

# Editorial/Viewpoint

## Massena Enters New Era Of News Coverage

An era is coming to a close for readers of the Massena Observer, but a new one is just around the corner. This is the last edition of the Observer as we know it. Next week, Massenans will have a new daily newspaper to greet them first thing each morning, Tuesday through Saturday.

After more than 97 years of publication, the Massena Observer will not be the same. Aside from the obvious differences of name and appearance, the paper will serve a more vital role keeping people up to date on what is happening in local towns, St. Lawrence County, the nation and the world.

There will be no delays. Coming out five days a week will enable us to present news and sports coverage as soon as it happens. In this manner, we will provide our readers with more comprehensive, timely news.

Is Massena losing its hometown newspaper? Not at all. We will continue to cover all local events. We will still publish the community calendar, weddings, college and military news, public service announcements and club news.

In fact, we feel Massena will actually be gaining a newspaper. Many people feel a local daily is long overdue in Massena and Potsdam.

We couldn't agree more. The people of our community will be seeing a well-rounded small town, daily newspaper with a fresh appearance. We will not lose our hometown approach or our sensitivity.

The Massena Observer has served the community well for the last century. The paper has grown by leaps and bounds as our hometown has changed over the last 100 years.

We think Mr. Leslie Sutton had a great idea when he started the Northern Observer some 98 years ago. He stuck with a difficult endeavor and made it prosper. He was also providing a valuable service to the Massena community.

Mr. Sutton made another smart, progressive move when he hired Mr. Leonard Prince in 1928. Mr. Prince WAS the Massena Observer for nearly 50 years. He set the standard and his name has become synonymous with quality local news coverage and astute observations about local goings on.

Little escaped Leonard's eye, or his pen. Likewise, little of what was happening in Massena has escaped the Observer's pages. Your local paper chronicled the arrival of Alcoa and the immigrants who came to Massena to build its power canal and later built the Massena Operations into what it is today.

During two World Wars and the Korean Conflict, the Observer brought news, joyful and tragic, about Massena boys who were serving their country.

The Observer provided extensive coverage about the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway, New York Power Authority Project, Reynolds Metals, and General Motors.

The paper also told people about visits by famous people and dignitaries, including several presidents and the Queen of England.

More recently, the Observer told of the phase down of Central Foundry, the plans to build a multi-million dollars freshwater aquarium and a \$55 million, 85-store mall.

And throughout the years, the Observer has not just concerned itself with major events. All aspects of local news were covered — school board, town board, elections — whether glamorous, tedious or tragic.

Most importantly, the Observer has always stayed community oriented. This paper is part of your community and will continue to be — except now it will appear on a more regular basis.

We hope people will embrace their new community newspaper with open arms. And by all indications, that is definitely going to happen.

People are excited about their new paper and so are we. We are excited about continuing with the long tradition of community-oriented news coverage that Leslie Sutton began nearly a century ago.

We are very excited about coming into your homes every morning and we look forward to serving our community and its residents as we have in the past.

No, Massena is not losing a newspaper. Massena is gaining a newspaper that will help take our community into the next century.



The Massena Observer encourages the community to express their opinion on issues of concern or interest to area readers. Letters must be clearly written or typed, and less than 150 words. The paper reserves the right to reject any letter. All letters must be signed and have the author's address and phone number for verification. Names WILL NOT be withheld, and unsigned letters WILL NOT be printed. If you have questions about this policy, contact the Observer at 769-2453 during business hours.

## PLO Gaining Sympathy?

BY JACK ANDERSON and DALE VAN ATTA

The hundreds of Palestinians who have died in the bloody "intifada" whose martyrdom, according to Yasir Arafat. For them, it is better to die with stones in their hands in a land they call home than to be massacred in a foreign refugee camp.

In Arafat's mind, the intifada, or uprising, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, did not start 16 months ago, as it is popularly reckoned. According to Arafat, it started in 1986 when Palestinians responded to his call for demonstrations to protest repeated attacks on Palestinians in refugee camps in Lebanon. The demonstrations were hardly worth a spot on the evening news. But now the intifada makes continuous headlines and the Palestinians are no longer dismissed as troublemakers. Suddenly, they look like martyrs.

Arafat gives no indication that their rock-throwing protest will end until Israeli troops are withdrawn.

We interviewed the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization recently under tight security. It was 2:30 a.m. in Tunis, and Arafat was wrapping up his business day.

Since December 1987, the world has forced on the uprising in the occupied territories, but Arafat's memory goes back to massacres of Palestinians in Beirut refugee camps beginning in 1982 when the PLO was trying to maintain a stronghold in Lebanon. "Unbelievable," he said. "It is a tragedy. So we are fed up being treated as rats, only good for sniping."

The PLO rallied its supporters to demonstrate against those attacks. The demonstrations, which Arafat said were 39 Palestinian lives in the first part of 1987, went generally unnoticed until the wide scale rock throwing began on the West Bank in December 1987. Israeli soldiers responded with bullets and beatings.

Arafat says the press has only picked up on "this last wave" of demonstrations because "it is the longest, the most organized and involves the whole of the occupied territories."

Just as the date the intifada began is disputed by Arafat, so is the list of the dead. Israel has acknowledged a little more than 400 killed on the Palestinian side. Arafat says he has the names of 671 dead.

The Israelis may not have reported those deaths because the Palestinians themselves kept the names secret. If a Palestinian dies in a hospital, the death is reported. If he or she limps home and dies, Palestinian families hide the truth. They fear reprisals from Israel.

is who have been known to bulldoze the homes of suspected protesters.

Arafat's figures are also inflated with the names of elderly Palestinians who die, not of a bullet, but of a heart attack brought on by a protest. For the Palestinians, those are martyrs.

Arafat also keeps the names of 32,000 who he says have been injured during the intifada — an estimated 5,500 of them suffering disabling injuries such as loss of limbs. Atop the pile of papers Arafat was reading before we arrived was an application sent to the PLO to help fund a factory in Bethlehem to make artificial arms and legs.

The PLO leader was also sorting through a stack of letters from Palestinian sympathizers around the world. He talked about one letter. It included a check from an African contractor, "telling me to use it to buy a bulldozer for my people so they can crush stones," to use more rocks to continue our struggle.

Arafat knows the intifada has stirred American sympathies too, including those of some American Jews normally devoted to Israel. "The American people need to understand why our masses — our children and our women — are continuing these 16 months in this last wave of the intifada. They are in need of freedom, to be free and not slave in their own land," he said. "We are not slaves. We are human beings."

VALDEZ FALLOUT — The Alaskan oil spills has forced congressional leaders to think about ways to avoid another disaster, but all the options are unpalatable. Even in the face of environmental ruin, Congress is not disposed to shut down Alaskan oil operations. That would force the United States to import more oil. The country already imports 45 percent of its supply, contributing to the enormous trade imbalance. Congress is even less inclined to rely on unpopular nuclear power, and no one wants to go back to coal. With limited options, members of Congress will make a big fuss over increasing safety procedures, and the Alaskan shippers will go back to business as usual.

MINI-EDITORIAL — America does not create refugees, it embraces them. At least that has always been the credo. But too many refugees from Central America are storming our borders. The Immigration and Naturalization Service as solved the problem by dismissing claims of persecution and turning refugees away. Ordinary people with poignant stories to tell are sent home to brutal reprisals. And who gets the right to enter the country? People who can afford lawyers.

## Environmentalists Err

BY WILLIAM A. RUSHER

Most reasonable people are, I think, glad that environmentalism has become a public issue in most of the world's major industrial nations. In retrospect, the problem of disposing of wastes of all sorts was bound to become serious sooner or later, and the growing impact of a fast-expanding human population on the globe's ecosystem must also be recognized and provided for.

But, even more than most issues, environmentalism runs the danger of deteriorating into sheer crackpottery. For one thing, the amateur environmentalist easily identifies himself with all the small, furry animals in the world, and bravely undertakes to defend them against (what else?) huge, soulless corporations. In his mind's eye, he is defending a pristine Arcadia against greedy loggers, ivory poachers and oil tankers.

As for nuclear power, forget about it. Remember Three Mile Island? (And Chernobyl?) The governors of New York and Massachusetts have managed to close down brand-new nuclear power plants, by refusing even to participate in the preparation of emergency evacuation plans.

OK, then—how about hydroelectric power? No way; a new dam proposed by Tennessee Valley Authority was delayed for years by the charge (false, as it turned out) that building it would destroy the last known habitat of the small darter and the furbish lousewort.

What's left? Well, there's always coal-fired electric power—a strange recourse for environmentalists, one would think. Among other things, such plants are the primary source of "acid rain."

Always leave your enemy a line of retreat, goes one of the oldest rules of strategy. The environmentalists have forgotten that little detail, and in doing so have made their own task infinitely harder.

environmental anxieties of people who are undersupplied with real things to worry about.

But, even at a more serious level, many environmentalists are not waging their battle intelligently. How sensible is it, for example, to set oneself resolutely against any rational solution to the perfectly legitimate demand of the earth's growing human population for a correspondingly growing supply of energy? Who, in the long run, is bound to win that battle?

And yet many environmentalists are apparently determined to eliminate, or at least restrict, every practical source of energy known to man. Oil is out—look at what the Exxon Valdez did to Prince William Sound. The whole North Slope of Alaska should be closed to oil prospectors anyway; pipelines interfere with the annual migrations of the caribou.

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## Viewpoint

### Campout Planned

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Friends: Memorial Day is quickly approaching, and once again this year, the Massena Youth Program is sponsoring a Memorial weekend campout as a drug-free living alternative to both junior and senior high school youth of Massena. This year's camp out is scheduled for May 27-29 at the 4-H Camp Overlook at Owl's Head near Malone. We are offering this opportunity to approximately 140 participants, to include 20 chaperones. This site is equipped with cabins, dining and shower facilities. There will be structured recreational activities such as volleyball, board games, camp fires, and sing alongs.

We ask you as parents, friends and neighbors of these youth to help support our efforts by making monetary, food or recreational activities donations to help offset the cost of this weekend activity. We are also looking for adult chaperones.

Thank you for your continued support of our programs. Without the support we receive from our community, our programs would not be able to continue. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Pam Wallenhout  
Program Assistant

### Article 'Disgusting'

TO THE EDITOR:

I have offered my sympathy to Mardie LePage and her family in person, now may I do so publicly for the untimely death of her son Jason.

I read with anger and disgust the front page article of the April 20 edition of the Massena Observer.

From reading that article, it is very obvious that nothing has been determined in the case.

Why then, did you find it necessary to publish this questionable account of the circumstances surrounding the death?

Is the Massena Observer that desperate to fill its pages?

I am not alone in my feelings as many people have commented how distasteful the article was.

I would hope that in the future you will have a little compassion for the family and consider the hell these people are enduring.

Sincerely,  
Charlene Hazelton

## Arts Calendar

April 26-28 — Madama Butterfly, National Arts Centre, Ottawa. Franco Mannino, conductor.

April 28, 29 — Dinner Theater, A Little Quickie, 6 p.m., Gran View Restaurant, Ogdensburg. \$17 for dinner and show. Call 393-4550.

### EXHIBITS

May 20-June 9 — High School Art Show, Gibson Gallery, Potsdam College.

### EVENTS

May 8 — Boy Meets Girl, 8:15 p.m., OFA George Hall Auditorium, Ogdensburg. Call 393-4470 or 393-2933.

May 24 — Haydn: Missa in Tempore Belli, and Haydn: Lovesongs for Springtime, 8:30 p.m., St. Joseph's Church (corner of Cumberland and Wilbrod), Ottawa. Tickets \$12. Ottawa Choral Society. Call 613-592-2531.

June 29-July 1, and July 3-8 — Music Theatre North presents Something's Afoot, call 265-3070.

July 13-15, 17-22 — Music Theatre North presents Shenandoah.

July 27-29, July 31-Aug. 5 — Music Theatre North presents Brigadoon.

August 10-12, Aug. 14-19 — Music Theatre North presents Annie Get Your Gun.

### NORWOOD VILLAGE GREEN CONCERT SERIES

NOTE: All events are at the Norwood Village Green. More listings will follow in future editions.

May 28 — Flor de Cana and Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters, 5 p.m. Gala Opening.

June 1 — SLCMEA Stage Band-Pop Choral Festival, 3:30 p.m.

June 8 — Norwood Elementary Music, 7 p.m.

June 15 — Wally Siebel All Star Big Band, 7 p.m.

June 22 — Double Axel, 7 p.m.

## Poetry Corner

### COLLECTOR'S CHOICE

Collectors of unusual things  
A saver of items from a one-day fling  
A saver of more than you need  
A lattered old book;  
Somebody you might read.  
A cracked china cup  
Twill hold no more tea.  
T'would make a nice vase,  
To hold flowers you see.  
A special friend once again gave it to me  
I'll save this forever  
Tis grand company.  
A stack of old papers  
Somebody I might need  
I'll save them in case...  
I could use them someplace.  
A birthday card, a get-well card,  
A valentine, from someone held dear  
I'll save them all...  
Just one more year!  
An old yellow sweater  
A hole in one sleeve  
Unraveled on the collar  
Sure hates to leave.  
No reason for saving  
Taking up space.  
Now one rainy day,  
They must go away.  
Memories of long ago  
Old things that still hold a glow!  
By Tish Henry



For helpful information write National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Box 2866E, Chicago, IL 60690

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