

Cuomo preaches to his choir on Hamister hotel deal

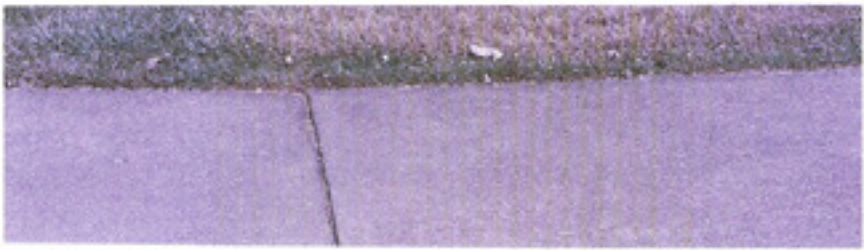


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Goldman Sachs Bails Out Hamister, Cuomo, Dyster

Tony Farina

Gov. Andrew Cuomo came to Niagara Falls on Tuesday to officially break ground on the long-awaited Hamister hotel project in downtown Niagara Falls and he used the occasion to praise his state development team led locally by Howard Zemsky and Sam Hoyt and paint a rosy picture of the success of his Buffalo Billion program throughout the area with no mention of the federal investigation currently underway.

While he did concede it was a very complicated process to get the now-\$35-million Hamister project started, crediting the Buffalo-based developer for sticking with it, Cuomo offered no apologies for the very long delay between the announcement back in 2012 by the state and the city that Hamister had been selected for the project and the groundbreaking four years later for the project that had been billed as one that would usher in a new era of downtown development and was time sensitive.

We've known for some time that most of the delay was because Hamister didn't have the financing in place to move forward despite the do-or-die scenario that state and city officials paraded before a wary City Council back in 2013 to get approval for the sale of the prime parcel to Hamister to get the ball rolling. Now, three years later—and thanks to a \$24 million investment from Goldman Sachs—the politicians of all stripes stood before a bulldozer at 310 Rainbow Blvd. and announced everything was in place to begin work on the long-anticipated and highly subsidized hotel that is expected to bring six full-time jobs to the city and another 30-plus part-time jobs. Now I guess that was worth the wait.

Perhaps the biggest news delivered by the governor was that Goldman Sachs, often



Despite the nonsensical claims of the Hamister hotel being a signature hotel and catalyst for development, it is merely a smallish, 128 room, few or no amenities Hyatt Place hotel. Considering that it was located 300 feet from the entrance of the Niagara Falls State Park some would call it an horrific case of underdevelopment!

called the world's most powerful investment bank, came up with \$24 million to help the state save face on what had been viewed as a major failure by many critics as Hamister struggled to get the financing in place for a project that Cuomo and Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster had pushed very hard to get through a council that had more questions than answers at the time.

As is the case with most developers, according to the experts, it all comes down to getting the financing from lenders and investors so that—in this case the Hamister Group—the developer can get it done without investing any of his own money. Hamister obviously had a great deal of trouble attracting investment money for his 128-room Hy-

att Place, but perhaps with a nudge from the state—we'll never know for sure—Goldman Sachs came through and saved the day. Goldman Sachs does a lot of business throughout New York State and the Hamister hotel, given the more than \$8 million in taxpayer assistance through a state grant and local tax breaks, is seen as a quasi-government project and would certainly be good for the bank's image and Gov. Cuomo's who is trying to play up his development efforts and play down the disappointing job-creation numbers of his Start-Up NY program contained in a footnote of a government business report. The last thing he needed was for Hamister to blow up.

In leading the groundbreaking program,

Cuomo said "Niagara Falls is one of New York State's greatest tourism assets and by building these high-quality accommodations, we are showcasing the region's beauty to even more visitors. This project will support jobs, attract private investment and offer new economic opportunities throughout region. I am proud to see this project underway and encourage residents and visitors alike to take a trip and experience all this region has to offer for themselves."

An obviously relieved Mark Hamister said he was "thrilled" to be able to break ground and Mayor Dyster called the start of the project that has been anticipated for so long a milestone in the continued development of Niagara Falls, and he gave his due thanks to Cuomo and state development officials "for their persistent focus in seeing this project through to a positive outcome." There's no questioning Dyster's loyalty to the governor, no matter what.

Assemblyman John Ceretto and State Sen. Robert Ort also basked in the groundbreaking limelight and also on hand was Council President Andrew Touma who held firm in backing the project even though he had become frustrated, like many others, with all the delays.

Maybe at the end of the day, the hotel will add something to the downtown picture and encourage others to invest in Niagara Falls, but only time will tell and we can only hope that the next prime-time developer has his ducks in place before he his handed the keys to a prime parcel only to string out the poor taxpayers who are really footing the bill.

It may take several years to see if this project delivers after it is completed sometime late next year, according to the schedule put forward on Tuesday. We can only hope for the best and pray for no more delays.

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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Everything Desantis Said Concerning Radioactive Waste Dump Was Wrong

Tony Farina

It turns out that nearly everything City Planner Tom DeSantis told the mainstream media last week in connection with a radioactive waste dump on North Avenue was incorrect, and Tuesday he was back peddling in the Niagara Gazette after an investigation by that paper found that the reporting on the subject in this newspaper was correct.

DeSantis initially told the Gazette and other media outlets that the radioactive waste, dug up at the site of the Whirlpool Street train station and dumped on North Avenue by city contractors, had been there only two months, that signs warning of its presence weren't necessary and that the material would be removed in two weeks.

The radioactive material represented no danger to the public, he said, insinuating that the Niagara Falls Reporter expose was "fear-mongering."

DeSantis was wrong on all counts.

Using Google Earth images, the Reporter determined that the city had been dumping the waste in the site at least as early as May 2015.

DeSantis did not directly address the apparent conflict in his Tuesday interview, but said "the soil pile has been in place since the start of the construction," which would equate to about two years. He said 155 tons of soil was previously removed from the site, and around 100 tons remains.

The material is certainly hazardous enough that New York law prohibits it from



For an indeterminate amount of time, this radioactive spoils pile was lying abandoned and unprotected on North Ave.

being disposed of anywhere in the state, and it has to be hauled to the US Ecology EQ Wayne Disposal landfill in Belleville, Michigan.

DeSantis told the media last week that "exact isotope" was irrelevant to the situation, instead emphasizing that the soil "has a low level of radiation."

He's apparently changed his mind on that now as well. Test reports show the presence of radium, he admitted. Most famously, exposure to radium is generally thought to be responsible for the death of Nobel Prize winning physicist Marie Curie in 1934.

And, rather than continue to maintain that the material is "perfectly safe," DeSantis admitted this week that neither he nor Alan Nusbaum, the city's environmental assistant

in DeSantis' office, were not the "appropriate" people to speak to the matter.

Now DeSantis says there is no specific date for the removal of the radioactive material.

In other words, every single point of fact DeSantis told numerous media outlets last week in the wake of the Reporter story was completely untrue.

Two weeks ago, the Reporter visited the site and found that the gate of the fence had



Thomas DeSantis says the radioactive waste on North Ave. is safe.

fallen down, and that large holes and tears appeared in the plastic safety sheeting used to cover the radioactive waste. In some sections, the plastic sheeting had blown off and the area was soaked with groundwater. The fence was repaired after the story was published.

In this case, DeSantis has shown himself to be an utterly unreliable source for truthful information. Why the media continues to report his assertions without fact checking is yet another unsolved Niagara Falls mystery.

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Scrutiny Of Alleged Niagara Falls Bid Rigging Needed

James Hufnagel

As the sultry summer weather settles in, investigations into alleged corrupt activities of the Cuomo administration are also heating up.

Independent probes by both Manhattan-based U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara and New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, delving deeply into the state's putrescent pay-to-play political culture, have already revealed possible widespread incidents of bribery, conflict of interest, official misconduct, influence peddling and lobbying violations.

In addition, allegations of bid rigging have been made with respect to two construction projects located at opposite ends of New York State, one a college dormitory outside Albany that was summarily canceled after Schneiderman issued subpoenas in the case, and the other the nearly half billion dollar Riverbend/Solarcity factory complex being built by developer LP Ciminelli in south Buffalo, which is being looked at by Bharara. As first reported by Jim Heaney of Investigative Post, the original Solarcity RFP



Over a half-million dollars' worth of substandard granite pavers now grace Niagara Falls State Park, courtesy of a suspected bid rigging scheme perpetrated by Gov. Cuomo's State Parks agency.



Three adjacent pavers in the Niagara Falls State Park, all exhibiting cracks.

contained a clause requiring the successful firm to be based in Buffalo and to have been 50 years in business, effectively winnowing the field down to one bidder, Ciminelli.

A third example of apparent bid rigging by Cuomo cronies was exposed by publisher Frank Parlato back in March, 2014, in a two-part series headlined, "Prospect Point Improvement Plan Includes Use of Overpriced Granite." Parlato detailed how, pursuant to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's \$50

million "Niagara Falls State Park Landscape Improvements Plan", Saratoga Springs, NY-based LA Group Landscape Architects issued tailor-made specifications for over a half million dollars worth of granite pavers that precluded competing bids, ensuring that a Hudson Valley-based quarry, Champlain Stone, had a lock on winning the lucrative contract.

Contractors bidding on the overall project were required to factor in prices based on the purchase of the pavers from Champlain Stone, at a cost of around \$60 per square foot, far above the market rate of \$20-\$40 for similar quality granite.

"Someone is getting a free cottage on the lake for this one," one local contractor observed at the time.

One of the operative terms, for example, called for "70 percent Hudson River blue, etc. with red and black garnet inclusions." This describes a product available only through Champlain Stone.

Local companies like S.B.Z. & Galle Stone and William Stone have selections of granite that can be purchased at lower prices, and their \$20 per square foot pavers are more or less identical, excepting slight shades of color, to the granite hand-selected for the project, according to several local contractors.

Unilock of Buffalo offers concrete pavers that mimic granite, surpassing it in durability and strength, costing only \$10 per square foot.

In addition, while design specifications required a thickness of 3", approximately one in twenty pavers laid so far in Niagara Falls State Park, having only been installed within the past year or two, now display noticeable

cracks, as we reported here on May 24.

According to published records, at least one Champlain executive previously worked for the LA Group. But far more salient, the State Parks project manager directly responsible for procuring the pavers was an individual by the name of Stephen McCorkell. His imported Albany team displaced qualified local State Parks landscape architects, who were banished to basement offices next to the boiler room.

McCorkell is married to Lisa Tonneson-McCorkell, Registered Landscape Architect and Senior Associate at LA Group.

As Bharara and Schneiderman expand their inquiry into chronic and pervasive New York State political corruption, they should consider looking into possible bid rigging at Niagara Falls State Park. It's not as if there aren't sufficient smoking guns there.

Gov. Cuomo set aside all SEQRA public scoping in his rush to build a new Parks Police barracks on the Niagara Gorge, a new boatyard for hard-luck Maid of the Mist owner and campaign contributor James Glynn and, of course, there's the Niagara Falls State Park Landscape Improvements plan with its massive environmental impacts.

Violations of both the federal Clean Water Act and the international Boundary Waters Treaty took place as favored contractors bulldozed and paved ever-enlarging roads, pavilions and parking lots on the former nature preserve.

Cuomo also set aside a \$100 million higher offer from Hornblower Cruises to operate the boat tours than what Glynn offered and instead Cuomo finagled a way to keep the boat tours in the hands of Glynn.

Hornblower CEO Terry MacRae admitted to the Niagara Falls Reporter that neither he nor his company had contributed to Cuomo's campaign.

The brazenness and disregard for public process that characterize Gov. Cuomo's various programs like "NY Parks 2020", "NY Works" and "Buffalo Billion", and the Maid of the Mist contract, as they impact Niagara Falls, bear closer scrutiny.

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

The Cargo Cult of the State

Jim Ostrowski

We live in perilous times. We do not know what is going to happen on any given day. I am pretty good at predicting the future. After all, before Ferguson, I predicted the rise of civil unrest in America due to racial tensions. See, *Progressivism*, pages 17-18. Alas, I am not sure where we will go from here.

Here's the problem. There is a huge gulf between what is actually happening and the half-baked ideologies and irrational mindsets most of us use to understand what is happening. Think, Cargo Cult. When a primitive tribe lacked the mental framework to grasp what a cargo plane was, they applied the only tools they had and concluded that those who flew the planes were gods they needed to worship to keep the cargo coming. The truth is, the Cargo Cult made more sense than the current fantasy of the American people, the State Cult. As scientist Richard Feynman wrote, "I call these things Cargo Cult Science, because they follow all the apparent precepts and forms of scientific investigation, but they're missing something essential, because the planes don't land."

We currently worship a group of people who have lots of guns and prisons, who take our money by force while conning us into thinking it is for our own good, and make our kids go to their daytime juvenile detention centers ("schools") which then teach how great the State is and how it can produce



The Cargo Cultists are not any less rational than the Progressives's Cult of the State...

peace, justice, harmony and prosperity and solve all of our problems and never create any itself. And if anyone comes forward to expose the scam, they are the crazy ones!

The truth is obvious to anyone not blinded by the Cargo Cult of the State. The state system is failing all over the world. It is fulfilling none of its promises. I never tire of quoting Nietzsche in this regard. "Everything the State says is a lie, and everything it has it has stolen."

And yet, most Americans are Cargo Cultists who believe the almighty state that raised them—most kids see their teachers more than they see their own fathers—can do no wrong and will solve all their problems if they only had more money and

more power. So, while we observe a daily kaleidoscope of government failure, cops killing drivers while engaging in portable tax collection for example, the 1984-style propaganda film imprinted on our brains by decades of brainwashing in government schools and through the media makes us see something entirely different: the need to make the perpetrator of these crimes, wars and economic predations, the State, ever more powerful. At times like this, I also love to quote the last word of *Bridge on the River Kwai*: "Madness." So, in the world of madness, the state will somehow solve the problem of one of their own, who they educated and trained to kill, shooting 12 police officers because he was angry about the state killing people.

There are three inter-connected mindsets that underlie the Cargo Cult of the State: progressivism, leftism, and archism. Let's take the last one first as it's a term you may have not seen before. I explain the term more fully in a forthcoming book but archism simply means all the implied beliefs, rarely stated out loud, involved in the seemingly benign and almost universal belief that we need states in this world. My point is, just because we have states does not mean the implications of that fact are not exceedingly important for understanding what is happening on a day to day basis. The great irony is that we think we understand the opposite of archism, anarchism, very well even though it does not exist, while we barely understand archism even though the state exists everywhere.

Okay, so tell us Jim; what is it about archy that we didn't learn in government school? I will leave it at this for this column. The state, by its very nature, continually generates low-grade, medium-grade and high-octane conflict in society. Probably 99% of Americans are archists. Don't expect them to see the problem. But the Roman poet Juvenal saw the problem clearly 1900 years

ago in terms directly relevant to the current controversy over police shootings: "Who will guard the guardians themselves?"

I would say about 90% of Americans are progressives, yes, even you conservative Republicans. You are a huge part of the problem. Obviously, every progressive is also an archist. In the great historical conflict that Rothbard has described as the endless war between society and the state, the progressive believes that for any problems that emerge, the state can usually solve the problem better than society can. As I explain in detail in *Progressivism: A Primer*, progressivism is not a rational system of thought. Progressivism is not an argument. It's a form of therapy that uses the state to reduce existential angst. That's why it's so hard to eradicate!

Lastly, we come to the most dastardly of the three Cargo Cult mindsets, leftism. That's a huge topic I can only touch upon here. This is all provisional as I haven't decided whether leftism consists of one big bad idea or a set of bad ideas and if the latter, how the bad ideas fit together to form a coherent ideology. Obviously, leftism involves a maniacal desire for the state to make everyone "equal" in the sense of material condition or result but I suspect the roots of leftism are far more insidious than even that totalitarian nightmare. My working hypothesis is that at the core of leftism is a subliminal desire by unhappy people to use the state to mitigate their unhappiness by making lots of other people miserable as well and by exercising power over them, the ultimate revenge of the miserable.

What percentage of the population is leftist in the above sense? Hard to say but I think fifteen percent is about right. It goes without saying that every leftist is a progressive, but not every progressive is a leftist. Leftists, however, exercise an influence out of proportion to their numbers due to virulent fanaticism fueled by rage. What the three mindsets share is support for state power per se and increasing state power robotically in response to the crisis du jour. The problem is that this does not solve problems but merely creates new and bigger ones. Yet, since these mindsets are not rational or based on evidence, the same mistakes are made over and over again without compunction or recognition of error.

This is the conundrum in which America finds itself in July of 2016. For this you can thank the Cargo Cultists of the State.

Jim Ostrowski is a trial and appellate lawyer in Buffalo, NY. He is CEO of *Libertymovement.org* and author of several books including *Progressivism: A Primer on the Idea Destroying America*. Copyright 2016 by James Ostrowski.



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Monument To Dyster's Poor Taste Now Costing New Yorkers \$585,000

Mike Hudson

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster may not know much about art, but he knows that he likes to spend other people's money. Last week it was announced that the sculpture he's having installed on the traffic island in front of the old Hotel Niagara on Rainbow Boulevard will cost \$150,000 more than previously thought.

The tab for the project now stands at \$585,000.

Back in 2009, Dyster commissioned the Buffalo engineering firm of Wendel Duchschere to study the proposed sculpture placement. Without a city engineer, Dyster often goes to Buffalo, where much of his campaign funding comes from, for engineering advice.

That study concluded that the total cost for the project would be \$435,000. Last week's \$150,000 bump-up was due to the fact that waterlines beneath the traffic circle would not support the weight of the sculpture, something you might think the engineers would have caught.

The sculpture was designed by Jeff Laramore, an obscure Midwestern artist selected by the city based on some unfathomable criteria that has never been made public.

He recently installed a remarkably similar sculpture known as "The Wave" in Virginia Beach. Both are 38 feet tall and measure about 35 feet across, both are installed on traffic islands and both are constructed of prefabricated stainless steel. The design of each is virtually identical.

Perhaps the biggest difference between the Virginia Beach and Niagara Falls installations is price, and who will end up footing the bill. In Virginia, "The Wave" cost \$250,000 and was funded entirely with private contributions.



Have you ever seen anything so ugly? Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster is spending \$585,000 of your money to build this monstrosity on a traffic island in the city's tourist district.

Last week, as the city Council passed the cost increase by a 4-1 vote, Councilman Kenny Tompkins was the lone holdout. Tompkins wants to see the Greenway funds used in other ways.

"With the condition the city is in, I would much rather see the money spent on sidewalks," he said. "Half a million dollars can go an awful long way for a lot of sidewalk repair, maybe a couple roads being paved. Do some more work on the potholes."

Tompkins would like the Niagara Falls Water Board to pick up the cost of moving water lines beneath Centennial Circle. The board was recently found to be sitting on a

\$6.2 million surplus by the state Comptroller's office, and Tompkins thinks the group should become involved in the project.

Of the proposed Niagara Falls sculpture, the artist said it represented "A ribbon of water surrounded and protected by great nations. One may see the flags representing nations or as analogues to hands allowing a stream of water to flow freely between them, yet shielding it from harm."

Of the nearly identical piece he did in Virginia Beach, he wrote this: "Virginia Beach is a place where people intersect with the sea, and have for centuries. WAVE is an accessibly abstract sculpture representing those nau-

tical elements, both natural and manmade."

The sculpture was originally expected to be unveiled this summer, but with the recent issues city officials hope they'll complete the project by the end of 2016.

Barbara Hill lives in Niagara Falls and works as a tour guide near Centennial Circle. She told WKBW news that drivers have a difficult time managing the traffic roundabout and worries a sculpture will only make it more dangerous.

"I think it might be distracting to drivers," she said. "They might be trying to look at a statue if it's in the center. I think it's just going to create more accidents."

Hill is happy the city is trying to make Niagara Falls a nicer place to live, but doesn't think adding a sculpture is what they should focus on.

"There are better things that money could be put for," she said. "Do more landscaping down here. Make it more tourist friendly."

The additional \$150,000 in Niagara River Greenway funds is on top of \$335,000 in Greenway cash that was approved last year, in addition to \$100,000 in further public assistance from the Falls and the state run USA Niagara Development Corp.

The Greenway Commission, a body created by the state in 2004, was given the power to disperse roughly \$450 million from the New York State Power Authority funds over 50 years in 2007, during the utility giant's 2007 relicensing negotiations with Niagara County.

The sculpture will serve as a lasting monument to Dyster's freewheeling spending habits and poor taste. He may not know much about art, but he can make a \$250,000 cost \$585,000.

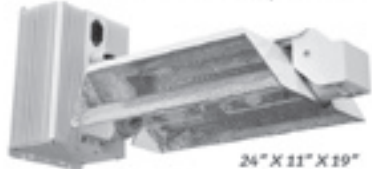


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Subdued Hotel Groundbreaking Has Hamister Making Excuses

Mike Hudson

State and local officials were looking sheepish and Buffalo developer Mark Hamister was spinning excuses at Tuesday's long delayed groundbreaking for a small, midmarket hotel project that was first announced four years ago.

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster, who has accepted campaign contributions from Hamister, offered up his usual blend of half-truth and non sequitur.

"This hotel is the first non-casino new development project of its size in our region here in more than four decades," said Mayor Paul Dyster. "The difficult stuff we do right away, the impossible stuff takes longer."

Of course this was utter nonsense.

A similar hotel, a 110 room Wingate by Wyndham, on Rainbow Blvd., was just completed.

And this year a DoubleTree by Hilton, located at 401 Buffalo Avenue in downtown Niagara Falls, will have 194 rooms when complete.

At 128 rooms the Hyatt Place is smaller than the DoubleTree and only a shade larger than the Wingate.

In terms of how much the boxy and faceless Hyatt Place is going to cost, Dyster may actually be correct. Hamister has pegged the project at \$35 million, although an identical



The right reverend Andrew Cuomo preaches to the choir about how Niagara Falls will turn around based on a politically dirty deal for a smallish hotel that the taxpayers of New York gifted to the developer.

Hyatt Place was built off a freeway exit ramp in Amherst last year for \$18 million.

Goldman Sachs is investing \$24 million in the project while the state's USA Niagara Development is giving Hamister \$4 million. The Niagara County Industrial Development Authority chipped in with \$4.25 million in tax breaks over the next five years and the city of Niagara Falls sold Hamister the parcel the hotel is being built on for \$100,000 even though its

appraised value is \$1.5 million.

In other words, state, county and city taxpayers have given Hamister \$9.65 million of the \$35 million he claims his dinky little hotel will cost.

Others involved in development along the Niagara Frontier questioned the deal.

"Goldman Sachs was only willing to put up \$24 million, so clearly they don't think the project is worth any more than that," one

source said. "He's basically going to put some money in his pocket and get a free hotel."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has also accepted campaign contributions from Hamister and was on hand for the groundbreaking, admitted the process was difficult.

"This was not an easy birth," Cuomo said, referring to the Hamister project which has languished in development for four years now. "I don't know that any births are easy, but this was an especially complicated birth."

For his part, Hamister mostly blamed the same government agencies that gifted him with nearly \$10 million for the delays.

"We had to secure a bunch of approvals from the Niagara County IDA and I thank them for that," said Hamister. "We had to bid this project out and we had to do so by complying with all of the state standards that we were required to abide by."

"Actually, this project has gone pretty close to what we originally anticipated. It's a complex project. It involves multiple steps," he added.

And multiple sidesteps, apparently. In the four years that have passed since the announcement that Hamister would build the hotel, four other new hotels have opened in the city.

None of them was so dependent on government assistance.

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Buffalo Billion Project In Big Trouble: Investors Pulling Out, Pols Playing CYA

Mike Hudson

Gov. Andrew Cuomo's "Buffalo Billion" project, now under investigation by both the U.S. Justice Department and state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, is in major league trouble and the massive project may be derailed by growing nervousness from IBM and other investors over the continuing corruption probes.

According to veteran New York Post investigative reporter Frederic U. Dicker, IBM -- a major player in the state's high-tech development efforts for more than a decade -- has decided to "cease all new investments and additional hiring" regarding the plans until the probes are concluded.

And a major Japanese clean-energy company that had planned to invest \$1.5 billion recently decided to pull out because of the on-going scrutiny by Bharara and Schneiderman.

This is awful news for Western New York politicians, most of who are Democrats and all of whom have hitched their wagon's to Cuomo's Buffalo Billion star.

It's also bad news for developer LP Ciminelli, whose chief executive, Louis P. Ciminelli, has generously supported Cuomo. Ciminelli and his associates and relatives have given nearly \$150,000 to his campaigns over the years.

In November 2013, Ciminelli and his wife, Ann Louise, hosted a fund-raiser for Cuomo in Buffalo, three weeks before submitting a proposal to build parts of the Buffalo Billion. The couple gave \$29,200 to the governor in January 2014, shortly before LP Ciminelli was selected as one of the winning developers.

And for Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster, who paid \$165,000 for a 5.5 acre parcel at 3625 Highland Ave. that owner Nick Dalacu bought the parcel in 2002 for about \$40,000 and is currently assessed at \$72,200, it's just another bloody disaster. He, city Council Chairman Andrew Touma and erstwhile Planning Director Tom DeSantis all said that "spinoff" from the Buffalo Billion project would soon see the neglected brownfield transformed into a teeming center of industry.



Cuomo's reaction to the scandal has worsened prospects for the ambitious projects, which include a \$1 billion state-owned manufacturing plant for Elon Musk's SolarCity in Buffalo. Sources said vital contracting decisions, including basic bill-paying for work already underway or completed, are being delayed.

Political considerations are undermining the effort as Cuomo seeks to shift the blame for possible corruption to Dr. Alain Kaloyeros, a physicist, who is the creative force behind the entire effort, a source close to many of the projects told The Post.

Kaloyeros, the state's highest-paid official at \$1.2 million a year as head of SUNY's Polytechnic Institute and the brains behind \$14 billion Albany NanoTech complex, has repeatedly denied engaging in any improper conduct.

Investor anxiety over the probes has accelerated since Bharara served a subpoena on Cuomo's office in late April and state investigators working for Schneiderman raided SUNY Polytechnic in late May.

Cuomo's reaction to Bharara's probe — which focuses in part on two of his closest friends and longtime associates, former aide Joe Percoco and lobbyist Todd Howe — was to kick Kaloyeros to the curb and hire an outside investigator, Bart Schwartz, to oversee the development projects going forward.

But Schwartz has slowed the decision-making process to a crawl.

"No bills are being paid, no orders are being placed and the contractors at [the Buffalo Billion's] Riverbend are starting to walk off the site," said one source. "There's concern — from the international corporate partners who are having second thoughts about New York to all the top [computer chip-making] clean-room and high-tech contractors who might go out of business — because of the cloud that's over everything."

Bharara has been focusing his attention on Percoco and Howe — who were paid by major companies doing state business — and large state-hired construction firms that contributed to Cuomo's re-election.

Schneiderman is focused more narrowly on possible bid-rigging and a violation of state antitrust laws in relation to a SUNY Polytechnic dorm construction project.

Schneiderman's raid — of which some journalists were given notice even before investigators seized materials from an office once used by Howe — was described by a source close to SUNY as having been "clearly conducted with Cuomo's encouragement" in an attempt to shift blame away from the governor to Kaloyeros.

"Cuomo and his people are trying to save their asses at the expense of everyone else," the source said.

2016 Niagara County Peach Festival Parade Units Needed

Jerald I. Wolfgang, Chairman of the Annual Niagara County Peach Festival Parade, announced that the Lewiston Kiwanis is seeking units for this year's parade. The parade is taking place on Saturday, September 10th at 11AM on Center Street in Lewiston. The parade route will be from the Red Brick Schoolhouse on North Fourth, down Center Street to Academy Park in Lewiston,

New York.

Any units wishing to march in this year's parade should go to www.lewistonpeachfestival.org for an application. Applications will be accepted until Tuesday August 30th.

The annual parade will feature over \$2,000 in cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to the outstanding school bands,

senior bands, majorette units, fire companies, floats, drill teams and color guards.

The 2016 Niagara County Peach Festival will be held September 9th, 10th and 11th at Academy Park on Center Street in Lewiston New York. More information on the 2016 Niagara County Peach Festival can be found at www.lewistonpeachfestival.org.

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How Could This Possibly Happen?



J. Gary DiLaura **The Right Side**

Liar, cheat, dishonest, thief, arrogant beyond belief...these are all adjectives that I hear regularly when people speak of the "President of the United States"! How could the people of this Great Nation put someone in office who can claim ALL these "attributes" and then even consider, doing it again?

I don't know for sure where Obama was born, nor what, if anything, he believes in, nor what religion he is nor what ideology. I can only put what I know for sure together and make an educated guess and I have always been a very good "guesser". The House of Congress has AG Lynch on the hot seat for letting Hillary off the hook. My feelings exactly!

These are ALL indisputable FACTS that attach to Barack Hussein Obama. After 8 years into his "presidency" we still don't know who the hell he is! Somehow he managed to have one full week (the first week of August 1961) deleted from INS/Customs micro phish records stored in the Archives, showing alien entries into the United States at POE Honolulu Hawaii. Examination of millions of those records reflect ONLY Obama's birth week is MISSING!

Also, from the Archives, the Selective Service Record of Barack Obama is altered! Information regarding his birth has been ALTERED on that card but not on ANYOTHER of the hundreds of thousands of Selective Service Cards that were examined. That is absolute FACT!

Obama has NO LONG FORM BIRTH CERTIFICATE! After 4 years of "mystery surrounding his Birth Certificate, he personally presented the American people with a copy of a "Birth Certificate" that he represented to be authentic (remember he tried to pass off a "Certificate of Birth" as a BC). His "authentic BC" has ALSO, forensically, been proven to be a complete, poorly prepared, FAKE! Why is a long form Birth Certificate so important? It is the number one document needed to obtain a Social Security Number, the best form of proof of US citizenship! There are other documents that may be allowed but it

can be a "catch 22" situation! For example, passport can also be used; however, a certified copy or original birth certificate is necessary to obtain a passport!

So what do people, who DON'T have a Birth Certificate, do to get a Social Security number? They steal one from a dead guy!

Now I don't know how this happened but the Social Security Number currently being used by the President of the United States since 1979, (it's on his tax forms posted on line) is 042-68-4425! That number was issued in Connecticut to Harrison Bounel who is long since deceased. This is NOT the only Social Security number used by "our President", none of which were originally issued to him! There is substantial information on line regarding Obama and his Social Security number plight! If this is true and I have no doubt it is, IT'S UNBELEIVABLE! Our freaking President uses "fake" Social Security numbers!

What's next? ...I know!

Let's elect another President who is every bit as shallow, dishonest, a better liar (under oath and before Congress, like her husband), a BIGGER and BETTER thief and who has the IQ of fish! Let's give her the Nuke code book and control of the Supreme Court, our Military, our economy and let her do away with our Constitution!

Stop on the Reassessment!

By Mike Hudson

Just another great reason to live in Niagara Falls.

Highest paid taxes and least received services.

I do not live downtown, I live in Lasalle.

I will have to ask the Mayor how much of an increase I should get based on the boarded up former crack house that is located three doors down from my house.

Do you know where I can get one of those "Stop The Reassessment" signs ?



Lawn signs residents are putting up in Niagara Falls

Unfortunately a Department of Public Works truck was seen removing a sign that was installed on a utility pole on 86th Street last Friday around 12:00 p.m. The strange thing is there were other advertising signs on that pole that were not removed.

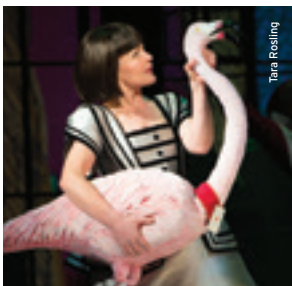
There were also two signs removed from two commercial buildings on Buffalo Avenue that same day. These buildings both have a very small area of grass next to them which is probably technically the city right-of-way and probably shouldn't of been placed there.

But they probably would not have been removed if they said "Start The Reassessments".

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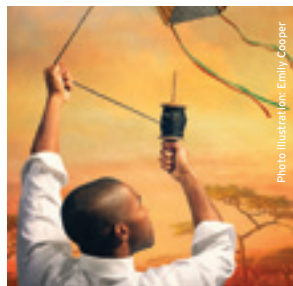
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Stop The Reassessments A Huge Tax Increase

By Ann Williams - Committee to Stop The Reassessments & Continuous Tax Increases

Mayor Paul Dyster deceived the taxpayers by waiting until five days after the mayoral election to tell us that he was planning to do a citywide reassessment. He plans to raise our assessments on average from between 17 and 40 percent. Yes, that is right – 17 to 40 percent! The failure to disclose this while he was campaigning for our votes prior to the election on November 3, 2015, combined with announcing it just five days later in a Niagara Gazette article dated November 8, 2015, is deceit at the highest level. This kind of deceit would cause some communities to call for his resignation.

Mayor Dyster, along with the support of Councilman Andrew Touma, has already decided to move forward with this and wants to convince us taxpayers that this is a great idea. Hmm... we do not recall him asking the taxpayers. We are not fooled by the nonsense you and Councilman Touma are feeding us. Nonsense like fair and equitable full value assessments, bla bla bla. The last time our elected officials tried to feed us this

nonsense we rode them out of town. We all know that you want to reassess so you can raise our taxes period!

In the Niagara Gazette article dated November 8, 2015, Councilman Touma said a citywide reassessment is a source of further revenue. He said the city's residential parcels are currently assessed at 83 percent of their current value, while some commercial properties clock in at roughly 60 percent. He said he would like to see assessment values brought to 100 percent citywide, and to do so would raise property taxes in the city of Niagara Falls. "We are not where we need to be." He said. "That's revenue the city is losing out on."

Mayor Dyster, in that same article you claim it has not been done in some time, you claim it needs to be done...why? The simple answer is Mayor Dyster, along with the support of his city council majority, squandered almost two hundred million of our casino dollars irresponsibly and unnecessarily and now, he is coming back to the taxpayers to get more. How does an elected official spend two hundred million dollars of taxpayer money without a spending plan in place... THEY REASSESS. Well We Say NO!

The facts are that New York State does not mandate that properties be assessed at 100 percent of market value and there are many towns and cities assessed well below 100

percent. In fact, Lewiston has not reassessed since 2005 and is currently assessed at 73 percent of market value, and Wheatfield has not assessed since 1994 and is currently assessed at 63 percent of market value. They are fortunate to have elected officials who do not use reassessments as an excuse for a huge tax increase. Even the former Town of Niagara Supervisor, Steve Richards, called reassessments what they are – he said he believes reassessments are "hidden tax increases".

We are not naïve. We know that this proposed reassessment is just a huge money grab. We know that tax increases from reassessments are the highest tax increase that we have ever and will ever receive at one time. Tax increases from reassessments can be so severe that the State of California enacted Proposition 13 which limits the amount that property taxes can be increased to 2% per year regardless of what the reassessed value is. The State of Florida also has similar protections in place.

Has anyone checked lately, close to 40 percent of city residents are retired and living on a fixed income or receiving some kind of assistance. We have one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. The median household income in Niagara Falls is one of the lowest in the state yet we are the highest taxed city in the United States.

We are shocked and outraged that a reassessment is even being proposed. We are already paying much more than any home or business owner should be forced to pay. The only thing that should be reassessed is the misuse of our money by our elected officials. Even former Senator George Maziarz said (Niagara) Falls city officials are giving drunken sailors a bad name. We have come to the conclusion that we need protection from those whom we voted into office to protect us.

We, the taxpayers, have one common goal, "stop the reassessments". We will not sit idly by and watch our elected officials continue to raise the taxes on the already highest taxed residents and business owners in the United States. We will not allow them to tax us out of our homes and businesses all the while spending millions upon millions of our casino dollars without any regard for the very people to whom the money belongs. The taxpayers have spoken, and we will continue to speak until our elected officials stop the reassessments.

We call on Mayor Paul Dyster and City Council members Kristen Grandinetti, Ezra Scott, Jr., Kenny Tompkins, Andrew Touma and Charles Walker to start representing we, the taxpayers, and stop the proposed reassessment on the already over taxed residents and business owners of Niagara Falls.

New Salvation Army Leaders Have Strong Ties to Niagara Falls.

The Salvation Army has appointed Captains Delia and Stephen Carroll as the new commanding officers (ordained ministers) for its Niagara Falls Corps located at 7018 Buffalo Avenue.

The Carrolls have been officers in The Salvation Army for 12 years. They have served as The Salvation Army leaders in Staten Island NY, Providence RI, and Springfield OH and youth work in the 28 counties of western Pennsylvania.

Both Carrolls come from Salvation Army families.

Prior to entering The Salvation Army's College for Officer Training in 2002, Captain Delia worked as the Administrative Assistant for The Salvation Army's 'Project 117' (School for Youth Ministry and Mission) and Captain Stephen worked as the Youth Ministry Director for Rockland County, New York.

As a result of their experiences at Ground Zero on 9/11/2001, the Carrolls committed their lives to the service of God as officers in



Captains Delia and Stephen Carrol.

The Salvation Army.

"We were already considering God's direction in our lives" explains Captain Stephen "but 9/11 was a real wake up call. We couldn't see ourselves serving in any other capacity than 'all in'."

The Carrolls have family ties to the city of Niagara Falls. Captain Delia's great grandparents, Charles and Mary Moore, directed The Salvation Army's Griffin Manor outreach programs in the 1940's.

Captain Stephen's mother was one of the children impacted by the outreach programs.

"My mom went on to become a Salvation Army officer and positively affected thousands of lives during her 45 years of service" explained Captain Stephen, "and it all started with a girl who had a rough home life in a bad neighborhood and a team of Salvation Army volunteers who were willing to love her."

The Carrolls, with their four young sons, arrived in town on July 1.



Dear Judge Bayger:

My six-year-old son was attempting to get at the TV on top of the dresser in his bedroom. The TV and dresser fell on top of him, breaking his arm. I've heard of these types of accidents killing the child, so I am grateful he is still alive. But do I have a claim against the manufacturer of the TV or the dresser?

*Signed,
Wondering in Wheatfield*

Answer: You are indeed fortunate that your son escaped greater injury. Accidents of this nature can often be fatal. As to your ques-



Judge Frank R. Bayger

tion, the answer depends on various factors.

I doubt there is a claim against the television manufacturer unless you can demonstrate the TV was unstable and became unbalanced, which caused it to fall and strike your

son. Since the dresser fell also, the proximate cause of the injury was the dresser itself, not the item on top of it.

As it relates to the dresser manufacturer, there may be a claim for a dangerous and defective product. Recently, Ikea voluntarily recalled 29 million dressers and offered refunds to the owners after they became aware of three children's deaths within a two-year period.

Once the dresser becomes loaded, if it is not balanced properly, it may tip over and lead to an injury or death if it is not properly secured to the wall. In many instances, wall anchors are supplied with the dresser upon purchase, which would help shift the liability to the parent to properly install the furniture. If your dresser did not include the safety equipment, or did not adequately advise how to install the dresser, you may still have a case against the manufacturer.

It would also be helpful to know whether

or not the particular brand or model dresser you own has been subject to a recall, either voluntarily by the manufacturer or by order of a government agency. If the company has taken action to remedy the risk associated with its product, it could serve to mitigate their exposure in the event of a lawsuit.

Without knowing all of the specifics, I cannot say with certainty that you have a case against the manufacturer, but I would certainly recommend that you make an appointment to discuss it further with a qualified attorney.

(Retired State Supreme Court Justice Frank R. Bayger is inviting you to submit legal questions pertaining to personal injury or wrongful death cases to him for a published response. Email your questions to Judge Bayger, a Hall of Fame trial lawyer, and the judge will respond in writing in the Niagara Falls Reporter. Send your email to frankbayger@gmail.com.)

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Swami Vivekananda

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Hang the Jury and Nullify Bad Law

As everyone knows, there is often a difference between “the law” and justice.

After all laws are made by elected officials under the influence of lobbyists and their desire to enrich themselves, and get reelected.

Anyone who thinks the typical congressman, senator, assemblyman or even local councilman is a beacon of wisdom and justice and cares first and foremost about the future of the nation is just a darn fool.

The proof is the sad shape of the state of this country with its financial recklessness, its \$17 trillion debt, its massive incarceration rates, its growing curtailment of liberties. The government’s self-righteous and petty bossism over the people. The inversion from government fearing the people to the people fearing the government.

It’s happening fast.

The framers of the Constitution knew that any government left on its own – i.e given too much power - will expand and serve itself (and those who work within it) over the interest of the people.

So they imposed upon government the rule that no citizen could lose his liberty without the unanimous permission of 12 people, through a trial by jury.

The jury was meant to offset the results of politicians making laws and enforcing

them. Because of the jury, politicians make the laws, but the people, through a jury, enforce them.

The founders devised it this way so it would forever be the people’s responsibility (not the government) to deliver justice.

This is evident in the writings of the founders of this nation.

John Jay, the first chief justice of the Supreme Court, said “The jury has the right to judge both the law as well as the fact in controversy.”

“I consider trial by jury as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution,” Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1771.

John Adams said, “It is not only [the juror’s] right, but his duty...to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgment, and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court.”

Alexander Hamilton, speaking about the framers of the constitution, said, “If they agree on nothing else, (they) concur at least in the value they set upon the trial by jury; or if there is any difference between them it consists of this: the former regard it as a valuable safeguard to liberty; the latter represent it as the very palladium of free government.”

The way juries safeguard liberty is for jurors to nullify what they believe are bad laws by voting not guilty even if it hangs the jury. Each juror must vote his conscience. If he judges the law to be wrong, he should vote not guilty, for no one is guilty (or should be punished) for breaking an unjust law.

Thomas Jefferson went so far as to say that the people’s right to vote in the jury box was more important than the right to vote in elections.

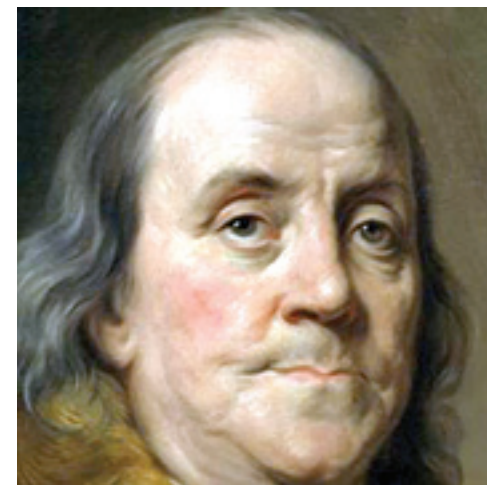
He said, “Were I called upon to decide whether the people had best be omitted in the Legislative or Judiciary department, I would say it is better to leave them out of the Legislative. The execution of the laws is more important than the making [of] them.”

The 19th Century American political philosopher Lysander Spooner understood the power of juries, down to the one lone juror of conscience who might hang the jury to protect the minority against the tyranny of the majority.

“For more than six hundred years --- that is, since Magna Carta, in 1215 --- there has been no clearer principle of English or American constitutional law, than that, in criminal cases, it is not only the right and duty of juries to judge what are the facts, what is the law, and what was the moral intent of the accused,” Spooner wrote. “(B)ut that it is also their right, and their primary and paramount duty, to judge of the justice of the law, and to hold all laws invalid, that are, in their opinion, unjust or oppressive, and all persons guiltless in violating, or resisting the execution of, such laws.”

The trial by jury was anciently called trial per pais or trial by the country, as opposed to a trial by government.

As Spooner wrote, “The object of this trial ‘by the country,’ or by the people, in preference to a trial by the government, is to guard against every species of oppression by the government. In order to effect this end, it is indispensable that the people, or ‘the country,’ judge of and determine their own liberties against the government; instead of the government’s judging of and determining its own powers over the people. How is it possible that juries can do anything to protect the liberties of the people against the government, if they are not allowed to determine what those liberties are?”



Benjamin Franklin said that jury nullification is “better than law, it ought to be law, and will always be law wherever justice prevails.”

However, if you’re called to jury duty, in these perilous and unconstitutional times, you may have to hide the fact that you know your right as a juror, for some government judges, with little respect for the founding fathers, will dismiss a juror who knows his right to judge the law and the facts.

After quoting the founding fathers, it might add a dose of practicality to quote comedian Doug Stanhope. He says it colloquially but makes the point:

“Take Jury Duty. Everyone tries to get out of jury duty like it’s a big pain in the ass, but it’s honestly the easiest way you can make a difference as a single human being. If you take jury duty and it’s any kind of bullshit crime, any kinda drug possession, any prostitution, any victimless crime, anything that’s none of your goddamn business... you just say ‘not guilty’. If it’s any kind of IRS bullshit, any point-0-9 DUI, c’mon, you say ‘not guilty’.”

It might be added that a juror cannot be punished, even if one single juror hangs the jury. Even if it is a vote for not guilty because the law is bad regardless if the defendant broke the law or not.

The government cannot punish a juror for voting his conscience. This is a right an earlier jury gave us and in the future when we judge the law and the facts as jurors we do more than determine innocence or guilt, we preserve freedom in America against the growing authoritarian powers of the state.

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Laborers' International Union of North America



LIUNA LAUNCHES CLEAN POWER PROGRESS TO DRIVE COMMON SENSE ENERGY POLICY

Recently, the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) launched Clean Power Progress, an ambitious state-by-state campaign to drive a common-sense energy policy that will help our nation meet clean energy goals and our growing energy needs.

Clean Power Progress will advocate for natural gas as a crucial bridge to a clean energy economy. The federal government's Clean Power Plan goals are ambitious and will lead to a shift away from traditional energy sources, which could mean a 21 percent nationwide energy deficit by 2030 unless more energy is brought online. Natural gas is abundant in America; it produces little carbon, and has been credited as a key driver behind the decline in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. The campaign also will focus on the importance of nuclear energy and clean coal technology.

"Clean Power Progress will cut through the politics and ideology that have distorted the debate on clean energy," said LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan. "Natural gas is already helping us reduce our carbon emissions – it burns cleaner, results in lower energy bills, and even backs up renewables. Clean Power Progress will demonstrate that if we develop this resource to the highest standards, we can keep the lights on and help cut America's greenhouse gas emissions."

The planned closures of 10 nuclear energy plants and misguided opposition to natural gas infrastructure are putting many states in the cross-hairs. The Clean Power Progress campaign will highlight the energy shortage each state will face as they work to meet clean power targets.

"It's time to take a hard look at our energy needs and start bridging the gap with a common-sense energy policy that includes natural gas," O'Sullivan said. "Renewables hold a tremendous amount of potential but as they are brought to scale, natural gas is critical as a cleaner source of energy."

Clean Power Progress tools will help lawmakers and policymakers identify key infrastructure needs and identify a comprehensive solution that will keep the lights on in 2030 and beyond.

Encourage your elected representatives to support a common-sense energy policy today. Congressman Brian Higgins - 716-852-3501; Congressman Chris Collins: 716-634-2324; Senator Charles Schumer - 716-846-4111; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand - 716 854-9725. The half-million members of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of workers who are proud to build America.

Gin Blossoms Free Niagara Falls Show New Installment In Long Running Drama

"The music business is a cruel and shallow money trench, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free, and good men die like dogs. There's also a negative side."

Hunter S. Thompson



Older yes, but any wiser? The Gin Blossoms will be performing a free show Saturday evening on Old Falls Street in Niagara Falls.

Mike Hudson

Even by rock and roll standards, the story of the Gin Blossoms is a fairly strange one. They'll be playing a free show in Niagara Falls on Old Falls Street this Saturday, July 16, with the festivities starting at 5 p.m.

The band's very name connotes the telangiectasia and rosacea often noted on the faces of degenerate alcoholics, and that's no surprise. Doug Hopkins, the band's former lead guitar player and main songwriter, was a heavy drinker who suffered from depression. After they were signed to A&M Records in the early 1990s, label executives told the other members of the group they would be dropped if they didn't fire Hopkins.

So they did, even though they kept using Hopkins' songs and arrangements. The band withheld \$15,000 owed to Hopkins until he agreed to sign over half of his publishing royalties, and he all of his mechanical royalties. The resulting LP, *New Miserable Experience*, went double platinum on the strength of two Hopkins penned singles, "Hey Jealousy" and "Found Out About You," which both shot to the top of the charts in *Billboard* magazine.

The experience so unnerved Hopkins that, on Dec. 5, 1993, he committed suicide, shooting himself in the head with a .38 revolver.

The band's followup LP in 1996, *Congratulations, I'm Sorry*, came out to mixed reviews with only one tune, "Follow You Down," barely cracking *Billboard*'s Top 10. The band broke up the following year.

They started playing out again in 2002, but the drinking problems of drummer Phil Rhodes led to his firing as well. They've had about five drummers since then.

In 2006, the Gin Blossoms released a new album, *Major Lodge Victory*, that briefly cracked the *Billboard* Top 200 chart at 159. In 2009, they released a live LP, the highlights of which were the songs their dead bandleader wrote nearly 15 years earlier and, in 2010, they came out with a new studio album that went absolutely nowhere.

The band tours a lot, they have a recognizable name, though it is based largely on the work of a youthful friend they fired and who killed himself. A quick glance at their summer itinerary shows that most of their upcoming concerts are similar to the one in Niagara Falls, free outdoor gigs in small towns, with the tab for their appearance being picked up by whoever is running the beer and snack concessions.

It's the way a lot of musicians are paying the rent today, though most don't have the checkered past of the Gin Blossoms.

Your Weekly Horoscope

By Jean Topascani



Aries: (March 21 - April 19)

You may start complaining about second hand smoke the minute you shed the extra 200 pounds. Inform judge before sentencing that anger management classes piss you off royally. AM: Put Ex-lax in the custard doughnuts. Your boss loves these as much as you do.



Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)

Creative powers at zenith: Smoke plenty of pot. Drink one gallon of prune juice and feel the flow as you change lyrics of "Wild Thing" to "Prune Juice." Begin with "prune juice, I think you move me." PM: Schizophrenia is a word that you could not define but curiously defines you.



Libra: (September 23 - October 22)

Your parents grew up in a small village where you met an elderly couple who later died. In a bold effort to see how many plates of food you can eat at the Home Style Buffet, you will find the answer sadly to be one less plate than you attempted. Sun. A talk show that you overhear today is likely to concern principles on which you must base your entire life.



Capricorn: (December 22 - January 19)

A car accident awaits you in the coming week, which is unfortunate, as it's the kind that involves too many Mountain Dew's and not enough gas stations. You become a prostitute in order to make money but wind up flat on your back. Tues: Face lift indicated.



Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)

Mars/Taurus 3°35'59" Starvation becomes a health hazard for you. Learn to play the harmonica. It will annoy others. "Headlice!" is a word that will have new meaning for you. Financial institution adds "fees" to your accounts. Wed. AM: Brush your tongue.



Leo: (July 23 - August 22)

Attractive cannibal with delicious smile, flattering tongue and moist eyes, chooses spending the night alone with you, over going to your neighbor's party where they serve all the Armour hot dogs you can eat. Stars suggest tension at work: You queer things up when you tell your boss, "let me get this straight, you expect me to feel gay about going to sensitivity classes when I'm all fagged out from working these long hours?" AM: Pretend you are listening to people who find you boring.



Scorpio: (October 23 - November 21)

The only place you'll ever find "success" is in a book they call Websters. Take a bath for goodness sake, stinky. Using deodorant may be a good idea. Throw away clocks that don't work. Wed. The countries that have issued orders for your arrest will close in today. Saturday PM: Love is in the air, but not for you - UGLY!



Aquarius: (January 20 - February 18)

Retrograde Scorpio in 6th. Bad dairy could cause embarrassing abdominal discomfort. Proceed with EXTREME CAUTION. Drink alcohol instead of milk. Mon. AM: You learn why co-workers call you Pinocchio. AM: Sunday: Hobbies good for emotional well being. But make sure life insurance is current.



Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)

Jupiter 2°50'56" in 10th house suggests something to look forward to: You'll be praised after your death for your contributions to the field of forensic science. Impress co-workers by saying in a low voice: "I must find a more suitable host body." AM: Do not drink poison.



Virgo: (August 23 - September 22)

"What's a nice person like you doing with a face like that?" It is a question that will be posed many, many times in your life. Get professional help. It might not be today, and it might not be tomorrow, but you'll soon come to regret staging a pie-eating contest to select your new spouse. Sunday PM: Party as if it were 1999.



Sagittarius: (November 22 - December 21)

Neptune in 8th. You will find that some astrological advice you read this week will be misleading and potentially cost you a lot of money. Fire is a hazard you won't want to ignore this week. Insure everything for 125% of original cost. Sun. AM: You will have trouble talking on your cell phone because of a distraction in the room and a bad connection. Wait until after the sermon and call back from outside.



Pisces: (February 19 - March 20)

Losing weight will make you look slimmer. Begin new diet: start each day with McDonald's pancakes. Lunch Kit Kat bars, Little Debbie Oatmeal Cream Pies and diet Mt. Dew's. Dinner: McRib sandwiches and Diet Pepsi. You'll look great, baby. Tues. AM: Make appointment with plastic surgeon.

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"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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- Medical Malpractice - \$2.7 Million - Recovery - Faulty Equipment & Anesthesia
- Automobile Accident - \$2.9 Million - Recovery - Car Crash at Intersection
- Explosion - \$3 Million - Recovery - Improper Maintenance of Machine
- Construction Accident - \$3.5 Million - During Trial - Failure to Provide Safety Signs
- Car Crash - \$3.9 Million - Verdict - Death & Severe Facial Scarring
- Car and Truck Crash - \$7.5 Million - During Trial - Tractor Trailer Caused Death
- Product Liability - \$7.5 Million - During Trial - Loss of Eye due to Defective Hammer
- Job Site Accident - \$8 Million - Verdict - Failure to Provide Safety Harness
- Falling Tree on Automobile - \$8 Million - Recovery - NYS Failed to Remove Tree
- Airplane Crash - \$9 Million - Recovery - Pilot Error & Lack of Training
- Tractor Trailer Accident - \$10.5 Million - Recovery - Unsafe Load of Steel Coils
- Libel - \$18.5 Million - Verdict - John Prozoralk case
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