

October 2024



"It's your New York!"

The Rondout Reader



NEW YORK DUEL

FOR THE FUTURE OF THE EMPIRE STATE

BY KEVIN AHEARN

Established 2024



"It's your New York!"

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Presents

NEW YORK DUEL

FOR THE FUTURE OF THE EMPIRE STATE

STARRING

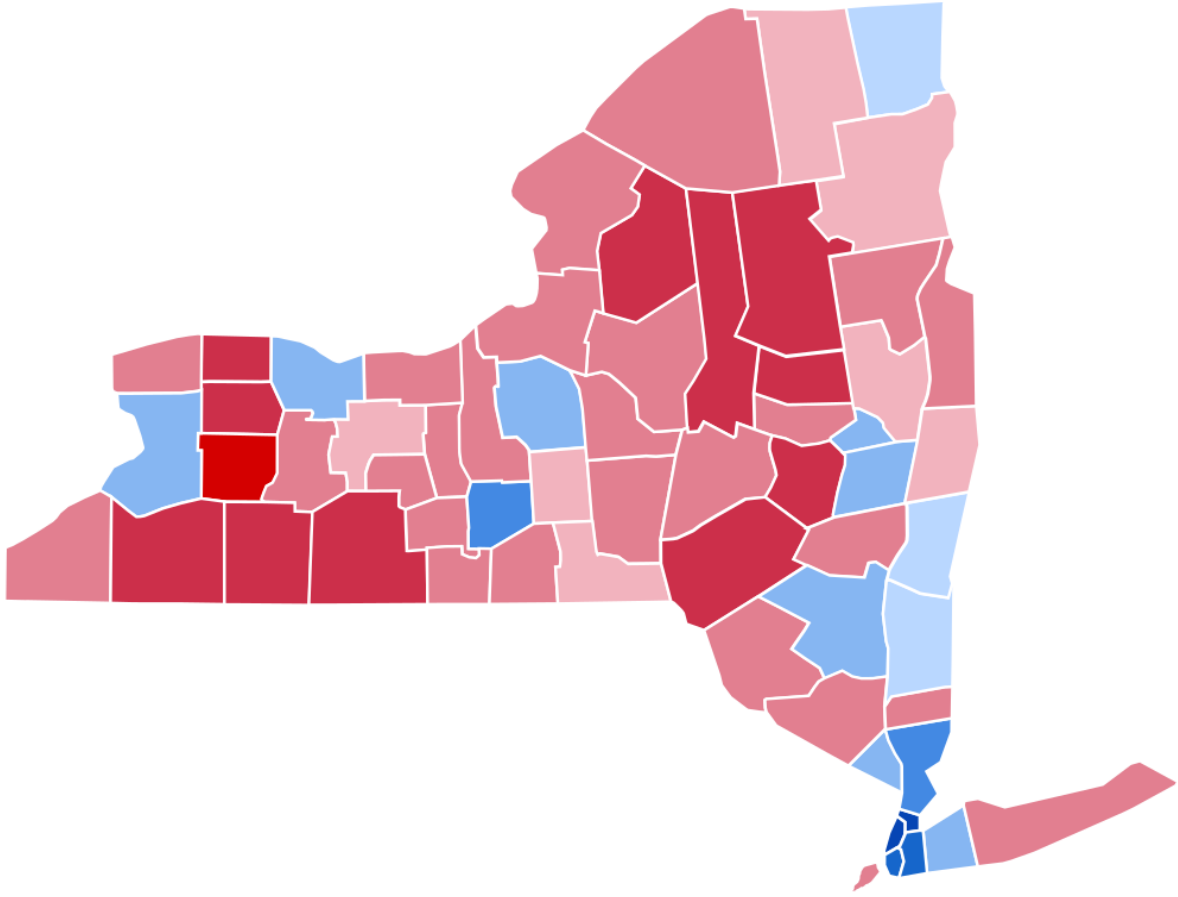
Robert De Niro & Meryl Streep

Plus an all-star supporting cast



For Mrs. Ahearn

'New York DUEL' is fiction.
All references to actual persons, alive
or dead, made for a good story.





"There is nothing I love as much as a good fight."



*"In New York it's not whether you win or lose
--it's how you lay the blame."*



*"Don't be alarmed, ladies and gentlemen.
Those chains are made of chrome steel!"*



BIG STATE was founded by patriots fighting for their lives.

With the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 'New York' existed only on paper. To establish an official capital, the Provincial Congress began in New York City. As the British advanced on Manhattan, the new Congress ran north to White Plains, and in July of 1776, established the "Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York." On the run again when Washington's army abandoned New York City, the Congress stopped briefly in Fishkill. With the Redcoats still on their heels, in February of 1777, the delegates ran further up the Hudson Valley to the city of Kingston.

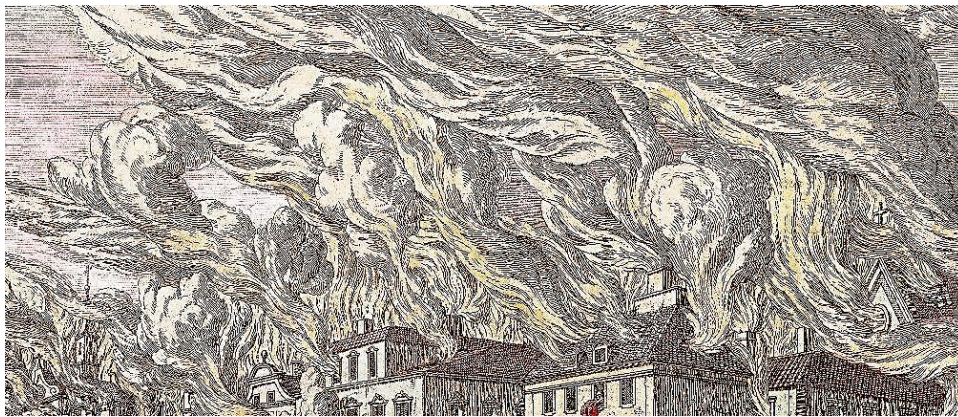
'The Breadbasket of the Revolution,' Kingston welcomed the new State Government. For two months, the convention met in the Ulster County Courthouse, and on April 22, 1777, clanging churchbells rang in the State's first constitution. In June, the State elected brigadier general George Clinton as New York's first governor.



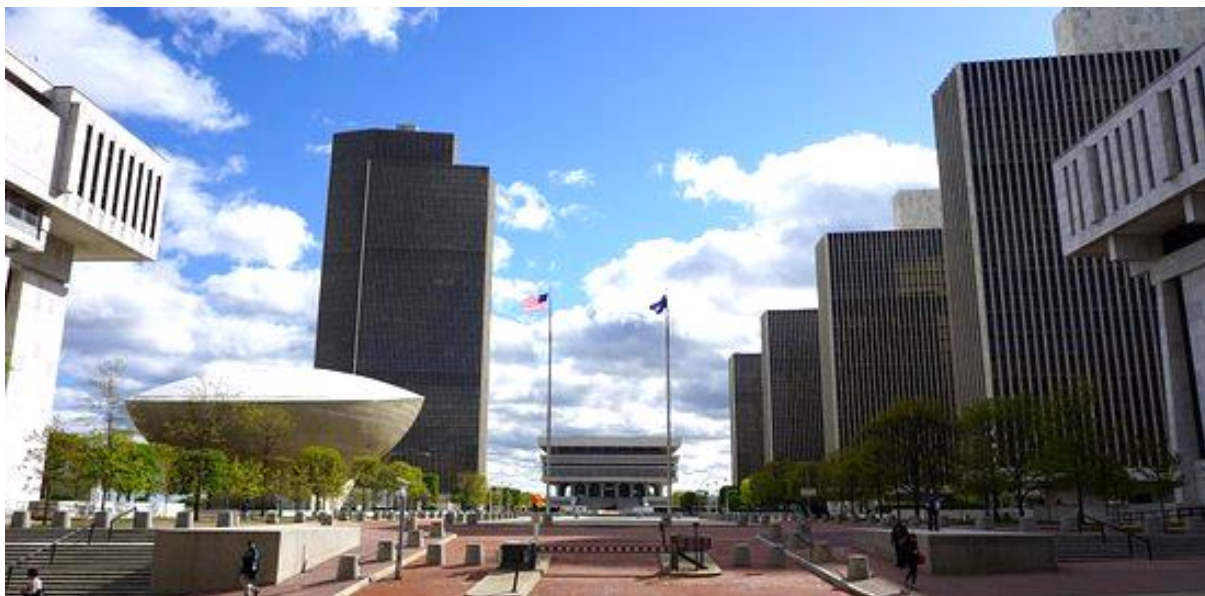
Three months later, the first session of the New York Supreme Court convened in Kingston. A local patriot offered a room in his stone house to the Senate; the larger Assembly met in a local tavern.



The British kept coming; the first New York Government kept running. On October 16, 1777, the Redcoats arrived in Kingston. Declaring the city 'a hotbed of perfidy and sedulous disloyalty,' they burned the birthplace of the State to the ground.



The Government ran up to Albany, where after more than 240 years of unsustainable growth, **BIG STATE** had run New York into the ground.



35 PROGRESS STREET, KINGSTON NY



David and Dorothy Spar had lived in Kingston all their lives. A star quarterback at Kingston High School, he had led his team to the State Finals in 1963.

This time he'd be on his own.



"I'm going to do it because it has to be done!"



*"But...you'll be alone against **BIG STATE.**"*

Dorothy, a former Kingston High School cheerleader, had her concerns.

"I've got a name, an image, and a message. What's Albany got?"

"Must be illegal."

"Not according to the State Constitution."

"Resources?"

"Online, face to Facebook."

"And for how long do you think this 'Kingston Coup' is going to fly?"



"Maybe a New York minute."

'David Spar,' as a name, is all-American plain, hardly heroic. That would be corrected.

An All-Kingston boy, the son of a storekeeper, he married his high school sweetheart. A week later, he enlisted. His academic and athletic prowess got him into West Point, then Vietnam.

In the Battle of Ia Drang...



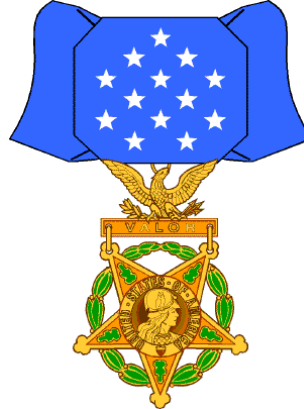
In deference to Tennessee's Sergeant York, a smalltown boy who made good in WWI, a local reporter dubbed David Spar 'Captain New York'.

The editor 'pushed the envelope'...

Daily Freeman

Our Hero CAP NY!

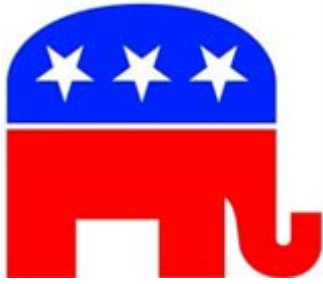
Kingston's "Favorite son" wins *Medal of Honor*



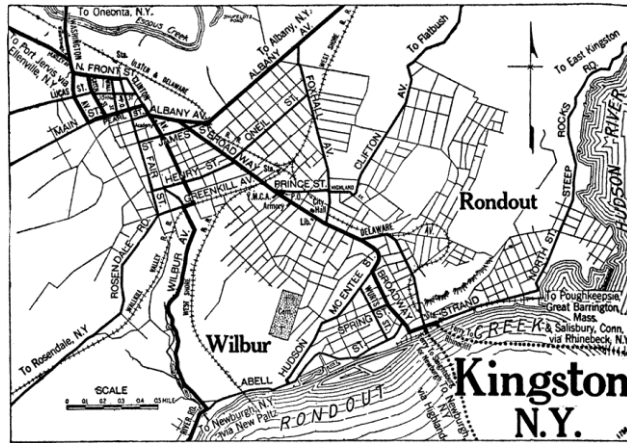
With a law degree from NYU, 'CAP NY' rose to become the 'First Capital's' District Attorney. Fair, firm and 'untouchable', he'd been re-elected unopposed for the last 35 years.



And he kept flying: a vintage Boeing Stearman biplane hangared in nearby Rhinebeck Aerodrome. Painstakingly restored, Spar was lucky to spend 20 hours a year in the air, and he treasured every minute.



The Democrats wanted **CAP NY**. So did the Republicans and the Libertarians and the Independence Party. Over the years they had offered him judgeships and cushy Capital, New York City, even Washington appointments.



BIG STATE didn't get it; **CAP NY** loved *Kingston*. Growing up in the historic small city where the Rondout Creek met the Hudson River had made him who he was. But in his lifetime, he had seen the former 'Breadbasket of the Revolution' reduced to scratching for the crumbs left by the Albany tax collectors.



Kingston dated back to the Dutch in 1652. The Netherlands controlled the Hudson River Valley from 1609 until 1664, and established New Netherland, a series of trading posts, towns, and forts up and down the Hudson River, including Wiltwyck, known today as Kingston.

The slow expansion of New Netherland, however, caused conflicts with both English colonists and Iroquois Confederacy. In the 1630s and early 1640s, the Dutch Director Generals carried on a brutal series of campaigns, largely succeeding in crushing the strength of the "River Indians," but also managing to create a bitter atmosphere of tension and suspicion between European settlers and Native Americans.



By 1652, 60-70 settlers had moved down from Fort Orange to where the Rondout Creek met the Hudson River to farm the fertile flood plains of the Esopus Creek with the Esopus Indians. Inevitably land disputes brought the brink of war. In 1657, Director General Peter Stuyvesant sent soldiers up from New Amsterdam to crush the Esopus and help build a stockade with 40 houses for the settlers. Board by board, the settlers took their barns and houses down, and carted them uphill to a promontory bluff overlooking the Esopus Creek flood plain. They reconstructed their homes behind a 14-foot high wall made of tree trunks. By day, the men left their walled village, 'Wiltwyck,' to go out and farm their fields, leaving the women and children largely confined within the stockade until 1664, when a peace treaty ended the conflict with the Esopus tribe.

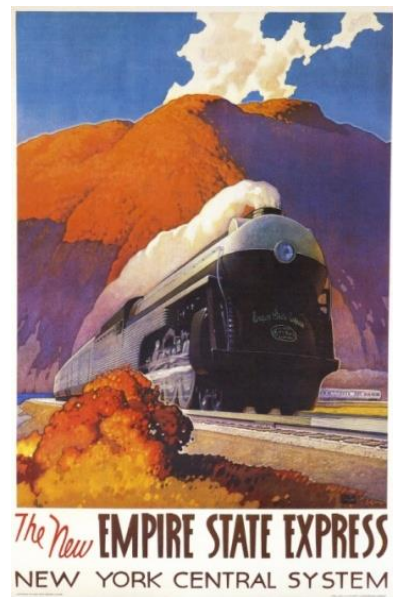
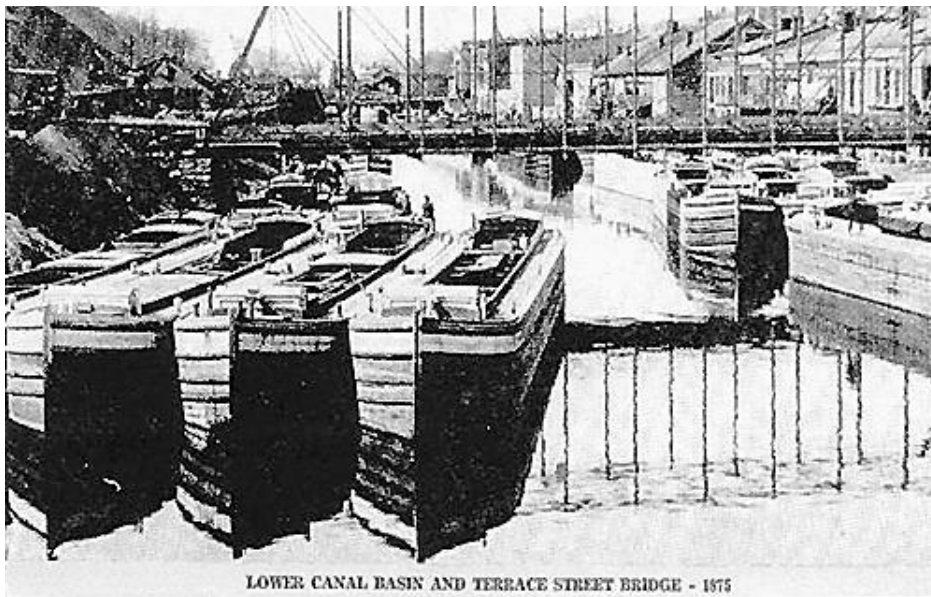


A few years later, the Dutch lost New Netherland to the English during the Second Anglo-Dutch War. In September of 1664, 'New York' was born.

For its role in the American Revolution, Kingston paid in flames. With many of the Dutch stone buildings gutted, reconstruction was slow and painful. As the years passed Kingston rebuilt, and by the beginning of the 19th century was once again the largest, most dominant town in the Rondout Valley.



In the 19th century, the "canal-building era" transformed the valley when the Delaware and Hudson Canal chose the nearby hamlet of Rondout as the terminus of the D&H Canal, and the starting point for river traffic down to New York City. By the end of the century, Kingston boasted a booming economy almost completely reliant upon the canals and rivers.



Prosperity ended in 1899 when the canal closed down and became the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. Progress in the building trade also killed the local cement and "bluestone" industries, which sank the local shipbuilding and ship-repair businesses. By 1932, only a few small industrial companies still operated in Kingston. Despite its unique contributions to the American Revolution and Industrial Revolution, the 'River City's' decline continues to this day.

For **CAP NY**, there came that last straw.

The Kingston Model Railroad Club had begun in 1937, its members and enthusiasts gathering to build and maintain an extensive layout, miniature railed worlds in the Rondout Valley.



Every holiday season, Spar's parents had taken their David to see the trains. Continuing the tradition, **CAP NY** brought his son.

But this year may be its last; an eviction notice will soon force the clubhouse out in the street. Hardly a fancy showroom, the structure doesn't even have running water, yet its rent has become unaffordable. Not designed to be moved, after 83 years, the layout would be chopped up for parts like a used car, and vanish forever.

CAP NY had other plans.



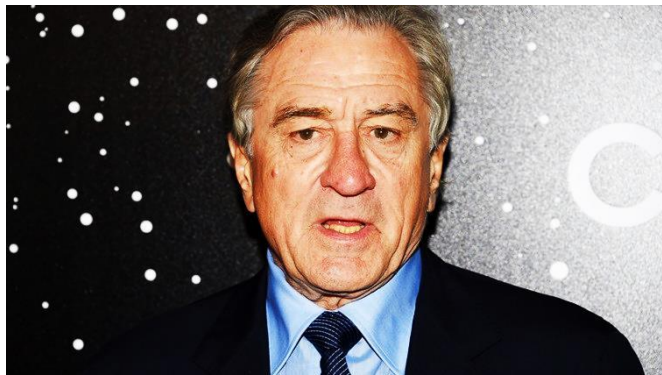
Income tax week in New York during an election year was also 'I'm running for Governor' week. The Right-to-Lifers announced their righteous candidate, then the Greeners and Legalize Potters, and of course, the New York Communist Party had to top it all. Not running with any way to win, their 30-second sound-bites proclaimed their continued existence.

Then the media received word.



*"It's him, finally! We got **CAP NY!**"*

Fittingly, on April 15th, on the *Six O'clock News*, just before local sports, Kingston's 'Favorite son' took to the airwaves.



"I'm David Spar and I'm announcing my candidacy to be your governor."

*"Call me **CAP NY.**"*

*"From the Roosevelts to the Cuomos, great men have built an empire to govern, creating an Albany colossus. **BIG STATE** has taken over New York, billing us for a two hundred and seventy-five billion dollar 'King Kong' bureaucracy."*



"The damsel in distress trapped in the monster's grip, that's you, New York taxpayer!"



"I'm the Baby Boomer in the bi-plane."

"Within a year as governor, I will cut the State budget in half by privatizing or abolishing departments throughout New York, but my first action will be to move the State Capital back to its rightful place, Kingston."

"I need your New York signature to get me on the ballot and then your vote to put me in the governor's chair...but not in Albany."

"No more 'King Kong', Kingston!"

"It's your New York!"

DAILY NEWS

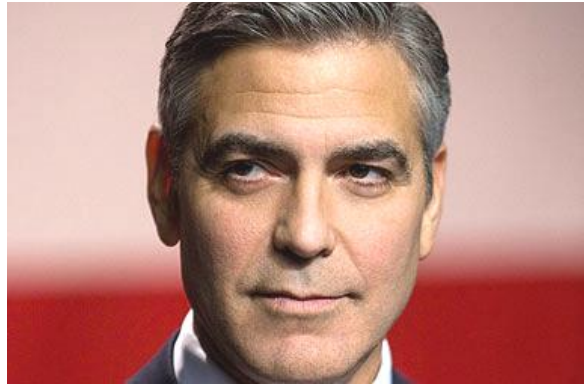
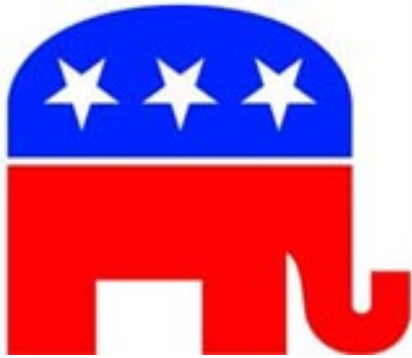
CAP NY VS. KING KONG!



Kingston's 'David' against Albany's 'Goliath'
'Community Capital' over BIG STATE?



*"A 'Frank Capra' candidate. CAP NY's not running for office,
he's specking for the movie rights."*



*"An old, bold pilot with a Kamikaze platform.
Fourteen minutes, fifty-nine seconds and counting."*



*"Kingston, population less than twenty-three thousand, (Two interns looked it up.)
'Capital of the 'Empire State'. Kingston, like it owns the (bleep)ing naming rights!"*

*"As we've recently been told, Kingston was the first capital of New York. 'A nest of villains',
during the Revolution, the British burned the Rondout city."*

"So what? In the whole state, less than twenty-three thousand voters actually care."

*"The rest of us love our much more than eight-hundred-pound gorilla running our New York
lives."*





"BIG STATE *knows what governor* **CAP NY** *would mean..."*



'A disaster of Biblical proportions...dogs and cats...living together, mass hysteria!'



CAP NY on **facebook**

"I am a New York American, the strongest stock in the country. I'm not a 'political machine'. I don't have campaign workers, no special interest groups, no 'war chest' filled from fundraising dinners and photo-ops. No corporate donors seeking favors, no managers, no spokespersons spinning and respinning politics as usual.

"I'm one New Yorker talking to another.

"We face challenging times, and we're either going to stand up and change a government that no longer works, or lay down and let New York fail.

*"**BIG STATE** has become an Albany Empire, a bunch of Babel towers, ever-expanding its power and influence, fueled by fatcats and fear, playing one party, one people against another, creating bureaucracy after bureaucracy, a pyramid scheme with all the money and power at the top looking down on the rest of us.*



*"The 'Age of Equalization' is just beginning. With technology in hand, we have instant access to the world. Over-sized, overpriced, and underperforming, Albany remains trapped in the 'Boom Box Era'. We no longer need **BIG STATE**, but an intimate 'Community Capital' open to the people...in Kingston.*

"No more 'King Kong', Kingston!"



"It's your New York!"



*"I admire **CAP NY**, a genuine hero, but the man simply doesn't understand how politics works. Albany is the grandest, most impressive, most intimidating Capital Complex in the world because it has to be. New York is the 'Empire State'!"*

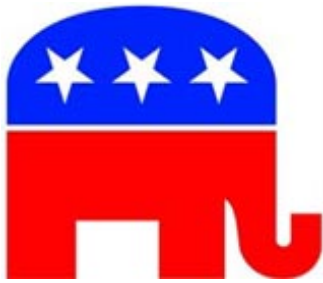


*"Kingston? Kingston as the new capital, are you kidding me?
I wouldn't hold a tractor-pull in that dump!"*



*"I love Captain New York! A lone American hero in a dogfight with **BIG STATE**. Oh, the political flak from all sides, as the Air Corps warriors used to say, 'So thick you could walk on it.'*

*"God speed, **CAP NY!**"*



*"'We live in fame or go down in flame', **CAP NY** will be cinders in a week."*

His campaign manager handed him a blog print out.



"Sir, Statepolitics.org just posted what the Spar family had always downplayed."

"Not exactly. The citation for Cap's Medal of Honor. You don't wanna read this."



"A fatal hit already?"

New York did.



*"Favorite son' David Spar, aka **CAP NY**, is a Baby Boomer piloting a New Millennium commando raid to de-capitalize and decapitate the almighty State. A Rondout rabblouser, he's gunning for a people's government. The Capital returns home to its Revolutionary roots - a flying dream scheme."*



*"Captain New York' is less than a party and more than a candidate, He is...a Twenty-First Century political fantasy. Instead of **BIG STATE**, you want a 'Community Capital', then **CAP NY**, he's your guy."*



*"But only if he can muster fifteen thousand New York signatures to make the ballot. We can expect a 'barnstorming' tour of the State, **CAP NY** in his bi-plane, doing barrel-rolls over Empire Plaza."*



Spar did not leave Kingston. No need; technology got his message out. By the end of May, **CAP NY** had more than 25,000 confirmed New York signatures, all submitted online.

In the middle of June, the poll numbers:

Dem	- 55%
GOP	- 37%
CAP NY	- 06%
All others	- 02%



Which put the Ulster County Legislature and the Kingston city fathers in a 'Rosendale pickle.'



"We stand with Spar and Albany'll unleash its wrath. We'll have to beg for every dime."



"What's new about that?"



"Persona non grata, ignore him and he'll fade faster than skywriting in the wind."

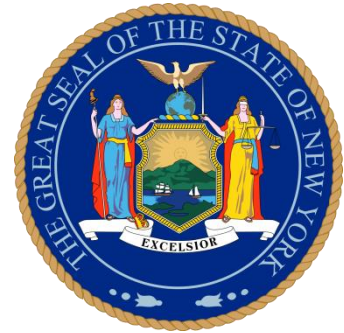
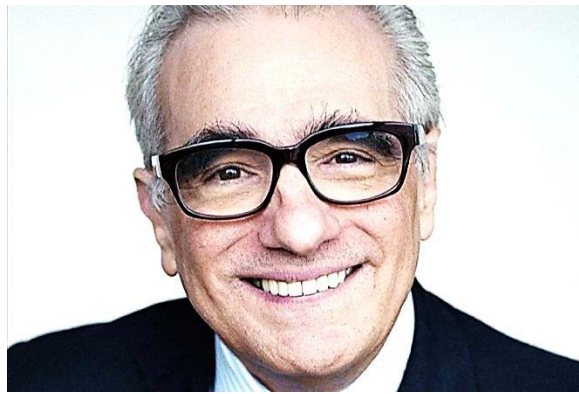


"We could tighten the county screws, make him retire."



*"Turn on **CAP NY**? The people of Kingston'd never forgive us."*

"Burned by the British and smoked by Albany ever since!"



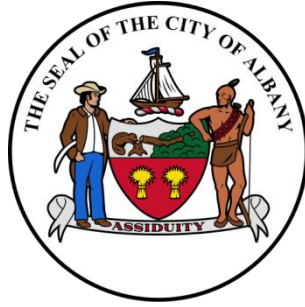
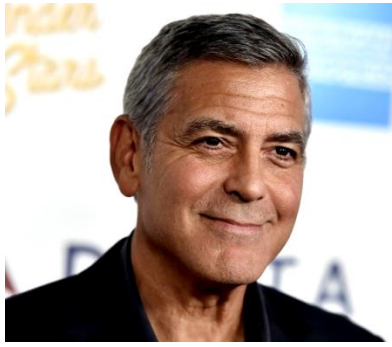
"Anybody here think our Kingston isn't good enough to be the capital of New York again?"

"Show the State, show the country..."

CAP NY, Kingston's 'Favorite son!'"

While in Albany...





"The novelty factor, New Yorkers getting their web jollies. By November, Spar won't even leave a vapor trail."

"A temporary distraction. A quick blip on the fringe radar. CAP NY's got nowhere to go but down."

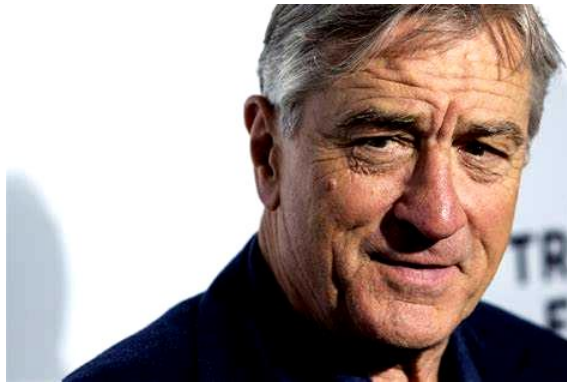
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
ONLINE



'The Stock Market is up, but over the last two years, New York has lost more than 150,000 jobs while The State payroll continues to increase.'

NY VEGAS BOARD

- Dem - Even Money (Safest dollar in town)**
- GOP - 3/1 (Action comatose)**
- CAP NY - 50/1 (Bet now, odds dropping)**

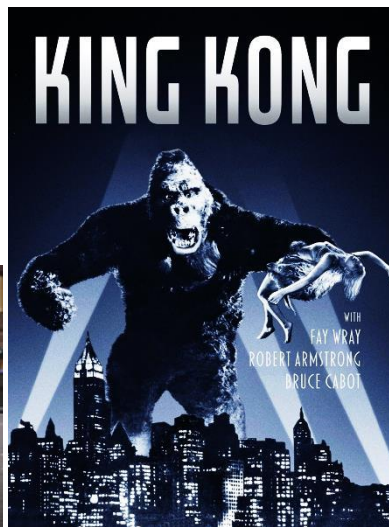


CAP NY on **facebook**

"Hello, New York.

"A shrinking tax base funding an unaffordable Albany or a smaller government in Kingston serving a striving work force?"

"This election is about jobs! Not more State employees we don't have the money to hire-- private sector careers! But with New York's 'King Kong' taxes, no American or foreign company wants to invest in us.



"We've got to make New York the 'Opportunity State' by slashing taxes for small businesses and start-up companies with bonuses for every new job created. And it's got to be done now.

*"Outside NYC, one in four employees works for the State. **BIG STATE** is becoming the middle class. When Albany runs short, it borrows more. Do we wait until the budget busts three hundred billion? Until the interest on our debt drives up taxes even more? What little industry we have now will flee for greener pastures and New York will be a Third World State of corn, cows and Quicky Marts.*

"It's your New York!"

The New York Times

Why CAP NY Can't Win

The lone idealist takes on the almighty State. David Spar is speaking to New York as *a people*, not pandering to business and labor or promising the poor and the sick, not talking about race or religion, immigration or the environment. Not State's rights or State Law, State *expense*.



Terminating more than forty thousand State employees will cause short-term chaos and hardship, but we *must* significantly lower State taxes, and in the long run, become a more viable workplace for ourselves and more importantly, our children.

Of course, CAP NY will fail, for two obvious reasons: One, because he's right, and two, because he's telling the truth. The 'King Kong' State is out of control and no one wants to admit that he or she allowed it to happen, including me.

'Long live **BIG STATE!**'

After the Fourth of July Weekend...

Dem - 51%
GOP - 36%
CAP NY - 11%
All others - 2%



Built at the crest of Albany's State Street, the Capital has been the seat of power since the 1880s. Designed by five architects and constructed by hand over 25 years costing \$25,000,000, the ornate mansion was a conglomeration of Gothic Revival, Romanesque and Moorish influences with three regal staircases and a Senate Chamber adorned with 23-carat gold leaf, Italian marble, and massive fireplaces.

By the 1960's, the State had outgrown it. While America was in upheaval, Albany was expanding, destroying the historic town center to make way for the 100-acre, \$2 billion 'Empire Plaza'.



Eighteen years in the making, the State complex is a city unto itself. The 44-story Corning Tower faces four identical 22-story structures and the matching Legislative and Justice Buildings at the north end. The 1200-foot Swan Street building dominates the west edge with the 8-story Cultural Education Building housing the State Museum and Library.

From his luxurious penthouse office, the former Chief Justice of the NY Supreme Court had a commanding view of The State. Nearly eighty, with connections throughout Albany, the Chief Justice was a political 'bookie' who saw the gubernatorial election as the Super Bowl.

The trick to making money playing the two-party system is to keep the election close from start to finish; a landslide which would be bad for business. When the Dems got ahead, push for the GOP, or the reverse. The closer the 'point spread', the more the Chief Justice got paid.

He called for an 'emergency caucus' and his top influence peddlers came running.



*"Gentlemen, we have a challenge that is not to be underestimated. David Spar was the best law student I ever had. Outworked everybody to get his degree. He may fly a vintage bi-plane, but as **CAP NY**, he's trying to zoom past the lot of us."*



"Kingston leadership in a New York revolution. The more things change..."



"And he's gaining! How? Those who can afford the old tax system will continue to pay through the nose while the poor will lose vital services. Who'd vote for this guy?"



"It's the struggling and the 'have nots' CAP NY wants to lift up. He's taking aim at the dying middle class and doing it scott-free."



"Fully exploiting the new technology. He's not calling us 'incompetent' or 'callous', but worst of all, unneeded! We've got to shoot him down."



*"But he's bulletproof. We've dug into his life, his records, his finances. Compared to **CAP NY**, Tim Tebow is Bernie Madoff!"*



"This election has become about The State itself. Not about parties, but our very survival. That's where we push. Every New Yorker is a closet 'State enabler.' They complain about taxes yet cry out for services. Make them believe that they must have the huge budget, have to have Albany."

*"Because if Kingston's 'Favorite Son' wins, this former capital's gonna be **Love Canal!**"*



By mid-August...

Dem - 45%
GOP - 31%
CAP NY - 22%
All others - 1%



Sixty Minutes did a quarter hour on **CAP NY**, half of it in the air over the Rondout.





"Voters need to feel that the State stands for them, leadership worth looking up to. The Constitution places the individual above the State. We New Yorkers define the State, not the other way around."

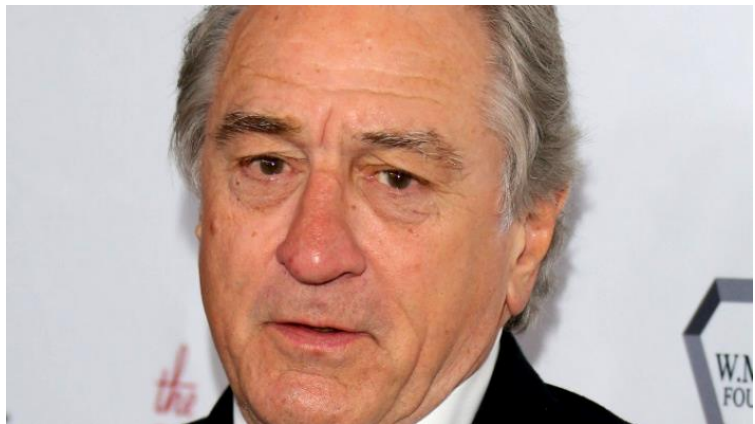
On the ground, she took him to task.



"You understand that if you're elected, a lot of good, hardworking, dedicated people, are going to be hurt. Union members!"

"But the vital services that would be cut. Health, education, social programs..."

"Albany's promised real change."



*"But if we 'stay the course'... We need unions to protect workers from exploitation by employers, not to push up wages and benefits pricing job-creators out of the market. The days of **BIG STATE** union contracts are over— New Yorkers can't afford them."*

"At the State level, not locally. With 'King Kong' off the top of the Empire State, individual counties will have more money to hire at county wages and benefits. Yes, the transition will be difficult."



*"Albany will always be Albany, the **BIG STATE** mindset. Pay top people, or 'connected' people', top prices with full benefits and hefty pensions. For a full generation, Albany's been flying too high, too big, too slow, and too heavy. Too much for too long has sent New York into a crash dive."*



"Bail on Albany?"



"Before it's too late. Kingston is our 'parachute'. We're still going to be hurt when we hit, but we'll recover, and spending half as much for a smaller state government, thrive..."

"It's your New York!"

NY VEGAS BOARD

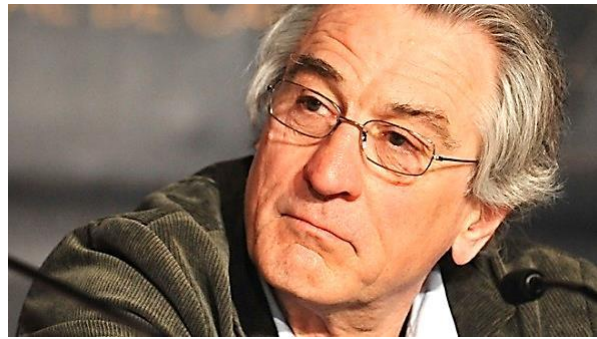
Dem - 7/5 (bet 7\$ to win 5\$)
GOP - 3/1 (Slow as yet)
CAP NY - 15/1 (Surge will lower odds again)

35 PROGRESS STREET



"Wow! You've been flying so well

"An anti-Albany hurricane is more like it. Will I get to decorate the new Governor's mansion?"

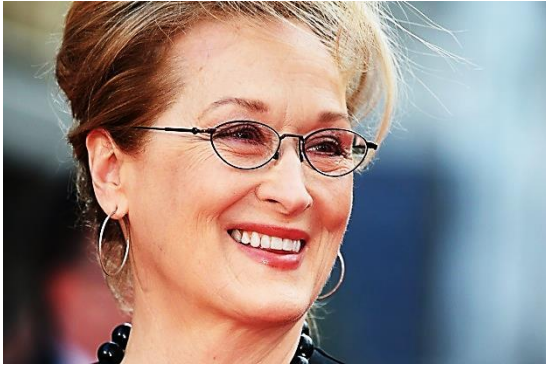


"Seems I caught a Kingston 'tailwind'."

"The future is happening a lot faster than it used to. Small, fast, cheap technology is flattening the world like the small, fast mammals overthrew the dinosaurs.

"And we ain't no 'dinosaurs'!"





*"Hell no, we're New York Americans
And when things are at their worst
we are the best."*

*"I found out that I could never ever
be any happier than the first time we
woke up together. And I'll always
feel that way."*

That brought back sweet memories.



*"Pity our party hacks! Not about 'me' or 'my legacy',
but for every small city and town overgoverned and overburdened by
BIG STATE. We overvalued our homes, our goods and ourselves, gambling
money we didn't have in the belief that, in the end, we could beat the house.'*



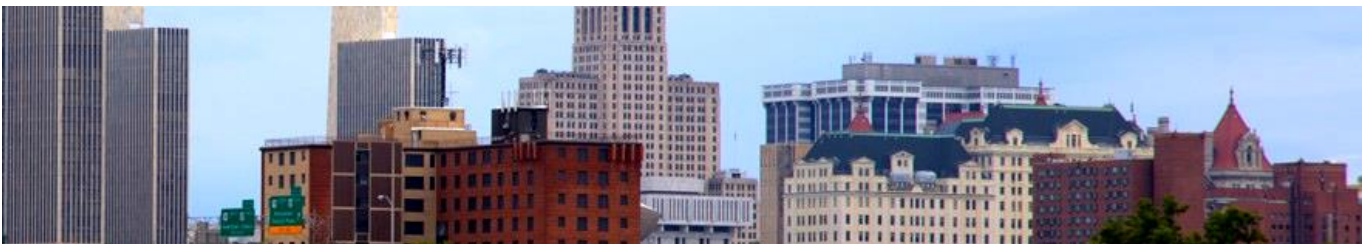
'My husband, the politician!'



"Well, sorry 'bout that, but we're gonna have to cut way back on the service staff. That's right, New Yorkers, we're gonna hafta do more ourselves by ourselves for ourselves."

"Oh, please! Don't tell them that. I'll never be First Lady!"

While in the state capital...



In 'The Egg', the performing arts center in Albany, a political strategy was hatching.

On the northeast corner of Empire Plaza, the inclined structure housed two amphitheatres. The larger 982-seat Kitty Carlisle Hart Theatre was packed with union leaders and shop stewards from across the state.



"If we lose, every last one of us will be out of a job, but we can't win by attacking CAP NY, can't be seen as the Capital 'monster' out to squash the crusading hero."



The audience grew intent; *what did the 'Grand Old Man' have planned?*

"Union members are the best people we have, loyal to your brother and sister workers, and committed to the State. Time to put on a new face--proud and dedicated to serving New Yorkers, and baby, you know what an adventure that can be."

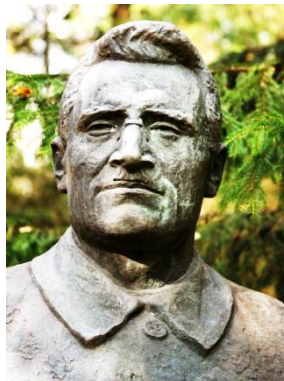
"You don't work for the State or the union, you work for New Yorkers!"

That got some applause.



"But let's get this straight. Many of your members have legal access to guns, pistol permits and hunting licenses, and all it's gonna take is just one union diehard who thinks he or she can save Albany with a single shot, that our problems will be solved, plus we'll get another paid holiday.

*"No way! Somebody makes a martyr out of **CAP NY** and the State will put up a larger than life statue of him in front of the Capital Building...in **Kingston!**"*

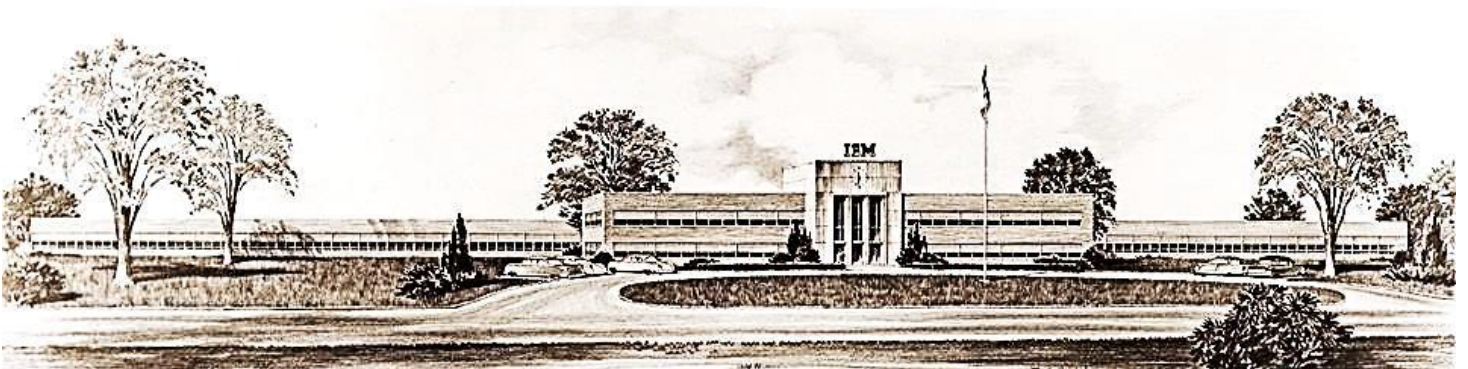


'We will win our way, the New York Way!'





The made-in-American clock hadn't worked for nearly 17 years, its hands frozen in time as if commemorating an unthinkable event which changed so many lives. The hub of a 28-building complex spread over 260 acres with a heliport and its own power station, the aptly named 'Tech City' was a prime real estate 'ghost town' in the center of Kingston.



After two world wars, the Atomic Age and the Jet Age, the beautiful river city might have faded into history, but the dawn of the greatest technological marvel ever to hit civilization made Kingston the first capital of New York's 'Silicon Valley', a proud, bustling small city with a future that knew no bounds.



In 1956, International Business Machines (IBM), the most successful company in American history, opened its newest high-tech sprawling factory complex in heart of Kingston to build and test its giant mainframe computers, employing 7,000 Hudson Valley residents.



The result was an economic bonanza, pumping up the tax base, benefiting everyone in Ulster County, especially Kingston. Abandoned by the State for Albany nearly 200 years before, IBM had given the city a winning identity.

But IBM's profit streak crashed in 1990; banking on computers becoming bigger and more powerful for business and government, International Business Machines had failed to envision the smaller, cheaper personal computer. Cutting its work force worldwide, IBM jobs in Kingston dwindled to 1,700 and rumors ran rampant.



"We have no plans to close our Kingston factory."

In July, seeming without plans, IBM shut down its plant and left. Like the D&H Canal closure in 1899, the local economy found itself 'Up the Rondout without a paddle.'



Over the years, a parade of governors, senators and congressmen have made all kinds of promises to make 'Tech-City' a 'shovel-ready' destination, including a Master Plan 'to transform its campus into the Hudson Valley's premiere location for clean technology companies and related businesses', but except for a few minor takers, the site has been 95% empty ever since.

CAP NY had other plans.

On alert for an appearance and hoping for a sound byte, up and down Progress Street, media vans formed a chain around Spars' three-bedroom Kingston home, On a crisp September morning following the Labor Day Weekend, they'd get a lot more.



Touring the 18th Century 'Stockade District' and then the waterfront, CAP NY and 'the future State First Lady' led the caravan through neighborhoods historic and scenic, poor and seedy, to City Hall and the Hudson Valley Mall.

The finale was 'Tech City'.



"Welcome to the 'shovel-ready' green capital of New York State."

From empty building to vacant parking lot totaling 2.5 million square feet, 'Tech City' stood as a stark reminder, not unlike the State-abandoned Kingston Senate House, of what used to be, of what could have been.





"There's one department I'll expand in my administration ...law enforcement. Technology has helped us and thieves. You defraud or cheat or steal from New Yorkers, you will be caught, tried and jailed."



"What about 'Empire Plaza'?"



"Oh, the grandiose Albany! Those gleaming towers could become the ultimate corporate mega-complex, the headquarters' address for businesses around the world."



'And if that doesn't pan out, the definitive setpiece for a Hollywood sci-fi franchise that'd gross billions and then be turned into a theme park...'



*"Empire Plaza – 'Eighth Blunder of the World!'
A monument to the folly of **BIG STATE**."*



"My condolences, America, but only in New York. For four years, while the incumbent served out his term, Democrats and Republicans have been building up their forces for the Great Gubernatorial smackdown only to find out that this election has become a three-horse race and a tale of two cities."



"And Kingston's 'Favorite Son' is the one hero. Not because he has the Medal of Honor and a bi-plane, but because he's got vision and guts, long lacking in each major party.



"There's no sense in him debating. He's going to lead New York from Kingston for one hundred and fifty billion dollars a year, and they're not.

*"CAP's 'the canary in the coalmine'---in the New Millennium, **BIG STATE** has hit an iceberg and the Democrats and Republicans are stuck rearranging the deck furniture.*

"'King Kong' can't land a paw on him!"





CAP NY on 

\$149,999,999.99

"My budget when I'm elected governor. And to the tens of thousands of State employees who are going to lose their jobs, to each and every one of you, I apologize.

"Because I am sorry.

"New York State employees are the hardest-working, most skilled force in the country, but to survive in changing times, IBM and GM had to down-size. The State can be no different.



"You may lose your job, but not your skills or your spirit, and I'd like to believe that when lower taxes brings businesses back, that you'll work a lot harder and better for yourself and your family than you did for the State.

"None of this is your fault. No State worker is to blame for Albany's mismanagement.

"We will not be in a fight, but a stand. We're going to have to stand up together without fighting, to remake our state.

"It's your New York!"

NEW YORK POST

BIG STATE Strikes Back!



CAP NY to Crash?

A Rondout Miracle!

'TechCity' has been reborn! Bids for leases have come in from around the state, the country, one from China and another from India. In a sudden flurry of transactions, every last building of the former IBM site has been secured, guaranteeing thousands of quality jobs for the Rondout area.

'No good deed goes unpunished'? We have CAP NY to thank, but will his proposed "Green State Capital" doom his campaign?



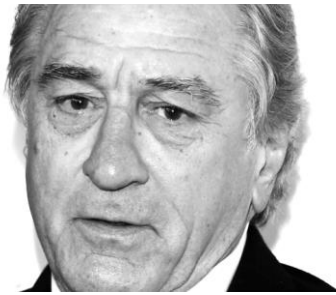
*"CAP NY is KIA! Because he no longer has a capital. **BIG STATE** couldn't buy the 'Favorite Son', so they bought Kingston. Not just New York money, **CAP NY** had every overfunded, overstuffed state government in the country scared to death. Money well spent to knock that 'Rondout rabble-rouser' out of the sky!"*



"Not so fast. Not so fast! If New York were truly prospering with real longterm jobs, not these stats counting low-paying positions with few benefits, well, then you could have stuck a fork in this 'Rondout rabble-rouser' right there!"

*"But **CAP NY** hit **BIG STATE** in the pocketbook. People like this guy, believe in him, trust **CAP NY**."*

"It ain't over till it's over!"



CAP NY on **facebook**

"Hello, New Yorkers.

*"The leaders of Kingston, Democrats and Republicans, have attributed the **CAP NY** 'effect' to the sudden resurrection of my hometown.*

"Imagine, as governor, what I can do for your town or city, for you!"

"A state capital must be more than a collection of buildings, whether they be billion-dollar ivory towers, a formerly abandoned corporate site, or a string of vacated factories. The heart of The State is the 'New York American spirit' burning in its leadership and its people working together.



"Overtaxed and under-represented, New Yorkers will vote, not out of fear for 'King Kong', but for a leader who will re-energize 'The Empire State' not from 'Empire Plaza' but from Kingston.

"It's your New York!"

Mid-September poll:

Dem	- 41%
GOP	- 30%
CAP NY	- 29%



*"CAP NY is still in the fight! After the 'Tech City' buy-out, the **BIG State** political machines were pounding their chests singing, 'Bye-bye, **CAP NY**.'*

*"But wait, polls don't lie, even though only front-runners believe them. There are still some pesky New York voters who want this **CAP** without a Capital, either that or they're replying to those robo-calls just to keep this story flying, thank God!*

"And now, Nation, 'Capital creation on the cheap'. Good news, prime real estate is still available!"

*"'The Internet killed the Downtown Mall,'" sang the futurists. Anybody remember the **HUDSON VALLEY MALL?** "*



"Once the very heart of Kingston shopping, all of its major vendors have long left for greener pastures."





"Instead of shuttering all those square feet of dead space, make it over as the 'Capital Complex' anchored by the NY Senate and House. Put the governor's offices in the empty multiplex. Think of the psychological ummph--Doing business with the Kingston government would almost be like shopping and a movie.

"That's my wife's New York!"

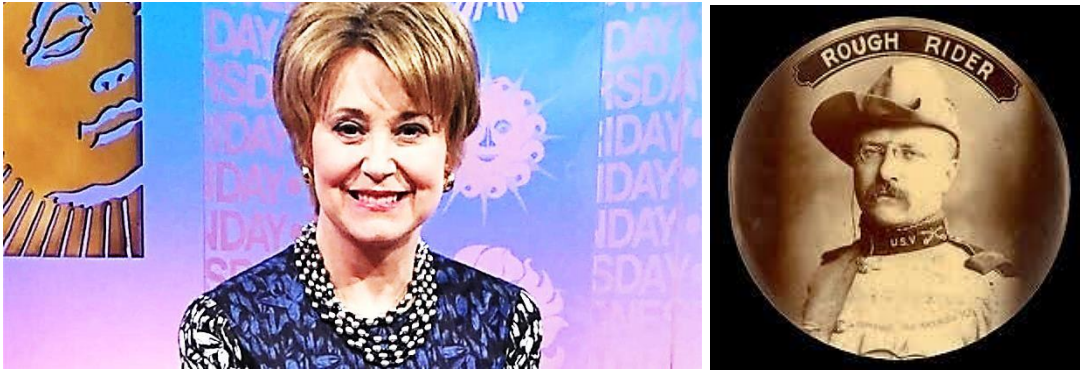
By early October:

Dem	- 40%
GOP	- 30%
CAP NY	- 30%



"Something new in New York politics? Not really.

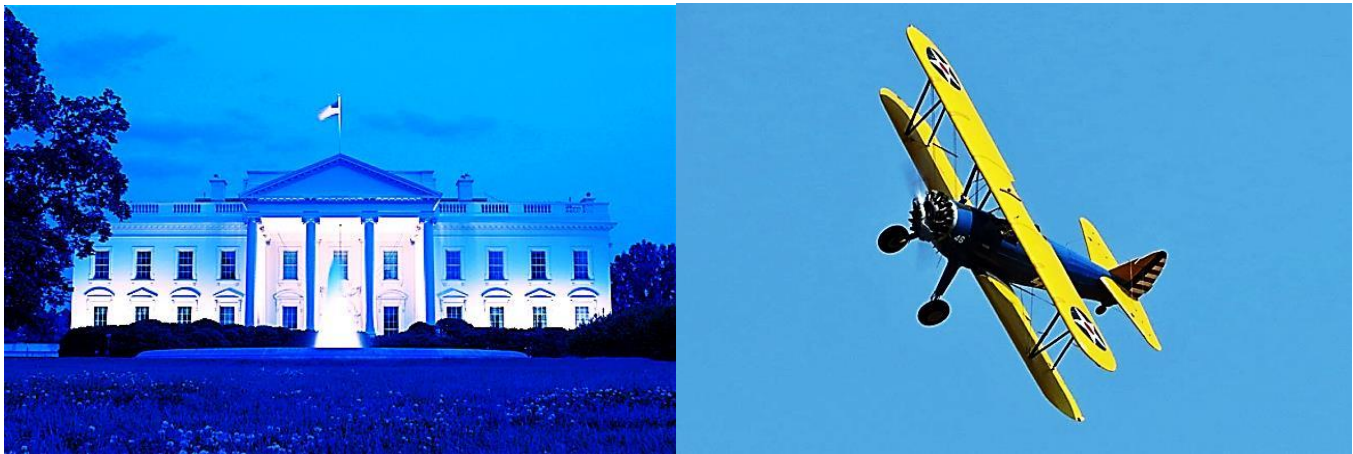
"CAP NY is not the first Medal of Honor winner to run for governor in New York. That precedent goes to Teddy Roosevelt in eighteen ninety-eight."



"Once the New York City police commissioner, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Roosevelt resigned to fight in the Spanish-American War. In the Battle of San Juan Heights, he was nominated for the Medal of Honor, but not officially given the award for almost one hundred years.

"Back home a hero, Roosevelt was elected governor of New York, but was so bent on State reform that his own party wanted him out and pushed him to run as the vice presidential candidate in 1900. When the Republican ticket won, New York lost a governor and America got a Nobel Prize-winning, 'Mount Rushmore' President.

*"Like Roosevelt, the Republicans and Democrats want Kingston's 'Favorite Son' out of New York. Time is short. President **CAP NY**, America?"*



"With a brand new Air Force One!"

NY VEGAS BOARD

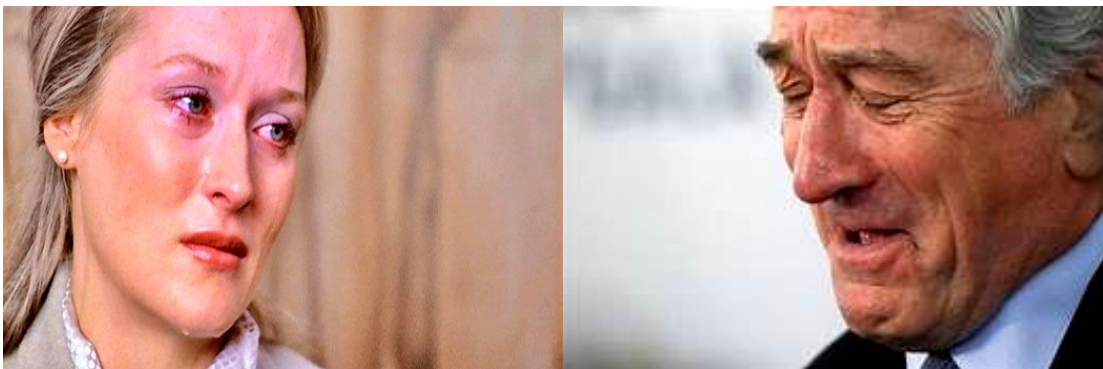
Dem - Even Money
GOP - 3/1 (Continues to sink)
CAP NY - 5/1 (Rising despite bumps)

Albany provided State Police to protect David Spar 24/7. The networks and paparazzi followed his every move including...

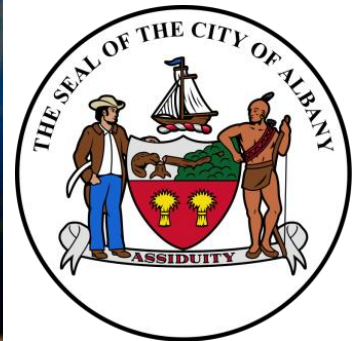


Across the avenue, in full view from Kingston's largest hospital, the modest Spar family plot in Montrepose Cemetery was halfway up a sloping knoll near an oak tree.

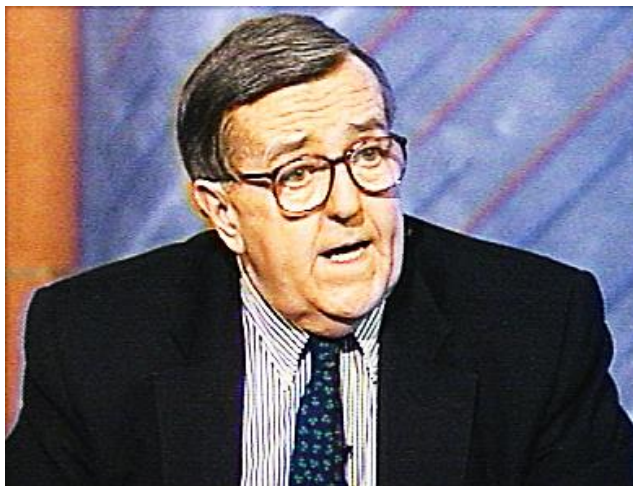
On February, 27, 1991, Major Thomas Spar was killed in Operation Desert Storm.



At the gravesite, **CAP NY** and Dorothy stood for a long moment; all the words had already been spoken.



*"CAP NY in Kingston. Can it be managed?
What will it cost? And who's next?"*



*"This is madness! Right off the runway, **CAP NY** has been Don Quixote, tilting at the Albany 'Windmill'. Without firm State management, there'll be confusion, chaos, and yes, 'mass hysteria'!"*



*"But it's not going to happen. The polls are inflated. New Yorkers have turned **CAP NY** into 'American Idol', but when it comes time to vote, do you really believe the majority wants Kingston on the Rondout over Albany and 'Empire Plaza'?"*

*"Forgetaboutit! **BIG STATE** forever!"*



"An 'impossible dream'? The Jets' Joe Namath faced longer odds against the NFL Champion Colts. So did the Giants' Eli Manning challenging the undefeated Patriots. Super Bowl MVP quarterbacks, they didn't 'manage' the game but led New York to victory!"



"Kingston's 'Favorite Son' has ignited a winning spirit in New York, not to beat the Democrats and the Republicans, but to topple 'King Kong'. Don't buy into the 'point spread'. Albany's going to fall like Humpty-Dumbty!"



*"But...even if **CAP NY** 'leads' New York to a 'Community Capital', how long can he keep it that way? Within five to ten years, the growth cycle will start again, and become too much for Kingston. The government will have no choice, but to move back to Albany.*

*"Long live **BIG STATE!**"*



CAP NY on 

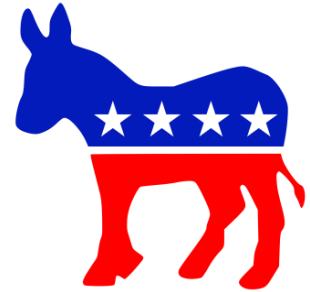
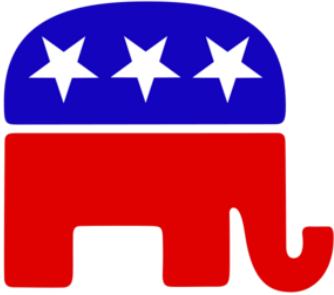
"According to the Democrats and the Republicans, my being governor would be the worst thing that could happen to New York.

"Because in our quest to downsize the State and move the Capital to Kingston, I won't have a single ally in the House or the Senate, of either party!"

"Well, the politicians are wrong. I do have one ally: You.

"Whatever your voting age, your color, religion or national origin or whether you're here legally or not, you live in New York, you pay New York taxes, you are a New Yorker!"

"Changing the very identity of New York is going to take hard work, guts and sacrifice. And those who have the most will sacrifice the most to lift up those who have the least.



"All our lives we've been paying for the privilege of having 'King Kong' atop the Empire State. The Democrats and Republicans are pushing platform and politics. This is about money and power and they've got too much of both and they will say and do anything and everything to keep themselves up and you down.

"Do you want more of the same?"

"It's your New York!"

In mid October, for the first time, Kingston's 'Favorite Son' was running second.

DEM - 38%
CAP - 34%
GOP - 28%



Again 'the Egg' was full, this time with both Republicans and Democrats, local bosses tasked with getting out the vote.

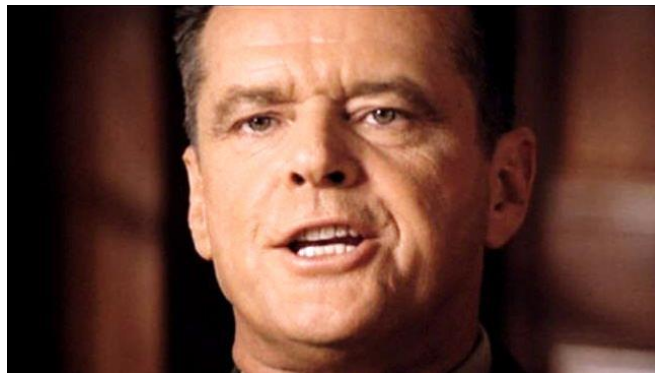


"CAP NY is not just a candidate, a face and a personality. Beyond a hero, PAC or a Party, he is an idea! Not challenging the edicts of Empire Plaza, but its continued existence.



"Everybody of every party get the picture? If CAP NY wins, our party is over."

The Chief Justice waited for the murmuring to die.

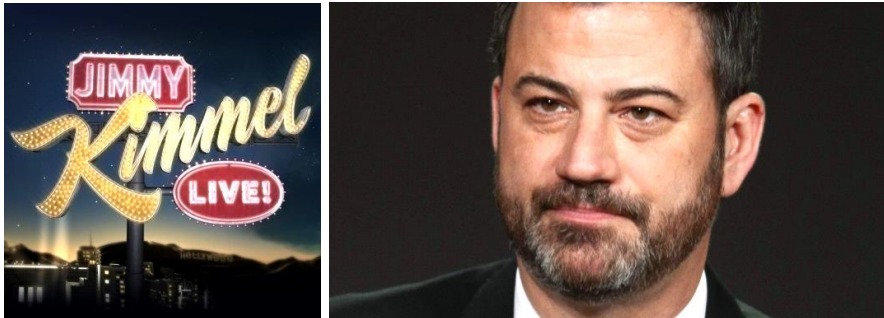


"We've come to a desperate juncture calling for definitive action. During World War Two, when Hitler's panzers were overrunning France, to

somehow save the day, Churchill offered England's bitterest rival equal unification with the British Empire. Full of false pride, the French turned him down. And the Nazis almost conquered the world!

*"This time, it's not about our petty party squabbles, our ceaseless infighting for money and power and control, votes. No more Democrat versus Republican, Liberal against Conservative, but a unified two-party invincible political machine that will crush **CAP NY**.*

*"Only together will we be able to save **BIG STATE!**"*



*"I have to tell you why I hate **CAP NY**. It's nothing personal, not the Rondout. Had anybody heard of the 'Rondout' before this guy flew in?"*

*"Since his first announcement, **CAP NY** hasn't spent a dime on TV ads. Think of it. Television delivered us Kennedy and when he was assassinated, left radio and newspapers in the dust.*

*"With **CAP NY**, it's new tech for old times, 'Facebook chats' like he's Franklin Delano Roosevelt."*



"CAP NY, save me!"

*"'Baby Boomer in the Bi-plane', he's killing manufacturing jobs!
All those hats and signs and banners that didn't get made.
The campaign staff and the managers and consultants and
chauffeurs who were never hired. The deals with labor and
'special interest' groups he didn't make.*

*"Worst of all, those negative TV spots created by the most
cynical craftsmen and women in the industry never even got
an interview. Dozens more New Yorkers unemployed because
Kingston's 'Favorite Son' doesn't need television.*



"That's where I first saw 'King Kong!'"

With **BIG STATE** facing its most severe crisis since the British burned Kingston, the call went out.



In the original Capital Building, the Executive Chamber served as Franklin Roosevelt's office when he was governor. Called the 'Red Room' for its opulent rugs and drapes, the lavish setting came complete with gold-leaf trim mahogany wainscoting, and a coffered oak ceiling. Bronze leaf band covered the upper half of the walls, the State ideal for ceremonial occasions.



"Urgently requested," the GOP candidate came on time and alone, entering through the 'Hall of Governors' lined with framed portraits, paid for by party donors.



The Dem arrived twenty minutes late and left his protesting entourage downstairs. He took a chair across from his opponent facing the large desk, a bill-signing platform elevated for photo ops.

The former Chief Justice let the two of them stew for ten minutes before appearing through the secret door, installed by FDR to allow him wheelchair access without the media getting wise.



"Chief Justice, I demand..."



"And I want..."



*"Sit down and shut up! Don't talk to me of politics and parties.
Don't quote slogans or sing me your New York song."*



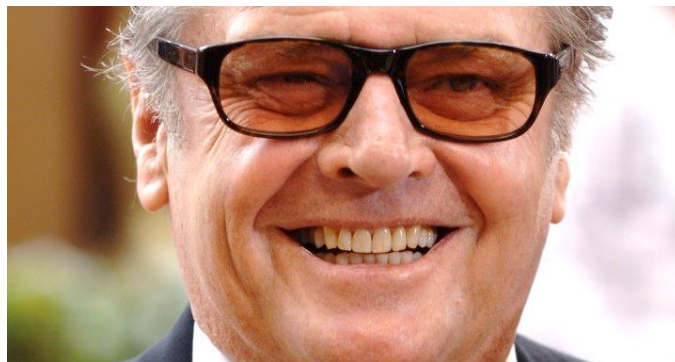
"The Honorable FDR will decide this. Call it!"



"No."



"Never."



*"Who here would jeopardize **BIG STATE**?"*

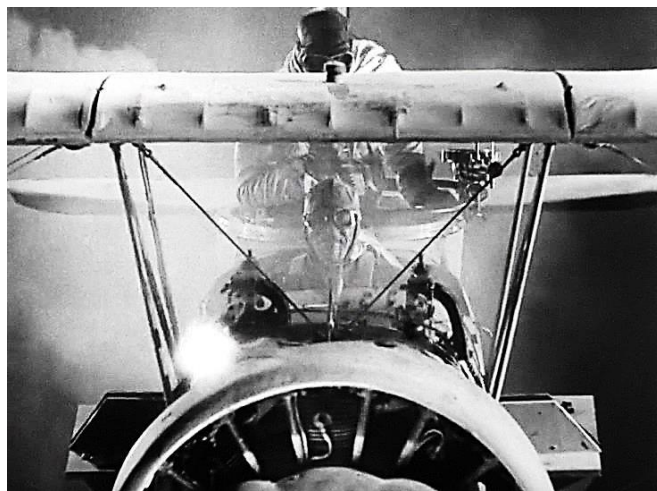
The Dem flipped the dime. GOP called it. The loser dropped out of the election.

The 'Bipartisan Candidate' would be Albany's man to beat.



*"Does anybody remember the two-party system in New York?
You know, Democrats versus Republicans, those dedicated
civil servants who're always falling all over each other proclaiming
how hard they are fighting for more jobs and cheaper health care
and better education for you, New York voter, right or left along Party lines?"*

"But on the way to the polls, an American hero happened."



"Kingston's 'Favorite Son' is on their six!"

*"And miracle of miracles, the bitter brown-nosing rivals have
united behind their 'Bipartisan Candidate', but not because they care
about jobs and health care and education and you, New York voter."*

*Oh, no, not this election. This time both parties are campaigning for **BIG STATE**, their state, a collection of empires, gargantuan bureaucracies crammed into Albany.*

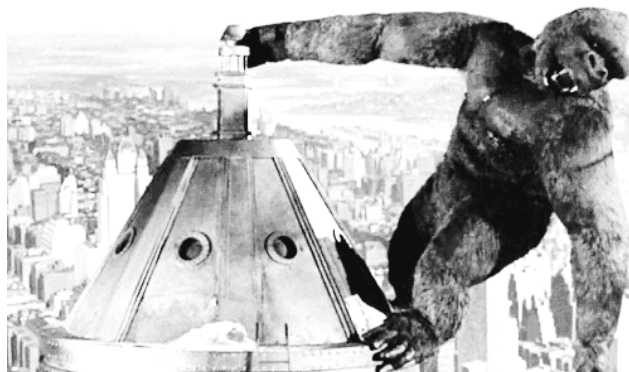


"Again the grand patriots must defend their home all costs!"

*"Lotsa luck, **BIG STATE**, but yet another American Revolution is in the air. The 'Ninety-nine per cent' doesn't want the 'One per cent' running an empirical State government, over-managed, over-privileged and overpriced, made redundant and even more wasteful by technology."*



"Sorry, 'King Kong', but it's time to come down to earth...in Kingston!"





BIPAR - 50%
CAP NY - 49%
Others - 1%

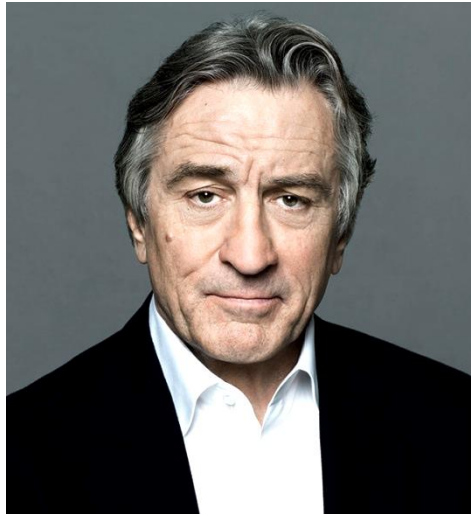
In the final days, the **BIPAR** Candidate spent Democratic and Republican millions carpet-bombing TV, radio and the Internet. The ugliest spots were reserved for the State's hometown, New York's 'First Capital'. Made the Ulster County Legislature and the town board mad as Rondout catfish; either way, Kingston, the 'terminus city,' would be beginning anew yet again.

NY VEGAS BOARD

BIPAR - Even Money
CAP NY - Even Money



*"Twentieth Century Super Bowl numbers.
'Early birds' could score huge."*



CAP NY on **facebook**

"We are the 'Empire State', standing tall and free from the Newtown Creek to Niagara Falls, from the Hudson River to Lake Erie."



"New Yorkers aren't just 'born and raised', we are forged, tempered by triumph and tragedy. Don't put us down. Don't hold us back. And don't even think of conning us."

"We are moving on and we are moving up, going forward by returning to a state ruled not by a 'King Kong' empire draining our

resources and humbling our future, but governed from a 'Community Capital' uniting us for the challenges ahead at half the price.

"Kingston gave New York State its revolutionary start, and it's time to start over once again.



*"There's a new 'fire' burning in New York, a spirit of change fueled by courage, confidence and cooperation of a people who want to rely more on themselves and their fellow New Yorkers than **BIG STATE**, a soulless, burnt out bureaucracy trapping us in a bygone age.*

"Your vote is your power. Cast it, not into the Republican and Democratic wind forever blowing hot air, but for a new time, a new capital and a new State working with you. Our future belongs to us.

"It's your New York!"



'Try and tell me that New York politics gets better than this!

C'mon, I dare you!

*"And the Number One reason for voting for **CAP NY**: How could you not want a governor named '**CAP NY**'?"*



The dawn was clear, a good omen for a strong turnout. David Spar and Dorothy voted early, then headed down Route 9 and up into the sky.

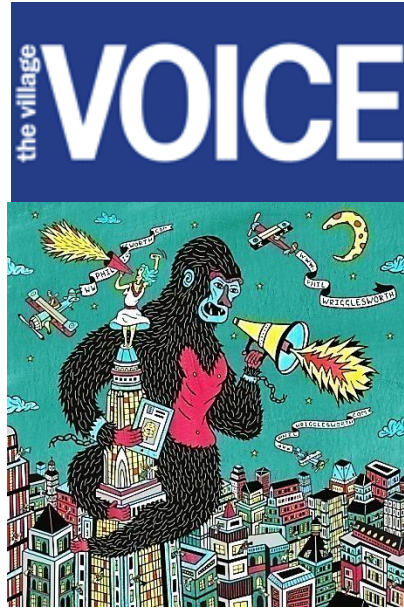


From the air, New York State is not numbers or counties or demographics, but a *land* of farms and forests, rivers and streams, mountains and valleys, cities and towns...families working to achieve their dreams.



After lunch, in the Stockade Historic District, residents gathering in the streets outnumbered the tourists and the media reporters.

At dusk, it was filled with voters and their families. With darkness, the first flashlights, then camping lanterns, cell phones, cigarette lighters and candles cast a fiery light, a burning spirit, 'a hotbed of perfidy and sedulous disloyalty' not felt in New York's 'First Capital' since the Revolution.



WHO IS 'YOUR NEW YORK'?



*"If CAP NY loses, he wins. But if he wins, then he loses. **BIG STATE's** 'Prime Directive' is not to serve the people, but to serve itself. 'An empire is like a plant,' said Catherine the Great. 'It either grows or it dies.'*

"Albany, as a Capital, cannot die; its self-defense mechanisms will kick in, a tsunami of litigation to block any action the new governor, even with the full backing of the people, wants to take. By the end of his four-year term, David Spar won't be able to move a paperclip from Albany to Kingston."

I ♥ CAP NY

New Yorkers voted for their parties, for their capitals, and for themselves, their families and the future of *their* State...



Shattering records in Albany and Kingston.



Predictions flew left and right.

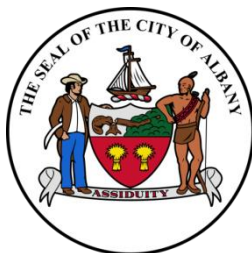


"He...could...go...all...the...WAY!"

As returns began to roll in...



"You've dared the people to make a capital choice! Never ever has New York been so proud...of Kingston!" *"You talking to me?"*





Long Live BIG State!

or



'Oh, no. It wasn't CAP NY. 'It was sanity killed the beast.'

IT'S *YOUR* NEW YORK!



Captain **Ed W. "Too Tall" Freeman** and Major Bruce Crandall, United States Army helicopter pilots, were awarded Medals of Honor for their actions in the Battle of Ia Drang during the Vietnam War when they 'flew through gunfire numerous times, bringing supplies to a trapped American battalion and flying dozens of wounded soldiers to safety'.

