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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42786

Notes from editor (not for publication):

Nice thoughts, Michael. I appreciate your connecting the local with the national.

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Brattleboro Police: kudos and hopes

####END HED####

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TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

All those familiar with downtown Brattleboro know that it has a sizable homeless population. On a recent morning I was walking along Flat Street and passed by what looked to be a homeless person next to some Brattleboro Police officers.

What struck me most about the encounter was its respect, cordiality, and humanity. Yes, there seemed to be some kind of issue. No, the police were not treating the woman as an inferior person. There was even what sounded like light-hearted

12 conversation taking place. Also notable: some of the person's
13 associates were standing nearby, concerned but not intimidated.

14 I don't know whether the BPD officers were part of the
15 unarmed Brattleboro Resource Assistance Team or regular, armed
16 officers, but it sure looked like they were carrying out their job
17 duties like any caring town citizen would want them to do.

18 Thanks go to those officers! I also hope they feel positive
19 reinforcement in treating other people this way while helping
20 tend to a tough, seemingly intractable community problem.

21 Meanwhile, we have read that U.S. Immigration and
22 Customs Enforcement (ICE) is offering signing bonuses of up to
23 \$50,000 as part of a recruitment drive to hire new personnel. As
24 we know, ICE agents currently don masks and wear no
25 identification while going about their jobs, and they have at times
26 treated suspected unlawful immigrants — and bystanders —
27 roughly and callously to the point of great excess. At least a
28 portion of those ICE employees have exhibited an attitude
29 indicating that they think they are above the law and that they
30 have cared not a whit about due process.

31 I hope our local law enforcement officers (including
32 Vermont State Police, Windham County Sheriff officers, and
33 Vermont National Guard troops) are not tempted to jump ship
34 and work for ICE.

35 I also hope that they currently get real job satisfaction
36 and fulfillment in treating human beings like human beings, not
37 like cattle, instead of wanting to work for a federal agency that's
38 shown repeated evidence of inhumanity.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

43

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