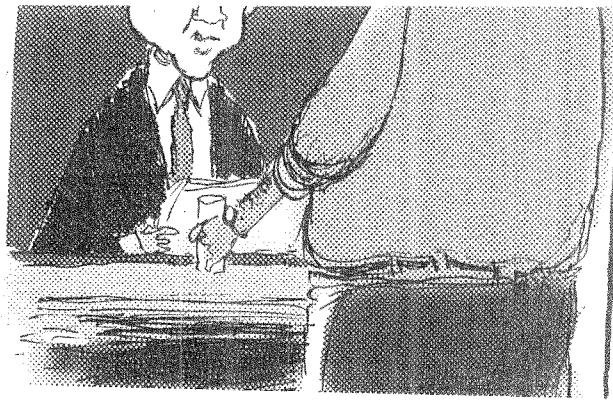


Griffin Hospital needs to grow

Proposed construction would ease crowding, add therapy for cancer patients.

Griffin Hospital in Derby has a good record for winning approval from the state's Office of Health Care Access for a proposed expansion and renovation. The \$33 million plan calls for the construction of a three-story, 49,000-sq-ft re-foot building on four acres it has purchased that is bordered by Division Street and Route 8. Griffin Hospital says the new hospital wants to shift some services — including physical therapy, occupational rehabilitation and chemotherapy — to the new building to make room for more patient beds. Currently, 100 treatment rooms are sometimes turned away because all the beds are taken. Griffin currently has 118 beds, although licensed for 160. The number of visits to Griffin's emergency room has continued to grow. In the past year, some 37,000 people sought treatment there. According to the standard set by the American College of Emergency Physicians, a hospital emergency room should have 23 to 30 beds to handle 40,000 visits a year. Griffin has 16. The result is overcrowding and delays in receiving



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Insurers themselves biggest source of fraud

Our daily media is flooded with messages from insurance companies to report insurance fraud when we see it. But the most egregious insurance fraud is committed right at insurance headquarters.

According to the state attorney general's Web site, it is the insurance companies, not individuals, that commit the most egregious fraud:

- \$77 million settlement, St. Paul Travelers, charged with bid rigging.
- \$20 million settlement, The Hartford Insurance Co., charged with secret kickbacks.
- \$80 million settlement, Ace Insurance, charged with bid rigging.
- \$153 million settlement, Zurich Insurance, charged with bid rigging.

These reports are just the tip of the iceberg, since these companies gladly pay fines to steer clear of the

it's these same cheats that successfully lobby legislators to strip workers of essential benefits, convince regulators that premium increases are vital and urge the capping of damages on the injured.

public eye. There is also an easy way for the perpetrators to pay these huge sums: raise premium rates on its customers and convince legislators to cut the risks that they are supposed to cover.

What's worse is that it's these same cheats that successfully lobby legislators to strip workers of essential benefits, convince regulators that premium increases are vital and

urge the capping of damages on the injured. All results in record insurance industry profits.

In order to "make Connecticut more competitive," the Connecticut Business & Industry Association should start spending its members' money investigating the insurance industry. Urging more transparency in the insurance industry would be a fresh start.

Instead, we will probably see more of the same; the CBIA and insurance lobbyists presenting their legislative "wish list" and taking their pound of flesh out of Connecticut individuals by cutting benefits to those legitimately injured, standing in the way of rolling back slashed benefits and trying to cap the insurance industry's financial responsibilities.

Anthony S. Bonadies
Hamden

TO SEND A LETTER: Letters to the Register should include the writer's name and address as well as day and evening telephone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Letters may be edited for clarity and are routinely condensed so that as many opinions as possible can be published. Letters should be original to

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known, she would have to them right away." not, and did not. She had to do the right thing. If she blew the whistle, she would have been a traitor to the Republic. That would be political. She would never get to be. After all, she was chosen as Rowland's running mate because of her loyalty to him.

However, if she pretended to know about the corruption, she would become governor. Her strategy was the one she chose.

Rowland thinks the voters of Connecticut are just plain too stupid to elect her "honesty" factor.

It is just too incomprehensible that anyone would be elected who knew nothing of the world. Rowland is someone she was so loyal to. I think the voters of this great state are very intelligent. They will vote her out of office.

Governor's plan territorial

If Gov. M. Jodi Rowland is such a lady, she would be able to make her personal life tax clearer to the listening public.

What she wanted to say was give money to our cities and towns to attempt to lower the sky-high real estate taxes, it is the taxpayers will ever get their money. It will most likely be wasted. However, if the Governor no longer has to write a check for their personal expenses...