



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

Official Minutes of the HVBS Meeting of January 30, 2013 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

1- On a foggy, misty day with a temperature in the 40's, the Northern segment of **HVBS** journeyed South in the capable stewardship of **Shadow** – ready to pit their skills to solving the world's knotty problems. Arriving at the **Hoffman House** at a timely 11:19 AM, they were shortly joined by **Ramrod** who took a moment to decide where to park. He informed us that he had suffered with a bad cold for the past week and attending our meeting had been in doubt. As we entered the premises we were cheerily greeted by host **Pat Bradley** working in the front booth section. **Ginny Bradley** warmly greeted us at the waitress station and our **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** accompanied us to our customary table by the window.

2- **Shadow** began our beverage orders with a cabernet sauvignon, which was seconded by **PC Wiz**. After a moment of deep thought **Ramrod** asked if they had a sauvignon blanc, which he ordered upon **Lorayne's** affirmation. **Shadow** then produced some papers and proceeded to tell some excellent selected jokes. When **Lorayne** returned with the drinks **Shadow** read her the joke which she repeated for the staff at the bar. **Ramrod** also had some selected knee-slappers that he read to us haltingly since he had forgotten his reading glasses. This merriment went on until **Lorayne** returned for the printed copy of one of the more complex jokes.

3- **Shadow** brought up the topic of the Super Bowl XLVII contest between the SF 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens, mentioning the use of "drugs" by the Raven LB Ray Lewis. He allegedly applied deer antler spray under his tongue to speed healing from a torn triceps injury (the chemical in the antler spray, IGF-1, is a performance enhancer banned by the NFL). In the contest between the coaches, brothers John and Jim Harbaugh, **HVBS** members had no prediction (or particular interest) as to the outcome but did favor the 49ers. Also mentioned by **Ramrod** was the comment by Tom Brady's wife – that if his receivers had caught his passes there would have been a different result. Next was the continuing A-Rod saga: surgery to his left hip in January 2013, most likely ending his career. **Ramrod** and **Shadow** agreed that the Yankees lawyers are very busy trying to break the rest of Rodriguez 2007 10 year contract - \$114 million. **Shadow** volunteered the news that the Los Angeles Dodgers (a favorite of his) had just signed a TV deal with Time Warner worth 7.2 Billion dollars. Their games will go from the Fox Sports channel to a new channel dubbed "SportsNet LA". The team was mired in bankruptcy just last year.

4- With the **HVBS** team seated just across the street from Morgan Stanley, **Ramrod** related the startling news that his broker had been fired in a staff reduction at the firm. **Ramrod** was sorry to lose his favorite advisor but had not heard from him if he has a gotten a new position at a different firm. **Shadow** informed us that **Russell's** long-time boss, **John Corcoran**, had finally decided to retire on January 31. **Russell** sent us an e-mail describing the succession possibilities ranging from "OK" to "ugly". Of course his **Dad** and **Uncle** hope he will be promoted, but with a large firm like Alcoa the process is secretive and unpredictable. Presently, as **Shadow** informed us, **Russell** is presently on a trip to England – postponed because of his illness. His doctor specified Business Class so he will have more room for movement. **Ramrod** said **Dan** is looking for a new position and has contacted several firms that produce premium audio products – his engineering specialty. **Ramrod** commented that companies always cut R&D first.

5- **HVBS** Official Waitress **Lorayne** arrived to take our luncheon orders. **PC Wiz** asked for the “fish and chips”, to which **Ramrod** commented “the same as last time”. **PC Wiz** maintained that he had then ordered the Reuben. When the fish and chips arrived in the special plastic basket with containers of cole slaw and tartar sauce on the corners **PC Wiz** had to admit **Ramrod** was correct. **Shadow** ordered the pulled pork sandwich, always a good choice, and **Ramrod** went for the French onion steak sandwich. **Shadow** continued by **Russell’s** relating of a 1” snow that hit the Peninsula, causing lots of accidents on the highways as many left work early to beat the homeward crush. He stayed at the office until 6 PM and had no problem. **Ramrod** then told us of when **Dan**, who had just bought his new Series 3 BMW, was at his house with the car in the carport during a very light snow. On an almost level driveway **Dan** could not move the car; he had to take his mother’s Honda and had no trouble. **Ramrod** concluded that the BMW is “impossible in snow”. **Shadow**, accurately, blamed the wide low tires on the car – snow tires being mandatory on these vehicles. Well, they are having the same problem at their house so **Dan** and **Chako** bought a Honda CRV which has no problems.

6- Turning to news items, **Shadow** mentioned that the Mayo Clinic has announced they are stopping all medical research because of the ObamaCare expenses and regulations. **Ramrod** reminded us of the 2.8% ObamaCare tax on medical appliances which are already expensive and said he is in favor of a VAT. **PC Wiz** objected that he did not trust the politicians to eliminate present overlapping taxes – just adding a new tax. **Shadow** commented that they now do not increase “taxes”; the pols go for fees and surcharges. **Ramrod** informed us that speeding tickets now have a \$250 “surcharge” (many states now have this charge). Greece, similar to other European countries, is losing its wealthiest citizens because of ruinous taxation. **Ramrod** mentioned billionaire C. Dean Metropoulis of Chef Boyardee, an American citizen.

7- **PC Wiz**, referring to the latest issue of Consumer Reports, stated that they had in-depth reviews of the 2013 Ford



Fusion, a completely re-designed model and that **Shadow** was contemplating buying a new car when his lease is up in a little over a year. **Ramrod** commented that Dan objected that Ford had copied the Aston Martin grill on the new car (Car and Driver agreed but gushed over the styling). **Ramrod** asked **Shadow** if he would consider buying another Fusion Hybrid; **Shadow** replied, of course except it would have “everything”. **PC Wiz** pointed out that quite a few of the CU auto testers did not like the “MyFord Touch” display (\$1000 option) which you need for the backup camera, etc.

8- **Shadow** asked how granddaughter **Kristi** had made out with her college choice of Loyola. **Ramrod** informed us that she had been accepted but was considering other choices. *We were informed that 13-year-old **Casey** is now learning to drive **Sharon’s** car in the driveway or parking lots*. **Sharon’s** situation with ex-husband **Bob** is much the same – delinquent in his required payments. **Ramrod** told us that **Sharon** is gathering information and will pursue the matter. In an aside, **Ramrod** commented on a decision he has made to give what money he can spare to **Dan** and **Sharon** so he can still enjoy the pleasure while he is still alive. **Shadow** and **PC Wiz** agreed completely. Attending **Dan’s** birthday **Ramrod** went home with “doggy-bags”. In cooking his usual gourmet class meals **Dan** had prepared plentiful food. They also enjoyed a fine selection of French wines.

9- **Lorayne** arrived to take orders for coffee. On her return she mentioned the dessert specials. **Ramrod** ordered his customary Bailey’s cheesecake while **Shadow** opted for the pineapple tart, a new item on the menu. **PC Wiz** went for his most-frequent selection: the crème brulee. **Shadow** and **Ramrod** both discussed the recent e-mail link that had a German video of a complete airport modeled on Hamburg. **Ramrod** said it took him a while to detect the wires that allowed the planes to fly. **Shadow** mentioned the monster model railroad, costing \$20 million, also in Hamburg, Germany.

10- With the luncheon “free” for **PC Wiz** because of his pending birthday, **Ramrod** and **Shadow** made the financial arrangements for paying the bill. Selecting a date after the **Hoffman House** winter shut-down, Wednesday March 27, 2013 was ratified – weather permitting. With adjournment, the first **HVBS** of 2013 was history.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his correction* and **Shadow’s** review. **HVBS** Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**. February 12, 2013