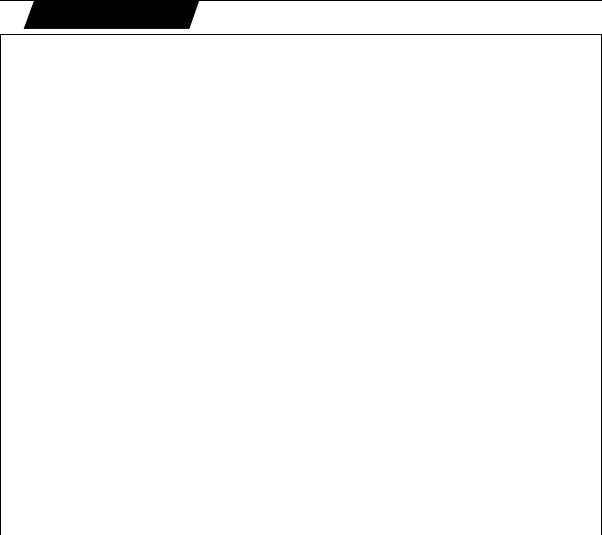
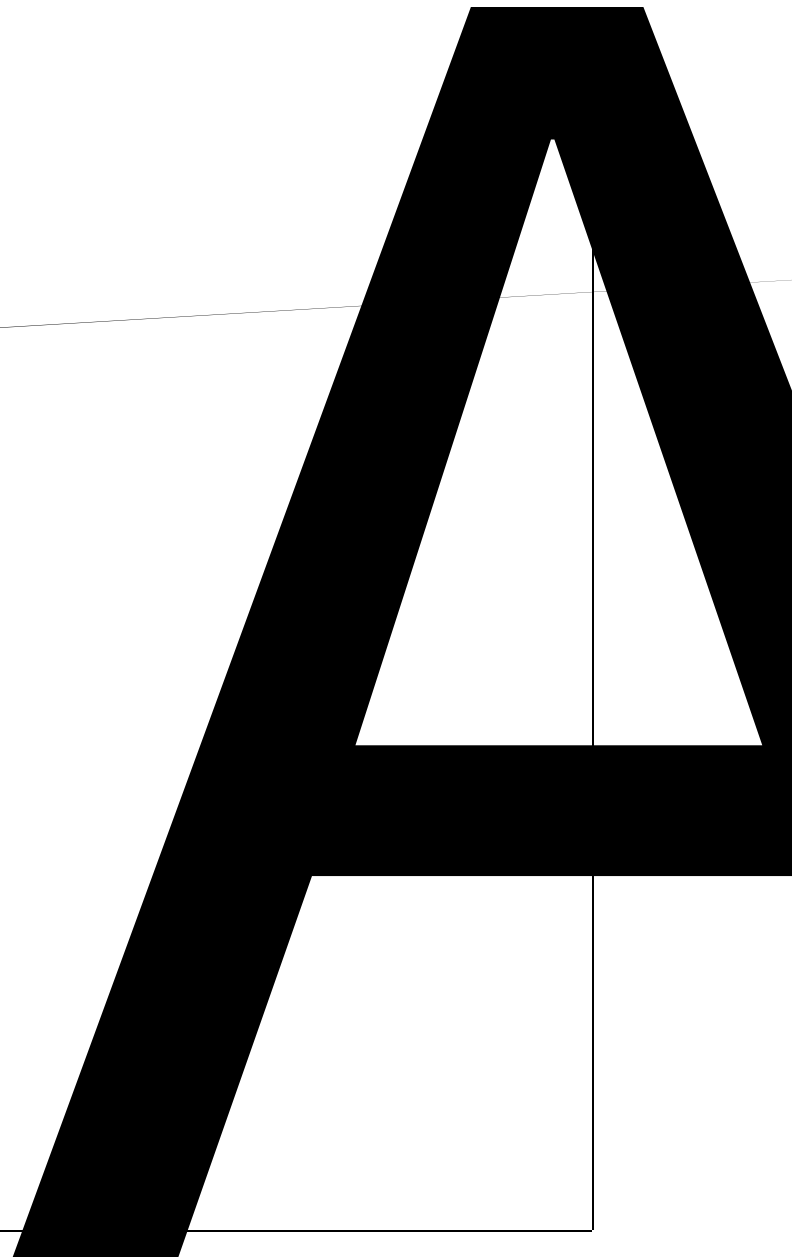


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takes guff from no one.

Despite claims Christie's rhetoric is scripted, designed for the YouTube audience, he is quick to anger and does not suffer gladly those he considers fools.

He can be charming as well, as evidenced by his demeanor at town hall meetings where he's often respectful toward questioners and treats children in an easy and non-condescending manner.

At those same town hall sessions, though, he has torn into his political opponents with gusto, seeming to enjoy every syllable.

Whether the boardwalk incident mushrooms into something greater or is chalked up to just another outburst over a perceived insult remains to be seen.

Christie's critics argue he should hold his temper, understanding that criticism — even if ill-informed or unwarranted — goes with being governor, and it's best to grit one's teeth and ignore it.

His supporters, acknowledging his high-profile position, contend when he's out in public in an unofficial and personal capacity, he deserves privacy.

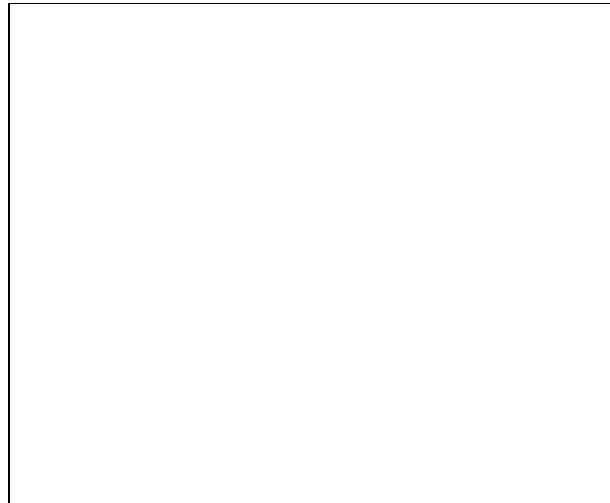
The Seaside Heights incident, though, sends another warning to public officials that they're surrounded by reporters without credentials or experience but armed with today's ubiquitous investigative and invasive device of choice — the cellphone.

Keeping that in mind — as well as understanding the eagerness of television shows or websites to pay handsomely for the recording — should become as much as part of a public person's life as making certain the tie, shirt and suit complement one another.

As one of those staff persons involved in the dark humor that floated around offices, I'm tempted to think about what Christie's response would be to the news that Mike Wallace was waiting in his office.

He'd probably reply: "Tell him to go to hell."

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