



**The Swindler:
Part 2** →

← **Touma's
Solution**



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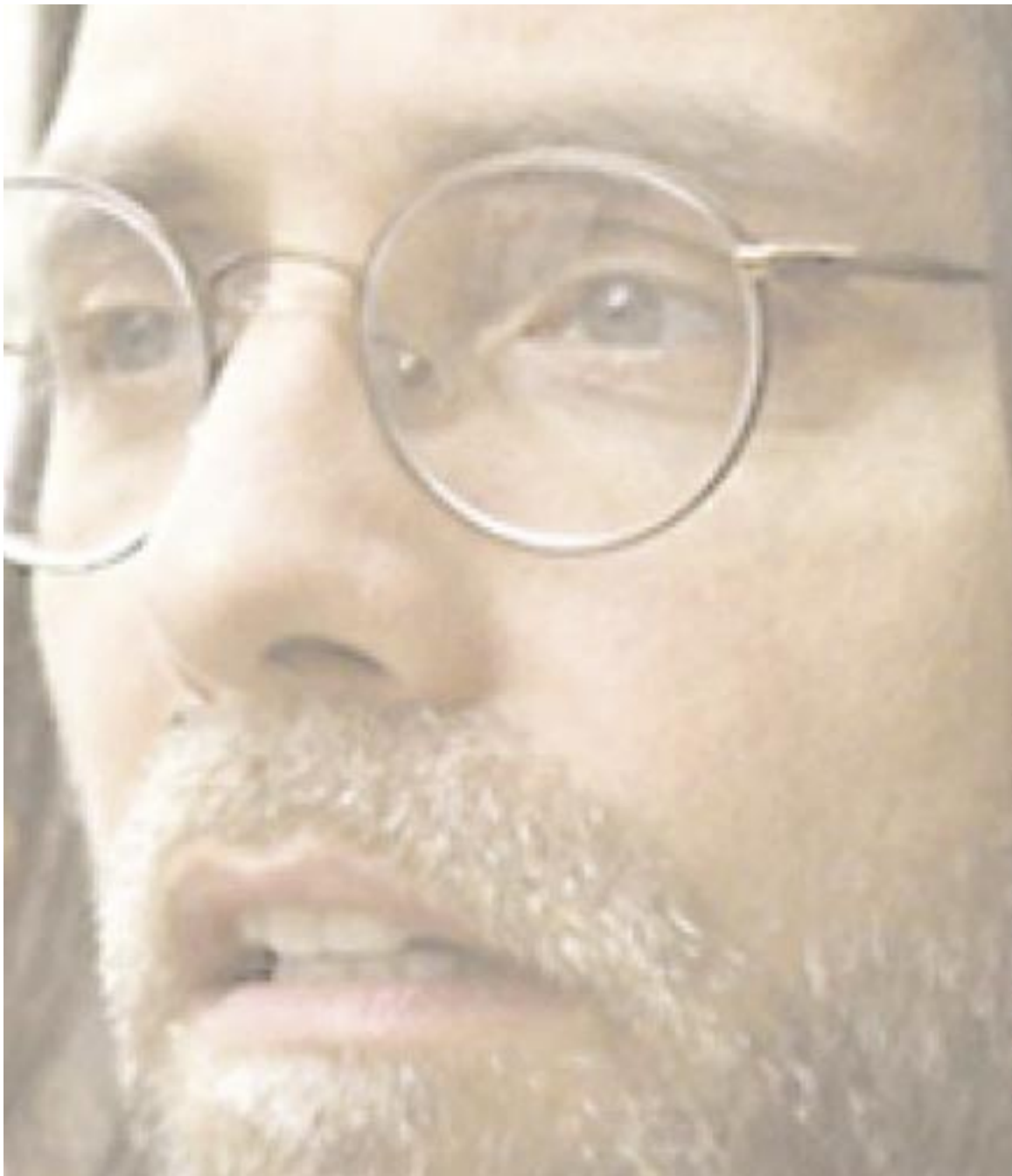
FREE

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FREE

FBI Should Investigate Bronfmans and Cult Leader Keith Raniere



The Real Criminals



Tammy Jackson

Steve Nawrocki



Congratulations!

Deal Realty would like to recognize Tammy and Steve for their contributions and to thank them for their commitment and dedication. We wish them continued success.

FBI Should Investigate Bronfmans and Cult Leader Keith Raniere: Part I



The Hairy Raniere

Frank Parlato

Clare and Sara Bronfman, heirs to the Seagram's liquor fortune, and purported cult members, filed a complaint against me with the FBI claiming I defrauded them out of \$1 million.

The federal government is actively investigating whether the Bronfmans are my victims. But they are the ones who should be investigated since there are many victims – including myself – of the Bronfman sisters and the man who leads them, Keith Raniere.

Raniere - who made the 1989 "The Guinness Book of World Records" for his high IQ – estimated to be between 188 and 194 - was born in Brooklyn in 1960, claimed to speak full sentences at age one, taught himself high-school math in 19 hours when he was 12 and completed three years of college math and computer-language classes by the age of 13.

He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, New York, in 1982, having majored in physics, math, and biology, and later worked as a computer programmer and consultant.

He says he considers himself to be an enlightened spiritual being on par with such as the Dalai Lama, achieving what he calls "Unification".

Followers, mostly female, have described him as a "soft-spoken, humble genius" and some of these consider him to be like a Christ or Buddha born to save humanity.

Raniere has a penchant for attractive, affluent women and apparently teen and pre-teen girls.

In 1984, Raniere, 24, took 15-year-old Gina Melita's "virginity in a dark room, her T-shirt left flecked with blood," as reported in the Albany Times Union, based on interviews with Melita. Raniere also dated 15-year old, Gina Hutchinson who he convinced to drop out of school and be tutored by him.

Her older sister, Heidi, told the Times Union that she caught Raniere sneaking out of her sister's bedroom and Raniere explained that Gina's "soul was much older than her biological age" and she was actually a Buddhist goddess who came to earth to be with him.

After Raniere convinced her that she destroyed her spiritual path by not maintaining sexual fidelity to him, Gina committed suicide on park grounds adjoining the Karma Triyana Dharmachakra Buddhist monastery in Woodstock, NY when she shot herself in the head.

Aside from his spiritual and intellectual accomplishments, Raniere has a knack for business.

In the 1990s, Raniere launched Consumers' Buyline, a members-only buying club



Gina Melita



Rhiannon

headquartered near Albany that promised lucrative commissions to old customers for recruiting new ones. By the end of 1993 Raniere claimed he sold \$1 billion in goods and services, employed 80 people and had a 250,000 members paying \$15 a month for the right to sell his goods. He claimed he was worth \$50 million.

One of his saleswomen had a 12-year-old daughter, named Rhianna. When Raniere offered free tutoring to the girl, her mother jumped at the chance since she thought Raniere was "an Einstein."

"He was supposed to teach her Latin and algebra," The Albany Times Union wrote, after interviewing Rhianna and her mother, 22 years later. "Instead, she said, he told her she hugged like a child, her arms wrapped around him but her hips pushed away. He taught her to hug the way adults do, pelvis-to-pelvis."

Rhianna recalled that Raniere had sex with her in his townhouse, in empty offices, in an elevator, and a broom closet. After about 60 encounters, she ran away from home.

"He took my innocence," she said. "I can never get that back."

Raniere also lavished attention on married women as well.

Toni Natalie, a top salesman for Consumers Buy Line, and living in Rochester, was married and raising an adopted son when Raniere

invited her and her husband to his Albany area headquarters.

According to her interview in Metroland, Natalie said, "Before I knew it, he had me convinced that my husband was cheating on me and was having an affair with my nanny. It was all a lie . . . the next thing I knew, I was divorced and living in Albany".

Natalie soon became Raniere's girlfriend but she became disturbed when she discovered he had sex with many women he kept around him.

Raniere counseled her that a "threesome" would heal her issues. He also encouraged her to give up custody of her son while promising that she would bear his (Raniere's) child and that this child would save the world.

This disturbed Natalie since doctors had told that she was unable to have children, she says, "So I tried to break it off with him."

Unhappily for Raniere, at the same time, Consumer's Buy Line declined, debt mushroomed, and customers complained. Regulators in more than a 15 states began to investigate.

In 1993, New York Attorney General Robert Abrams filed a civil suit alleging Consumers' Buyline was similar to an illegal pyramid scheme.

By 1996, Raniere closed the company and signed an order agreeing to pay fines, and never participate in an illegal chain distribution

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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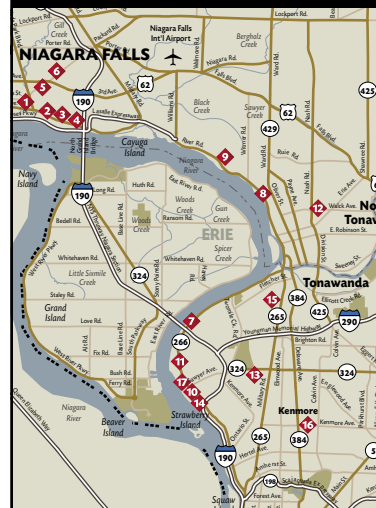
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Tax evasion, pyramid schemes, statutory rape, part of Raniere's recipe

scheme again.

Raniere then changed his plans.

He studied Scientology, Ericksonian hypnosis, and Neurolinguistic programming. He shed his business suits, and donned sweat pants, tee shirts and sandals, grew his hair and beard long, and formed a company which he later called NXIVM (pronounced like the patented drug NEXIUM) – a self-help coaching organization - putting a female follower, Nancy Salzman, a registered nurse and master hypnotist as president.

Raniere's nickname for Salzman was "Mesmer."

While still living with Natalie and later in a townhouse north of Albany with several female followers, Raniere started modeling himself as a guru in line with Hindu religious leaders such as Swami Muktananda.

He gave up his driver's license, said he had no bank account, not even a bed of his own and that he chose to forgo any salary from the coaching program he created.

"I consider everything payment for what I've done," he said.

He also began to disseminate books to his female followers such as "The Guru Disciple Relationship" and "Chasm of Fire" that encouraged people to follow their teacher unquestioningly and that enlightenment can only be achieved by renouncing worldly desires.

Among the attachments Raniere insisted his followers renounce is monogamy, money, control of their daily schedules and their attachment to knowing things.

NXIVM claims that by using Raniere's teaching techniques it "conducts professional success training programs for executives and other individuals concerned with developing their skills and achieving their goals."

A five-day course costs around \$3,000; a 16-day course costs \$7,500. Students pay up to \$10,000 for 16 days of lectures and emotional probing in daily 17-hour sessions called "intensives."

Students remove shoes for class, learn special handshakes and wear colored sashes in six different colors and with up to four stripes in each color to signify rank in the organization.

The goal is to reach the black sash, which signifies a student is "unified" - which no student ever yet achieved.

Students bow to Raniere, who gave himself the title "Vanguard".

In order to move up to higher sash ranking, a student must recruit new students and contribute time as a volunteer.

NXIVM has been described as a multi-layered plan in which some members get commission for recruiting others, and the money flows up the chain to those at the top of the "corporation".

Several NXIVM teachers/salespeople make over \$200,000 per year. More than 12,000 people have taken the courses.

The NXIVM program describes people who oppose Raniere as "suppressives" or "parasites."

"All parasitic strategies lower self-esteem and therefore destroy value," Raniere wrote. "It is our intent to rid the world of those things that destroy value."

Positioned as an ethics course, it is based on hypnosis, as students go through 17 hours a day of hypnotic induction to accept Raniere as an enlightened being.

Days begin at 8 a.m. with the "ESP hand-clap."

Students learn about "Money," "Face of the Universe," "Control, Freedom & Surrender" and more.

After sleepless nights and 17-hour days



Gina Hutchinson

of workshops, Cecilia Stieglitz, a 28-year-old woman from a prominent Mexican family, says she had hallucinations and had a mental breakdown at her hotel near Albany. She went to a hospital and required psychiatric treatment.

"Parasites" are people who suffer, creating problems where none exist and craving attention, Raniere teaches.

"Suppressives" see good but want to destroy it.

As Raniere developed his NXIVM philosophies, he developed techniques to recruit and teach women.

Christine Marie met Raniere in 1998 when she was hired to write marketing materials.

"He told me that I was such an innocent, pure soul that I didn't even belong on this planet," Marie told the Times Union.

Of her second visit, she recalled, "I remember him looking me in the eyes and touching me on the cheek and saying one day we'll have a child together, and the child would be an avatar and the child would help change the world."

After she had sex with him, Raniere "sat me down and told me I was now part of his inner circle and committed for life and I could never be physically involved with another man."

When she asked if he was involved with other women, he said he was. She observed that many women shared his townhouse. Marie decided to leave the group and did not have his avatar baby.

Natalie recalls Raniere used NXIVM courses to instruct women in sexual practice.

Raniere invited her to attend his childhood sexuality class. He told students, including Natalie, that mothers in some tribes perform oral sex on their children to soothe them.

Natalie thought the class was created just for her.

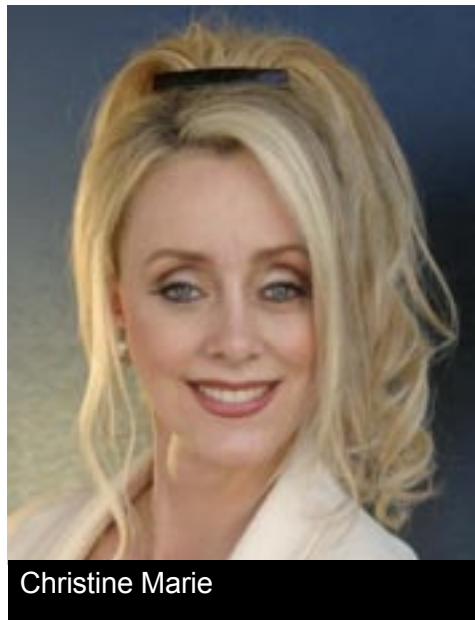
As Raniere developed his humanitarian theories, he developed a strategy to avoid paying taxes.

He urged followers not to file tax returns. Some NXIVM instructors and employees, like Raniere, do not report income to the government, according to multiple sources and court filings.

NXIVM has been dissolved as a corporate entity by the New York State Department of State for not paying taxes.

After the failure of Consumer's Buy Line, Raniere advised female followers to put their names on his various corporate entities.

Natalie says Raniere never wanted his name on the dozens of corporate entities he helped create. Raniere felt if regulators closed one company down its sister company could pick up where the other one left off. He also



Christine Marie

would refuse to open government mail because it would prove he had seen it.

In time, Toni Natalie became convinced she must leave Raniere.

According to Natalie, and several other ex-members of NXIVM, Raniere told Natalie that she was, in a previous life, Herman Goering, a leading member of Hitler's Nazi Party and that NXIVM leaders were formerly Jewish victims.

Natalie also told a federal judge that "I was raped repeatedly by Raniere, each time with him telling me it was harder on him than it was on me, that we needed to be together so that I could share in his energy, and that I needed to remain silent so as to not wake up my child who was sleeping in a nearby room."

When Natalie broke up with Raniere, his women followers showed up at her home, insisting she come back because she was killing him and destroying everything for everyone by walking away.

"They would break into my house and flip pictures upside down, they'd unmake my bed, steal clothes out of my closet," Natalie said. "They stole my mail, they shut off my phone; they shut off my electricity. They called me up and asked me if I knew where my son was."

For his part, Raniere sent Natalie a six-page typed letter that had a diagram that plotted her "life map" showing her karmic "path to demise" if she did not come back.

"I later discovered this path leads to not very nice things for you and it appears my Sweetheart may well go to jail. I pray this does not happen but I don't think my Sweetheart has anyone to help her where she is," Raniere wrote in the letter which was placed into court records.

After her business and relationship with Raniere collapsed, Natalie was responsible for debts that had been put in her name by Raniere. She filed for bankruptcy. Raniere filed motions against Natalie to oppose her discharge.

Bankruptcy Judge Robert Littlefield wrote that Raniere's effort "smacks of a jilted fellow's attempt at revenge or retaliation against his former girlfriend, with many attempts at tripping her up along the way."

Nxivm hired a private investigator to monitor her home and look into her private life and business activities.

Several times, she says, she was visited by F.B.I. agents.

Meantime, Raniere raised his sights towards more affluent women.

He was living with Pamela Cafritz, daughter of Buffy and William Cafritz, Washington DC real estate developers and socialites. Pam had a monthly allowance of \$20,000 which she dedicated to Raniere.



Barbara Bouchey

In 2000, Barbara Bouchey, a financial manager from Saratoga County, started taking NXIVM courses, having been recruited by Salzman.

Raniere soon made efforts to seduce Bouchey since she could bring in her wealthy and influential clientele.

Raniere told Bouchey she must have a sexual relationship with him because she was "chosen" to bear his child, she said in a deposition.

This seemed odd to her since Bouchey had been previously told she was unable to bear children.

Raniere also told Bouchey she was, in a previous life, the Nazi, Reinhard Heydrich, one of the main architects of the Holocaust.

And Raniere told Bouchey he had come up with a mathematical formula that would enable them to make a fortune in commodities.

Bouchey said in court statements that she gave Raniere \$1.6 million so he could test his formula.

When this commodities' investment scheme started losing money, Raniere blamed the failure on Bouchey's emotional reaction to losing money which was influencing the universal forces and affecting him negatively on a spiritual level, Bouchey recalled in a 2009 deposition.

Bouchey soon lost her life savings.

Happily for Raniere, Seagram's heiress Sara Bronfman, 25, joined NXIVM in the fall of 2002. Her sister, Clare, 23, followed soon afterward.

Sara marveled at how much Raniere was able to teach her. And she soon became romantically involved with NXIVM trainer Edgar Boone who ran a Mexican NXIVM training center.

After they broke up, sources say, Sara began a furtive relationship with Raniere, who would be dropped off at hotels to rendezvous with the heiress.

As Sara would later explain on her blog, she was "in search of finding ways to bring peace to the world" and Sara rose quickly in the ranks of NXIVM leaders. She was put on Nxivm's board and given the title of "Minister of Hmanities".

TO BE CONTINUED...

Shmuel Shmueli, Serial Conman and Fraudster

Part II, His Hearth and Home and early fraudulent practices

Frank Parlato

Part II of a series where I am the journalist covering a federal investigation in which I am also the investigation's target. A companion series about the Bronfman sisters and cult leader Keith Raniere are also in this issue. Both are connected to the federal investigation. The series on Shmuel Shmeili details how he defrauded more than two dozen lawyers in Buffalo and elsewhere.

The man who ripped off eminent lawyers such as Joseph Zbarsky, Steven Cohen, Corey Hogan, John LaFalce, Eric Bloom, William Savino, Mitchel Banas, Joseph Mazurek, Phil Abromowicz, David Kloss, Michael Paskowitz, as well as the law firms of Jaecle, Fleischmann & Mugel, Damon Morey, and others must not be considered lightly.

Where did he come from?

Born in Israel; Shmuel Shmueli is 64. He claims to be a devout and practicing Orthodox Jew who observes the Sabbath and will not eat anything other than Kosher food.

For Shmeuli charity doesn't begin at home, charity is a home.

On Dec. 10, 1979, Shmueli bought a lovely, 2,700 square foot family home at 933 E. 17th St in Brooklyn and moved in with his wife and small children.

Over the years, his wife gave birth to more children and they were raised in the Shmueli Brooklyn home.

Being creative, Shmueli placed three mortgages on the property: Dime Savings Bank, Bank Leumi Trust, an Israeli bank, and a fourth mortgage from the seller, Andrew James.

Two years later, on June 24, 1981, he transferred the home to his wife, Zvia, who later got a \$110,000 mortgage from Citi Bank.

On Feb. 10, 1989, she transferred title back to Shmueli, who, in turn, got a mortgage from Sol Orbuch for \$75,000.

On Feb. 13, 1992, Shmueli transferred the home back to his wife.

One month later, Zvia transferred the home to their 27-year-old daughter, Batya Shmueli.

On Feb. 29, 1996, Batya got a \$328,000 mortgage from Brucha Mortgage Bankers Corp. of Staten Island.

Then in April, 1999, Batya signed a contract to sell the family home to Jacob and Eva Fuhrman for \$480,000.

The Fuhrman's closed on Aug. 26, 1999 expecting to move in and enjoy the same happy hearth and home the Shmueli's enjoyed for 20 years.

After closing, however, Shmueli declined to let the Fuhrman's move in, and produced a lease, signed by his daughter, Batya, that leased the home to Shmueli.

He declared he would stay and pay rent.

The Fuhrmans filed suit in the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York to eject Shmueli from the house.

Shmueli, representing himself, filed a countersuit, a motion to dismiss, and asked to postpone the hearing since, he said, he had business in Israel.

He also asked the judge to restrict the new owners from entering the house "for any reason at any time" while he was in Israel and asked that all mail from the court be sent to his address: P.O. Box 607, Bnai Brak, Israel.

Magistrate-Judge Joan M. Azrack disagreed and issued a Report & Recommendation to Judge Carol B. Amon that Shmueli be ordered to vacate the premises, and, if he did not, the "U.S. Marshals shall be authorized to execute the order to vacate, using whatever force is reasonably necessary".

Shmueli objected but, curiously, his daughter, Batya wrote to Judge Amon that she had no objection to the court evicting her father.

At some point, during a hearing or conference, Shmueli admitted he did not tell Fuhrmans of the lease until after closing and on Nov. 23, 1999, Judge Amon granted summary judgment to the Fuhrmans ordering Shmueli to vacate by Dec. 13, 1999.

Yet Shmueli did not move out. The Court directed the U.S. Marshall to eject him. And on June 22, 2000, the Judge ordered that the Clerk of Court enter "judgment against defendant Shmuel Shmueli in favor of plaintiffs in the amount of \$56,668.81, comprising \$41,668.81 in actual and consequential damages and costs and \$15,000 in punitive damages."

Shmueli however was never to pay the judgment since he discharged the debt, along with \$24.5 million in other debts, in bankruptcy on Aug. 23, 2002.

On his bankruptcy petition, when asked if any "books of account or records" were missing, Shmueli declared, "records were lost during eviction action without my presence, court ordered."

One of the last entries of record in the Fuhrman matter is dated June 2, 2000. It concerns mail "addressed to: Shmuel Shmueli, P.O. Box 607, Bnai Brak, Israel. Returned with notations: Insufficient Address."

If Shmueli's handling of matters concerning his home was a little erratic, the man who swindled top attorneys gets high marks for business practices.

Shmueli was publisher, editor and owner of Israel Today. It was published in Brooklyn and on Aug. 20, 1987, The Los Angeles Times wrote that it has a "worldwide circulation of 120,000, is the only Hebrew newspaper in the world published outside the Jewish state," and "offers news about Israel and the Jewish world culled, for the most part, from the Israeli press."

But, despite the good press, on Dec. 4, 1987, some of his employees sought the court's help through an Involuntary Petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Dr. Yossi Gamzu, editor, claimed he worked for 4 1/2 months and was owed \$11,250 in wages and presented a letter from the newspaper stating he was employed at an annual salary of \$36,000 per year.

Shmueli contested Dr. Gamzu arguing he was unpaid since his immigration status as an Israeli citizen would not allow Shmueli to pay him and that Shmueli's letter reciting Gamzu's employment was written to deceive US Immigration authorities who would be more likely to issue Gamzu a "Green Card," if they believed he had gainful employment.

The other employees he argued were time barred or that he owed the money personally and a debtor corporation is not liable for an officer's personal debts.

Boaz Gabbai claimed he accepted employment as a graphic designer for less than \$5 an hour, rather than his customary \$25 an hour,

with a verbal agreement that Shmueli would sponsor his "Green Card" application.

When the time came, Gabbai claimed, Shmueli refused to sponsor his Green Card application unless Gabbai paid him \$25,000.

In any event, on Jan. 19, 1988, Chief Judge Conrad B. Duberstein noted, "if there is a bona fide dispute as to either the law or the facts, then the creditor does not qualify and the petition must be dismissed."

The petition was dismissed.

But hard luck followed.

Other employees won claims such as a \$100,000 judgment against Shmueli in favor of former editor Uri Lehavi and another editor, Noam Niv made a \$20,000 claim.

As one of his writers, Yori Yanover, said, "Shmueli bounced checks like he was one of the five openers of the Harlem Globe Trotters."

It was not just employees that Shmueli did not pay, but companies and individuals in America and Israel.

Printers, landlords, friends in Israel, Banks all got judgments.

While Shmueli's course of study of the deeper meaning of the Jewish religion was fruitful spiritually, it was not so much financially.

The Wisconsin Institute of Torah Study, Milwaukee, WI., made a claim of \$3,128 against him.

Verizon, Mid Atlantic Graphics, and Sprint rounded out the list of creditors.

And as if that wasn't bad luck enough -- Shmueli's newspaper came to a screeching halt on April, 22, 1998, when a lawsuit was brought against him for copyright infringement, filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, by Haaretz Daily Newspapers, Ltd., founded 1919, and Maariv Modiin Publishing Co., Ltd., founded 1948. They were joined by the Publication Group, Inc., d.b.a. Shalom, a Los Angeles-based newspaper.

On May 18, 1998, Federal Judge John G. Koeltl issued a preliminary injunction ordering Shmueli to stop copying or reprinting materials from the newspapers.

This crippled Shmueli's newspaper model since as he could no longer take the other newspaper's work for free.

In June, Shmueli retained Moskowitz & Book of NYC to represent him. Within a month, the firm applied for and were granted leave to withdraw as his attorneys.

Shmueli served a verified answer through Andrew Paul Cooper Esq. By January 1999, Cooper was granted leave to withdraw. (Cooper claimed \$12,000 in unpaid legal fees.)

In April, Magistrate Judge Francis denied Shmueli's application to file a counterclaim since discovery was supposed to have been completed four months earlier.

Shmueli retained Jon Lefkowitz to represent him and on June 30, 1999, after being denied the right to bring a counter claim in the Haaretz lawsuit, Shmueli brought a separate action (Shmuel Shmueli, Bashe, Inc. v. Lowenfeld) in the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York - against the same plaintiffs in the Southern District action: Haaretz, Maariv Modiin and the Publication Group, Inc., as well as their lawyers, seeking \$158 million in damages alleging unjust enrichment, detrimental reliance, breach of contract, antitrust



Shmuel Shmueli

and RICO violations, abuse of process, malicious prosecution, tortious interference with contract, fraud, conversion, breach of contract, civil racketeering and antitrust violations.

On Sept. 17, 1999, Judge I. Leo Glasser dismissed Shmueli's suit ruling that Shmueli's "objective in bringing the duplicative action was to circumvent the prior order of the original court" which prevented him from asserting counter claims.

This ruling has been cited in other, unrelated cases, often with this quote: "Having failed, for whatever reason, to assert their counterclaims in one action, plaintiffs may not institute a second action in which those counterclaims become the basis of the complaint."

Finally on Dec. 1, 1999, the US Court Southern District - in the original copyright infringement case concluded with judgments entered against Shmueli: Maariv Moddin Publishing Co. LTD NY and Israel - \$12 million, Haaretz Daily Newspapers LTD NY and Tel Aviv, \$6 million, Publication Group NY - \$6 million and Shalom LA, Encino CA - \$6 million.

Unhappily after losing his home and his newspaper (and his wife) happily for Shmueli he was not to pay a dime of this or any other debt.

On Jan. 7, 2002, Shmueli filed a petition for voluntary bankruptcy in the US Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York, seeking to discharge \$24,501,978 in debt.

He declared \$2,050 in assets.

In his petition, Shmueli claimed he was living on \$1325 a month and most of that was from charity.

He was not to live on charity for long, however.

He would relocate to Western New York and live off of fraud, starting with defrauding this writer and a assemblage of local attorneys. TO BE CONTINUED...

Tiny Heart Transplant Candidate Needs Your Help to Make it Through Tough Time

Mike Hudson

Anyone who is a parent knows the anguish of a child suffering from a high fever, a relatively common childhood illness such as chicken pox or the mumps, or a broken bone caused by some playground mishap.

For Danielle Faling, whose two year old daughter Leigha suffers from a myriad of congestive heart problems, such problems would be a welcome relief.

Doctors first noticed Leigha's condition when Danielle was six weeks pregnant with her. Since she was born she has had two open heart surgeries, multiple hospital visits and seven full blood transfusions. Her first surgery was when she was just 1 week old and her second before her first birthday.

Even throughout all of this Leigha has been a true hero to everyone waking up every day with a smile on her face and bringing joy to everyone she meets with her amazing attitude and courage.

Leigha has a long battle ahead of her. Doctors say that if she doesn't get a heart transplant, she probably won't live past the age of 10.

But if she's anything like her mother, a positive attitude and proactive stance has often gone a long way in proving the health care professionals wrong.

"She's our little miracle," Danielle said.



With her bags packed, Leigha comes home from the hospital after a 44 day stay following a September heart failure.

"Every day we get to spend with her is a miracle."

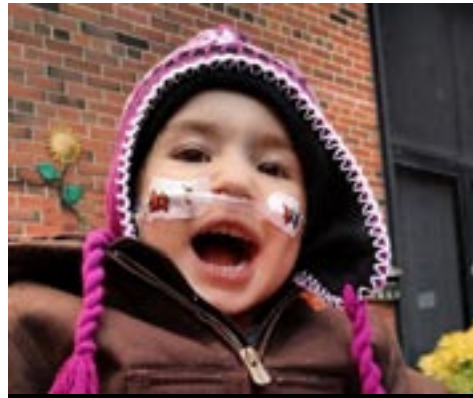
After suffering heart failure in September, the beautiful little girl spent 44 days in the hospital, finally coming home on November 1.

As many American's discover to their dismay in times of crisis, it is the insurance company rather than the family physician who makes the final judgement about what care is administered.

On Wednesday, the long awaited approval came through.

"I'm calling to make the appointment now," Danielle said Wednesday. "We've been waiting on pins and needles for this."

Now the challenge will be for the doctors



That first feeling of the breeze on your skin is an exciting thing for anyone who has just experienced a lengthy hospitalization. Little Leigha is no exception!

to find little Leigha a compatible heart, she added.

Until then, Leigha will remain bound to oxygen tanks and continue to receive nourishment by way of feeding tubes.

"She's our little warrior," Danielle says. "And we're just taking it day by day."

Regular trips to hospitals in Rochester and Pittsburg have left the family financially strapped. Danielle, who works as a cook in Buffalo, often has to decide whether to visit her daughter or stay home and earn money.

She posts regularly on a Facebook page she created called Leigha Updates, and a Basket Auction and Pasta Dinner fundraiser is planned for this Sunday, November 22, from



Like any 2-year old, Leigha can be obstinate at times. Here, she refuses to take her nap.

12-6 p.m., at the Volare Lodge, 5615 Kies Avenue, to help defray expenses.

"I just want to thank everyone for their support, prayers, and donations through this hard time. Every little bit helps," Danielle said. "It truly means so much to us to see the amount of support and love that we have. As Leigha's medical journey continues its a little easier knowing we have so many people on our team. Thank you all again and much much love."

If Niagara Falls is known for anything, it is having a big heart. Hopefully, people there will share some of that this Sunday with a beautiful little girl who's having some trouble with hers.



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Thu	Pork chop night	
	with homemade apple	
	sauce and sides	\$14.95
Fri	Seafood night (served noon to 8pm)	
	Large fish fry w/ 4 sides & roll	\$12.95
	or seafood platter	\$16.95
	(Haddock w/ scallops, shrimp,	
	crab cake, coleslaw & dinner roll)	
	Early bird fish fry special	\$12.45
Sat	NY strip steak dinner	
	Garlic mashed potato, vegetables,	
	salad & dinner roll	
Sun	Game Specials	
	Chicken wings, chicken fingers, pizza	

Breakfast Special



Eggs
Benedict

With homemade
pea meal bacon



The only place in town
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What the 'Chit' Will the Restructuring Board to do?

Anna Howard

What is the state restructuring board going to do when they arrive at city hall to look at Paul Dyster's finance records? Only time will tell but if they discover what the NYS Comptroller discovered - mis-handled money, unaccounted for money, casino revenue improperly applied to the recurring deficit - the chit, offered through participating in the state restructuring program, could hit the fan.

We have no idea how the board will proceed but we have no doubt that the mayor and those city employees who benefit from governmental non transparency will surrender only the barest of financial facts to the Albany bean counters.

With that in mind we're using this column space to list some of the fiscal facts that the restructuring board should be aware of before they sit with the mayor and his department heads. It's a safe bet that Dyster won't be sharing any of the information you read here with the restructuring board.

The anonymous fund. Paul Dyster came into office on the back of an unethical, and logically illegal, slush fund. That fund caused the mayor to increase the salaries of department heads and permanently skew the pay scale across city government. Many city hall salaries top the salaries of matching positions in much larger cities, such as Buffalo. And, incredibly, the mayor continues to blame employee pay for the city's finance woes.

The "municipal building" also called the courthouse. It was supposed to cost \$30 million but came in \$20 million higher at an astounding \$50 million. Where'd the \$20,000,000 go?



Paul Dyster

The Dyster-DeSantis train station opens next year. It'll cost no less than \$44 million with no less than \$4 million of that coming from casino revenue. It was "re-bid" for no good reason at an added cost of \$350,000 in additional casino revenue. And, don't forget that the city has no funds earmarked, let alone potentially available, for day to day operation once it opens.

Mr. Dyster has spent more than \$1,000,000 for outside lawyers. This after he increased his corporation controller's salary by over 30% - upon hiring in 2008 - and added a fourth attorney to the city legal staff. Internal and external city legal costs are all out of proportion for a city the size of Niagara Falls.

The parking plan/study that the mayor and council chairman incessantly talk about has cost well over \$100,000 and is expected



Drunken Sailor

to increase in expense before a single parking meter is planted downtown. Dyster has - this year and for next year - placed projected "parking revenue" into his budget. That's obvious book cooking in that projected numbers were placed in the final budget while not a single parking meter was in place to realize that projected number.

The restructuring board should tour the city and one stop of the tour should be 72nd Street. They should understand that the water line remediation job is scheduled to cost not a penny less than \$970,000 while the job could have been done for \$340,000 had it been done in 2010 when the road was rebuilt. We predict the job will total out - change orders, city employee overtime, engineer consulting fees, new stipends for chosen employees - at not a penny under \$1.3million.

Mayor Dyster has played a cynical game of "now you see me now you don't" with regard to the misspending of the casino revenue. While he has called himself the gatekeeper of casino revenue he repeatedly blames the city council for the lack of available casino revenue. He claims there's a casino revenue spending plan but no one has ever seen it. The restructuring board should surgically review - expenditure by expenditure for the past eight years - all of the mayor's casino revenue expenditures.

The renovation of the city Ice Pavilion was targeted to come in at \$4 million. It's climbed to over \$12 million and no one seems know how that happened.

Overtime for elements of the city workforce has expanded throughout the past eight years. Stipends, something that used to be as rare as hens teeth, are handed out by the administration in a questionable fashion. Some employees have literally doubled their salaries with overtime and stipends.

Mr. Dyster continues to employ the disturbing gambit that the Reporter has named: retire and rehire. The bureaucratic trick sees Dyster's favorite employees retire only to be rehired days later at \$30,000 per year as part time "consultants."

The 20013 audit by the state Comptroller detailed a series of disturbing financial measures that the Dyster administration has taken. Including the misuse of casino revenue, money improperly hidden from the mayor and council, money that could not be accounted for, to name but a few serious state findings.

This list could go on and on but we're confident that we've mentioned some key areas that the restructuring board can zero in on for a start.

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Cash for Penguins no Problem for Dyster; 72nd Street Water Main \$\$\$ Cause Worry

Mike Hudson

With the question of how the city of Niagara Falls will pay for the \$940,000 water main project on 72nd Street unresolved, how will a cash strapped city looking at a budget deficit of more than \$7 million afford it?

In the run up to the election, Mayor Paul Dyster promised that the water mains would be fixed before the snow flies. In 2014 and again earlier this year, more than 200 households were without running water after the mains froze.

Reconstruction of the roadway between Niagara Falls Boulevard and Stephenson Avenue is underway in an attempt guarantee water flows smoothly to homes on 72nd Street. Some spent weeks without water.

Dyster said the project would be paid for by a state grant, combined with funding from the city and the Water Board. The grant money has not been forthcoming and the Water Board has thus far refused to participate financially in the project.

"They're still ongoing discussions between our corporation counsel and their legal counsel," Dyster said Friday. "At this point, we've not been successful in getting them to agree to cost sharing."

The Water Board has taken the "you break it, you bought it" position, noting that water service on 72nd Street was never



There are plenty of places where there is no water, but who would have thought it would be in Niagara Falls?

a problem until a Dyster ordered street reconstruction project lowered the roadway, resulting in the water main being closer to the surface. The project also resulted in the removal of a substantial amount of clay that served to insulate the main from the cold.

"We're building a piece of infrastructure that is an addition to the system they own," Dyster said. "They have to take ownership and operate as part of their system."

The city, for its part, has made public one grant funding application through New York State's Environmental Facilities Corp., from which \$20 million is available to address water projects related to public health. If selected, the Falls would be eligible for at least a 60-percent rebate on project costs and up to 75 percent, if an argument can be made for the reconstruction's necessity to



overall public health.

The mayor refused to rule out a lawsuit in the case.

"There have been some suggestions on the part of the council chairman about other ways the city could go about making itself whole with the water board," Dyster said. "That's not something, at this point, we've made any decisions on."

In any event, Dyster's crying poor about the water main project seems strange in light of the numerous fanciful ways he's found to spend taxpayer's money over the past couple of years.

Like the \$150,000 he spent for new penguin habitat at Aquarium of Niagara in April. Or the \$707,000 he squandered on the Hard Rock Café concert series.

Dyster gave \$1.5 million to USA Ni-

agara Development, a state agency, in September.

And the mayor's unholy alliance with religious cults manifested itself when he gifted a relief organization called Isaiah 61 a whopping \$500,000 of your money to convert an abandoned fire hall on Highland Avenue into a new clubhouse - without bothering to tell the Council that the executive director had just skipped town and their programs have ground to a halt.

Dyster gave Community Missions \$150,000 to pay off a tax lien, the epic failure known as the Holiday Market got \$225,000, the annual Blues Fest here took in \$46,000, the ironically named Niagara Arts and Cultural Center raked in \$210,000 and "City Planner" Tom DeSantis was given \$6,500 to buy new carpeting for his City Hall office.

And in August he committed to shelling out \$845,000 of your money to buy and "develop" a languishing brownfield property on Highland Avenue.

Half a million here, half a million there and pretty soon you're talking real money.

Millions spent without Dyster once uttering a concern about where the money might come from. Or what the public benefit of all the spending might be.

But now, with 72nd Street residents possibly looking at a third winter in a row without running water, there's a problem.

Lorigo Deserves Credit for Urging Push Back on Syrian Refugees

Tony Farina

Far from being ignorant of the resettling process, as alleged by Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, county lawmaker Joseph Lorigo (C-West Seneca) should be applauded for urging Poloncarz to reverse his stance on accepting Syrian refugees into the county.

Lorigo didn't back down from his original tweet last Saturday night on the subject of not accepting Syrian refugees despite the strong backlash from Poloncarz. "In a news release on Sunday, Lorigo said "I believe the risk to our community is far too great," saying "we must do everything can to protect the citizens of Erie County and Western New York."

His words are clearly aimed at local leaders, like Poloncarz and by extension Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster who is also on record in favor of accepting the Syrian refugees and not pushing back against state and federal officials who are backing the resettlement process.

Maybe Poloncarz, Dyster, and others should pay more heed to what happened in Paris last Friday night as French authorities now believe that a 27-year-old Belgian man (now dead) who fought in Syria for the Islamic State was the mastermind behind the terrorist attacks that killed 129 and injured about 350 others.

They should also listen to the words of French President Francois Hollande who said, as reported in the New York Times on Monday, the attacks had been "planned in Syria, organized in Belgium, perpetrated on our own soil with French complicity," and he described Syria as "the biggest factory of terrorists the world has



Joe Lorigo started the ball rolling locally

ever known."

Now the refugee problem is a human crisis, to be sure, but welcoming Syrian refugees into Western New York is extremely risky, as Lorigo is warning, given the ability of some of those refugees to come with the purpose of killing innocent people as part of their religious crusade. It only takes one or two terrorists to inflict enormous human casualties, as we have seen time and time again, and Lorigo is right to urge local officials to push back against the resettlement policy in the interests of protecting American citizens who could be placed in life-threatening danger if one or more of the refugees that come here are jihadists bent on killing Americans.

Now there is little evidence that any of the Syrian refugees who have been resettled in the United States have become a threat, but it only takes one, and many leaders across the country are urging the government to suspend or stop the resettlement program for now and legislation to that end is being readied by the new House Speaker, Republican Paul Ryan. Some Democrats are also looking at a pause in the resettlement program in the wake of the horrible tragedy in Paris.

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Niagara Co. Lawmakers Back Collins, Lorigo: Cuomo Should Block Syrian Refugees From New York State

LOCKPORT—Niagara County lawmakers added their name to a growing chorus of government leaders calling on New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo to block Syrian refugees from being resettled in New York Tuesday, just four days after an Islamic terrorist bombing in Paris left 129 people dead.

Niagara County's opposition comes as the Obama administration seeks to resettle 10,000 refugees from the Syrian civil war in cities across the U.S. and an announcement by top officials in neighboring Erie County that at least 300 refugees are set to be placed there.

The governors of at least 30 states have, since the weekend, announced they would work to block refugee resettlement in their states, due primarily to concerns that terrorists associated with the Islamic State movement or other terrorist groups had made good on threats to infiltrate the Syrian refugee population. At least one of the terrorists involved in last Friday's Paris attacks was carrying a Syrian passport and identified as a refugee that had entered continental Europe via Greece in October.

The unanimous vote by county lawmakers to demand Cuomo to work to block federal resettlement of refugees in New York puts Niagara County squarely in line with positions advanced by U.S. Rep. Chris Collins, R-Clarence, and Erie County Legislature Majority Leader Joseph Lorigo, R-West Seneca, since the Paris attacks.

"Ensuring the safety and security of our country and Western New Yorkers is my central focus," Collins stated Monday. "At this point, we cannot guarantee with 100 percent certainty that the refugees we are accepting from Syria don't pose a threat to our community. Until we have a process in place that achieves that goal, I am calling on Gov. Cuomo to stop plans to accept Syrian refugees."

Niagara County Legislator John Syracuse, R-Newfane, echoed that sentiment Tuesday.

"We don't know who these people are. Even the director of the FBI has stated in Congressional testimony that we have no workable database, no background information, on these refugees," Syracuse said. "While many who want to help these refugees may have the very best of intentions, we can't let public safety become a secondary consideration to political correctness."

Syracuse was referencing Oct. 21 Congressional testimony by FBI Director James Comey, who stated flatly that the U.S. does not have the ability to conduct thorough background checks on the 10,000 refugees being admitted by the Obama administration.

"If someone has never made a ripple in the pond in Syria in a way that would get their identity or their interest reflected in our database, we can query our database until the cows come home, but there will be nothing show up because we have no record of

them," Comey told federal lawmakers.

County lawmakers noted that the Lackawanna Six terror cell had been composed of naturalized U.S. citizens that had operated in Western New York without detection—and some worried that unknown migrants without any ties to the local community present an even bigger potential security threat.

"The lack of verifiable information about these individuals' backgrounds—about who they are, about who their associates are, about past radical or criminal activity—these are all reasons to suspend any resettlement at least for the foreseeable future," Legislator Michael A. Hill, R-Middleport, said.

Niagara County's call-out to Cuomo to block the resettlements, which, in addition to its unanimous passage, carried sponsorship from the Legislature's entire Majority Caucus, also expressed concerns about the potential for additional strain on state-mandated, but county-funded, social welfare programs and Medicaid. Majority Leader Rick Updegrove, R-Lockport, noted that the lack of a residency requirement for Medicaid all but guaranteed New York's rich Medicaid benefits would make the state a magnet for the resettled foreign nationals.

"There are too many unknowns with this program, too many hidden dangers, too many hidden costs," Syracuse told colleagues. "We need to do what's right to protect our community."



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— Francis of Assisi



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In wake of Paris Atrocity, Dyster Begs Obama to Send Syrians Here

Mike Hudson

While Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster is begging President Barack Obama to send Syrian refugees to the city in a desperate attempt to bolster population numbers here, authorities in France say that open immigration at least in part led to the horrific attacks that left 129 dead in Paris on Friday night.

At least one of the assailants in Friday's deadly attacks recently entered Europe as a Syrian refugee, according to the Wall Street Journal, exposing gaps in the continent's security as it copes with the biggest refugee crisis since World War II.

European security officials have worried that Islamic State operatives would bring terror by mixing with the cohort of Iraqi and Syrian migrants who are fleeing war each week.

"It is clear now that together with the victims of Islamo-fascism in the Middle East that come as refugees, extreme elements are crossing to Europe," Greek defense minister Panos Kammenos said.

The attacks could shift its attitude on immigration and Europe's ongoing refugee crisis according to the U.S.-based think-tank Stratfor.

The attacks can be expected to bolster the popularity of right-wing politicians and "those groups that have been calling for a halt in the flow of immigrants," Stratfor said in a note issued Friday night.

"It would be 'foolish to believe that there are no jihadists among the refugees that cross into Europe,' said Greek Immigration Minister Yiannis Mouzalas.

The Greek Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection has confirmed that the suicide bomber found with a Syrian passport on his person was, "registered as refugee on Leros Island in October."

Greece's deputy minister in charge of police, Nikos Toscas, said he was 'identified [as a refugee] according to EU rules' as he passed through the country en route to Paris. In all, 129 people were killed in a series of coordinated bomb and gun attacks on Friday night. With 99 of the 352 wounded critically ill, the death toll is expected to rise.

Locally, Erie County Legislator Joseph C. Lorigo is calling on County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz to reverse his stance on accepting Syrian refugees into Erie County in light of the terrorist attacks in France.

Lorigo made the call Saturday on Twitter and Facebook, and later told The Buffalo News he's concerned because one of the gunman was disguised as a Syrian refugee with a Syrian passport.

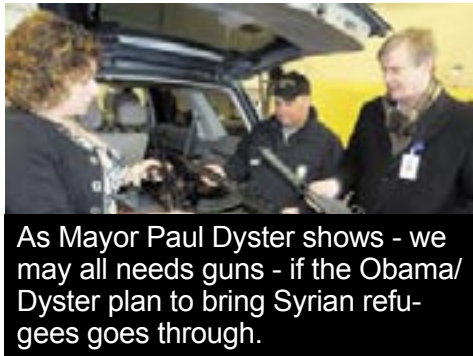
"I had a conversation with an immigration specialist with Homeland Security, who told me ISIS claims to have 4,000 terrorists disguised as refugees stationed already in Western countries," he said.

"The risk to our community is far too great," the West Seneca Conservative tweeted. "We must do everything we can to protect the citizens of Erie County."

Poloncarz was not immediately available for comment.

Poloncarz in September said Erie County could take in "at least 200 and potentially up to 300" Syrian refugees over the next year in light of the civil war engulfing that country and the migration crisis spreading across Europe.

"What's happening in Syria is horrible," Poloncarz said then. "We as a community of good neighbors – and having the experience of handling immigrants and refugee populations, especially during recent years – will be opening our



As Mayor Paul Dyster shows - we may all need guns - if the Obama/Dyster plan to bring Syrian refugees goes through.

arms again to help Syrians in need."

Also, Niagara Falls was lit Friday night and again Saturday in the French colors in remembrance of the victims of the Paris attacks.

It was to be bathed in blue, white and red lights for the first 15 minutes of every hour, from 5 p.m. until midnight Saturday and Sunday, the Niagara Falls Illumination Board announced.

Dyster was quick to claim credit for requesting the lighted tribute on his Facebook page.

"Thanks to Illumination Board colleagues for rapid decision last night to light the Falls blue, white and red in solidarity with our friends and allies in France," he wrote.

Sam Hoyt, head of the state's Empire State Development Corporation's efforts on the Niagara Frontier, made sure the point was not lost.

"Thanks for making the request, Paul Dyster," he wrote moments later.

The Peace Bridge is also lit up in the colors of the French flag, which are fortunately the same colors as the American and British flags.

But our symbol minded mayor had nothing to say about his sad effort to bolster the city's sagging population numbers with Syrian refugees. Indeed, he has enrolled Niagara Falls in an organization calling itself Cities United for Immigration Action, which has written a letter to President Obama asking that Syrians be sent this way.

After the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant was publicly identified by security officials as a potential target for terrorists, and the Robert Moses Parkway was shut down for a period of time to deny casual access to the facility.

An attack there could potentially turn out the lights for much of the Northeastern part of the country.

Obviously, not all of the Syrian refugees are terrorists, but few speak English, and the additional burden significant numbers of them would place on the county's already overtaxed social service agencies is undeniable.

Dyster is desperate to get the city's population back up to 50,000 and has endorsed a variety of schemes to try and make that number. The federal department of Housing and Urban Development uses 50,000 as the cutoff point in determining how much municipalities receive in Community Development Block Grant monies, and if Niagara Falls comes in at less than that in the 2020 census the city will lose millions.

Previously, Dyster has welcomed paroled registered sex offenders here with open arms, and even instituted a program that actually paid people to come and live in the city.

The Syrian refugee gambit is just the latest twist in what has been a sad and largely failed effort.

It has been suggested that, if Dyster wants to bring Syrian refugees here, he ought to let them stay at his house on Orchard Parkway. His boys are grown and it is a big house.

His primary cheerleader on the city Council Kristen Grandinetti, lives alone in a big house right across the street. Perhaps she could take a few as well.



Heavily armed French soldiers guard the Eiffel Tower following Friday's deadly attacks in Paris. At least one of the suicide bombers entered the country as a Syrian refugee, just like Mayor Paul Dyster wants to bring to Niagara Falls.



Machine gun wielding terrorists opened fire on a number of sidewalk cafes in Paris before blowing themselves up with bombs, despite France's strict gun laws. Here the dead and dying lie side by side. President Barack Obama said he still plans to bring 10,000 Syrian refugees into the country despite the atrocity, and Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster said he wants some of those to live in the city.

States, Countries Slam Door on Syrian Refugees After Paris – Dyster Not Worried

Mike Hudson

"Paris changes everything."

That phrase, uttered many times this week by governors across the country and the leaders of many European nations, reflects the growing concern of many that the open door immigration policy offered to Syrian refugees was a mistake.

Governors across the country are scrambling to close off their states to resettled Syrian refugees in the wake of the deadly terror attacks in Paris that are linked to Islamic State extremists.

Governors of Illinois, Ohio, Florida, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Arizona, Indiana, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Michigan, Alabama, Texas and Arkansas -- a majority of them Republican -- have said that they are seeking to stop the relocation of new Syrian refugees to their states out of fear that violent extremists posing as refugees might gain entry to the country.

And in Europe, a string of countries have imposed border controls to prevent the mass movement of people across the continent, including Sweden, Slovenia, Hungary, Poland, Austria, France and Belgium. Polish officials announced the country would withdraw from a European Union agreement that would have allowed Syrian refugees to settle there and other countries are considering similar measures.

In Niagara Falls, Mayor Paul Dyster is keeping his lips zipped, but his membership in an organization called Cities United for Immigration Action speaks volumes. The organization is actually lobbying to allow more than the 10,000 Syrian refugees President Barack Obama said the country would accept.

Dyster believes that Syrian refugees, most of whom don't speak English and some of whom may be terrorists, are the answer to shoring up the city's declining population figures.

Gov. Rick Snyder of Michigan issued a statement declaring that his state would not be open to refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria.

Snyder's statement noted Michigan's "rich history of immigration" and said, "but our first priority is protecting the safety of our residents."

Snyder said those efforts would now be suspended until further evidence of more rigid security measures.

"As your Governor, I will not stand complicit to a policy that places the citizens of Alabama in harm's way," he declared. "The acts of terror committed over the weekend are a tragic

reminder to the world that evil exists and takes the form of terrorists who seek to destroy the basic freedoms we will always fight to preserve."

New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan is the first Democrat to express support for halting the flow of refugees to the U.S. pending further assurances that the refugee vetting process is adequate.

"The Governor has always made clear that we must ensure robust refugee screening to protect American citizens, and the Governor believes that the federal government should halt acceptance of refugees from Syria until intelligence and defense officials can assure that the process for vetting all refugees, including those from Syria, is as strong as possible to ensure the safety of the American people," she said in a statement.

President Barack Obama called the reaction "shameful."

"The United States has to step up and do its part," Obama said. "And when I hear folks say that, well, maybe we should just admit the Christians but not the Muslims, when I hear political leaders suggesting that there would be a religious test for which person who's fleeing from a war-torn country is admitted, when some of those folks themselves come from families who benefited from protection when they were fleeing political persecution, that's shameful."

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker said additional security assurances from the federal government before he would want refugees coming to his state. Currently, the only requirement for Syrian refugees is that they don't have outstanding international arrest warrants on them.

"No, I'm not interested in accepting refugees from Syria," Baker told reporters. "I would need to know a lot more than I know now before I would agree to do anything."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott went further, calling on Obama to halt all plans to accept refugees into the United States entirely.

"Given the tragic attacks in Paris and the threats we have already seen, Texas cannot participate in any program that will result in Syrian refugees — any one of whom could be connected to terrorism — being resettled in Texas," Abbott said in a letter to Obama.

But in Niagara Falls, the atrocity in Paris has been cause for little more than changing the color of the lights on the falls after dark.

The Syrians are known to play cricket, and Dyster's new cricket field would see even more play should they arrive in their hundreds.

As Predicted, Dyster Parking Plan Resurrected Following Election Win

Mike Hudson

Well before the election season, the Niagara Falls Reporter predicted that a citywide parking plan, on which the Dyster administration has already wasted \$112,330 on, would be resurrected should the mayor manage to get reelected.

Dyster was put back in office by fewer than 50 percent of the voters who turned out for the three-way race that saw him defeat write-in candidate Glenn Choolokian and Republican John Accardo, and now the moribund parking plan has been resurrected.

We must be psychic!

"Between now and the new year we'll be voting on parking stations," city Council Chairman Andrew Touma said last week. "Not only that, but I think it's important that we look into the boot system as well."

Dyster hired the Chicago based Desman Associates to launch a study of the city's alleged "parking problem" and come up with a solution as though money were no object, since Dyster planned on paying for the scheme with revenue derived from the dwindling local share of the slot machine revenue at the Seneca Niagara Casino.

Back in October of 2013, Desman Associates billed the city a whopping \$45,000 for a 22-page report that didn't contain 5,000 words of text that recommended that they, Desman Associates, be permitted to implement the new parking program.

The study was long on cost, but short on details. As it stands now, what Desman calls "Phase I" of the project will see meters installed on Niagara Street and Rainbow Boulevard downtown, along with cross streets linking the two.

In May of this year, the city Council rejected the Dyster administration's recommendation to authorize a \$258,950 contract with Ber-National Automation, Inc., a company that won a bid to install about 40 meters in the city's tourism district.

Each meter would cover approximately seven to 12 individual parking places.

According to Desman's own numbers, Phase I of the plan would cost around \$900,000 to put in place, along with another \$100,000 annually to run.

Expected revenue might be as much as \$80,000 a year after expenses.

There is no indication whatsoever that 40 meters will turn a profit for the city after the consultants and the company that manages the meters are paid.

The mayor's proposal, which has been estimated to cost in excess of \$900,000 to implement, would involve the establishment of a "department of parking" here, the hiring of new personnel to man it, and increased enforcement of local parking codes.

"There's a lot of people that think, day-to-day, we can manage it ourselves," Touma said.

Dyster was more specific about the need for new city personnel to man the program.

"We can't just tell people, 'In your spare time run a parking program,'" Dyster said. "We have to make sure we have the people available with the right skill set to pull this off."

And enforcement is an entirely different matter, the mayor added.

"I want to be careful not to have a police officer who could be fighting crime elsewhere

walking and writing tickets," he added.

One of the most successful parking lot operations the city has seen in recent years was devised and run by Reporter Publisher Frank Parlato, when he owned the One Niagara complex at the corner of Niagara Street and Rainbow Boulevard North. To think that he might be tapped by the Dyster administration as the city's first parking czar strains credulity, however.

More likely, any new hires will be scooped from the pond scum of those who helped Dyster achieve victory in the in the 2015 election despite receiving only 47 percent of the vote.

This "friends and family approach" was used successfully in the hiring of garbage czar Brooke D'Angelo, and a Democratic committeewoman and virulent Dyster supporter who helped orchestrate the smear campaign that drove formerly popular city Councilman Sam Fruscione from office in 2013.

In what was supposed to be a temporary job when Dyster first announced it, the position was made permanent. She's currently costing city taxpayers \$48,000 a year in wages and benefits.

Despite the fact that metered parking is common in municipalities large and small all across this great land of ours, making it work in Niagara Falls has always seemed like an impossible dream.

Former Mayor Irene Elia and former Mayor Vince Anello each had their own pet parking schemes, cooked up by consultants and paid for by those unfortunate enough to own property in the city of Niagara Falls. Neither of those ended up going anywhere, and the new one isn't likely to either, but Dyster seems bound, set and determined to have his own failed parking plan.

Dyster's proposal, which has already cost taxpayers dearly, is not in any significant way different than the parking plans proposed by former Elia or Anello, which resulted in the waste of hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars, ripped up sidewalks and parking meter poles that never had any meters installed on top of them.

"This is low hanging fruit as far as available revenue," Dyster said.

What revenue? Spending more than a million dollars to make around \$80,000 a year after expenses. Only men such as Dyster and Touma, who have never run a successful business or provided a single private sector job in their lives, would think the plan had any merit.

City councilman Robert Anderson who lost his seat in the recent election, said metered parking will hurt business downtown and anywhere else it is put in place.

"There is no demand in the winter for downtown parking," he said. "It could be a deterrent to business in winter. Think about it. Suppose you are thinking about meeting a friend at Starbucks in January. You can go downtown and pay \$3 each to park for two hours or you can go to Starbucks in LaSalle and park for free. So which are you going to choose?"

And while Dyster is telling anyone who will listen that metered parking will extend north of Niagara Street, why has Desman Associates labeled that portion of the Project as Phase I? Wouldn't Phase I quite naturally be followed by Phase II?

The numbers just don't add up. If, as Dyster and Touma contend, metered park-

ing represents an answered prayer insofar as creating a new revenue stream for the nearly bankrupt city is concerned, are they really going to be happy with a paltry \$80,000 a year, about enough to pay the salary and benefit package for one city policeman?

Still Touma is insisting that the new program will not target local residents. Unless it is decided it should.

"Our residents are paying local taxes they shouldn't have to pay the rate others pay to park here," Touma said. "Although, we have to weigh all our options."

We wouldn't trust either Touma or Dyster to run a game of three card monte. In their wisdom, a plurality of Niagara Falls voters decided to trust them with running a \$100 million corporation.

You get what you pay for.



Council chairman Andrew Touma has a plan in case you don't pay a parking ticket.

Desman's Chicago Parking Plan a Nightmare for Windy City Taxpayers

Mike Hudson

A quick visit to Mayor Paul Dyster's handpicked parking consultant Desman and Associates website finds the company boasting about the important role it played in the privatization of parking meters in the city of Chicago.

"Working with Morgan Stanley and the rest of the team, Desman provided due diligence efforts and technical advisory services in support of Morgan Stanley's successful bid for the 75 year lease concession for the Chicago Metered Parking System," the website states. Desman projected both the short-term and long-term impact of changes in parking demand and operations on the revenue and expenses of the parking system over the lease period."

Why Desman would be bragging about its participation in the scheme is curious. 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 Chicago. There were 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.

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

Dyster, 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.

The offices of Desman Associates are located on North Clark Street in Chicago. Ironically it was in a parking garage on North Clark Street that nine men associated with the Irish North Side Gang were lined up and gunned down in the infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929.

None Dare Call It Treason! Revisited from Niagara Reporter 2-17-15



J. Gary DiLaura

The Right Side

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution says “The Congress shall have the power ... To declare war...”

The President is responsible for executing the act of war that Congress de-

clares.

The President wants Congress to allow him to direct a “limited action” against ISIS which he calls criminals, terrorists, armed insurgents and every other description except what they call themselves and that is “Islam”. ISIS says they are at war with us. Obama says “we are not now nor will we ever be at war with Islam”. In my opinion Obama says that he won’t fight Islam because he CONTINUES to be an Islamic Muslim himself. Everyone, except President Obama and his Muslim, White House staff, says we are at war with “radical Islam”. I say that no one can separate or tell the difference between radical Islam and Islam as they all follow the teachings of the Koran. No one has ever come forward with a book of faith or writing of “peaceful, non-radical, nonviolent” Islam beliefs. They all follow the same book of

Mohammed, the Koran, which is as violent as it gets.

When Japan attacked us at Pearl Harbor and killed 2500 Americans, Congress declared war against Japan, not just the “radical Japanese” who attacked us. When we declared war on Germany, we didn’t declare war on just “NAZI Germany”! When Islam attacked us on 9-11-01 killing 3,000 Americans, President Bush hopefully would have asked Congress to declare war against “Islam” if he knew then what we know now. No one knew what Al Qaeda was back then.

That was mostly the fault of 8 years of Clinton, who’s Vice President, Al Gore asked Ollie North in 1987 “Who is Bin Laden”, when North had his home security increased for \$60,000 of government money. North told Gore that Bin Laden “is” the most dangerous terrorist in the world and North and his family were threatened by Bin Laden. Gore, who was on one of the security committees, had never heard of BL, and mocked the pronunciation of BL’s name! Also, remember that Clinton had 3 opportunities to kill Bin Laden but was afraid of public opinion.

That’s what happens when our leaders put their own agenda before their oath of office!

And... that’s the SAME Al Gore who, 20 years ago, said that the Arctic Ice caps and Glaciers would be gone by 2015!

What kind of morons are we (you) electing?

What Congress should do now, with France and the rest of what’s left of our allies, is to declare war against “Islam” and let Obama decide if he is going to honor his oath of office and fight Islam, his “past” religion/ideology. He has said repeatedly that he won’t! If he doesn’t, then impeach him and indict him for Treason! We solve a whole lot of problems all at once.

What Islam should we fight? I say

the Islam that wants us dead, that one. We must fight them any place, any time, any number. We should not allow ANY Muslim Nation to have or maintain any nuclear weapons. When Iran, an Islamic state, says they want to kill us and Israel, we should take the threat seriously and not ignore it as Obama does and try to talk them out of it. They finance almost every radical Islamic terrorist group out there except ISIS and we are allowing them to develop weapons grade uranium.

Are we stupid or what?

After Congress declares war on Islam, every time there is an act of terror against us or any US ally, we should destroy an installation in Iran. Make it crystal clear to the Ali Khameni that we will not allow any threats or acts of war to go unanswered, anymore. When are we going to wake up to what is going on?

This President is going to go down in history as the absolute worst, most dishonest, disruptive and treasonous President in the history of our nation. He is without a doubt guilty of dereliction of his duty as President. Those who voted for him should be proud of what they helped create!

Both Presidents Nixon and Clinton were impeached for lying. The lies they told never hurt anyone! One was regarding a burglary and the other a sexual act with an intern. Now we have a President who can’t tell the truth, has told lies that have cost people a great deal from loss of health insurance to loss of family members. Just ask the family members of the Americans who died in Benghazi, Libya if the President lied about Benghazi and is responsible for the loss of their loved ones! How about the lives that have been lost due to his retreat in Iraq and the release of prisoners who have returned to battle US troops?

I dare to call it Treason!


Dear Congress, please honor your oath and protect us... please!

The Genius Skrlin Creates Another, This Time Poignant Masterpiece




Free speech, like freedom itself, isn’t free. It’s held only through eternal vigilance. Since free speech is guaranteed by the first amendment of the Constitution there can be little doubt in the minds of normal, well adjusted, citizens of this nation that the Constitution is fully buttressed by this single amendment. In this cartoon Skrlin tackles the question of a free press in relation to the Reporter and a story in last week’s edition detailing how the publisher appears to have run afoul of the powers that be due to the coverage of the Dyster administration. This latest Skrlin rendering isn’t so much humorous as it is poignant in its portrayal as to how the newspaper has come under attack as a virtual sitting duck...seemingly targeted by powerful state-wide entities. The Reporter receives both barrels in this graphic episode from those in authority for daring to tread where others refuse to go. We have the visual pun of a liquor bottle containing “proof” and a newspaper that is “free” in that it has no selling price but struggles to be free in relation to the first amendment. While other cartoons by Skrlin routinely bring a smile to the face of the viewer this cartoon causes one to mourn for the troubling attack on the right of free speech...a right that has been treasured since the United States drew its first breath in 1776.

Jonathan Q. Adams



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The Union, Pension and Training Offices will be closed on Thursday November 26 & Friday November 27 for the holiday. For all active and retired members, please call Dianna before the close of business tomorrow Friday November 20th to RSVP for the LECET Christmas Party which will be on Saturday December 5th from noon until 4PM. We need an accurate count and the deadline has now officially passed.

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Only in NT: More Suggestions for Elected Eight People in a Room



Sweeney Payne

A suggestion for our “newly elected” eight people in a room: Most successful private businesses put a great deal of emphasis on innovation, new products, and ways to deliver services. Local governments always also need to continually seek ways to deliver services better, less expensively and faster.

NT, however has had a problem, for at least the last decade of ordering costly studies, consultant reports, etc., and announcing them as a fait accompli (something that has been done and cannot be changed). Unfortunately for NT residents, the only thing that ever seems to be “done” is the issuing of these studies and reports with all the political braggadocio those in office at the time could/can muster, with braggadocio being the annoying and exaggerated bragging of those proudly trying to sound like they are accomplishing things by publishing the results of studies and reports.

A review of the last ten years, or in fact, fifty or more years, of the former Tonawanda News, indicates a serious amount of taxpayer funding at some level or other going into such studies and reports, with little ever resulting

from them.

Employees of NT have ideas for improvement of the bureaucracy, but leadership at the top (department heads) is needed to make it clear to “upper management” (Mayor and Common Council) and all employees that new ideas are wanted from them (not resented nor their being penalized for suggestions). Their knowledge and ideas are worth so much more to NT than the bought-and-paid-for writings of overpriced consultants who don’t live here.

Why not create competitions and an innovation fund to encourage employees to step forward with new ways of doing business? Dedicate a small portion of the annual budget to encourage better, faster and less expensive ways of delivering services. That, if not smothered by the eight people in the room, would no doubt eliminate the waste of paying for studies that never go anyplace after the photos in the paper with the announcements of their completion.

Why not create an “innovation fund” and set aside \$1 or \$2 million to be used for seed money for one-time investments in projects that would enhance services, save money, provide better customer (taxpayer and resident) service, etc. Projects that will cut the red tape for businesses and make it easier for citizens to access city services should be considered for these loans.

Create an apolitical panel (if such a thing is possible in NT or Niagara County) and use the fund for loans to be paid back within five years, with city agencies or departments providing business plans showing how they expect to meet their obligations for developing

the concept.

Beyond a doubt, NT’s website is an embarrassment which the newly elected City Clerk-Treasurer has promised to give attention to. One thing missing from the website is an email address for the City Clerk-Treasurer’s office.

Why does the City Charter posted on the website have (Article III, Division 1, Section 3.004 (a)): “The city clerk-treasurer is subject to removal or suspension by the mayor in accordance with the provisions of this section. All appointed officers are subject to removal or suspension by the appointing authority in accordance with the provisions of this section.”

The posted charter continues with more instructions. Why are we voting for a city clerk-treasurer if he/she is subject to removal or suspension by the mayor? Is this just a case of the wrong version of the charter remaining on the website? Or perhaps not properly corrected when it became an elected position?

Section 3.029 does say, “The officials of the city elected by the voters are the mayor, the council members, the city attorney and the city clerk-treasurer.”

At the end of the charter (which went into effect January 1, 2002), under Article VII, Se. 7.004 2008 it lists “Revisions to the charter”: “Effective on March 1, 2009, the position of city clerk shall be abolished. All duties and obligations formerly held by the city clerk shall be assumed by the city treasurer, whose position shall be renamed as the city-clerk treasurer.” This still doesn’t clarify that the city-clerk treasurer is stated in the earlier

portion as “subject to removal or suspension by the mayor.”

When “revisions” are made, perhaps the use of asterisks could be used in the relevant portions to denote that a change is listed at the end?

The charter also needs to include term limits. NT needs an intelligent, informed electorate that tosses out bad politicians in elections and insures that genuine public servants are kept in office. It isn’t supposed to be a lifelong income. Two terms are plenty for any elected official.



“Such was the will of the Father that his Son, blessed and glorious, whom he gave to us, and who was born for us, should by his own blood, sacrifice, and oblation, offer himself on the altar of the cross, not for himself, by whom “all things were made,” but for our sins, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps.”

St Francis of Assisi

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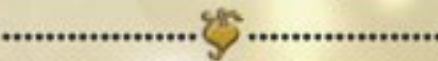
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Bills Have Shot to Knock Off Banged Up Patriots



Tony Farina

Anyone who has followed my coverage of the Buffalo Bills over the last several years knows that I'm anything but a cheerleader for this franchise and it will take more than a couple of wins over the Dolphins and the Jets to convince me that this is the year the longest active playoff drought (15 years) in the NFL will come to an end.

But I have some hope that this year's team may have the firepower to make a real run and it could start on Monday night when the now healthy Bills (5 – 4) take on the banged up New England Patriots and I believe it is a game that Buffalo may be able to win,

Yes, the Patriots are still undefeated (9 – 0) and have owned the Bills in big games, but last Sunday Tom Brady and crew barely got by the New York Giants, 27 – 26, courtesy of a last-second 54-yard field goal by the sensational Stephen Gostkowski, and lost their best wide receiver, Julian Edelman, in the process.

It was reported after the game that Edel-

man suffered a broken bone in his foot and will miss the game against the Bills on Monday night in Foxboro Stadium and may be sidelined for several games. The Patriots are also hurting on the offensive line and Brady is paying the price although they still found a way to win against a very determined effort by the Giants who unfortunately didn't finish the game.

Brady looked nearly human, throwing a goal line interception and barely escaping another pick inside two minutes when Landon Collins dropped what probably would have been a game-clinching interception for the Giants. Given life, the champion Patriots pulled out a victory.

"We've got to find different ways," Brady said after the game. "Guys stepped in when Julian got hurt. We're down a bunch of tackles and guys are playing out of position, and I think we just keep grinding our way through it. You've got to find different ways to win."

Brady and the Pats did find a way to win, just like they did in the last Super Bowl when the Seahawks gave them a chance with a pass on the goal line that the Patriots intercepted giving them their fourth Lombardi Trophy.

But I believe the injury to Edelman and the makeshift offensive line makes the Pats vulnerable and gives the healthy Bills a fighting chance to beat the Super Bowl champs and hand them their first defeat of the season.

Now I know the Pats still have Brady and TE Rob Gronkowski who scored on a 76-yard pass play against the Giants, calling the victory a character builder. But the Bills are showing signs they mean business on offense with a powerful running game and the steady play of quarterback Tyrod Taylor who is doing what it takes to win.

Edelman, a terrific receiver, is a major loss for the Patriots and coupled with the offensive

line problems, Brady may not be able to put up the kind of numbers that he did earlier in the season in the 40 – 32 win at the Ralph. The Patriots have pretty much owned the Bills for a very long time, winning 27 of the last 30 games, but maybe Rex Ryan and crew can turn the tables on Bill Belichick and Brady next Monday night and give themselves a much-needed win against the reigning champions.

I'm not predicting a Bills victory, but I do think that Buffalo is showing the kind of offensive punch that has been missing during the lengthy playoff drought and if the defense can pressure Brady, a win is possible.

LeSean McCoy and Karlos Williams give the Bills a strong ground game, both showing speed and power, and if wide receiver Sammy Watkins can stay on the field, he puts great pressure on a suspect Patriots' secondary and could open things up for the other Bills receivers.

In short, it seems like things are setting up in the Bills favor for the Monday prime time game against the Pats, and a win that would give the team a great deal of confidence during this tough road stretch and give fans hope that this Bills team is for is real.

There is always a danger in falling for the Bills because they have a legacy of failure that is hard to forget. But Wilson is gone and his chief money generator, Russ Brandon, has assumed a lower football profile, and to me those are positive developments for the team now owned by fracking kingpin Terry Pegula. We haven't seen too much of him, either, and Coach Rex Ryan is now the face of the franchise, as he should be, and while the Bills struggled early, Ryan has brought them back and they are finally healthy and have no excuses against a Patriots team that looks vulnerable.

State Audit of ECC Still Not Ready

Tony Farina

Last March, we reported that state auditors were in the final stages of the first full review of Erie Community College's finances in 20 years, reportedly sparked by complaints of lax controls in managing taxpayer and student dollars at ECC. The audit had begun in October of 2014.

In that same story, we reported that a spokesman for State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli would not confirm the financial review had been sparked by complaints from local watchdogs, calling it "a standard audit" that was expected to be completed by early spring.

Early spring is in the rearview mirror and Thanksgiving is fast approaching and the results of that "standard audit" have still not been released. I asked a spokesman from the state comptroller's office this week if this audit was setting a record for longevity and he could only chuckle.

Officially, the audit now could be released next month, according to DiNapoli's office, but there is no guarantee at this time that it will be ready before the end of the year. The conclusion any fair observer can reasonably draw is that this audit turned out to be anything but "standard," and as we reported several times state auditors had their hands full dealing with Kristin Klein Wheaton, ECC's vice president for legal affairs and the top assistant to Jack Quinn,

the \$192,500 president of ECC.

We have written numerous stories about the college's fiscal meltdown, fueled in part by declining enrollment and the county's less than 26.7 percent financial subsidy required by state education law (it is currently at about 15 percent). We have also written about the many complaints from administrators and others at ECC about Quinn's handling of the college's fiscal affairs and the lack of oversight by the Board of Directors.

In fact, in recent days I have learned that the board is rubber stamping just about everything that Quinn and Wheaton put on the table, meaning there is no checks on the Quinn administration from the board of directors. There are several projects in the works at ECC, including construction of the \$30 million STEM building at the North campus, but the board reportedly is letting Quinn call the shots, period.

If any light is to be shed on what's been happening at ECC under Quinn's leadership, it looks like it will come from state auditors although the credibility of an audit so long in the making could be suspect. It could be that Quinn's team has taken serious issue with the audit's finding and that could be the reason for the delay. Whatever the reason, we still don't have the results of an audit of a school with serious financial troubles and another tuition hike likely. We'll keep you posted.

NEWS FOR A FIT BODY AND MIND

THE DAILY-POD

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

> BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

ANNALS OF JUSTICE

■ A 2015 decision of the Georgia Supreme Court has created a puzzle for drunk driver enforcement. In Georgia (and other states), blood alcohol tests are “voluntary” (to bypass the issue of whether drivers can be forced, or even pressured, to endure a test that ultimately helps to convict them), but the Georgia court has ruled, against custom, that a “consenting” driver might be “too” drunk to appreciate the consent—in which case, the test results would be inadmissible in court. Equally awkwardly, prosecutors would be forced to argue that the drunk driver—too drunk to handle a motor vehicle—was still sober enough to give knowledgeable consent. Atlanta’s WSB-TV reported in October that judges statewide are grappling with the issue.

RECURRING THEMES (RECENT INSTANCES OF FAMILIAR WEIRD BEHAVIORS)

■ Funerals and burials, in the United States and elsewhere, are no longer always so staid. Most famously, one man was, per his instructions, lowered to the ground inside his beloved Cadillac; dressing corpses in fanciful outfits (such as the Green Lantern) is not unheard of. In October, after Mr. Jomar Aguayo Collazo, 23, was killed in a shootout in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the family outfitted his body in his favorite blue tracksuit and propped him up at a table in his mother’s tavern (“playing” dominoes and holding a drink and a condom)—as friends and relatives passed by to pay their respects.

■ The list of all-time extreme body modifiers would start with the late Dennis “Stalking Cat” Avner (who incrementally cut, chipped, tattooed, pierced and implanted his body to make himself a human

feline) and the similarly obsessive Erik “Lizardman” Sprague, who at one time toured with the Jim Rose Circus. Newer to the scene is Britain’s Ted Richards, 57, working to become a human parrot. With 110 colorful tattoos, 50 piercings and a split tongue, he currently seeks a surgeon to turn his nose into a beak. Even without the beak, though, Richard says becoming parrotlike “is the best thing that has happened to me.” (London’s *Daily Telegraph*, publishing astonishing photos of Richards, asked, rhetorically, whether we’ve reached “peak plastic surgery.”)

■ In October, a 20-year-old man in Macomb Township, Michigan, became the most recent alleged drunk driver to reveal himself in the most awkward of ways: by accidentally swerving into the midst of a sheriff’s deputies’ roadside stop—of another alleged drunk driver. (Coincidentally, both arrestees are 20 and registered matching 0.17 blood-alcohol readings.)

■ College “Inclusiveness” to the Next Level: “Service” animals (mostly guide dogs) are ones that have been specially trained to provide help for people with disabilities, but untrained “comfort” animals are also privileged for those diagnosed with panic attacks or depression. In an October report on college students hoping to keep their pets in no-animal dorms, *The New York Times* noted that school officials have entertained student requests for the “comfort” of (besides dogs and cats) lizards, potbellied pigs, tarantulas, ferrets, guinea pigs and “sugar gliders” (nocturnal, flying, six-ounce Australian marsupials). Informal Justice Department guidelines rule out only animals that are aggressive or destructive or that trigger other students’ allergies.

■ Raised Right—or Snitch-in-Training? In September, Audrey McCollm, 25, traffic-stopped in Randolph County, Indiana, for driving “erratic(ally),” became

the latest parent ratted out by her child. When Mom denied having been drinking, her daughter, 7, blurted out, “Yes, you have, Mom.” McCollm registered 0.237, had nearly hit another officer’s car head-on, and was so hammered that she “urged” a different officer to “shoot her in the head.”

■ A chapter of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals undertook one of its favorite consciousness-raising tactics in August, demanding that Pennsylvania officials erect a roadside grave marker near Lancaster at the spot where a tractor-trailer hauling 80 pigs overturned, killing several of them. The “terrified animals” that suffered traumatic deaths should be memorialized by the community, PETA said. The pigs, of course, would have eventually found their way to a slaughterhouse, and it is possible that the ones euthanized as a result of the accident passed more peacefully than the “survivors.”

■ In October, *The Washington Post* and the *New York Post* separately reported recent episodes of government agencies keeping high-earning employees on the payroll for more than a year, with no job assignment, because the agencies were unable to adjudicate their misconduct cases. Almost 100 shelved Homeland Security employees turned up in a *Washington Post* Freedom of Information Act request, and one information technology analyst warehoused by the New York City employee pension fund said she had earned \$1.3 million over 10 years doing absolutely no work for the city. “I watched movies,” said Niki Murphy. “I crocheted—right in front of (supervisors).”

■ Drivers who blindly follow their vehicle’s satellite navigation with disastrous results are almost No Longer Weird, but a truck driver’s mishap in Ashton, England, in October still seemed worthy of reporting—in that he was working for a company called Dachser Intelligent Logistics when his

tractor-trailer got stuck in a narrow alley (directed there by the sat-nav, in violation of all common sense). (Bonus: It was not the first time sat-nav had misdirected a vehicle into the same alley; the town had even placed a formal traffic sign at the approach to the alley: “Do Not Follow Sat Nav Next Left.”)

UPDATES

■ In October, the federal government finally unloaded the two New Hampshire properties it seized in 2007 from dentist Elaine Brown and her husband (after a nine-month standoff following their vow to die rather than pay their back taxes to the IRS). Their 100-acre “compound” became a magnet at the time for an array of “sovereigns” and tax-resisters, who were rumored to have booby-trapped the property to ward off law enforcement—and the 2015 auction only partially guaranteed that the property was free of hidden explosives. (News of the Weird’s 2007 story included Dr. Brown as one of three U.S. dentists who, independent of each other, had become obsessed about federal taxes. The Browns are serving 30-year prison terms.)

■ High school principal George Kenney believes he has a gift to aid students’ concentration abilities—hypnotism—and practiced it extensively at North Port High in Sarasota, Florida, until 2011, when three of his students died in separate incidents (two by suicide). While Kenney enjoys retirement in North Carolina, the Sarasota school board did not close the chapter until October 2015 when it granted \$200,000 settlements to the families of the three students. The lawsuits complained of Kenney’s unlicensed “medical procedure,” which altered the “underdeveloped” teenage brain—but Kenney had also pointed to improvements in studying by other students.

READ THE FULL NEWS OF THE WEIRD DAILY AT WWW.WEIRDUNIVERSE.NET. OR SEND ITEMS TO WEIRDNEWS@EARTHLINK.NET

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8 PM with Peggy Silvesteri
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EVENTS | CALENDAR

THURS NOV 19

MUSIC

ACOUSTIC/FOLK

Nietzsche's - 5pm The Afternoon Trio w/ John, Paul, & Bill, free.

BLUES

Sportsmen's Tavern - 7pm The Willies, \$3

CLASSICAL

Albright-Knox Art Gallery - 8pm Buffalo Chamber Players at the AK: Atmosphere & Texture, The ensemble presents a program exploring the use of color and texture in music.

JAZZ

Daily Planet Coffee Co. - 5pm Fred Caputi Jazz Guitar.

KARAOKE

Maple Entertainment Complex (The Library) - 8pm Karaoke w/ Michelle.

The Backstage Pub - 8pm Open Jam & Karaoke w/ Jimmy Zigzag & Wally B.

OPEN MIC

Hilltop Inn and Grove - 7pm Open Mic Hosted by Danny Lynn Wilson.

Hydeout - 9pm Randy California's Open Mic.

POP

Hot Mama's Canteen - 6-9pm Jenna Cunningham

PUNK

Mohawk Place - 8pm Peelande-Z, Japanese Action Comic Punk Band, \$8.

Waiting Room - 6pm Knuckle Puck, Seaway, Sorority Noise, Head North, \$14-\$16

R&B

First Niagara Center - 8pm Stevie Wonder, Songs In The Key of Life Tour, \$129.50, \$89.50, \$59.50, \$39.50

ROCK

Buffalo Iron Works - 10pm Stevie Wonder after party w/ The Heavy Pets, Doors 9pm, Show 10pm, free

Nietzsche's - 9pm The Nursery, Dirty Smile, \$5

VARIETY

Dreamland - 8pm Comedy Punk & Electro Stunts: Nudie Suits, The Creepers & Woodbois, \$5 donation

ZYDECO/CAJUN

Shango Bistro - 7pm Ron Davis aka LeeRon Zydeco.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMEDY

Helium Comedy Club - 8pm Judah Friedlander

CRAFTS

Brighton Place Library - 1:30-2:30pm Cardcrafter's Club, Meet with other card crafters to share materials, ideas, & conversation. No experience needed. Call 332-4375 for info.

DANCE

El Museo - 8pm NYC Ballet, Co-presented with Performa, join us on a playful exploration of our dance fantasies with Jerome Bel's Ballet (New York) & 12 New Yorkers. admission varies.

EXHIBITS

Amherst Center for Senior Services - 2-4pm Williamsville Art Society Holiday Show, feat. Live Music, Awards, Chinese Auction, Refreshments Show runs thru Dec 3, 2015

Karpeles Manuscript Museum (Porter Hall) - 11-4pm Ottoman Cartography & the Age of Discovery, an exhibit feat. hand-drawn maps, originally included in various educational atlases,produced between the 14th and 17th centuries. www.karpeles.com

HOLIDAY MARKETS/BAZAARS

Shea's Buffalo Performing Arts Center - 5:30-8:30pm Shea's 6th Annual Shopping Soiree, 60+ local vendors, Enjoy complimentary food courtesy

of Kevin's Catering, cash bar, raffles & more, in Shea's Main Stage & Lobbies. First 500 guests receive a free gift bag, \$10, \$15 door, sheassoiree.com

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

First Presbyterian Church - 7-9pm Fall Adventures In Buffalo History: The Life & Legacy of the Canadiana, Life In The Original Larkinville, \$10, \$5 students, passholders free.

LITERARY

Brighton Place Library - 11-8pm Book Sale, \$5 Bag Day on Sat. 21st.

RECREATION/GAMES

Shenannigan's Bar & Grill - 7pm Trivia w/ Quiz Night in Buffalo.

SPECIAL EVENT

Brighton Place Library - 5-6pm Adult Coloring, a great way to relax and meet new friends. This is not a class and is very casual. Come to one or both sessions. Call 332-4375 for information.

Providence Social - 5:30-8:30pm The Public & The ProZoo Board invite you to "Open To The Public", a happy hour benefiting The Buffalo Zoo. Air hockey tournament, Buffalo Zoo trivia, Zoo Drinko Board & drink specials.

SPECIALTY/COMMUNITY THEATER

Jordyn D'Alimonte Performing Arts Center - 7pm Lindbergh Elementary presents the play James And the Giant Peach, \$5.

TOURS

Shea's Buffalo Performing Arts Center - 10am, 1pm Historic Theatre Tour. \$8/\$4 Seniors, Students, & Groups of 20 or more. Reserve at 847-1410 ext. 184. sheas.org

Tiftt Nature Preserve - 10-noon Wellness Walks. Drop by Tiftt Nature Preserve and enjoy the fresh air and the sights and sounds of the season with a healthy outdoor walk on our beautiful and accessible trails! Please call 825-6397 to confirm walk will be taking place. \$2 donation per person appreciated. All ages.

FRI NOV 20

MUSIC

ACOUSTIC/FOLK

Asbury Hall at Babeville - 7pm Peter Yarrow, \$30/\$35

Daily Planet Coffee Co. - noon Acoustic Lunch w/ Drew Azzinaro.

Dwyer's Irish Pub - 6pm Darrell Porter

Luke's Lutheran Church - 6pm Road To Recovery

Unity Church of Practical Christianity - 9pm Peopleart Coffeehouse feat. Tom Naples & Paul Lamont, \$5

Wine on Third - 8pm Keith Shuskie

BLUES

Hot Mama's Canteen - 8pm River Dogs

Sportsmen's Tavern - 9:30pm Nighthawks, \$20

Vizzi's - 10pm Dave Constantino Band.

COUNTRY

Buffalo Iron Works - 9pm The Marshall

Dillon Band, Doors 8pm, Show 9pm, \$5

Santora's Pizza Pub & Grill (Transit Rd.) - West Of The Mark

DANCE/DJS/ELECTRONIC

31 Club - 9:30pm DJ Pauly Paul spinning hits from the 70's to today. the31club.com

Handlebar - 9pm 80s Party for the Food Bank, \$5 donationor canned food item

HIP-HOP

Handlebar - 9pm Shane and Tone will be on the 1s and 2s playing hip hop instrumentals and originals off of wax... and there may be an MPC or 2 in the house, free.

JAMBAND

Town Ballroom - 7pm Papadosio, \$17-\$20

JAZZ

Pausa Art House - 8pm John Bacon/Chris Jentsch Project feat. Mike Kaupa

on trumpet & Jeff Campbell on bass, \$7

METAL

Mohawk Place - 8pm Bastard Lord w/ Black Hand, Dirt War & the HUNS, \$5

OPEN MIC

Woodside Community Chapel - 7-11pm Woodside Coffee House Open Mic

R&B

Roycroft Inn - 7pm Theresa Quinn & The West Side Horns

ROCK

Hot Mama's Canteen - 8-11pm Rod Horning Project; 11:30pm Rustic Radio

Mohawk Place - 5pm Haunted Gypsy Happy hour, free

Nietzsche's - 9:30pm The Buffalo Afrobeat Orchestra w/ DJ Milk; 10pm The Sixties Future CD Release, Aircraft, Skirts, Cooler, \$5

Shadow Lounge & Restaurant - 10pm JoyRyde w/ The Hitmen Horns feat. Maria Sebastian

Sportsmen's Tavern - 5:30-8:30pm Five To One Band, \$3

Waiting Room - 7pm The Leones, Applennium, Hundred Plus Club, \$8

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMEDY

Burchfield Penney Art Center - 8pm Tits & Giggles, All Women Comedy show feat. Allie Brady, Heather Stack (Artvoice's Best Comedian 2015), Kristen Becker, Samantha Orrange, Shannon Dawn, Jamie Travale, Katie Lane, Sara Gunn, & Marisa Caruso, \$10 ADV, \$15 DOS.

Helium Comedy Club - 7:30-10pm Judah Friedlander

CRAFTS

Brighton Place Library - 10-noon Knitting Club, experienced or beginner. Knit, crochet, chat, or come w/ questions & materials.

EXHIBITS

Amherst Center for Senior Services - 2-4pm Williamsville Art Society Holiday Show, feat. Live Music, Awards, Chinese Auction, Refreshments Show runs thru Dec 3, 2015

Karpeles Manuscript Museum (Porter Hall) - 11-4pm Ottoman Cartography & the Age of Discovery, an exhibit feat. hand-drawn maps, originally included in various educational atlases,produced between the 14th and 17th centuries. www.karpeles.com

Lake Erie Seaway Trail Center - 10-4pm Great Shipwrecks of NY's Great Lakes Traveling Exhibit

FUNDRAISERS

Hotel at the Lafayette - 5-9pm 8th Annual Champions for Justice BashECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project & Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of WNY (Award Ceremony starts at 5pm), Open bar, food stations, \$85 per person or \$150 per couple.

HOLIDAY MARKETS/BAZAARS

Kenan Center - 5-9pm The Kenan Arts Council's 35th Holiday Gift Show: 46 juried artisans display their handcrafted works in 3 historic buildings. Onstage Cafe by Shamus Restaurant, a quilt rafle, herbal gifts, gourmet foods & wine. No strollers please, \$4

Knox Farm State Park - 6-9pm The Friends of Knox Farm State Park present "The Holiday Art Festival" @ E. Aurora Knox Mansion feat. hand-crafted gift items: paintings, blown glass, mixed media. Catered by Daley's. Preview night \$20, Sat. & Sun. \$5.

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

Church of Scientology of Buffalo - 7pm Clear Body, Clear Mind

LITERARY

Albright-Knox Art Gallery - 6:30pm An evening w/ Micah Nathan, Buffalo-born author & Vanity Fair essayist reads & discusses his latest published story, In Search of Absolutely Nothing.

Brighton Place Library - 10-2pm Book Sale, \$5 Bag Day on Sat. 21st.

Burchfield Penney Art Center - 7pm The Buffalo launch for one of the most acclaimed publishing projects in recent memory, Liveright Publishing's The Complete Works of Primo Levi, with a discussion featuring Robert Weil, publisher and editor in chief at Liveright,

and Ann Goldstein, editor/translator in charge of the fifteen year project.

Shea's Smith Theatre - 7-10pm Living Poet Society: Harvest Moon. The premiere showcase for spoken word poetry in Buffalo. Poets from across the country and Canada share poetry straight from the national stage. The evening will include three experimental pieces incorporating theater and fashion w/ spoken word, \$15.

MAGIC

Ship N' Shore Restaurant - 7-9pm Magic & Balloon Art by Joe & Gary, free.

SPECIALTY/COMMUNITY THEATER

Ellicott Creek Playhouse (St. Edmund Campus) - 7:30pm Camelot by the Niagara Regional Theatre, \$18 General, \$16 Students/Seniors, \$15 Presale.

Jordyn D'Alimonte Performing Arts Center - 7pm Lindbergh Elementary presents the play James And the Giant Peach, \$5.

SAT NOV 21

MUSIC

ACOUSTIC/FOLK

Hot Mama's Canteen - 11:59pm PA Line

Wine on Third - 8pm Julian Burgio

BLUES

Broadway Hotel - 9pm Slim Chance, "The can't hardly playboys"

Pierce Arrow Bar & Grill - 2-7pm Buffalo Blues Crew with Jack Civiletto, Chas DelPlato, Bob Price, Andy Romanek & Speedy Parker.

Pizza Plant Italian Pub (Transit Rd) - 8-11pm Deann Tompkins Blues Band, free.

CELTIC/IRISH

Nietzsche's - 4:30pm Celtic Seisions

CLASSICAL

UB Slee Concert Hall (Lippes Concert Hall) - 7:30pm Maestro Hector Olivera concert organist, \$15/\$10 seniors, UB Faculty/Staff/Alumni & non-UB students. UB students free.

COUNTRY

Sportsmen's Tavern - 8:30pm Hey Mavis & The Steam Donkeys, \$10

DANCE/DJS/ELECTRONIC

The Rapids Theatre - 8pm Hyperglow Tour w/ Laid Back Luke

Waiting Room - 10pm Buku/ Jr from Dallas, Big Basha, Rufus Gibson, Eyes Everywhere, John Patrick, \$15

FUNK/SOUL

Hydraulic Hearth - 9:30pm Ron Davis & Ray Hangen, Acid Funk.

INDIE

Dreamland - 8pm Sleepy Hahas, Space Cubs, Moody Cosmos,\$5

JAZZ

Hot Mama's Canteen - 1pm Brunch & Beats Paradigm Shift; 7pm Andrew Nixon

Hot Mama's Canteen - 10pm Fredtown Stompers

Pausa Art House - 8pm Walter Kemp3-OH feat. Sharon Bailey. Walter Kemp is a regular fixture at Pausa, both as a soloist & w/ the group GrÃ-vology. Sharon Bailey has been honored with The Buffalo Music Award for Top R&B Female Vocalist, \$7

KARAOKE

Kate's - 10pm Karaoke w/ Eclectic Sound.

Tudor Lounge - 4-7pm Jony James Karaoke.

MOTOWN

UB Center for the Arts - 8pm The Jacksons, Jermaine, Tito, Jackie & Marlon live in concert. proceeds go to the Buffalo Ronald McDonald House, \$97 & \$77.

POP

Town Ballroom - 7pm Nate Ruess, \$31

PUNK

Mohawk Place - 9pm November Reign: Punk & Hardcore DJ Night, 8pm doors, 9pm Vinyl, \$2

ROCK

Broadway Hotel - 4pm Blurock

Buffalo Iron Works - 9:30pm The Cadillac Three, Doors 8:30pm, Show 9:30pm, \$20.00

Nifty Fifty - 9:30pm The A List, free concert.

Santora's Pizza Pub & Grill (Transit Rd.) - Back To The Bars

Strikers Lanes - 9pm Seismic Urge

The Cove - 6-10pm Pooch & The Howling Cats

VARIETY

Potts Banquet Hall - Rock n' Polka Night. Crash Cadillac playing your favorite 50's, Country & Classic Rock tunes, New Direction Band playing your favorite Polkas, Waltzes & Obereks, \$10.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BURLESQUE

Hot Mama's Canteen - 11:59pm Stripteasers Burlesque (\$3 Cover)

COMEDY

Helium Comedy Club - 7:30-10pm Judah Friedlander

EXHIBITS

Amherst Center for Senior Services - 2-4pm Williamsville Art Society Holiday Show, feat. Live Music, Awards, Chinese Auction, Refreshments Show runs thru Dec 3, 2015

Karpeles Manuscript Museum (Porter Hall) - 11-4pm Ottoman Cartography & the Age of Discovery, an exhibit feat. hand-drawn maps, originally included in various educational atlases,produced between the 14th and 17th centuries. www.karpeles.com

Lake Erie Seaway Trail Center - 10-4pm Great Shipwrecks of NY's Great Lakes Traveling Exhibit

FASHION

The Cove - 9pm Glamour & Glow Gods & Goddesses, UV Designer Fashion Show, Performance Art, Music, Body Art, Costumes Encouraged. \$19 general, www.glamouringlow.com

HOLIDAY MARKETS/BAZAARS

Kenan Center - 10-5pm The Kenan Arts Council's 35th Holiday Gift Show: 46 juried artisans display their handcrafted works in 3 historic buildings. Onstage Cafe by Shamus Restaurant, a quilt rafle, herbal gifts, gourmet foods & wine. No strollers please, \$4

Knox Farm State Park - 10-5pm The Friends of Knox Farm State Park present "The Holiday Art Festival" @ E. Aurora Knox Mansion feat. hand-crafted gift items: paintings, blown glass, mixed media. Catered by Daley's. Preview night \$20, Sat. & Sun. \$5.

St. Francis of Assisi Church - 9-noon Gently used jewelry and accessory sale: vintage pieces, costume jewelry, purses, hats, & scarves. Proceeds to benefit Parish & Early Childhood Center. \$2.50 admission=coffee and a bagel (or other breakfast goodie) & admission to the sale. Children free.

LITERARY

Brighton Place Library - 10-1pm Book Sale, \$5 Bag Day on Sat. 21st.

SPECIAL EVENT

Buffalo Iron Works - 2-6pm 1st Annual Battle of the Corporate Band, Corporate sponsors & their competing bands, made up of the most unlikely musicians such as bankers, PR executives, accountants, software engineers, etc. Proceeds benefit Give for Greatness, Tickets available @ Iron Works & Ticketfly

The Fairgrounds - 10-5pm 34rd Annual Greater Buffalo Train & Toy Show, Over 400 Tables filled with great deals WNY Garden Railway G Scale Layout, the Niagara Frontier Live Steamers and more, adults \$7, children under 12 free.

SPECIALTY/COMMUNITY THEATER

Ellicott Creek Playhouse (St. Edmund Campus) - 7:30pm Camelot by the Niagara Regional Theatre, \$18 General, \$16 Students/Seniors, \$15 Presale.

Jordyn D'Alimonte Performing Arts Center - 2pm Lindbergh Elementary presents the play James And the Giant Peach, \$5.

TOURS

Shea's Buffalo Performing Arts Center - 10am, 1pm Historic Theatre Tour. \$8/\$4 Seniors, Students, & Groups of 20 or more. Reserve at 847-1410 ext. 184. sheas.org

SUN NOV 22

MUSIC

FUNK/SOUL

Town Ballroom - 7pm George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, \$30-\$35.

JAZZ

Colored Musicians' Club - 6-9pm The DMW Jazz Experience w/ Dennis Warne, Mike Slomowicz, Jamie Sunshine & Brian Dejesus

Left Bank - 11:30-1:30pm Live Jazz Brunch w/ Wayne Moose & Walk Sopicki.

Milkie's on Elmwood (formerly Elmwood Lounge) - 6-9pm DMW Jazz experience

Nietzsche's - 8pm Dr. Jazz & the Jazz Bugs

Trinity Episcopal Church (Buffalo) - 10:30-11:30am Bobby Militello & Krista Seddon; 7pm Live piano jazz, readings, time for silent meditation.

OPEN MIC

Mr. Goodbar - 8:30pm Open Mic hosted by Mikey Mike feat. talented musicians of all genres welcome. PA, microphone available.

ROCK

Broadway Joe's Bar & Grille - 2pm Paramedic, Call It Home, Eyes On Satellites, Mallorie, Deadbeat, Habits, Call It Home, Eyes On Satellites, Lowlife, Common Guilt, Jaali Cypher, Blinded, & Wavelengths, \$10, \$13 DOS

Nietzsche's - 6pm Ann Phillipone

SWING/BIG BAND

UB Center for the Arts - 7:30pm The Brian Setzer Orchestra, 12th Annual Christmas Rocls Tour, \$77, \$67, \$52, \$37

COMMUNITY EVENTS

DANCE

MON NOV 23

MUSIC

ACOUSTIC/FOLK

Nietzsche's - 8pm Songwriter Showcase, free.

BLUES

Abbey Square - 8pm Blues Night feat. Harvey & the Hurricanes.

DANCE/DJS/ELECTRONIC

Duke's Bohemian Grove Bar - 8pm DBGB Does Monday Night Football feat. a free halftime buffet w/ team inspired foods. 100" TV, followed by resident DJs playing best in Rock N Roll.

Essex St. Pub - 10pm Vinyl Monday w/ Eric Kendall

KARAOKE

Hot Mama's Canteen - 9pm Best Karaoke with J Love

OPEN MIC

Nietzsche's - 9pm Open mic w/ Josh Gage.

The Alley Cat - 8pm Open Mic w/ Bobby Angel.

ROCK

Buffalo Iron Works - 9pm Post Sabres Game w/ The Rig, 21+, free.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMEDY

Tudor Lounge - 10pm Open Mic Comedy hosted by Mama Rag.

EXHIBITS

Amherst Center for Senior Services - 2-4pm Williamsville Art Society Holiday Show, feat. Live Music, Awards, Chinese Auction, Refreshments Show runs thru Dec 3, 2015

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

Canisius College - 7-9pm Canisius College presents Latin America Social Justice Lectures feat. Buffalo and

Cuba: Benefits of New Relationships w/ William Franklin, Episcopal Bishop of Western New York, and others local speakers from recent delegations to Cuba. Science Hall, free.

Church of Scientology of Buffalo - 7pm Dianetics Lecture

LITERARY

Jewish Center of Greater Buffalo/Benderson Family Building - 7:30-8:30pm Author Daniel Horowitz: On the Cusp, followed by reception and book signing. \$10/general, \$5/students; 7:30-8:30pm Author Daniel Horowitz: On the Cusp, followed by reception and book signing. \$10, \$5/students

RECREATION/GAMES

Epic Restaurant & Lounge - 8pm Epic Movie Trivia Night!

Shennannigan's Bar & Grill - 9pm Trivia w/ Quiz Night in Buffalo.

The Century Grill - 8pm Geeks Who Drink Trivia, \$5.

TUES NOV 24

MUSIC

BLUES

Rafferty's Bar & Grill - 7-7pm Tuesday Ladies Night-Blues Jam/Dance Party, The Amazing Street Kings with Dave Rinow, Todd Mazurek, Joe Dimino, Bruce Maple & Speedy Parker.

CELTIC/IRISH

Sportsmen's Tavern - 9pm John Culliton Mahoney, free

FUNK/SOUL

Duke's Bohemian Grove Bar - 8pm Neo Soul feat. Verse Band w/ DJ Lopro.

KARAOKE

Essex St. Pub - 10pm Buffalo's Best Karaoke, Essex St. Pub's own unique style of Karaoke Buffalo has loved for 10 years.

METAL

Town Ballroom - 7pm Kamelot w/ special guest Dragonforce, \$24-\$29.

OPEN MIC

Clarence Center Coffee Co. - 7:30pm Clarence Center Open Mic.

Hot Mama's Canteen - 8pm Tender Tuesday Pro Jam â&D& Bring Your Instruments!

The Alley Cat - 8pm Open Mic w/ Amanda Markovich & Leigh Stoner.

ROCK

Sportsmen's Tavern - 6-9pm Twang Gang, \$3

SWING/BIG BAND

Sportsmen's Tavern - 12-2pm Joe Baudo 17 piece Blg Band, free

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMEDY

Nietzsche's - 8pm Rust Belt Comedy presents: Setlists Against Humanity, an improvised adventure in stand up hosted by Rick Matthews. Ages 21 & up. \$5

CRAFTS

Brighton Place Library - 6-8pm Knitting Club, experienced or beginner. Knit, crochet, chat, or come w/ questions & materials.

DANCE

Nietzsche's - 10pm Joe Donohue followed by the Stripteasers.

EXHIBITS

Amherst Center for Senior Services - 2-4pm Williamsville Art Society Holiday Show, feat. Live Music, Awards, Chinese Auction, Refreshments Show runs thru Dec 3, 2015

Karpeles Manuscript Museum (Porter Hall) - 11-4pm Ottoman Cartography & the Age of Discovery, an exhibit feat. hand-drawn maps, originally included in various educational atlases,produced between the 14th and 17th centuries. www.karpeles.com

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library - 12-1pm Imagine the Pursuit of Happiness: ImagineLifelongLearning.com, From Monet to Van Gogh: A History of Impressionism: Paris under Siege, The Great Courses Video #8 by Professor

Richard Brettell, The University of Texas at Dallas, 12:30pm-1pm Discussion: Imagine Why Impressionism Impresses Us Today? This & future discussions are in consideration of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery Exhibit Monet and the Impressionist Revolution, 1860â&D&1910.

LITERARY

Jewish Center of Greater Buffalo/Benderson Family Building - 7:30-8:30pm Author/Editor Mark Shechner: The New Diaspora, followed by reception and book signing, \$10, \$5/students

RECREATION/GAMES

Maple Entertainment Complex (The Library) - 8pm Trivia Tuesday's Hosted by Buzztime Trivia.

SPECIAL EVENT

Brighton Place Library - 12-1pm Adult Coloring, a great way to relax and meet new friends. This is not a class and is very casual. Come to one or both sessions. Call 332-4375 for information.

TOURS

Shea's Buffalo Performing Arts Center - 10am, 1pm Historic Theatre Tour. \$8/\$4 Seniors, Students, & Groups of 20 or more. Reserve at 847-1410 ext. 184. sheas.org

WED NOV 25

MUSIC

ACOUSTIC/FOLK

Nietzsche's - 6pm Tyler Westcott's Pizza Trio, free.

Wine on Third - 8pm Steve Balesteri

BLUES

189 Public House - noon Ron Davis.

Macaroon's Nite Club - 7-7pm Blues Jam/Dance Party, Jack Civiletto, Speedy Parker, with Bob Price, Jim Ehinger & Harvey Murello.

Squier on Main Restaurant - 9:30pm Speedy Parker Blues Band

Vizzi's - 10pm Jim Yeoman's Band.

CELTIC/IRISH

Shannon Pub - 6:30pm Joe Head

FUNK/SOUL

The Tralf Music Hall - 9pm Cran Jam 2015! feat. Skyepilot, Funktional Flow, After Funk. Food Drive Event: bring 5 cans of food for free merch, \$10/\$12 DOS.

JAZZ

Marinaro's Larkin Tavern - 5:30-8pm Alfie Alessandra & Phil Sims, free.

Sportsmen's Tavern - 12-2pm Joe Baudo Quartet, free

KARAOKE

Macaroon's Nite Club - 9pm Super Sound karaoke w/ Bud Night

Mr. Goodbar - 10pm Karaoke upstairs. Come show off your singing skills!

Triple Play Sports Bar - 9pm Karaoke

OPEN MIC

Maple Entertainment Complex (The Library) - 8pm Open Mic w/ Jeremy.

Peace of Mind Coffee Shop - 7:10pm Peace of Mind Coffee Shop Open Mic hosted by Keith Shuskie, free.

Tudor Lounge - 10pm Open Mic hosted by Todd Allan.

POP

Santora's Pizza Pub & Grill (Transit Rd.) - Nerds Gone Wild

Waiting Room - 7pm The Wombats, Royal Teeth, Pop Etc, \$18-\$20

ROCK

Buffalo Iron Works - 9pm The Mike Dillon Band w/ The Slyboots Circus, 18+, \$7 ADV/\$10 DOS.

Hot Mama's Canteen - 8pm Midnight Kings (Your favorite Covers) & DJ Cove @ 11p

Hydeout - 8pm Randy California's Open Jam.

Mohawk Place - 8pm Second Trip, crowd-funding closer show, w/ Malurchuk, Deadwolf, Fox 45, \$5

Nietzsche's - 9pm Thanksgiving Eve Rock & Roll Feast w/ The Irving Klawns, Harmonica Lewis, Blue Ribbon Bastards

Sportsmen's Tavern - 9pm Rolling Stones Tribute, \$10

Town Ballroom - 7pm Lowest of The Low, \$26-\$30

ZYDECO/CAJUN

189 Public House - noon Ron Davis.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

EXHIBITS

Amherst Center for Senior Services - 2-4pm Williamsville Art Society Holiday Show, feat. Live Music, Awards, Chinese Auction, Refreshments Show runs thru Dec 3, 2015

Karpeles Manuscript Museum (Porter Hall) - 11-4pm Ottoman Cartography & the Age of Discovery, an exhibit feat. hand-drawn maps, originally included in various educational atlases,produced between the 14th and 17th centuries. www.karpeles.com

KIDS STUFF

Brighton Place Library - 10:30am Toddler Time, Stories, Songs, Movement, and Activities for children 2 â&D& 5 years old.

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

Church of Scientology of Buffalo - 6:45pm You can be more able than you are. A recorded lecture by L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Dianetics and Scientology. \$15. 856-3910; 7pm Clear Body, Clear Mind

Church of Scientology of Buffalo - 7pm Dianetics Lecture

RECREATION/GAMES

Canalside Buffalo - 7pm Trivia w/ Quiz Night in Buffalo.

SEASONAL EVENT

Tifft Nature Preserve - 6-7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Full Moon Stroll. Start your night off right w/ a quiet guided adults-only stroll under the full moon in search of the Buffalo's other wild night-life! Pre-registration required. Non-members \$5.

VENUE DIRECTORY

189 Public House 189 Main St Aurora (652-8189, oneeightynine.com)

31 Club 31 Johnson Park (332-3131, the31club.com)

Abbey Square 784 Wehrle Dr Amherst (634-8050)

Albright-Knox Art Gallery 1285 Elmwood Ave (882-8700, albrightknox.org)

Amherst Center for Senior Services 370 John James Audubon Pkwy Amherst (636-3050)

Amherst State Park 390 Mill St Amherst (631-7000, amherststatepark.org/ASP/Welcome.html)

Asbury Hall at Babeville 341 Delaware Ave (852-3835, babevillebuffalo.com)

Brighton Place Library 999 Brighton Rd Tonawanda (332-4375, brightonplacelibrary.org)

Broadway Hotel 158 Main St Erie (692-9810)

Broadway Joe's Bar & Grille 3051 Main St (464-3846)

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library 1 Lafayette Square (858-8900, buffalolib.org)

Buffalo Iron Works 49 Illinois St (200-1893, buffaloironworks.com)

Burchfield Penney Art Center 1300 Buffalo State Buffalo State (878-6011, burchfieldpenney.org)

Canalside Buffalo Prime St Waterfront Erie County (574-1537, canalsidebuffalo.com)

Canisius College 2001 Main St (883-7000, canisius.edu)

Church of Scientology of Buffalo 836 Main St (856-3910, scientology-buffalo.org)

Clarence Center Coffee Co. 9475 Clarence Center Rd Clarence (741-8573, clarencecentercoffee.com)

Colored Musicians' Club 145 Broadway (855-9383, coloredmusiciansclub.org)

Daily Planet Coffee Co. 1862 Hertel Ave (551-0661)

Dreamland 387 Franklin St (948-0943)

Duke's Bohemian Grove Bar 253 Allen St (240-9359, dukesbohemiangrovebar.com)

Dwyer's Irish Pub 65 Webster St Niagara (692-4837, dwyerspub.com)

El Museo 91 Allen St (464-4692, elmuseobuffalo.org)

Ellicott Creek Playhouse (St. Edmund Campus) 530 Ellicott Creek Rd Tonawanda (284-6358)

Epic Restaurant & Lounge 431 Elmwood Ave (8833742, epiconelmwood.com/index.html)

Essex St. Pub 530 Rhode Island St (883-2150)

First Niagara Center 1 Seymour H Knox III Plaza (hsbcarena.com)

First Presbyterian Church 1 Symphony Cir (884-7250)

Handlebar 149 Swan St (259-9632, handlebarpub.com)

Helium Comedy Club 30 Mississippi St (853121, heliumcomedy.com/buffalo/index.php)

Hilltop Inn and Grove 11389 Genesee St Alden (937-3430)

Hot Mama's Canteen 12 Military Rd (783-8222, hotmamacanteen.com)

Hotel at the Lafayette 391 Washington St (853-1505, https://www.facebook.com/hotelatthelafayette)

Hydeout 490 Center St Lewiston

Hydraulic Hearth 716 Swan St

Jewish Center of Greater Buffalo/Benderson Family Building 2640 N Forest Rd Amherst (688-4033, jccbuffalo.org)

Jordyn D'Alimonte Performing Arts Center 184 Irving Terrace Tonawanda

Karpeles Manuscript Museum (Porter Hall) 453 Porter Ave (885-4139, rain.org/~karpeles)

Kate's 1125 Tonawanda St (875-0123)

Kenan Center 433 Locust St Niagara (433-2617, kenancenter.org)

Knox Farm State Park 437 Buffalo Rd Aurora (5491802, nysparks.com/parks/info.asp?parkID=89)

Lake Erie Seaway Trail Center 4968 Lake Shore Rd Hamburg

Left Bank 511 Rhode Island St (882-3509, leftbankrestaurant.com)

Luke's Lutheran Church 900 Maryvale Dr Cheektowaga

Macaroon's Nite Club Dick Rd Cheektowaga Erie (681-7197, macaroonsniteclub.com)

Maple Entertainment Complex (The Library) 4224 Maple Rd Amherst (831-3271, theforvmbuffalo.com/library.page.html)

Marinaro's Larkin Tavern 131 Van Rensselaer St (845-5400)

Milkie's on Elmwood (formerly Elmwood Lounge) 522 Elmwood Ave (8825881, milkiesonelmwood.com)

Mohawk Place 47 E Mohawk St (312-9279, buffalosmohawkplace.com)

Mr. Goodbar 1110 Elmwood Ave (882-4000)

Nietzsche's 248 Allen St (886-8539, nietzsches.com)

Nifty Fifty 7710 Buffalo Ave Niagara County (283-7700)

Pausa Art House 19 Wadsworth St (pausaarthouse.com)

Peace of Mind Coffee Shop 83 Main St Newstead (442-5215)

Pierce Arrow Bar & Grill 1680 Elmwood Ave (424-0600)

Pizza Plant Italian Pub (Transit Rd) 7770 Transit Rd Amherst (626-5566, pizzaplant.com)

Potts Banquet Hall 694 S Ogden St (826-6575)

Providence Social 490 Rhode Island St Erie County (464-3786, theprovidencesocial.com)

Rafferty's Bar & Grill 16 Ellicott Pl Lancaster (684-5404)

Roycroft Inn 40 S Grove St Aurora (652-5552, roycroftinn.com)

Santora's Pizza Pub & Grill (Transit Rd.) 7800 Transit Rd Amherst (616-0892)

Shadow Lounge & Restaurant 1504 Hertel Ave (835-3975, shadowloungebuffalo.com)

Shango Bistro 3260 Main St (837-2326, shangobistro.com)

Shannon Pub 2250 Niagara Falls Blvd Tonawanda (743-9348, shannonpub.com)

Shea's Buffalo Performing Arts Center 646 Main St (847-1410, sheas.com)

Shea's Smith Theatre 658 Main St (847-1410, sheas.org)

Shennannigan's Bar & Grill 1009 Niagara Falls Blvd Amherst (748-8884)

Ship N' Shore Restaurant 5612 Tonawanda Creek Rd Pendleton (704-1315, theshipshore.com)

Sportsmen's Tavern 326 Amherst St (874-7734, sportsmentavern.com)

Squier on Main Restaurant 4548 Main St Amherst

St. Francis of Assisi Church 144-150 Broad St Erie (6931150)

Strikers Lanes 50 Michael Rd West Seneca (674-1104, strikerz.biz)

The Alley Cat 199 Allen St (235-8215, alleycatbuffalo.com/sites/contact.html)

The Backstage Pub 603 Dingsen St Cheektowaga (240-9161)

The Century Grill 318 Pearl St (853-6322, thecenturygrill.com)

The Cove 4701 Transit Rd Elma (656-7946, thecove seafoodandbanquets.com)

The Fairgrounds 5600 McKinley Pkwy Hamburg (646-6109, the-fairgrounds.com)

The Rapids Theatre 1711 Main St Niagara (205-8925, rapidstheatre.com)

The Tralf Music Hall 622 Main St (8522860, tralfmusic hall.com)

Tifft Nature Preserve 1200 Fuhrmann Boulevard (825-6397, sciencebufforg/tifft-u-p-1)

Town Ballroom 681 Main St (852-3900, townballroom.com)

Trinity Episcopal Church (Buffalo) 371 Delaware Ave (852-8314)

Triple Play Sports Bar 1809 Kenmore Ave Erie County (417-9488)

Tudor Lounge 335 Franklin St (855-9643, tudorlounge.com)

UB Center for the Arts The Center for the Arts 103 (645-2787, ubcfa.org)

UB Slee Concert Hall (Lippes Concert Hall) Williamsville Amherst NY (645-2921, slee.buffalo.edu)

Unity Church of Practical Christianity 1243 Delaware Ave Erie (882-0391)

Vizzi's 967 Kenmore Ave Tonawanda (871-1965)

Waiting Room 33

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Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 6 p.m.

Lewiston Public Library, 305 S. Eighth St., Lewiston

Thursday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.

Byblos Niagara Resort & Spa

100 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island,

Thursday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.

Lockport Public Library, 23 East Ave., Lockport

Call 278-4400 to register

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<div>Contractor Garbage Bags</div> <div>HANDI-BAG 42 G 3mil</div> <div>\$10⁷⁵</div>	<div>Lock Sets</div> <div>Entry Lock \$8⁹⁵ Deadbolt Lock \$8⁹⁵ Duo Lock Sets \$17⁹⁵ Mortise Lock \$14⁹⁵</div>	<div>Coffee Pots</div> <div>Dishwasher Safe Stainless Steel w/Permanwood Handle</div> <div></div> <div>3 cup \$25⁹⁵ 6 cup \$28⁹⁵ 9 cup \$31⁹⁵ 12 cup \$34⁹⁵</div>
	<div>Other Specials</div> <div>Beg Bug Killer..... 4⁹⁵ Bathroom Sink Legs..... 17⁹⁵ Keys Made..... 1⁹⁵ Garden Rake..... 10⁹⁵ Long Handle Shovel..... 8⁹⁵ Pruning Shears..... 4⁹⁵ S.S. Supply Lines 12"..... 3⁹⁵ 20"..... 3⁹⁵ 30"..... 4⁹⁵ 36"..... 4⁹⁵ 1/2" Sharkbite coupling..... 4⁹⁵</div>	<div>Washboard</div> <div>\$15⁹⁵</div> <div></div>


What's Brewing

COMMUNITY BEER WORKS

ADAMBIER

ABV: 8.8%

> PAUL MARKO



Adambier. Yes, this is a beer style and not just the pint left at the bar by your buddy Adam. Granted, Adambier is rare, with only a handful of examples on sites like RateBeer or Untappd. It's an old, largely forgotten style originally from Dortmund, Germany—an intense, dark, complex ale (yes, an ale, not a lager) aged in oak barrels, which is sometimes soured. Think of it as an interloper between an old ale, altbier, wild beer, and a barleywine. The tricky thing about beers of this nature (extinct styles, etc.) is that while historical references to the beers' flavors and recipes exist, there are limited examples out there to taste, so brewers are sort of winging it. Well, our pals at Community Beer Works have taken an Adambier on wing—and this small batch, limited release beer soars high in November skies! This reviewer's only previous experience with Adambier was with the truly spectacular "Adam" from Portland, Oregon's Hair of the Dog brewery. There are aged bottles of "Adam" going for \$2000 in traders markets, so my expectations were piqued and high for CBW's offering. With a nose like a strong Schwartzbier, initial thoughts lean towards a standard malty, German offering, but that's when CBW's Adambier kicks into overdrive. Beachwood smoked barley from Bamberg offers a whiff of smoke, which lingers over the subtle oak notes obtained in its barreling. The 8.8% ABV bites, but not hard, revealing a deliciously layered malty finish—with just enough hops to add complexity. Adambier is like the German version of the Belgian dubbel. Enjoy CBW's interpretation now!

SIERRA NEVADA CELEBRATION ALE

STYLE: AMERICAN IPA

ABV: 6.8%

> CHRIS GROVES CERTIFIED CICERONE®



Is it that time already? It seems as though I was just in jeans and a tee shirt. It's past the middle of November which means it's Celebration season. This classic American IPA is one of the oldest of its kind. First brewed in 1981, Celebration Ale is one of the very few hop forward winter holiday beers; much different then and even now than your typical spiced winter ale. You could say that Sierra Nevada considers fresh dried hops as the "spice" for theirs. The brewing team at Sierra Nevada are masters at producing some of the world's finest hopped up beers and Celebration is a shining point in their portfolio. If American IPA has a gold standard for current comparisons, this would be it. Defined by a bold blend of minty pine and citrus in the nose followed by a nutty caramel malt body and a clean bitterness, this IPA has classic written all over it. It makes me want to go back to the year of my birth to see how the beer has changed over the last 34 years. Beer is, of course, a farm product and variances in barley malt yeilds, hop alpha/beta acids and many other contributing flavor compounds result in a slightly different beer every year, no matter what. What I do know is that I certainly will be having more Sierra with my Thanksgiving dinner. This beer is delicious, just like my mom's pumpkin pie!



Are great things ever done smoothly? Time, patience, and indomitable will must show...

Brave, bold people, these are what we want. What we want is vigor in the blood, strength in the nerves, iron muscles and nerves of steel.

Swami Vivekananda

Your Weekly Horoscope

By Jean Topascani



Aries: (March 21 - April 19)

After meeting you, people understand why some animals eat their young. You are really easy to get along with, once you people learn to worship you. Here's a hint. If someone doesn't answer you the first 25 times, what makes you think the next 25 will work?



Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)

Set aside special time to humiliate yourself. You started out with nothing and still have most of it left. Earth is full. Go home. Start numbering your toilet paper. Anyone who told you to be yourself couldn't have given you worse advice.



Libra: (September 23 - October 22)

People say you are dark and handsome -- when it's dark you're handsome! Beauty is skin deep, but ugly is to the bone. You still love nature, despite what it did to you. People don't know what makes you so stupid, but they know it really works!



Capricorn: (December 22 - January 19)

When you try, pick up line "Haven't I seen you somewhere before?" You receive startling answer, "Yeah, that's why I don't go there anymore." Since you have your whole life to be a jerk....why don't you take a day off. You have your head examined but the doctors found nothing there.



Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)

Everybody has the right to be ugly, but you abuse the privilege. The fact that no one understands you doesn't mean you're an artist. Mirrors don't talk but lucky for you they don't laugh. People are not anti-social, they just don't like you



Leo: (July 23 - August 22)

You finally realize that ugly thing growing out of your neck... is your head...Talking to you seems as appealing as playing leapfrog with unicorns. Do you ever wonder what life would be like if you'd had enough oxygen at birth? You are refreshed and challenged by your unique point of view. Move off this planet!



Scorpio: (October 23 - November 21)

People say you're two faced, but really if you had two faces why would you wear that one? How about a little less questions and a little more shut the hell up? Dom Perignon is not a Mafia boss. You have a terribly empty feeling - in your skull.



Aquarius: (January 20 - February 18)

When you try, pick up line "Your place or mine?" You receive intelligent answer. "Both, you go to yours, I'll go to mine!" If people stand close enough to you, they can hear the ocean. Keep talking, someday you'll say something intelligent.



Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)

Since ignorance is bliss you are one of the happiest persons alive. You've got a lot of Karma to burn off. You help people realize there are some really stupid people in this world. . You can't get married to your sweetheart because there's a law against it.



Virgo: (August 23 - September 22)

You look good at a DISTANCE! Whatever kind of look you were going for, you missed. JESUS loves you but everyone else thinks you're an idiot. You must confront this question: Do you want people to accept you as you are or do you want them to like you?



Sagittarius: (November 22 - December 21)

You have very striking features, which makes you wonder how often exactly have you been struck? The Village just called. They said they were missing their town idiot. You don't think you are a fool. But then what's your opinion against thousands of others?



Pisces: (February 19 - March 20)

People like you don't grow from trees. They swing from them! Remember Fat people are harder to kidnap. Tornado hits your home and causes \$10,000 worth of improvement. If your brain was chocolate it wouldn't fill an M&M. Learn from your parents' mistakes - use birth control!

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Choose any 4 beers, served in a bucket with ice.

\$12 (Offered with Pizza and Wings only)

FEATURED PIZZAS

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