



NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

THE TRUTH IS ALWAYS FAIR

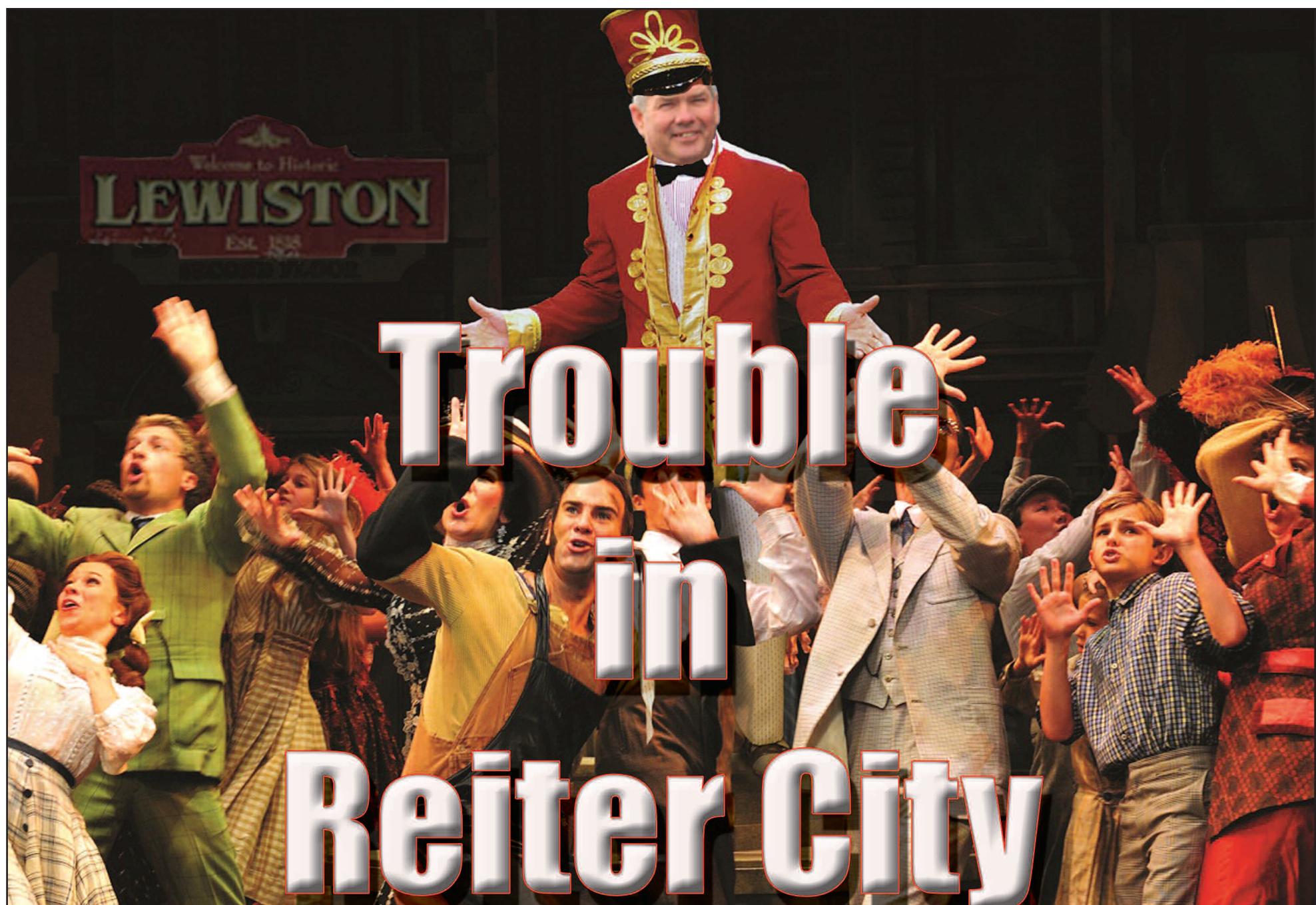
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APR 22 - APR 30, 2014

VOL. 15, NO. 16

FREE

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The Story Behind Lewiston's Bridgewater Estates

Frank Parlato

Something is rotten in Lewiston. And that is the proposed plan to build 139 units, called Bridgewater Estates, on Route 104.

The land is owned by Marjorie Reiter, mother of the former supervisor of the town, Steve Reiter. The three-acre site sits in front of the Modern Disposal landfill.

Three things smell far beyond the usual malodor that often emanates from the corruption known as local, small town Lewiston politics;

1 - The amazing, but unchecked, conflict of interest of the former supervisor, Reiter, who is also part owner of the Bridgewater project, and his rubber stamp town board.

2 - The fact that, as part of a conflicted approval process whereby Reiter signed off as supervisor, a traffic study would be normally required. Reiter, however, as supervisor waived the need for that study. A dangerous traffic environment is, or will be put into play, something that is certain to lead to traffic accidents, perhaps fatalities, based on the simple, clear and evident danger of creating a new driveway with ingress and egress on a speeding truck route, for 200 senior citizens.

3 - Finally, that the Reiter-approving-Reiter project - now the subject of a lawsuit - has no provision in it - if it is built - to be what it has been promised to be: a luxury senior housing project. It could become-



Steve Reiter had a dual role.

and there is nothing in writing to stop it - an affordable housing project.

The first is a matter of illegality.

The second is a matter of safety.

The third is a matter of plain being tricked.

It will take nothing less than the kind of investigative series this newspaper undertook when uncovering the hidden details in the Maid of the Mist lease, that led to the revocation of the lease of longtime owner James Glynn of Lewiston in Canada and the doubling of his rent in America, something that earned for the people of both sides of the border some \$340 million extra dollars in boat lease rents.

This Reiter deal is every bit as



While Reiter got this access road, leading to Rt. 104 closed, because of clear and present danger, he got the driveway - for the use of 200 seniors, leading out to the same Rt. 104 - approved without traffic study.

worthy of solid investigative reporting as the Glynn deal.

The difference is that while Glynn, the businessman, got government officials to secretly do his bidding, in this case Reiter was both the businessman and the government official.

How his town board, three of whom are still sitting, can remain silent and not reopen this process is a wonder. But 11 members of the Niagara Parks Commission did the same thing, too. They denied everything - or ignored it - as we continued to print what we learned about the Maid of the Mist lease and the back door dealings of Glynn, until, ultimately, the lease was canceled and every one of them was either fired or asked to resign.

This is the Waterloo, be assured, of the town board, if they follow the path that the NPC commissioners took.

This deal with Reiter, approved by Reiter, and his town board, on Reiter land, is far more serious than the other matters we reported on concerning Reiter: his pilfering of gasoline, or stealing sewer pipe or picnic tables from the town.

This is the granddaddy of his self-serving gambits.

You will see it unravel in the coming weeks: Either the town board will reopen this - rescind the approvals - vet it; treat this project like any other one - honestly - that comes to the town - or the town board will, perforce, go down with the Reiter ship.

In the coming weeks - we can't cover it all in one article - it took us 80,000 words and 80 articles to sink the illegal Maid of the Mist lease - we will discuss the inflation of the value of the Reiter property, a matter of

deep concern. The Reiter property was marketed in the past year, prior to Bridgewater buying it, for \$350,000. Bridgewater bought the property from Reiter and his mother for \$1.4 million. It was inflated four times the value.

Why? We will explain this, as we set out to prove how the project was financed.

After getting his mother more than four times the listed price for the property, Reiter also became 19 percent owner of the project, according to the Niagara County IDA application that led to the project being approved for tax free status, something Reiter - and his ally Henry Sloma - got done.

Sloma even resigned from the IDA board just long enough to get the project approved, collect a handsome fee - and then return to the board as its chairman.

But what did Reiter do to get his 19 percent ownership interest?

We will be answering that question as well: Was it to arrange for town approvals that should not have been approved? Did he earn his 19 percent already?

Did Reiter invest any of his own money in the project or help the developers to build or manage the construction? Or is his 19 percent merely effectively a bribe to get him to sign off on the project and get obstacle after obstacle waived for the developers of which he was one?

When we first published our report on Mayor Vince Anello getting some \$40,000 from Smokin' Joe Anderson, nobody believed it. Soon after we published it, Anderson admitted his guilt and accepted a felony plea and Anello, (who, in this writer's opinion, is basically a good man, caught up in a morass, with a man

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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Will Unravel Before Your Eyes, Reveal More Reiter Subterfuge

who admitted to trying to bribe him) who also took a plea deal-- that led to him spending time in prison.

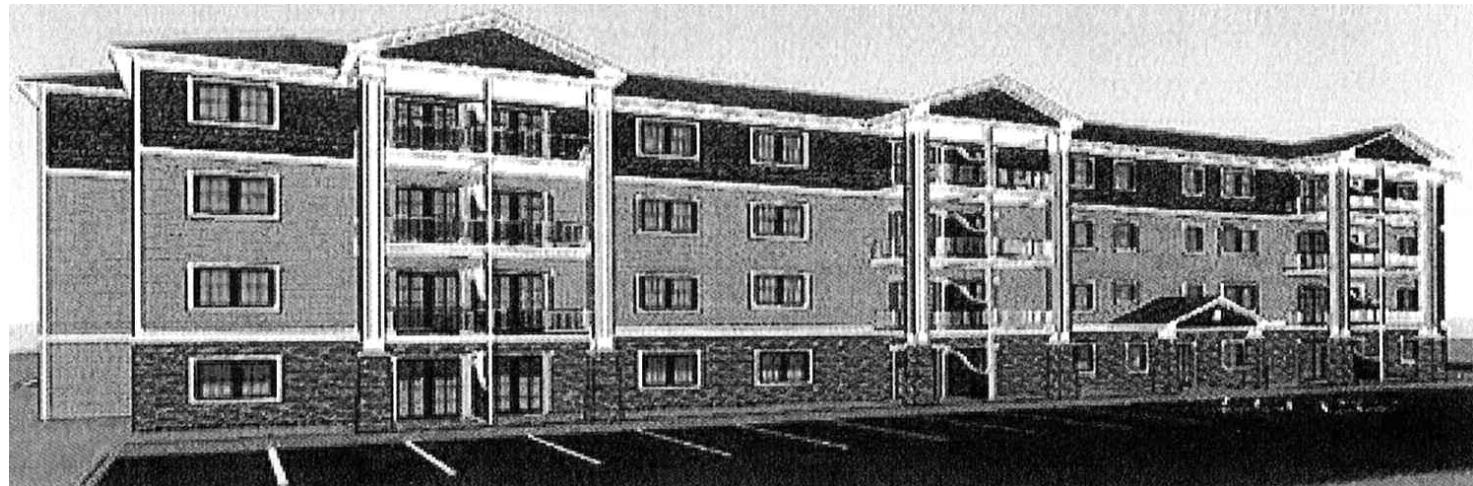
In Lewiston, Reiter got paid 19 percent of a deal and he got it done through shortcuts.

What we will serve up, complicated though it may be, will prove that, at worst, this Bridgewater deal is a scam. At best, it must be re-vetted, taken back to the drawing board.

One of our coming stories will show, step by step, how Reiter oversaw his mother's property being rezoned from R-2, low density residential, requiring an adequate buffer zone between residential and industrial properties, to a general business zoning - and in order to make the general business zoning work for the project he had in mind, he led the town to amend the general business zoning, town wide.

As the lawsuit alleges, the general business zoning amendment appears tailor made for the project. It was.

And we will show how, when the property was formerly marketed at



Bridgewater Estates, owned in part by Steve Reiter, promises to be luxury senior housing, but may end up as a low income housing project.

\$350,000, when the property was zoned R-2, once Reiter got the rezoning changed to general business, its value went up to \$1.4 million. By changing the zoning to general business, Reiter made his mother's property worth \$1 million more.

This is not the petty rascal that stole pop cans from the guys in the highway department or stole coins out the penny cup at the Outlet Mall.

On top of the extra million he got for his elderly mother, Reiter took 19

percent of the housing project. In short, the supervisor of the Town of Lewiston offered his services as supervisor for 19 percent of the project for himself and four times the value of the land for his mother.

In another upcoming story, we will detail how Reiter avoided doing the needed traffic study.

By eliminating the long form environmental impact study, which saved the developers hundreds of thousands, and by waiving the traffic

study, which might have cost the developers a million dollars (counting costs associated with constructing the recommendations made in the study), Reiter earned his 19 percent interest in the property and then some.

The project should have gone through a complete scoping session.

There should have been a complete environmental impact study, including a traffic study.

(Continued on next page)

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Lewiston Town Board's silence is surprising

(Continued from previous page)

Consider this: Modern Disposal was required by the Town of Lewiston to conduct four different traffic studies over the years simply to increase traffic by a few trucks per hour.

But Reiter can get a project--which will add as many as 200 cars driven by senior citizens onto the road--without one.

A traffic study might have required a widening of the road, installing a turning lane, or a traffic signal at the entrance of the Bridgewater Estates.

But the DOT never did a field review. Why?

The short answer is because there was no traffic study.

It requires a full, detailed story to demonstrate how this occurred and how the town board was literally asleep at the wheel.

Another story will detail how egregious this conduct was when you consider that the extension of Indian Hill Rd. leads to Route 104 and is directly across the street from the proposed Bridgewater driveway.

This little-used extension has been closed and barricaded because the town board felt this access road is unsafe.

The Town of Lewiston - without a traffic study - shut the access road down because of the high number of accidents there. One person lost a leg.

Now, without a traffic study, the town has approved a senior citizens project that their former supervisor owns, where seniors will be facing the same high speed challenges.

As one neighbor told the Reporter, "I don't have the reaction time I did when I was 20 and the cars pulling in there against traffic, making a left hand turn, going against the west bound lane, will run the gauntlet."

Will there be accidents? Will this be the most dangerous driveway in Lewiston?

We won't know since there is no traffic study.

It is a credit, although a dubious credit, to Reiter that he could get this driveway approved - across the street from one which was closed - without a traffic study.

And these are brave men - or

foolhardy - the men of the council knowing the likelihood of death and maiming that may come by their decision to waive the traffic study and knowing the town will inevitably be sued for their decision not to require a traffic study - and still have gone forward to approve this project and to this date have not considered reopening this project and vetting it properly. And of course requiring a traffic study before someone is killed.

In helping their supervisor get more than a million dollars more for his mother's property and 19 percent ownership - which should account for another \$2.4 million for Reiter himself - his share of the \$12 million plus project, the town board has shown the kind of loyalty to their friend that should not be overlooked.

And it needs to be investigated.

As for other aspects of the environmental impact statement, another story will show how it is unconscionable how little was considered. It was a short form not the long form. The town is the lead agency. As such it is not time barred. They can reconsider it. But will they?

Reiter earned his ownership interest in the project alone, when, as supervisor, he waived for the town the need for an informed environmental application which could have cost the developers \$50,000. Plus any work required by the impact study.

These items plus information the Reporter has learned about the financing of the deal, Reiter's stake in the deal, how it can shift to an affordable housing project and more will be forthcoming in future editions..

We do not ask our readers to believe one word of it until and unless we can prove it.

We did that with Glynn. We did that with the old Local 91, and with Anderson and Anello.

This one will unravel before the readers' eyes.

But don't believe us. We have laid out the road map.

Refer to points one, two and three above.

Something is rotten in Lewiston.

And we are going to show you where and how. And then show how to remove the stench.

Stay tuned.

Physician Assistant Laura DeBacco has served obstetric and gynecologic patients in Niagara Falls and Niagara County for the past four years. She gladly joins the medical team at Niagara Falls Memorial to enhance services for the women of our community.

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Dyster's Big Handout to Buffalo Interests Raises Questions About Real Agenda

Mike Hudson

The longer Mayor Paul Dyster spends warming his behind in the plush leather chair he bought to sit in at his Niagara Falls City Hall office, the more he begins looking like the elderly nun, former Mayor Irene Elia, who served as his political mentor.

His successful initiative to spend \$50,000 of your money to join the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise organization is a case in point.

Elia's disastrous policies, comic pratfalls, and lack of basic common sense led to her then-record landslide loss to Vince Anello in 2004.

But, when she was elected in 1999, so too was an affable, if not particularly adroit, councilman named Paul Dyster.

Dyster championed each and every one of Elia's cockamamie ideas about how the city should be run, and each had close ties to a pair of mysterious Erie County organizations: The Buffalo Niagara Partnership (BNP) and Buffalo Niagara Enterprise (BNE), which shared offices at the same Main Street, Buffalo, address, board members and much, much more.

The BNP and BNE's prime directive seems to have been the subjugation of Niagara Falls for Buffalo, turning the Cataract City into a plantation from which creepy businessmen from the Nickel City could extract wealth.

First Elia and now Dyster supported their efforts in full. And now Dyster's at it again.

Last week, Dyster gained Council approval for \$50,000 to join the BNE. The \$50,000 will come from the \$89 million in casino revenue the city received following the state's resolution of the long-running dispute with the owners of the Seneca Niagara Casino, the Seneca Nation of Indians.

The windfall burned such a hole in Dyster's pocket that little is left, but that is another story. Suffice to say that the mayor found enough behind the couch cushions to pay the BNE membership fee.

Why he would want to do that is another matter. The archives of the Niagara Falls Reporter are chock-a-block with reports of misdeeds and debacles perpetrated by the BNE and BNP, including but not limited to:



Why did Mayor Paul Dyster ask taxpayers to fund a Buffalo group?

Support for the Spanish-based multinational corporation Cintra to take over the Niagara Falls International Airport. The proposal, vehemently opposed by then U.S. Rep. John LaFalce and editorialists at this newspaper, fell apart on its own following Sept. 11, 2001, when everyone realized that handing an airport that also serves as a military air base over to foreigners was just nuts. \

The BNP/BNE sought to close Buffalo Children's Hospital in 2003. We all know how that turned out. Tens of thousands of angry parents took to the streets, while local newspaper articles exposed the fact that at least one of the hospital's board members was benefiting personally from the deal and that the corporation's top management executives were paying themselves millions in bonuses while crying poor to the people. \

In 2003 Buffalo interests sought to derail a \$22 million proposal to build a new terminal and make other improvements at Niagara Falls International Airport. They argued that an airport in the falls might threaten business at the Buffalo Niagara airport, where the cost of jet fuel and landing fees were among the highest in the nation. Again, the BNP/BNE failed. \

In 2006 the BNP/BNE endorsed plans by a company called NRG Huntley to build a clean coal-burning power plant in Tonawanda. Huntley is competing with AES, which already runs such a plant in Somerset, for the \$1 billion in new public and private investment and creation of 1,200 long-term construction jobs for

the winning bidder. For those who don't know, Tonawanda is in Erie County, while Somerset is in Niagara County. And for those who need to have a picture drawn, the incomes of both the Partnership and the BNE derive significantly from moneyed interests in Erie County. The BNP/BNE won this round, and Niagara County lost more than \$1 billion and hundreds of jobs. \

Also in 2006 the BNE secretly attempted to lure the German chemical giant Wacker Chemie away from a Niagara County site it had selected for a new plant to a location in Erie County. The effort had to be kept secret, since the BNE was being paid \$50,000 by the Niagara County Legislature to bring the company here. The Germans became weary of the cloak and dagger and decided to build the plant back in Germany. \

It is widely suspected that the BNP/BNE was behind the creation of the "Building a Better Niagara" slush fund that would have given Dyster \$1 million, collected from donors whose identities were never revealed. The purported purpose of the fund was to allow Dyster to have better candidates to fill top city positions. The City Council torpedoed the ethically challenged gifting, even though the salaries were raised anyway. \

Interestingly, Mark Hamister serves as a BNE board member and former chairman and is heavily involved in backroom Niagara Falls dealings. The taxpayer-subsidized hotel he was supposed to have broken ground on this month has yet to materialize, and more and more it seems as though he is looking for more in government handouts in order to get the project started, a tune he has played in the past.

The proposed hotel, which was supposed to have been built at the corner of Rainbow Boulevard North and Mayor O'Laughlin Blvd - just 300 feet from the Niagara Falls State



Mayor Irene Elia also had a lot to offer-to Buffalo.

Park, became a hot button issue in last year's City Council races, when longtime Council Member Sam Fruscione - an opponent of the giveaway -- went down in a primary election

MAYOR PAUL DYSTER REPORT CARD

EGO	A
CREATIVITY	F
VISION	F
COURAGE	F
SELF-IMPORTANCE	B+
OVERSPENDING	A
TEAMWORK	D
LEADERSHIP	F
OVERALL	F

loss to Andy Touma, cousin of Dyster's campaign manager Craig Touma.

Is Dyster's proposal for the city to join the BNE simply a ploy to garner additional taxpayer handouts for the cash strapped Hamister?

What other reason could there be? The BNP/BNP cabal has long been hostile to Niagara County in general and Niagara Falls in particular.

And aside from that, they're not even very successful on their own turf in Erie County, as the Buffalo Children's Hospital fiasco showed.

Certainly some secret agenda is at play, or Dyster has grown too senile to remember the century's dawn, when a little former nun named Elia threw her lot in with the Buffalo interests as well.

Percy Spends Casino Money

Mike Hudson

Last September, Niagara Tourism and Convention Corp. CEO John Percy received a check for \$6.2 million, his agency's share of the city's proceeds from the \$89 million Seneca Niagara casino settlement.

Quickly, the money began burning a hole in his pocket.

His mind turned to advertising, but it wasn't the sort of advertising you might expect.

For an agency, hired by contract with the city of Niagara Falls and Niagara County, to be responsible for increasing the number of tourists who visit the region, you have to wonder what he is doing with his "hometown heroes" ad campaign.

Rather than launching an ad campaign in places like Cleveland, Erie, Pa., Toronto, or Rochester, touting



John Percy, promote thyself!

Niagara Falls as the ideal place for a weekend getaway or a great family vacation, Percy decided to advertise strictly in Niagara County.

His "Hometown Heroes" ad campaign employs local businessmen to promote the NTCC and, by extension, Percy himself. The campaign

basically features local tourism business owners who praise the fine work the NTCC does.

It is sort of a win, win: the businesses get a free ad and in turn they proselytize the many splendored

achievements of John Percy and his NTCC in local newspapers with a readership which is local.

That's right. Percy is using the casino cash, your money really, in a desperate and shameless attempt at

NIAGARA TOURISM WORKS

HOSPITALITY HEROES

*Jeffrey Reeds
Owner at the Falls*

NIAGARA TOURISM WORKS

RAISING THE LOCKS

*Mike Murphy
Owner at the Falls*

"We bring in people from all over the world, we could not have done it without the NTCC."



Two small boats
in mid-90s

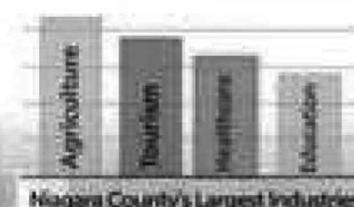


Three large (including
paddle boat) in 2014

We started with two little pontoon boats and now we're up to three cruise boats. One of the things we did right was get involved with the Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation (NTCC) and it really made a difference. Before we got started there wasn't tourism in Lockport, now there is a lot of tourism.

– Mike Murphy, owner, Lockport Locks & Erie Canal Cruises

"We work hand in hand with the NTCC, with the common goal of increasing the visitorship into Niagara County."



Just one success story has the Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation's (NTCC) ability to bring Travel Media Showcase into the marketplace back in September. The press that we received was priceless. NTCC has an aggressive marketing plan stand for 2014. I think the hospitality community at large, as well as the NTCC, is on the right track in growing the industry in Niagara County, thus making an economic impact for everyone.

Niagara USA

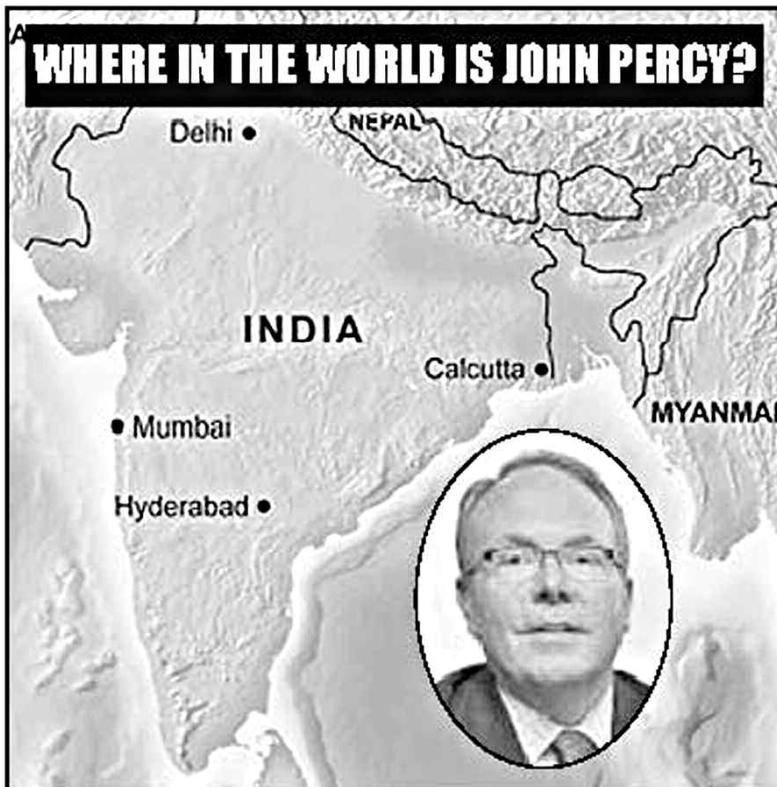
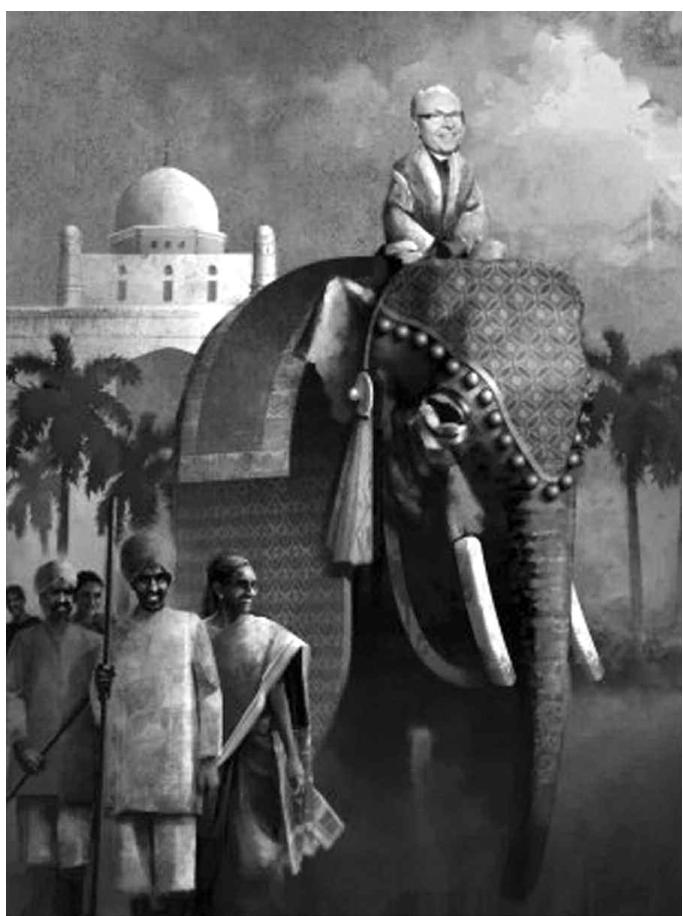
Believe!

watch my story at niagara-usa.com/believe

Taxpayers paid for these ads to promote John Percy's NTCC. But why?



To Boost NTCC, Himself



NTCC CEO John Percy is either off to faraway places with strange sounding names, or is advertising himself!

self promotion.

Additionally, by purchasing expensive ads exclusively in Niagara County newspapers, he is potentially diminishing any chance of negative stories concerning the NTCC appearing in those newspapers.

Studies have shown repeatedly that the bulk of the tourists who come to Niagara Falls live within a 250-mile radius of the mighty cataracts. And yet Percy, in addition to his local, self promoting, advertising campaign, has literally spent hundreds of thousands of dollars playing the tourist himself, not in the 250-mile radius, but, rather by flying first

class to far away, exotic locations.

“We were treated like royalty!” he gushed to a local newspaper stenographer on his return from one such sojourn to an impoverished area of India.

The costly “Hometown Heroes” ad campaign does have a certain prat-fall comedic appeal.

“Niagara USA – Believe!” one states. Believe what? That the city is being raped daily by the state and bloated bureaucracies like the NTCC? That Percy’s trips around the world are meaningful?

“We work hand in hand with the

NTCC, with the common goal of increasing the visitorship into Niagara County,” writes one businessman, who mangles the English in a unique and exciting way.

“Visitorship,” by the way, isn’t even a real word.

Percy and his agency are an unfunny joke. His repeated refusals to supply the City Council or comptroller’s office with hard, audited facts and figures regarding the number of tourists who actually visit the falls because of his efforts, how much revenue is generated by those tourists and whether that revenue justifies the insane amount of money the city gives him, is inexcusable.

Niagara Falls has been drawing tourists like flies for more than 250 years, for the most part without Percy’s assistance. Niagara Falls is known to people around the globe in much the same way as Elvis or Muhammad Ali. But to hear Percy tell it, he created the falls himself.

Percy receives money from the city to promote tourism to those in other locales in order to boost the region’s sagging economy. To spend money advertising locally in order to promote himself ought to be a criminal offense.

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SAFE Act Results in Lockport Man's Illegal Arrest, Confiscation of Guns

Mike Hudson

Three bullets.

Add in some overzealous cops and an obsessive prosecutor and you come up with a sickening stew of Constitutional violation and an expensive six-month nightmare for one 26-year-old Lockport man.

Paul A. Wojdan, 26, was arrested by Lockport police and charged with unlawful possession of an ammunition-feeding device last October. He was freed after posting \$250 bail.

You see, Wojdan – who holds a valid New York State pistol permit – had a gun with a magazine holding 10 rounds of ammunition. It is illegal to have a weapon with a magazine capable of holding more than seven rounds under Gov. Andrew Cuomo's SAFE Act.

Why the number seven was chosen is unclear. Lawmakers voting for the measure, many of whom are liberal Democrats and don't know which end of a gun the bullet comes out of, could just as easily said six rounds, or eight.

In any event, there is no evidence whatsoever that those kind of arbitrary and capricious regulations have helped save a single life, despite the enthusiasm shown for them by Cuomo and his ilk.

Wojdan was a passenger in a car driven by his wife at about 2 a.m. Oct. 12, when Lt. Adam Piedmont of the Lockport Police Department clocked it going 44 mph in a 30-mph zone on South Transit Rd.

A second Lockport Police Department car, driven by Officer Daniel Barrancotta, joined what the cops described as a brief chase.

Piedmont said he asked if there were any weapons in the car and said Wojdan answered that there was one in a holster in the glove compartment, and his pistol permit was in the center console.

After ordering Wojdan and his wife out of the car, the officers found the permit and the gun, right where Wojdan said they were. Piedmont then directed Barrancotta to "make the gun safe."

"My experience is, the best way to make a gun safe is to remove the magazine," Piedmont said later.

There is a row of what are called "observation holes" in the magazine, each numbered, with bullets visible through the holes.

"I did count rounds just to confirm our reasonable suspicion that there were more than seven," Piedmont said.

Following Wojdan's arrest, Niagara County sheriff's deputies confiscated five other guns listed on his pistol permit, which also covered the Ruger. Combined, the six weapons were valued at around \$5,000.

The prosecution's case seemed to suffer a serious setback two months later when Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny ruled that the seven-bullet rule was unconstitutional. In a 54-page decision that upheld most of the provisions of the SAFE Act, Skretny singled out the provision.

Skretny said the provision doesn't make sense.

"The seven-round limit is largely an arbitrary restriction that impermissibly infringes on the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment. This Court therefore strikes down that portion of the Act," he wrote.

He also essentially took the side of gun-rights activists, saying that the bullet limit would make a gun owner less safe against a criminal with a fully loaded clip.

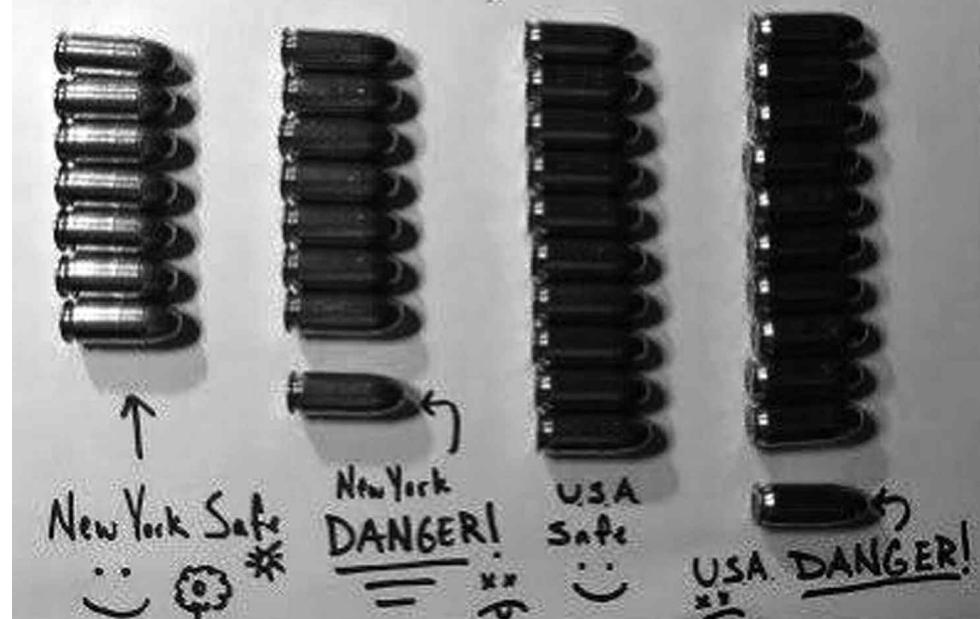
"This provision, much more so than with respect to the other provisions of the law, presents the possibility of a disturbing perverse effect, pitting the criminal with a fully-loaded magazine against the law-abiding citizen limited to seven rounds," Skretny wrote.

But the Niagara County District Attorney's Office was undeterred. Asst. District Attorney David A.



Paul Wojdan had his constitutional rights violated. But Paul, don't expect an apology. Not in Niagara County.

Gun Control Explained



This simple graph shows how easy Gov. "Nanny" Cuomo has made it.

Hoffman thought the officers' action was permissible.

"I think it's reasonable for them to check the firearm and the magazine," Hoffman argued. "They didn't seek the number of rounds in it. They did it for officer safety."

The case dragged on and Wojdan's legal bills began to mount. Finally, at the end of February, Lockport City Judge William J. Watson ruled that the counting of bullets by the Lockport cops constituted an illegal search. Once the magazine had been removed and the semiautomatic pistol's slide had been locked back, the gun was safe and no further examination was necessary, he said.

But Wojdan wasn't out of the

woods yet. The authorities refused to return the six firearms unconstitutionally seized at the time of his arrest, telling him to go get a court order from County Court Judge Matthew J. Murphy III ordering them to do so. More court appearances and more legal bills for what amounted to the illegal arrest of a law abiding citizen.

"This law was passed so quickly, it shows the mindset of the state Legislature on stuff like this," said State Sen. George Maziarz. "I don't know why the guy is having trouble getting his guns back and I really don't know where [Niagara County District Attorney Michael Violante's] head was on this."

Alps
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Niagara River Boaters Running Police Gauntlet

Mike Hudson

In modern day New York State and on the lower stretch of the Niagara River in particular, the freedom once known by boaters seems as outmoded as the birchbark canoe.

More and more, cadres of game wardens, State Parks Police, the U.S. Coast Guard and even Canadian immigration officials, have taken to harassing recreational boaters and fisherman in previously unheard of fashion.

A recent “helpful” news release put out by the Office of State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is nothing but instructive about the Big Brother doublespeak employed by those who would strip away our freedoms in the name of protecting us from ourselves.

For a safe and enjoyable boating season, State Parks recommends the following,” it begins. But what follows are not recommendations at all, but laws that carry criminal penalties.

“Until May 1, life jackets are required to be worn by everyone on any

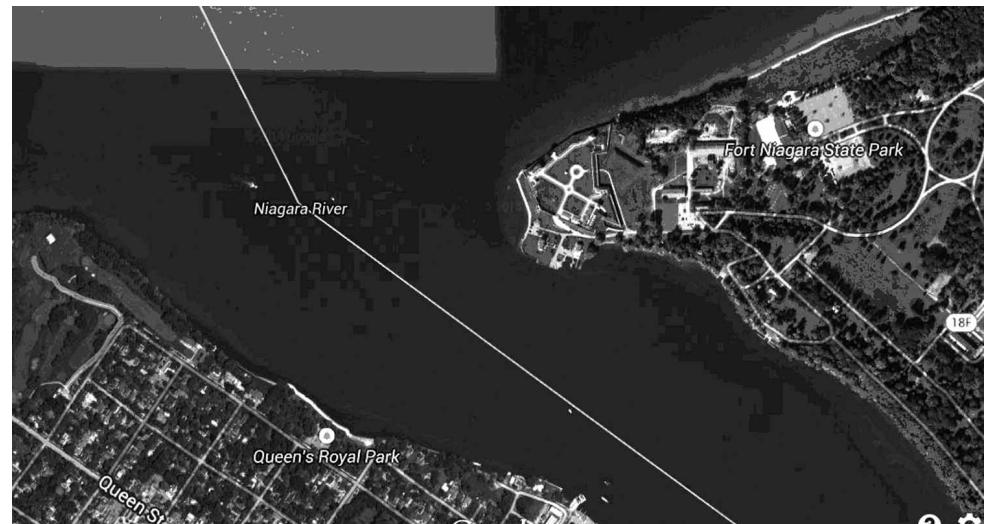
boat less than 21 feet in length,” State Parks dictates.

And this:

“Beginning May 1, all boat operators born on or after May 1, 1996 are now required to obtain a Safe Boating Certificate by completing an eight-hour safe boating course. Courses may be completed and certificates obtained through State Parks, U.S. Power Squadrons, or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. A new law signed by the governor phases-in this existing requirement to all boaters beginning with those born on or after May 1, 1996.”

As any first year junior college English major could tell you, there is a huge gulf of difference between a recommendation and a requirement. While the former might be considered a helpful hint, in this case the latter constitutes a criminal offense.

The horror stories associated with this plethora of new laws and fanatical water police charged with enforcing them are legion. It’s gotten to the point, in fact, where on certain dates at certain hours, there are more police boats



Cross this unmarked line in the water and fail to call customs and your boat could be seized - even though you never go near Canadian shores. It's a royal pain in the a--- and takes the freedom of carefree boating on the Lower Niagara and makes it a thing of the past. Now you have to be afraid you're going to lose your boat.



Maybe one of the reasons why there are so many water police is because it is damn fun. If you are a sheriff deputy what would be more fun than going out on a boat all day? In order to justify your job, all you have to do is harass innocent boaters enforcing safety, protecting boaters from themselves and capturing dangerous fisherman who might be fishing without a license. It is not like this is Columbia or something.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON

**ACADEMY OF LEARNING AND
LEADERSHIP
CHARTER SCHOOL**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014
TIME: 6:30 P.M.**

**LOCATION:
NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
4455 Porter Road,
Niagara Falls, New York**

cruising the Lower Niagara than there are recreational watercraft.

And boaters are noticing. In one recent newspaper article, the Harbor Master at the Village of Lewiston launch ramp was quoted as saying “it’s like a ghost town down there!”

He went on to say that boats that have already been inspected and approved by the Coast Guard are being pulled over repeatedly on the Lower Niagara by Coast Guard patrols with apparently nothing better to do.

The fishing business is going down like the Titanic as lengthy Coast Guard inspections eat up time booked by recreational fishermen, again even when the charter boat skippers have passed safety inspections in the past.

And in perhaps the worst horror story of all, a group of boaters from

Rochester – all with valid Canadian fishing licenses – were stopped by water-borne Canadian immigration police and actually had their vessel confiscated because they failed to call immigration before they crossed the unmarked line in the river that separates American from Canadian waters.

While we realize that cash-strapped law enforcement agencies have to support their bloated bureaucracies somehow, perhaps the answer lies not in the harassment of sportsmen who already pay millions in taxes and license fees to use the natural resources that belong to us all, but to cut back on the number of officers charged with enforcing the ridiculous laws, since there are obviously way too many of them.

Rus Thompson, a Tireless Crusader for the Public

Tony Farina

It's a simple message delivered by a fiery crusader who, in his own words, "hates corruption with every fiber of my being."

The corruption warrior is none other than Grand Island's Rus Thompson who has yet to meet a cause that he won't take on if it involves government dishonesty or, more bluntly, political agendas to advance personal gain not public benefit.

Rus Thompson, tireless at age 58, is the spokesman for TEA New York, with TEA an acronym for Taxed Enough Already, which by its own definition seeks to "reform the severely dysfunctional New York State government through Citizen and Po-



Rus Thompson with Carl Paladino

itical Action, and Policy Development. We meet, we protest, we wage campaigns to educate the public, we become committeemen and candidates, and we participate in political campaigns; we call, we write, craft and sign petitions, we become a thorn in our legislators' sides."

It could be the SAFE Act, high taxes, or the case of a student refusing to remove an NRA T-shirt. The causes are many, and TEA New York and Rus Thompson are ready to make their case.

You have to admire Thompson, even if you don't agree with all of his causes, because of his tenacity in trying to fix what he believes needs fixing in government—local or state---and giving his all to try to open up government to the public.

From the day in the mid-1990's when he and several protesters were asked to leave a Grand Island Town Board meeting, to the present when he recently set up an on-line petition to urge New York State to stop using tax dollars to pay for the legal defense of three state employees in the Canalside legal fight over the replica canals project, Rus Thompson has put pedal to the metal in his anti-corruption crusade and continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the citizens he believes are mostly being ill-served and cheated by politicians across the state.

Thompson joined political renegade Carl Paladino in his gubernatorial campaign of 2012 and helped the Buffalo developer beat Andrew Cuomo hands down in local voting. And Thompson is still working with Paladino in Paladino's efforts to fix the mess that is known as the Buffalo public school system.

Rus Thompson has enjoyed few clear victories, but he carries on anyway, no matter the odds, and you can be sure that as long as there's life left in his tank, he won't go away. This is a man who is truly dedicated to trying to get a fair shake for the public, and you can learn more about his efforts by visiting the TEA New York website or just Google Thompson and you'll find his latest cause front and center.

"They [government] may ignore us, but we're not going away," says Thompson in describing his dedication. "We're going to keep on trying to get them to do the right things for the public, and that's what we're all about."

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\$5.99 \$8.99 Lunch Buffet Dinner Buffet
with beverage purchase
Lunch valid Mon-Fri: 11am - 4pm,
Dinner valid Mon-Sat after 4 pm; all day Sun.

PONDEROSA
Expires: 04/30/14
Cannot be used in combination with any other coupon, discount or promotional offer. Tax not included. Valid for up to party of 6 at participating Steakhouses.

Is Famed Martial Arts Champion Lining Up Political Takedown

Tony Farina

Pro Martial Arts Hall of Fame Kickboxer A. J. Verel, a South Buffalo native who made his first foray into politics in 2012 when he made a strong run for the seat on the Buffalo Common Council once held by the late Jimmy Griffin, may well be cranking up for another bid at elective office.

Verel, who is currently working as the manager of Human Resources and Labor Relations at Republic Steel, showed people he is more than a martial arts champion and television and motion picture personality when he gave a sterling power point presentation to the Judges and Police Conference of Erie County earlier this month.

Verel's theme for the dinner speech emphasized "awareness of your surroundings and potential hazards," and he was well received by the members and guests in attendance and also gave a brief seminar on self-defense techniques assisted by his former teammate and coach Marty Cacavas, also a martial arts Hall of Famer.

During the course of the evening, Verel was honored for his dedication

and continued support of the community, and the public should know that Verel can be invited to present a seminar by emailing the Hall of Fame at pmahof@gmail.com.

It was just a few years ago that I joined several of my friends to attend a boxing card at the Niagara Falls Conference and Event Center, and on that occasion it happened that A. J. Verel joined our party and gave us great insight into the goings-on in the ring, from tactics to strategy. I remember my dear friend, the late Hon. Frank A. Sedita, Jr., who was with us that night commenting that he was quite impressed with Verel's knowledge of the fight game and his friendly way.

For those who may not know, Verel holds black belts in five different styles of martial arts and is credited with winning four world titles in two separate weight classes. He has performed on stage, worked as a stunt coordinator and actor in several Hollywood productions, and as appeared as boxing analyst for CNN, LCTV, SportsBlast TV and sunshine sports.

Verel has been pushing hard in Al-



A. J. Verel gets a friendly arm around the shoulder from an admirer.

bany to legalize mixed martial arts in New York which supporters say would generate new revenue for the state and help put an end to the illegal matches that are now being held in back rooms. Verel is joined by former top-ranked heavyweight boxer Joe Mesi in supporting legalizing the sport in New York.

While Verel has not publicly stated that he's interested in making another political run, it is well known he has

supporters who believe he would make a strong advocate for the public and he can be seen regularly in political circles like at Conservative Party Chairman Ralph Lorigo's famous Saturday morning get-togethers, suggesting that this still very young sports champion and businessman has a political target in mind.

Stay tuned!

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FRONT: Bob Volkman, Tony Beccari, Rich Delzoppo

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Ceretto's 'Equal Pay' Bill Ignores Free Market Reality

Margaret Shea

Earlier this month, Assemblyman John Ceretto (R-Lewiston), who is seeking re-election this year, went on record pledging to create and support legislation that he claims would guarantee "equal pay," for women and men apparently without regard to equal performance.

"For every one dollar in pay a man makes, a woman earns only 77 cents. This puts working women at a disadvantage and it must be fixed," said Ceretto, quoting a U. S. Census statistic widely used by the White House that claims the average earnings of men and women working full-time in America is 23 cents more for men, and is used mainly to imply this difference is caused by gender discrimination.

"I will be working closely with the governor and legislative leaders to pass substantive women's rights legislation that can pass in both houses," said the Republican Ceretto who joins President Barrack Obama and a raft of Democrats in promoting the idea that wresting hiring and pay freedoms from employers will cure a social injustice.

The Republican Ceretto, like



John Ceretto, usually on right side of issues, drop ball in explaining this one.

many Democrats, have chosen not to consider, as part of the debate, a body of empirical evidence that suggest men make more money than women because the free market is paying more in the aggregate for the work men do.

In its 2007 Behind the Pay Gap report, the American Association of University Women admits that most of the gap in earnings is explained by career choices.

A Georgetown University study revealed that of college majors which lead to the 10 highest-paid careers, men enrollees outnumber women in

Here is a list of the 10 most remunerative majors compiled by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Men overwhelmingly outnumber women in all but one of them:

1. Petroleum Engineering: 87 percent male
2. Pharmacy Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration: 48 percent male
3. Mathematics and Computer Science: 67 percent male
4. Aerospace Engineering: 88 percent male
5. Chemical Engineering: 72 percent male
6. Electrical Engineering: 89 percent male
7. Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering: 97 percent male
8. Mechanical Engineering: 90 percent male
9. Metallurgical Engineering: 83 percent male
10. Mining and Mineral Engineering: 90 percent male

And here are the 10 least remunerative majors—where women prevail in nine out of ten:

1. Counseling Psychology: 74 percent female
2. Early Childhood Education: 97 percent female
3. Theology and Religious Vocations: 34 percent female
4. Human Services and Community Organization: 81 percent female
5. Social Work: 88 percent female
6. Drama and Theater Arts: 60 percent female
7. Studio Arts: 66 percent female
8. Communication Disorders Sciences and Services: 94 percent female
9. Visual and Performing Arts: 77 percent female
10. Health and Medical Preparatory Programs: 55 percent female

all but one. And in the 10 least remunerative college majors, women prevail in nine out of 10.

Women are not forced to major in early childhood education, social work or performing arts rather than petroleum or chemical engineering or metallurgy. In fact millions of state and federal dollars have been devoted to recruiting women into engineering and computer technology.

Besides career choices, another obvious reason for the 23 cent difference is motherhood.

Women, obviously, take maternity and family leave at higher rates than men and have differing job tenure (many women do not enter the workforce until their children are in school).

Even the liberal Washington Post called the 23 cent wage gap "dubious".

"There is clearly a wage gap, but differences in the life choices of men and women... make it difficult to make simple comparisons," they wrote.

So how does a Ceretto re-engineer society and redistribute the wealth of the genders?

He could mandate social workers get paid the same as chemical engineers.

Or force more women to become engineers and men to become early childhood educators.

Or pay men less for their work regardless of performance.

Or maybe he can't because the actual text of the bill is far different than what Ceretto leads people to believe.

The bill does nothing to address the socialist goal of redistributing wealth by gender and hence cannot alter the fact that women earn on average 23 cents less than men across the board.

What the bill -the equal pay bill - part of the women's equality act does do is make a provision for women who are doing identical performance for an identical job as a man - but who are not being paid identically - to take action under discrimination laws.

It is a job by job right that does nothing to effect career choices and other factors that actually create the gender pay gap.

Ceretto appears to use women's choices against them to construct a false claim about social inequality that is destructive to families, can be used to pervert the free market and take away freedoms.

But perhaps this is Ceretto's idea of the most effective way to pander to women.

After all he has a gender gap in his own office.

According to an analysis of his



Strength is the medicine for the world's disease.

As soon as a man or a nation loses faith in himself, death comes.

The weak have no place here, in this life or in any other life.

Truth, purity and unselfishness -- wherever these are present, there is no power below or above the sun to crush the possessor thereof.

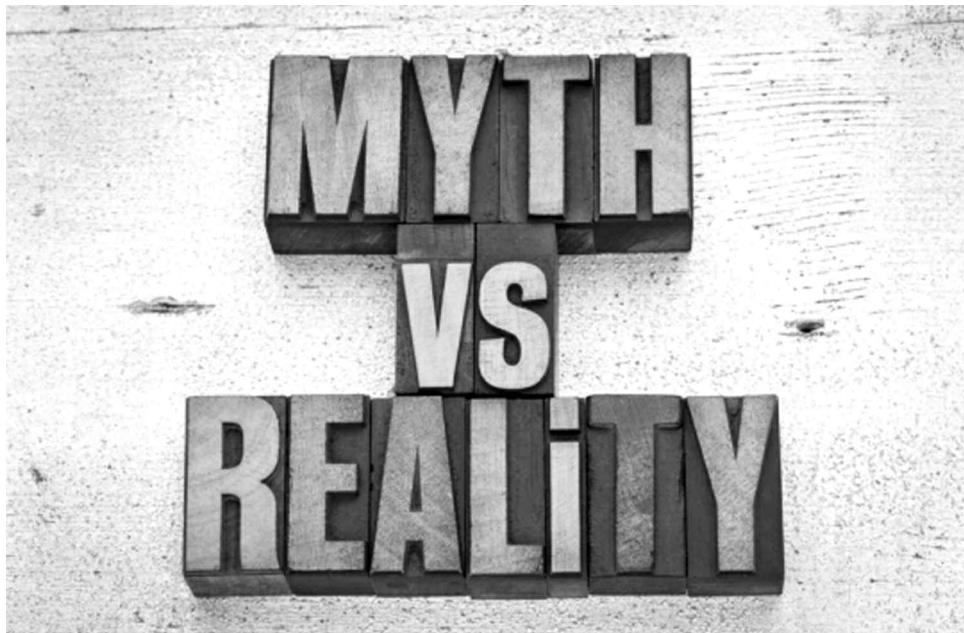
To work, with undaunted energy! What fear! Who is powerful enough to thwart you!

Strength is the property of everyone in spite of all apparent weakness.

You are also as much a man as the greatest of men - even an incarnation.

Infinite faith and strength are the only conditions of success.

~ Swami Vivekananda



staff based on their 2013 pay, as published in seethroughny.net, female staffers at Ceretto's office earn less than the national average of 77 cents as compared to men.

Ceretto's female staff earns 42 cents for every dollar Ceretto and his male staffers earn.

Should Ceretto demote his chiefs of staff Bill Angus and Chris Stazio?

Should he have at least one woman switch jobs with one of the men, so there is gender equality?

The bill Ceretto sponsored would not require that at all.

Men in his office could earn more than the women if they did differing work.

However, if a man earned more money for the identical job then the women in his office could sue under his bill.

But Ceretto, in the shadow of President Barrack Obama, the man most vocally promoting the 23 cent gender pay disparities being caused by discrimination, is using the socialist argument that women and men have to earn the same across the board and this is the disingenuous part.

And ironically, like Ceretto, Obama has a wage gap too.

Female staff at the White House earn 88 cents on the dollar compared to men, according to an analysis by the American Enterprise Institute.

But like Ceretto, Obama chose his staff based not on gender but on his freedom to choose. The freedom to pay employees what it takes to hire and keep them is important not only to freedom but business, too.

Obama and Ceretto prove that not with their words but with their actions.

To surrender that freedom to pandering politicians is folly, and will provide entrepreneurs with yet another reason to choose some state other than New York (or, for that matter, America) to do business.

But at the end the day that is not at all what Ceretto is proposing.

Based on his bill, nothing will change - and perhaps nothing should change, other than identical pay for identical performance.

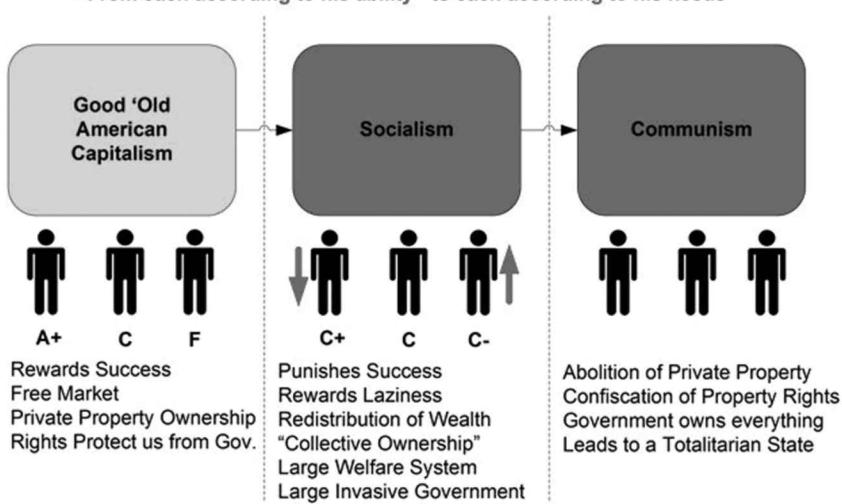
Not a socialist lumping of all work men and women do.

So why not say it?

What is Socialism?

Karl Marx's Transition to Communist Society

"From each according to his ability - to each according to his needs"

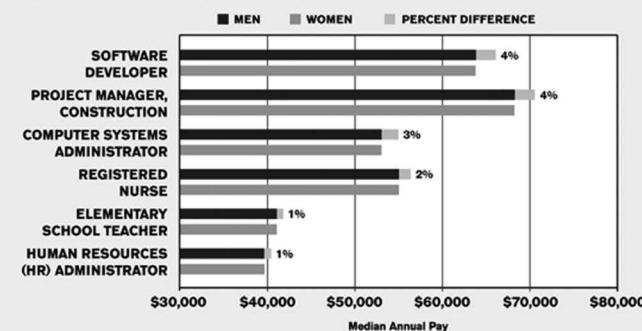


Source: AmericaStandUp.wordpress.com

DO MEN REALLY MAKE MORE MONEY THAN WOMEN?

When you compare men and women's overall earnings, men out-earn women. But, when you compare pay for men and women who are similarly qualified and working the same job, this gender pay gap typically drops below the ~80 cents on the dollar figure often reported.¹

DIFFERENCE IN ANNUAL PAY BY GENDER²



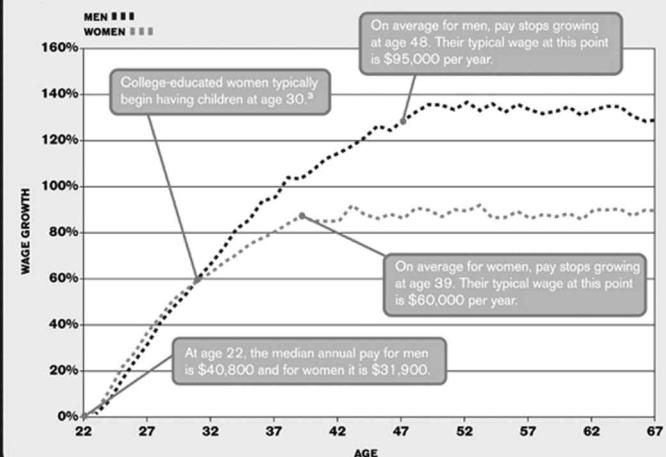
Men's wages grow for a longer period of time and achieve higher levels than women's, on average.

WHY?

JOB CHOICE: Overall, men and women gravitate toward different careers. The most popular choices for men tend to pay higher than the most popular choices for women.

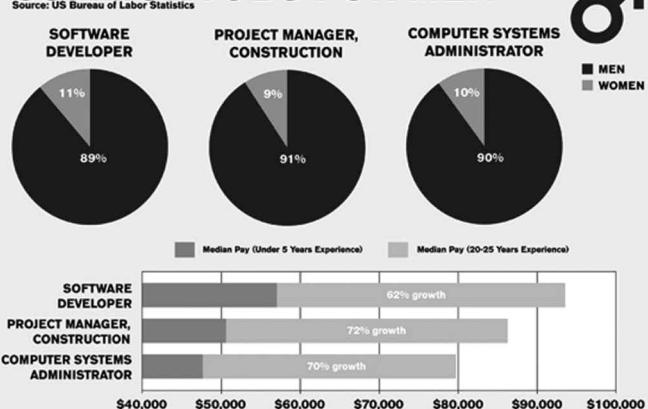
FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES: Women's pay growth stops out-pacing men's at around age 30, which is when college-educated women typically start having children.

PERCENT GROWTH IN PAY BY GENDER (FOR THOSE WITH COLLEGE DEGREES OR HIGHER)

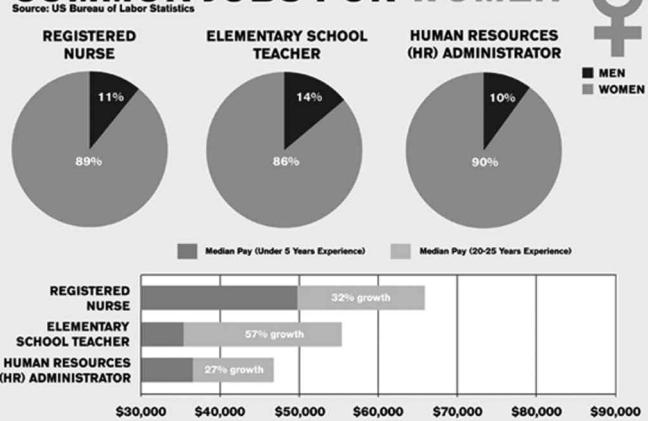


THE EFFECTS OF JOB CHOICE

COMMON JOBS FOR MEN



COMMON JOBS FOR WOMEN



Sources:

1. http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2012/ted_20120110.htm
2. <http://www.payscale.com>
3. <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jan/09/opinion/la-oe-gregory-birthrate-20110109>

See the methodology: <http://www.payscale.com/gender-lifetime-earnings-gap>

New York is No Longer Number #1 Worst State for Taxes

Welfare Recipients Still Earn More Than Average Worker Statewide

Margaret Shea

The Tax Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, has raised its ranking of New York State after the state adopted reforms to its corporate income tax system and estate tax in this year's budget.

It is now, according to the foundation, not the worst of all 50 states. It is the third worst.

In a report issued last week, the Tax Foundation said that New York's overall business tax climate ranking would have improved two spots to number 48, beating out New Jersey and California, if the tax system changes incorporated into the new state budget had been in effect when it drew up its 2014 rankings.

Last July, New York had an overall ranking of 50, making it dead last, when the Tax Foundation performed its analysis of state tax laws.

The main reason for the change is that New York has made taxes for corporations lower.

New York's corporate tax system had been ranked 25th best out of the 50 states. Now, the Tax Foundation believes, New York deserves to be ranked as having the fourth lowest corporate tax rates, behind only three states that have no corporate income tax at all, (Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming), the foundation said.

The foundation said New York is still "not a low-tax state" but that the recent changes are "an impressive first step toward tackling this prob-



But not too much.

lem by broadening bases, lowering rates, reducing burdens and eliminating needless complexity."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who posts the Tax Foundation information regularly on his official website, hailed the new rankings by the Tax Foundation.

"This year's budget builds on positive reforms included in our three prior budgets, which have greatly improved the business and tax climate in the state and changed the trajectory of New York's economic standing," he said in a statement.

The good news however only goes so far.

Also ranked are unemployment insurance taxes (45th), corporate tax (4th best), the individual income tax (49th), the sales tax (38th), and prop-

erty taxes (45th). New York rates abysmally in all except corporate taxes.

And, as to that, the Niagara County is the worst of the worst.

Out of 1824 counties studied, Niagara County has the second highest property taxes in America.

Erie County has the 13th highest.

Assemblyman John Ceretto (R-C-I-Lewiston), said he is "applauding the Tax Foundation for its recognition of New York's positive tax reforms in the new state budget."

What remains unchanged is that, while corporations are now paying lower taxes than 47 other states, the people, the workers, are still heavily taxed, having to pay for the inordinate number of people who elect to avail themselves of the generosity of New York State's welfare benefits package.

A full, basic package of welfare benefits in New York State is worth \$38,004 per year, seventh highest offered by the 50 states and the District

of Columbia, according to the Cato Institute's 2013 Work Versus Welfare Trade Off study.

Cato estimates the welfare package available in New York is the "pre-tax equivalent" of \$41,251 per year, which is 110 percent of the actual statewide median wage of \$39,562 (i.e. the median amount made by people who are employed).

In other words, the current welfare recipient in New York makes more money than the current average worker in New York.

The middle-income, working class will continue to support the high cost of New York welfare state-style government.

But now, in New York, corporations will pay less.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

4701 Lockport Road, LLC filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on the 10th day of April, 2014. Office location: Niagara County. Corporation Service Company (CSC) designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. CSC shall mail copy of any process served upon him or her to: 2902 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

4/22/14, 4/29/14, 5/6/14, 5/13/14,
5/20/14, 5/27/14

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Area Police Agencies to Honor Officers Killed on Duty



the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy and an adjunct professor in Criminal Justice at both Buffalo State College and Erie Community College. He and his wife, the former Marea Scalzo, have two children, Meredith and Thomas.

Held during National Police Week, a time to pay special recognition to law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty for

the safety and protection of others, the Niagara County service will feature the reading of the Roll of Honor – the roster of officers killed in the line of duty through the years – and a presentation of memorial wreaths by representatives from participating law enforcement agencies. Agency honor guard members will join area musicians in rendering a rifle salute and “Taps” to the memories of those

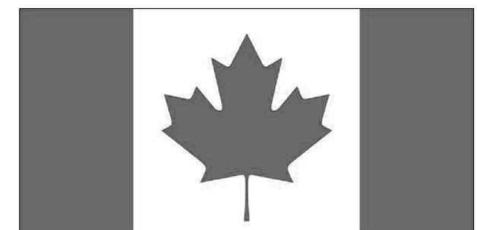
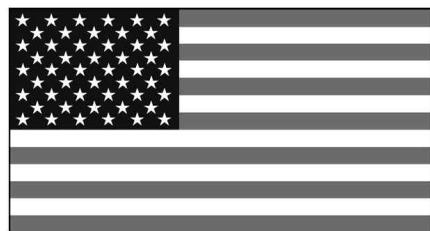
we will honor.

Immediately following the service, a reception will be provided by the Niagara Falls Block Club Council in the St. Paul’s Church fellowship hall.

The media and public are invited. There is no cost to attend this event.

National Police Week Memorial Service

***Honoring fallen officers who
have served in our region.***



Wednesday, May 14th at 7 pm
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Riviera's Famed Marquee Returns This Week



North Tonawanda, NY –The Historic Riviera Theatre and Performing Arts Center on Webster Street will begin reinstalling their iconic 1947 Marquee over their front entrance today (April 22), and the work is expected to be completed on Friday.

Under the direction of General Contractor Peyton Barlow Co., the Wagner Electric Sign Company of Elyria, Oh., removed the marquee from the building in October and transported it to their factory. There, they restored the original 1947 paint scheme, restored rose and green neon lights; added chasing lights throughout the marquee in the original chas-

ing pattern; restored metal; added new wiring and new electronics including LED display panels that mimic the look of the original lettering and background and a new roof.

The historic marquee is being reinstalled in its original location.

Frey Electric Co. worked on electrical infrastructure updates to the Theatre in preparation for the return of the restored marquee.

A local landmark and movie house, the Historic Riviera Theatre is part of the historic district known as the Webster Street Erie Canal Corridor.

The theatre was constructed in

1926 and was originally named "The New Rivera."

The first films shown were Upstage starring Norma Shearer and The Mona Lisa.

The mighty Wurlitzer Theatre organ -the Opus 1524 - was installed on Nov. 19, 1926 for the purpose of providing background music for the silent films the theater showed and is still intact and used occasionally in

concerts.

Financial support for the marquee project was provided by The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation along with East Hill Foundation; the Grigg-Lewis Foundation, Inc., and donations from the community. The Rivera held more than 175 events last year and attracted more than 80,000 patrons.



WORKPLACE SAFETY BEGINS WITH BREAKFAST

Eating a healthy breakfast before heading to work may be as important to construction site safety as wearing a hardhat. Unfortunately, breakfast is also a meal that often gets short changed. In the rush to get out of the house, many people begin their day with high-in-calorie, low-on-nutrient fast food. Many people eat nothing. Either way, workplace safety can suffer.

Research published by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) shows that people who skip out on a healthy breakfast – like 31 million Americans do every day – go about their workday more tired and less focused than those who take a few minutes to have a bowl of oatmeal and a piece of fruit. Punting on breakfast increases the likelihood for on-the-job injuries.

Mental sharpness may not be the only thing that suffers when breakfast is short-changed.

A recently completed 16-year study on men's eating habits from Harvard School of Public Health found that when people don't take time to eat a healthy breakfast, their risk for a heart attack or death from coronary heart disease goes up.

"Skipping breakfast may lead to one or more risk factors, including obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes, which may in turn lead to a heart attack over time," said lead author Leah Cahill in a statement to the American Heart Association, which published the study last summer.

The message, then, is that no matter how busy your morning, make time for breakfast. These suggestions from the Mayo Clinic are nutritious and quick. Choosing one option from each of these groups will get your day off to a great start.

- Whole grains: whole-grain rolls, bagels, hot or cold whole-grain cereals, low-fat bran muffins, crackers, Melba toast
- Low-fat protein: peanut butter, lean meat, poultry or fish, hard-boiled eggs
- Low-fat dairy: skim milk, low-fat yogurt, low-fat cottage and natural cheeses
- Fruits and vegetables: fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables, 100 percent juice beverages without added sugar, fruit and vegetable smoothies

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TRINITY DOCTRINE TO HUMAN DIGNITY

Easter explains to us the trinity doctrine and every religion has father, son and the holy spirit. Father is the creator, son are the prophets who teach us to live a good life and the holy spirit is the divine power.

We have to change our lives from bad to good and the trinity doctrine helps us to move on and have faith in our lives. Leaders must try to help and sacrifice to help lost souls.

We must remember that every religion is like a rainbow in the sky that ultimately teaches us the same truth. For instance, Krishna, a god in Hinduism, as per Rig-Veda, predicted that another son of the Lord will come to show the way to salvation. In Christianity, God created the Holy Spirit and through Mother Mary gave birth to a son of salvation.

Mother Mary was the daughter of a Jewish couple. Her womb is described as the trinity which is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and today she is called the Queen of the Heaven. If the Jewish

knew that then, they would know that Jesus Christ is their own blood and the rabbis would not have been afraid of being thrown out of priesthood as Jesus was a strong theologian. Buddhism on the other hand focuses more on mindology and many Christians became rivals to the Roman Catholic Church and got their own religion which is nice but they forgot to have the Mother of Christ to adore. The significance of a mother can be seen in any Hindu temple where goddesses are admirals as mothers of gods and that proves same reflection of Krishna or Christ who are the sons of supreme power. Today there is a lot of confusion and people do not know who or what is god - they make a simple answer complicated because of their big egos and thus live with no purity. Welfare makes people forget religion and in its stead give too much importance to democracy which puts us in poverty. Our President came to Buffalo but forgot to jump with his kangaroo legs to see the disasters in Niagara Falls. Now D'costa is dealing with

White House to why the jungle plumps with guns and drugs illegally is not the holy books of any religion. Democrats failed for so many years and good presidents like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, if alive now, would be mad at them and say, "if you cannot play, then please pass the soccer ball to the Republicans. They will try to make a better administration and create a richer economy." We need our society back with rules and morales. D'costa feels Niagara USA is slowly rising and positive looking people are there to make it.

The new generation does not have the trinity doctrine in them. We will work on it and it will start from the Niagara Falls to the other states of the USA. Humans must live with a conscience, understanding, will power and dignity which is given to us by the father, son and holy spirit - Amen.

Socorrinha D'costa - Dumiana Niagara Motion Pictures Inc.

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Letter to the EDITOR



Councilman Opposed Train Station, But Supported Local Company Getting the Work

In a city that is struggling in so many areas: decaying streets; crumbling sidewalks; a failing infrastructure; high taxes; a daily rise of crime; and lack of services, I believe these are the things we should be focusing on. With the yearly intake of nearly \$20 million from the casino the city of Niagara Falls leadership should be concentrating on the things that would affect the everyday lives of families in Niagara Falls. I believe the new train station will be a beautiful building, but I also believe this project will be another burden on the taxpayers for many years to come. As an elected official I have to look at how my vote will affect the families of Niagara Falls today, tomorrow and in the future. With that in mind, and with a clear conscience, I could not vote to support the train station project.

I knew this project, however, would be approved, regardless, by the majority on the council. With that said, I am glad a local Niagara Falls company has been picked for this project. That is why I voted "yes" for Scrufari Construction Company to get this contract.

Glenn Choolokian, Council Member, City of Niagara Falls

Green Party Not Authoritarian but Progressive

As a Green Party supporter I would like to express my disappointment with the reporting and the char-

acterizations of the Green Party and their candidate, Howie Hawkins, in your April 15th edition.

First and foremost, I object to the comparisons of the Greens' ideas to the totalitarian Soviet Union. The Green Party is generally left of the American Democrats and the Republicans while remaining right of the many fractured Socialists parties. Greens believe in grassroots democracy, local control, and participation in the political systems of many nations around the world that usually have quality of life and standard of living rankings higher than the United States.

In America it is the Democrats and Republicans who are the authoritarians with their dual bi-partisan support of the poorly named Patriot Act, the NDAA, NSA spying, their bi-partisan disproportionate global military spending and their oppressive global adventures. The Greens propose to fund a progressive social and infrastructure agenda mostly by defunding and dismantling the military police state. An authoritarian party would never dream of doing that.

If anything is fascist in America today, it is not ideas from the Greens but Obamacare, the merger of State and corporation. The State funnels mandated for-profit customers - under threat of penalty - to healthcare corporations and into a fragmented array of unequal services. The Greens support a universal single-payer national healthcare system. The current Obamacare still leaves out 30 million Americans.

Greens also support a \$15 per hour living wage. The idea being that a full-time working adult should be able to pay for basic living expenses by working. This dignity obtained through working would allow many to come off programs like food stamps. The idea in your article that the living wage would crush business is simply false. All you have to do is look to Australia where the Green Party originated and where the minimum wage exceeds \$15/hour, the Big Mac still costs under \$6 and the business community does just fine. When people can earn enough money with dignity through working they can

then go out and spend it. In my view workers need to get paid enough to live or there is no real incentive to work at all.

Bruce Baron

Sh-Disturbers, Yes, But We, Ontarians don't mind it in our Fields

I read your paper just about every week. (My friend goes to Niagara Falls, NY., almost weekly.) You sure like to dig up dirt - but it makes interesting reading. We don't have those kind of problems on this side of the Niagara River. As far as using human waste (s--t) for fertilizer, the Niagara Region has been doing it for years. It's not like we have 450,000 residents using the farmer's fields as

open outhouses. Just like "Quasar" it goes through extensive treating.

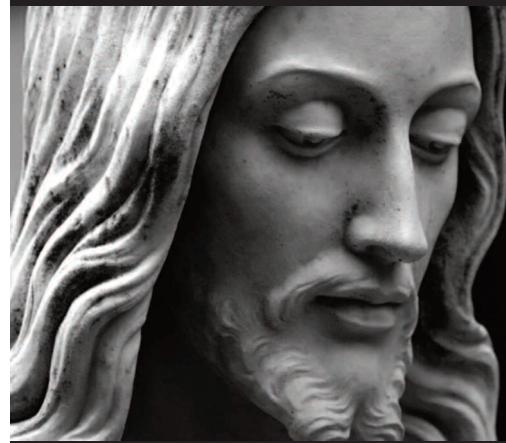
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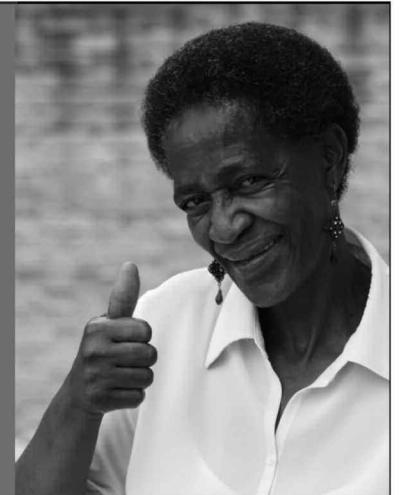
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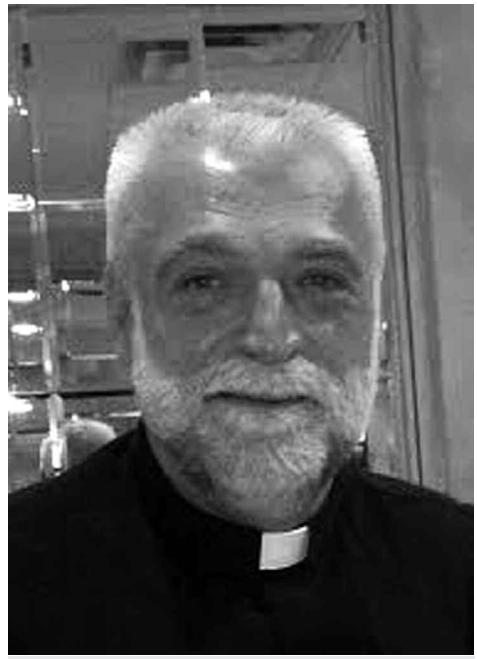


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Mount Carmel Niagara Appoints New Spiritual Leader



Father Michael Wastag

Last week, the Monastery of Mount Carmel in Niagara Falls, Ont., announced the appointment of Father Michael Wastag, O. Carm., as the new director of spiritual programs, following the retirement of Father Stanley Makacinas, O. Carm., who served as director of the Monastery since 2006.

Established in 1875, The Monastery of Mount Carmel Niagara Falls is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of members of the Order of the Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The Monastery of Mount Carmel Niagara Falls offers various programs and private retreats where guests can stay and live among the monks.

Prior to arriving at The Monastery in July, Father Michael served from 2004 until 2012 at Carmel Retreat in Mahwah, N. J. From there he spent one year serving in parish work at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Tenafly, N. J.

The Carmelites are a Roman Catholic religious order founded in the 12th century on Mount Carmel. Saint Bertold is believed to have founded the order and tradition traces the origin to a community of mendicant monks or hermits who had immigrated to Palestine from Europe. They chose Mount Carmel because it was the traditional home of Elijah. There, they gathered at the well of Elijah on Mount Carmel and were the successors of the schools of the prophets in ancient Israel.

The order emphasizes contemplation and selfless action. Carmelites practice prayer, community and service; the prophet Elijah and the Virgin Mary are patrons of



St. John of the Cross (1542-1591) and St. Teresa of Avila 1515-1582, were noted Carmelites



The Monastery of Mount Carmel of Niagara Falls.

the Order.

The Order has a strong Marian devotion.

Traditionally, the Carmelites are known for strict obedience to their prior residence in individual cells, constancy in prayer, the hearing of Mass every morning in the oratory of the community, vows of poverty and toil, daily silence from vespers until terce the next morning, abstinence from meat except in cases of illness,

and frequent fasting.

By 2001, membership in the Order amounted to approximately 2,100 monks in 25 provinces, 700 enclosed nuns in 70 monasteries, and 13 affiliated Congregations and Institutes.

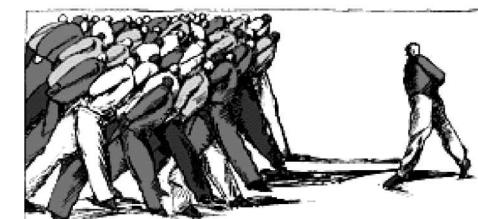
The writings and teachings of Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, a Carmelite friar of the 17th century, continue to be promoted as a spiritual classic under the title, "The

Practice of the Presence of God."

Currently there are several programs offered under Father Michael's direction at the Monastery, including "Desert Wednesdays with Father Michael" and "Who wants to be a Mystic?" He also leads courses such as "Fifty Ways to Pray," "Where the Heck is God," and "A Sunday Night Dinner and Movie Series."

Father Jay Comerford, O.Carm., Father Chris Kulig, O.Carm., and others also present courses and classes, as well as a 12-step spirituality program for women and directed private retreats. Offerings such as "Touching the Hem of Jesus Christ" or "A Holy Week Sacred Triduum Retreat, are among the programs offered at the Monastery.

The monks invite "anyone looking for a spiritual and refreshing break in life" to visit Mount Carmel. For further information on The Monastery of Mount Carmel, in Niagara Falls, Ont., contact the Centre online at www.carmelniagara.com or through their office at 905 356-4113.



If the whole world stands against you sword in hand, would you still dare to do what you think is right?

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Military Towing, LLC filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on the 10th day of April, 2014. Office location: Niagara County. Corporation Service Company (CSC) designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. CSC shall mail copy of any process served upon him or her to: 2902 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

4/22/14, 4/29/14, 5/6/14, 5/13/14,
5/20/14, 5/27/14

Niagara Falls' Bruins Win Big, Brag Loud

Randy Ubriaco
Special Correspondent

A surprisingly agile group of geriatrics known as the Bruins won this year's Niagara Falls Senior Alumni Hockey Playoff Championship game, with a 3-0 win against the luckless, fallen Leafs.

Rich "Tabaracci" Russell earned the shutout as goaltender for the Bruins, stopping all 42 shots.

After a scoreless first period, the Bruins first goal was scored by "Bobo Lou" Roddie, assisted by Ed "Sniper" Smith and Dr. Jake "take my teeth" Jankowski, DDS.

Soon afterward, "Da Bruins," as they are affectionately known by their fans, went into high gear, inspired in part when yours truly, this humble writer, Randy "RU 4 Real" Ubriaco, added the all-important second "insurance" goal, with Chris DeMarco chipping in the third goal.

Assisting on these goals were Rich "Herb" Brooks, Hank "out of gas" Hughes, and Jim "Hefty bagodonuts" Heft. The Leafs were left, as Bob Dylan once observed, Blowin' in the Wind.

Still, it was a hard-earned win. It was, in many ways, a tribute to the fossilized mossbacks on the team - in particular, the Bruins' infamous Smith, the oldest man in the league



Some say the opponents weren't so tough, but this photo proves otherwise, as Ubriaco (right) squares off against one of the tough guys (left) on the other team.

2013 ~ 2014 SENIOR ALUMNI CHAMPIONS



THE BRUINS

(also believed to be one of the oldest humans in existence).

Smith, the former Melody Fair producer, declined to comment on his age, but said he is considering retiring while still at the "top" of his game and "while he can still bend over and tie his skates."

On another, bittersweet note, every hockey team needs a tough guy. However, the league has seen the last of one their own - the gritty, grizzled, ruffian from Norkville, Ont., Mr. Jack Dobrint. Tough guy Dobrint, while not young, recently said that even though he is retiring "make no mistake about it, I can still out muscle any 80 or 90 year old guy in the league."

The games leading to the glorious, remarkable, and richly-deserved championship victory of the astoundingly adept and popular Bruins were played at the newly-renovated Hyde Park Twin Rinks Ice Pavilion, which is managed by tourism and

hockey tournament guru Gene Carella and his son Michael.

By what might be called a "quirk of fate," first place in the league standings actually went to Captain Greg Delgado's "Wild Wetbacks," led by goalie Deano "Beano" Snyder. However, the Wetbacks came up short in the all-important playoff round.

A late injury suffered by Dan Pedlo didn't help their cause.

In the photo above: Bruins: Goalie Rich Russell in front. Kneeling L-R, Hank "I've got gas" Hughes, Frank Davis, Assistant Captain Chris Demarco, Paul "no Bragging" Morreale, and Co-Captain Randy "RU Marvelous" Ubriaco.

Standing rear: Bobo Louie Rod-

die, Ed "Sniper" Smith, Jake "Teeth" Jankowski, "Book em" Dano Carlson,

Rich "3 peat" Brooks, Jim "Hefty" Heft, Tony "the Lizard" Lizaukas, Ralph "the Marvel from Munton" Proulx, John "God" Goedertz, and Captain Brett "the Jet" Bunker. Missing: Paul "Bloomers" Blume and Matt Puenic.

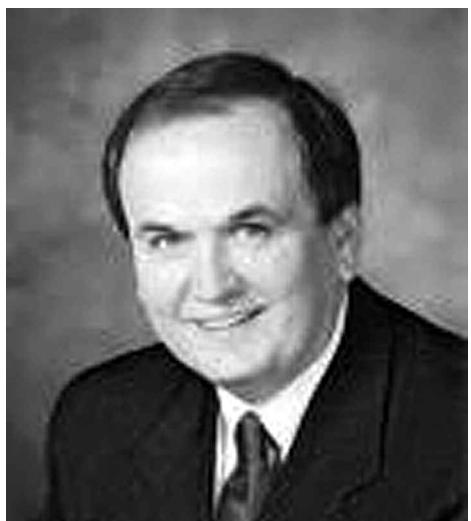
A big thank you to the league's sponsor, Honey's Pizzeria, and their fine staff, for a great season and delicious banquet food. So ends another wonderful season of Men's Hockey at Hyde Park; bring on the Golf and Bocce games ...

Until, NEXT time, Ladies and Gents ... Peace!



Ubriaco says the team is going to hone their skills this off season by practicing with the Bikini Ice Hockey league.

What Can You Do To Lower Your Utility Bill? Consider an ESCO



George Maziarz

With this bitter winter hopefully behind us, there is no doubt one of its most harmful effects still lingers—high energy bills.

Many constituents I have heard from have seen major spikes in their utility bills in recent weeks. People are understandably upset, and they want to know what they can do about it.

One thing you can do to lower your energy bill is consider buying

your energy from a different company. It may surprise you to learn that National Grid and/or National Fuel are not the only game in town.

Since the deregulation of New York's energy industry in the late 1990s, residents have the option to purchase their natural gas or electricity supply from their main utility distributor or from an independent Energy Service Company (ESCO).

The addition of ESCOs has made the energy market competitive. You can now research to look for better deals and lower prices.

An ESCO may offer lower supply costs. Most energy bills are divided into two parts—supply and

delivery. While you may pay delivery costs to a company like National Grid, you are not required to purchase your supply of energy from them.

You can compare prices and services offered by various ESCOs by visiting www.newyorkpowertochoose.com. The website is simple to use; just enter your zip code to see the many offers available in your area.

While some companies' rates fluctuate heavily with the demands of the market and other factors, ESCO customers are often able to get fixed rate contracts so they know what to expect when they receive their



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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Niagara Automation and Controls, LLC filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on the 10th day of April, 2014. Office location: Erie County. Corporation Service Company (CSC) designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. CSC shall mail copy of any process served upon him or her to: 2902 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

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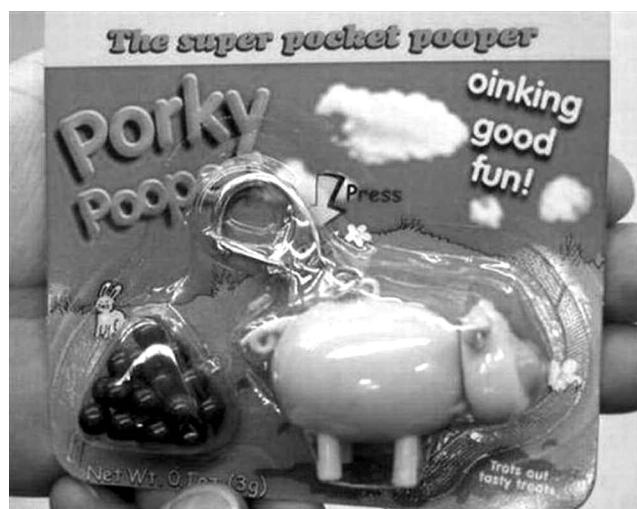
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