



Sniffing out stories...



"Amused by the News"
George Douglas Lee, Writer & Editor

INSIDE TODAY



Biz Bust

■ **Lorrendous Elderberry** scoops Biz litter out of the bag: Is there truth to the rumor that

Chucky Cheese is moving into the Bishop's Palace?

Pfft..!

■ What time is it Buffalo Bob? I. M. Pratt, that loquacious limey faces a Hobson's Choice: Is cheerleading a sport or a voyeur's avocation? Find out in Bleacher Buzz!



Blundering On The Island

■ Soon to be former Daily Noise distorter and novelist Rhododendron Pliers is vacationing in Brookshire, TX.

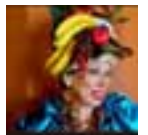
My Way

■ Daily Noise Publisher Dulf Tuffington weighs in on a vowel movement to beautify the seawall, add restrooms and water fountains by proposing paid parking (again).



Gee Whiz!

■ Editor Peeper Trailer trains his bow tie camera and listening device on GISD, LMISD, GHA, GHF, COC, GAIN, and comes up SOL. Peeper asks the tough questions. What do you think?



Diva Screams

■ Columnist Fanny Sunshine visits the lalapalooza of a palapalooza on the bayoualooza as she hobnobs with the big bugs and Divapplauds Caviar Smores!



Weather

■ Today's forecast:
Partly funny
Might rain, might not
High: Boiling
Low: Simmer
Details: Guessing.
Sprinkle Prozac on Tropical Depressions

Groucho Vlasic
Weather Guru

Seawall parking plan provokes protest

BY CUBBY FENWICK, Intern and Paper Boy

"Galvestonians must be just plain dumb," wrote Daily Noise emperor and publisher Duff Tuffington in a recent editorial appearing in the Daily Noise.

"We are giving away the only thing we have left to sell!"

Mr. Tuffington was referring to the island's seawall, the longest sidewalk in the world and Galvtraz's leading tourist attraction and RV park.

The solution is to charge for parking, a beach user's fee, if you will, according to Mr. Tuffington. His commentary aroused considerable controversy in Galvtraz's second leading entertainment source, the Daily Noise website and blog posts.

AS expected, Biff "I'm against paid parking anywhere" Root, weighed in against being for the paid parking coalition, after organizing a group of concerned citizens in 2004 to put the parking time bomb on the ballot and let the public decide. Voters overwhelmingly cast their ballots in favor of being for the measure to be against paid parking on the seawall. Root considers the matter a dead issue, but Tuffington insists that the economic picture has change dramatically, and it's time to bring the "issue" before the public again before the city is bankrupt. More bankrupt.

Tuffington vowed to "take the gloves off" and fight for paid parking.

He organized a coalition (a very important sounding word for a bunch of people who are for or against something), of businesses, the Galvtraz Chamber of Comedy and the Galvtraz Pork Bored. This group of concerned citizens and business leaders spent nearly an hour over cocktails at Rudy and Paco's developing a comprehensive simple plan for "implementing a beach user fee and improving seawall boulevard".

The plan was presented to Galvtraz City Council, who offered a polite, non-committal semi-response, but voted to delay a decision until May.

New mayor Go Joe Imyurbudski favored delaying a decision, to hear more from other concerned citizens and give city mangler Sneaky Steve LeBlank time to make up a cost estimate for the proposed election. Having retreated from the city budget recently, and not wanting to start a "porta potty protest" and battle with concerned citizen, part-time activist and parking opponent (that means somebody who is against something), Biff Root, Imyurbudski suggested a vote to delay the vote on the Coalition's plan from November, as requested, until May 2011.

Known for his expedient approach to council meetings and nipping negativity in the bud, Go Joe said "Hey, OK! Let's move on to a city bored appointments", which council performed post haste by fondling resumes.

Incensed, Mr. Tuffington responded with a third editorial last week and blasted the council for a decision where "progress lost, stagnation won".

Tuffington, a dedicated jogger and regular guy, often runs along the seawall and is dismayed by the RV's, trash (including dirty diapers), lack of restrooms, water fountains and showers. The publisher is very clean, and thirsty. Carrying bottled water on a run is unsightly and not aerodynamically correct, ruining the effectiveness of an expensive and stylish jogging ensemble.

"Runners and bikers have to dodge cars and those big, ugly, gas guzzling RV's", said Molly Boysenberry, concerned citizen and environmental ac-

tivist. "However, I do agree that since the city is broke, it's a good idea to charge for parking. We could build green parking garages on the north side of the seawall, paid for by local businesses, and put in some pretty overhead crosswalks to the beach side, as long as they don't interfere with the flight path of pelicans. And the birds should get free, year round passes."

Mr. Tuffington dismissed the idea of parking garages and crosswalks as an expense the city cannot afford, and the plan would also eliminate valuable properties from the tax rolls.

Bill Longneck, concerned citizen, beer enthusiast, working class hero and spokesman for Mr. Root, weighed in, stating that Tuffington and his 'rich cronies' want to keep the common people off the beaches and have it all to themselves and the rich hotel owners.

Root eventually chimed in by quoting the Texas Open Beaches Act, which has nothing to say about paid parking fees.

Tuffington wanted to know why Root, Longneck and their cronies consider the idea of paid parking so unthinkable, and challenged them to give specific reasons why paid parking is such a detestable concept, indicating that Root has not responded in the past.

In turn, Root challenged Tuffington to start a petition, while he vowed to start yet another petition and threatened to "defang the Pork Bored".

Following the council non-decision, both groups retired to their respective campaign headquarters to plan strategies for the upcoming battle.

Tuffington and his cronies gathered for cocktails at Rudy and Paco's while Root and his cronies met at The Spot to drink beer and check out chicks.

Report reveals one third of island houses vacant

By CHARLES FOSTER KANE III, Maintenance Engineer

A heavily edited report by consultants CFBM painted a much rosier picture of Galvtraz's housing population than that which actually exists. when adjusted for "fudging" and factual inflation, it was revealed that fully one third of island homes are actually vacant.

When asked why the real numbers were not reported, an anonymous un-named source with CFBM who was unavailable for comment stated that "we don't want to sound negative".

The information was part of a study to determine why so many individuals work on the island but choose not to live here.

Jul Kaminski, local resident, concerned citizen and vocal opponent of the Galveston Housing Empire's plan to build 500,000 low cost, government subsidized luxury condos for the state's low income indigent population questioned the accuracy of the study at the last city council meeting.

Kaminski, a volunteer on the committee that researched the study, revealed that much of the information had been altered, edited or left out entirely, from what participants in the study had actually said.

"There were comments from people surveyed who said that they wouldn't live here because of crime

and a bad school system," she said. "This was changed to 'a perception of crime and bad schools'. CFBM also left out some very pointed comments about the abundance of trash, bums and complaints about expensive T-shirts. When I confronted CFBM, they said they changed the information because they didn't want to sound negative. I have a pretty negative view of that anemic excuse".

Repeated calls by the Daily Noise for clarification were not returned by anonymous sources or anyone else.

Jaqui Tarpon, another concerned citizen who spoke at the meeting, said "this information is not only negative, it's scary". She has since moved.

Daily Noise reporter Rhododendron Pliers resigns

BY LORRENDOUS ELDERCARE,

Remaining Reporter

Four year veteran and Daily Noise reporter Rhododendron Pliers announced last week that she has accepted a position as investigative reporter with the Corpus Christi Intelligencer.

Pliers, familiar to Daily Noise readers for her coverage of council meetings, GISD, and everything else is author of "Invincible Mobster", a riveting book about Hurricane Ike's impact on the future of gambling and crime on the island, co-written with another former reporter Lee Anne Smythe.

Pliers, one of 12 children, grew up during the great depression. A child prodigy, she helped on the family farm in Brookshire, picking cabbage, while studying quantum physics at night by candlelight; working part-time in a feed store; and serving as editor, reporter and distributor of the Brookshire Mimeograph Gazette, where she developed the amazing ability to appear conscious while sleeping.

Ms. Pliers graduated first in her class of one from the Texas A&M School of Journalism and Animal Husbandry, where she excelled at badminton and fly fishing.

Following graduation at age 14, she came to Galvtraz on a field trip to study mullet migration patterns, and "fell in love" with the island.

She was hired by the Daily Noise following a brief stint in the military during the Crimean War as a tank mechanic, and rapidly gained credibility as a perceptive, bold reporter covering spelling bees, crab fests and ribbon cuttings.

Following Hurricane Ike, but losing it somewhere near Angleton, she was promoted to city beat, where she beat a dead horse until offered the prestigious job in Corpse Christi.

Married to former Daily Noise mainland reporter Marcus Gillette, of the razor blade dynasty, she referred to her new position as "a dream come true", but regrets having to move away.

"I'm sad about leaving Galvtraz", she confessed. I'm sure I'll miss something! I do plan to visit as soon as I have time."

Ms. Pliers admitted that she is not familiar with the concept of "free time", but looks forward to "having a life" and "finding out about fun", she said.

★ GALVATRAZ COUNTY ★

THE DAILY NOISE

From There to Here, Here To There - Funny Things Are Everywhere • Texas' Oldest Newspaper since 1010 • Vol. 1, No. 4 • "We Only Make Up The Truth"

I Contend Galveston Itself Is On Welfare BY BILL CHERRY

(Editor's Note: The following article is not the usual ludicrous (but often accurate) take on local news, but a serious look at what has become a ludicrous state of affairs for our eccentric little city. A special thank you to the always prescient Mr. Bill Cherry!)

For as long as I can remember, Galvestonians have moaned and groaned about the physical denigration of the island.

And that's a long time when you realize I opened my eyes for the first time at Galveston's St. Mary's Infirmary 70 years ago.

I've written about the Island's problems before. The most recent was in a piece that I wrote three years ago, "Carbuncles Harming the Island's Skin." (<http://galvestondailynews.com/story/97702/>)

Critics say, Not enough middle-income housing, not enough good jobs, the perception of poor public schools, too much public housing and no industry. How dare UTMB threaten to diminish in size?

What to do?

The standard decision: Call in a study group from another part of the country to evaluate the city's strong and weak points. Let the study conclude what can be done to resolve the problems. (Have you ever noticed there's never a part of the study group's contract that says they will resolve the problems after they find them?)

"Two hundred thousand dollars, please."

A wag or two write letters to the editor, "Heck, anyone who lives here could have told them 'that,'" and it wouldn't have cost taxpayers 200 grand."

For at least 100 years, the citizenry has had a welfare mentality; the very attitude that many accuse the city's disadvantaged of.

The common denominator, if there is one, is simple: We're not willing to work toward resolving the problems ourselves. We've always expected the wealthy islanders to take care of it.

For years it was the Sealys, Kempners, Hutchings, Moodys and Maceos.

In the main, the Sealys, Hutchings and Maceos have moved on, but they were replaced by the Mitchells and the Fertittas. Hot dog, we were in luck!

And then as these problem solvers attempted to make Galveston better, what Islanders arrogantly demanded that they do, the problem solvers found themselves facing huge numbers of very vocal, critical ingrates.

That's welfare, alright. It's just not taking place in a federally subsidized housing project.

For more than 20 years I physically called on and traveled to visit the heads of companies who we felt could have done well in Galveston. I wanted so badly to make a difference, to solve the problem.

New Yrk, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, Savannah, Charleston, San Francisco, Denver. No one in my lifetime has gone more miles or worn out more shoes trying to bring businesses to the Island than I have.

There was no study. I went to their office, looked them in the eye and did my best to sell them on opening an office, a store, a new business in Galveston.

It became harder and harder for me to go. Harder and harder to smile, by then knowing that the chance of another rejection was great. I kept on.

In the 1980s I called in a favor. Lester Quick was the founder of one of the first discount securities brokerage firms in the U.S., Quick and Reilly. I asked my friend, who was Quick's best friend, if he could get him to look at Galveston if we paid his travel and lodging expenses?

My idea was that with Quick's influence and the massive capital raising facet of Quick and Reilly, he might put Galveston on the road toward success.

When Quick arrived, we boarded a helicop-

ter and flew the island. We landed, and then he said, "I can't do anything to help you."

What he said was what, in my heart, I already knew. Corporations whose businesses do not require them to be attached in some fashion to the Gulf of Mexico will not consider locating here.

Here are the primary reasons: Galveston presents risks that other parts of the U.S. don't. Hurricanes, fluctuating population, antiquated infrastructure and expensive travel access are insurmountable obstacles. Quick's list went on and on.

So if Quick's analysis was correct, and nearly one hundred years of experience seems to quantify that it was, how does Galveston become the place Islanders wish it were?

Well, to start off, it has to make substantial progress without the help of outsiders. First and foremost, it is necessary to provide hope as well as a structured avenue for the disadvantaged to no longer need to be poor wage earners. That's done through education.

While GISD was huffing and puffing about the benefits that would accrue to the city if it built a multi-million dollar sports complex, Galveston College president, Myles Shelton, had plans for acquiring a 4 acre tract of land with a 40,000 square foot industrial building.

He envisioned it becoming a place of classrooms and shops where students could learn trades – welding, air conditioning maintenance, plumbing, electrical – where those who walked into his doors with little hope, could walk out smiling, confident because they had acquired skills that are marketable, and they know they'll be rewarded with a lot more than minimum wage.

That's how you reduce crime, reduce the need for subsidized housing, increase citizens' – especially young people's – self-worth. That's how you raise the demand for middle-income

housing, and cause builders to produce it.

Galveston Independent School District should follow Shelton's lead, and with the promise of integrating the two programs. If state and federal laws are in the way, get them changed.

Your personal goal as a citizen should be to back only programs that make Galveston a town that can support itself, a town that is so magnetic that others will want to be a part of it. You can do that.

It's counterproductive to blame city halthe council, and whether or not the property taxes are too high. All will change as you and I articulate our expectations.

Rabidly support education programs for those who will not get a degree from a senior college.

Refuse to participate in thoughts and discussions that the Island will be made the place you want it to be if industry can be encouraged to move here, and Tilman Fertitta will get busy and renovate the Flagship hotel. That's both a lazy and ludicrous mentality.

Take a very broad step today. Send a \$1,000 donation to the Galveston Historical Foundation. That will make you a lifetime member. And it will make you an important voice in the one organization that has done more to revive Galveston to a place of productivity than any company, governmental entity, or private investor has done.

That's not just my opinion. The evidence is empirical.

Finally, demand...not taking no for an answer...that the city's building codes and ordinances be strictly enforced. No excuses. No exceptions. No junk cars in yards, no substandard housing. Period.

You'll love living in the new Galveston, the one you helped to create. *Used by permission. Copyright 2010 – William S. Cherry*

No news, good news; lawsuit lingers

By IMA TROUT, Volunteer Correspondent

Testy Taurus "the bull" Woodtick has been curiously silent since filing his lawsuit to contest district 1 voting irregularities against new council member Fuzzy Legg, who was finally sworn in and took his seat in the big genuine naugahyde throne at city hall.

Antonio "Crafty" Grafton, Woodtick's attorney, had produced several concerned citizens and alleged "disenfranchised voters to come forward and speak out as Grafton reached out. Grafton, a flexible bi-legal lawyer who once represented the Ku Ku Klux Klan, is not trying to prove that Woodtick was denied his seat due to faulty voting practices, not uncommon in this area.

In a deposition, county tax assessor collector and voting official Cheryl Blondie, testified that there were not enough suspect votes to give Woodtick a victory, but it appeared that some district one voters had mistakenly cast their ballots in district 2, which could alter the four vote margin of victory enjoyed by current "forgotten" district two representative and mayor pretend, Dr. Contessa Cobalt.

David Mullet, concerned citizen and official with the NAACP (National Association for Agitated Colored People) weighed in and examined the examination of the voting process himself, on behalf of other concerned citizens, and could find nothing of acute significance in the final vote tally, although he raised concerns about reports of voters being threatened, lied to or required to spell their name correctly and actually live at the address they claimed as their residence.

Some cautioned Mr. Woodtick about the tremendous expense of a lawsuit that might expose anomalies that could increase his loss margin, adversely affect Dr. Cobalt's tenuous win and further irritate the legions of Woodtick watchers who ask:

Q: What holds a balloon up?

A: Hot air.

Q: What's holding you down?

Mr. Woodtick was unavailable for comment.

Biz Bust: Multi Omni Telebubble brings miracle products to isle

By LORRENDOUS ELDERERRY, Columnist

Local fans of infomercials and those miraculous home health products, potions and gadgets will get their credit cards ready when Multi Omni Telebubble Home Products moves its headquarters to the Floating G.

Company spokesman "Slick" Jack Random made the announcement Tuesday at a wellness seminar at Zen Baba Hot Rock Therapy and Painless Torture Clinic.

Daily Noise diva Fanny Sunshine was there. "Giddy Galvestonians got gleeful when Mr. Slick said he's bringing his internationally cool company to G-Town at this fab fest," she said.

"We could think of no better place to locate our line of all natural, organic and environmentally friendly miracles, than this lovely G-Spot," gushed Random. "The attitude here is friendly, cosmic, so desperate for jobs, that we just couldn't imagine being anywhere else, since your city is so tolerant of code violations, fraud and questionable ethics".

He said MO will immediately need 2 telemarketers and a bouncer, who will have full part-time positions at their new office.

"Our inventory is in China, Sri Lanka and Bulgaria, so flooding is no problem," he said.

Random mentioned Multi Omni's best selling product line as a source of jobs for at least 3.

MO has narrowed their search to the former KGBC office, Garden of Juice Juiceless Juice Bar and the old McCrory's building across from ODD Fair Trade Coffee House and Organic Spinach Bar Refuge. Multi Omni distributes The Bubberizer, Eterno, Grow a Boyfriend, The Portable Shrub and Cavity Wipes, among others.

Islet Music owner vows to stop noise ordinance; protest is loud

By Bart Mulch, Garden Correspondent
Bartholomew "Bubba" Dormouse, owner of award winning Islet Music Center in Galvatraz claimed the proposed noise ordinance now before the new and improved city council would "destroy the island economy" and "put thousands of the four working musicians here out of work".

See Sunday's Daily Noise for the full monty.

