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have a director of the Atheneum who knows the difference between the bottle and the champagne.

Charles B. Milliken
Farmington

Leave Medicare System As Is

As a Medicare beneficiary and one of U.S. Rep. Nancy Johnson's constituents, I must disagree with Mrs. Johnson's Aug. 3 Commentary article "Medicare For The 21st Century." Despite her assurances otherwise, it is obvious that the effort behind the House of Representative's Medicare prescription drug bill is to fragment and privatize Medicare. One of Medicare's best qualities is its universality. Like Social Security, it is a reliable program wherever you live. It is government at its best.

Also, the gap in benefits that is part of the legislation would be very costly to beneficiaries. And the proposed plan is far from simple.

There is no reason why a fair drug benefit could not be tailored into the traditional Medicare program that has so benefited the people. My contemporaries find it fair and easy to work with. So far, changes that have been tried (managed-care plans) have proved more complicated and costly. Indeed, many private companies have withdrawn their plans. Tying drug benefits to competitive programs is almost totally for the benefit of the private insurers under the guise of reform.

Please don't fix what isn't broken.

Joan B. Katz
Southbury

The writer is a volunteer for the Center for Medicare Advocacy.

Disgusted With Page 1

When did The Courant decide that the best way to sell newspapers was to gravitate toward the approach used by some New York tabloids? We have become absolutely disgusted with some of the photographs that The Courant has used on its front page over the course of the last few months. The approach seems to be that if you can see blood or bodies, it automatically qualifies as Page 1 material.

On Monday, readers were treated to the sight of dead children in an Iraqi morgue. Tuesday morning, we pulled the newspaper out of the tube to see a picture of the plane crash in Groton. Our first thought was: "This must be as close to the deceased as the photographer could get."

There is enough TV news that we can stay well-informed about what is going on in the world. We have decided that we really have seen enough from The Courant. The Courant will be getting our subscription cancellation.

Edward and Christine Welcome
Canton

Senior - And Having Fun