



**While Rome Burns...**

# NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

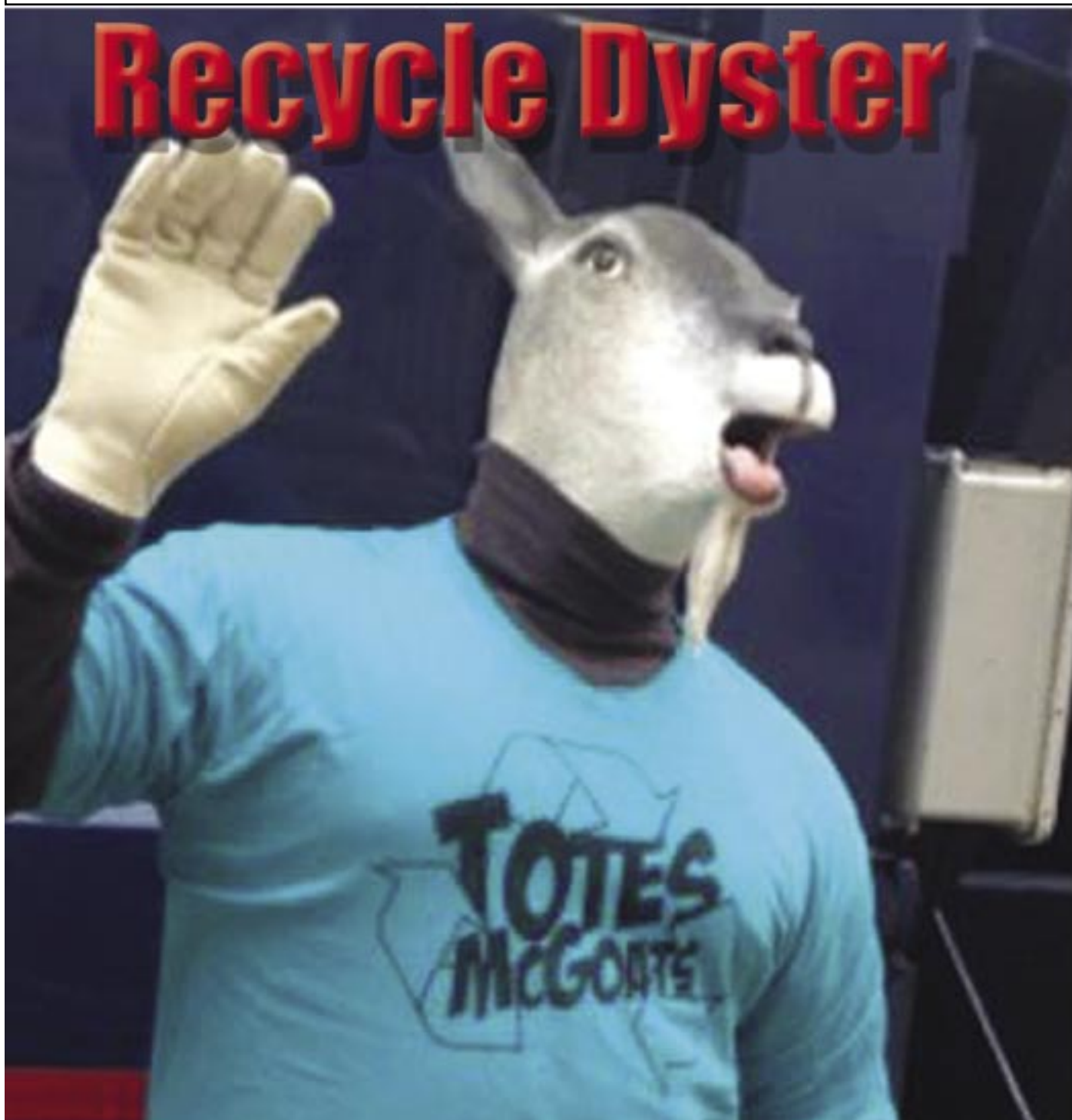
THE TRUTH IS ALWAYS FAIR

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FREE

## Totes McGoats says, 'He's a baaaaaa...d Mayor'



**\$1 million**



**No Hamister**



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# Dyster's 72nd Street Debacle Turns \$300,000 Problem into \$1 Million Fiasco



While Mayor Paul Dyster grows the fun downtown with some \$707,000 in taxpayer subsidized concerts for Hard Rock Cafe, he could not find the \$300,000 to fix 72nd St. when contractors told him the pipes would freeze.



Mayor Dyster will now spend more than \$1 million to try to fix the water lines that freeze each year on 72nd St. This paper only hopes that this expenditure of more than three times the original cost will not inhibit the good mayor from spending money on really important things like the Blues Fest, Penguin Habitat, Holiday Markets, Beer Tasting at the NACC and of course more Hard Rock concerts.



A group of needy residents on 72nd St. had the audacity to place signs on their homes telling the world that they only have running water in the summer.

## Mike Hudson

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster's intransigence in dealing with the frozen water main on 72nd Street that left hundreds of households without running water over the past two winters has finally managed to turn a \$300,000 problem into one that will cost the taxpayers of Niagara Falls more than \$1 million.

The Niagara Falls City Council approved a \$965,000 contract with Yarussi Construction to tear up a recently paved section of the street and place the underlying water mains where every engineer who looked at the project said they should have been placed when the street was repaved back in 2010.

Dyster was told the pipes would freeze by his own city engineering department, by Paul Marinaccio, the head of Accadia Contracting, the company that did the original repaving job, and by Clark, Patterson, Lee, the outside contracting firm the mayor desperately hired in

order to prove that he did nothing wrong.

When the contractor, Paul Marinaccio, President of Accadia Site Contracting, began the job, he realized that with changes of elevation in the street and by changing the cover around the 78 year-old water line - from packed soil to gravel, the old water lines which were not deep enough would freeze during cold winters.

They were between 18 inches to three feet below the new surface of the road in some locations.

Marinaccio told the city they should replace the water line.

He said he could do that work while the street was opened for around \$300,000.

Dyster's own engineering department agreed. The mayor made a halfhearted attempt to shake down the Water Board for the money, the Water board balked and Dyster swept the whole thing under the rug.

His luck held out for several relatively mild winters until February 2014, when the

water main finally froze, as everyone told him it would in the first place.

The mayor acted as though he was surprised. He said there were "a half dozen theories" as to why the pipes froze. He commissioned a study.

Meanwhile, more than 200 families had no running water.

In the middle of a brutal winter. The study he commissioned, at great expense from Clark, Patterson, Lee, served only to confirm what everyone already knew. That the water main had been improperly reinstalled after the 2010 repaving project. When Dyster read it, on April 9, 2014, Dyster put it in a desk drawer and hoped everyone would forget about it.

The Niagara Falls Reporter spoke with Anthony Mallone, the project engineer for Accadia.

"You need to redo the water line, re-cut the road," Mallone said. "Install a new water line, and excavate it down to a depth below the

freeze line."

Dyster continued to ignore the situation. He had concerts to host at the Hard Rock Cafe, beer to drink at the Niagara Arts and cultural Center and canoe launches to build on Hyde Park pond.

In the winter of 2015, the water main froze again.

Finally, after saying he wouldn't, he put the whole project out for bid. Yarussi came in low at \$965,000, which does not count the cost of consultant's studies or actual engineering work. There will be change orders of course, and a problem Dyster could have taken care of in 2010 for \$300,000 will now cost Niagara Falls taxpayers well over \$1 million.

They say that people get the sort of elective representation they deserve. That axiom is no truer anywhere than it is in Niagara Falls, and no better representative of the city's foolish pride and broken dreams could possibly be found than in Mayor Paul Dyster.

# Will Cuomo Try to Help Dyster Given Hamister Debacle?



Tony Farina

falo, Niagara Falls seems to be struggling to provide services and jobs to a declining and very poor population that showed their displeasure with Dyster by nearly defeating him in the primary vote. And many of the development projects started under Dyster have yet to see the light of day.

Among those major no-shows is the much-hyped Hamister Hotel project on Rainbow Blvd. that Dyster—and Cuomo—championed so hard in 2013. Despite having more than \$8 million in public money at the ready, Buffalo developer Mark Hamister has yet to break ground on the hotel project that Dyster, backed by Cuomo, said would save downtown.

But Cuomo is known as a loyal politician, and when he was locked in a battle with the Seneca Nation over slot revenue, it was the City of Niagara Falls that was the biggest loser. The city was down more than \$60 million in slot revenue and Dyster spent down the reserves and failed to make any budget adjustments to deal with the crisis, as noted by an audit by the State Comptroller. But Dyster never criticized Cuomo, and when Hamister wanted land in Niagara Falls to build a hotel, backed by the state, Dyster carried the fight.

The political problem now for Dyster and Cuomo is that there's no sign that anything is going to be started soon at the prime downtown parcel pretty much gifted to Hamister for his hotel that has been scaled back a number of times since it was first rolled out by the state's USA Niagara after a very secretive bidding process.

If Cuomo endorses Dyster, or even comes to town to personally support his friend, he most certainly will have to deal with the question of what happened to the Hamister project. Cuomo's state development people in Western New York won't respond to questions about what's going on, as usual, and neither will the Dyster administration.

But while the Cuomo billion has created great energy and earnings potential in Buf-



The site of the Hamister hotel - an urgent do or die Dyster-Cuomo project in 2013 - remains a parking lot in 2015.

For his part, Accardo says he thinks the council was right when they raised questions about the project in 2013 only to be overwhelmed by Cuomo, Dyster, and other big-name political figures who just about called the hotel a do-or-die deal.

"I don't think that hotel will ever be built, and the city will have a tough time getting that land back," said Accardo this week.

With that backdrop, will Cuomo come to Niagara Falls to endorse Dyster? For now, the only thing we know for sure is that there are no shovels in the ground at the Hamister site that was leveled by city workers to make room for something that is nowhere in sight. And there are no more debates scheduled between Dyster and Accardo before the election as the Block Clubs inexplicably canceled a second debate that had been scheduled for next Tuesday.

One veteran political observer, who attended the one and only debate last week, said

Accardo won handily because Dyster had to run on his record. That record includes what the mayor called back in 2013 the "transformational" project that will open the door to a flood of new development downtown, creating jobs and spurring economic growth.

It appears the ball is now in the governor's court. Maybe he will find a way to jump start the Hamister project for his friend before the election with more state money. But as of now, sources say Hamister does not have the money to move forward and never did.

It is kind of like a replay for Hamister who was going to buy the Buffalo Sabres a few years ago until he couldn't get the state money to do it. It was left to Tom Golisano to pick up the pieces and keep the hockey team in town. Now Hamister is in the same place, and so far no one has bailed him out, or the city of Niagara Falls which has nothing to show for all that bluster back in 2013.

## TOP REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3

- ✓ Voting is a way to speak your mind and let your voice be heard! When we vote, we are actually telling elected officials and lawmakers how we feel about education, public safety, social security, health care, and other important issues. It was through elections that we voted in officials who were champions for civil rights. Voting is our chance to make a difference in our own lives and within the world.
- ✓ One voice, one vote really does count! There is power in numbers, and when we vote and get our family members to vote, we can truly make a difference. If you don't vote for what you believe in, others will - and you may not like the outcome.
- ✓ Our children are depending on us to represent their voices too! That's how we make our concerns about schools, safety, housing, and other issues heard. When we vote, we are looking out for our kids, and their futures.
- ✓ Voting changes communities! Do you ever wonder why one neighborhood gets passed over for things it needs, while another seems to get it all? One big reason is voting. When we vote, we can get results that we can actually see.
- ✓ Voting is a way of honoring our history! As long as our country has existed, there have been people who did not want us to vote. There were several freedom fighters that stood up for the right to vote. It's now our turn to stand up and vote to preserve the honor of those who went before us.
- ✓ Last but not least, voting gives you credibility! Often times, we voice our concerns to elected officials, but if we aren't voting, our concerns may not matter at all to them. Voting can actually give you the credibility to make your concerns a top priority for legislators.

LET'S REMIND OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS HOW THEY GET THEIR INCOME, HEALTH INSURANCE AND COMFORTABLE LIFE STYLE. LET'S REMIND THE POLITICIANS WHO THEY WORK FOR.



## NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

"The Truth is Always Fair"

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# Skrlin, the Magnificent, Creates Another Masterpiece: Toast Me Goats

Did the devil make Niagara Falls' Mayor Paul Dyster do it?

Did the mayor's desire to develop a trash and recycling mascot for his ill-fated garbage program cause him to do a deal with the Evil One?

Only the mayor knows for sure what prompted him to consort with the occult image of Totes McGoat. These are the questions that Skrlin's most recent cartoon addresses as Paul Dyster is portrayed as a Devil who toasts Totes over a roaring hell fire.

While the mayor has set fire to McGoats, the implication of the artwork is clear: McGoats is merely the most recent victim of a devilish administration. This is the same mayor who has frozen residents with his Nightmare on 72nd Street. This is the city's top elected official who sat pat as heinous rats roam the streets. The same mayor who refuses to entertain the obvious likelihood of a serial killer operating in town. The same mayor who spent the casino funds, rewarded city hall friends with pay hikes, overtime and stipends. The very same mayor who built a \$50 million courthouse and \$44 million train station. Taxes up, crime up, spending up...it's as if the Devil himself were calling the shots in the city.

Antonia X. LaVey  
Art Critic



"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received-- only what you have given."  
— Francis of Assisi

# Dyster Puts it in Writing for City Employees: 'Just Give me a Fair Chance.'

Anna Howard

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul A. Dyster sent a letter dated October 13 2015 to city employees belonging to the United Steelworkers Union (USW) and, as the saying goes, "It was a real doozy!"

The letter runs the gamut from chest thumping to bargaining to begging.

Never in the history of local politics have we seen anything that can hold a candle to the disturbing missive issued by two-term Dyster.

The mayor pleads in the first paragraph, "I am writing to ask for your support for a third term as Mayor of the City of Niagara Falls. You've had time to judge whether I'm right for the job. Just give me a fair chance."

In the second paragraph he has the cheek to put the following on paper, "I hope you agree that these last 8 years have been a good time for members of the USW. No one has been laid off...You've received numerous pay increases...I know many of you

had the chance to buy homes, get new cars or finance college education for your kids because of the stable employment my administration provided."

Nine lines into the letter he states, "I believe in you. Without spying on you...I've tried to show my support...I'm proud to be your leader."

It gets good, delusional, but really good in the fifth paragraph, "I challenge anyone to find a single instance in 8 years -- even when I have been under severe political attack myself on TV, talk radio or in the hateful local tabloid -- where I threw you under the bus to save myself. I stuck up for you every time."

All this writer can say is, wow. For the past 8 years, whenever there's a budget shortfall or expenditure problem, His Honor faithfully goes to the "personnel costs and health insurance are causing all of our problems" card. The mayor's been demonizing the workforce (police and fire aside) since day one and he doesn't see his actions as tossing employees under the bus.

The Dyster administration has distinguished itself as the most non-transparent,

most wasteful, most insulting to the residents (72nd Street anyone...or how about rats, cats and crime?) of any administration in memory. The trash program, frozen water lines, rising crime, a \$50 million courthouse and a \$44 million train station stand as a testament to the inadequacy and questionable actions of Dyster's city hall.

Vince Anello said on his radio show, October 20, that the Dyster administration has labeled him as a troublemaker for circulating the USW letter. It's indeed a mystery as to how Anello could be accused as being an insurgent for sharing what Dyster had already mailed to hundreds of city employees. We suspect it wasn't Anello's circulating the letter that tormented the mayor it was the outrageous tone of the letter, when viewed in the glaring light of day that angered His Honor.

We're amazed that this letter could cause the mayor discomfort, but he's not discomforted by his city's \$7.6 million deficit, \$63 million debt, empty casino cash account, the perennial budget shortfall closed with casino cash, \$1.4 million unaccounted

for as discovered by the NYS Comptroller, a shuttered Underground Railroad Interpretive Center, more than \$1 million for legal consultants, frozen water lines and much more.

The mayor closed his now legendary USW campaign letter with this humdinger of a paragraph: "We have come too far to go back to the bad old days. I'm a straight shooter, not a glad-hander. I stick to the facts and do my job. I hope you'll look back on my record, compare it to my opponent's, and use your vote to help me move this city forward for the next four years."

To this we say, yes, we have certainly come a long way in the last 8 years. From in the black to in the red. From being a potential contender in the economic development world to being a laughingstock where we pay people to live here, can't figure out how to collect trash and -- in spite of the casino cash windfall -- can't pay the bills.

Thou Shall Not Hate: This "hateful local tabloid" is pleased to present Mayor Paul Dyster's letter to city employees in its entirety.

## Dyster's Letter to Employees

Friends of Paul Dyster  
P.O. Box 127  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
www.dyster.com

October 13, 2015

Dear City Employee,

I am writing to ask you for your support for a third term as Mayor of the City of Niagara Falls. You've had time to judge whether I'm right for the job. Just give me a fair chance.

I hope you'll agree that these last 8 years have been a good time for members of the USW. No one has been laid off, and you have received numerous pay increases, even though -- unlike the public safety unions -- you are not covered by binding arbitration. Whatever they got, I gave to you too. I know how many of you had the chance to buy homes, get new cars or finance college education for your kids because of the stable employment my administration provided.

Naturally, I'm hurt I had to face a member of your union in the Democratic primary. This only served to weaken our cause against the anti-worker forces in our local political scene. We should be working together.

I believe in you. Without spying on you, or second-guessing your way of getting things done, I've tried to show my support. You've seen me on the road at 3am during blizzards, or checking on the paving crew when it's 90 degrees in the shade. Day or night, you're on the job somewhere. You protect your neighbors, respond to their emergencies, fix their roads, help them get their paperwork straight, do the dirty jobs, and address their many needs daily -- and often don't hear a lot of praise in return. Except from me. I'm proud to be your leader.

In spite of the chorus of boo-birds, most of our citizens appreciate what you do for them every single day. I challenge anyone to find a single instance in 8 years -- even when I have been under severe political attack myself on TV, talk radio or in the hateful local tabloid -- where I threw you under the bus to save myself. I stuck up for you every time.

My wife and I both come from large families (I'm the oldest of 10, she's the oldest of 6), but the closest relation we have who works for the City is my wife's sister's brother-in-law -- and I had nothing to do with him getting hired. The job I didn't give to one of my family members may be the job you have now, that supports you and your family. Think about it.

We've hired a lot of people since I've been Mayor. Some of you weren't even born when my opponent, John Accardo, was last in office. I think he's hoping the elders will forget to remind the younger ones that he presided over the days of double-digit tax increases and layoffs. As Chairman of the City Council, in 1997 alone, he had 10 firefighter layoffs, 38 sanitation layoffs and a 13% homestead tax increase. He claimed this would lead to a year end surplus. Instead, the Councils he led raised property taxes a total of 45% between 1992 and 2001. Niagara Falls lost jobs, investment opportunities and residents. Let's not go back there.

Commitment, involvement, trust, and cooperation are the cornerstones of any successful organization. I have worked to weave those values into the fabric of this administration. There are those in this community who are attempting to destroy what we have built for their own personal gain. They don't care about you, and are willing to gamble with your future and the future of this community.

We have come too far to go back to the bad old days. I'm a straight-shooter, not a glad-hander. I stick to the facts and do my job. I hope you'll look back on my record, compare it to my opponent's, and use your vote to help me move this city forward for the next four years.

Sincerely yours,

Paul A. Dyster

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# In wake of Choolokian Squeaker, Dyster Panders to City Union

Mike Hudson

In a bizarre, rambling and at times incoherent letter to unionized city employees, Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster owns up to awarding hefty pay increases he didn't have to, hiring many new employees and improving the city to an unprecedented extent during the eight years he has been in office.

"I am writing to ask for your support for a third term as Mayor of the City of Niagara Falls," he begins. "You've had time to judge whether I'm right for the job. Just give me a fair chance."

In his desperate attempt to secure votes, Dyster claims full credit for making the Niagara Falls workforce one of the most highly paid in the state, even though it is the taxpayers — who bear the highest tax burden in all of New York — who have paid the price for his generosity.

"I hope you'll agree that these last eight years have been a good time for members of the USW. No one has been laid off and you have received numerous pay increases, even though — unlike the public safety workers — you are not covered by binding arbitration," the mayor wrote. "Whatever they got, I gave to you too. I know many of you had the chance to buy homes, get new cars or finance college education for your kids because of the stable employment my administration has provided."

The reality, of course is that Dyster has proposed layoffs. Opposition by the City Council was what saved the jobs.

Dyster claimed to be "hurt" that a city union member, Glenn Choolokian, ran against him and very nearly defeated him in last month's Democratic primary.

"Naturally, I'm hurt I had to face a member of your union in the primary," he wrote. "This only served to weaken our cause against the anti-worker forces in our local political scene. We should be working together."

This is interesting in two respects. First, the "anti-worker forces" are never identified, and Dyster himself is seeking assistance from both the New York State Financial Restructuring Board for Local Governments and the Buffalo-Niagara Enterprise, two of the most virulently anti-union organizations in the state.

For his part, Choolokian has chosen to remain in the race, mounting a write in campaign that obviously has Dyster worried.

"I believe in you," he claims weakly. "Without spying on you or second guessing your way of getting things done, I've tried to show my support."

How exactly?

"You've seen me on the road at 3 a.m. during blizzards, or checking on the paving crew when it's 90 degrees in the shade."

While Dyster has indeed done such things, so has every other mayor the city has ever had. It is a part of their job. Dyster's twist is that, when he does it, he generally brings along a photographer, a reporter from one of the local daily newspapers or a television crew.

The mayor then takes a flight of fancy. Attacks against him are actually attacks against the union, he claims.

"I challenge anyone to find a single instance in eight years — even when I have been under severe attack myself on TV, talk radio or the hateful local tabloid — where I threw you

**MAYOR PAUL DYSTER**  
CAUSES OF TERMINATION

**[X] FAILED TO KEEP HIS PROMISE:**  
Mayor Dyster promised not to use the city's share of casino funds to cover gaps in his budget, but now he wants to spend \$12.5 million in casino revenue to do just that, instead of investing it in the city's economic development, as the funds are meant to be.

**[X] FAILED TO BALANCE THE BUDGET:**  
A top priority of the city government is a balanced budget, but Mayor Dyster is moving in the wrong direction—using \$8 million of casino cash to plug the holes in this year's budget and seeking \$12.5 million for next year's while still raising taxes and running a deficit.

**REMOVE MAYOR DYSTER NOV 3**

**THE BUFFALO NEWS**  
"Dyster relies on casino cash to balance his proposed budget."

under the bus to save myself. I stuck up for you every time."

In reality, an extensive review of the Niagara Falls Reporter's excellent online archive failed to come up with a single example of an attack against the union. As the "hateful local tabloid" in question, we would challenge Dyster to produce anything we've published that required him to stick up for anyone but himself.

"We've hired a lot of people since I've been mayor," he wrote. That part is true. He's hired political hacks and given them make-work positions so that they could work on his campaign while collection a fat salary paid for entirely by the taxpayer, for example.

He then squares off against his main opponent in the general election, Pine Avenue businessman and former City Council Chairman John Accardo.

During Accardo's time in office, Dyster claims, "Niagara Falls lost jobs, investment opportunities and population. Let's not go back there."

Actually, we don't have to go back there. We're there right now. Private sector job loss, the lack of private investment and population decline have all been hallmarks of Dyster's eight year reign of error.

"Commitment, involvement, trust and co-operation are the cornerstones of any successful organization" Dyster concludes. "I have worked into the fabric of this administration. There are those in this community who are attempting to destroy what we have built for their own personal gain. They don't care about you, and are willing to gamble with your future and the future of this community."

Again, Dyster fails to say who these anonymous boogymen are, but what does it matter? He has succeeded in many areas, including establishing Niagara Falls as the highest taxed, most dangerous municipality in all of New York. He has squandered nearly \$200 million in revenue from the Seneca Niagara Casino without creating a single decent private sector job and spent millions on hiring Buffalo based attorneys and engineering consulting

firms to do work the city's law and engineering departments should be doing.

In each and every year since he took office, around 1,000 hardworking, taxpaying residents have fled for greener pastures, and to replace them for purposes of the census count, he has more than quadrupled the number of registered sex offenders living on the dole here.

He threw millions in tax incentives and valuable real estate at his close personal friend — do nothing developer Mark Hamister — to build a cookie cutter downtown hotel in a deal that is now dead in the water.

If you think the city needs more cricket fields, penguin habitat and canoe launches, Dyster is clearly the man for you. If you're looking for someone willing to put the reins on out of control spending and constant tax increases, you'll have to look elsewhere.

Anyone "attempting to destroy" what Dyster has built over the past eight years would be hard pressed to find anything to destroy.

# Casino Revenue: How Sweet it Could Have Been For The Residents

Anna Howard

It didn't have to be this way. The past eight years of casino revenue spending should have ushered in an era of renewal and growth for Niagara Falls. But it didn't.

Critics of the Reporter have accused the paper of being long on negatives and short on positives. The purpose of this column isn't to argue for the credibility and legitimacy of the Reporter, but rather to demonstrate the good that could have been achieved through wise use of the city's share of casino funds.

It's a deeply ironic situation. The casino revenue was to have strengthened the city's finances for years to come. But it's been the abuse of those funds by the Dyster administration that has, instead, guaranteed the city's financial troubles for years to come. The mayor spent his way through \$90 million and then asked the state's financial restructuring board to fix the problem he created.

It was the casino cash windfall that brought Dyster's campaign supporters to the table in 2007. The results have been: a \$50 million courthouse worth \$30 million, \$350,000 to "re-bid" the \$45 million train station, \$13 million ice pavilion rehabilitation, \$120,000 parking study, \$500,000 Isaiah 61 fire hall, millions in overtime costs, downtown "ranger" program, \$150,000 to refrigerate penguins, \$150,000 to bail Community Missions out of an IRS scrape, \$400,000 to pave the city hall parking lot, minimum \$4 million toward the train station...and well, you've read the litany of casino revenue waste time and again on these pages.

Imagine if the city's share of casino revenue had been used in long-range planning for repairs and renovations to the city infrastructure. And imagine if a program called — for the sake of argument — "The Niagara Falls Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Renewal Initiative" had been planned, funded, and launched.

The "NFIRRI" (we dislike government acronyms but for the sake of this presentation we'll play the game...it's pronounced "nif-erie") would address the city's roads, water, sewer, sidewalks and trees through a plan that would bring the Water Board to the table to deal with areas of com-

mon interest: water and sewer.

Imagine that, working cooperatively with the Water Board. Why? Because just as the water and sewer lines flow beneath all city streets, so too is the city's future linked to the proper maintenance of those same utility lines.

Imagine the "synergy" (another bureaucratic term we dislike) resulting from the city cooperating with the Water Board to plan the rehabilitation and updating of water and sewer services. Imagine the city and Water Board approaching the state and feds to say, "We have a far reaching cooperative plan to update our outdated water/sewer infrastructure. How much can you toss in the pot to get it done?"

Higher government loves nothing, if not a plan, and they'd gladly sign on to "NFIRRI" (we're getting the hang of this acronym thing). Imagine the win-win of it all as "City of Niagara Falls and Water Board join to repair infrastructure with assistance from (plug in the name of the smiling elected state/federal officials here) using casino revenue."

Such a program would play out across a decade or more timeframe. That's what the Reporter considers smart, long-range, demonstrable, positive use of casino revenue.

Picture Niagara Falls as a "fixer-upper" house. Isn't it common sense to stabilize the foundation and repair the roof before calling the interior decorator for custom wallpaper and designer rugs?

But that's not what the Dyster administration did with the casino revenue. The administration hired consultants, paid more than a million dollars to lawyers, fired the city engineer, built a train station that has no operating budget, spent 40% too much on a courthouse, concerned itself with penguins and special interests and let the taxpayer and infrastructure take the hind end while favored employees and "the best and brightest" department heads were handed \$100,000 salaries.

If the Dyster administration had taken a long-range look at the use of casino revenue with an eye toward water, sewer, roads, sidewalks, and trees the residents would be sitting on an updated infrastructure that would retain, and expand, home ownership and business.

Instead, the city is perched atop a crumbling infrastructure as it teeters on fiscal disaster.

It's a shame, because it didn't have to be this way.

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK  
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF NIAGARA

DANIEL J. LUM and  
PATRICIA V. LUM (f/k/a Patricia V. Pike),  
his wife  
6927 Sunnydale Road  
Niagara Falls, New York 14304 Plaintiffs

vs.

JULIAN ABRAMS  
450 6th Street  
Niagara Falls, New York 14301

SUMMONS  
Index No. 156130

Filed: June 12, 2015

HENRY LASCELLE  
450 6th Street  
Niagara Falls, New York 14301

FORD MOTOR CREDIT COMPANY, LLC  
1 American Road  
Dearborn, Michigan 48126

"JOHN DOE" and "MARY ROE" being  
fictitious and unknown to Plaintiffs, being  
the persons or parties intended being the  
tenants, occupants, persons or  
corporations if any, having or claiming an  
interest in or lien upon the premises  
described in the complaint

Defendants

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of this service (or within thirty days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); or within sixty (60) days of service as to the United States of America; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED: Niagara Falls, New York  
June 11, 2015

ANTHONY D. PARONE, ESQ.  
Attorney for Plaintiffs  
730 Main Street  
Niagara Falls, New York 14301  
Telephone: (716) 282-1242

TO: Julian Abrams and Henry Lascelle:

The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Frank Caruso, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, granted September 9, 2015 and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Niagara at Lockport, New York.

This action is a Land Contract foreclosure action and the sum of money for which judgment may be taken against you in case of default is as follows: \$46,185.41, together with interest thereon from July 2, 2014, plus accumulated late charges and any sums advanced by the Plaintiffs on behalf of the Defendants Julian Abrams and Henry Lascelle.

This foreclosure action affects title to and the possession, use or enjoyment of real property located at 5822 Stephenson Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York.

Dated: July 28, 2015

ANTHONY D. PARONE, ESQ.  
Attorney for Plaintiffs  
730 Main Street  
Niagara Falls, New York 14301  
Telephone: (716) 282-1242

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# Tires Slashed at Marine Drive After Council Votes to Move Canalside Concerts

**Tony Farina**

This newspaper has learned that last Thursday (Oct. 15), two days after the Buffalo City Council passed a resolution calling for the downtown Canalside concerts to be moved somewhere else because of complaints from nearby Marine Drive residents, a lone vandal reportedly wearing a yellow Sabres hoodie slashed tires on 25 vehicles in the parking lot of the Marine Drive Apartments.

"It did happen," confirmed Joe Mascia, the former elected tenant commissioner on the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority. Even though Mascia is currently suspended from that position, tenants still call him with complaints.

We called Mascia after receiving an email from a tenant about the tire-slashing incident. Here is what she wrote: "Two BMHA Marine Drive employees, separately, told me that 25 cars in the Marine Drive Apartments parking lot on the night of Thursday, October 15, had their tires slashed. One or more of the vehicles was a BMHA or BMHA staff vehicle."

The email continued that the slashing occurred after the council passed a resolution to ask Canalside to consider moving the concerts away from Marine Drive Apartments and out of Canalside because of Marine Drive tenant complaints about noise, vandalism, urination and use of vulgar language on apartment property.

According to the email from the tenant, "while Marine Drive tenants do complain about the events, it is possible there are also complaints by the condo owners; and more importantly, the complainers may be the scapegoats because the city fire and police departments may be having difficulties securing the area when thousands are here."

The email said tenants have to sit in their cars in clogged traffic on Erie Street trying to

get to an entrance to the Marine Drive parking lot when the concerts and fireworks draw thousands, creating fears if there were a fire or medical emergency in the apartments.

Mascia said the tire-slashing vandal went to work before 11 p.m. last Thursday during a Sabres home game, and that extra security is now in place to try and prevent any future acts of vandalism. He said it was impossible to know if the council action on the Canalside concerts was a factor in the tire-slashing spree, but maintaining security has been and is a problem at Marine Drive.

Calls to B-District police failed to confirm any reports of tires slashed. Identifying ourselves as the press we were told only tenants of the building could ask for that information.

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**VOTE NACCARATO ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd.**

# Bilson Sees 'Totes McGoats Mentality' Destroying LaSalle

**Deborah Edde**

“We need jobs and they’re giving us a guy in a rubber goat mask,” Rob Bilson says to me over a steak sub at Viola’s, his second. “I’ve never seen such a misplaced set of priorities.”

Bilson, the charismatic ex-rock star running for the Niagara County Legislature’s 3rd District seat, has been scrolling through the latest tweets to explode onto Twitter about the mascot of the Niagara Falls curbside recycling program, “Totes McGoats.”

Bilson is doing a follow-up interview to my previous article, in which he lamented his opponent’s—and the Dyster Administration’s—failure to address environmental pollution by the behemoth Covanta trash incinerator on the western edge of LaSalle.

“I’m deadly serious about cleaning up our environment. There is a smokestack over there that is going to fill our kids’ air with the soot and particles from a million and a half tons of New York City’s trash. From the people holding power, though, we get a guy in a cheap, sweaty goat mask telling kids to make sure they recycle their empty pop bottles.”

Totes McGoats is apparently the brainchild of the Dyster Administration, not part of the county government’s solid waste management efforts; is it fair to blame or praise Legislator Mark Grozio?

“My opponent and Mayor Dyster have stood shoulder-to-shoulder on everything when it comes to LaSalle, from the city’s plans for Jayne Park on Cayuga Island to not actively fighting Covanta’s expansion.”

“Now, they trot out Totes McGoats, and we’re supposed to look at them as these green, progressive friends of the earth,” Bilson says.

Bilson hands me a folder, marked “GROZIO LEGISLATION.”

“That’s what Mark Grozio has done over the past two years,” Bilson tells me. Inside are a dozen legislative resolutions.

“Not one deals with LaSalle,” Bilson adds. There is resolution seeking to censure Dick Updegrave, the leader of the Republican bloc in the County Legislature, over the majority leader’s interpretation of the state statute providing casino revenue to Niagara County.

Another demands county employees be barred from attending meetings of the Majority Caucus, while another tries to change the time of the public comment portion of county meetings.

Another reads, “Resolution Supporting the Initiative for New York State to Gift the Nikola Tesla Statue to Niagara Falls” its title reads.

“There are people in LaSalle who can’t find jobs, and Mark Grozio is using his time in county government to bring surplus Hungarian statues to our dying city,” Bilson says.

I ask him why he keeps bringing up jobs. “A couple years ago, when Mark Grozio was going around asking for our votes, I was furloughed and then the company shut down,” Bilson tells me. “It was a rough time—I even had to enter into a long-term structured payment plan for my mortgage and bills. I have never looked to my government to take care of me, but then again, I liked to think they at least wanted to give people like me a fighting chance.”

Since then, Bilson adds, he has managed to move up into the leadership of a company that, ironically, deals with consolidating consumer debt—a burden he himself had to deal with.

Bilson advocates for a more cooperative relationship with the Legislature’s Republican majority—which, with so few races in play, will most certainly continue for at least two more years.

He is not afraid to criticize them as well. “The relationship between the Niagara Falls’ guys and the rest of that Legislature is toxic,” he says. “Mark Grozio didn’t do that by himself. But in two years, he only managed to pro-

duce a resolution every two months—and half the resolutions he put in were partisan attacks while the other half were feel-good bull---.”

I ask what Grozio could have done differently.

“Last week, all the Niagara Falls legislators went to a staged forum on the [Niagara County Industrial Development Agency],” he says. “It was put on by unions, totally one-sided. There were some good points made, but basically it was all for show. That agenda was Dead on Arrival.”

I point out that certainly, as a union business manager, Grozio has some unique perspective on the IDA, and its role going forward.

“Then why didn’t he ever submit a resolution about that?” Bilson asks. “Twelve resolutions, and he’s asking the state for a statue. Not once did he actually try to use his office to reform the IDA.”

How would Bilson reform the IDA, I ask.

“I’d look at actual economic data. They’re out there giving tax breaks to hotels at the behest of Mayor Dyster, but they’re not doing much for small business,” Bilson tells me.

His solution, he says, is to create a permanent small-business seat on the IDA.

“There are already seats set aside for education, for unions, even for the NAACP,” Bilson says. “In New York state, 3.9 million people are employed by small businesses. That’s over half of the state’s private workforce. And the people creating those jobs aren’t guaranteed a seat at the table.”

Bilson goes on to point out that, with Niagara Falls population estimates below 50,000, the city will no longer be eligible for much of the federal and state aid it relies on.

“What are we doing to grow our private sector? Government handouts aren’t going to keep us afloat much longer,” he says. “What is our county government doing to create jobs here in Niagara Falls? What is our legislator doing to

create jobs in LaSalle?” A dozen resolutions. A statue. Where are the jobs going to come from? I’m surprised Mark Grozio hasn’t asked for a statue of Totes McGoats yet.”

From there, Bilson and I have a free-ranging conversation about his musical roots. When I last interviewed him, he played portions of a couple old Seven Day Faith tracks for me, as well as a country song he plays with his current band, Ransomville. Now, he hands me a second, thicker folder.

“That’s who I used to be,” he says with a smile. I open the folder and find a teenage boy-crush magazine, J-14.

There it is, on page 97: “Seven Day Faith: Hot New Band Plans World Domination.” A younger, spiky-haired Bilson stares out at me.

Tucked inside along with the magazine is the May 2004 Billboard charts, where the band’s self-titled EP was no. 1.

“Those were great times, and I still love making great music,” Bilson said. “But I’ve got a great family. I’ve got some beautiful kids and a loving wife, and I’ve worked hard to overcome challenges—just like a lot of people. I’ve had to get my financial life in order. It’s hard to do that as a rock-and-roller, unless you’re Springsteen.”

I ask him if that’s his goal, to be The Boss.

“We’ve had too many bosses around here, don’t you think? I want to work for my neighbors, because they’ve been through the same challenges I have. We’re all just trying to do the right thing, to stay ahead of our bills, to take care of our kids, to put some money away so they can go to college. It would be nice to think the people we elected weren’t wasting their time on vanity projects like moving surplus statues around.”

“I’ll be knocking on doors and trying to talk to as many people in LaSalle as I can,” he tells me. “There are 14,000 people in this district, and each one of them has a story, has had challenges—has challenges—and I want them to know that I’m just like them, that I’m on their side.”



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# The Totes McGoats Q&A

**Deborah Eddel**

In the interview everyone's been talking about, Niagara Falls' new spokesgoat sits down with the Niagara Falls Reporter and talks trash, recycling, politics, and those thorny questions about his criminal past.

Q: Well, you've certainly had quite the launch, Totes. You made Time Magazine and Headline News.

A: Fox News, too. And, even I've been offered a show on MSNBC. They tell me a talking, recycling goat fits in with their "commitment to diversity." Plus, they say I kind of look like Andrea Mitchell.

Q: Right. Not that it's all been good. Time called you "Niagara Falls' terrifying recycling mascot." Is that the kind of launch you were going for?

A: What is this, The O'Reilly Factor? Q: There are a lot of questions about the wisdom of making a guy in a \$25 goat mask the face of recycling in the Cataract City, Totes. What say you?

A: I'm a spokesgoat, not a scapegoat. There's a lot of questions about the wisdom of putting a political operative like Brook D'Angelo in charge of the city's trash program. I mean, her greatest accomplishment before getting national attention with Yours Truly was sending Sam Fruscione's political career to the landfill.

Q: The Niagara Gazette editorialized against you. "It's clear someone inside city hall should be taken out to the farm and put out to pasture. ...In a city all too often sadly known as a place where whacky ideas manage to grow legs and seemingly sound ideas go to die, the advent of Totes McGoats ranks high on the list of embarrassments, and that's honestly saying something in Niagara Falls."

A: I know. I read it. If I had my way I

would not recycle the Gazette and for that matter the Niagara Falls Reporter. I prefer Artvoice myself.

Q: An online profile of your creator, Brook D'Angelo, says this about her: "A graduate of NCCC and Buffalo State College with degrees in Public Relations and Marketing, Brook has held several positions in the music and art industries, human services and is a certified wedding planner." What do you think this says about this whole episode?

A: It tells me that the NCCC Public Relations program is the best. And that Paul Dyster actually hired a person with no experience in garbage to run his garbage program.

Q: You sound like you're souring on Mayor Dyster.

A: He's a BAAAAAAD mayor.

Q: What makes you say that?

A: For one thing, it's like "Animal Farm" at City Hall: All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. For another, Dyster bounces from costumed mascot to costumed mascot like he's got some sort of fetish. Did you know I caught him with Walter C. Falls, the NTCC's chipmunk mascot?

Q: I thought he was a fox.

A: Does it matter? The point is, your mayor hangs around costumed mascots. They have a name for people who are into that, "Furries." Entire webpages even. Look it up.

Q: So, does that mean you're endorsing Dyster's opponent, John Accardo?

A: The Accardo people wouldn't let me.

Q: Why not?

A: They said I had already helped them enough, whatever that means.

Q: OK, now, Totes, I have to ask the question that's been on everyone's mind...

A: The arrest record thing?

Q: Right. What's the deal?

A: Look, I was going through a bad time. OK, 24 bad times. I'm a goat. In 2015, we're one of the last groups it's still fashionable to

discriminate against—

Q: That's kind of a stretch, don't you think?

A: Elton John once said, "I think people should be free to engage in any sexual practices they choose; they should draw the line at goats though." Where's our Pride parade?

Q: Some people have suggested this is just a Hail Mary play by the Dyster Administration, that Mayor Dyster is trailing badly in some internal polls and that he's going to lose in two weeks—

A: He's a BAAAAAAD mayor, yes, but come on—you really think having a dude in a goat costume scaring little children was his plan to turn things around? He's burning the house down on the way out.

Q: That's kind of a harsh charge, don't you think?

A: Hey man, I've dealt in narcotics before. "Breaking Bad" is kid stuff to me. Get it? Kid stuff? Baaaaaaahahaha!

Q: Yeah, I, um, get it. Isn't it a problem for the city's talking goat trash mascot to be around kids with a rap sheet like yours?

A: Have you checked the numbers lately? There's like one sex offender for every 300 residents in this city. Someone as clean cut as me, they practically give the key to the city around here.

Q: Actually, they sort of did, didn't they?

A: Yeah, but I'm a goat. I still need Paul and Brook to open the doors for me.

Q: So, what's ahead for you, Totes?

A: I see myself being a big part of the mayoral campaign. Everyone is talking about me. I plan to be everywhere, go see my peeps.

Q: So, we'll be seeing more of you out there?

A: I wouldn't be surprised if I become the face of the election.



Mayor Paul Dyster with large furry animal



Mayor Paul Dyster with large rabbit



Mayor Paul Dyster with large upright goat

# 'Satanic' Totes McGoats Turns Out to Be Convicted Heroin Dealer, Dyster City Worker

**Mike Hudson**

You've got to hand it to Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster. When the town he governs makes news because of some ill-advised, poorly planned out or just plain boneheaded decision, the thought process in question is generally so spectacularly ill-conceived that the resulting public fallout reverberates from coast to coast.

His decision to bolster sagging population numbers here by importing huge numbers of registered sex offenders and other paroled violent felons, for example, resulted in the city named to any number of "best of" lists.

Out of 994 municipalities in the State of New York, the popular website MyLife ranked Niagara Falls as the most dangerous place in the state.

Bethlehem, Yonkers, Clarkstown, Poughkeepsie, Jamestown, Newburgh, Utica, Albany, Syracuse, Binghamton, Rochester, Buffalo and New York City. None can hold a candle to Niagara Falls when it comes to a resident's chances at being a victim.

In 2013, the year the latest statistics are available, for every 100 people living in Niagara Falls, there were nearly seven crimes - 3,391 total crimes in that year- 584 violent crimes - for a city of 49,574.

Nice job Mayor Dyster!

His plan to repopulate the city by paying recent college graduates thousands of dollars to live and work here met with similar national scorn after it was discovered that you couldn't pay people to live in Niagara Falls.

Now there's Totes McGoats, a Satanic



looking mascot personified by former heroin dealer and current Dyster city employee James Dolson. At just 48 years old, Dolson has a checkered past.

The alleged drug deals with a police informant occurred Dec. 10 and 12, 2013, Assistant District Attorney Peter M. Wydysh said. Both sales were captured on audio tape, he told Judge Matthew J. Murphy III.

Dolson pleaded guilty in June 2014, shortly before being tapped by Dyster to play a children's character, Totes McGoats, a horned goat headed personification of evil designed to

convince Niagara Falls children that recycling is "the right thing to do."

"Totes is a cute animal mascot, kind of scary, actually," Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster said, admitting to the Satanic spawn. "But having an animal mascot, we think, is one of the ways that you can reach out to kids and get their attention."

Brooke D'Angelo, the former campaign hitwoman who was rewarded with a patronage position in the administration, said the whole thing was her idea.

"Clearly, I'm a PR and marketing ge-

nious," she said, after video of the monstrosity went viral on the internet. "We had hoped for a good reaction, but this is otherworldly."

Take a convicted heroin dealer, dress him up in a cheap Halloween costume, give him a Twitter account and allow the national media to turn Niagara Falls into a laughingstock once again.

Classic Dyster. And one of the reasons that, no matter how many hotels get built here, visitors returning home still tell their friends to stay on the Canadian side.



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# Is it Baphomet or Totes McGoats? Looks the same, What's the Difference?



Totes McGoats, Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster's stand in for Satan, does a good job for a guy convicted of heroin dealing.

## Mike Hudson

Late in the 19th century, the name of Baphomet became associated with the occult when Eliphas Levi published "Dogmas and Rituals of High Magic" in Paris, France.

In the black book, Levi included an image he had drawn himself which he described as Baphomet and "The Sabbatic Goat", showing a winged humanoid goat with a pair of breasts and a torch on its head between its horns.

This image has become the best-known representation of Baphomet. Lévi considered the Baphomet to be a depiction of the absolute in symbolic form and explicated in detail his symbolism in the drawing that served as the frontispiece.

Dyster's Totes McGoats is little different. A horned goat head perched atop a flabby, male, Niagara Falls body, belonging to accused heroin dealer who also happens to be a city employee.

While Baphomet was designed by Levi as the personification of supernatural evil, Totes McGoats was meant by Dyster to be child friendly, a loveable mascot tasked with helping the little ones to understand his ill-advised and tremendously costly recycling plan.

Lévi's depiction of Baphomet is similar to that of the Devil in early Tarot cards. Lévi, working with correspondences different from those later used by S. L. MacGregor Mathers, "equated the Devil Tarot key with Mercury..." giving "his figure Mercury's caduceus, rising like a phallus from his groin."

About Totes McGoats groin we have little clue. What we do know is that the city worker tipped by Dyster to portray the kid friendly character is a man who was arrested on charges he sold heroin to an undercover operative of the Niagara Falls City Police Department on two occasions in 2013, and ended up copping a plea deal and winding up in a drug diversion program.

He's exactly the kind of guy Dyster would



Here's Baphomet, spawn of Satan. Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster thinks he's an appropriate role model for children!

choose to lead a youth program, and the fact that his costume resembles archaic depictions of Satan may be entirely coincidental.

"We confront here that phantom of all terrors, the dragon of the all theogenies, the Ahriman of the Persians, the Typhon of the Egyptians, the Python of the Greeks, the old serpent of the Hebrews, the fantastic monster, the nightmare, the Croquemitaine, the gargoyle, the great beast of the Middle Ages, and—worse than all these—Baphomet, that bearded idol of the alchemist, the obscene deity of Mendes, the goat of the Sabbath," Levi wrote.

Now Dyster has embraced the image willingly. And employed a heroin dealer to portray him.

Halloween approaches fast. And Dyster has obliged the darkness.

A horned god for a goddess regime.

In case you couldn't pin it down, Totes' name comes from a scene in I Love You, Man where a flustered Paul Rudd attempted to casually make a slang phrase from the word "totally" and failed abjectly.

The movie is generally thought of as a "chick flick," which is what we assume Dyster watches.

Who can judge?

# Gus the Goose Gets Dyster's Goat

## Gus the Goose

It takes a goose to figure out the Totes McGoat record-breaking government fail that occurred last week in the Dyster administration.

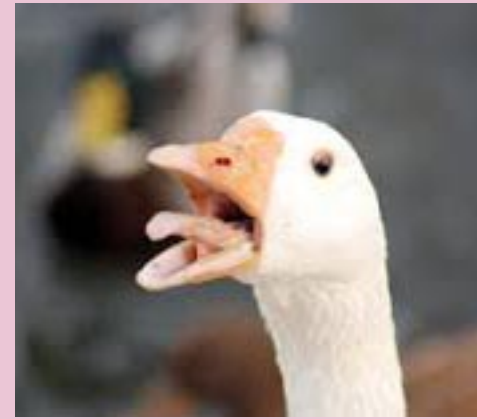
While the ridiculous, if sinister, rubber goat mask is laughable in appearance this goose does submit that the McGoat incident perfectly embodies what the Dyster administration has done to the city for the past eight years: bumbled the city into deficit and debt with irresponsible and outright foolish programs.

What was the goat's goal? Apparently to promote the trash and recycling program that was forced on the residents in spring 2014 in a move that cost \$2.3 million in casino revenue for tates. The blue trash tote was undersized and the green recycling tote was oversized while the businesses were left out of the plan all together. Exactly how is Totes McGoat supposed to repair the waste of taxpayer cash and the ignoring of the residents who've been forced to live with Dyster's trash and recycling program? The Dyster administration doesn't listen well because listening slows the hidden agenda.

City hall has tried to turn the heavy odor of epic failure into the papered over appearance of "any publicity is good publicity even if it's bad publicity." Let us not forget that this is the same administration that's tried to spin good news out of the budget deficit, city debt, a busted casino cash account, a rat problem, frozen water pipes, and increased crime.

Last week the Niagara Gazette weighed in with a scathing editorial - "Totes McGoats isn't doing Niagara Falls any favors" that read, in part, "It would be funny if it wasn't so ridiculous and such an unfortunate use of resources...The finished product leaves so much to be desired it almost defies description... This is one idea that the Dyster administration should deposit in the nearest landfill - never to be recycled."

It's hard to believe the Dyster think tank wasn't aware that a goat image is frequently used as a symbol of evil, the devil, and as a "mascot" for the satanic. It has crossed this goose's mind that this may be an elaborate sick joke played on all of us by those who



would promote the devil. Either it's a sick joke or Totes McGoat is an example of what Dyster's best and brightest are capable of. Frankly, I don't know which explanation is more disturbing.

The "mascot" for the trash and recycling plan should be light hearted, non-threatening, and welcoming to child and adult. Think Muppets, think puppets, think cute, lovable, and a bit quirky. Think of, oh, let's see, uh...a Canada goose as the mascot. And that goose is standing, or flying, right here: "Gus the Trash and Recycling Goose!"

Slogans? "Don't be a silly goose: Recycle!" Or, "Honk if you're a recycler!" And, "Geese fly south for the winter but they recycle all year round!"

The Canada goose is native to the area, we feed in the parks and we swim in the local waters. We go well on the holiday dinner table, but in the interest of self-preservation the less said about that the better.

As a goose I wouldn't have to wear a dumb rubber mask. School children would find me cute - adorable even - and inviting. With a comfort and humor level established the trash and recycling education would seamlessly begin for children.

Readers of the Reporter know that city hall put a bounty on my head for speaking against the Jayne Park "renovation project." I may be a goose, but I'm not a vengeful fowl. I can talk business when I have to and I know the art of the deal. The question is, does Mayor Dyster have even the slightest notion of what's good for this city?

Mr. Mayor, let me take the trash and recycling program under my wing. Have your people call my people and we'll turn this public relations disaster around.

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Comfort Facial	<b>\$60</b>						
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# Disappointing Bills Should Handle Jags in London Game

## Tony Farina

The Buffalo Bills defensive line—minus injured pro bowler Kyle Williams—should have a much easier time on Sunday against the Jacksonville Jaguars than it did last week against Cincinnati as the 1 and 5 Jags offensive line has given up 17 sacks so far this season.

The Bills might even win on Sunday as they are facing the kind of opposition that gives them a chance. Match them against a good team and there is little hope for success as we have seen this year. Against Jacksonville, a pitiful team that has given up 176 points in six games, most in the AFC, and scored only 113 points, fewer even than the Bills, Rex Ryan's crew might be able to get a win.

Calling this game a showdown, as one bet-

ting site called it this week, is a little much. I don't care where they are playing. Buffalo against Jacksonville is hardly showdown material. In fact, it probably won't be much of a game as the Bills are missing several starters and are coming off another big game flop against the very good Bengals. And Jacksonville would probably have trouble against Ohio State.

The Bills are injury riddled, to be sure, but they are also undisciplined and racked with internal strife as the overhyped defensive line is blaming the coaching scheme for their inability to stop quality opponents. The simple truth is Rex Ryan sold the hometown fans some snake oil when he rode into town after his losing tenure with the New York Jets, and the Bills are a bad team on both sides of the ball.

Matched against a good team, the Bills are easy pickings, even at home. The sputtering

offense, even when healthy, is not in the same league as the better teams in the NFL, and the defense is a no-show crowd that can't stop a good quarterback. On offense, the Bills rank 29th in the league in passing yards per game (209.5), but maybe on Sunday at Wembley Stadium in London, they will face a team in Jacksonville so bad that even with EJ Manuel at quarterback they might be able to top that number.

The Bills only had eight penalties against the Bengals last Sunday, a pretty good day considering Ryan's crew has made a reputation as a team totally out of control and known more for talking trash and cheap shots than for playing good football. This Bills team is just not very good, and Doug Marrone must have known what was coming when he got out of town last year after going 9 and 7.

Even Rex Ryan, with all his bluster muted by his team's poor play, is running out of hot air to

deal with his over-sold team's sagging fortunes. And you can't blame it all on injuries as that's part of the game. Look at Pittsburgh, which won last week with its third-string quarterback. I'm not even sure who that is on the Buffalo Bills who have been dismantled by the Patriots, Giants, and Bengals in front of their home town fans.

No matter how bad the Bills have looked against good teams, they should be able to beat Jacksonville on Sunday (9:30 a.m. start) and will certainly look good during the bye week. Next comes Miami, possibly rejuvenated under a new coach, but still an opponent not out of reach even for the Bills. That means that Buffalo might possibly be 5 and 3 after the Dolphins game and still alive for a playoff wildcard. Can you believe that? But without a top quarterback—and even a healthy Tyrod Taylor doesn't come close—it is hard to believe that the team we have seen so far this year is a playoff team. But hope springs eternal in Buffalo, even as the Buffalo Sabres sink to their familiar bottom rung in the NHL standings despite all the preseason hype.

After all these years, and all these years of losing sports teams, one is left to wonder if there's something in the water around here that keeps our sports teams from going anywhere. The fans are terrific and brave cold weather, brutal car traffic, and long odds to support their teams. And maybe just having a local professional team is victory enough for many fans who would probably not know how to celebrate a Super Bowl or a Stanley Cup since both seem so remote.

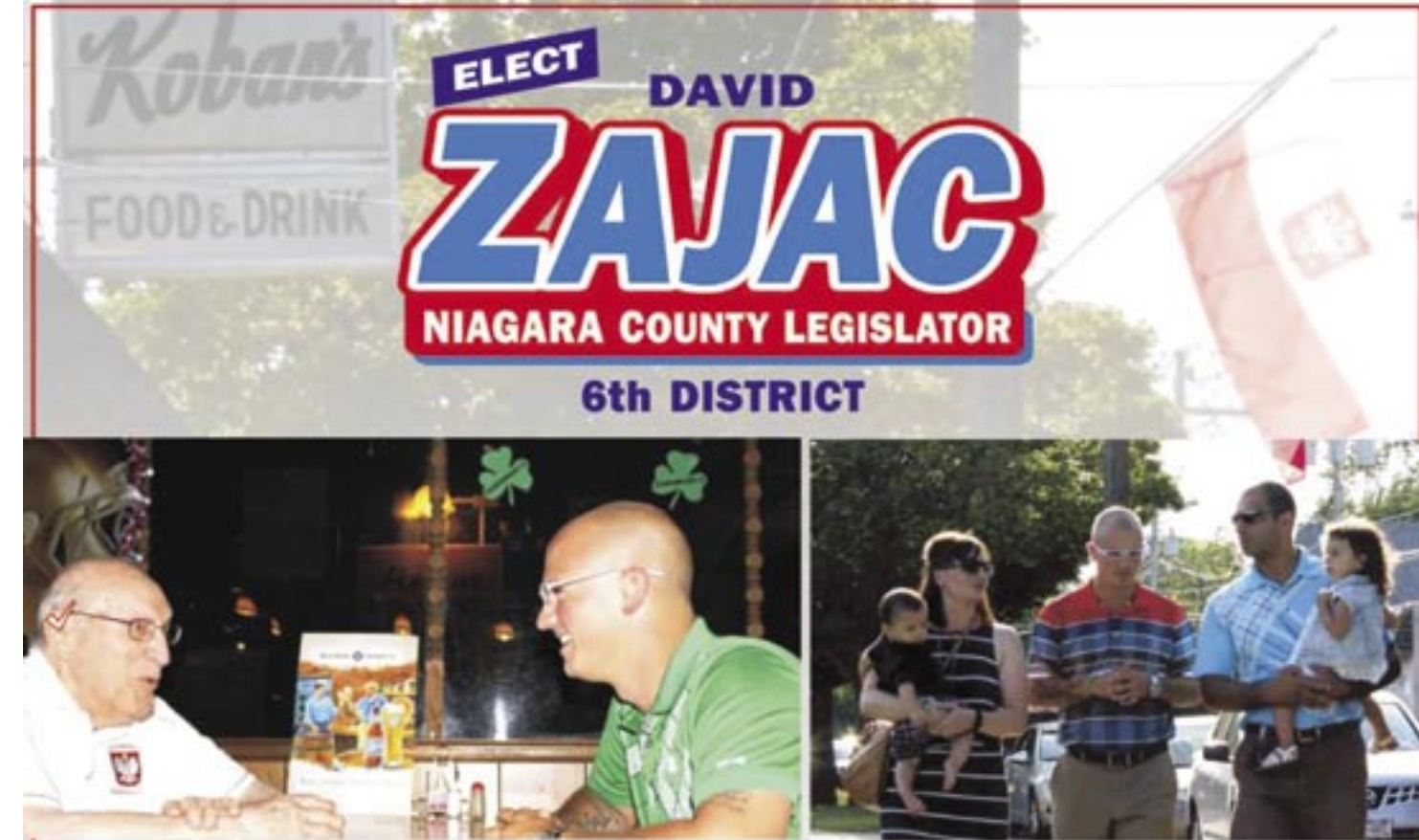
I was at the Nifty Fifty sports bar in Niagara Falls last week for the Bills-Bengals game and saw the spirit of the crowd slowly dissipate as Andy Dalton and the Bengals carved up the Bills in what turned out to be a pretty easy win. I've seen it many times before and I'm sure I'll see it again. But it would be nice to see the reverse and watch the Bills or the Sabres give local fans that big win they long for.

For now, like many local fans, I'm glad we have teams in the NFL and NHL even if they are not contenders. They give us something to talk about besides the weather and are a way to vent our frustrations during the cold winters we endure every year. But just once it would be nice to be in the run for the glory and actually bring home a championship to a community that would celebrate like no other. Unfortunately, this does not look like the year, and until the Bills can find another Tom Brady out there (and there are not many of them), it is unlikely the Lombardi Trophy is coming to Buffalo anytime soon. And that goes for the Sabres and the Stanley Cup who despite the off-season hype are nowhere to be seen in the standings.

Oh well, we can sip our coffee Sunday morning and get a little excited about the London game against a hapless Jacksonville team that the Bills might be able to beat. But of course, we know deep inside it won't mean a thing.



"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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# 'Price' for a Better Niagara Falls



**Willie A. Price**  
Candidate for NF City Council

My Name is Willie A. Price and I am running for 1 of the 2 seats on the Niagara Falls City Council. When going door to door in the community I always introduce myself with that statement, because I'm finding that many residents do not realize that there are actually two council seats available for the November 3rd General election.

I am a newcomer to the Niagara Falls community and my wife (Summer Chapman-Price) and I live in the LaSalle area of the city. I brought a Property Inspections, a Motivational Speaking and a Publishing company to this area. I have been in the housing, property management, construction, and inspection business for more than 20 years and motivational speaking and publishing business for 12 years. My "No Dream is Impossible" program has been apart of the N.F.H.A.: Advantage After School Program (NFHS) the past 2 years. Teaching the youth participants how to take their dreams and ideas and achieve goals and

create businesses.

These are my platform topics: 1) Fiscal Accountability: The city should be governed like a business and not with a "casino and spend" mentality. 2) Economic Development: Supporting and utilizing small and area businesses to help in their growth, so they might be able to employ more area residents at a living wage. 3) Community Development, Housing Rehabilitation and Landlord training: Addressing the increase in commercial development and the older residential housing issues. Also addressing investment properties in our neighborhoods and holding investors accountable.

On October 15, 2015, I took part in a debate with four other candidates for the city council. I wanted to address some of the debate questions and give my actual responses to those questions.

1) Thoughts on New Tourism Director position presented by the N.F. Tourism Board? I was appointed to the Tourism Board 2 years ago by Councilmember Charles Walker. The position had been on the discussion table at least 2 years before I joining the board. I explained in my response, as it was explained to the board members that the position was needed to address local community events and activities, not currently being recognized. The funding source for the position was recommended to come from the Bed Tax fund.

2) How would I try to make the government more Transparent? I would host a monthly "Steak Holders" or "Coffee Hour" where I would be available to discuss citizen concerns and provide information about the city and other community and block club activities. This would be an open event for all citizens

and any public official (Mayor, councilmembers, Assembly, Legislatures, Senators, etc.) to attend and share and meet with the residents. I'll bring the donuts and you bring your favorite drink.

3) My views on the Garbage & Recycling issue? I believe the totes for the garbage is too small and the cans are the opposite size in most cities. I would propose REVERSING the totes, making the larger green tote for garbage. Other than the regular bulk garbage pickups I would propose a "Pick & Pay" system. The "Pick & Pay" system is used in a number of cities and is a low cost way for citizens to have additional bulk or large trash amounts removed for a fee, based on the amount of trash. This would be very beneficial to neighborhoods where landlords are forced to store items in their yards when a tenant moves and leaves a bunch of junk.

4) My thoughts on Parking Meters in the Tourist area? I believe that parking meters would be a good idea and source of revenue for the city. I believe that residents could be issued a resident sticker for their vehicles from city hall. This sticker would allow them to park for free in the area for a 2 hour period.

I realized from the debate that I wasn't the well-known or popular candidate. But, I am a candidate that has the business and real estate and construction experience and background to address the growth that is taking place in the city of Niagara Falls in those areas. I would like to be a benefit to the city and all of the residents of Niagara Falls. You might have your favorite or popular candidate. So, I am asking you to give me your 2nd vote and allow me to be an asset to the Mayor, Council and ALL of the Residents of Niagara Falls.

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**LANCASTER**

5226 Genesee St. \$133,000

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# Free Pizza Junction Again This Sunday Afternoon for Football Fans at Nifty Fifty

Sports fans, listen up. If you are looking for a great sports bar to watch Sunday afternoon football, you might want to check out the Nifty Fifty at 7710 Buffalo Ave., in Niagara Falls, where besides football and your favorite beverage, you will be able to enjoy a lost treasure, Pizza Junction pizza, for free.

That's right, that culinary delight pizza made by the chef of Pizza Junction will be offered free of charge on Sunday courtesy of Nifty Fifty.

The free pizza will be prepared under the care of Ryan Fleckenstein, who used to be general manager and chef at Pizza Junction on Erie Ave. in North Tonawanda, one of four Junction establishments that used to be among the most popular pizza spots in the area, with Fleckenstein featured on the Food Network's Diners, Drive-in and Dives.

"Our pizzas were tagged as "Pizzalicious," said Fleckenstein, referring to the name the show apparently used to describe the best pizzas around. Pizza Junction was "Pizzalicious," and according to Fleckenstein, it still is.

"I guarantee that football fans that come to the Nifty Fifty looking for great pizza and other food, they won't be disappointed," said Fleckenstein, already excited about Sunday football and the food he plans to be serving during the games, including the free Junction-style pizza and of course wings and other great football-watching food.

"We want folks to check out the Nifty Fifty and see what we have to offer," said Fleckenstein. "We have plenty of televisions, lots of great food, and a great atmosphere."



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# The Expert Voice for Protecting Our City's Bones



**Kenny Tompkins**  
Candidate for City Council

Niagara Falls' infrastructure is what connects the dots and holds our city together. It's our streets, our sidewalks, our street lighting, and even the trees line our pathways. It's like the bones of our city. If they are weak, our city is not protected.

We need to take better care of our city's bones, our infrastructure.

I've worked for HW Bryk & Sons Plumbing as an operations manager for eight years. I've been in the plumbing industry serving this city in a multitude of capacities for close to thirty years. This has given me a unique perspective on the condition of our city's infrastructure. I can tell you from a professional standpoint that we have some issues that need to be dealt with now.

Throughout this city, you'll find pockets of rather deep impressions in our city's streets, some which have recently been repaved. They might be covered orange traffic cones or more elaborate barricades. Here's the deal. Those

are not potholes. They are actually sink holes. This indicates that the infrastructure is deteriorating underneath. If it continues, it will cause even more disastrous problems.

As a council member, you can be sure I will be a voice of expertise and reason when it comes to ensuring our city's infrastructure is stabilized and repaired. Not only does this deterioration range from inconvenience to danger for residents, but it continues to send the message that this city is in disrepair. Not what we want prospective homeowners, businesses, or visitors to think.

I will make it my mission as your council representative to fight for the following in order to repair our streets:

1) Better engagement/cooperation from the Water Board in repairing these serious infrastructure problems. Our sewer taxes are specifically for maintaining the sewer lines and what surrounds them. It's time for entities to work together for residents.

2) A dedicated fund to maintain and repair streets and "the bones" of our city. This should not be a matter of seeing if we have money available to repair our infrastructure. This should be an absolute given. Again this is what our taxes should be covering.

3) A proper review of contracts and bids in order to ensure that the work is adequately planned for so that jobs are done RIGHT the FIRST TIME. I'm sick and tired of paying for jobs to be done two or three times due to improper planning or not having the right resources. This is an imperative that we must follow immediately.

It's not just our streets that need repair. Throughout this city, we have dilapidated sidewalks in the sections of town where residents rely primarily on walking as their main source of transportation. These need to be maintained and repaired so that our residents can walk safely and easily.

While we have a forestry team, our city's plan for trimming and pruning trees needs to be more aggressive, too. As I've walked through the city, and talked with residents, I've heard multiple stories about calls placed two or three times to city hall to report issues that have gone ignored for months on end. This is not representative of an efficient government. I will make it my mission to work with the mayor and others to identify a better process so that residents don't have to be concerned about property damage from dead branches that come down during a storm or crime issues that arise from poorly lit streets.

I will fight to ensure that our city's budget prioritizes the needs of maintaining and rebuilding our city's "bones," especially over redundant positions and perks. We cannot afford to continue to give minimal support to that which holds our city up. We need to continually be proactive in ensuring our city's infrastructure is stable and viable.

This is not an additional expense. This is a real investment, one that will pay dividends by creating a more attractive and welcoming city for potential businesses and homeowners. Building our infrastructure will ensure GROWTH.

Vote for me, Ken Tompkins, for Niagara Falls City Council on November 3. I will fight for a stronger city.

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## EVENTS | CALENDAR

## THURS

OCT 22

## MUSIC

### ACOUSTIC/FOLK

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

### BLUEGRASS

Sportsmen’s Tavern - 7pm Mountain Run Bluegrass Band.

### BLUES

Talty’s Tavern - 8pm Brothers Blue, w/ Matt Sperber.

### CLASSICAL

Pausa Art House - 8pm French Music & Poetry, guitarist Bernard Kunz & pianist Eric Huebner, \$5.

UB Baird Hall - 3pm UB Music Department, on the Edge-Class Performance, free; 5pm UB Music Department, On the Edge- Honors Class Performance, free.

### DANCE/DJS/ELECTRONIC

Town Ballroom - 8pm Ed Rush & Optical w/ Funtcase, \$20.

### JAZZ

Buffalo State College Rockwell Hall - 7:30pm Buffalo State Fall Choral Concert, free.

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

### KARAOKE

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

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

The Gypsy Parlor - 9pm Karaoke

### METAL

Waiting Room - 7pm Windhand w/ Danava & Monolord, \$15 ADV/ \$17 Door.

### OPEN MIC

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

Hydeout - 9pm Randy California’s Open Mic.

Nifty Fifty - 8pm Open Mic.

770 Buffalo Ave, NF NY

### POLKA

Gratwick House Fire Co. - 6:30pm New Direction Band, taping for Channel 67’s TV Polka Show, \$10.

### ROCK

Buffalo Iron Works - 9pm The Mantras, \$12/\$10.

Duke’s Bohemian Grove Bar - 9pm Throwback Thursday playing sounds from the 80’s, 90’s, & 2000 feat. DJ Sike.

First Niagara Center - 8pm Paul McCartney- Out There Tour, \$253.50, \$168.50, \$99.50, \$59.50 & \$29.50

Mohawk Place - 8pm herMajesty, Optic Oppression, Gregg’eG, The Moving Image, \$5.

Wagon Wheel Restaurant - 8:30pm Thursday Night Jams w/ Chuck DeRose.

WORLD BEAT/ INTERNATIONAL Nietzsche’s - 9pm My Nada Brahma, free.

### ZYDECO/CAJUN

Shango Bistro - 7pm Ron Davis aka LeeRon Zydeco.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### COMEDY

Milkie’s on Elmwood (formerly Elmwood Lounge) - 7:30pm Make Halloween Great Again. A Spooky Comedy Show, feat. Pat Kewley, Roy Golia, Mathew Golson, \$3.

### DANCE

UB Center for the Arts - 7:30pm Zodiacque Dance Company, \$20/\$10 students & seniors.

### EXHIBITS

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

The Steel Plant Museum, Heritage Discovery Center - 10:5pm Fascinating Forms: A Patricia Layman Bazelon Retrospective.

### FILMS/SCREENINGS

Canisius College - 7pm Ibero-American Film Festival feat. Asier + 1.

Riviera Theatre - 7:30pm The Shining, \$5.

### FUNDRAISERS

UB Baird Hall - 3:59pm Cocktails For A Cure 3 - Breast Cancer Research Fundraiser, \$25.

### KIDS STUFF

Monkey See, Monkey Do - 5:30-7pm Storybook Halloween Party: Reading of Not Norman. A Goldfish Story, games, crafts & treats. Dress as your favorite book characater, free.

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS Asbury Hall at Babeville - "Illuminato" lecture by TedXBuffalo, speakers:Dr. Christopher W. Kerr, Danielle Twum, Kaitlin Garrity, Kara M. Oliver, Rebecca Sophia Strong, Rhonda Frederick.

Canisius College Grupp Fireside Lounge - 7:30pm Rev. Matt Malone guest speaker.

Hilbert College - 2-4pm 5th Annual Cultural Awareness Week, Cultural Bazaar, West Herr Atrium.

Niagara History Center - 2pm Bill Donohue discusses his book 30D Himself: A Civil War Veteran&DDs Struggles with Rebels, Brits and Devils&DD.

UB South Campus - 3-4:30pm Research on Aging Series: People, Practice, & Policy series, Medicare Part D: Using Research To Inform Policy and Practice, 214 Parker Hall, RSVP CEPPrsvp@buffalo.edu, free.

### RECREATION/GAMES

Shenanigan’s Bar & Grill - 7pm Trivia w/ Quiz Night in Buffalo.

### SPECIAL EVENT

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

Shea’s Smith Theatre - 5:30pm Inside the World&DDs Best Ad Agency (according to Google), happy hour with cash bar, presentation at 6 pm.

### SPECIALTY/COMMUNITY THEATER

Niagara Arts and Cultural Center (The NACC) - 8pm, 10pm Night of The Living Dead, Patchwork Theater live theater adaptation, 2 performances nightly, \$15.

### SPIRITUAL

Comfort Zone Cafe - 7pm Author Christina Abt discusses book Crown Hill. A Novel of Love, Life and The Afterlife, readings by Spiritual Medium, Candi Donaldson Thornton, free.

### TOURS

Graycliff Estate - 10:30am Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, In-Depth Tour; 11:2pm Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, Basic Tour.

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

Tiftt Nature Preserve - 10-noon Wellness Walks. Drop by Tiftt Nature Preserve and enjoy the fresh air and the sights and sounds of the season with a healthy outdoor walk on our beautiful and accessible trails! Please call 825-6397 to confirm walk will be

taking place. \$2 donation per person appreciated. All ages.

## FRI

OCT 23

## MUSIC

### ACOUSTIC/FOLK

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

Sportsmen’s Tavern - 5:30-8:30pm The New Coots, \$3.

Unity Church of Practical Christianity - 9pm Peopleart Coffeehouse series feat. John Brady, \$5.

Wine on Third - 8pm Snobknockers

### BLUES

Buffalo Irish Center - 8pm The Brothers Blue, 954-3351

Talty’s Tavern - Parker Brothers Blues Band.

The Press Box - 9pm The River Dog Blues Band.

Vizzi’s - 10pm Big Sauce Trio.

Wagon Wheel Restaurant - 9:30pm Graveyard Blues Band.

DANCE/DJS/ELECTRONIC 31 Club - 9:30pm DJ Pauly Paul spinning hits from the 70’s to today. the31club.com

The Gypsy Parlor - 10pm Friday Night Party on the West Side w/ DJ Crespo.

The Traif Music Hall - 8pm Neon Indian, Doors at 7, \$17/\$19.

### FUNK/SOUL

Nietzsche’s - 6pm Happy Hour: Randle and the Late Night Scandals, free; 10pm Blue Rootz, Scope & Figure, Rustic Radio, \$5.

### HIP-HOP

Duke’s Bohemian Grove Bar - 9pm DJs Milke, Cocchie, & Scott Down.

Mohawk Place - 10pm Black Milk w/ Nat Turner, Billy Dresse Williams, Struggle with Rebels, Brits and Devils&DD.

UB South Campus - 3-4:30pm Research on Aging Series: People,

JAZZ MusicalFare Theatre - 8pm Quiet Nights: Mary McFahon, Bobby Jones, Ralph Fava, Bud Fadale, Maggie Roston, Abdul-Rahman Qadir, Tony Zambito, \$20.

Shadow Lounge & Restaurant - 10pm JoyRyde with the Hitmen Horns feat. Maria Sebastian.

Wegman’s (Transit-Depew) - 6-8pm Jazzquest feat. Bob White, Walt Sopicki, Bill Bates.

### KARAOKE

Nifty Fifty - 9:30pm Karaoke with the Diamond Night Girls, 770 Buffalo Ave, NF NY

### METAL

Broadway Joe’s Bar & Grill - 6pm Era-9 & I Exist w/Volker, Slender, The Impurity, & Dimension, 16+, \$7 ADV, \$10 DOS.

Waiting Room - 5:30pm Carnifex w/ Within the Ruins, Black Tongue, Lorna Shore, The Last Ten Seconds of Life, Sleepers, \$15-\$17.

### OPEN MIC

Woodside Community Chapel - 7-7:1pm Woodside Coffee House Open Mic

### ROCK

11th Frame Bar & Lanes - 7pm Five to One Band, free.

Alternative Brews - 7pm Living Will feat. Jim Wynne.

Angry Buffalo at the Rose Garden - 8-11pm Chris Squire

Buffalo Iron Works - 9pm Rick Derringer w/ Jim Crean Band, \$35/\$30/\$55 VIP. Ages 18 & up.

Evening Star Concert Hall - 8pm 14NI, \$5.

Mohawk Place - 5pm Happy Hour w/ AJ Smith, free.

Sportsmen’s Tavern - 9:30pm The Shadows, \$10 ADV/ \$15 Door.

Town Ballroom - 8pm Willie Nile, \$20.

UB Center for the Arts - 8pm The McCartney Years: The Premiere Paul McCartney Concert Experience, cover band, \$29/\$50.

### VARIETY

Pausa Art House - 8pm Genkin Philharmonic, 10 piece classical, jazz, rock ensemble, \$7.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### COMEDY

Riviera Theatre - 8pm Wise Guys of Comedy: Italian Bad Boyz of Comedy, Comedy For A Cause, \$30-\$50.

### DANCE

UB Center for the Arts - 7:30pm Zodiacque Dance Company, \$20/\$10 students & seniors.

### EXHIBITS

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

### FASHION

Hotel at the Lafayette - 7:15pm The Buffalo Fashion Show: Ashley Kay, Urbanwear, Buffalo State Designers, Vera Bradley & more. Doors at 6, Premier \$100, VIP \$80, \$40 regular, students \$20.

FILMS/SCREENINGS Hilbert College - 1:15pm 5th Annual Cultural Awareness Week, Double Scoop for Diversity: Movies that Matter, Lower Level Campus Center.

Sugar City - 8pm Cultivate Cinema Circle Fall 2015: Season feat. Day of Wrath, Agnes Varda Series, \$5; 8pm Day of Wrath, Theodor Dreyer, \$5.

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS Church of Scientology of Buffalo - 7pm Clear Body, Clear Mind

Kleinhaus Music Hall - 8pm Just Buffalo Babel Speaker Series: Author Claudia Rankine, \$35 General, \$10 Student, VIP Patron \$100, Patron VIP Reception 7 pm.

Western New York Book Arts Center - 6-9pm Katherine Russell book launch Without Shame novel, book signing, free reception.

### LITERARY

Niagara Wine Trail - 12-5pm Niagara Wine Trail Hallowine Murder Mystery: Who Expunged the Petulant Princess. Costumes encouraged. Masquerade ball & Mystery, wine tasting at 15 participating wineries, \$30 advance only. www.NiagaraWineTrail.org.

OPERA Niagara Arts and Cultural Center (The NACC) -3pm Maestro Giovanni Reggioni, Bel Canto Repertorio, Feat. Karen D’Angelo, Thomas Litchev, free.

### POLKA

Ray’s Lounge & Catering - 7pm Coutry Meets Polka Night: Buckskin Calico & The New Direction Band, \$10.

### R&B

Shadow Lounge & Restaurant - 10pm The Soul Providers.

### ROCK

Broadway Hotel - 9pm Getting Better

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

Evening Star Concert Hall - 8pm Straight On, the music of Heart, 18+, \$8 ADV, \$10 DOS

Mohawk Place - 6pm Kill The Clock, The Freeeek, Mojo Stone, New Masons, Poindexter, John Vaughan Experience,Donnie O, Curostiy’s End, \$5.

Nifty Fifty - 9:30pm JB Aaron and the Brethren, free, 770 Buffalo Ave, NF NY

Pizza Plant Italian Pub (Transit Rd) - 8-11pm My Cousin Tone, free.

Sportsmen’s Tavern - 8pm Willie Nile, \$26.

Strikers Lanes - 9:30pm Kurtz Back, free.

Talty’s Tavern - 9pm Slim Chance Band.

Town Ballroom - 7pm Mat Kearney w/ Parachute, \$24 ADV/\$26 DOS.

Wagon Wheel Restaurant - 9:30pm Generation Gap.

Waiting Room - 6pm Young Empires, \$10 ADV/ \$12 DOS.

### TOURS

Graycliff Estate - 10:30am Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, In-Depth Tour; 11:2pm Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, Basic Tour.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### COMEDY

Seneca Niagara Casino - 8pm Craig Ferguson, \$45.

Stamps Bar - 8pm Octoberjokez w/ Chris Plumer, Chris Gullo, Kevin Thomas Jr., Dre West, Spencer Carr, host: Shannon Dawn, \$5.

### DANCE

Shea’s Buffalo Performing Arts Center - 7pm Neglia Ballet’s Baba Yaga, \$16-\$35.

UB Center for the Arts - 7:30pm Zodiacque Dance Company, \$20/\$10 students & seniors.

### EXHIBITS

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

The Steel Plant Museum, Heritage Discovery Center - 10:5pm Fascinating Forms: A Patricia Layman Bazelon Retrospective.

### KIDS STUFF

Trinity United Methodist Church - 6:30-9pm Storytellers Cafe:Halloween stories by Spin-A-Story Tellers of WNY & Trinity Performing Arts Center. Free will donation.

### LITERARY

Talking Leaves …Books - 5pm David Smeltz, author of The Adventures of Sidney Sawyer, talk & book signing.

The Bookworm - 11:4-3:0pm Jan Hess author of Murder in the Neighbor, Murder in the Junkyard, the Duke & Miss Amabelle-Hawkins.

Trinity United Methodist Church - 6:30-9pm Storytellers Cafe:Halloween stories by Spin-A-Story Tellers of WNY & Trinity Performing Arts Center. Free will donation.

Zawadi Books - 5:7pm Book signing by Mustapha Kashief, author of I’m Saying What You’re Saying.

Tudor Lounge - 4:7pm Jony James Karaoke.

### OPERA

Niagara Arts and Cultural Center (The NACC) -3pm Maestro Giovanni Reggioni, Bel Canto Repertorio, Feat. Karen D’Angelo, Thomas Litchev, free.

Lockport Country Club - 6:30pm Celebrating The Harvest Gala, Benefit for Kenan Center&DDs Scholarship Program: open bar, dinner, music by Kevin Clark, Mark Mazur Trio, Tickets \$75/individual, \$150/couple.

Niagara Wine Trail - 10-5pm Niagara Wine Trail Hallowine Murder Mystery: Who Expunged the Petulant Princess. Costumes encouraged. Masquerade ball & Mystery, wine tasting at 15 participating wineries, \$30 advance only. www.NiagaraWineTrail.org.

R&B Shadow Lounge & Restaurant - 10pm The Soul Providers.

ROCK Fourteen Holy Helpers Parish - 7:30pm The Canisius College Chonale, Sacred Spaces Concert series, free.

St. Joseph’s University Parish - 5pm Church Musicians Guild of Buffalo presents Choral Music Festival, free.

### CLASSICAL

Amherst Middle School - 7pm Amherst Symphony Orchestra, guest soloist Paul Schlossman, oboe.

Villa Maria College - 3pm Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, “To Bruch, with Love”, free will donation.

### DANCE/DJS/ELECTRONIC

Town Ballroom - 7pm ST\$9 (Sound Tribe Sector 9), \$27\$0 ADV / \$30 DOS.

### JAZZ

Colored Musicians’ Club - 6-9pm Bob Davis’s Jazz Wizz.

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

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

Amigos Restaurant - 9pm Wendell Riviera & Friends.

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

ROCK Nietzsche’s - 6pm Ann Phillipone Riviera Theatre - 7pm BBC Band: ‘A Beatles and 60s Music Experience’, \$29 (presale), \$34 (door).

WORLD BEAT/ INTERNATIONAL Nietzsche’s - 2pm Remembering Billy Constable: A Memorial Jam feat. Rolf Witt, Kathryn Koch, Danny Lynn Wilson, \$5.

Niagara County Community College - 7pm Love Doctor: Episode One, adaptations of plays by Moliere, \$10 General, \$5 Seniors & Alumni.

### TOURS

18 Mile Creek - 10-1pm Autumn Amble: Oakmoss Education leads an interpretive hike.

Center Street, Lewiston - 7pm Marble Orchard Ghost Walks, \$15/\$12 LCA Members/\$8 kids under 12. 476 Center St. Lewiston, NY.

Evangela State Park - 10-noon Evangela Trail Loop Tour: Animal Investigations.

Graycliff Estate - 10:30am Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, In-Depth Tour; 11:30am Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, Basic Tour.

Graycliff Estate - noon, 1pm Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, Basic Tour.

Graycliff Estate - 2pm Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, Basic Tour; 2pm Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, In-Depth Tour.

Graycliff Estate - 3pm, 4pm Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate Tours 2015, Basic Tour.

Niagara Falls State Park & Goat Island - 10am Trails & Tales Tours: 10 am-12 pm & 2 pm-4pm.

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

Silo City - 3-5pm Silo City Spirits Tour, Local psychic & Monument Paranomal Investigation team tour of Silo City, \$25, \$20 Season Pass Holders.

## SUN

OCT 25

## MUSIC

### CHORAL

St. Joseph’s University Parish - 5pm Church Musicians Guild of Buffalo presents Choral Music Festival, free.

CLASSICAL Amherst Middle School - 7pm Amherst Symphony Orchestra, guest soloist Paul Schlossman, oboe.

Villa Maria College - 3pm Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, “To Bruch, with Love”, free will donation.

ROCK Fourteen Holy Helpers Parish - 7:30pm The Canisius College Chonale, Sacred Spaces Concert series

# What Makes an Open Mic Special? Part 1: A Good Host. (Part 1 of a series)

**Tim Weir**  
contributor to the Reporter

It starts with a great host. Featuring Peg Silvestri, Open Mic Host at the Nifty Fifty Bar. In visits to over 40 open mics in Western and Central New York, one thing is clear: to have a successful open mic, it starts with a good host. It is an absolute essential to have a great open mic. This is my review of a visit to the Nifty Fifty Bar Open Mic on October 15, 2015. The Nifty Fifty Bar Open Mic, Thursdays at 8:00pm at 7710 Buffalo Avenue in Niagara Falls-

one of these great open mics. According to openmicreviews.com, it is the second highest rated open mic in the area. Although there are many positives that make this open mic so good, the success is due in large part to Peg Silvestri- open mic host- singer-songwriter- guitarist- greeter and public relations machine, all rolled into one. An Open Mic is different from karaoke. An open mic typically does NOT use a song with the voice track removed like a Karaoke bar does. Instead, all the accompaniment is live. This is what makes an open mic special- you never know what is going to happen next. You never know when someone will take the stage and blow your mind.

Often there are solo artists, as well as duos and trios who come and perform. Some solo artists performed with or without additional accompaniment were Burt Royce, Bruce Shaffstall, Andrea Zacharella and Al Whirl. Bands come here as well, as the stage setup is ideal for bands as well. For example, part of the Heenan Brothers Band played on stage at this open mic, including Rick Heenan, Rick Bauer and Ken Johnson. The Nifty Fifty Bar open mic does have musicians that make up what might be thought of as a "house band": this would be a group of musicians there that are ready and willing to accompany an artist, if the artist so chooses. For example, it is not uncommon to see accompaniment at the Nifty Fifty



Bar from Dave Draper-drums, Ken Johnson-bass guitar, Tim Andrews-keyboard; and Justin and Rob also on drums or percussion.

But it starts with Peg Silvestri, the remarkable host; or as I like to think of her, the "First Lady" of the open mic in the Niagara Region. A folk-singer by preference, she attracts a wide variety of musicians and singers and fans of both to this facility every Thursday.

Peggy comes from a family of talented singers and is the youngest of 6 kids. In the past she was known for her legendary music parties she hosted at her home. It wasn't long before she ventured out to Karaoke bars and open mics and began to share her love for music with other people. Soon she was playing in local establishments with bands and as a solo artist.

Now, at the Nifty Fifty Bar, Peggy has been instrumental in establishing a very friendly environment to make all who come to the open mic night feel right at home. Because she has such a passion and skill for harmonies, she attracts many others who share her passion for vocals. On a given open mic night at the Nifty Fifty, there may be 10 people who can create harmonies on the spot for a performer.

In my travels looking for open mics everywhere I go in Western and Central New York, this open mic is without peer when it comes to vocals. Some of the incredible people that added harmony so beautifully on my last visit were Laurie Jiricitano and Kim Kargatis, Kathy and Sue Achilli and Burt Royce.

This is often the missing ingredient at many open mics- good vocals. The average person that comes to the Nifty Fifty Bar can deliver the song, not just make noise into the mic. Even professional bands that have seem to have high reputations may not always be able to deliver a tune. For this reason, I will always make an effort to attend this open mic.

Frequently, my favorite part of the open mic here is when Peggy, Lauri Jiricitano and Kim Kargatis collaborate on vocals to sing a simple song like: "Leavin' on a Jet Plane". The harmonies and the blend of the voices is so pure and beautiful, it says a great deal about how great the chemistry is between these three ladies, and how well they work together.

What also helps is that acoustics of the Nifty Fifty Bar are perfect for this open mic, which has a very folk-acoustic slant to it most of the time. The low ceiling lined with tin and the raised stage gives it a "sort of natural self-amplification", as harmonica player Ned Perlman would put it.

The hope is that the Nifty Fifty Bar can become a place where amateurs will always be able to continue improving on their craft, but also be a spot where new performers can be "discovered". The Niagara Region is starting to get a great reputation for superb players coming from this area, and some already think of this area as a sort of "Little Nashville". The Nifty Fifty Bar could be an ideal place to further develop that.

This is also evidenced by the fact that there are almost 50 open mics in the area, which is several times more than what most bigger populated markets have. So this open mic is looking for talent to "discover". Samantha Sugarman...Lenny Revell... two names that quickly come to mind ... are you listening?

If you like good music, want to be surprised by good local talent, or have a musical talent you would like to share, please stop on by... Nifty Fifty Bar, 7710 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, 8 to 11 PM every Thursday. See you there!

Tim Weir maintains the website openmicreviews.com, and has written articles for other publications such as Artvoice.com, the Palladium Times in Oswego, NY, and the Citizen in Auburn, NY

**JOHN ACCARDO**  
for  
**Mayor**  
Niagara Falls, NY

"After eight years of promises, half truths and delays, the good people of Niagara Falls deserve a reality check as to where this City is headed"

**VOTE**

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

### "TAG" BANNED: "ROVER, RED ROVER" IN JEOPARDY

Two suburban Minneapolis elementary schools this fall hired a consulting firm to advise officials on kids' recess, and the leading recommendations (promoting "safety" and "inclusiveness") were elimination of "contact" games in favor of, for example, hopscotch. Some parents objected; recess, they said, should be more freestyle, unstructured. (More consultants' advice: De-emphasize refereed "rules" games in favor of monitors who simply praise effort.) One Minnesota principal noted improvement—fewer fights and nurse visits now—but as one parent said, her child feels that recess is no longer really "playing."

### BRIGHT IDEAS

Unapparent Problem, Solved: Vladimir Laurent (an insurance executive in Coral Springs, Florida) received his U.S. patent on Sept. 29 and can proceed mass-producing "The Shield"—his brainstorm to keep men's genitalia from dragging on the inside of toilet bowls while they're seated. Laurent told the *South Florida Business Journal* that his device was something he "needed, personally" (though he's aware that not all males experience the sensation). The Shield is basically a cup attached to the bowl by suction that allows movement via a ball-and-socket joint.

### LATEST HUMAN RIGHTS

Kentucky's government ethics law bars gifts from lobbyists to legislators, but state Sen. John Schickel filed a federal lawsuit in September claiming that he has a constitutional (First Amendment) right to receive them. (The laws were passed after the FBI found several Kentucky politicians selling their votes.) And in May, officials of the American Gaming (gambling) Association and the Association of Club Executives complained to the Pentagon that a threatened prohibition of the use of government credit cards at casinos and strip clubs violated card users' constitutional rights, in that protected activities (such as business strategy meetings) take place at those venues.

### CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

Florida Justice: Orville "Lee" Wollard, now 60, was convicted of aggravated assault in 2008 after he fired one "warning shot" into a wall of his home during an argument with his daughter's boyfriend. Believing his shot defused a dangerous situation (the boyfriend had once angrily ripped sutures from Wollard's stomach), Wollard had declined a plea offer of probation and gone to trial, where he lost and faced a law written with a 20-year minimum sentence. Florida has since amended the law to give judges discretion about the crime and the sentence, but Gov. Rick Scott and the state's clemency board have refused to help Wollard, who must serve 13 more years for a crime he perhaps would not even be charged with today.

### INEXPLICABLE

Christopher Hiscock, 33, got only a year's probation after his guilty plea for trespassing on a ranch in Kamloops, British Columbia, in September—because it was a trespass with panache. Since no one had been home, Hiscock fed the cats, prepared a meal, shaved and showered, took meat out of the freezer to thaw, made some coffee, started a fire in the fireplace, did some laundry, put out hay for the horses, and even wrote some touchingly personal notes in the resident's diary ("Today was my first full day at the ranch." "I have to remind myself to just

relax and take my time.") In court, he apologized. "I made a lot of mistakes." "Beautiful ranch. Gorgeous. I was driving (by) and I just turned in. Beautiful place."

MacLife touts mainly as good for "terrorizing guests."

### NEW! AMAZING! AWESOME!

Low-benefit (but Internet-connected!) devices now on sale (from February MacLife magazine): HAPIfork (Bluetooth-connected, alerts you if you're eating too fast); iKettle (heat water at different temperatures for different drinks, controlled by phone); an LG washing machine that lets you start washing while away (provided, of course, that you've already loaded the washer); Kolibree "smart toothbrush" (tracks and graphs "brushing habits"). Also highlighted was the Satis "smart toilet," which remotely flushes, raises and lowers the seat, and engages the bidet—features

### THE JOB OF THE RESEARCHER

Scientists have somehow determined that rats dream about where they want to go in the future. Dr. Hugo Spiers of University College London (and colleagues) inferred as much in a recent *eLife* article based on how neurons in the rodent brain's hippocampus fire up in certain patterns. They discovered similar patterns when a rat is asleep just before conquering a food "maze" as when he awakens and actually gets to the food (as if it plotted by dream). (Buried Lede: Rats have dreams.)

### PERSPECTIVE

A year-long investigation by GlobalPost revealed in September that at least five U.S. or European Catholic priests disciplined for sex abuse have surfaced in South America, ministering stigmatized in impoverished parishes. In Paraguay, Ecuador and Peru (all with softer law enforcement and media scrutiny than in the U.S., and where priests enjoy greater respect), dioceses have accepted notorious priests from Scranton, Pennsylvania, Minneapolis and Jackson, Mississippi, and Catholic facilities in Brazil and Colombia now employ shamed sex-abusers from Belgium and San Antonio, Texas. (The Belgian priest had been allowed to start an orphanage for street kids.) GlobalPost claims the Vatican declined "repeated" phone calls for comment.

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# City Hall Jokes



Mayor Dyster and Totes McGoat walk into a bar. The bartender looks up and says, "You get out! The goat can stay."



What can you say about a city administration that unceremoniously showed world famous high wirewalker Nik Wallenda the door but welcomed "Totes McGoat" to town?



"Which one is the Mayor?" Heard outside city hall as Mayor Dyster introduced Totes McGoat to the media.



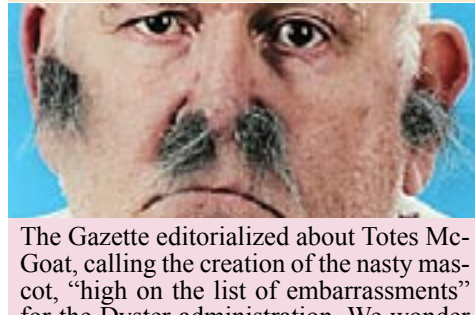
**City survey:** Has the Paul Dyster-Totes McGoat episode caused you to forget any of the following?  
A) The city's \$7.6 million deficit  
B) The city's \$63 million debt  
C) The frozen water lines  
D) The crime and unsolved murders



Mayor, you're only fooling yourself. Mr. Dyster breathlessly posted to his Facebook page a Gazette editorial praising his modification of the trash plan, three weeks prior to the election. The mayor failed to post the scathing Gazette editorial calling for his Totes McGoat to be deposited in a landfill.



There is no truth to the rumor that Totes McGoat is going to replace Donna Owens as city administrator. There is truth to the rumor that Mr. McGoat is going to replace Craig Johnson as corporation counsel.

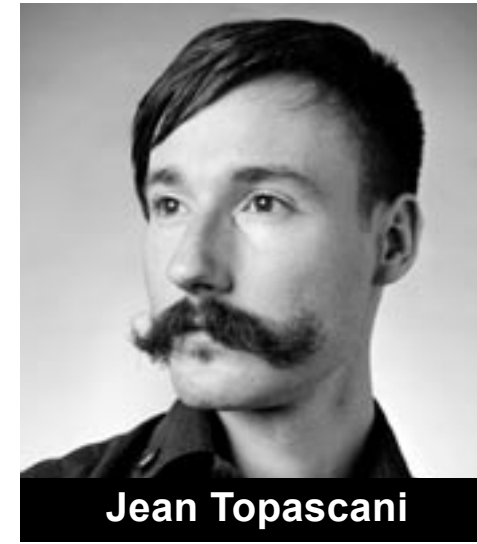


The Gazette editorialized about Totes McGoat, calling the creation of the nasty mascot, "high on the list of embarrassments" for the Dyster administration. We wonder how high it ranks against the \$50 million courthouse, \$44 million train station, \$13 million ice pavilion renovation, shuttered Underground Railroad Interpretive center, pothole streets, millions spent on consultants, cricket field, \$150,000 to refrigerate penguins, frozen water lines, and, well, you know.



Hey, it wasn't so bad, was it? Aside from being poorly thought out, cheesy in appearance, satanic in nature, and totally frightening for children the Totes McGoat character was, uh...um...something.

# Your Weekly Horoscope



Jean Topascani



**Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)**

Encouraging news on Tuesday will turn out to be false. Rely on outgoing personality and winning smile to get you into a lot of trouble. Mercury in 7th house prompts promotion. A co-worker who you treated with contempt will become your new boss.

Weds. Pm: Brush your tongue.



**Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)**

Try to figure out why people often say, "If I throw a stick, will you leave?" Go to a bar, drink a lot, then get a new, fancy, four color tattoo. Sat. PM: Prepare for nuclear annihilation. Sun AM: Good time to buy breath mints wholesale.



**Leo: (July 23 - August 22)**

Your talents as a musician come to the fore when several recognize you as skilled at playing the liar.

Life on the home front has never been more serene since you left. Your narcoleptic lover finally opens eyes. Tues. am: If you have the money buy a chain of steak houses.



**Aries: (March 21 - April 19)**

Lover breaks up and writes sequel to Milton, called "Paradise Regained."

Friend's suicide note turns out to be hoax. Conceal disappointment. You experiment with ways to fix your stupidity, but nothing seems to change the fact that you are who you are. Mon. PM. Don't buy poisonous snake.



**Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)**

An attractive member of the opposite sex is secretly laughing at you. A close friend confides in you a highly embarrassing personal problem. Spice up week by telling everyone you know and having good laugh over it. P.M. Best time to sleep.



**Virgo: (August 23 - September 22)**

Taking drugs is not smart. However, selling drugs is. You will have ample reason to exclaim this week: "Nobody makes a good deodorant." Failure to make mortgage payments leaves Uranus in empty house. P.M. Avoid lamb chops. A.M. The meek shall inherit the earth.



**Libra: (September 23 - October 22)**

A bat wielding Capricorn will provide answer to question, "What is it about me that makes people want to beat me with a baseball bat?" Weight gain, plus sun bathing, plus lying on beach on belly prompts Greenpeace activists to try to push you back into the sea.



**Scorpio: (October 23 - November 21)**

You will be torn away from friends and cast out of the only home you've ever known, now that your prison sentence is over. Learn to speak English. Mars orbit prompts current lover to express private regret for secretly murdering former spouse. Give your social security number to Nigerian email address.



**Sagittarius: (November 22 - December 21)**

Be enthusiastic about the success of others, since you will have none yourself. A short trip is in the stars, possibly to the bathroom. Your new lover is a trifle jumpy and steals your life savings. Do not date, joke or think.



**Capricorn: (December 22 - January 19)**

You will come face to face with your worst fears this week after standing in front of a bathroom mirror. Your first instinct will be to run. AM: Monday: Nose appears to grow longer. A person more repulsive than you will become an avid admirer.



**Aquarius: (January 20 - February 18)**

People regard you as dense, but you never notice. Stars indicate you will find a young, vibrant, attractive person, with similar interests, a fun, laughing, outgoing person who loves the outdoors, who is allergic to you. Avoid playing in traffic on Wed.



**Pisces: (February 19 - March 20)**

Follow your instincts on matters involving a reputed mobster. Beware of arguments at home boiling over and dividing the house as food levels run low. Wed. PM: Supervisor notices embroidered bathroom curtains missing. Sunday PM: Test all food for poison.



Is government supposed to entertain the governed?

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- \*Address Crime Issues:** Work to make residents employable.
- \*Economic Development:** Supporting small businesses and their growth
- \*Community Development, Housing Rehabilitation & Landlord training.**

**Education:**  
-B.A. SUNY at Buffalo  
-Numerous Inspection certificates & licenses

**Career:**  
-Business Owner: 20+ years  
-Self-Published Author: 9 Publications  
-National Motivational Speaker

**Accomplishments:**  
\*Recognized by White House & State of N.Y. for youth activities.  
\*Life Member: Alpha Phi Alpha Inc.  
\*Prince Hall Mason: Eureka Lodge 36

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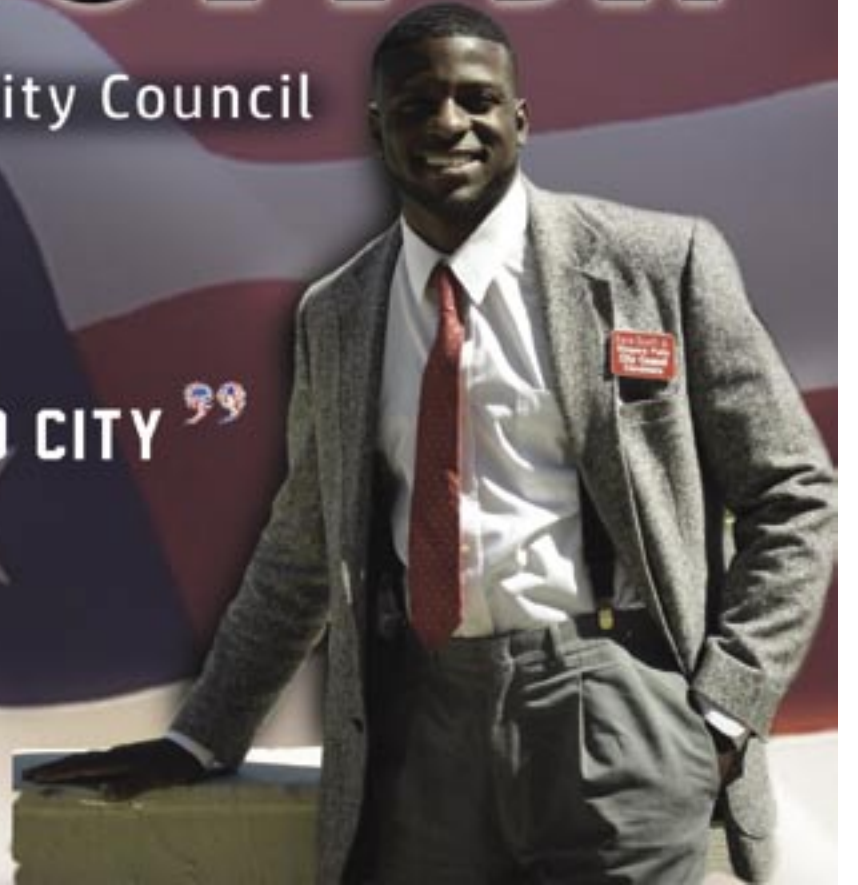
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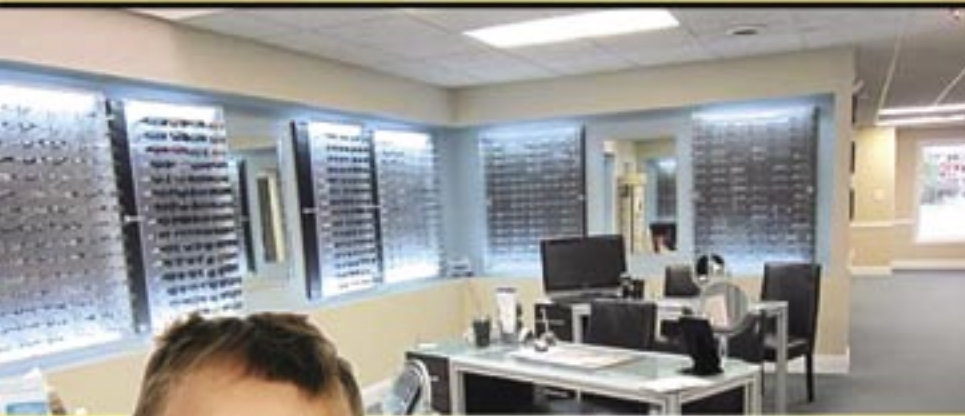
For Niagara Falls City Council

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Tuesday, November 3rd

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