

# Andover's Yankee Trader

**Gas Clothes Dryer:** Whirlpool, \$50.  
**Doors:** Interior, \$20-\$35 each; exterior, \$75-\$85 each. **Table Kits:** hollow-core door sheathed in aluminum, plus four clamp-on legs. \$10 each. **Syrup Tank:** plastic, 100 gallons, \$200. **Car Top Carrier:** \$40. **Trash Cans:** 40 gallons, with lids, \$10 each. **Car Ramps (pair):** \$200. **Doghouse:** 2½' x 3' x 3' tall for a large dog, \$100, 735-5427.

**Wanted:** Housing for family of six. No smokers. Excellent references. 10-pound dog. Looking to stay in the area. 735-5104 or JeanneOdonnel@tds.net.

**Tires:** 2 Toyo Proxies T1-S 195/55 R 14, both for \$80 or BRO. 735-5389

**Workbenches:** Workspace Modu-



lar Bench Systems, welded steel with laminate tops, two are 6'x2', one is 5'x2'. \$50 each, all for \$125. **File Cabinet:** two-drawer, letter Size, 14" deep tan, clean. \$20. **Wooden Picture Frames:** Four for \$30. 735-5389

**Kenmore Refrigerator:** \$75. **Dressers:** \$30. **Bureaus:** \$25. **Stuffed Recliner:** \$75. **Cutting Torch:** \$50. All prices OBO. 526-2262.

If you have stuff that's "too good to throw away," let Andover's Yankee Trader (AYT) help you find it a new home. AYT is for individuals or businesses to give away (or sell) stuff they no longer need (not stuff they bought to re-sell). Up to 30 words is free for Andover residents and Beacon subscribers; \$5 for others. Add a photo for \$5. If you'd like to show your appreciation when AYT works for you, an extra (tax deductible) donation would be appreciated! To be included in next month's AYT, get your 30 words and optional photo to the Beacon by the 15th. Ads@AndoverBeacon.com • PO Box 149, Andover 03216 • 735-6099

## Increasing Government Programs Makes No Sense At All

By Faith Clendenen

I have read the letters in support of Mario Ratzki in the *Beacon* and have a few comments to make.

First, Mario and his supporters talk about "protecting Medicaid for our seniors." The two largest federal healthcare programs are Medicare and Medicaid. Medicare, which is what all seniors become enrolled in at the age of 65 (or later, as the eligibility age is creeping upwards), provides for the healthcare needs of seniors and is entirely run by the Federal government with no state input at all.

Medicaid, which mostly involves seniors only when they become resident in a long-term care facility (nursing homes), is federal money given to the states to administer for the benefit of the indigent of any age, citizen or not. That New Hampshire shamefully abuses its Medicaid funding is certainly true, but it isn't senior citizens who mostly suffer from this maladministration. The vast majority of seniors' healthcare funding comes from Medicare, not Medicaid, so protecting Medicaid has little impact on seniors.

### Polarization

Secondly, the idea that the polarization of the two political parties can be easily overcome ignores the fact that their goals are diametrically opposed. One party wants a much smaller government, involved in fewer areas than it is now. The other party wants a larger government, getting involved in regulating and managing even wider areas of life.

It's very hard for me to see where a middle ground can exist here. For the one side to compromise by making their cuts smaller, and the other by making their increases smaller still leaves them with no common ground. Those two completely different views of the role of government are at the heart of the

disagreement, and I for one cannot see a "Third Way" between the two.

I wish Mario good luck in finding an acceptable compromise. It would be wonderful should it happen, but I think it unlikely.

There seem to be two views of life represented in our political system. One believes that there are solutions that will satisfy everyone, and that there are few areas in which experts cannot perfect human life and endeavor. The other view is that solutions always involve trade-offs, that if someone gains, someone else loses, and that individuals can make better choices for themselves in their own particular circumstances than distant experts. That's the basic conflict we see in our current political environment.

### GDP And Government Spending

Currently, all government spending (federal, state, and local) is 40% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The annual federal deficit for the last three years (at \$1.3+ trillion dollars annually) is 9% of GDP. Were we to increase tax revenues enough to cover that deficit as well as all of our current spending, half of our Gross Domestic Product would be spent solely on government.

All the money that government spends, every penny, comes from taxes extracted from the private half of our domestic economy or from money borrowed from T-bill holders and foreign investors; in other words, in order to balance the budget at current spending levels, every single dollar of privately-created revenue would have to be turned over to one governmental body or another. That leaves nothing for the private citizens and investors who created that revenue.

To increase government programs and the number of government employees in the face of these financial facts makes no sense at all.

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# VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

The Andover Democrats invite and encourage you to vote on

## PRIMARY ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Polls are open at the  
Andover Elementary/Middle School  
between 8 AM and 7 PM.

You will not need a photo ID for the Primary.

Vote for a candidate for Governor:

- Jackie Cilley
- Maggie Hassam
- Bill Kennedy

Choose one on the 11th, and remember:

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