

Paladino's magnificent Trump gesture



Former AUSA Bruce a genuine villain?



NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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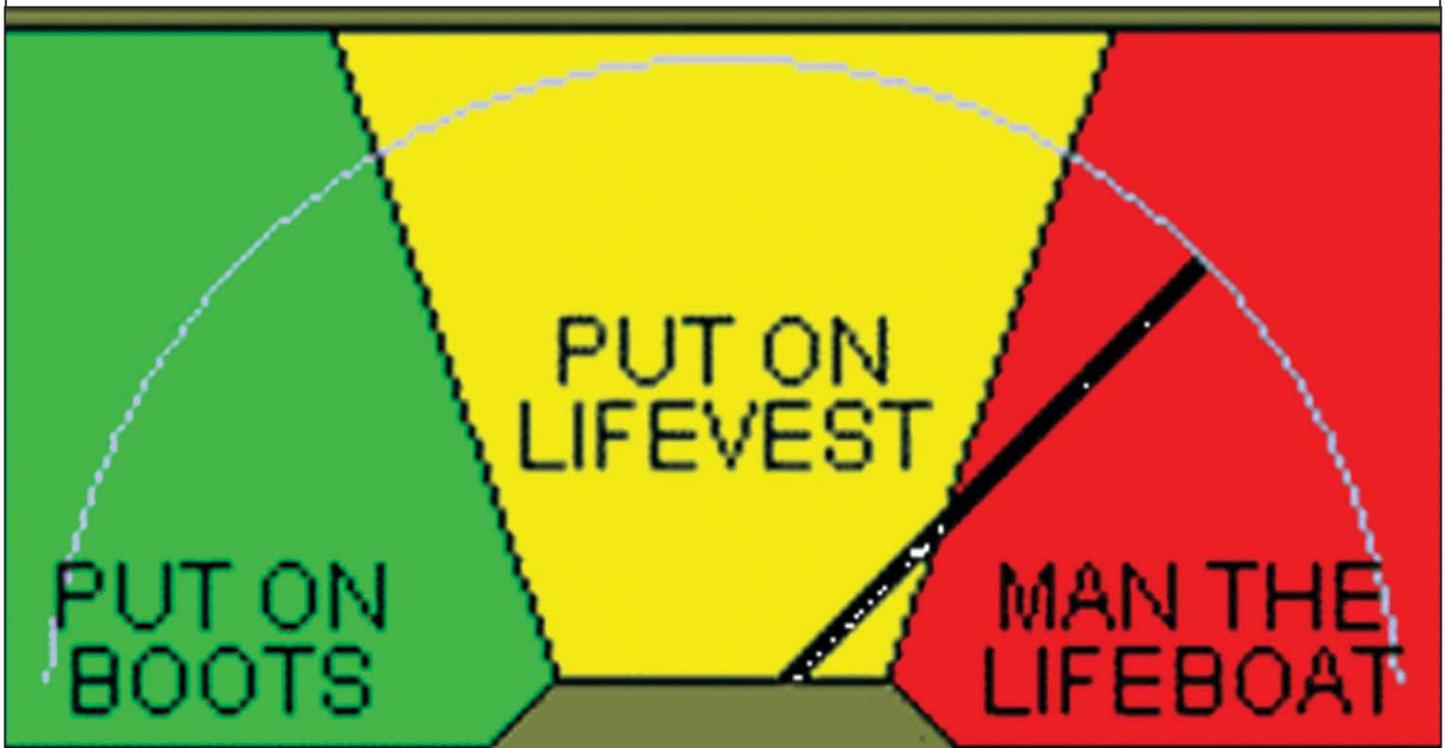
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Lack of Direction, Wasteful Spending rampant as Niagara Greenway enters 2nd decade

James Hufnagel

This newspaper first started reporting on the Niagara River Greenway Commission over ten years ago, in a Feb. 1, 2005 article headlined, "PATAKI GREENWAY PROPOSAL STINKS".

Among the problems identified at the outset: When an activist group of Niagara County environmentalists realized that Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper was selling them down the river, so to speak, hustling to reap the hundreds of millions of relicensing dollars up for grabs for the benefit of Buffalo and Erie County waterfront, instead of communities that are actually impacted by the Power Project such as Niagara Falls, Lewiston, Youngstown and the Tuscarora Nation, and started complaining, NYPA summarily cancelled two separate rounds of public hearings on Greenway, emailing stakeholders with notice of their decision.

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, which received a \$10,000 grant from NYPA on the eve of the relicensing "negotiations", cobbled together a "coalition" of Buffalo-based environmental groups, some of which were shell organizations consisting of only one member, to serve as a fig leaf in signing off on the NYPA relicensing application.

The 50-year, \$450 million Niagara Greenway was supposed to establish a "Niagara River corridor (of) unique ecological, cultural and economic importance to Western New York", and "plan and implement a linear series of parks, trails and conservation areas along the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Fort Niagara."

Instead, it has devolved into a political slush fund through which NYPA keeps local pols happy by funding their pet projects like theater marquees in

North Tonawanda and Lockport, playgrounds in the Falls, a dog park in Lewiston, harbor dredging in Wilson (which over the last century had previously been paid for by the federal government), municipal park upgrades in Lockport, Sanborn and Newfane and more recently a \$2.27 million "reptile house renovation" in Buffalo.

Greenway was given the full SEQRA treatment, including scoping of environmental impacts, which was odd, given that at the time no one had the slightest idea what those impacts might be over the next 50 years. Of course, those were the days that State Parks routinely administered SEQRA. Since then, projects with massive environmental impacts, such as the Niagara Falls State Park Landscape Improvements plan, the aborted Parks Police barracks at the top of the Niagara Gorge and Glynn's new Maid of the Mist drydock were all exempted from public hearings and scrutiny under SEQRA.

Another problem brought up but not addressed by NYPA at the inception of the Greenway was that, metered out in \$9 million annual payments over 50 years, the income stream was profoundly vulnerable to inflation risk.

The first \$750,000 of Greenway largesse went to Wendel-Duscherer, which produced a voluminous plan replete with glossy photos of the local waterfront, an inventory of local tourism assets, and vague guidelines about what a Greenway should look like.

The charter Greenway Commission was composed exclusively of assorted town supervisors and political hacks like Paul Dyster, who was bidding his time between stints at City Hall, and state officials representing the New York Secretary of State, the commissioners of State Parks, the state DEC and DOT, and the state Department of



Jeanne Leccese was recently hired as the executive director of the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Economic Development, as well as the chairperson of the New York Power Authority, who was at the time Louis P. Ciminelli.

Ciminelli and other executives of Ciminelli Construction Co., with some top Cuomo aides, are currently under indictment for alleged corruption.

Then-Assemblyman Sam Hoyt of Buffalo, the sponsor of the bill that established the Greenway, nominated former Ciminelli CEO and president John Giardino to the commission, giving Ciminelli Construction not one, but two, voices on the Greenway Commission.

Of course, in navigating Greenway from conception to reality, Hoyt knew exactly what he was doing. Tens of millions of Greenway dollars have since been expatriated from the Niagara County-based Power Project to fund Buffalo and Erie County waterfront development projects.

Greenway reform legislation based on a study by Partnership for the Public Good, under the direction of UB Law

Professor Sam Magavern, was pursued in the state legislature by former state senators Grisanti and Panepinto. With Sen. Robert Ortz now representing Niagara Falls, and Magavern appointed to the Greenway Commission to shut him up, the reforms appear dead in the water.

While all this is water under the bridge, there have been some recent Greenway developments. A new Executive Director, Jeanne Leccese, has been hired.

There's so little to do in the position that when Rob Belue, the former Benderson Development executive who was Greenway director from the start, retired, the entire position and its responsibilities were handed over to Angela Berti, who somehow managed to not only execute her duties as a top staffer at Niagara Falls State Park, one of the busiest parks in the world, but also sent out the occasional press release and newsletter that had previously kept Belue busy for years. Maybe Luccese can keep busier, counting paper clips, or something.



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Dyster publicizes "Warming Centers", but not in free Reporter

James Hufnagel

Winter is taking a turn for the worse here in Niagara Falls today and tomorrow, with wind chills in the negative numbers and the temperature plummeting to single digits.

At around 7 pm Wednesday, the Buffalo News and the Niagara Gazette both reported on their web sites that Mayor Paul Dyster issued a press release notifying the two newspapers that "warming centers" at three locations in the city were available for shelterless people to come in from the cold. The Niagara Falls Reporter did not receive the press release.

"While the city of Niagara Falls has missed out on much of the snowfall hitting the bulk of Western New York, it is crucial that we ensure that all community members are aware of the resources available to them as we prepare for the bitter cold temperatures in store this week and throughout the winter season... We ask that anyone who may know of someone without a safe, warm place to stay encourage them to seek shelter at one of the warming centers available to them, or reach out to one of our Niagara Falls police officers who will be able to help coordinate shelter," said Mayor Dyster, as quoted in the Gazette.

"The City of Niagara Falls Police Department is prepared to do its part to make sure those in need have a warm place to stay," added Police Supt. Bryan Dalporto in the News, "If you or someone you know is in need of shelter, I encourage you to approach any officer and we will help you obtain it."

It stands to reason that homeless persons, for the most part, and we could be wrong, generally don't have access to the internet after 7 pm, unless they're at the Niagara Falls Public Library, which is open until 9 pm, and therefore the Dyster press release may escape their notice. They could access the free wifi at McDonald's on Pine Avenue or Burger King on Main, but that would be assuming that they have a smart phone, or are carrying around a laptop computer in their shopping cart with which to keep up on emergency dispatches from city government.

In all fairness, had we received the press release like the other two papers did, it would have been duly posted to our website as well to decidedly minimal effect. The print edition of these newspapers, well, that may be another story.

Both the Gazette and the News cost \$1 at the newsstand, while the Reporter is free. There's no value judgement attached to this statement - it's simply the business model of the other two newspapers to charge for a copy of their paper, and it works for them.

What works for the Reporter is being free at hundreds of locations throughout the city of Niagara Falls as well as most of Niagara County. That means that a homeless person who might not have a dollar to spend on a newspaper may, on the other hand, be inclined to pick up a copy of the free paper



It's on you. If you know somebody who is at risk for being outside in this brutally cold weather, phone the Niagara Falls Police Department. You could be saving a life.

that's available right at the front door of numerous small businesses, and find out about warming centers.

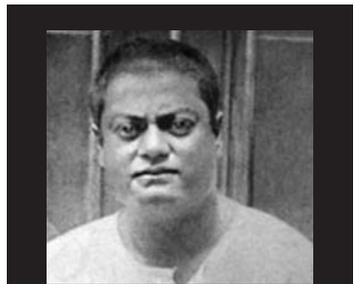
What works for Mayor Dyster is getting a story in the newspapers promoting him as the humanitarian we know him to be.

The three warming centers are located at:

Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, 1590 Buffalo Ave., open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Niagara Rescue Gospel Mission, 1023 Ferry Ave., where those in need can register for a room and meals at the warming center.

John A. Duke Senior Citizens Center, 1201 Hyde Park Boulevard, open daily for those looking for a place to escape the cold.



The remedy for weakness is not brooding over weakness, but thinking of strength...

~ Swami Vivekananda



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Dyster always available for photo ops at taxpayer expense

A man for all seasons. Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster sent out a press release to the local media (except the Reporter) to announce that there were "warming centers" for homeless people - which while taking credit in the press, he had, as far as we could determine, little to do with their establishment as refuges for homeless people.

Unless of course you consider Dyster's policies as having helped create more homelessness in the city.

We are waiting for the photo of Dyster ushering a homeless person in from the cold.

But whatever the reason and whatever the season, Dyster is always willing to be part of any photo op that helps reveal the man he is to his people - which incidentally are the highest taxed, most crime afflicted, impoverished folks in New York State. This would be lamentable in any city, but when you consider this city is a tourist town with eight million tourists coming (with money in their pockets) per year and with the world's greatest natural hydropower, you have to wonder how Dyster managed to lead the city into such enduring poverty.

And if that was not enough, every year Dyster got between \$15 and \$20 million from Albany via the Seneca Nation for their slot machine monopoly here (about \$200 million total). Never before has a small town had so much and kept so little.

Of course, none of this incredible poverty amid riches would be possible without Dyster



Mayor Dyster has only one condition for giving away public money to musical promoters for profit - that he appears onstage. Here the good Mayor enjoys appearing for the Blues Fest, which is poetic irony since the people of the city have long been feeling (if not singing) the blues. That overburdened taxpayers should be further burdened with paying for some promoter's blues event is just the sort of folly that makes Dyster the clown prince of Niagara Falls.

being a puppet to Albany and serving the governor's interests ahead of the city's interest. But while he has let the city slip into

deep decline, Dyster appears frequently as the clown about town.



Onstage he is king. Here Paul Dyster introduces a taxpayer funded act. The generous mayor spent more than \$700,000 in public money to subsidize the Hard Rock Cafe's beer and concession sales driven concert series. Mayor Dyster allowed taxpayers to pay for the musical act while Hard Rock sold the beer and hot dogs and kept the profits. Meantime Dyster's high tax policies resulted in hundreds of homes being foreclosed by the city when people could not keep up with the high property tax payments. According to the New York State Restructuring board, the property taxes in Niagara Falls are the ranked as the highest in New York State. New York State in turn is the highest taxed state in America. Party on.

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Taxpayer-subsidized beer fests are right up Paul Dyster's alley since he owns a store in Tonawanda that promotes home beer brewing.



Nothing keeps a man warm better on a cold winter's night than a snootful of some intoxicating beverage. And what better time to get up and make a speech. Here (a very warm) Dyster appears at some taxpayer funded event to take credit for it.



Here the affable Mayor Paul Dyster appears on stage again. The Reporter has roughly calculated that every time Dyster appears onstage it costs taxpayers, on average, \$10,000. And this is unjust in a poverty town. After all, if people want to see concerts, they should pay for it themselves. Simple old fashioned American enterprise-driven virtue. The idea of forcing you to pay for someone else's concert is about as savage an idea that anyone could ever come up with. If I robbed you at gunpoint and made you buy a ticket for somebody else to go to a blues concert you'd think me a savage. But if government (which gets its money solely by taking it by force from the people through something called taxation) forces some people to pay for free concerts for others, the media celebrates the achievement and politicians rejoice in front of the cameras. Someday this will be seen as the savagery it really is. For it is the poor and the struggling middle class who suffer most from high taxes. The poor suffer from a lack of jobs and higher rents and smaller paychecks when they can find work and the middle class shoulder the disproportionate burden as their children are deprived of hard earned luxuries (like going to concerts). Taxpayer money is spent on frivolous nonessential things like concerts, subsidized hotels for millionaire developers and glorious train stations that nobody uses which will cost taxpayers millions in hidden costs, so that Dyster can pose in front of cameras and say 'I got this done. Me - I built you a train station. Me folks.'



Paul Dyster, like other politicians, loves to appear at ground breaking events with a golden shovel in hand. They appear to be shoveling dirt out of the ground but they are actually shoveling taxpayer money into the ground - money from the middle class taxpayers to favored millionaire-developers who get their projects tax-free and usually at only the tiny cost of making campaign donations to the politicians (seen with shovels in hand.)

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Paladino's meeting with Trump reveals much about the greatness of the man

Frank Parlato

Buffalo developer, landlord, lawyer, activist, political candidate, idealist, and patriot, Carl Paladino met with President-elect Donald Trump last Monday for an hour.

Paladino came and met the great Trump and did not ask for anything.

Some have criticized Paladino for this. Paladino did not lobby Trump for a position in the administration, or for resources for the region, or stances on policy that could benefit Western New York.

Paladino went in instead and offered to help the administration, if he could be of service.

But, he said, he was not looking for or expecting a job or appointment in the Trump administration.

At a time when a literal cavalcade of politicians, lobbyists and wannabes are coming before Trump to flatter and grovel, Carl Paladino came and wanted nothing.

Of course, he had wanted Trump to win. He helped to see that that happened.

Many a coward betrayed Trump at crucial times – ran away when the media howled and came back later as cravens.

But Paladino never flinched when the mainstream media was hysterically lambasting Trump.

Paladino was the only non-cynic in the entire political scene, when he said in effect, "Grow up. All men make sexist comments sometime in their life and so do most women and everybody knows it."

As lecherous frauds like Joe Biden or Barack Obama and maybe William Jefferson Clinton acted like they were aghast at Trump's crudeness, Paladino's widely quoted "so what?" was understood by the people.



So fast forward to the aftermath of the election.

Consider the greatness of the gesture. Paladino meets with Donald Trump and Trump owes him. Based on the normal world of politics, Trump owes Paladino a lot— and Paladino spends an hour with him and doesn't ask for anything.

All he said was, "Trump, I'm here if you need me."

Never once, be assured, did it cross his mind, "I'm lower than Trump. I want him to help me be bigger."

Take away the begging, and Paladino and Trump (like any two men) talk as equals.

They could talk about America based on strength and truthfulness and time honored values. They could talk about smaller, less oppressive govern-

ment.

And they could be trivial, boastful, ball busting. They could joke or regale each other with fine stories about themselves or others. They could mock each other or swear or tell dirty jokes. Or confess they are mortal and part demon, like all men.

Maybe during that hour of irrelevant talk comes one moment of recognition between man and man – that moment of engagement when a man recognizes something of himself in another man.

Like Trump, Paladino is a bull among the herd. He does not tremble at noises. He can get along fine without Donald Trump and vice versa.

Everything you can say about Donald Trump when he ran for president you could have said about Carl Pala-

dino when he ran for governor in one of the most progressive (anti freedom) states in America.

So when the pioneer, Carl Paladino strode into the room where Trump was awaiting, he did more than ask the big man for favors. He showed Trump an American can do a deed and not beg for something in return.

For an hour last Monday, Paladino demonstrated what they meant when they said, 'all men are created equal' when he magnificently came and offered service to his country and never once begged for anything from the president elect of the United States who against all odds he helped to elect.

Perhaps that's what Trump meant when he said "make America Great Again."



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New Sign on Parkway shows Cuomo's Contempt for City, Reporter, Feds

James Hufnagel

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, through his associates at State Parks and the New York Power Authority, sometime over the past week perpetrated an act of such petty vindictiveness and blatant contempt for Niagara Falls that we thought it appropriate to come up with a special name for his attitude towards us. We decided to call it the "Big Eff U".

The Dec. 8 issue of the Niagara Falls Reporter hit the newsstands and the internet last Thursday morning. It featured an article headlined "Feds to Cuomo: Parkway Signage out of Compliance".

At some point over the succeeding four days, as of 11 am on Monday, Dec. 12, a brand-new, large, obtrusive "motherboard" sign, identical to those that, as we previously reported, have been determined by the Federal Highway Administration to be dangerously distracting and in violation of traffic safety regulations and ordered removed by the agency, was erected along the Robert Moses Parkway as it traverses the Niagara Power Project.

Again: literally within hours of our scathing takedown of Gov. Cuomo's latest "I Love N.Y." tourism promotion scam, the installation of \$1.76 million worth of ugly road signs along otherwise scenic vistas across New York State, the state put up a new one right here in our backyard along the parkway. The timing couldn't have been an accident, or a coincidence.

We would characterize this particular response of the Cuomo administration to our newspaper article as a Big Eff U.

Over the years the city of Niagara Falls has, unfortunately, become all too familiar with Cuomo's Big Eff U's.

Shortly after taking office in 2011, Gov. Cuomo summarily cancelled a \$100 million NYPA economic aid package in the works for the city of Niagara Falls and Niagara County. Buffalo and Erie County had previously received \$300 million under the same initiative during Gov. Paterson's administration. There's a Big Eff U as one of his first official acts as governor.

Later, amid much hoopla and celebration, Cuomo traveled here in 2013 to announce his \$40 million "Downtown Niagara Falls Development Challenge" which was "to transform



While the natural beauty of the Niagara Gorge has been trashed in a thousand different ways, the unattractive Cuomo signs along the parkway just add insult to injury.

the downtown Niagara Falls area into a premier destination that will attract tourists and fuel private investment", providing "a real opportunity for champions in the development and investment industries to face off right here in the Falls" resulting in "creative and innovative projects that will spur private development."

So far, the city of Niagara Falls hasn't seen a nickel of Cuomo's \$40 million. Earlier this year the city of Jamestown was awarded \$10 million by Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council to revitalize their tourist district. Niagara Falls submitted an application for the \$10 million but lost out to Jamestown. Eff U, Niagara Falls.

Then on August 8, 2014, Gov. Cuomo announced that Uniland Development Co. had been selected to construct "Wonder Falls" at the site of the long-defunct Rainbow Centre Mall. The \$150 million project was "expected to transform downtown Niagara Falls and be a catalyst for visitors to lengthen their stay by offering 300 hotel rooms, themed restaurants, a spa, an indoor water park and a "daredevil adventure center" that will bear the name of famed wire walker Nik Wallenda," according to a published report. In a variation on the theme, Cuomo subsequently decided "Eff that", opting instead to push forward a highly-subsidized little box hotel across the street,

Hamister's Hyatt Place.

Gov. Cuomo's management of the 80% of city waterfront owned and operated by the state is so chock full of Big Eff U's that we don't know where to begin.

"Public blasts (south) Robert Moses Parkway Proposals for Redesign Project" headlined the April 28, 2009 issue of the Niagara Gazette, but Cuomo rebuilt it anyway, a driveway into the state's Niagara Falls State Park directing traffic away from the city's downtown.

In addition, the \$50 million Niagara Falls

State Park "Landscape Improvements" plan, with its massive environmental impacts, including the ruination of Three Sisters Islands, expanded parking lots and food service facilities and the felling of numerous trees on Goat Island, has been implemented without any public input from local residents of Niagara Falls. A Big Eff U on both counts.

Cuomo's buddy Howard Milstein, a billionaire Manhattan real estate magnate, is sitting on hundreds of acres of prime Niagara Falls property that could, for now, serve as a parking lot for the Niagara Falls State Park, tourists transported back and forth by the new Discover Niagara shuttle. This would benefit both downtown business and go far towards restoring the Olmsted plan for the park. Cuomo to Niagara Falls: "You've got to be effing kidding me."

There's more, of course. A Tesla sculpture that was relegated to an obscure corner of the park despite city council and county legislature resolutions asking for it. A Cuomo plot to process frackwater at the water treatment plant that was scuttled only when city council voted to prohibit it. North parkway removal that's languished for 20 years and, with a far-away start date of Spring, 2018, nobody believes is actually going to happen.

With his top aides under indictment, his mentors the Clintons faded into obscurity and the electorate in a surly mood, it appears that Andrew Cuomo's stock is going down fast, and in a couple of years it will be Niagara Falls voters' turn to say, "...and a Big Eff U to you, too."



When it comes to tourism and hydropower, Gov. Cuomo learned early on that hijacking Niagara Falls resources for Albany is like taking candy from a baby.

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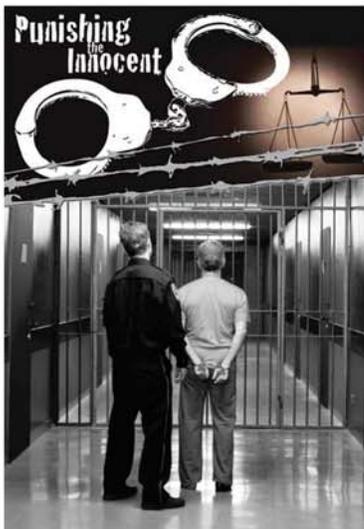
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**Former Assistant US Attorney
Anthony M. Bruce**



Upon information and belief, court records, document review, and eyewitness testimony, Anthony Bruce suborned perjury, obstructed justice, deceived the courts, recklessly and blatantly disregarded evidence that pointed to innocence, lied by omission and committed outright fraud and perjury as a regular pattern of conduct during his notorious 38 year role as an assistant US attorney and sent an unknown number of innocent people to prison. This heretofore 'dirty little secret' was known by a certain number of people in the legal community and Bruce barely escaped being disbarred and prosecuted in the past.

Up until now, no one had the temerity to publicly challenge this allegedly 'villainous bully' until Frank Parlato, who claims to have been falsely accused by Bruce, brought Bruce's alleged misconduct to light in a series of articles in this publication. Bruce's alleged blatant prosecutorial misconduct in the Parlato case has prompted other defendants and lawyers to contact Parlato who now has a growing body of evidence that the conduct Bruce showed in his case was not singular. Other victims are and will be going on record in coming articles. Were you or your family victimized by Bruce too?

BE NOT AFRAID: If you were a victim of Bruce join the ranks of victims who are fighting back and contact us. Your inquiry will be kept confidential. Your name will never be used without your written permission. Our goal is to prevent prosecutorial misconduct which so often occurs but goes unpunished. It can only be stopped when there is a consequence for prosecutorial misconduct. Absolute power corrupts. Prosecutors have virtually no checks and balances on their conduct unless the people themselves stand up for justice. Contact Parlato at **716-990-5740** or email **news1926@gmail.com**. All calls and emails kept confidential.

"When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers, we are not simply protecting their trivial old age, we are thereby ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations." *Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.*

Contact Parlato at **716-990-5740** or email **news1926@gmail.com**.
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Virtuoso Says GOP's Last-Minute Raises Out of Line

Tony Farina

A last-minute budget amendment giving hefty pay raises to two appointees of the GOP majority of the Niagara County Legislature is coming under heavy fire today from Minority Leader Dennis Virtuoso of Niagara Falls.

Virtuoso told the Niagara Falls Reporter that the raises pushed through by the majority in the budget amendment before the full vote on the budget Tuesday night "are out of line," and did not come before the home committees for discussion as they should have.

Democrats, who have only four of the legislature's 15 votes, were overrun on a straight party line vote on the last-minute amendment that gave raises to Legislature Clerk Mary Jo Tamburlin and Public Information Officer Christian Peck.

Under the new pay schedule, Tamburlin's salary will be \$72,469, a 4.5 percent increase, and Peck goes to \$69,146, an increase of 9.9 percent. Both had been slated to receive smaller raises under the proposed budget until the amendments were pushed through without any discussion prior to the budget vote.

According to Virtuoso, Tamburlin's salary has been raised \$24,000 in the last eight years and Peck's has gone up \$19,000 since 2010.

"What kind of precedent does this set for county workers who are getting raises of one and two percent," said Virtuoso, who also argued that while the 2017 budget provides a tax reduction for most county residents including the city of Niagara Falls, it could have been much more if Republicans would have incorporated more than \$1 million in cuts proposed by the Democratic minority.

While the county tax rate is decreased



Dennis Virtuoso is complaining that two GOP appointed county employees Christian Peck and Mary Jo Tamburlin got pay raises.

by 24 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in Niagara Falls, Virtuoso said it could have been 35 cents if the Democratic budget cuts were enacted.

"They even included \$120,000 in the budget for a contract manager which we haven't even discussed," said Virtuoso. "Now the taxpayers will be paying for a job that doesn't even exist."

The \$338.8 million budget passed by a vote of 12 to 3 with Niagara Falls Legislator Jason Zona voting with Republicans after first opposing the pay raises included in the last-minute budget amendment. The budget carries an average tax rate of \$7.27 per \$1,000 which is 11 cents lower than the current rate. But Virtuoso insists the reduction could have been much more if the Democratic amendments had passed but they were defeated on a party line vote.

The pay raise resolution pushed through by Republicans justified the raises for Tamburlin and Peck by saying they had performed important additional duties in their current positions and therefore had earned the salary increases.

Tax rates under the new county budget, in addition to Niagara Falls, will decrease in the towns of Wilson, Lockport, Newfane and Niagara while increasing everywhere else, including the cities of Lockport and North Tonawanda.

Virtuoso insists there was money available in the county's debt reserve fund to reduce taxes but administration officials claim that could potentially hurt the county's credit rating. Virtuoso did not agree with that position, but with only four votes available, he was overwhelmed.

Look who's calling the kettle black: Virtuoso slams GOP for Peck, Tamburlin raises, as he enjoys pension ala Dyster

Some of us here at the Niagara Falls Reporter had to laugh when we saw the story that Dennis Virtuoso was complaining about pay raises for Niagara County Public Information Officer Christian Peck and Niagara County Legislative Clerk Mary Jo Tamburlin, raises approved at the last minute by the Niagara County GOP-controlled legislature.

Tamburlin's salary will be bumped up to \$72,469, and Peck goes up to \$69,146. According to Virtuoso, Tamburlin's salary has been raised \$24,000 in the last eight years and Peck's has gone up \$19,000 since 2010.

We had to laugh because when Virtuoso was a public employee at Niagara Falls City Hall (Code Inspection department) his pay under the spendthrift mayor Paul Dyster shot up from around \$65,000 in 2008 to more than \$95,000 by 2012.

That's \$30,000 in three years. Virtuoso, of course, was allied with the democrat Dyster and of course he never complained about his own pay raises, nor did he complain as Dyster gave enormous raises to department heads creating for the first time \$100,000+ department heads at Niagara Falls City Hall.

Under Mayor Vince Anello, the average department head made about \$45,000. Under Dyster it is closer to \$90,000.

The Niagara Falls Reporter would find it a lot more credible if Virtuoso, who was one of the few department heads in all of New York State to get overtime benefits, which immensely padded his pension, estimated to be more than \$70,000, had chastised Dyster when Dyster was pushing hefty pay raises for his political favorites.

We would be grateful to him if he chastised him now about the inordinate pay department heads make while the city is one of the poorest yet highly taxed in the nation.

While Dyster claimed he needed to raise sal-



Mary Jo Tamburlin got a pay raise from Republicans. It prompted Democrat Dennis Virtuoso to decry the excess while standing mute on his own pay raises by Democrats just a few short years ago.

aries to attract the brightest and best, somehow the brightest and best have not improved the city - ranked number one in crime, poverty, high taxes, and poor governance in the state. But they have improved their pensions.

Thanks to Dyster's generosity with taxpayers' money, Virtuoso's pension is about the same as the pay he is criticizing Peck and Tamburlin for now getting - about \$70,000 per year.

Had Dyster not granted his political ally Virtuoso hefty pay hikes, plus a stipend and mucho overtime during his last years at city hall, Virtuoso would have qualified for a much lower pension, closer to \$40,000.

That's not to say Virtuoso wasn't a good code enforcement officer, but neither is anyone saying that Peck and Tamburlin aren't good at their jobs.

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-- Swami Vivekananda

Parlato Publishes PSA Seeking 'Victims' of Former Assistant US Attorney Anthony Bruce

The prolific local publisher Frank Parlato, accused by the United States Attorney's office of fraud and violating tax rules, is seeking "victims" of former Assistant US Attorney Anthony M. 'Tony' Bruce in full page public service announcements running in The Niagara Falls Reporter, Artvoice, The South Buffalo News, and Lackawanna Front Page this week.

Parlato was indicted by a grand jury led by former AUSA Bruce in November 2015.

Parlato, in turn, has accused Bruce of fabricating evidence to "squeak up to probable cause" in a case he said is "utterly untenable."

But Parlato said he wonders if his case with Bruce is unique.

His announcement reads in part: "Upon information and belief, court records, document review, and eyewitness testimony, Anthony Bruce suborned perjury, obstructed justice, deceived the courts, recklessly and blatantly disregarded evidence that pointed to innocence, lied by omission and committed outright fraud and perjury as a regular pattern of conduct during his notorious 38 year role as an assistant US attorney and sent an unknown number of innocent people to prison."

Parlato's public service announcement goes on say: "BE NOT AFRAID: If you were a victim of Bruce join the ranks of victims who are fighting back and contact us. Your inquiry will be kept confidential.... Contact Parlato at 716-990-5740 or email news1926@gmail.com."

Parlato also intends to help other wrongly accused individuals to tell their stories of prosecutorial misconduct, which he suspects is systemic. The well known Niagara Falls real estate developer has recently founded The Association for the Wrongly Accused (AWA) to help defend innocent victims of politically motivated prosecutions.

Parlato first brought Bruce's alleged misconduct to light in a series of articles about his own case which prompted a number of purported victims and attorneys to contact Parlato, he says, to inform him about Bruce's alleged misconduct in their cases.

Parlato said he has a body of evidence that the conduct Bruce showed in



Anthony M. Bruce was an Assistant US Attorney. Was he hard charging and committed to putting evildoers away? Was he a sociopath who enjoyed abusing his position to indict and convict innocent people along with the guilty and not caring much who was who? Or did he have delusions of grandeur believing he could divine who was guilty and was therefore justified in fabricating evidence to indict them since he knew they were guilty anyway? These are questions we hope to answer in coming weeks.

his case was not singular.

Among claims made by alleged victims or their lawyers is that Bruce 'doctored' documents then presented them before the courts.

He allegedly used informants to lie to the grand jury and the courts.

He allegedly employed burglars to steal evidence.

He allegedly misled grand jurors about documents to fabricate scenarios of crimes that never happened.

He allegedly had secret deals to concoct evidence.

At all times he did so with confidence that he could cover up these falsehoods or that no one would challenge a prosecu-

tor's integrity.

In reaction to Parlato's public calling out of Bruce's alleged misconduct, Bruce reportedly threatened to sue Parlato for libel and defamation.

Parlato said he welcomes the lawsuit since it will give him a chance to depose Bruce.

Meantime Parlato is defending his own criminal case, alleging that, under Bruce's direction, an FBI agent, who investigated Parlato in a relentless but ultimately fruitless four-year investigation, declared some 38 provable 'inaccuracies' in an affidavit which could rise in the aggregate to perjury. The affidavit was filed in a secret motion (ex parte) with the court and was made to persuade a magistrate to order the seizure of Parlato's 'lawfully earned' money prior to a conviction or finding of any wrongdoing whatsoever by Parlato.

Assistant US Attorney Bruce is alleged to have used those same 38 falsehoods — even after being presented with exonerating evidence— to try to coerce Parlato into taking a plea deal.

When Parlato refused, Bruce indicted Parlato with a raft of charges that include defrauding a dead partner who never said he was defrauded, a contract based fraud with two sisters who swore they never signed the contract, (Bruce evidently lied to the grand jury telling them there was a contract when none existed) and an accusation that Parlato planned to cheat the IRS but changed his mind and paid the taxes — in other words - attempted tax evasion.

After Bruce led a grand jury to indict Parlato, he retired from the US Attorney's office, leaving the case to subordinates at the office.

That many local lawyers knew about Bruce's 'cheating' or to be more polite 'bending the rules' (where people's freedom is at stake) is an open secret in the local legal community.

One local attorney said, "I like Tony Bruce and I liked his aggressive style except of course when he 'cheated.'"

Another lawyer said, "I witnessed Tony Bruce deceive the courts and obstruct justice. When he got caught red handed, his office covered for him, but I think it was a real eye opener for the judge involved."

Another prominent criminal defense lawyer said, "When Anthony Bruce had a case, I told my clients, 'there is no point in trying to explain your innocence to the office. You're going to be indicted.'"

A Niagara Falls Ontario attorney who had run-ins with Bruce said publicly that Bruce was a dishonest prosecutor.

Another local attorney, and avid Trump supporter, went further, saying, "Bruce is a criminal."

Another local criminal lawyer spoke of how Bruce became "giddy" at the prospect of the indictment of his "innocent" client.

Another said she was "shocked at his unethical behavior."

There is probably no other prosecutor in western New York history who prompted so many prominent lawyers to have concerns about his ethics.

In the following weeks, we plan to publish a series of stories of cases where the evidence points to Bruce's potential cheating.

It is quite possible that nobody indicted as many innocent people as Tony Bruce did in his 38 year career as a prosecutor in the history of the US Attorney's office.

How many innocents took plea bargains to avoid the risk of trial and long periods of incarceration after Bruce overcharged them is something worth investigating. Right now victims are coming out of the shadows and more are expected through the publication of this public service announcement which you can read in this edition.



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

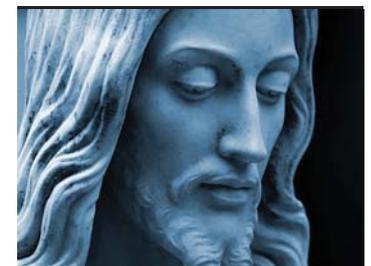
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St Francis of Assisi

Thompson case may be dismissed, in the interest of justice

Matt Ricchiuzzi

When acting District Attorney Mike Flaherty levied five felony charges against conservative activist Rus Thompson – in the heat of a contested Democrat primary – it was so wrought with intrigue that it is hard to believe the charges were not politically motivated.

After all a staunch Democrat was charging the leader of the TEA Party with voter fraud.

"This is outrageous and an absolute political witch-hunt and abuse of power," said Tom Bauerle, the WBEN talk show host. "Offering a plea to a felony could put the Army vet in prison for 1 to 4 years."

"In the interest of justice, the case against Thompson needs to be dropped," Baurle insisted on his show.

Even State Supreme Court Justice Christopher Burns excoriated the District Attorney's office for pursuing the allegation against Thompson as a felony.

Just to be clear, Thompson only voted once. His vote was cast in a polling booth located in his longtime home of Grand Island.

But while Thompson worked and stayed in Grand Island most of the time, he was for a time sleeping in Niagara Falls.

That is the sum and substance of his crime: While he considered Grand Island home and worked and spent his days here, he slept in Niagara Falls. Thompson did not vote in Niagara Falls and did not vote twice – just once – in the place he considered home - Grand Island.

How many millions of Americans vote every year in places they do not literally sleep but where they have a business or a strong personal attachment? Consider all the students who are on campus who vote at their parents' address. Or people with two residences. Or hundreds



Rus and Jul Thompson

of thousands of others who moved but did not change their registration and voted.

Acting DA Flaherty, who was running for election (and lost narrowly to Democrat John Flynn) got headlines by charging Thompson with five felonies for his vote cast in Grand Island.

But it may have cost Flaherty the election as Thompson organized supporters and the media outed Flaherty for his politicizing the DA's office to attack political enemies. Flaherty showed the public he was unfit for office by his felony persecution of Thompson.

Thompson says lawyers researching the case have not been able to find another fraud case of voting where you did not sleep that the Erie County District Attorney's Office prosecuted. The only cases in New York State appear to be two cases where actual candidates (not merely voters) voted in places they did not live. These were prosecuted with no one doing any

jail time. Those cases were seen as politically motivated.

It's been long established in common law that as long as a voter does not vote twice, "home is where the heart is" and a voter does not have to sleep every night in a locale to vote there. Thompson was registered to vote in Grand Island.

The case most similar to Thompson's was one against Susan B. Anthony – in Federal Court – for voting as a woman when it was illegal to do so. Thompson is accused of voting essentially as the wrong person in the wrong place.

Thompson is a longtime critic of the former Grand Island Town Supervisor Mary Cooke. She lost the election to Nate McMurray in a close election. Thompson supported McMurray. Thompson suspects Cooke was behind the charges.

Yet there was ample justification for Thompson to vote in Grand Island since he was

living there for decades and was recently evicted by his Grand Island landlord after Grand Island's politically motivated building inspectors pressured the landlord to do so based on alleged zoning violations. Thompson moved to Niagara Falls as he actively sought another residence on Grand Island.

When Thompson arrived at his regular polling station to vote in the September, 2015 primary, his name had disappeared from voter rolls. Both Democrat and Republican election inspectors knew Thompson and they told him to vote by affidavit. By the 2015 general election, Thompson's name was again on the Grand Island voter rolls.

"(Election commissioners) Ralph Mohr and Len Lenihan were refusing to prosecute me but Mary Cooke persisted and was adamant. They finally succumbed and told her to go ahead and she hand-carried my affidavit to the DA's office and demanded they prosecute," Thompson claims.

Merely because Cooke was a former Town Supervisor did not give her authority to possess election records. If Cooke did, in fact, handle the affidavit ballot without the authority to do so, the charges could be dismissed on the grounds that the chain of custody of the evidence was improper.

Thompson's trial – the case of a man who voted at his long time voting place – his home – which for a month or so he did not sleep in – is expected to begin in mid January before State Supreme Court Justice Russell Buscaglia.

If the DA has his way, Thompson will go to prison. If justice has its sway, the charges will be dropped or the jury will vote to acquit Thompson based on true principles of justice.

Just as voters voted to oust the vainglorious Flaherty as unfit and the deceptive Cook as wrong for Grand Island.

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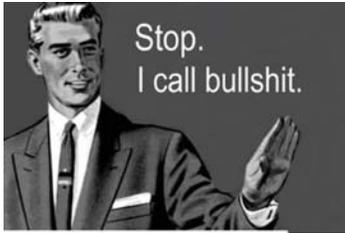
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Dyster's 2017 City Budget Riddled with Inconsistencies



Mayor Paul Dyster's 2017 final budget for the city of Niagara Falls, approved by the city council last week, is a document based more on political calculation than fiscal responsibility.

After the vote, councilmembers nearly sustained injuries patting themselves on the back for cutting a comparatively miniscule \$550,000 from the \$90.4 million budget, or 0.6%.

With casino revenues to the city steadily declining, and the city transferring nearly \$3 million from savings to balance the budget, Dyster saw fit to microscopically lower property taxes on the homestead (residential) base.

As a general rule, we never oppose tax cuts. But this is not real tax cutting.

When the city is depending on what's termed "non-recurring" revenues, as identified by the Niagara Falls Financial Advisory Panel, a non-partisan group of local citizens with expertise in finance, to balance the budget, and the largest of those non-recurring revenues, casino money, is trending downward, and the expenditure side of the budget itself is getting bigger, not smaller, it's not genuine tax cuts. It's pure political Santa Claus.

While the homestead rate will go down 2.34%, the property tax levy on businesses (non-homestead) in the city is slated to increase by a 3.87%, exceeding the pace of inflation.

What kind of message does this send the struggling small business sector of Niagara Falls?

It goes to show the extent to which the mayor prioritizes incentivizing small businesses in his city, which is to say little to none, save generous subsidies for construction of box hotels by his political-connected friends.

The total assessed valuation of taxable homestead property in the city of Niagara Falls is more than twice that of non-homestead. Therefore, you'd think the net reduction to homeowners would more than offset the increased taxes collected from businesses (twice 2.34% is greater than 3.87%), resulting in an overall lowering of property tax revenue for 2017. However, the amount to be raised by property tax is projected to go up next year by \$924,195.

This is accomplished, apparently, by the projection of an addition of \$7,769,914 to the total assessed valuation of non-homestead (business) property. The previous year, 2016, saw the city hemorrhage over \$15.5 million in assessed non-homestead valuation.

An increase in taxes on business properties this year may result in a further exodus of small businesses.

It's ironic too since as the Seneca Nation's new mammoth tax free gas station and convenience store opens - as Dyster raises taxes on American gas stations in the city, many of the existing gas stations are not expected to survive against the tax free Senecas.

The projection of an increase in business tax collections is unrealistic.

With hundreds of millions of dollar's worth of hydropower (NYPA) and tens of millions in tourist dollars (Niagara Falls State Park) being siphoned from the local economy by New York State, it's obvious why the city of Niagara Falls is subject to chronic fiscal distress, but that's what you get when you elect a devious guy like Dyster mayor and surround him with a spineless, clueless city council.

CLOSE, BARRY... BUT NO CIGAR!



J. Gary DiLaura **The Right Side**

I got to hand it to Barry (I am trying not to call him what I REALLY believe he is). He almost did IT! Thank God there are enough adults left to stop him! I don't know if the majority of the left doesn't understand what the Democrat Party leaders are trying to do or if they do realize it and are "all in" for a socialist society and new world order of some sort. But they need to realize what almost happened.

Our forefathers were "deathly" afraid of tyranny and wrote the Bill of Rights to prevent a one ruler tyrannical government from ever depriving all Americans equal rights, no matter what majority party ruled. Critical to that end is the ability of the individual citizen to defend himself, his family, his property. Hence, the second Amendment became a VERY powerful tool to keep America free! So powerful, that it alone is the one stumbling block Barrack Obama and his band of thieves could not quite overcome! No tyrant will ever take over America as long as there are 130,000,000 gun owners!

In my opinion, in the not too distant future, the truth about Obama will surface and the "good" Democrats, defined as the ones who believe in the Constitution, will say, "Oh my God, he IS a Muslim and he almost succeeded in changing America!"

All the things he did and all the hysteria he tried to stir up has NOTHING to do with a concern for the environment nor does he give a s--- about black, white, yellow or red Americans. His one and only loyalty is Allah and all his despicable efforts to trash our country were in line with that goal. The thing that upsets me the most, though, is not that most Democrats don't believe what I am saying be-

cause, unfortunately, most people take an apathetic attitude towards what's going on, unless it has a direct impact on their pocket book! That's life but it saved our Rule of Law!

As a result, a lot more people, Republican AND Democrat, stood up and got counted! But the "ones" who do know and understand the truth, are the corrupt, arrogant, deplorable left wing, red, commie, pinko, bastards who call themselves "journalists"! They are nothing more than the worst opportunists that this Nation has ever seen! The First Amendment protects the freedom of the press as our forefathers, in their great wisdom, knew how powerful the press can be. Our "press" has bastardized that, abused, and corrupted their freedom and turned it into something more evil than you realize. THEY created Global Warming, they created the CO2 scare, they created the spotted owl and California smelt nonsense! They created, perpetuated and permitted the election of the most inept, self serving, inexperienced, dumbest, divisive President Obama this country has ever seen! Obama, a person who never in his life ever had a real job or any job except community organizer and a no show 2 year stint as a US Senator who disrespected this country at every turn, has the b.... (nerve) to say Mr. Trump isn't qualified. Neither Obama nor Hillary could "polish Trump's shoes".

Hillary was endorsed by over 52 major news media's and Donald Trump was endorsed by 2 and that dummy Obama said the press was "unfair" and favored Trump?! Chuck "Dud", Chris Mathews, George Stephanopoulos and the rest should come out of their closets, man up and tell the world the truth about their "inner battle" and confusion about their... social desires! They are ...yes it's true... they're socialists! I say go to Denmark, Sweden, China where you can be totally out of the closet! Let's see how much freedom of the press they get there!

Those morons knowingly helped Obama to try and destroy this country! If you have any brains at all, you will ignore the blather that is coming from main stream and get behind President Elect Donald Trump!

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(Walt Whitman)

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Bills Keep Sinking as Playoff Hopes Disappear Again

Tony Farina

There's not much I can say about the Buffalo Bills that I haven't said before many times in numerous articles dating back many years, long before the Buffalo sportswriters finally got around to writing the obvious. I'll sum it up this way: the organization stinks.

Throw out the four Super Bowl years in the early 1990s (unfortunately most notable for losing four straight), this franchise under Ralph Wilson and now Terry and Kim Pegula is a disaster.

I said when it was announced that Rex Ryan was coming to town that his motormouth wasn't the answer given his .500 career record. He added some spice and sold tickets and tires, but it is terribly obvious that he can't coach. But Ryan is only the tip of the iceberg for the Titanic known as the Buffalo Bills organization.

Let's start at the top. The one constant in the last 16 years of missing the playoffs is Russ Brandon, the cool marketing strategist who has made a fortune for Bills owners even though the teams don't win. Quite a feat, and he has been able to keep his job as the losses pile up. And of course, how about Doug Whaley who gave away the store to get E J Manuel, a colossal disappointment from day one, and then for the injury-prone Sammy Watkins who, by most standards, is another major disappointment. And then one coach after another comes and goes, some of them of their own volition. They apparently know the score better than us diehard fans who keep buying into the empty promises.

It seemed clear early on that Tyrod Taylor isn't a franchise quarterback--you can't make it running--but we stuck with him and now, in his second year, we are on the eve of the 17th straight season not making the playoffs. I assure you, that's quite an accomplishment. How can you miss for 17 straight years? Never mind, this franchise knows how to do it. Hire lousy coaches, screw up drafts, trade away good players, and keep losing.

The only thing that could make this year any worse is a loss to the winless Browns on Sunday, and don't think that can't happen. With Rex's future up in the air (Whaley has him in his sights) and Tyrod going nowhere, will this team be able to handle a team, any team, even the terrible Browns?

There is undoubtedly plenty of back-stabbing and finger-pointing going on at One Bills Drive these days to try and find a way get rid of at least Ryan and start over. It won't be easy, because, as one Buffalo News sportswriter wrote this week, the house cleaning needs to start at the top and, trust me, it won't. And for the record, I can't imagine any coach worth his salt who would want to come here under the current leadership, but somebody out there will need a job and the new sales pitch will begin.

For Rex Ryan, he will only be a brief victim and will ride out of town with plenty of money in his satchel, ready to pitch another pitiful franchise--and there are a few--that he can save them. He can't. His day as a coach has passed. I kind of like him more than I did when he arrived, but he has made the point over the last two years that he should sell tires, not coach football. A player's coach? Maybe, but his teams don't really play for him



Buffalo Bills president Russ Brandon, owner Terry Pegula, head coach Rex Ryan and GM Doug Whaley, the four horsemen of the Buffalo Bills.

and even if they did, they don't have enough good players on this team to make a difference if they did play.

I am sadly accepting the fact that while I was around when they did win a little bit in the early '90s, only to fail in the big ones, I may not still be around--given my advanced years--when they become good again, and I don't see any sign of that happening anytime soon. You can't win without a quarterback and they don't have one. We can't start there and then the list goes on.

As I said, the only dreadful thing left for this team is to lose against the Browns. That will send us all into the night and root for the Sabres who are showing some signs of life after a miserable start. We all would like a winner, either on the football field or on the ice. It looks like the Sabres might have a better shot at making the playoffs again, even if not this year, than the Bills.

Stay tuned!

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\$6⁹⁹ Breakfast Buffet

PONDEROSA

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Winter Clothing Drive at The Connection

Sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, The Connection is a teen pregnancy prevention youth drop-in Center at 1700 Main Street in Niagara Falls. At The Connection, youth ages 11-19 years old can spend after-school hours doing homework, relaxing in a safe space or engaging in health and education-focused activities. Formerly located at the City Market, The Connection has been serving Niagara Falls youth for nearly 15 years.

The staff at The Connection has put out an appeal to the community for the donation of "teen-sized winter coats" and other winter

gear such as boots, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. Items can be dropped off at The Connection during the hours of 2:30-6 pm Monday-Friday.

The Connection is a FREE after-school space for teens in Niagara Falls. Meals or snacks are served daily. There are games, contests, computers and printers available. The Connection Coordinator, members of the Teen Peer Program, and Community Trainers lead lively discussions and educational sessions. We offer cooking classes, book clubs and opportunities for youth to develop community leadership skills. Contests, field trips and other activities are chosen and developed by teens spending time at The Connection.



Having fun making holiday place-mats for the residents of Niagara Rehabilitation and Nursing Center



Perfecting hair and make-up skills at The Connection

Niagara Falls Jokes

A tourist from "down south" was visiting Niagara Falls and saw a Nativity Scene in front of a local church. One small feature about the creche bothered her, however. She declared to her hosts that the three wise men should be wearing firemen's helmets.

They were at a loss to understand why this southern woman would think this, and asked her to explain. She sputtered in exasperation, saying, "You Yankees never do read the bible!" They assured her that they did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the bible. She jerked her bible out from her purse and ruffled through some pages, jabbed her finger at a passage and declared, "See, it says right here, 'The three wise men came from afar.'"

Darth Vader: I know what you're getting for Christmas.

Luke: How do you know?

Darth Vader: I can feel your presents.

An honest politician, an informed voter and Santa Claus find a \$100 bill. Who gets to keep it?

Santa does, the other two are creatures of myth and legend.

I heard some strange chatter from the spice cupboard mid-December. But it was just the season's greetings.

Our family was so poor that one Christmas, my father gave me a box of broken glass. He gave my brother a box of Band-Aids and said, "You two share."

It was coming up to Christmas and little Johnny asked his dad if he could have a new bike. So, he told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But Johnny, having just seen the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. So his dad told him that would be fine.

Johnny went to his room and wrote "Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas."

But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. So he decided to try again and this time he wrote "Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas." He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either.

He tried a third version. "Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike." He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied.

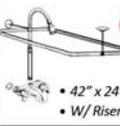
So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach. After a short time he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter. "Dear Jesus, If you want to see your mother again, you better send me a new bike."



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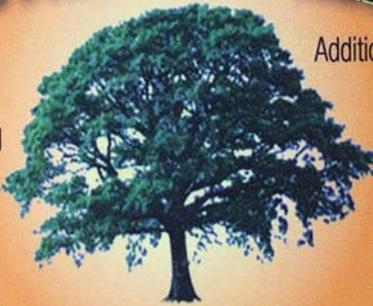
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Stove Burners Also stove range pans 6": \$11 ⁹⁵ 8": \$15 ⁹⁵	Steel Step Ladders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type III • 220 lb Load Capacity Oversized Reinforced Textured Step Durable & Strong Compact & Safe \$21⁹⁵ 	Shopping Cart Rubber Cushion Grip \$24⁹⁵ 
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