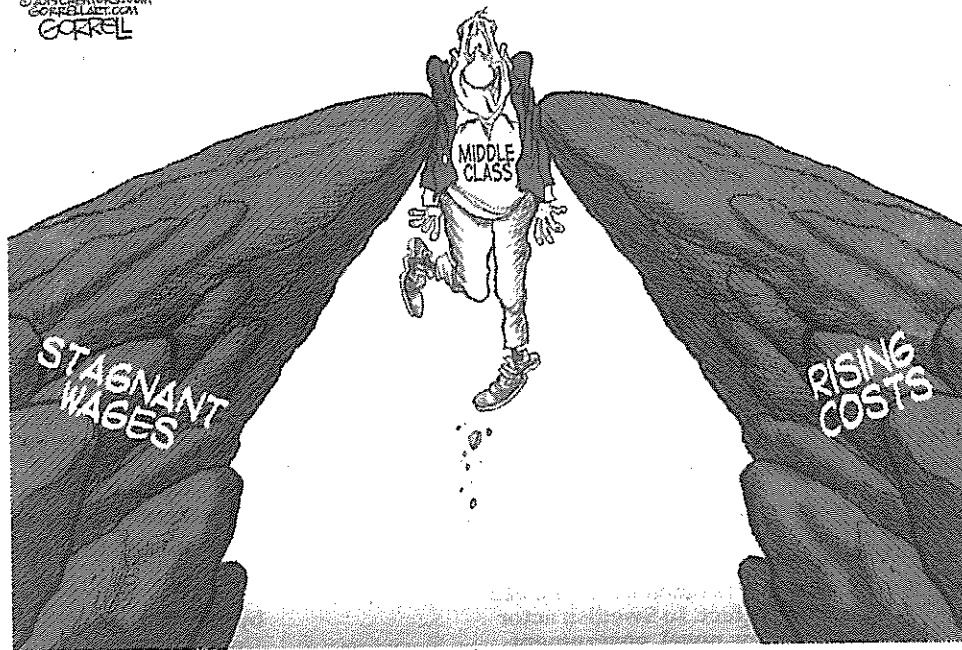


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BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

LETTERS

Raising cheaters

I'm tired of the United States accepting cheaters as the norm, even in the most pure and innocent game of Little League Baseball ("Little League Strips Chicago Team of Its US Championship," Feb. 12).

The president and others are still proud of what the Jackie Robinson West team accomplished on the field. If the rules were followed, these 14 youngsters from Chicago would never have formed a team. What they did on the field should never have happened.

What about the teams they beat that could have gone on to be champions? Until we get back the moral ground in our great country this will continue to happen — we will be a society of cheaters.

B. Robustelli, Stamford, Conn.

Clean the courts

Sue Edelman hit the nail on the head in her Sunday news story ("Shelly Court Boosts Pol's Cashbestos Bid," Feb. 8).

She showed how disgraced Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's stacking the courts with his cronies — synagogue buddies and childhood friends — tipped the scale for the plaintiffs that hired Silver's gravy train law firm.

While the cash flowed full-circle, from the courts to the law firm to Silver's bank account, the public trust was

grossly betrayed. His actions were toxic to the court system, turning a venerable institution on its head.

For years, I've advocated for changes to the New York court system, writing and lecturing on the failures of the courts to show common decency to litigants. Silver polluted the court system with his sinister plot, running a referral mill greased by graft and greed.

Maybe it's time to clean up everything that Silver touched. We might have a cleaner court system as a result.

Amy Neustein, Fort Lee, NJ

Breaking NYers

Thanks to The Post for its excellent editorial, "Full-Time Fiasco" (Feb. 12).

The notion that full-time status and increased salaries are needed to keep state legislators honest is an insult to every hard-working New Yorker.

In the similarly sized state of Florida, part-time legislators are paid \$30,000 per year with minimal staff, no pork and they are subjected to term-limits of eight consecutive years in office. There's no Florida state income tax, only a two-month legislative session and the state budget is about half that of New York's. (Plus, there's no snow.)

The pervasive corruption and dysfunction that defines Albany is a direct result of entrenched lawmakers and an inner circle of elitist supporters who routinely rig the system to benefit themselves at public expense.

Considering this, it's no wonder that New Yorkers are head-

ing to the Sunshine State in droves.

Charles T. Compton, The Bronx

Kanye's ego trip

I could not help but marvel at Kanye West's stupidity at The Grammy Awards ("Kanye Rants After Stage Crash: Beck Needs To Respect Artistry," Feb. 9).

For this guy — who has won numerous Grammys — to say, "All I know is if the Grammys want real artists to keep coming back, they need to stop playing with us," is the dumbest statement ever made. He rushed the stage when Beck accepted an award and later said it should have gone to Beyoncé. This fool did the same thing back in 2009 when Taylor Swift won an MTV Video Music Award.

For those who enjoy West's music, more power to you because this writer finds his music to be pure garbage.

Lou Bivona, Belleville, NJ



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