

Pete du Pont - Jim Soles

Wilmington, Delaware

February 27, 2009

We are asking for your help in reviving a Delaware treasure.

For six years, we were appreciative readers of Delaware Grapevine, a column on the Internet about our state's politics. It was written by Celia Cohen, a political observer and analyst well-regarded by people across the political spectrum for her perspective and wit.

There was nowhere else to read a line like this one about the difference between our two political parties: *Democrats like politics. Republicans like winning.*

Delaware Grapevine shut down for financial reasons, and our state was the poorer for it. We are writing to ask for your assistance in bringing back the column. Please consider it a civic contribution for the greater good of all Delawareans.

Like thousands of other readers, we depended upon Delaware Grapevine to provide perspective on events and trends in politics and government and to put into context why they mattered.

It was here we first learned that Senator Tom Carper labored to broker an accord between Jack Markell and John Carney to avoid a primary for governor, only to fall tantalizingly short. It was here we first learned that Attorney General Jane Brady was bolting politics for a judgeship. It was here we first learned, time and time again, the names of judicial nominees.

Delaware Today magazine has offered to host Delaware Grapevine on its Web site, but it will take the combined support of all of us to restore the column.

In 1974, we debated robustly which one of the two of us should be elected as Delaware's congressman. Today we are united in urging your participation in the return of Celia Cohen's political commentary. Only in Delaware!

Please join us by becoming sponsors and subscribers for Delaware Grapevine. We are enclosing a reply form for your contribution toward operational costs for a year.

It is the right thing to do for our state. Besides, it is fun to read.

Sincerely,



Pete du Pont
Governor



Jim Soles
Professor emeritus