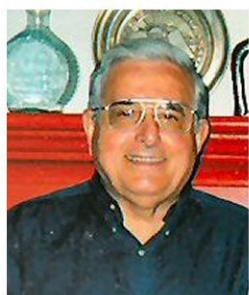


Ramrod



Gladiator



PC Wiz



Surveyor



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

September 6, 2017 – 5th Meeting of the year.

1- On a cool morning with occasional rain, **Gladiator**, designated driver for the HVBS Northern contingent, picked up **Surveyor** and **PC Wiz**. We proceeded routinely down the NY Thruway, arriving shortly after 11 AM at the **Hoffman House**. Turning into Green Street we noted the 'for sale' sign. Soon after we assumed the left-hand 'handicapped' space **Ramrod's** Honda quietly glided into the right-hand slot. Entering the premises we noted the patio did not have place settings due to the inclement weather. We were greeted by bartender **Pat** with **Pat** and **Ginny Bradley** having sandwiches at the bar. **Ginny** set up a fourth place at our traditional debating table.

2- **PC Wiz** handed out copies of the **HVBS** Official Agenda. **Gladiator** gave us copies of an NRA article concerning violence from the Left, especially after President Trump's election. **Gladiator** mentioned a book he loaned to **PC Wiz** – 'The Big Lie' by Dinesh D'Souza. It documents the Fascist roots of the American Left – which they accuse conservatives of being (Fascist). (Note: He explains where the terms 'right' and left' originate. In the National Assembly after the French revolution of 1789 the revolutionaries sat on the left and the 'royalists' on the right). **HVBS** Official Waitress **Lorayne** arrived to take our adult beverage orders. **PC Wiz** asked for available white wines and chose the pinot grigio. **Ramrod** followed with a sauvignon Blanc, while **Gladiator** opted for a Malbec. **Surveyor** ordered a Stolichniz vodka with tonic. **HVBS** members toasted a **HAPPY 88TH BIRTHDAY** to **Ramrod**.

3- Our bull session started with a discussion of yesterday's Yankee-Baltimore game. **Ramrod** said he left before the game was over with the Yankees leading 6-5. **Surveyor** stayed up as Chapman was replaced by Betances in the ninth inning. With two out, Betances walked Beckham and Machado hit a 'walk-off' home run, final score 7-6 Baltimore. **Surveyor** stated 'the closer failed'. **Ramrod** brought up the issue of predicting the coming Giant season. After some discussion, **Ramrod** crystal-balled an 11-5 record while **Surveyor** agreed with the 11-5, making the playoffs. **Gladiator** concluded 'wait 'till next year' with no prediction (later predicting 2 wins and 14 losses, "a broken team with a has-been 1/4 Back"). **PC Wiz** opted for a neutral 8-8.

4- It was time to make our luncheon choices. **Ramrod** chose 'Penne Poulet' ('poulet' being chicken, according to **Surveyor**) from the 'specials' menu. **PC Wiz** seconded the choice. **Gladiator** ordered the 'pulled BBQ pork sandwich' while **Surveyor** opted for the ever-popular Reuben. **PC Wiz** asked **Lorayne** for a cup of tea which was served in a metal tea pot. **Ramrod** had brought a stack of jokes to the meeting in response to **Gladiator's** request at our last meeting, mentioning that he missed the liveliness they brought to our meetings. **Ramrod** had started our session with some very good jokes – one was referred to **Lorayne** – and they continued. Returning to our pre-lunch topic, **Surveyor** opined that Tom Brady is the 'greatest' quarterback of all time. This causes a bit of righteous fuming in the audience with **Gladiator** asking how you could overlook Joe Montana of the 49ers with 4 SuperBowl wins. **Surveyor** noted that Brady has 5 which led to a discussion

about great QB's disregarding SuperBowl wins – **Gladiator** proposing the Dolphins Dan Marino, a truly great quarterback who never won a SuperBowl.

5- Gladiator brought up topics from the Official Agenda – eventually finishing all the items – noting it was the ‘first time in 15 years the agenda had been followed top to bottom’. The first item concerned the North Korean fusion bomb explosion. **Gladiator** stated that ‘Trump did the right thing’ in his clear responses the Korean threats. The next item was on DACA – the ‘dream act’ for illegal aliens. **Ramrod** proposed ‘no benefits’ after hearing about all the benefits being heaped on the illegals including Social Security – which they have not contributed to. **HVBS** members thought it a great proposal and noted that our politicians have not come up with the idea.

6- Returning to football's future, **Ramrod** mentioned the Washington Redskins linebacker Su'a Craven. The second year player is so concerned about concussions (he suffered one) that he is contemplating retirement from the game – despite an income of over one million dollars in his contract. Members noted the reluctance of parents of high schoolers to have their sons playing football. **Ramrod** said that since baseball does not have these problems it had a great future. **PC Wiz** wondered why pitchers rarely pitch a complete game – managers now hoping to get five good innings from a starter. **Gladiator**, mentioning he saw Bob Feller pitch a game in Cleveland, told of Dodger pitcher Don Newcombe pitching in two consecutive games of a double-header. It was September 6, 1950 against the Phillies. Newcombe had been promised to start the second game if he had a shut-out in the first. He did and pitched seven innings of the second – which the Dodgers won.

7- Gladiator brought up the Mayweather – McGregor fight, wondering what the final figure was - \$400 million? Mayweather was guaranteed \$100 million and McGregor \$30 million but the web site details are unknown. **Ramrod** reminisced about the Friday night fights on early TV. **PC Wiz** also watched and remarked on the slowness of the heavyweights like Joe Louis. **Ramrod** commented that he preferred watching the lightweights for their speed and skill.

8- It was time for coffee and desserts. **Lorayne** took an order for cheese cake from **Surveyor** and **Ramrod**. **PC Wiz** opted for the frozen lemon pie and **Gladiator** a cobbler. **Gladiator** informed us that he is thinking of buying a snow blower because of last winter's expensive turf damage from snow plowing. **PC Wiz** is also contemplating a purchase because his Ariens is 30 years old and needs repairs. **Surveyor** noted the purchase of Whole Foods by Amazon's Jeff Bezos. To **PC Wiz's** question, **Surveyor** said they have a local store in Colonie Center. **Gladiator** told us the Glenville Walmart will do your shopping – and after notification – have numbered parking slots in front of the building where they put the purchase in your car. **PC Wiz** observed that there are more prepared foods on store shelves and markets have take-out. The latest Consumer Reports feature article was about ‘grain bowls’ from the freezer – ‘healthy’ prepared meals in a bowl.

9- On the National scene, **Surveyor** told us that Presidential Chief of Staff John Kelly was loved at HSA. He is now bringing Marine discipline to a chaotic White House. **Gladiator** informed **Surveyor** of the Rexford round-about problems. Traffic, if heavy on Aqueduct Road – which precedes Balltown Road on the circle – completely stops traffic on Balltown from entering the round-about. **PC Wiz** wondered if the engineers would consider a traffic light for Aqueduct Road to give the other drivers a chance. Finally, **Ramrod** brought up the issue of the Tappan Zee tolls. Present information is that it will be \$15 in one direction – no toll booths so EZ-Pass or license photos for bills. **Ramrod** predicted it will be hard to collect, people don't pay fines.

10- At 2:15 members considered a tentative date for our next session – **Wednesday October 18, 2017.** **Gladiator** noted that we had gone through the Official Agenda completely and strongly commended **Ramrod** for the many excellent jokes, a ‘hell of a job’. The meeting was adjourned.

Thanks to **Ramrod** for his correction and suggestion, to **Gladiator** for his frank Giant prediction correction. **HVBS** Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

September 14, 2017

Corrected and converted to PDF on September 20, 2017.