Omar of Minnesota surely meant to oppose US policy toward Israel but somehow couldn’t quite manage to do it without being obviously anti-Semitic—"Israel has hypnotized the world," "It’s all about the Benjamin’s baby"—it caused an uproar, it apologized, but it seems never to have occurred to him that you can’t talk about your fellow Americans that way. Or that she is a public figure and has to actually model admirable behavior. Occasio-Cortez is quick—quicker in aggression. Her default position, behind the smiles and hugs and warmth and dancing, is the pointed, accusatory finger. From just the past two weeks: The New Deal was "an extremely economically racist policy" Ronald Reagan "pitted white working-class Americans against brown and black working Americans in order to just screw over all working-class Americans," so he too was racist. Pretty much everyone on the political scene was racist until Occasio-Cortez arrived. I am not talking about mere temperament, and none of this is a misfortune of temperament, it is a strategy and it is working. Polarization yields prominence. They equate peacefulness with complacency. Politico’s Tim Alberta spoke with Omar this week. "I am certainly not looking to be comfortable, and I don’t want everyone necessarily to feel comfortable around me," she said. "I think really the most exciting things happen when people are extremely uncomfortable." I’m sure she’ll do what she can to keep things exciting.

As for the limitations of the new style, they are making category errors. Courteny, for instance, is not cowardice. It is not shrinking from real truths or their bracing expression. Courteny is simply an act of public or private resistance in a political culture that resists, that resists with a vengeance, that resists with a vengeance that others don’t understand, that resists with a vengeance that the majority of us don’t understand.


can and can’t wear. If a consumer opposes products, he can simply make another choice.

Marché Iva, president, Marcella Paris & Lather Inc., Amarillo, Texas

Vetting for profits

Your editorial, "Casino’s War on Hope" (March 17) forget about veterans. Veterans organizations, including the American Legion, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the Association of the US Navy and a dozen others, are calling on Albany to enact Gov. Cuomo’s For-Profit Casino Accountability Act.

Why? Because unscrupulous for-profit casinos target veterans and teens. Here’s how they tricked Cuomo into "Yes, David Petter’s wife Holly has written, this loophole leads for-profit casinos "to see service members as nothing more than dollar signs in uniform, and to use aggressive marketing to draw them in."

In Albany last week, New York veteran Michelle Kerman testified. "As a veteran who has served this country, I was looking forward to being able to do my job and paying for my education without incurring any debt. I was misled by a for-profit college that has put a financial burden on my life."

Randon Curtis, Veterans Education Success, Brooklyn

Lose lobbying

Just because lobbying is ingrained in our political and legal culture doesn’t make it legitimate, and it doesn’t mean that we have to keep up the charade ("Bashing the Lobbyist Love," Editorial, March 27).

Large corporations and large groups (unions, etc.) are just buying influence and legislation. This process hurts the consumer by paying the way for monopolies, driving up prices and allowing unscrupulous influence to pay off elected officials and set policy. It is high time (too late intended to the mushroom-industry lobbyists) to end this practice.

Bob Fishman, Somers

Stop & frisk fallout

I read that "stop-and-frisk" by police were down 98 percent. The article is "Singhshot in Gns." (March 10), on top of the shooting last month of a person on a subway platform, indicates that there is no longer any fear of being caught carrying weapons into subways or on the streets. Think there may be a correlation?

M. Klein, New Hyde Park

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