

**The Daily Star September 4, 2006**

**Letter to the Editor**

**Devlin's work shows he's best for job**

The fundamental question before voters here is: Who will best serve as Otsego County sheriff, based on issues rather than politics. With the two contenders to succeed retiring Sheriff Donald Mundy, the facts should be weighed carefully. After all, we, the voters, will either be the winners or losers.

Kenneth "Skip" Beijen, 59, is a retired state police investigator who stresses his "experience and maturity to do this job."

The fact is, Richard Devlin Jr. is engaged to doing "this job with experience and maturity." The fact also is Devlin, 44, rose through the department's ranks, earning his sergeant's stripes. He is a respected candidate for sheriff who keeps politics out of the office. His loyalties lie with all citizens of Otsego County, regardless of their party affiliations. He is dedicated to law-enforcement work for the county, standing up for what he believes in and providing practical solutions to tough issues. He works expeditiously and courageously.

Measured in his work as a constant and persistent leader who can develop an effective strategy and communicate it to the people, he remains popular within the department and the district.

Although, Beijen is familiar with law enforcement issues in the county and is ready to "do this job," Devlin's work record is undoubted proof that he will best serve Otsego County as its sheriff. He has earned "this job" and our vote for sheriff. We, the voters, could be the winners by choosing the one who will best serve as sheriff, or be the losers by making the wrong choice. Failing to vote for Devlin for sheriff would definitely be a loss for the citizens of Otsego County.

**Branka Andreic , Westville**