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NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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Buffalo Beard Competition Planned Without Use Of Taxpayer Funding!

Mike Hudson

The owners of Macky’s Essex Street Pub in Buffalo have come up with what would be a revolutionary idea in Niagara Falls. They’re staging an entertainment event and not asking the government for any money to make it happen.

Unlike the Hard Rock Café concert series, the Niagara Falls Blues Festival, the Holiday Market, Gospel Fest, the Art of Beer Festival and the Ontario House Jazz Festival which are just a few of the events that Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster has thrown millions of dollars at during his almost nine years in office.

In North Tonawanda and Lockport, concert promoters pay the municipality for the opportunity to make money staging musical concerts but, in Niagara Falls, it’s the other way around.

And down in Buffalo, the owners of the Essex Street Pub at 5:30 Rhode Island St., have – for the past seven years – staged their annual Buffalo Beard Competition, a moneymaker for the bar and a chance for the Nickel City hirsute to revel in the glory of their beards and mustaches.

This should interest Dyster greatly.



Growing interest

Such a competition here would be sign of the booming facial hair diversity in the city and the growing interest in full and partial beards, from the classic goatee to the Zach Galafianakis to the elegant Van Dyke and a dichotomy of mustaches.

And, unlike the Buffalo event in which not a dime of taxpayer funding is involved, Dyster could take the opportunity to throw



Shades add luster

casino cash, bed tax money and any other loose change he could find at the competition.

The only foreseeable problem is that, while the privately run concert series in Lockport and North Tonawanda, as well as the beard competition put on by the good folks down at the Essex Street Pub have all been successful, Dyster’s various attempts to entertain have all been money losers.

Looking at the records of the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, for instance, one sees that the amount of money the organization makes on its’ Art of Beer celebration is almost exactly the same as what the city gives it annually. In other words, Dyster could just cut a check for the \$30,000, not stage the event, and the result wouldn’t be any different.



Classic beauty

The Hard Rock Café – a billion dollar multinational corporation owned by the Seminole Indian tribe — benefited by more than \$700,000 in public money used to stage concerts that primarily benefited the night club’s beer and concessions business.

And the promoter of the Holiday Market – a \$450,000 taxpayer funded boondoggle engineered by Dyster – lost every penny he was given.

It all most makes you wonder whether people pay more attention to their businesses when they’re playing with their own money.

The good folks at the Essex Street Pub will likely make a pretty penny with their St. Patrick’s Day beard competition. And without spending any taxpayer money at all.

The things they think of up in Buffalo!



Mustache power



There are no losers



Regal



Ladies compete too

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

“The Truth is Always Fair”

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Essex St. Pub, 530 Rhode Island St. (883-2150/essexstreetpub.com)

On St. Patrick's Day the Essex St. Pub will be hosting another rip-roaring beer soaked night of bearded men and bearded ladies competing for creative facial hair honors. The competition has gotten fierce over the past few years, particularly with the explosion of fancy beards worn by many favorite area bartenders. The Buffalo Beard Competition began in 2010 when Essex St. Pub owner Macky formalized his own traditional beard-growing season from September 17th to

March 17th. In case you didn't know, the start coincides with September 17, 1382 when Louis the Great's mustached daughter Mary was crowned "King Mary" of Hungary.

Expect ferocious fun, particularly with the recent addition of the freestyle beard and the Dali mustache categories. Altogether there are nine categories: 3 for mustache; 3 for full beard; 3 for partial beard. Girls from Ultra Hoops/Melscamp show up in 'whiskerina' outfits. Since it's St. Patrick's Day there will also be Irish dancers and pipes and drums.

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Despite Obstacles, Dyster Forges Ahead with Controversial Parking Meter Plan

Mike Hudson

What can the people of Niagara Falls do to ensure that the nightmarish implementation of a citywide parking plan by Mayor Paul Dyster's handpicked contractor, Desman Associates, isn't simply a repeat of what recently happened when the company did the same thing in Chicago?

The Niagara Falls City Council passed Dyster's parking plan on Monday after twice rejecting nearly identical proposals.

Those wanting to park their cars on Chicago streets found the rates had gone up as much as fourfold once the plan was implemented.

Meters jammed and overflowed when they couldn't hold enough change for the new prices. In other areas, new electronic meters had been installed, but many of them didn't give receipts or failed to work entirely. And free parking on Sundays was a thing of the past.

The meter plan sparked mass outrage in the Windy City. There were mass protests and attempts to organize a boycott. But the city had leased its 36,000 meters to a private Morgan Stanley-led consortium in exchange for \$1.2 billion in up-front revenue. The length of the lease was 75 years.



Mayor Paul Dyster finally gets his way: He will lard the city with parking meters which in the end will certainly make some private contractors money, cost residents plenty, will be enforced vigorously and will drive customers away from the city businesses into neighboring communities where the parking is free.

And if the meter situation seemed like a bad deal for Chicago's parkers, it soon became clear that it was an even worse one



Enforcement is the key to any parking plan. Expect plenty of tickets to be given out and unless we miss our guess plenty of these will go to locals.

for the city's taxpayers.

An inspector general's report found that the deal was worth almost \$1 billion more than the city had gotten for it. Not only would the city never have a chance to recoup that money or reap new meter revenue for three-quarters of a century, clauses buried in the contract required it to reimburse the company for lost meter revenue.

The city was billed for allowing construction of new parking garages, for handing out disabled parking placards, for closing the streets for festivals. The current bill stands at \$61 million.

And if all that wasn't bad enough, some of those involved in the deal are now the target of a federal bribery investigation. The Desman parking plan in Chicago has been an utter disaster. Bad for those who have to use it, awful for the taxpayers and, in all likelihood, corrupt.

In its' wake, it's hard not to wonder what it was about the company that attracted Dyster? The Niagara Falls mayor, who enthusiastically backed Mayor Irene Elia's parking program as a member of the City Council in the early years of the new century, has apparently swallowed completely Desman's incredibly optimistic projection of \$1 million in new revenue annually.

Desman believes the city should add a parking manager position to its payroll. That individual would work to protect the city's investment in the system by working with the private operator to ensure meters are operational, revenues are being collected appropriately and fines are being levied against those who fail to obey parking rules downtown.

Desman has also recommended the creation of a parking committee consisting of the four top city department heads, including the city controller, police chief, director of public works and city solicitor. The committee would work with the parking manager to ensure the system is being properly monitored and operating in the city's best interest.

Desman has estimated annual expense for the program at about \$100,000, suggesting that once fully installed the meters could return a little more than \$176,000 in revenue for a full year, not including funds collected through parking violations.

The Niagara Falls City Council at first rejected a Dyster request to approve a bid from Ber-National Automation Inc. for \$355,190 to install roughly 40 pay stations governing

about 270 parking spaces in the city's hotel and tourism district. The next valid bid was near \$450,000, according to the submission to city council.

Residents clapped and cheered loudly when the item was defeated.

Council members, along with a number of residents who spoke out against it, faulted Mayor Paul A. Dyster and his administration for not bringing more details to the public about how a parking plan would be implemented and staffed.

Council Chairman Andrew Touma concurred, saying, "It's unfortunate that we don't have the costs in hand. That should have been taken care of so there were no questions."

Dyster told the Council they would "be leaving money on the table" by not having a parking system in place and said the first step was to purchase the equipment. When he was pressed, he said the total cost for staffing would be \$87,360, but said the issues of staffing and maintenance were "independent of the technology."

And after all that, the Council turned around and passed a nearly identical proposal at its next meeting.

The blueprint the city is working off of, a 2011 Desman Associates planning study that has already cost taxpayers more than \$112,000, would have Ber-National install the meters in a four side area with a northern border running west from Niagara Street and Fourth Street to Niagara Street and Rainbow Boulevard.

Stations would be placed south from that intersection following the bend in Rainbow Boulevard and ending at Fourth Street. Third Street will serve as an eastern border for the initial phase. Second and third phases are expected which may encompass more of downtown and other heavily traversed streets including possibly Pine Ave.

Critics have said that while meters may make the city or the private company Dyster may sell the parking rights to some money in the summer, it will almost certainly drive whatever business there is away in the wintertime.

Certainly given the choice to pay to park in Niagara Falls or park free everywhere else will encourage winter customers to head to where there is hassle free parking.

In Chicago, the FBI is investigating whether an executive at the firm hired to manage the privatized parking meters was paid \$90,000 in bribes to steer a contract to install and maintain the controversial meters across the city.

But in Mayor Paul Dyster's Niagara Falls, it's damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead. Will his parking meter plan be a reprise of his recycling scheme, which he said would be a moneymaker but ended up costing taxpayers millions instead?

It remains to be seen. But one thing is certain, Desman Associates' premier project, the Chicago parking meter plan, was a municipal disaster that ended political careers and may lead to even more indictments.

In light of this, Dyster's insistence on involving them with the city's plan is puzzling, to say the least. Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster is known for running one

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Three Unsolved Mysteries At City Hall Begging For Answers

Mike Hudson

of the most secretive administrations in recent city history. Freedom of Information Law requests need to be filed in order to obtain even the most routine public documents and high priced consultants reports have been put away in drawers and forgotten about if they are at odds with the storyline Dyster himself has created.

Three very high profile instances that illustrate this obsession with secrecy and a general lack of transparency have also, ironically enough, generated considerable headlines in recent years.

The city's parking meter "plan," the probability of do-nothing Buffalo developer Mark Hamister ever actually building a hotel downtown and the chances that Niagara Falls will ever again have a real city engineer have been the subject of countless newspaper stories, and yet no one, it seems, is able to answer the questions raised.

The parking plan passed last week by the city Council will cost \$355,193 to buy and install roughly 40 pay stations governing about 270 parking spaces in the city's hotel and tourism district. When Dyster first talked about parking, this tourism district proposal was referred to as "Phase 1" of a larger project that would have seen meters installed on Pine Avenue and Main Street.

Nobody's talking about that anymore,

City Of Niagara Falls

In the interest of trying to help out a little in the city, The Niagara Falls Reporter is republishing the want ad for the city engineer. However we do not expect Dyster to hire anyone: Firstly we suspect Dyster likes things just the way they are [he can get his favorite contractors and outside engineers millions of work without proper supervision] and secondly who would be stupid enough to apply for the job anyway? He fired the last three engineers – which is a permanent blot on all three's resumes.

but that doesn't mean the plan has been abandoned.

The meters will cost around \$100,000 a year to operate and generate around \$176,000 in revenue, according to a 2011 report by the city's parking consultant, Desman Associates.

Even if that prediction holds up, it will take nearly five years to earn enough profit to pay for the initial cost of the meters.

The Hamister hotel project is another news story that is now old enough to have grown whiskers. Will Mark Hamister actually build a hotel on the land he was offered for a pittance by the Dyster administration?

In 2013, the rush for work to begin was so acute that formerly popular city councilman

Sam Fruscione lost his seat after being portrayed in the media as an obstructionist for simply asking whether Hamister had the money to build the hotel.

It turned out of course that he didn't, and the intervening years have seen the scope of the project scaled back even as projected costs have mushroomed.

What is now planned is an \$18 million boxy business class hotel that will now reportedly cost \$35 million – about twice the true cost in an apparent fraudulent attempt to escalate the price to get more taxpayer money.

If it ever gets built.

And the woeful tale of Dyster's adventures in finding a city engineer have generated reams of newspaper copy and, most recently, an advertisement.

Offering a salary of \$95,500 a year, the ad – which was placed several months ago – seeks candidates to fill a "Professional engineering and policy influencing advisory level position" that would require a state public engineering license and five years' experience in heavy highway construction. City residency would be required after six months, the ad states.

Dyster had one city engineer who had no license, another who was let go for not living in the city and a third who was fired after reporting work site safety violations to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

For the majority of his time in office, the city has made do with high priced engineering consultants, who were often Dyster campaign contributors.

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Robert Moses To Be Renamed “Niagara Scenic Parkway”; Why Not Just Remove It?

James Hufnagel

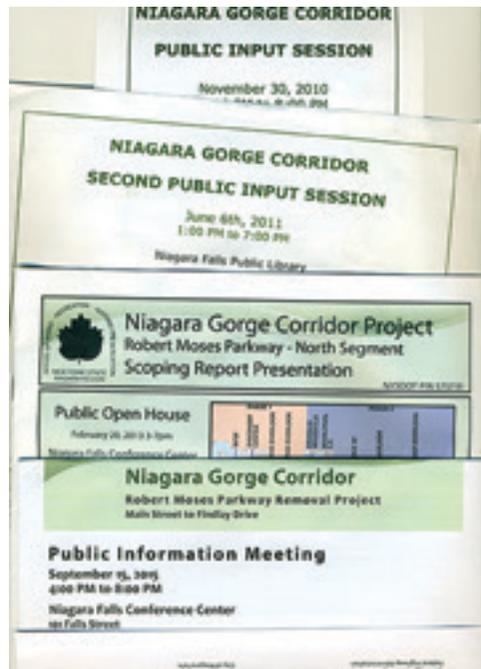
Strike up the band, join the parade, wave the flag and pop the bag. The politicians are renaming the Robert Moses Parkway, to the Niagara Scenic Parkway. Please curb your enthusiasm.

Especially since, instead of renaming it, they should be getting rid of it!

Urging congress to pass Obamacare after a year of debate had dragged on, the exasperated president at one point exclaimed: “Everything there is to say about health care has been said, and just about everybody has said it. So now is the time to make a decision.” Similarly, everything there is to say about the Moses Parkway has been said, and just about everybody has said it.

So it is that you the reader, your hairdresser, your dentist, the waitress who serves you lunch, your grandmother and the man in the moon, everybody has an opinion on what should be done about the north Robert Moses Parkway, and has expressed it at one time or another, or more likely, repeatedly.

The past two decades have seen oceans of ink, acres of column inches, thousands of hours of public hearings and scoping sessions and



2010, 2011, 2013, 2015 – Every few years the politicians hold another “Public Input Session”, “Open House” or “Information Meeting”, but not an inch of Parkway has been removed.



North Moses Parkway removal is slated to begin two years from now, or when we land on Mars, whichever comes first.



State DOT dump trucks block off the Parkway entrance to the Niagara Power Project on 9/11. Today, the Moses Parkway is open to vehicular traffic 24 hours a day through the heart of the huge hydropower facility, since the terrorist threat is now a thing of the past.

enough hot air from government bureaucrats at Niagara Gorge press conferences to alone cause global warming.

Including The Niagara Falls Reporter, which has been making the case for total removal of the Robert Moses Parkway practically since the first issue rolled off the presses over 15 years ago. Here's some of the points we have made over the years, in small, digestible pieces.

Professional urban planners universally agree that the north Moses Parkway was a huge mistake. City government bitterly fought it at the time it was built, in the early 1960's, but proved no match for New York City's “Master Builder”, Robert Moses.

The parkway cuts off access to the gorge, in fact, people have been killed trying to cross it.

The parkway diverts traffic from Main Street, stunting economic development on that former thoroughfare.

Quality of life of neighboring communities is negatively impacted, lowering property values.

The Niagara Gorge tourist experience is degraded by the close proximity of vehicular traffic, as well as its environmental integrity.

It costs taxpayers millions of dollars every year to plow, salt and do general maintenance on a road that is duplicated by Whirlpool, the 190, Highland Avenue and Lewiston Road (on which 9 of 10 drivers actually access the city of Niagara Falls from Lewiston).

All this, of course, so that northern suburbs can shave a minute or two (it's been timed) off their commute into Niagara Falls, a fact born out by New York State Dept. of Transportation studies that show spikes of traffic during AM and PM rush hours.

Cities all over the country, including Cleveland, Milwaukee, New York, San Francisco and Seattle, to name some, have been removing roads and highways to reclaim waterfront for recreational and other purposes.

Parkway removal turned out to be just one more of Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster's empty campaign promises. In fact, with a straight face, he'll tell anyone he suspects gullible enough to believe him that it's one of the reasons he got into politics in the first place. Apparently, parkway removal was part of the curriculum when he was studying for his BA and Masters degrees in political

science.

With an announced start date of Spring of 2018 (pushed back from a previous start date of Fall, 2017), it will have been 10 years into the mayor's tenure that a small, insignificant length of parkway, up to Findlay Drive, is supposed to get taken out. And when Spring of 2018 rolls around, you can bet there will be another Gorge side press conference and another public hearing at the library or Conference Center in lieu of anything actually getting done.

Look, President Obama is a Democrat. The governor of New York has been a Democrat since 2006. Congressman Higgins and Mayor Dyster are Democrats. There no reason under the sun that the parkway couldn't be bulldozed out of existence, much like Three Sisters Islands and the Schoellkopf were, tomorrow. But it hasn't happened, because the mayor doesn't think it's in his political self-interest to do anything about it.

It's clear that Tuesday's Dyster/Higgins press conference on the Niagara Gorge was in response to State Senator Robert Ort's announcement that his half of the overachieving legislature passed a bill renaming the entire parkway, from Grand Island to Youngstown, the “Niagara Scenic Parkway”. The new law also provides for a costly update of signage reflecting the change along its 18.42 mile length.

Ortt, who frequently rails against “environmental extremists” when it comes to everything from Lake Ontario water levels to a ban on microbeads, although he's never specifically named an individual or organization who, in his estimation, falls into that category, sponsored the name change bill, commenting, “Community members overwhelmingly supported changing the parkway's name to something more advantageous to tourists... The name Niagara Scenic Parkway is more appealing and reflects the positive transformation the City of Niagara Falls is undergoing with the removal of the north section of the parkway.”

If parkway removal “reflects the positive transformation the City of Niagara Falls is undergoing”, why not go ahead and remove it, and dispense with the useless political exercise of renaming it?

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Great White Hunter Opens Sandwich Shop On Elmwood

James Hufnagel



Big game hunter Jimmy John Liataud is the owner of Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches. His chain serves an excellent vegan sandwich. Here Liataud bags one of about 5,000 black rhinos remaining in the world.



On the left Jimmy has bagged an elephant and on the right a giant grizzly bear, two animals that few sandwich shop owners ever get to kill. In recent years, following protests by anti hunting activists who threatened to not buy their gourmet sandwiches at his shops, Jimmy John Liataud removed all images he could of his big game hunting exploits. Happily some were preserved by others to permanently record his brave deeds.



Some of the menu items at the recently-opened Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches on Elmwood Avenue may lend a whole new meaning to the term "bagging" lunch.

That's because Jimmy John's owner, James John Liataud, is an avid big game hunter who loves to travel to places like Africa, seek out big, beautiful, wild animals, and shoot them dead—his notion of "sport." According to one hunting magazine his victims include elephant, rhino, bear, leopard, lynx, wolf, hyena and zebra.

"I choose to hunt and I choose to fish," he declared in a recent, Nov. 2015 Chicago Tribune interview. "Everything I've done has been totally legal. And the meat has been eaten, if not by me, then by someone..."

You may want to factor that into your meal-time deliberations.

The new "Gourmet Sandwich" shop, or what was once commonly referred to as a "deli", is located on the ground floor of a new \$3.5 million, three-story building at 770 Elmwood, between Cleveland and Auburn Aves. Jimmy John's

has three other stores locally, near the north and south UB campuses and on Transit Road, Williamsville.

Somewhat surprisingly, there appears to be no appreciable backlash from the Elmwood community, an upscale, hip enclave progressive on social issues, with regards to the background of their newest neighbor and merchant. Most of the kvetching on the Buffalo Rising and Buffalo News web sites centers on the advisability of locating yet

another soulless national chain restaurant on the strip, detracting from its trendy and distinctive character.

For example, "Wow really? Jimmy John's? Whoever the franchisee is (at) this location is out of touch. Opening a chain sandwich shop next to Globe, Spot, Panera and down the street from a multitude of others in a neighborhood that chooses local over national 8 times out of 10 is a little idiotic."

While the Elmwood Village Association web site features a section entitled, "WHAT IS THE ELMWOOD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION?", perhaps the more relevant question would be "WHERE IS THE ELMWOOD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION?", given that "(t)he purpose of The Elmwood Village Association is to preserve and protect the unique and historic nature of Elmwood Avenue and its surrounding neighborhoods by increasing civic involvement and encouraging neighborhood revitalization."

A search of its site on "Jimmy" yields nothing, while a search on "sandwich" only lists contact information for Erbert &

Gerbert's Sandwich Shop down the street.

Of the many on-line comments, only a couple touch on the disgusting hobby of Jimmy John Liataud, including "Not to mention that Jimmy John Liataud likes killing big game animals. Just google him. That will go over well in the EV (Elmwood Village) neighborhood."

According to Wikipedia, Jimmy also bankrolls NASCAR, Ultimate Fighting and something called the "Jimmy John's Freaky Fast 300" at Chicagoland Speedway,

Some on social media are calling for a boycott of the new Jimmy John's eatery, in protest of the noble creatures that have served as target practice for the sandwich tycoon. One Facebook post reads "Bad enough another fast food joint is opening in our neighborhood... but this fat f*** is the owner. Shame on any neighbor who crosses its threshold (which I expect none will), and the sandwiches probably suck anyway. Let's hope it fails miserably and closes soon." Another person added "I've been complaining about this stupid chain restaurant since I saw the "coming soon" sign. I read about this a**hole's trophy hunting last summer. It's disgusting. I hope the Elmwood location is a

huge failure."

On the other hand, one individual using the handle @Cara_Ann_B disagreed, tweeting "Unless JJs is secretly putting rhino meat in my #12 Beach Club, I'm not about to boycott delicious sandwiches #JimmyJohns."

Boycott and ostracization of a business because of an appalling propensity on the part of its owner to shoot defenseless animals is not without recent precedent, as dentist Walter Palmer of Eden Prairie, Minnesota recently found out the hard way.

Palmer's alleged poaching of an elderly, revered lion named Cecil during a Zimbabwean safari, baiting the animal and then using a bow and arrow to maximize the cruelty of the act, caused an international sensation. His Facebook, Yelp and business web site pages were all inundated with recriminations and even threats. He had to close his dental office and drop out of sight for an entire month for personal safety reasons.

We are in no way advocating similar harassment. However, given the panoply of lunchtime and snack options available along the Elmwood strip, an economic boycott could send a powerful message to the Jimmy Johns of the world.



The delight on Jimmy John's face after killing this tusker is comparable to the delight you will experience eating his gourmet sandwiches. We recommend the vegetarian, described as "layers of provolone cheese separated by real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, lettuce, tomato and mayo. Truly a gourmet sub not for vegetarians only... peace dude." Following protests, the Johan Calitz Safaris pulled down these copyrighted images from their online marketing. (left and below)



Jimmy John (above) embraces a Delta Leopard he apparently killed in 2010.

According to Wikipedia, elephants exhibit mirror self-recognition, an indication of self-awareness and cognition that has also been demonstrated in some apes and dolphins. Elephants are among the species known to use tools. An elephant has been observed modifying branches and using them as flyswatters. Elephants are popularly thought of as having an excellent memory. This could have a factual basis; they possibly have cognitive maps to allow them to remember large-scale spaces over long periods of time. Individuals appear to be able to keep track of the current location of their family members.

They appear to show interest in the bones of their own kind, regardless of whether they are related. As with chimps and dolphins, a dying or dead elephant may elicit attention and aid from others, including those from other groups. This has been interpreted as expressing "concern", however, others would dispute such an interpretation as being anthropomorphic.

Fewer than 20,000 white rhinos remain in South Africa, where Liataud shot his. Rhinos there are being poached at the rate of over 1,000 a year. While we have no evidence of poaching on his part, any trophy hunting of rhino in that country poses a threat to the continued survival of the species.

Assemblywoman Wozniak Admonished For Pantless Prodigies With Male Legislative Aide

Anna Howard

ALBANY — Following in the footsteps of her lusty predecessor, a vixenish but married assemblywoman from Cheektowaga is said to have exercised “incredibly poor judgment” by having a sordid sexual affair with her handsome male legislative aide.

She has been admonished by the oxymoron-named New York State Assembly Ethics Committee.

After an investigation by the committee into her extra curricular boudoir behaviors, the ethics panel said Assemblywoman Angela Wozniak, a Republican, violated the Assembly’s sexual harassment policy when she had an affair with her director of legislation, Elias Farah.

The relationship between Wozniak, a married mother, and Farah began consensually enough last June as they drifted from her offices to more cozy settings in hotels, backs seats of cars and other private settings.

Starting off working on legislative initiatives, the spicy lady legislator offered up a few initiatives of her own. Farah, dependent on his income from his lusty lady boss, soon succumbed and the two of them wrote a raft of new rules — for each other.

In time, Farah said he tried to break



Horny housewife and Assemblywoman Angela Wozniak identified Elias Farah as her toy boy employee



things off, but boss lady, Madame Wozniak resisted.

It grew increasingly ugly and as the wee lad tried to flee from the insatiable grip of his femdom ruler, finally, investigators said, Wozniak came clean and told her husband.

She then ended the affair with her employee, Farah, on June 28.

When the lad complained of being

harassed and abused, the cheeky lady of Cheektowaga hit back banning Farah from her offices and telling the press all about him.

“The ethics committee unanimously agrees that Assembly Member Wozniak retaliated against [Farah] ... identifying him by name to the press ... making other statements to the press that are reasonably likely to harm the director of legislation’s

reputation,” the committee wrote.

As a result of her dalliance, Wozniak is banned from employing interns, must have semi-annual “climate surveys” in her offices and re-take sexual harassment prevention training. [She flunked the first time.]

The Assembly is attempting to find a satisfying job for the once satisfied Farah, and taxpayers will pay him through February 2017 at the same salary he was making from Wozniak using her staff allotment.

Ironically, the spicy adulteress was elected in 2014 after Dennis Gabryszak, a Democrat, resigned amid multiple allegations of sexual harassment.

Several female Gabryszak aides alleged in sexual harassment complaints that he sent explicit messages and demanded massages [which they said he never got].

After replacing him, Wozniak went on record saying she thought politicians should face stronger punishment when scandals broke. Wozniak, then 27 years old, also cast herself as an agent of change.

And indeed she was that agent of change.

She went beyond Gabryszak’s clumsy attempts at sex and toilet level humor [no woman claimed he ever got to first base with them] to the actual bedroom and in the end terrorized her boy employee and by identifying her lover she may have ruined the career of a once serviceable assistant.



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Will a road by any other name still cause controversy here?

Mike Hudson

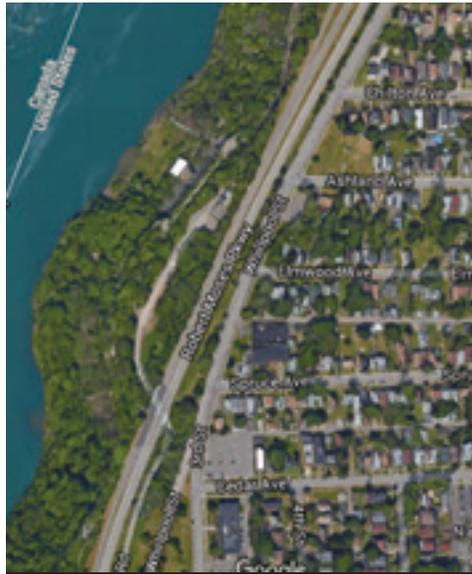
While lawmakers representing Niagara County may lack the political will to remove the Robert Moses Parkway, the state Senate has recently taken the bull by the horns and moved to change the road's name.

Sen. Rob Ortz introduced a bill to rename the Robert Moses Parkway as the Niagara Scenic Parkway. Under Ortz's bill, the entire stretch of the 18.42 mile highway – running from Niagara Falls to Youngstown – would be changed to the newly designated name.

"Community members overwhelmingly supported changing the parkway's name to something more advantageous to tourists," said Ortz. "The name Niagara Scenic Parkway is more appealing and reflects the positive transformation the City of Niagara Falls is undergoing with the removal of the north section of the parkway. Once the project is completed, there will be more green space, access to the waterfront will be expanded and enhanced, and tourists will have more to do on the Niagara River gorge."

The legislation follows a resolution approved unanimously by the Niagara County Legislature on March 1 recommending the state rename the Robert Moses Parkway. The resolution stated in part, "the name Robert Moses means little to tourists and is no longer descriptive of today's purpose of informing visitors this roadway will take you to the prime viewing areas."

The initial idea was prompted by Lewiston resident Mamie Simonson several months ago,



The Robert Moses Parkway – soon to be renamed – effectively cuts off the City of Niagara Falls from its Albany-owned waterfront.

whose Whirlpool Street home in Niagara Falls was demolished in 1959 in order to build the Robert Moses Parkway.

The state highway was originally known as the Niagara Parkway. In the 1960s, it was changed to the Robert Moses State Parkway after public works developer Robert Moses.

The Robert Moses Parkway South "Riverway" project is currently under construction. Public scoping on the north project, which entails removal of the Robert Moses Parkway and reconstruction of Whirlpool Street between Main Street and Findlay Drive, began in 2013. Under the current timeline, final design must be completed this year, followed by bid solicitation and then construction commencing late next year.

Even as Ortz's plan to rename the roadway winds its way through the state Legislature, where it still must be approved in the Assembly, Rep Brian Higgins has called on the Federal Highway Administration to expedite the project.

In a letter to FHWA, Higgins pressed the department to commence review of the lengthy draft design report while a brief amount of fieldwork awaits the spring thaw.

"While the City of Niagara Falls anxiously awaits progress, a vehicle to help the community reclaim its waterfront sits," Higgins said. "There is no reason why the lengthy process for review can't begin today."

The New York Power Authority has committed to fund the design costs and 70 percent of the construction costs for the Robert Moses Parkway North removal project, formally known as the Niagara Gorge Corridor Project.

Niagara Falls Mayor first ran for office on a platform that advocated the complete removal of the Robert Moses in 2007. The project has languished since then.

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Art Of Beer Promotes Booze, Dyster's Private Business

Mike Hudson

Using public money to promote alcohol consumption? Using public money to promote the mayor's private business? It's all good in Niagara Falls, where the 10th annual Art of Beer festival last week managed to do both things simultaneously.

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster has gifted the sponsoring organization with around \$30,000 a year since its inception. And his Tonawanda home brewing business, Niagara Tradition, is a prominent presence at the event.

Proceeds go to the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, located in the old high school building at Pine Avenue and Portage Road. The 180,000-square-foot building houses some 70 mostly amateur artists as tenants.

The city Council cut funding to the NACC in 2013 but it was restored the next year. Thus far, the NACC has received around \$270,000 in public funding in addition to another \$500,000 it got to put a new roof on the old high school building.

The local breweries taking part are barred by state law from selling their beer at the event, but they hope to cash in later, the Art of Beer event providing a showcase for their products.

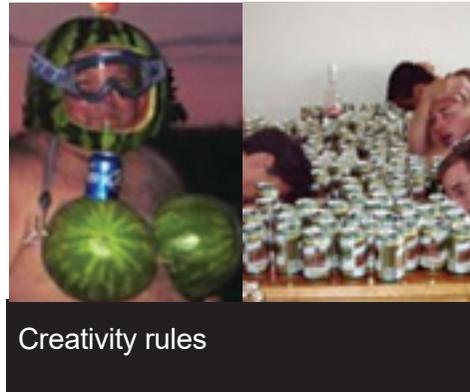
Vendors at the event this year included the Big Ditch Brewing Company, Buffalo Wild



Artist's conception of 'having fun at the Art of Beer' event.

Wings, CB Craft Brewers, Chateau Buffalo, CommunityBeer Works, Certo Brothers Distributing, Consumers Beverages, Flying Bison Brewery, Old First Ward Brewing, Pan American Grill & Brewery, Pearl Street Grill & Brewery. WoodCock Brothers, Resurgence Brewing, Try-It Distributing, Brickyard Pub & BBQ, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls, NACC Artisan Café, Red Coach Inn, Hard Rock Café, Great Lakes Brewing News, and Simon Pure Collectors.

Many of the local brewers who take part in the festival got their start with home brewing, and many of the customers at the event are interested in going the same route. That's where Dyster's Niagara Traditions comes in.



Creativity rules

How many of the vendors at the Art of Beer buy supplies from Dyster is unknown, since Niagara Tradition is a private business and its records are not subject to review.

But the simple fact that public money is being used to promote an event that helps the mayor's private business has raised eyebrows over the years.

Also participating in this year's event was the Hard Rock Café, another recipient of Dyster's largess. The mayor handed the saloon, which is owned by the Seminole Indian tribe, more than \$700,000 to stage a series of concerts there.

Claire Seveno, Hard Rock sales and marketing manager, said they created a special Art of Beer commemorative lapel button, which sold for \$12, with part of the proceeds going to the NACC.



Mayor Paul Dyster imbibest

The city Council pulled the plug on the Hard Rock concert series in 2013, and Dyster's attempts to revive it have been unsuccessful thus far.

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Niagara Catholic Raising Money For "Water For South Sudan"

Embarking on a Global Project – In their 1998 document, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions-Reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops*, the American bishop's highlighted seven principles that serve as the foundation of the church's social teaching. Knowing and adopting these principles for our own lives can motivate us to action, help us to make correct choices, and ultimately lead us to be "principled" people in the area of social justice.

So what better way to do this at Niagara Catholic then to embark on a special project that certainly falls under many of the seven principles of Catholic Social teaching: Solidarity; Stewardship; Respect for Life; Rights & Duties; Common Good; Option for the Poor; Family Community Participation; Work & Workers. The project we have in mind is called "Water for South Sudan."

"Water for South Sudan," has a simple mission. To drill borehole wells which bring safe drinking water to the people in South Sudan's remote villages, transforming lives in the process. The mission is inspired and led by its founder, a former "Lost Boy," Salva Dut. Salva Dut was born in a small village called Lounariik in Tonj County. His village was then part of a region of Sudan known as southern Sudan. His personal story is told in the book

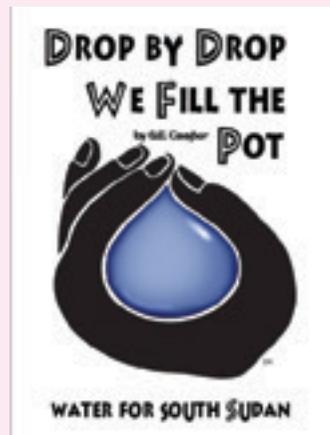
entitled "A Long Walk To Water," by Linda Sue Park. Salva escaped his homeland, then a region of Sudan, during that country's decades-long civil war. After coming to the U.S. and living in Rochester, New York for a number of years and founding Water for South Sudan, Inc., Salva now lives most of the year in South Sudan and Uganda where, as Executive Directive of

East Africa Operations, he oversees the organization's work. Water for South Sudan, Inc. was organized in 2003 as a U.S. 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation based in Rochester, New York with drilling operations in South Sudan.

Supporter/contributors in 50 US States, 29 Countries include: School classes; Faith-based organizations; Foundations; Civic Groups; Individuals; and On-line giving programs. Niagara Catholic would like to be included among the projects sup-

porters.

If you or anyone you may know would like to contribute in any way to our efforts please don't hesitate to call the school at 716-283-8771. Contributions may be made directly to Niagara Catholic Jr./Sr. High School. We want to thank the donors who have provided us the funds to purchase a copy of the book for each student. Contacts and additional information can be found at www.waterforsouthsudan.org.



Dyster's Follies Cost Taxpayers, Lead To Absolutely Nothing Constructive

Mike Hudson

For Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster, it's not about the destination but the journey. Which is why, since taking office in January 2008, the city has been subjected to numerous and lengthy forays into the un-knowable unknown, for the most part without any measurable result aside from money squandered and energy spent.

The new courthouse on North Main Street gave an early indication of Dyster's leadership abilities. The state said it should cost \$14 million but, after firing city engineer Bob Curtis on his first day in office and turning the project over to private engineering firms and contractors, Dyster's Taj Mahal cost \$46.5 million.

The building has been plagued by plumbing, security and other problems ever since it opened but, for Dyster, the spending of the money and the sight of construction on North Main Street represented the end rather than the means.

It's kind of like the new train station on Whirlpool Street. Actually, at this point, calling it a train station is inaccurate, since no trains are scheduled to stop there.

Dyster went ahead and spent \$44 million of other people's money to build a facility for Amtrak that the money losing railroad has shown no interest whatsoever in occupying.

Remember, it's not about the destination but the journey.

No contract currently exists between the city and any prospective tenant of the new building, not even with the city's own Underground Railroad Commission, which is supposed to open a museum there. No stores, coffee shops or railroads have been enticed to take up residence in Dyster's 22,000-square-foot white elephant.

Since 1978, Amtrak officials have been quite content with the 800 square feet they operate on Willard Avenue near Lockport Road. Peak traffic at the Niagara Falls station averages 20 passengers an hour, an event that occurs no more than four times each day. The smallish waiting room, about the size of a good sized dentist's office, never lacks for seating, even with the hustle and bustle of 10 people getting on a train as another 10 disembark.

Yet another Dyster misadventure occurred on 72nd Street, where a simple road reconstruction job turned into a nightmare that left residents without running water for two winters in a row as the mayor attempted to conceal his own culpability in the matter.

The Reporter has owned the story of the 72nd Street frozen water line for the past two years. We were there, literally on the street, from day one. The failure to replace water lines and bury them below the freeze line was a \$300,000 problem that Dyster turned into a fiasco that will cost more than \$1 million to rectify.

Although the project contractor, the city engineering department and others warned him, the mayor acted as though he was surprised when the 72nd Street water main froze. He said there were "a half dozen theories" as to the event occurred. He commissioned a study.

When the study was completed, in April 2014, and showed that it was his own disregard that was to blame for the fiasco, Dyster put it in his desk drawer and hoped everyone would forget he commissioned it. It was only after the Buffalo News filed a Freedom of Information Law complaint that the report was made public.



Cool shades



Well dressed mayor.



Beer at the picnic



Beer at the office



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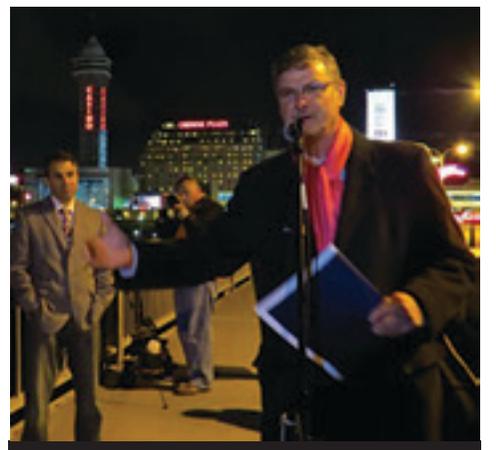
Pimping for the Hard Rock.



Feeling warm all over.



If Dyster worked for Trump?



Taxpayers' swagger.

When Dyster was elected, he said he would shun candidates from Niagara Falls for high ranking city positions and conduct nationwide searches for the "best and the brightest" job seekers from coast to coast. This has been another unmitigated disaster.

Dyster hired Peter Kay of Toledo, Ohio, as an economic development director at a salary of \$100,000 a year. After no economic development occurred, Kay was fired by the city Council after three years.

He hired Ali Marzban, an Iranian immigrant from Los Angeles, as the city engineer, firing him a couple months later after the Reporter revealed Marzban wasn't licensed to practice engineering in the United States.

Roger Melchior was another one of the best but not quite the brightest of Dyster's hires. The Florida fireman who had been unemployed since forever, was beset by injuries and illness until some racist remarks on the internet led to his dismissal just seven months after his hiring.

The reality is that the only one of Dyster's out of town hires who has stuck around is Donna Owens, his city administrator. Owens had her pay slashed by the city Council – from \$100,000 a year to \$70,000 – and the mayor's loyalty to her continues to confound even his strongest supporters, like Lewiston businessman Craig Avery, who has publicly called for her dismissal.

It would be easy to go on. But maybe we should conclude this little essay with a note

about the Hamister hotel deal.

Remember way back to 2013? Obviously you don't, or you wouldn't have elected Dyster to a third term this past autumn.

In short, the mayor said that, if the deal wasn't done by November 2013, do nothing developer and Dyster campaign contributor Mark Hamister would pick up his ball and go home.

Former Niagara Falls city councilman Sam Fruscione asked a simple question. Did Hamister actually have enough money to build the hotel? Because Dyster was proposing to give real estate appraised at \$1.5 million to his buddy for a paltry \$100,000.

Fruscione, who was running for reelection, had the wrath of God brought down

on him. Cronies of Hamister and Dyster such as Gov. Andrew Cuomo, U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and the entire Buffalo media mounted a smear campaign against him that accused him of everything from blocking progress to defending the Mafia.

It turned out of course, that Fruscione was correct. Hamister didn't have the money, and continues to not have the money. Nearly three years after the once popular Fruscione was thrown off the Council by an angry electorate, and months after Dyster was returned to office by the same individuals, Hamister has done absolutely nothing.

You pay your money and you take your choice, the man said. And in Niagara Falls, you did and you do.

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Judge Frank Bayger, Hall Of Fame Trial Lawyer, Is Back Practicing Law

Tony Farina

Frank “Duke” Bayger worked at a bowling alley while attending high school, worked as a dishwasher and waiter at the famed Roycroft Inn in East Aurora, worked as a bartender at the Town Casino nightclub in Buffalo, and won a \$12.5 million defamation judgment for the late Niagara Falls restaurateur John Prozeralik against Capital Cities Communications and ABC Corporation, one of the largest verdicts in state history and in the country in a libel and slander case against a communications corporation.

The case, which was eventually settled for \$11.5 million, stemmed from a television report on Buffalo’s Ch. 7 (Capital Cities) in May of 1982 that falsely named Prozeralik as a victim of a mob abduction and beating when the actual victim was David Pasquantino.

Bayger tried the case twice after the first verdict totaling \$18.5 million was reversed by the state Court of Appeals. In the second trial (1996), Bayger won an \$11.5 million verdict against the best First Amendment lawyers that money could buy that was modified to include interest from the date of the first broadcast, and adjusted to \$12.5 million, later settling for \$11.5 million with Prozeralik walking away with a tax-free check for \$8 million.



Judge Frank Bayger (Ret.) ... handling personal injury cases

It was a celebrated First Amendment case, but only one of many multi-million verdicts for Frank Bayger, who began his legal career in 1955 after graduating from the University of Buffalo Law School where he had enrolled after turning down acceptance at St. Louis University’s Jesuit Medical School after receiving his bachelor of science degree



Judge Bayger’s Office...2578 Niagara Falls Blvd. , Niagara Falls

in pre-medial studies at Canisius College.

Bayger became a partner in the Jasen, Manz, Johnson & Bayger firm in 1958 with all four partners eventually becoming judges. It was during this time that Duke Bayger made his mark in local legal circles in criminal law, ranging from DWI to success in two murder cases, and in 1960, at the ripe old age of 29, he formed his own law firm where he practiced until he was appointed to Erie County Court by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in 1968, eventually winning a four-year term.

But Judge Bayger was just beginning, and a few years later, he was appointed to State Supreme Court by Gov. Rockefeller and won a 14-year term in 1973 with the support of all four political parties. He retired from the bench in 1986 and he’s worked at several firms since then, including setting up his own firm which later merged with the prominent Buffalo firm of Lipsitz, Green, Fahringer, Salisbury & Cambria where he became special counsel.

Bayger, a grandson of Polish immigrants who was raised in Kaisertown, has won many awards and honors during his distinguished legal career including induction into the Hall of Fame of the National Trial Lawyers Association and being elected president of the University of Buffalo School of Law Alumni Association. The list goes on and on, and so do the string of favorable verdicts ranging from \$7 million to a Niagara Falls ironworker injured on the job to \$9 million recovered in a pilot error judgment in the crash of American Airlines Flight #587 in Queens, killing 251 Dominican passengers.

And now, when he could be sitting back and reminiscing about the many legal battles he has waged, Duke Bayger has opened up an office at 2578 Niagara Falls Blvd. (Niagara Falls address) and is practicing personal injury and wrongful death cases again after recovering from a stroke suffered more than 20 years ago and returning to the practice of law that required him to pass the bar again which he did in very impressive fashion.

At lunch last week, the animated former jurist and entrepreneur who once developed a ranch that was home to a herd of 300 bison

in Ellicottville, says he’s back practicing law not because he likes the work but because he wants to help people who need help.

“I’m not interested in the work,” he said, “I’m interested in helping poor people, and that’s what I’m doing.” Nothing in his manner suggested battle fatigue although as the forward in a special pamphlet he has on display gives an idea what this former dishwasher has done. It says: “55 years as a practicing lawyer, County Court Judge and 13 years as a New York State Supreme Court Justice, I evaluated, settled or tried approximately 10,000 personal injury and wrongful death cases. In private practice, I evaluated, settled or tried approximately 3,000 personal injury and wrongful death cases.”

The pamphlet lists many of his significant verdicts and settlements in abbreviated form and advises prospective clients that consultations and evaluations are free with no fee unless you win. Now how’s that from a former judge with a rich history of winning and settling multi-million dollar cases who is willing to advise you for free? And make no mistake. Duke is at the office every day, plans on adding lawyers to his staff, and building as he has always done with an eye toward the future.

Anyone interested in talking to Judge Bayger about a legal matter will find his contact information in this newspaper (see ad), but we’ll print it here in case you want to reach him. The office number is 216-6226; cell number 949-8090 and the email address is Frankrbayger@gmail.com.

Duke Bayger has more colorful stories about his long legal career than any lawyer I have ever met, and believe me I have met a few in my many years covering the courts and the criminal justice system. The Hall of Fame trial lawyer seems to have plenty left in the tank and is looking forward, as he puts it, to helping poor people get their just due. We’ll have some more about Judge Bayger in future editions as we recall one of the most fascinating legal careers on record from a lawyer who is still living it.

Mitt Romney? He's a Good Reason Why We Want TRUMP !



J. Gary DiLaura **The Right Side**

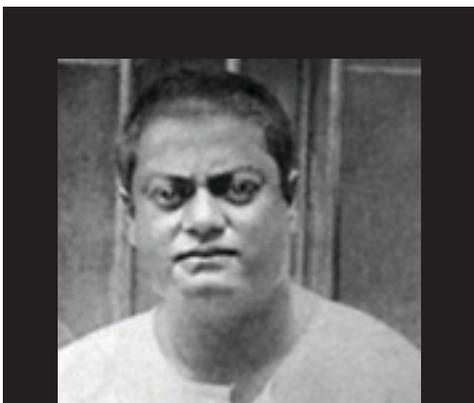
Now let's see if we can get this correct, when the Republican Party was in a fragmented, torn and unorganized shambles after Romney lost what should have been a certain chance to win the Presidential election, Romney went into hiding. The Republican Party desperately needed a leader after Romney BLEW the election by turning tail and running away from the worst thing that ever happened to this country, Barry Obama!

If I could pick one moment when the coward Romney blew it TOTALLY it would be during the 3rd debate when Obama said that the Country doesn't even know who Mitt Romney is because, now get this, Romney hid money in the Cayman Islands. Understand that this came from a man who paid over ONE MILLION DOLLARS to hide his college records, birth certificate, passport, his true identity and had his Selective Service record altered!

All Romney had to do was to throw down copies of his Birth Certificate, College Transcript and Passport and say, "Here's my records Mr. President now tell the American people where yours are"!

Mitt Romney had his chances and blew both to a freaking Community Organizer. A Billionaire (supposedly), beaten by a guy who NEVER had a real job in his life! A guy who NEVER had a payroll or even practiced law with his law degree. All because Romney was afraid to stand up for himself! Think about it! Putin would have Romney for breakfast.

So now comes a third chance and he says,



Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man....

We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet.

~ Swami Vivekananda

repeatedly, as we all know, that he won't run again and we ALL breathed a sigh of relief because he proved he can't win!

Then he waits and waits and waits until we have NOT 17 candidates, not 12, not 9, not 6, not five but 4 candidates who have been battling it out over and we like. Then a clear leader, Trump, emerges with 3 other good candidates still standing! He, MITT, THE ROMNEY ALMIGHTY, and THE GOD OF CANDIDATE SELECTION, decides that HE and only he is qualified to pick our Republican candidate! HE has decided that neither Trump NOR Cruz are good enough and he don't give a s... damn, who the American people want, he knows what's best for us. Someone like HIM, the freaking loser!!

Mitt, you dumb ass, you are going to get Hillary Rotten Clinton elected EVEN AFTER SHE'S INDICTED! Think about this, it's his fault that we got stuck with a Muslim, non Natural born American citizen, who never had a real job, disrespected the Senate, the House, the American

Flag, The American people, the Supreme Court, our vets, and the Military for 8 years!

Now Romney's going to either "jump in" and SAVE us from ourselves by making a terrible decision and electing Trump or Cruz or he will pick who he feels is best for us. Boy do I feel relieved!

I would rather ANYONE of the original 17 than that idiot Romney. Who the hell does he think he is?

The true reason Romney doesn't want Trump is because although Trump isn't a politician Trump knows the dark side of politics that old guard politicians like Romney and Clinton created. They made the rules that forced businessmen to follow in order to gain the help they needed. You heard Trump say how Romney begged for his "support". What do you think Trump gave him? Support stockings? I haven't heard any mainstream press ask Romney why he looked to Trump for "support", have you?

Politicians survive on a 'lobby life". They

take money from Saudi's, oil lobbyists, insurance lobbyist, drug lobbyist and when they leave politics what do they do? They become lobbyists for millions of dollars a year, working for the people who paid them when they were influential elected officials.

Trump wants to put an end to big money lobbyists and PACs electing our leaders. Don't let anyone fool you. When I was in the FBI my squad started an undercover operation called ABSCAM. It was Arab Muslims giving money to politicians for favors. It was successful resulting in arrests of several people including a US Senator.

How about Trump as President and Cruz or Rubio or John Kasich as VP?

Sounds good to me.

And Romney? Don't screw up another election that we can win.

Please, just shut up!

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Parking Meters On The Way Niagara Falls

Robert Ventry

While after many attempts, the vote on parking meters finally made it past the city council this past Monday. With strong public opinion against the idea, not only at the last two council meetings, but also on social media, it makes people wonder do our elected officials care about what the public thinks. The second plan was not much different than the previous plan that was voted down two weeks before. It's actually going to cost 87,000 dollars more. Could this plan turn out like the garbage plan and end up costing tax payers more money, plenty of people believe it will.

The reason given for the need to install parking meters is because the city needs revenue. The city actually needs to cut spending, but that won't be in plans, what is in plans is to get more money, at the expense of locals and tourists. What will the city do with the money, it makes from the meters. Will it go back in the general fund to help close the budget gap? Will it be spent like casino money on everything and anything? Speaking of casino money, how it is possible to spend 355,000 on meters. Casino money is supposed to be spent on economic development, parking meters don't sound like economic development, if anything it may possibly hurt future development.

Furthermore what effects will meters have on business in the area, could it hurt business, and make future developers think twice about doing business here. Locals may think twice about going downtown and choose to go to other towns and cities in the area where parking is free. Businesses in the area already have to pay the highest property taxes in the state, and the highest in the nation, parking meters will hurt local establishments. This is just another reason for people not to go down-town, and if they do why not just go to the casino where parking is free. Why go to a restaurant downtown, when people can go out to military road and park for free.

In reality how much money are these meters going to make, most likely they will make money in the prime tourist season, but will it be enough to cover the costs. How about in the off season when there are not a lot of people downtown, there's usually plenty of parking available. This is when the city will lose money, and the money they lose, will have to be made up from the money they make, cutting into any profits that could be made. Finally were local businesses consulted, why was there no public hearing? In the end these meters could turn out to cost more than what we are being told, such as other government projects here. In the end only time will tell.

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NHL Trade Deadline Day Often Bodes Poorly for Sabres

Splashy Moves Have Failed to Bolster Team

Andrew Kuylik and Peter Farrell

That final day in the season to make player trades, which is always set for sometime late February or early March, quite often results in a media carnival atmosphere and hard core fans tuning in to watch the frenzy. Which teams will be looking to add that valuable piece for a deep playoff run? Who is looking to unload fat contracts? And which teams are in rebuild mode and finally coming to grips with that?

For the Buffalo Sabres, more often than not the team has not gotten better, and in fact, has regressed as a result of their trade deadline moves over the past few years.

This season, general manager Tim Murray was rather quiet, only pulling one deal - sending a package of minor league prospects to Ottawa in exchange for a similar package of minor leaguers.

Travel back in time now and let's review a season by season marquee moves done by the Buffalo Sabres, and how they turned out, starting right after the 2004-05 lost season due to lockout.

2005-06: With the Sabres coming out of the lockout surprisingly strong, many expected then General Manager Darcy Regier to make some bold moves to help make a deep Cup run. He made but one trade - dispatching third goaltender Mika Noronen to Vancouver for a 2nd round draft choice. Buffalo lost in game 7 of the conference finals to Carolina, in a game where the team played with only two regular defensemen.

2006-07: Maybe lesson was learned, because this deadline day had Regier busy. He



No major trades this year for Sabres and GM Tim Murray... and, judging from the past, maybe that's a good thing.

got Dainius Zubrus and a minor league defenseman in exchange for Jiri Novotny and a first round draft pick. He then sent Martin Biron to Philadelphia for a 2nd round pick, picked up Ty Conklin as a replacement goalie, and yet another minor league defenseman.

Zubrus had a good run with the team, then left via free agency. The Presidents Trophy winning Sabres got knocked out by Ottawa in the conference finals.

2007-08: The blockbuster here was trading away all star defenseman Brian Campbell, receiving a 1st round draft pick and forward Steve Bernier. Bernier was traded away at the end of the season, following the team missing the playoffs.

2008-09: This time, the Sabres went for Dominic Moore, spending a 2nd round draft pick to land Moore from Toronto. Moore was expected to be the piece the Sabres needed to put the team into the playoffs.

It didn't work. Moore was a total bust, and left the team after the end of the season. He has since bounced around the league with several teams.

Additionally, the Sabres obtained goal-

tender Mikael Tellqvist from Phoenix for a 4th rounder. By summer he'd be gone from the league for good.

2009-10: If you think Moore was bad, fast forward one year and remember the name Rafi Torres.

Torres was supposed to be that pure goal scorer the team craved so badly. But he never scored even one goal in the final 6 weeks of the season. He mostly watched from the press-box as the Sabres were sent packing by the Boston Bruins in the first round of the playoffs.

2010-11: This was the year that everything was going to be different on deadline day. The Sabres got Brad Boyes, once a 43 goal scorer, in exchange for a 2nd round pick. Boyes made an immediate impact, scoring early and often and helping propel the Sabres to the 7th seed and a playoff spot.

By the following season, Boyes' play went way downhill, and he was traded away to the New York Islanders the following season.

2011-12: Longtime Sabre Paul Gaustad was traded to Nashville for a first round pick. But the big news was shipping bad boy and former first rounder Zack Kassian and defenseman Marc Andre Gagnani for Cody Hodgson and Alexander Sulzer. After two solid seasons for Hodgson, his play diminished greatly and the team waived him following the 2014-15 season. The Sabres missed the playoffs.

2012-13: it was a pretty quiet cycle for Buffalo, as they traded two defensemen, prospect T.J. Brennan to Florida, and Jordan Leopold to St. Louis, both in exchange for future draft picks. Once again, the team did not qualify for the playoffs.

Memorial Names Julie Zito Clark Director Of Marketing, Special Events And Projects

Julie Zito Clark has been appointed Director of Marketing, Special Events and Projects at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center effective February 29.

A professional marketing executive with more than 20 years of successful experience in marketing, public relations and communications for not-for-profit organizations and an S&P 500 corporation, Clark previously served as marketing director at both the Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA and the Summit Mall.

She is a graduate of Canisius College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in communications.

"Julie has a well-deserved reputation for creating and implementing high performing marketing strategies as well as a great deal of experience in producing special events. She is very well known and respected throughout the Niagara region for her marketing prowess and focus on superior customer service," said Judi Nolan Powell, Memorial's Vice President for Foundation & Community Relations. "She will be a great addition to our team as we pursue strategies to reinforce our brand as the region's premier healthcare innovator and economic catalyst."

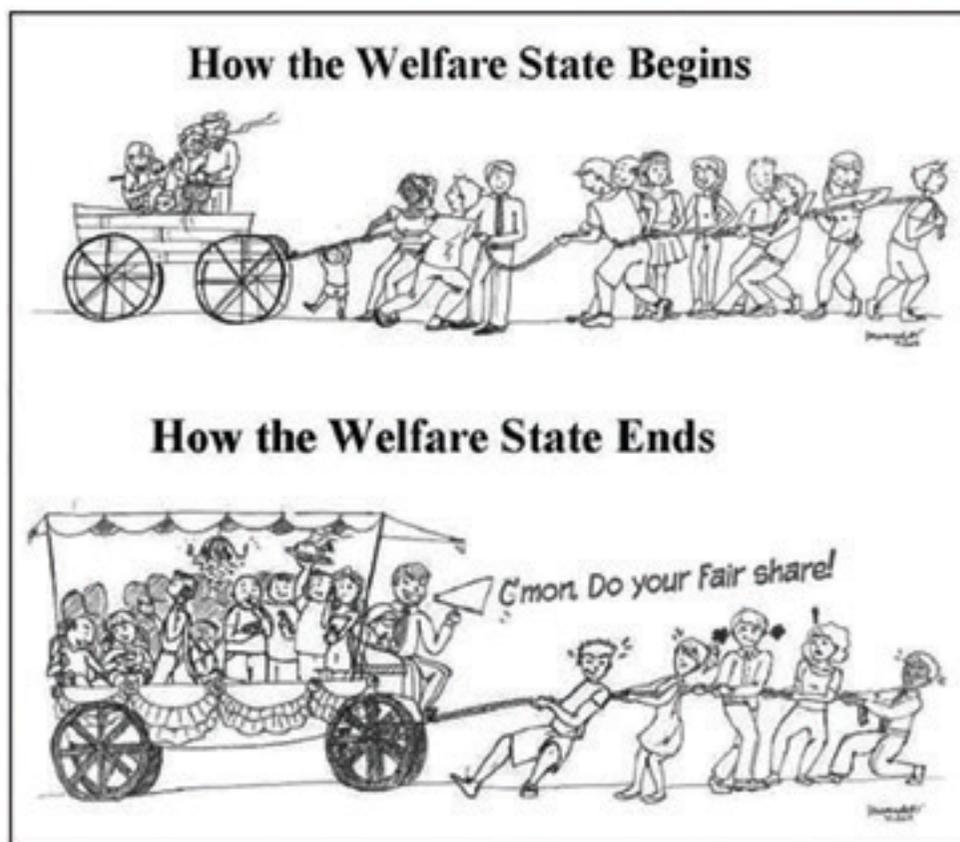


Clark is credited with initiating innovative events such as the first ever Shopping Tailgate Party, attracting crowds in excess of 60,000 and bringing the first casting calls of "Survivor" and "Top Model" to Western New York. She has worked with leading media outlets including Bloomberg, CBNC and TV Tokyo America.

Clark is a recipient of the International Council of Shopping Centers' MAXI Silver Award, and several Shop America Salutes Innovation (SASI) Awards from the Shop America Alliance. A recipient of the Small Business Person of the Year Award from the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce, she is a member of Doberman Rescue Unlimited and a former member of the Advisory Board for Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls.

In addition to her marketing expertise, Clark is an Independent Beauty Consultant Team Leader for Mary Kay Cosmetics has utilized her skills in that arena to support various non-profit organization initiatives, including the Bariatrics Fashion Show for Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

A native of Niagara Falls, she lives in the city with her husband Ed.



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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Chuck Shephard

THE SQUARE WHEEL OF JUSTICE

■ In February, New York's highest court finally said "enough" to the seemingly endless delays on a multimillion-dollar judgment for negligence that occurred 23 years ago. Linda Nash had sued, among others, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for injuries she suffered when trapped in an underground parking garage during the World Trade Center terrorist act. (No, not the one in 2001, but the bombing eight years before that, which killed six and wounded more than 1,000). Nash was 49 that day and 72 now, and after winning a \$5.4 million jury verdict in 2005, endured 10 more years of appeals. In its final, unsuccessful motion in the case, the Port Authority said it had spotted a technicality and that Nash should start over.

THE CONTINUING CRISIS

■ "Nostalgia," Gone Too Far: Retired engineer Harry Littlewood, 68, watching workers tear down outdated public housing in Stockport, England, recently, rushed over to ask the local Stockport Council about recovering a "souvenir" since the teardowns included his residence growing up. The council agreed, and Littlewood was awarded the toilet he had used as a boy. "I never thought I'd see it again," he mused. He said he would probably turn it into a planter.

LATEST RELIGIOUS MESSAGES

■ Evangelicals Applaud Sexual Predator: The

Jacksonville (Florida) City Council was addressing a proposed amendment to its Human Rights Ordinance (one that would specifically protect gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders) in January when Roy Bay, 56, stood during the comment period and insisted that those kinds of lifestyle protections are what led him on a 20-year history of molesting one little boy after another. Gasps in the audience turned into cheers, however, when he reported that he had abandoned his bad self after becoming a "born-again child of God," and realizing that it was not "acceptable" to assault kids even though he was raised in such an environment himself. (Conveniently, the crimes are not prosecutable because of the statute of limitations. Fact-checkers, including FloridaPolitics.com, are still investigating Bay's claims.)

■ Local governments in Taiwan's Southwest Coast National Scenic Area in Chiayi province recently put the finishing touches on a 55-foot-high "church" in the form of a shoe made from more than 300 glass panels (and costing the equivalent of about \$680,000). According to a BBC News dispatch, no religious services will be held there; rather, the church will be a destination for weddings and feature other events tailored for glass-slipper-obsessed females.

■ Prosecutors in Spain finally filed charges this year against three women for a May 2014 protest that was apparently aimed at religious intolerance of homosexuality, and are asking that the charges against the women be labeled anti-Catholic "hate" crimes. One judge particularly noted the anti-Catholic props—rosary beads, prayer lace, canonical hoods, and a 6-foot-high plastic vulva constructed to resemble the well-known representation of the Virgin Mary. In January, judges called police to

court to help identify the women in videos of the protest.

UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT

■ Progressives' Anxiety Disorder: Several students at the Ivy League's Brown University complained (quoted in a February story in the student newspaper) that classroom work (ostensibly what Brown charges \$50,000 a year in tuition for) was increasingly a burden, distracting them from their more important calling: organizing and protesting against various "injustices" on campus. Students were underperforming academically (and suffering health problems and anxiety issues) because, said the students, Brown still expects them to complete course requirements even though they are busy denouncing racist columns in the student newspaper and challenging the weakness of Brown's "diversity" policies (among other targets).

BRIGHT IDEAS

■ According to a former spy for the Soviet Union, dictator Josef Stalin so distrusted his Communist China counterpart Mao Zedong during the 1940s that when Mao visited the USSR, Soviet engineers arranged to capture his bowel movements so that Stalin's scientists could examine them chemically to form a psychological profile. Spy Igor Atamanenko found evidence that other world leaders received similar treatment. Among the indicators: High levels of the amino acid tryptophan signaled the person was calm and approachable, and lack of potassium portended nervousness and insomnia.)

■ Williams Lake, British Columbia, has the most violent crime per capita for its size (pop. 10,800) of any town in Canada, and in February the city council unanimously passed a dramatic action plan:

to inject "high risk" criminals with "GPS tracking" devices. The program was immediately denounced by privacy advocates, but that challenge is almost beside the point -- since injectable GPS tracking does not even exist. (Councilors likely confused implantable microchips, which contain data but do not track, with GPS transponders, which track but only via sight-line contact with a satellite.)

USELESSNESS OF THE MIRANDA WARNING

■ The three young men charged so far in the Feb. 17 murder in a South Carolina bowling alley made their first post-crime courtroom appearances memorable ones. According to a WYFF-TV (Greenville, South Carolina) report, Albert Taylor, 22 (and labeled as the shooter by police), seemed indifferent to the charges, but questioned the judge about courtroom cameras, appearing preoccupied. As he was being ushered out, he turned to address the camera and barked, "What's up, y'all? You can follow me on Twitter, follow me on Instagram, Snapchat."

■ Alex Smith, 38, asked a sheriff's deputy in Limestone County, Alabama, at 3 a.m. on Feb. 19 for a "courtesy ride" to a nearby Wal-Mart, and the deputy agreed, but following procedure, said he'd have to search Smith before letting him into the patrol car, and according to the subsequent arrest report, Smith, needing the ride, consented. The deputy then turned up a veritable drug supply store in Smith's pockets, his backpack and his duffel bags: drugs (meth, marijuana and black tar heroin), two syringes, a drug cooking spoon, two marijuana pipes, a meth smoking pipe, and a supply of baggies of the type frequently used for drugs. Smith was charged with drug possession and trafficking.

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Unions Representing Millions of Working People Stand with Hillary Clinton

Twenty-three national unions representing millions of working people across America stand behind Hillary Clinton as the most qualified and experienced candidate for president. In a time of growing inequality, many working people no longer believe they can achieve the American Dream of shared prosperity and a brighter future for their children. The labor movement must support the candidate whose vision and plans for the country can face the withering scrutiny of a general election campaign. Secretary Clinton has proven herself as the fighter and champion working people and their families need in the White House to restore that opportunity.

As she said herself, Secretary Clinton's life has been dedicated to tearing down the barriers that hold people back — whether they face barriers on the job, at the ballot box, or because of their race, gender, sexual orientation or immigration status. Secretary Clinton has detailed, progressive plans to create good jobs; advance workers' rights to a fair wage, a union and collective bargaining; rebuild our economy and our infrastructure; expand access to educational opportunity; advance racial justice; rein in Wall Street; fix our broken immigration system; improve and expand access to health care; keep America safe from our enemies; invest in good jobs in the energy sector; combat climate change; and tear down other barriers that keep everyday Americans from achieving their dreams.

That is why, of all unions endorsing a candidate in the Democratic primary, the vast majority of the membership in these unions has endorsed her. Our unions are already working together to mobilize members and build an infrastructure to elect Secretary Clinton and our allies up and down the ballot. We will continue to fight for the candidates who will be our true champions. In the presidential contest, that candidate is Secretary Clinton. With the Supreme Court nomination looming and critical cases on workers' rights, voting rights, the environment, women's health, immigration and others hanging in the balance, the labor movement will support the candidate whose vision and plans for the country can face the withering scrutiny of a general election campaign and carry us to victory in November. There is no doubt that working people will come together to work as one for victory in this election. The stakes are too high.

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Your Weekly Horoscope

By Jean Topascani



Aries: (March 21 - April 19)

Why don't you go into that corner and finish evolving?"

When people think of all the people they respect the most, you're right there, serving them drinks. We know that you would go to the end of the world for us. But would you stay there?



Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)

People wish you no ill, but it is surprising how many people feel it would have

been much better if you had never lived. People can't tell if you're on too many drugs or not enough. Some day you will find yourself - and wish you hadn't.



Libra: (September 23 - October 22)

I've charted serial killers and assassins but nobody

scared me as much as you. Stay indoors. People think of you when they are lonely. Then they are content to be alone. I just stepped in something that was smarter than you, and it smelled better.



Capricorn: (December 22 - January 19)

Your bus leaves in 10 minutes... Be under it.

You're not my cup of tea, mainly because I don't like huge pieces of shit in my tea. Anyone who told you to be yourself couldn't have given you worse advice. Some babies were dropped on their heads but you were clearly thrown at a wall.



Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)

You are short on looks, absolutely deprived of any dress sense, have a figure

like a Jurassic monster, very greedy when it comes to money, no tact and want to upstage everyone else. Other than that you are something very special indeed! Quick somebody kill it before it multiplies.



Leo: (July 23 - August 22)

Sorry, I can't understand what you're saying... I'm wearing a moron filter.

People know you're special that's why they wave with one finger. You spent so much time trying to get rid of that halitosis that you had, only to find out that you are not popular anyway.



Scorpio: (October 23 - November 21)

Donate your face to the US Bureau of Wildlife. You should donate blood.

All of it! When you get run over by a car, it shouldn't be listed under accidents. I'm sorry I hurt your feelings when I called you stupid. I really thought you already knew.



Aquarius: (January 20 - February 18)

Look, it's all right to donate your brain to

science but shouldn't you have waited till you died? After hearing you talk, I now know that the dead do contact us. I want to call you stupid, but that isn't enough. Sorry, I can't think of an insult stupid enough for you.



Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)

You're so boring, that when you're introduced people fall

asleep halfway through your name. A night out for you is a night off for your family. The world is a depressing place, but only because you are in it. People weren't born with enough middle fingers to let you know how they feel.



Virgo: (August 23 - September 22)

A huge fur ball on two overdeveloped legs.

Nothing happens after you die? False. Some of us will be throwing a party. You may be a beautiful person on the inside, too bad you were born on the outside! You didn't evolve from apes, they evolved from you.



Sagittarius: (November 22 - December 21)

Well, at least you found your true love - what a pity

you can't marry yourself. While you have no enemies, you are intensely disliked by your friends. You're such a turd, when you sit in the sandbox, cats try to bury you.



Pisces: (February 19 - March 20)

You will soon be involved in international affairs; when you date someone from Canada.

As a failure, you are a great success. Your proctologist called. They've found your head. Gee I wish I'd known you when you were alive. Tues: You better hide, the garbage collector is coming!

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