

Ramrod

Gladiator

PC Wiz

Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

January 4, 2017 – 1st Meeting

1- On a Wintry gloomy day portending predicted snow showers, **PC Wiz** picked up **Gladiator** and **Surveyor**. Proceeding down I-787 we entered the Thruway at Exit 23. After a routine trip we entered the **Hoffman House** parking lot and were quite astonished to find **Ramrod** in his accustomed handicap spot waiting for our arrival. Upon leaving his car **Ramrod** removed a large shopping bag. It contained generous portions of baklava, the sweet nut-filled pastry baked by **Sharon** and a 2017 calendar for each member. After greetings we entered the premises and **Hostess Ginny** escorted us to our customary corner table. **HVBS** Official Waitress **Lorayne** arrived to take our orders: **Ramrod**, suffering from a cold, ordered the hot cider (with a cinnamon stick – he reminded her). They did not have a Riesling so **Gladiator** settled for a Malbec, **Surveyor**, concerned about headaches, asked for a Club Soda with a wedge of lemon. **PC Wiz** opted for a Keegan's Mother's Milk.

2- After **Lorayne** left **Ramrod** observed that she seemed rather subdued. Members agreed and thought something unknown to us had occurred. **Ramrod** spoke about his and **Dan's** trip to Greece. He fell asleep and evidently started to loudly snore – upon which the passenger next to him 'whacked him across the chest' – abruptly waking **Ramrod**. They had an enjoyable time visiting monuments such as the Parthenon on the Athenian Acropolis. **Dan** toured the building while **Ramrod** waited below the many steps. While there he was able to help an elderly lady who was afraid of slipping. **Ramrod** related that **Dan** rented a car and they joined the hectic Athens traffic.

3- **Ramrod** informed us **Dan** is presently in Las Vegas attending the annual Consumer Electronics Show (with 165,000 attending). It is the tech show's 50th anniversary. He also mentioned **Dan's** biggest problem is the Chinese firms manufacturing his revolutionary head-phones (**Gladiator** tried a prototype when visiting Annapolis and said it was like being in the center of the orchestra). He is finding the Chinese he deals with to be unreliable. **Ramrod** expressed frustration with Amtrak's consistently late schedules and remarked that he will not be attending **Casey's** graduation.

4- In the national news **Ramrod** commented on the new cabinet appointments. The comments about Senator Sessions, nominated for Attorney General, making 'racist' remarks were proven false 25 years ago in earlier hearings. **HVBS** members were all very happy over the election of Donald J. Trump to the Presidency. It was noted that, while he had a commanding electoral college tally of 306-270, Hillary Clinton had a plurality of about 2 million popular votes. Our discussion voiced approval of the Founding Fathers inspired decision to balance the presidential election to protect the rights of the smaller states. If the popular vote was the rule the Colonial vote would have been determined by the populous cities of New York and Boston, etc. Clinton's lead was completely the votes of the states of New York and California. With Russian 'hacking' in the news, **Gladiator** stated that there is no completely hack-safe computer and noted that Trump relies on couriers for sensitive communications.

5- **Ramrod** said he had seen Julian Assange, an Australian who has lived for six years in the Ecuadorian embassy, in a Hannity interview. As founder of WikiLeaks, Assange was responsible for the release of the hacked Clinton emails. **Ramrod** noted that, while there is much media searching for the source of the leaks, no one has questioned the truth of the emails. **Gladiator** remarked that the city of Chicago, with the strictest gun laws in the country, had a 29% increase in gun deaths from 2013 to 2015. Mayor Emmanuel's (D) city, after more than a half-century of Democratic rule, had more homicides than any other U.S. city. **Gladiator** opined that President Trump had to do something about it, suggesting perhaps the National Guard to 'clean up' the city.

6- **Lorayne** approached to take our luncheon orders. **Ramrod** asked about the quiche; **Lorayne** said it was a pie made with bacon, eggs and cheddar cheese. **PC Wiz** remarked that in previous years there was a saying that 'real men don't eat quiche' but said it was really good – **Ramrod** ordered it. **Gladiator** ordered the French Dip sandwich while **Surveyor** selected the broiled sole special. **PC Wiz** ordered the ever-popular 'fish and chips'.

7- **Ramrod** mentioned that he is helping his brother move to his new apartment. It is an HUD 'low income' operation for elderly people – the average age is 84. When helping, **Ramrod** noted that his brother apparently seldom discarded food items. **Ramrod** found pasta in his cupboard that their mother bought some 13 years ago. **Gladiator** had to add to this by telling the story of **PC Wiz** having canned goods so old that the cans had bulged out. So true, **PC Wiz** noted, adding that he now routinely dates items to be able to 'rotate' them in order. **Ramrod** told us the building is so up-to-date that it has a sprinkler system.

8- Concerning last meeting's member recommendations to him, **Ramrod** reported that he had replaced the Passat's over 5 year old battery. He is seriously thinking of purchasing a new Honda Accord in the Spring, avoiding replacing his expensive tires, etc. **PC Wiz** mentioned that Canadian Pacific is going to replace the bridge at Erie Boulevard and Nott Street. **Surveyor** said they will widen the bridge to open the intersection for the new casino 'roundabout'. **PC Wiz** noted that when he had approached the circle all the cars moved to the right-hand lane. He stated that the circle's inner lane was useless since it is so hard to change lanes to leave. **Gladiator** noted that the Kingston 'roundabout' is two lanes and seems to work well. Concerning bridge replacements, **Gladiator** said the State has been placing 'blowout' patches on the Northway's twin bridges decks. The decks have been recently replaced with pre-cast sections which must have been faulty.

9- It was time for desserts and **Lorayne** took our coffee orders. **Gladiator** opted for the rum cake with ice cream. **Surveyor** and **Ramrod** followed with rum cake also. **PC Wiz** decided to try the sorbet offering. It turned out to be a tall round white-chocolate covered three-flavor sorbet – very nice but too large a serving. Members turned to the coming NY Giant (11-5) playoff game. **Ramrod** asked about **HVBS** member season predictions and **PC Wiz** said he had checked all the 2016 minutes and could not find any predictions. Feeling this was not possible, **Ramrod** thought impeachment of the scribe should be considered. **Surveyor** and **Gladiator** quickly voiced their negative votes, not willing to consider the election of a new scribe. **Gladiator**, noting Giant offensive weakness, thought a few points lead early in the game might allow the defense to hang on for a win. **Ramrod** observed that they have to give RB Paul Perkins more running time. **Surveyor** reported that back-up quarterback Ryan Nassif went on the injured list on December 20. **Gladiator** had not heard the news.



10- Our pleasant bull session continued until the **Hoffman House** was quite empty at 2:30 PM. The meeting adjourned without determining a possible post- St. Patrick's day session.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**
January 16, 2017

The new 'Trump Twenty' from the **HVBS** Official Agenda
[Thanks to Ramrod and Gladiator for their review.](#)