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NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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NOV 27 - DEC 03, 2015

VOL. 16, NO. 45

FREE

**Parlato turns down plea deal, is indicted, pleads not guilty
Judge Denies Gag Order....**



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Frank Parlato's Strength as Journalist Will Help His Defense

Tony Farina

Long-time businessman Frank Parlato, 60, joined the Fourth Estate later in life but he has definitely made his mark in his relatively brief time as a newspaper publisher, editor, and reporter.

I began my professional journalism career in 1966 at the Lockport Union & Journal and went on to investigative reporting at the old Buffalo Courier-Express and on local television, and I can tell you that Frank Parlato has impressed me with his dogged determination and his steel-nosed approach to getting behind the headlines and telling the public what is really going on, whether in the long-suffering city of Ni-

agara Falls or in other communities across the Western New York region, stories too numerous to mention here.

Perhaps most impressive was his uncovering of the relationship between the Maid of the Mist owner Jimmy Glynn and the Canadian government which gave the Niagara Falls businessman a monopoly on both sides of the river for his world famous boat ride. As a result of Parlato's work, the Canadian government opened up the boat tours to the bidding process and secured a huge windfall in payments from the new operator totaling \$500 million over 30 years compared to the \$81 million Glynn had agreed to pay under the old contract before he was ousted in the bidding process..

The new Canadian boat operator also

agreed to pay New York State \$100 million more than Glynn over the next 30 years if he won the bid but was blocked by a back-room deal between the governor and the Glynn people that kept Glynn in business without the risk of a bidding process. Nonetheless, the new rate negotiated for Glynn, thanks to the Parlato series, means three-times more for New York State in boat tour revenue over the next 30 years than the old agreement called for. It was all the result of Parlato's strong reporting.

Parlato fought hard to dig out the truth and it paid off for taxpayers on both sides of the border. This is the same businessman who 10 years ago acquired the abandoned Occidental Building in Niagara Falls complete with a huge hole in the front, and through grit and determination—and pretty

much by himself-- built it into a successful tourist-friendly business that has created hundreds of jobs all without a penny of public money.

Now Parlato is facing another kind of challenge, defending himself against a 19-count federal indictment that alleges in part that he cheated the IRS and others in a scheme involving multiple bank accounts and companies. Parlato, true to his character, has fought the government probe every step of the way (four years) and turned down taking a plea because in his mind and in his heart he believes the government is completely off the mark and he won't admit to something he didn't do, insisting the multiple bank accounts were necessary because of the numerous lawsuits filed by a minority owner of the tourist center, Sam



Making Something Out of Nothing in Downtown Niagara Falls--- These photos tell the story of Frank Parlato's success story in building a robust tourist center at 360 Rainbow Blvd. on the site of the abandoned Occidental Building that had become notable for the giant hole in front that is now a busy parking lot. Parlato rolled up his sleeves,

recruited a work force, and transformed an eyesore into a tourist center after acquiring the property several years ago without a dime of taxpayer money and no help from the city. Now the developer/journalist is battling a federal indictment which he says has holes in it as big as the hole he filled at the One Niagara center.

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

"The Truth is Always Fair"

CHAIRMAN & EDITOR IN CHIEF
Frank Parlato

Managing Editor
Dr. Chitra Selvaraj

Senior Editor
Tony Farina

PHONE: (716) 284-5595

P.O. Box 3083, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

E-mail: news1926@gmail.com

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Shmueli, who has lost in just about every court in the area and who has been the subject of recent stories by Parlato about his deceptive tactics.

Frank Parlato won't walk quietly into the night. He is a strong, resilient man who will fight the charges to the end. Parlato has assembled a top defense team including prominent Buffalo attorneys Herb Greenman, Joel Daniels, and Ralph Lorigo. He successfully opposed a government bid to get a gag order at his arraignment this week, as his lawyers challenged the notion of suspending his First Amendment rights to stop him from writing about a case he feels is to-


tally misguided.

Readers should remember that an indictment is not a conviction but rather a formal charge of alleged crimes following a grand jury investigation directed and controlled by prosecutors. Now Parlato and his lawyers will have their opportunity to examine that indictment and prepare to give their response to the men and women of a jury. Parlato is confident that when a jury sees all the evidence, the truth will prevail. As he said outside court Monday after his arraignment, "Today I made the first statement in my defense. 'Not guilty!'"

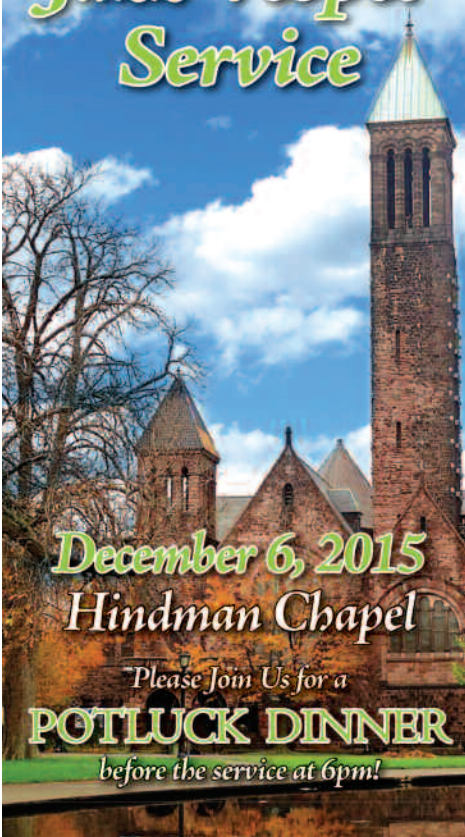


Maid of Mist Boat Ride Now Returning More to Taxpayers---The investigative stories by Frank Parlato yielded an open-bidding process and a windfall to the Canadian government and a bigger return on the American side from the iconic Maid of the Mist that had been a gold-plated revenue

stream on both sides of the river to Niagara Falls businessman Jimmy Glynn. The rides have been improved and the return to the public on both sides of the river has grown considerably thanks to the investigative work by Parlato and published in the Niagara Falls Reporter.



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Parlato Pleads ‘Not Guilty’, after Turning Down Plea Deal

Staff

(The following report is based on news media reports, sometimes using the exact language of published reports, documents in the public domain, and documents made available to the Reporter from various sources and interviews.)

By Staff

Niagara Falls Reporter Publisher and Editor in Chief, Frank Parlato Jr., is fulfilling an unusual – if not unique – role.

He is a newspaper owner writing about his own criminal case.

This prompted the prosecution to ask for a gag order at his arraignment on Monday, November 23.

Federal prosecutors asked for restrictions on media coverage during Parlato’s arraignment in federal court in Buffalo, arguing that his newspaper articles in Artvoice and the Niagara Falls Reporter could influence a future jury pool.

“We do not want this case tried in the press,” said Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony M. Bruce who went on to add that Parlato in this case “is the press.”

"Your honor, (Parlato) has written about this case in the newspapers he controls and I will tell you some of his facts are spot on and some of his articles are pure fiction," Bruce told U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeremiah J. McCarthy. "We are going to have to pick a jury in this case, down the road, and I'd like it to be a clean (unbiased) jury."

“I don’t write fiction,” Parlato told the Buffalo News in a statement later that day, “and that will become clear as the case unfolds.”

Parlato’s defense lawyer, Herbert L. Greenman, objected to the gag order and, in the end, Judge McCarthy agreed.

“I do not see a basis to do that,” Judge McCarthy said of the government’s request. “We do have a First Amendment.”

Ironically, just three days before the government asked for a gag order, the US Attorney issued a press release which was distributed to every media outlet in Western New announcing Parlato’s indictment which accused Parlato of a raft of crimes.

The US Attorney’s press release was published both locally and in scattered places throughout the nation through the Associated Press severely damaging the reputation of the accused but protected under the First Amendment.

Parlato has been not only transparent in writing about the case in newspapers he owns -- but, prior to his indictment, he voluntarily shared, according to his attorneys, exculpatory evidence with the government.

A virtual who’s who of local lawyers, including former United States Magistrate Judge Carol Heckman and former New York State Attorney General Dennis Vacco, met with federal prosecutors to urge them to consider this large body of exonerating evidence that they say points to Parlato’s inno-



Publisher and editor in chief of the Niagara Falls Reporter, Frank Parlato, Jr.

cence of all charges for which he is presently charged.

One of Parlato’s business lawyers, Ralph C. Lorigo said, “We’ve been presenting information to the United States attorney to show (him) that no crime has been done.”

The Buffalo News reported that, in a letter to US Attorney William Hochul,

Heckman said “her legal team, despite being on the case less than two months, uncovered new evidence that exonerates Parlato” and asked the government to forestall indicting Parlato.

One of Parlato’s attorneys wrote to the government, on November 17, in an effort to avoid an indictment, that Parlato “has been exceptionally open with the Government, bearing the risk of previewing his de-

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Judge denies gag order in Parlato case



Paul Grenga



Larry Reger

fenses in any criminal trial in order to share with you exculpatory evidence foreclosing any viable criminal prosecution. Yet we have reason to believe that little, if any, of this exculpatory evidence has been shared with the grand jury.”

The letter listed 67 documents that had recently been placed in the government’s possession, embodying a thousand pages of information, and asked the government to fully consider these.

Less than three days later, on Nov. 20, Parlato was indicted.

“We provided so much information to the U.S. Attorney’s Office on so many topics,” said Lorigo. “I’m very taken aback by what I read in the indictment.”

Parlato was charged in a 19-count in-

dictment, accused of cheating the IRS and others as part of a scheme the government states involves 15 “shell companies,” 50 bank accounts and multiple attorney trust accounts.

Parlato has pleaded not guilty.

Among other evidence Parlato’s attorneys attempted to explain to the government prior to the indictment was that the 15 so-called “shell companies” were “disregarded entities”, a legal term of art that permits the profit or loss to flow directly to the owner of the company and that these companies were formed for legitimate purposes and upon advice of legal counsel.

Parlato’s attorneys also attempted to explain to the government that each and every one of the alleged 50 bank accounts had Par-

lato’s social security number and his address on the bank account, something that, they said, clearly indicates there was no attempt to conceal the identity of any of the accounts.

All of the alleged bank accounts were opened locally with US banks, Parlato’s attorneys told the government, and served a legitimate purpose.

It is not illegal in the United States to own any number of bank accounts.

If convicted, the 60-year-old real estate developer, and his codefendant, Ms. Chitra Selvaraj, 40, who is the managing editor of the Reporter, could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Parlato and Selvaraj turned down a plea deal on October 28, which would have required Parlato to plead guilty to two felony counts and receive a potential sentence of 12- 18 months.

Selvaraj would have been permitted to plead to a single misdemeanor.

In a letter dated October 21, the US Attorney wrote to Parlato’s legal counsel, that “we are willing to allow Mr. Parlato to enter pleas of guilty to a two-count information limiting his sentencing exposure, and we are willing to hold this plea open until the close of business, next Wednesday, October 28..... With a Criminal History Category of I, the resulting guidelines range is 12 – 18 months.....

“We would also insist that, as part of the agreement, Chitra Selvaraj plead guilty to an information charging her with a violation of 26 U.S.C. §7203, a misdemeanor.”

Sources told the Reporter that it might have been possible for Parlato to have negotiated a deal where a judge might have

sentenced him to serve most or all of his sentence in a halfway house or with home confinement.

On October 28, Parlato and Selvaraj turned down the plea, risking decades of prison, over the safer bet of a short prison stretch for Parlato and likely no prison at all for Selvaraj.

Neither defendant has a criminal record.

Moments before the deadline for accepting or rejecting the plea deal on October 28, Parlato’s attorneys explained to him that there can be “very rational reasons to accept a plea, even for a crime you did not commit. There are good reasons to do so. Here, the Government has threatened to pursue this case against you and others, if you do not accept the plea. Your personal criminal exposure, should the government indict as promised and convict on some or all of the charges, could be substantial and much worse than the deal as offered.”

Parlato responded, “I understand that I may be tossing away years of my liberty However I cannot plead to something I did not do and as I have stated repeatedly jail avoidance is not the goal here. At the risk of sounding corny the goal is justice and in the end the goal is to have liberty of the mind over liberty of the body. But frankly I wish I could have both.”

After Parlato rejected the plea deal, his attorneys sent a letter to the US Attorney stating, “I am writing to inform you that our client does not accept your offer. It would be inappropriate to accept the offer because it would require our client to accept responsibility for crimes that he did not commit. It

(Continued on page 6)

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Why We Have to Publish Articles About The Publisher’s Indictment

Frank Parlato
Publisher

Since readers of the Niagara Falls Reporter depend on the credibility of this publication – any newspaper relies on its relationship with its readers – the Reporter must tackle the sensitive and daunting, First Amendment protected task of reporting that its publisher has been indicted for crimes he claims he has not committed.

And why he claims what he claims.

Not to report it will doom this paper to its demise or, worse, irrelevance.

Daring to publish it – with the same fearless integrity this publication would tackle any other subject – may, of course, doom the publisher –now as being the accused - to reprisals from the government.

This is one of those instances where the First Amendment must bravely trump other, more timid considerations, for this is what makes not only a newspaper, but America itself great.

Americans must be defiant of injustice. The First Amendment is their finest tool. It was not made First – of all Amendments - for no good reason.

We must fight for it. Defy any who would take it away, not only for ourselves, but for all Americans, present and future. Now and always. For when the First Amendment is gone, so will America be gone. We will not be first, we will be dead, last, for we had it and let it be

lost.

If this publication has knowledge that this, or any prosecution, is wrong and unjust, or conversely, right and proper, not to publish this that comes into our knowledge and possession will make us no longer a newspaper but a craven tool of oppression.

Will we tremble in the shadows mute or declare what we know to be true and dare it to sunshine?

The answer is forever obvious to all those who ever dreamt of freedom even once in their shattered, fractured lives.

How often do we have a chance to test our resolve, our courage in the crucible?

To make our action equal to our talk, not during the days of comfort but in perilous times?

For my part, I play two roles in this matter – the (falsely) accused – to be presumed innocent by the spirit of the law, but by the practicality of the law, so often assumed guilty, and that of the independent American publisher who must convey truth regardless of consequences – even if it relates to himself and even though his opponent is a behemoth, a Goliath used to easily trampling opponents too often with scant regard for justice since he verily can do it.

Goliath would do it until he met his David. That David is the First Amendment.

And Goliath’s own sword shall overtake him.

Parlato says Bronfmans, Shmueli have committed fraud

(Continued from page 5)

is apparent that the Government has not reviewed and or has not understood the exculpatory evidence that we have provided last week. With some understanding of this information, I am sure that you would have some appreciation for our client's good faith position."

The U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York William J. Hochul Jr. announced through a press release on Nov. 20, that a grand jury handed up a 19-count indictment against Parlato and Selvaraj with a conspiracy "to defraud the United States and certain members of the public, to obstruct the function of the Internal Revenue Service, wire fraud and wire fraud conspiracy, money laundering, and corrupt interference with the administration of the IRS laws."

At his arraignment Parlato was represented by Greenman.

Selvaraj was represented by Buffalo defense attorney Joel Daniels.

"Frank Parlato is not interested in any plea deal because he does not believe he did anything wrong," Greenman said at Parlato's arraignment. "He is confident, after trial, the jury will agree."

Lorigo also confirmed Parlato turned down plea offers.

"He wouldn't plead to something he didn't do," Lorigo said. "Frank is prepared to go forward and defend each and every one of these counts."

Prior to his indictment, the government seized \$1 million that Parlato received from Sara and Clare Bronfman, daughters of the late Seagrams liquor heir Edgar M. Bronfman.

Bank records reveal Parlato held the \$1 million on deposit in an attorney's trust accounts - not having spent the million since



Shmuel "Sam" Shmueli

receiving the money nearly eight years earlier - in January 2008.

Prior to his indictment, Parlato's lawyers informed the government that Parlato held the \$1 million pending a resolution of civil litigation between him and the Bronfmans (see related story about the Bronfmans on page 16).

Parlato has made a claim for the return of the \$1 million pending a final resolution of his criminal case.

Parlato also denied the allegation that he cheated the IRS, the Bronfmans or anyone else.

Parlato suggested this case is being driven by the Bronfman sisters and Shmuel "Sam" Shmueli, a one-time business associate in the One Niagara building who Parlato claims has defrauded more than two dozen lawyers and Parlato, himself.

The investigation into Parlato's business dealings dates to at least 2012, when prosecutors subpoenaed records regarding One Niagara. The building was the site of a failed plan to build an underground aquarium, and the unfinished project left a huge hole that Parlato filled in and replaced with



Clare Bronfman

a parking lot.

Parlato also developed the inside the then-vacant nine story building which is adjacent to the Niagara Falls State Park - naming it One Niagara. It is today the largest welcome center in Niagara Falls. One Niagara includes a food court, bus tours, retail stores and other attractions and services for tourists.

Prior to the indictment, the grand jury heard testimony from various witnesses, including the current owner of One Niagara, attorney Paul Grenga.

Following Parlato's indictment, Grenga released a statement in Parlato's defense calling on the public "not to rush to judgment" in the federal case facing Parlato.

Since its conversion by Parlato from a failed aquarium project, known as AquaFalls, to the successful tourism center, One Niagara has been the focus of numerous civil lawsuits between Parlato and Shmueli.

Grenga represented Parlato in defending some of those lawsuits.

In his statement, Grenga admitted he spoke to the grand jury under unusual cir-

cumstances: his client, Parlato, waived the attorney-client privilege.

"Subsequent to my being subpoenaed, Mr. Parlato released the attorney-client privilege, thereby, allowing me to speak freely, and without reservation, to the prosecutors, agents and to the grand jury," Grenga's statement read.

Grenga said that the case against Parlato was "unusual" and indicated that much of the wrongdoing charged in the indictment has also been the basis of the civil lawsuits where he defended Parlato.

"Without exception, Frank Parlato's position was sustained, and he prevailed," Grenga said, referring to the outcome of the civil cases.

Referring to the fact that civil lawsuits only require "a preponderance of evidence" as opposed to the higher standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt" required for a criminal conviction, Grenga added, "The United States government is no doubt entitled to once more test these same transactions in a different context. But, bear in mind that the standard of proof, in order to sustain these charges, will be far greater."

"This is not a case where anyone should rush to judgment."

The indictment refers to the Bronfmans by the initials C.B. and S.B. and claims Parlato cheated them out of \$1 million, an allegation that dates back to at least 2011 when

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Exonerating evidence points to innocence

the sisters filed a notice of claim against him.

Parlato denies the allegation and in the past insisted that the \$1 million is at the center of a civil lawsuit, that he held the \$1 million in escrow pending the outcome of the suit, and that the \$1 million should be – if he prevails in his lawsuit – be rightfully his based on work he did when he successfully represented the Bronfmans in a dispute over a luxury housing development in Los Angeles.

Parlato's relationship with the Bronfmans began several years earlier when former Erie County Democratic Party Chairman G. Steven Pigeon recruited him to help them as a consultant.

Court records show that Parlato went to California on the Bronfmans' behalf and, convinced they were cheated out of millions of dollars, worked out an agreement that gave them majority control over the Los Angeles development.

The dispute led to lawsuits by both sides, including one involving Nancy Salzman, president of NXIVM, a group based in Albany that supporters say is a successful executive coaching program. Detractors say NXIVM uses brainwashing and other psychologically damaging tactics, including separation from members' families, to manipulate followers.

The Bronfman sisters, who live near Albany, have been among NXIVM's better known followers.

Their late father, Edgar Bronfman Sr., called it "a cult."

Prior to the Bronfman sisters turning against Parlato, Clare Bronfman said in sworn testimony in a civil trial in Los Angeles County Court, in March 2011, that Parlato "helped determine that there was a serious problem with a huge [\$26 million] investment that my sister and I had made, and he was willing to be the person out here trying to uncover everything that was hap-

pening. So I'm very grateful for that....

"I think what he did was very helpful for us. He uncovered a very problematic situation.... I'm very glad that he did uncover the situation.... (H)e discovered what had been going on."

Bronfman also explained in the 2011 trial that Parlato did not defraud them out of the million dollars, testifying under oath that "we loaned Mr. Parlato a million dollars.... it sounded like a lot of money. it is. Compared to \$26 million it was worth it to us."

After Parlato helped the Bronfmans win their lawsuit in Los Angeles, the Bronfmans filed a criminal complaint against Parlato telling an entirely different story to local federal agents, than they had testified in Los Angeles, prompting Parlato to suggest that Clare Bronfman may have lied to the FBI, which is a federal crime.

The other alleged victim in the case has been identified as the late Lawrence Reger who passed away on March 24, 2015.

The indictment claims Reger was defrauded out of more than \$1 million, yet just 13 days before he died Reger testified in a bench trial before Justice Timothy Walker that Parlato was a good partner and that Shmueli was the cause of the problems.

Records show that Reger made a substantial profit during his partnership with Parlato and that Reger never claimed he was a victim.

Reger's lawyer of 38 years, who also represents his estate, has taken exception to the government trying to accuse Parlato of defrauding Reger.

Attorney Gregory Photiadis stated in a letter to US Attorney Hochul, dated Oct. 6, 2015, that the late Reger was "a sophisticated investor and savvy businessman who understood complex transactions. He was not shy in protecting his interests, when necessary, through civil litigation."

"I am familiar with Larry's business dealings with Frank Parlato along with the

multiple civil litigations involving Shmuel Shmueli," Photiadis wrote, "... During his partnership with Parlato, Larry never claimed that he was defrauded or cheated by Parlato nor did he initiate any civil action in that regard. To the contrary, his testimony in the various Shmueli civil actions was complimentary of Parlato. Likewise, it is the position of Larry's family - who now owns his Niagara Falls interests - that Larry was neither cheated nor defrauded by Parlato.... (W)e ask that neither Lawrence Reger nor the Reger Family be viewed as victims of Frank Parlato."

As part of his battle with the feds, Parlato has countered with his own allegations.

In a letter to prosecutors handling the case, Assistant U.S. Attorneys Anthony M. Bruce and Elizabeth Moellering, he asked them to recuse the local U.S. Attorney's Office from the case.

Parlato alleged that there is a perception of a conflict of interest because of Lt. Gov. Kathleen Hochul, Hochul's wife, and her political relationship with Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster, a fellow Democrat.

Parlato, as owner of the Niagara Falls Reporter, has been critical of Dyster and Governor Andrew Cuomo over the years.

During Parlato's arraignment, Assistant US Attorney Moellering asked for – and was granted by Judge McCarthy - three months to provide voluntary discovery to the defense since she said there are "voluminous" records involved in the case.


Another six months was granted for the

defense to review all the documents and file motions.


The next court hearing in the case is scheduled for October 18, 2016.

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Ortt Wants City to get 75% of Casino Cash Dyster, Ceretto Refusing to Bet on Board

Mike Hudson

State Sen. Rob Ortt wants to reverse the state and local split of the slot machine revenue take at the Seneca Niagara Casino and give Niagara Falls 75 percent, leaving the state with 25 percent.

Since the end of 2003, the city has collected about \$183 million, while the state has collected about \$600 million, Ortt said.



The big unanswered question is whether or not Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster would simply have squandered the \$600 million in the same way he blew through the \$183 million he did receive.

City Controller Maria Brown has said that the city property tax rate could be reduced to essentially nothing if the casino cash had been applied to tax relief.

But instead, casino money has been used by Dyster for any number of fanciful projects, including the construction of new penguin habitat at the Aquarium of Niagara, paying off a tax lien for Community Missions, a series of rock concerts at the Hard Rock Café, new trash totes, golf course cart paths, a summer camp for city schoolchildren and a disastrous winter “attraction” called the Holiday Market.

Additionally, a significant amount has also been used to cover shortfalls in Dyster’s general fund budget.

Dyster cites language in the state’s deal



The Seneca Niagara casino has earned about \$600 million for New York and about \$183 million for Niagara Falls. State Senator Rob Ortt wants to invert the ratio but where will Mayor Paul Dyster and Assemblyman John Ceretto stand on this? As of press time they have not made their position clear.

with the city that says the money may only be used for “economic development,” although none of his initiatives has resulted in the creation of a single professional, private sector job.

Ortt noted this failure in announcing his new legislation.

“I don’t think we’ve done a good job in the city of leveraging the casino funds to create good-paying jobs, to really create the kind of economic engine we need,” the senator said.

Astoundingly, neither Dyster nor state Rep. John Ceretto would comment on Ortt’s proposal, even though it would inject millions into the city’s troubled economy.

Ortt is a Republican, while Dyster and Ceretto are Democrats.

Most observers agree that significantly lowering the property tax burden here would result in economic boom times, as new residents flocked to buy tax-free houses and entrepreneurs opened businesses that could pay workers a living wage rather than turning the money over to municipal government.

Currently, Niagara Falls home and business owners pay the highest taxes of any city in the state.

One factor behind Ortt’s proposal, he said, is the fact that casino revenue is dwindling at a rapid pace, thanks to the explosion of casino construction in New York and nearby states.

Revenue from the casino has fallen steadily, from \$21.6 million in 2012 to \$20.2 million in 2013 and \$19 million last year. Projections show that, this year, just \$18 million will be realized and things look even worse for 2016.

“Right now, under the current agreement, we have a smaller pie to divvy up than we had 10, 12 years ago,” said Ortt.

Albany insiders say that Ortt’s proposal, which he calls the Niagara Revitalization Plan, has little chance of becoming law in a state overwhelmingly controlled by the Democrats.

The current funding formula expires by the end of 2016. Ortt hopes to move his plan forward by June. Don’t hold your breath.

Without Dyster and Ceretto’s vocal and emboldened support for an increased share of the casino revenue for Niagara Falls, the state assembly and the governor will hardly take notice.

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Coming in February, 2016... The Man Who Bought Niagara Falls

A New Book by James Hufnagel and Frank Parlato

"The decades-long saga of the Glynn family is playing out like some kind of Greek tragedy, with overtones of 'Falcon Crest' thrown in for good measure. It begins with family patriarch and business mogul James Glynn, who rose from the ranks to purchase the Maid business 40 years ago. Glynn's ruthless ambition, unrestrained greed and boundless ego were the character traits that enabled him to subdue the local tourism industry, buying influence and wielding power in ways that would have made Machiavelli blush." - The Man who Bought Niagara Falls

The city of Niagara Falls has its own version of the scheming and avaricious Mr. Potter character of the 1946 movie classic, "It's a Wonderful Life". His name is James Glynn, owner of the iconic Maid of the Mist boat tour. And if James Glynn had a George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart) to foil his nefarious plans for domination of the local tourist trade, that individual would Frank Parlato.

Parlato's columns in the Niagara Falls Reporter from November, 2008 through February, 2011 ripped the lid off the fetid garbage can of Glynn's dealings with the Niagara Parks Commission of Ontario.

The stench was so overpowering it resulted in wholesale resignations and dismissals from the Canadian parks agency, and the subsequent revocation of Glynn's lease on that side of the border, effectively ending the monopolistic stranglehold he had on boat rides below the Falls.

Parlato's textbook investigative reporting exposed the secret terms of the sweet-heart lease that Glynn wangled from the NPC, courtesy of his cronies that populated it at the time, a lease that would have cheated Ontario taxpayers of millions of dollars in

The Man Who Bought Niagara Falls



How one of the most famous tourist attractions in the world was stolen by robber barons and corrupt government officials, as told in the pages of the Niagara Falls Reporter.

By Frank Parlato Jr. and James Hufnagel

revenues had Glynn's plot succeeded.

After unceremoniously getting the boot from Canada and losing his lease to a competitor, Glynn doubled down on his holdings

on the US side of the border, focusing all his money and influence derived from decades of running possibly the most lucrative boat tour on earth like a laser beam on the Andrew Cuomo administration. Rather than follow the Canadian example and open up the Maid concession to a fair bidding process, Cuomo arbitrarily awarded Glynn an extended, no-bid lease for \$100 million less than competitor Hornblower's standing offer.

Soon to be released in book form, "The Man who Bought Niagara Falls" sets out, page after page and step by step, in complex and stark yet highly readable detail, the fascinating story of the denouement of the powerful Glynn by Frank Parlato, acting in the journalistic tradition of Sinclair, Tarbell, Woodward and Bernstein, using the power of the press to fight corruption and get a better deal for the common people.

Part II of the book reprises five years' worth of articles by Reporter columnist James Hufnagel which cover every conceivable aspect of how the city of Niagara Falls has been screwed out of its waterfront, its fair share of the local tourist trade and therefore its prosperity and quality of life, because of Glynn, Buffalo-based fast food conglomerate Delaware North, the Albany agencies they control and the local politicians who kowtow to all of the above.

The city of Niagara Falls suffers from some of the highest rates of per capita poverty and crime in the entire northeastern United States, despite that fact that every year eight million tourists visit the famous waterfalls at its doorstep. In a clear and convincing manner, "The Man who Bought Niagara Falls" explains why this is so.



"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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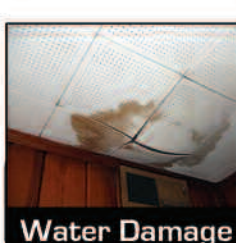
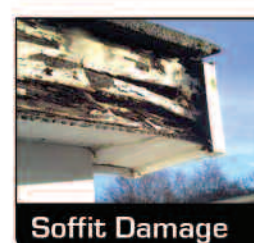
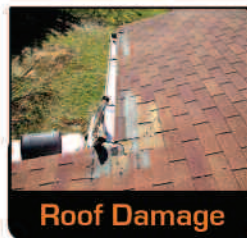
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Anderson's Death Marks Changing Of the Guard Here in Niagara Falls

Mike Hudson

We got word on Wednesday of the death of Bob Anderson, husband, father, decorated Air Force veteran, union local president, longtime city councilman and great friend of the Niagara Falls Reporter.

To say we were saddened by the news would be an understatement.

Anderson was one of the last of a vanishing breed here, real men who served where they could in the interest of making Niagara Falls a better place, not just for themselves and their families but for the community as a whole.

He was born in the South Bronx in 1942 and grew up on those famously mean streets. Graduating South Bronx High School in 1949, just five years after Gen. Colin Powell, Anderson joined the United States Air Force. Over the next 22 years, Anderson served his country through some of the most turbulent times it had ever experienced.

Following his retirement, Anderson was offered several civilian jobs with the federal government, but his beautiful wife Marie was tired of travel and didn't like the prospect of living in Washington, D.C. The couple eventually settled in Niagara Falls, and Anderson took a job with the school



Bob Anderson

district here.

Soon, Anderson was named superintendent of maintenance for the school dis-

trict, and was elected the first African American president of the Civil Servant Employees (CSEA) local here.

After retiring from the school district, Anderson became involved in city politics. In 2003 he threw his hat in the ring as a longshot candidate and surprised everyone by winning handily and soon he was named Council chairman. He was reelected in 2007, and in 2011, outpolled incumbent Mayor Paul Dyster by around 3,000 votes, leading many here to lament his running for Council rather than for the mayor's office.

Anderson donated his entire city Council salary to local charities throughout his 12 years of service, and refused to accept the city's "opt out" health insurance program that other Council members who also work for the school district routinely accept.

Anderson suffered a stroke prior to his election and, in recent years, lost both his wife Marie and stepdaughter Bernadette. Just prior to this year's election, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 stomach cancer. He refused to drop out of the race.

"We believe in God and everything happens for a reason," he said. "Sometimes it's hard to tell what that reason is, but you keep moving forward."

His passing marks a changing of the guard here in the city. He was 73.

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The Career of the Late Robert Anderson

Frank Parlato

Skipping the first dozen odd jobs he held to help support his mother from the age of 12 onward, Robert Anderson Jr., born June 5 1942, spent much of his adult life in the US military. In 1960, he joined the US Air Force. He was 18.

For 16 years he was a contracting supervisor, and a supervisor of inventory management.

Anderson was stationed in Italy, Greece, Germany, Spain, and the Philippines. And in Lowry, Colo., and at the base in Niagara Falls. He also taught procurement contracts at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

He was also a recruiter for four years. He helped many a young man choose the path of their life, one much like his.

Anderson was awarded the US Air Force Meritorious Service medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, The Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, the Air Force Longevity Service Award ribbon with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

He won the US Air Force Small Arms Expert Marksmanship ribbon. He played on



A young Bob Anderson

the US Air Force South All Star basketball team against the Marines; his height on the all star roster is listed at 6 feet 4. He won the US Air Force G. A. Sanford Award for athletics.

According to the citation that accompanies his Air Force Meritorious Service medal, earned when he was assigned to the 35th Air Defense Missile Squadron, Niagara Falls International Airport, "Sergeant Anderson's outstanding professional skill, knowledge and leadership added immensely in identifying problem areas in the field of Inventory Management and developing positive corrective actions. The distinctive accomplishments of Sergeant Anderson reflect credit upon himself and

the United States Air Force."

The area where he had identified problems and made corrections: The Nuclear Ordinance Commodity Management Supply account in Niagara Falls, of which he was in charge.

According to the citation that accompanies Anderson's Commendation Medal, Staff Sergeant Anderson, the Procurement Supervisor, 3415th Resource Management Group, Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado, earned it for his work from Nov. 1, 1976 to April 29, 1977, when he "aided immeasurably in the successful accomplishment of the Air Training Command Logistics Civil Engineering Support test, resulting in the development of supply procedures to be used throughout the Air Force. The energetic application of his job knowledge, technical skill and an incomparable devotion to duty, contributed significantly to the success of the mission of the Lowry Technical Training Center."

After Anderson retired from the military, he worked in business. He developed the Bradford House restaurants for W.T Grant Stores. By the time he was done, he had 130 waiters and waitresses working under him.

He was also a devoted family man. Married to Marie, who died last year, he has a son, Robert Anderson, III, and had a stepdaughter.

In 1991, Anderson's stepdaughter Bernadette was beaten into a coma by her husband Patrick Guitau. Anderson and his wife built an addition to their modest home in LaSalle and kept their daughter at home and nursed her for 21 years until she died last year. Anderson took in her three small children, Erin, Alexandria and Patrick, and raised them as his own.

In 2003, he ran and won election to the council. He was the top vote getter in the

city that year. He ran for re-election two more times, and was the top vote getter both times.

The Niagara Falls Reporter reviewed records that showed that Anderson donated \$74,000 to various charities that serve the poor, which was more than 60 percent of his entire council salary.

He died Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015, one day prior to Thanksgiving.



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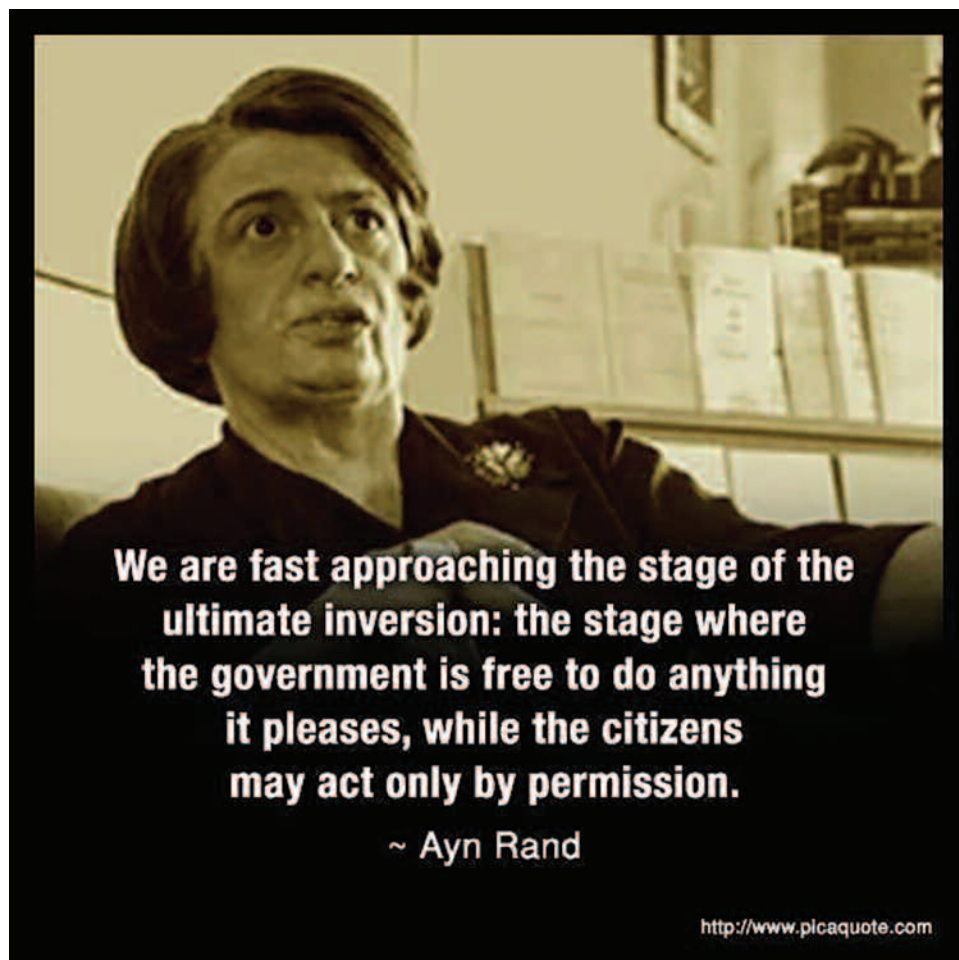


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We are fast approaching the stage of the ultimate inversion: the stage where the government is free to do anything it pleases, while the citizens may act only by permission.

~ Ayn Rand

Will the Council Men's Club Give Grandinetti the Gavel in 2016?

Anna Howard

While the possibility of a woman being elected president next November is being kicked around nationally, the question as to whether councilmember Kristen Grandinetti - a woman - will finally be handed the chairman's gavel in January 2016 has gone virtually unremarked upon in local political circles.

We understand the councilwoman has her heart set on the 2016 chairmanship. It's a position she's never held in her six years as a council member. It's a position that Charles Walker held several times and a position that Andrew Touma was handed in just his second year (this year) of his rookie term. With the passing of Robert Anderson – and with Glenn Choolokian leaving the council at the end of 2015, the selection of the next chairman will be determined by Touma and Walker.

Sources tell us that Grandinetti is concerned that she may not be named chairman for just that reason...that it was Walker and Touma that blocked her move to the top position for the past two years.

In 2014 Walker craftily corralled - after telling Grandinetti that the chairmanship was hers - Choolokian and Anderson to support him for chairman. In 2015 Andrew Touma (a fast learner as to gamesmanship in city politics) was seated as chairman. So, once again Kristen Grandinetti was left at the altar after having been led to believe she was the pre-



Kristen Grandinetti

ferred candidate for the chair.

There is no rule guaranteeing that every council member will serve as chairman no matter how long they're on the council. Seniority plays no role, necessarily, in election to chairman. That's simply a political reality. A reality that Ms. Grandinetti has had to live with for better or worse until now.

However, it's a fact that Kristen is the only female on the council and while serving six years as a city lawmaker she's the only person who has, to date, not been elected to the chairman's position. We find that to be potentially troubling if it continues in 2016.

Let's do the math. Incoming councilman Ken Tomkins is a Republican. Logic dictates that a Democratic majority will not elect Tomkins as chair. Incoming councilman Ezra Scott is a Democratic rookie office holder.

Rookies don't get to call the shots. Charles Walker has been the chairman several times and his failure to file election finance reports has cast an indelible cloud over the remainder of his council career.

Andrew Touma is the current chairman, having been (in a back room deal that caught Ms. Grandinetti off guard) elected in just his second year. His term as chairman has been less than distinguished.

Touma has hitched his political star to the Paul Dyster wagon on numerous questionable expenditures and administrative actions: borrowing millions of dollars for the Dyster ice pavilion, unquestioningly supporting the Dyster trash program, obfuscating but not solving the frozen pipes on 72nd Street, supporting the political hires in city hall, forming a toothless finance panel and promoting a Dyster downtown parking plan that makes zero sense no matter how creatively the numbers are crunched.

The city council should do the right thing for 2016 and hand the gavel to Grandinetti. Not to do so would be wrong, but not wrong because she's a woman that automatically deserves "her turn." It would be wrong because those who have served as chairman in the recent past have failed to distinguish themselves either in word or deed.

It's time to pass the chairman's gavel to Kristen Grandinetti. Let's find out if she can make a positive difference in a city that truly, desperately, needs positive change.



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Lewiston Choraleers to Perform at Historic Episcopal Church

NIAGARA FALLS – The city's South End will burst into song Sunday (Nov. 29) as the popular Lewiston Choraleers celebrate the music of Christmas with a performance of "The Season of Love."

The concert will begin at 2 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Rainbow Boulevard at Second Street and will feature an eclectic mix of traditional, contemporary, ethnic, and international holiday music.

The 50-member community chorus will

be directed by Donald Shrimpton with accompaniment by pianist Lynda Williams and percussionist Pat Kuciewski. The Choraleers have been presenting seasonal concerts in Western New York since 2007 and have performed at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church has been a neighborhood landmark since 1880. Renowned for the majestic rose window gracing the gable above its main entrance and for its lofty bell tower, it is fully handicap accessible.

Sunday's performance is open to the public. A general admission donation of \$5 is requested with children 12 and under admitted free. Church members will host a free reception after the show.



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 Scott Mendelson, **Forbes**

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Judge Denies Family of Slain Woman Access to Official Records in Case

Although the Erie County Medical Examiner's office found that she had suffered a brain hemorrhage, torn labia, multiple neck bruises shaped like a fingerprints, blood seeping from her nose, a deep bite mark on her tongue, bruised arms, three male DNA profiles in her mouth and female DNA derived from hair found on her contorted, frozen body, they concluded that Amanda Wienckowski died of an accidental overdose.

The ME's office reached this conclusion before the toxicology reports were in. They showed that Amanda didn't have enough drugs in her system to kill her.

For the past six years, Amanda's mother, Leslie Brill-Meserole, has been fighting to

discover the particulars of her daughter's death, as the ME's office, Buffalo city police and the Erie County District Attorney's office have fought to keep them secret.

Why?

Amanda was a paid police informant. Was she working for the police at the time of her murder? Was the fact that she was an informant the real motive behind her killing?

"This could be the most massive foul up I've ever seen on the part of law enforcement or the most massive cover up. But the more I know about it, the more I believe it's a combination of both," one law enforcement official told the Niagara Falls Reporter.

The basic facts in the case are widely known. Amanda, who graduated from Niag-



Amanda Wienckowski was a beautiful and vivacious young woman whose brutal sex slaying has been covered up for more than six years by Erie County law enforcement authorities.



A judge has denied Leslie Brill Meserole, mother of slain Amanda Wienckowski, access to important investigative documents relating to the case. The cover up in Amanda's murder is widely believed to be linked to her role as a paid police informant.

ara-Wheatfield High School in 2006 with a Regents diploma, was tending bar at Cocktail Bob's on Cuddaback Avenue late on the afternoon of Dec. 5, 2008, when she received a phone call from a man later identified as Adam Patterson, who lived with her on the Tuscarora Reservation in Lewiston and was also involved in the drug and prostitution rackets.

Patterson picked her up and drove her to Buffalo, where she was to have sex with a man named Antoine Garner in return for drugs. Garner, by all accounts including his own, was the last person to see Amanda alive and is thought by many to be her killer.

He has since been convicted of three counts of Rape in the Third Degree and three counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree. Garner admitted that between December, 2008 and January 2009 – the exact time frame of Amanda's disappearance and murder -- he raped and sodomized a 16-year-old-girl, impregnating her.

In a separate case, Garner was convicted following a jury trial of Strangulation in Second Degree and Assault in the Third Degree by an Erie County trial jury. These charges

stemmed from a June 26, 2011 attack upon a woman in Buffalo. Garner had paid the woman for sex and began strangling her during the act.

Five weeks after she went missing, on the morning of Jan. 9, 2009, police discovered Amanda's body, frozen and stuffed into a garbage tote that had been placed in an alcove at the New Covenant United Church of Christ, directly across Spring Street from Garner's house. Police said an anonymous telephone tip led them to the scene.

Erie County law enforcement officials have continued to deny Amanda's family access to records in the case and, last month, state Supreme Court Justice Deborah Chimes upheld the denial following an Article 78 filing by Peter A. Reese, the attorney for the family.

Clearly, someone with highly placed connections in the Erie County law enforcement and political worlds does not want the truth about Amanda's death to come out. She has been repeatedly characterized in the Buffalo media as a junkie whore who pretty

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Victim's mother thinks she was murdered

much got what was coming to her, a line that originated when the medical examiner's office ruled she'd died of an accidental overdose before the results of her blood tests had even come back.

The official handling of the case, the botched autopsy, and the continued refusal by authorities to make details of the investigation public or even known to the family all point to a cover up of major proportions.

For the past six years, the ECME's office, the Buffalo City Police Department, the Erie County District Attorney's office and the Erie County Sheriff's Department have done everything in their power to prevent Amanda's family, and the public at large, from knowing the true facts of the case.

"When someone in government doesn't want to release information, there is always a reason," said one law enforcement source familiar with the case. "It could be to cover up an embarrassing mistake, or it could be something darker. And until you find out, you just can't know."

Looking at the same data, Dr. Michael Sikrica, a forensic pathologist from Albany, ruled that the amount of opiates found in the young girl's blood were "innocuous," and that she had died of strangulation. And Dr. Lawrence Kobilinsky of John Jay College, a consultant to attorneys in the areas of forensic biology, serology and DNA analysis for

more than 20 years, also concluded that the substances in Amanda's blood were insufficient to cause her death. He did note, however, high levels of GHB, known as the "date rape" drug.

And Dr. Sylvia Comparini, a Los Angeles based pathologist who has performed over 6,300 autopsies and witnessed or supervised more than an additional 12,000 autopsies, conducted 1,000 homicide scene investigations and given expert witness testimony in over 650 criminal, civil and military trials, performed a second autopsy on Amanda's body and ruled there was no question but that the young woman had been beaten and strangled to death.

Amanda's work as a police informant, and particularly her association with disgraced Niagara Falls cop Ryan Warne bear scrutiny. Warne was convicted of a boatload of drug related charges that included allegations of the abuse of female informants and prostitutes.

Despite the inexplicable denials of Erie County officials, Amanda Wienckowski was murdered. Her murderer or murderers have yet to pay for the crime. If ever there was a case that cried out for justice, it is this one.



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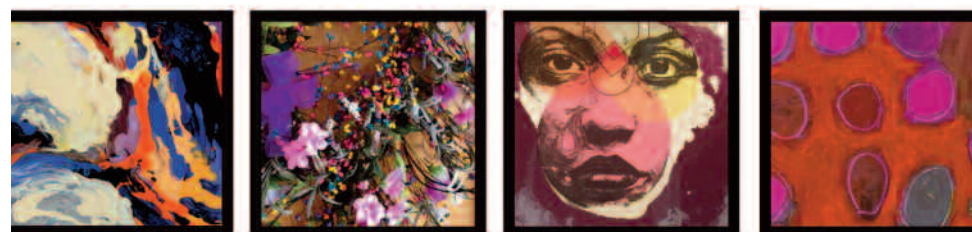
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The Bronfman/Raniere Cult Demands Investigation

Frank Parlato

This is another installment of a series where I am the journalist covering my own federal indictment on- 19 criminal counts. Last week I wrote about cult leader Keith Raniere and the two women who fund and empower him – Seagram heiresses, Clare and Sara Bronfman.

The trio had a role behind the federal investigation that led to my indictment. It may have been a corrupt role.

Clare, 36, and Sara Bronfman, 39, are sisters. Their father, the late Jewish Canadian billionaire Edgar Bronfman, Sr. was chief executive of Seagrams and president of the World Jewish Congress.

Raniere was listed in the Guinness Book of Records (1989 edition) as having one of the highest IQ's in the world, reportedly gauged between 188-194.

In the 1990's, Raniere's business was shut down after NYS Attorney General, Robert Abrams, accused him of running a Ponzi type scheme.

Raniere then grew his beard and hair long, shed his business suits for tee shirts, sweat pants and sandals, and announced he was an enlightened being having reached "Unification".

He created a "life improvement" coaching company called NXIVM (pronounced

like the patented drug NEXIUM) which gives seminars - utilizing hypnosis and other programing techniques.

Students bow to Raniere, who gave himself the title "Vanguard" and who, as they advance, are awarded sashes in different colors to signify their rank in the organization.

Raniere has attracted scores of serious followers, most of them female.

In an investigative series in the Albany Times Union, James Odatto interviewed several women and family members who claim Raniere raped them as underage girls, seduced them as married women, or raped them as adult women.

One of the women, Gina Hutchinson, who was 15, her sister claims, when Raniere first raped her, committed suicide.

Kristin Marie Snyder, a 35-year-old environmental consultant in Alaska, who spent \$16,000 on NXIVM programs from November 2002 to February 2003, according to Alaska State Police, committed suicide on Feb. 6, 2003. She left a suicide note which read, "I attended a course called Executive Success Programs (a.k.a. Nexivm) (sic)... I was brainwashed and my emotional center of the brain was killed/turned off. I still have feeling in my external skin, but my internal organs are rotting. Please contact my parents ... if you find me or this note. I am sorry life, I didn't know I was already dead."

Another woman, Barbara Bouche

claimed Raniere squandered her life savings - some \$1.6 million - in bad commodities investments.

Raniere told Bouchey he devised a formula to beat the commodities market, she said in court filings in 2009.

He lost every dollar she gave him to invest, she said.

Around 2002, Raniere met Sara Bronfman, 25, when she attended one of the seminars. Within weeks, Sara dedicated herself to Raniere's causes and afterwards bought more than a dozen properties for NXIVM and its members in the Albany area.

Sara also introduced her sister, Clare, who was interested in horse jumping contests. Raniere counseled Clare that it was an "ethical breach" to abuse horses by inflicting the pain of a riding crop and that she had more important things to do with her wealth and power as a Bronfman.

Clare sold or retired her horses, put her \$7 million New Hope, Pennsylvania estate—with its state-of-the-art equestrian facilities—on the market, and began financing Raniere's projects.

Both sisters moved to Albany to be near Raniere.

In 2003, Raniere appeared on the cover of Forbes Magazine. Called "Cult of Personality", the story detailed Sara's and Clare's involvement in NXIVM.

In the article, while admiring the yellow sash around her chest, Sara tells Forbes,

"coming from a family where I've never had to earn anything before in my life, [it] was a very, very moving experience for me to be awarded this yellow sash. It was the first thing that I had earned on just my merits."

Forbes quoted their billionaire father who called NXIVM, "a cult".

The article also reported that Raniere claimed he had no bank accounts in his name despite the fact that NXIVM appeared to be earning millions and that the seminars appeared to use "classic brainwashing techniques."

After the story was published, Raniere told the Bronfman sisters their father had bought off Forbes and blamed Clare for turning her father against him by revealing to him that she had "loaned" millions of dollars to NXIVM.

In a show of loyalty to Raniere, Clare implanted a virus on her father's computer, so NXIVM could secretly monitor his emails, according to Kristen M. Keeffe, who was part of the inner circle that ran NXIVM.

The Bronfmans sisters also increased their financial support of Raniere.

From January 2005 to late 2007, Raniere lost \$65.6 million of Bronfman money, allegedly trading in the commodities market through First Principles, a company registered in NXIVM president Nancy Salzman's name, and using a commodities broker by the name of Yuri Plyam.

According to former NXIVM consult-

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From the Vanity Fair Magazine, November 2010, Sara Bronfman (left), Clare Bronfman (right)

ant, Joseph J. O'Hara, there was tax fraud involved, claiming that Raniere changed the account name retroactively to falsely take losses for a corporation he controlled.

Clare Bronfman told this writer her father "had figured out a plot with the commodities clearing firm" to counter Raniere's positions in orange juice futures which caused the stupendous losses.

According to statements provided to this writer by Clare Bronfman, she and Sara apparently illegally listed this \$65.6 million gift to Raniere as a loan despite the fact that Raniere claims to have zero income and no assets.

While losing tens of millions in alleged commodities trading, Raniere also began a series of lawsuits against his enemies.

A NXIVM official estimated the sisters have paid \$20 million in legal fees over the last 12 years.

Raniere also used Bronfman money to invest in political consultants, lawyers, and private investigators to obtain indictments of his enemies, hiring those who had prior or current working relationships with judges or prosecutors.

Raniere offered this writer incentives to obtain information that would lead to indictments against O'Hara and cult tracker Rick Ross.

Raniere sued Ross in federal court, alleging copyright infringement for publishing excerpts of NXIVM's "secret" manual on his website.

Raniere sued former member Stephanie Franco, who gave Ross the secret manual and forensic psychiatrist, Dr. John Hochman, who wrote that NXIVM's classes were "expensive brainwashing."

Raniere, who arranged for the Bronf-

mans to lend O'Hara \$2 million on land purchases, prompted the Bronfmans to sue him after he quit working for NXIVM because of what he deemed illegal activities including tax evasion.

They also hired former Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger who met with Saratoga County District Attorney James Murphy and Albany County District Attorney David Soares to obtain a criminal indictment against O'Hara.

Soares permitted one of Raniere's followers to work at the DA's office to help develop a case against O'Hara and got a grand jury to indict O'Hara in 2007 for alleged grand larceny.

The charge was dismissed by a state judge for insufficient proof.

In 2006, Raniere persuaded the Bronfmans to invest \$26.4 million in a Los Angeles real estate project with, ironically, the same man who was the broker for the \$65.6 million in commodities losses — Yuri Plyam.

The plan was to build mansions in Los Angeles County and was structured as a joint venture with Plyam and set up through a company called Precision Development. Raniere's name would appear on none of the documents.

Neither would the Bronfman's at first.

In December 2007, as the Bronfmans consultant, I was informed that the Bronfmans were out of money — their original trust depleted and was asked to help them find a \$5 million loan to keep the Los Angeles project going.

I went to California to investigate and concluded that Plyam had absconded with \$10 million of the \$26.4 million the Bronfmans had wired to him.

I confronted Plyam and was able to se-

cure the Bronfmans majority control in 26 properties, evicted Plyam from possessory control, and became 1/3 partner in the project.

I also commenced a lawsuit on behalf of the Bronfmans which they won, securing a judgment against Plyam for \$10.3 million.

However, this discovery of fraud in the real estate project, coming as it did on the heels of the commodities losses, led to consternation in Raniere's circle.

I questioned Clare Bronfman as to whether there were any receipts for the \$65.6 million she gifted to Raniere that proved it actually went into commodity trades.

She answered she had no receipts but trusted Raniere.

Within days, Raniere cut off communications with me. An attorney for the Bronfmans informed me that our partnership was terminated.

Meantime, Raniere persuaded the sisters to ask their father for a loan of \$60 million from a trust they would inherit upon his death.

They borrowed it and, according to Bouche, the trustees "were very anxious to have that money go back into the trust."

But not everything was rosy for Raniere.

A year after my exposing massive losses in the real estate deal and questioning the authenticity of the commodities trades, nine women, including longtime Raniere lover and finance director, Bouche, left NXIVM.

NXIVM and Bronfmans brought 7 lawsuits against Bouche, and reported her to the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority for criminal investigation.

Clare Bronfman asked the district attorney of Saratoga County to bring charges of



Keith Raniere, is he an enlightened spiritual being, or a criminal cult leader?

extortion against Bouche because she asked Raniere to pay back the original \$1.6 million he lost in the commodities market.

"They'll go to the ends of the earth to destroy you," said Susan Dones, who, along with Kim Woolhouse, also left Raniere.

These women were sued by NXIVM on claims they violated confidentiality agreements.

The judge, Brian D. Lynch, wrote that "NXIVM's pursuit of Woolhouse ... sheds light on its true motivations. Her 'sin' was to attempt to walk away after discovering that NXIVM was not what she thought or hoped. In return, she was labeled as 'suppressive,' a term that NXIVM applies to former associates who leave the company or whom NXIVM perceives to be its enemies, and subjected to protracted litigation from two large law firms and a phalanx of attorneys."

In 2011, after winning the lawsuit I started for them against Plyam, the Bronf-

(Continued on page 18)

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List of victims of Bronfman/Raniere is staggering



NXIVM headquarters at 455 New Karner Rd.

(Continued from page 17)

mans also sued me.

Within months of filing the lawsuit, the Bronfmans filed a complaint against me with the FBI.

Another enemy who was pursued was Albany Times Union reporter James Odato, who began reporting on NXIVM after he discovered in 2007 that Joseph Bruno, then majority leader of the New York State Senate, received \$30,000 in cash and another \$34,000 of in-kind donations from the Bronfman sisters.

In more than thirty-five articles about NXIVM, Odato traced how the Bronfman sisters funneled cash to Raniere.

Odato's series also documented NXIVM's history as a "litigation machine" that pursues largely meritless lawsuits to punish and silence those who speak ill of the group's leader — litigating with a level of intensity that judges have described as entirely 'disproportionate' and 'deplorable.'"

In March 2013, NXIVM filed a civil complaint against Odato and Suzanna Andrews, who had written a critical article in Vanity Fair, John Tighe, a blogger who was critical of NXIVM, Toni Natalie, one of Raniere's former lovers, and O'Hara, alleging they used the password and username of a former NXIVM "client" to access and copy confidential, proprietary information about NXIVM.

Odato lost his job at the Times Union.

The lawsuit was dismissed after the judge discovered that Clare Bronfman lied about the date she discovered the computer trespass, having moved the date up to fall within the two-year statute of limitations.

NXIVM also filed criminal "computer trespassing complaints" with the New York State Police against Bouchey, Natalie, O'Hara and Tighe. When the local DA declined to prosecute, a state judge appointed a special prosecutor, Holly Trexler, a former Albany County assistant district attorney, to "consider" NXIVM's allegations.

In October 2013, Tighe, O'Hara, Bouchey, and Natalie were indicted.

Shortly after, Raniere's top lieutenant, Kristin Keffe abruptly left the organization.

Her whereabouts are unknown.

Keffe has since claimed that Clare Bronfman paid a Canadian investigative firm, Canaprobe Group, close to \$1 million to uncover financial records of U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., her father, Edgar Bronfman, George R. Hearst III, publisher of the Times Union; Rex Smith, the newspaper's editor and Odato; and six judges who presided over cases involving NXIVM or its

critics: U.S. District Chief Judge Gary L. Sharpe; U.S. Magistrate Randolph F. Treece; U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert E. Littlefield Jr., and U.S. Senior Judge Thomas J. McAvoy, U.S. District Judge Dennis M. Cavanaugh and U.S. Magistrate Mark Falk.

Keffe also accused Raniere of conspiring with Emiliano Salinas, founder and co-owner of the Mexico City NXIVM center and son of former Mexican President Carlos Salinas, of plotting to lure four women, Bouchey, Natalie, Dones, and Kim Woolhouse, all former girlfriends or associates of Raniere's, to Mexico in order to have them arrested on false charges and thrown in prison.

Natalie provided the Times Union with copies of emails from a Mexican journalist who sent them to Natalie trying to convince her to come on an all-expense paid trip to Mexico for an interview regarding NXIVM. The journalist declined to comment when contacted by the Times Union.

In emails attributed to Keffe, as published in the Times Union, she wrote, "All the worst things you know about NXIVM are true but there is so much more horrendous things going on even you will be horrified."

Keffe claims Clare Bronfman, Raniere and others "are involved in continuing ongoing criminal conduct including but not limited to psychological and sexual abuse and imprisonment of multiple illegal aliens for the last decade."

Several NXIVM members know about the imprisonment of Daniella Fernandez, an illegal alien who was allegedly imprisoned for two and a half years in an apartment owned by NXIVM Properties Inc. at 12 Wilton Court, a townhouse in Knox Woods in Clifton Park three blocks from Raniere's townhouse.

Daniella was placed in isolation with only a pen and paper in order to work on her "issues", her confinement supervised by Lauren Salzman, Nancy Salzman's daughter, who, sources say, was romantically involved with Raniere.

Fernandez's ordeal ended when she escaped by climbing out the second floor window and returned to Mexico.

While Daniella was in confinement, her sister, Marianna, also an illegal Mexican alien, was (and is) a live in lover of Raniere's along with his longtime lover, Pamela Cafritz, daughter of wealthy DC socialites Buffy and William Cafritz.

Today, Sara Bronfman continues to fund NXIVM but has married and is less involved on a daily basis.

Conversely, Clare is now second in



Bill Savino and Clare Bronfman

command. She finances NXIVM's litigation and "indictment of enemies" initiatives, heads administration, accounting and IT.

Federal investigators might be well advised to take a look at the Bronfman – Raniere enterprises.

They may find tax evasion, false imprisonment, perjury to FBI agents, foreign corrupt practices, fraud, conspiracy to forge documents, money laundering, wire fraud,

immigration violations and misuse of tax-exempt funds.

Meantime, this writer will demonstrate these crimes and a host of others in shocking, gripping detail as I publish documents and interviews of eye witnesses – including past and present NXIVM members.

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Only in NT – A Wish List for a More Livable Community



Sweeney Payne

Citizens (taxpayers, residents and voters) of North Tonawanda need to stand up and insist on what we want our elected representatives to do for us, or we'll continue having a rut city reputation for our streets, and more taverns and restaurants the majority of us cannot afford to eat in very often with the accompanying noise and litter.

There have been recent efforts to establish an earlier curfew time for bar closings in Buffalo. In addition to traffic safety concerns (after-hours impaired and drowsy driving), many are becoming aware that the noise and public disturbance issues are substantial. Sources of noise and public disturbances are loud music from local bars, especially those with outdoor patios during the summer months, motorcycles, errant car alarms, and often loud and unruly patrons exiting these establishments. Sounds like downtown NT! To have these conditions conclude at 2 a.m., with the outdoor noise ending at 11 a.m., would enhance (or give back) the quality of life to hundreds of NT residents who live within a close proximity of downtown.

Owners of bars and restaurants in the downtown area need to respect the people who made the commitment to living downtown or near downtown. Downtown has been "reviving" on the backs of residents in lofts and apartments in resurrected old buildings and longtime residents of second ward properties. No one wants his/her ears assaulted by a blaring disc jockey until the early weekend hours. No one enjoys the view of the over-served barfing at dawn's light.

Why should we have to drive to Amherst, Niagara Falls, Buffalo or anywhere other than in NT for things we want to buy? Why not a Save-a-Lot where Car Quest used to be for those who live in the "older" part

of NT?

How about Lumber City Development Corp. doing some real work and luring a drugstore to our side of the Canal downtown? With Rite Aid being acquired by Walgreens, they shouldn't need both the existing Walgreens and another location on the Tonawanda side. Can't LCDC get them to relocate to somewhere near downtown?

Since LCDC doesn't appear to be able to prepare grant proposals for anything needed by the City itself, NT should invest in a professional grant writer and consider seriously investing \$25,000 in joining the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise as Niagara Falls did. They should "repair" the mistake NT made when the Niagara Tourism & Convention Corp. began and become a participant in that for tourism promotion.

We need promotion of NT. LCDC has never yet put up a sign that there is a Buffalo Bolt Business Park behind the fence and doesn't know how to put up signs to advertise remaining empty lots. LCDC gets 50 or less of our more than 30,000 residents to

come out when they do workshops or presentations of studies they are working on. They just aren't in touch with residents or industry.

NT should become more involved in the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency and the County Center for Economic Development, perhaps using them to train LCDC to be effective.

It's interesting that Planning Board member Paul Brown and his family figured out how to get free publicity about office space they seek to rent out in the former Ascension Church property they now own, while LCDC doesn't do much advertising about Buffalo Bolt land other than on its website. Someone out there looking for industrial property in NT has to realize that there is something called Lumber City Development Corp. to look for it online. Anyone driving past the Buffalo Bolt "Business Park" has no way of knowing they should contact LCDC or anyone else to see if the land is available. Brown, however, was able to get a full-page free article about his reno-

vations of the Ascension rectory building and vacant office space in the Ken-Ton Bee for free.

Free campaign publicity continues although elections are over, with our elected officials seeming to never have time to do anything they are elected to do because they appear in every photo they can be in anywhere. It would be great if they each made personal donations to every nonprofit and spend personal money in the businesses they pose with.

Before the cold temperatures and road salt have begun taking their toll, if you have a street or a section of one that you feel needs attention by our "new administration," you should of course report it to the Department of Public Works at 695-8585 and to Mayor Arthur G. Pappas at 695-8540. You may also email him at artpappas@northtonawanda.org. Do remember to report all potholes.

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The President Has Thrown Working People Under the Bus of His Legacy

President Obama demonstrated this month that he cares more about kowtowing to green-collar elitists than he does about creating desperately needed, family-supporting, blue-collar jobs. After a seven year circus of cowardly delay, the President's decision to kill the Keystone XL Pipeline is just one more indication of an utter disdain and disregard for salt-of-the-earth, middle-class working Americans. The politics he has played with their lives and livelihoods is far dirtier than oil carried by any pipeline in the world, and the cynical manipulation of the approval process has made a mockery of regulatory institutions and government itself. We are dismayed and disgusted that the President has once again thrown the members of LIUNA, and other hard-working, blue-collar workers under the bus of his vaunted "legacy," while doing little or nothing to make a real difference in global climate change. His actions are shameful.

In its Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Keystone XL Project Executive Summary, issued in January 2014, President Obama's own State Department concluded that building the Keystone XL "is unlikely to significantly affect the rate of extraction in oil sands." Worse, reviewing the impact of not building the Keystone XL, the same report concluded that, "the total annual GHG emissions (direct and indirect) attributed to the No Action scenarios range from 28 to 42 percent greater than for the Keystone XL." But facts apparently mean as little to the President as the construction jobs he repeatedly derided as insignificant because they are "temporary." Ironically, the very temporary nature of the President's own job seems to be fueling a legacy of doing permanent harm to middle- and working class families.

From this decision on the Keystone XL, to the attack on quality healthcare through the so-called "Cadillac Tax," to his efforts to ship good jobs overseas through the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Barack Obama's disdain for working people is evident. The President may be celebrated by environmental extremists, but with this act, President Obama has also solidified a legacy as a pompous, pandering job killer.

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER SEP 29 – OCT 07, 2015

Impotent Bills Face Tough Task Against Surging Chiefs



Tony Farina

I came close to picking the Bills last week against the banged up New England Patriots, but I stopped short because I know the history of this franchise in big games all too well. I predicted Rex Ryan's team had a chance but I just couldn't jump on the bandwagon after a couple of wins against less than elite teams like the Dolphins and Jets. My caution proved well advised.

The Patriots were ripe for the taking but the Bills, and especially quarterback Tyrod Taylor, lacked the offensive firepower to win the game even though the defense was impressive against all-world Tom Brady who did enough to get the victory (20 – 13) even without his best wide receiver, Julian Edelman. That's what Super Bowl champions do; they find a way to win even when injured.

Buffalo's sputtering offense will face another big challenge this week in Kansas City against a Chief's team that has allowed an average of 12.2 points a game in the last six games and has won four straight to reach the .500 mark on the season with the same 5 and 5 record as the Bills. But the Chiefs hold the lead in the race for the conference wild card playoff spot given their better conference record and quarterback Alex Smith has not thrown an interception in a franchise-record 253 pass attempts.

The Chiefs, under Coach Andy Reid,

have been winning despite losing their best offensive weapon, running back Jamal Charles, to a season-ending knee injury in Week 5. Their third string running back, Spencer Ware, ran for 96 yards and two scores last week as the Chiefs torched the San Diego Chargers, 33 – 3. The Bills will likely see plenty of Ware this week and will certainly have their hands full putting up points against the Chiefs who have outscored their opponents 130 – 39 during their winning streak.

Unfortunately for Bills fans, this team looks a lot like most Bills teams over the last 15 years when it comes to wins and losses: not enough wins and too many losses even though the names have changed on the field and off.

There is still no franchise quarterback on this roster and while Taylor has his moments, he looks like a backup trying to carry an offense and he just doesn't have it. The Bills can't seem to find Sammy Watkins even when he's on the field and whether it is Taylor or the play-calling, it doesn't matter. He's barely a factor.

The defense had its best game against Brady and the Patriots but defense alone isn't enough in this league, especially one that's inconsistent. The Bills need to score points to get into playoff hunt and the offense can't seem to deliver against the good teams.

The Bills might sneak into the playoffs but even if they manage to get in, which I doubt, there's not much chance they will advance given their weakness at the game's most important position, quarterback, and no help on the bench with the erratic and inconsistent E J Manuel.

Unfortunately for local sports fans, there's not much relief with the Sabres who also have trouble scoring and have lost six straight. Terry Pegula, who owns both teams, was better at extracting money from fracking than he is at owning sports teams, at least so far. Maybe things will eventually change but it doesn't look like it will happen soon. The Chiefs are favored by six against the Bills but I fear that the final score will be much worse.

Golisano Center Hosts Hard Hat Tour



Officials from Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center and several of its community partners recently received a guided hard hat tour of the new Golisano Center for Community Health at Niagara Falls Memorial. Scheduled to open next spring, the innovative center will provide comprehensive



integrated health care services to adults with special needs, including intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to their families. The center is supported by a \$3.5 million gift from businessman and philanthropist Tom Golisano. The general contractor is Telco Construction, Inc.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Chuck Shephard

The Patient Will See You Now

• Professional patients now help train would-be doctors, especially in the most delicate and dreaded of exams (gynecological and prostate), where a becalming technique improves outcomes. One “teaching associate” of Eastern Virginia Medical School told The Washington Post in September that the helpers act as “enthusiastic surgical dummies” to 65 medical colleges, guiding rookie fingers through the trainer’s own private parts. The prostate associate might helpfully caution, “No need for speed here,” especially since he will be bending over for as many as nine probings a day. A gynecological teaching associate, mentoring the nervous speculum-wielder, might wittily congratulate pupils on having a front-row sight line the “GTA” will never witness: an up-close view of her own cervix.

Latest Religious Messages

• American Sharia: (1) U.S. parents have a right to home-school their kids, but are subject to varying degrees of regulation, with Texas the most lax, and one El Paso family will have a day before the Texas Supreme Court after one of its kids was reported declining to study because education was useless since he was waiting to be “raptured” (as described in the Bible’s Book of Revelation). (2) U.S. courts increasingly allow customers to sign away state and federal rights by agreeing to contracts providing private arbitration for disputes rather than access to courts—even if the contract explicitly requires only religious resolutions rather than secular, constitutional ones. A November New York Times investigation examined contracts ranging from Scientology’s requirement that fraud claims by members be resolved only by Scientologists—to various consumer issues from home repairs to real estate sales limited to dockets of Christian clerics.

Leading Economic Indicators

• First-World Spending: According to estimates released by the National Retail Federation in September, 157 million Americans “planned to celebrate” Halloween, spending a total of \$6.9 billion, of which \$2.5 billion would be on costumes, including \$350 million dressing up family pets.

• At a ceremony in Kabul in November, prominent Afghan developer Khalilullah Frozi signed a \$95 million contract to build an 8,800-unit township and was, according to a New York Times dispatch, toasted for his role in the country’s economic rebirth. However, at nightfall, Frozi headed back to prison to resume his 15-year sentence for defrauding Kabul Bank of nearly \$1 billion in depositors’ money. Because he remains one of Afghanistan’s elite, arrangements were made for him to work days but spend his nights in prison (in comfortable quarters). Said one Western official, laconically, “(If) you have stolen enough money, you can get away with it.”

Cultural Diversity

• Before the terrorist murders gripped Paris, President Francois Hollande and Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani had been trying to

arrange a formal dinner during Rouhani’s planned visit to the city to celebrate the two countries’ role in the recent accord limiting Iran’s nuclear development. France’s RTL radio news reported that “dinner” is apparently more vexing than “nuclear weaponry”—as Rouhani demanded an alcohol-free meal, which was nixed by Hollande, who insisted that the French never dine without wine.

Compelling Explanations

• Skeptics feared it was just a matter of time, anyway, until the “political correctness” movement turned its attention to dignity for thieves. San Francisco’s SFGate.com reported in November on a discussion in an upscale neighborhood about whether someone committing petty, nonviolent theft should be referred to by the “offensive” term “criminal” (rather than as, for example, “the person who stole my bicycle,” since “criminal” implies a harsher level of evil and fails to acknowledge factors that might have caused momentary desperation by a person in severe need).

• Reginald Gildersleeve, 55 and free on bond with an extensive rap sheet, was waving a gun as he threatened a clerk and tried to rob a store in Chicago on Halloween night—until a customer (licensed to carry) drew his own gun and, with multiple shots, killed Gildersleeve. Closer inspection revealed Gildersleeve’s weapon to be merely a paintball gun, leading the deceased man’s stepson to complain later that “Some people (the licensed shooter) don’t actually know how to use guns. They go to firing ranges, but it’s not the same ... as a bullet going into flesh. ... Someone’s got to answer for that.”

The Continuing Crisis

• U.S. and European entrepreneurs offer extreme “games” in which liability-waiving “players” volunteer for hours of kidnapping, pain and death threats, but the cult-like, under-the-radar “McKamey Manor” in Southern California (said to have a waiting list of 27,000) is notable for the starkness of its threats of brutality—and the absence of any “safe word” with which a suddenly reluctant player can beg off. (Only Russ McKamey himself decides if a player has had enough.) The “product” is “100 percent fear,” he said. “We’re good at it,” he told London’s The Guardian in an October dispatch from San Diego (whose reporter overheard one of McKamey’s thugs promise, “I’m going to tear that girl (player) apart” and “No one is leaving with eyebrows today”).

• In October, the student newspaper of Toronto’s Ryerson University reported a mighty scandal that upset the student body: The school’s executive offices’ restrooms routinely supply two-ply toilet paper while most other campus buildings offer only one-ply. Following up on the hard-hitting Ryerson Eyeopener’s expose, The Canadian Press noted that the universities of Guelph, Ottawa and Toronto comfort all toilet-users’ bottoms the same. Ryerson officials defensively noted that older plumbing in many of their buildings cannot handle two-ply paper.

Least Competent Criminals

• Nicholas Allegretto, 23, was convicted

of shoplifting in Cambridge, England, in October (in absentia, because he is still at large). The prosecutor knows Allegretto is his man because, shortly after the February theft, police released a surveillance photo of Allegretto leaving the store with the unpaid-for item, and Allegretto had come to a police station to complain that the suddenly public picture made him look guilty. In fact, he claimed, he intended to pay for the item but had gotten distracted (and besides, he added, his body language often looks somewhat “dodgy,” anyway).

Recurring Themes

• Lowering the Bar in Zero Tolerance: The 6-year-old son of Martha Miele was given an automatic three-day out-of-school suspension at Our Lady of Lourdes in Cincinnati in October after, emulating actions of his favorite Power Rangers characters, he pretended to shoot a bow and arrow at another student. Principal Joe Crachiolo was adamant, insisting that he has “no tolerance for any real, pretend or imitated violence.” An exasperated Martha Miele confessed she was at a loss about how a 6-year-old boy is supposed to block out the concept of a super-hero fighter (and instead imagine, say, a super-hero counselor?).

• Cavalcade of Fetishes: (1) Among the

approximately 100 arrests Seattle police made in an October drug sting were of a man, 63, and woman, 58, accused only of retail theft of \$150,000 worth of goods—including about 400 pairs of jeans. Police said the couple “ordered” items from shoplifters and seemed to have an “insatiable appetite for denim.” (2) In November, police in Bethel, Connecticut, arrested Nelson Montalvo, 50—accused of taking about 30 items of underwear from one particular home. Montalvo’s motive is being investigated, but police said his modus operandi was to remove items, cut holes in them and return them to the home.

A News of the Weird Classic (January 2011)

• Name in the News: Sought as a suspect in a convenience store killing in Largo, Florida, in December (2010) (and an example of the highly revealing “Three First Names” theory of criminal liability), Mr. Larry Joe Jerry—who actually has four first names: Larry Joe Jerry Jr. (He was convicted in 2013 and sentenced to 42 years in prison.)

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"I love the smell of book cooking in the morning."

Paul Dyster, as he received the imaginary 2016 parking meter revenue figures that are based on non-existent parking meters.

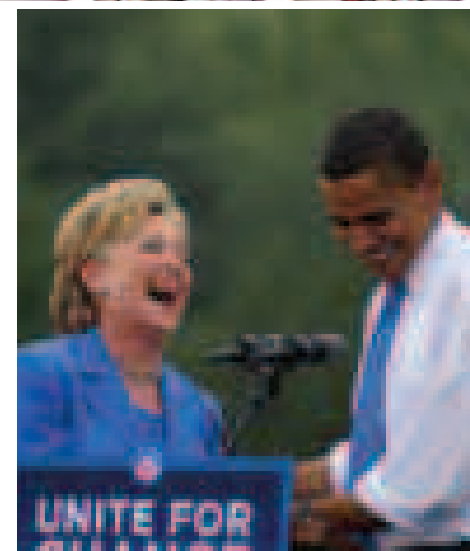


Don't say he never warned you.
"You haven't seen nothing yet!"

Paul Dyster, declaring victory on election night.



Paul Dyster walks into a bar, steps to the front of the room and shouts: "Drinks on me for 47% of the house! The other 53% per cent will have to see John Accardo or Glenn Choolokian!"



"It's time to send a woman to do a man's job that no man has been able to do."

Kristen Grandinetti's slogan as she seeks the council chairmanship



Who's the Christmas Grinch?

- A) Glenn Choolokian
- B) Paul Dyster
- C) the voters



Answer: Some Like It Hot

Question: what's the favorite movie of three city hall employees?



The phrase "about ten" refers to:

- A) the number of 72nd St. residents expected to have running water this January
- B) the number of additional patronage jobs Dyster will create in 2016
- C) the number of daily riders at Dyster's new train station
- D) all of the above

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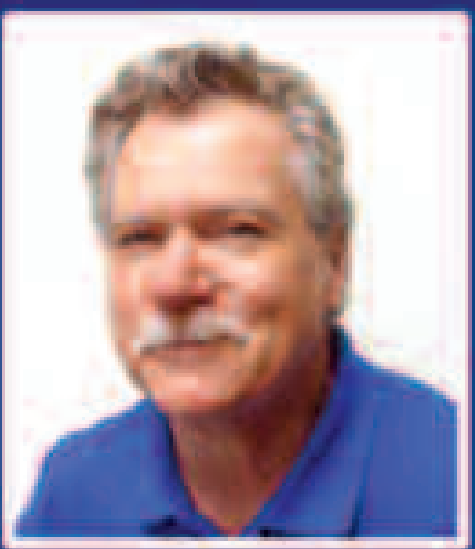


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