

Editor and Proprietor: William A. Mays
Current-Affairs Editor: William Potter
Culture Editor: Judith Excellent
Religious Editors: Peter Duveen and Nedra Henderson
Fashion Editor: Douty
Surfing Editor: Joseph "Skipper" Funderburg
Poetry Editor: Ivan Fail, USMC ret.
Maritime Editor: David C. Weed
Sporting Editor: "The Referee"
Radio Editor: Ike Swift
Publisher: National Police Gazette Enterprises, LLC
 PO Box 372
 Binghamton, NY 13902
Manager: Steven Westlake
 saw@PoliceGazette.US



March 2013
 Special Binghamton/Ithaca Series No. 23
FEATURES

Interview:
 Todd Robbins..... 3

Paul Juser:
 Vampire of Doom City (Part 2)..... 3

Gaming:
 Robot City Arcade Night..... 7

The Arts:
 JungleScience..... 7

Technology:
 University Nightlife Launches..... 8

Gazette Fan Update:
 Pat Johnson..... 8

DEPARTMENTS

Correspondence..... 2, 11

Eccentric Tantrums (opinion):
 The College-Textbook Cartel..... 2

Local Music..... 5, 6, 7

Girls on the Police Gazette:
 Anne Hathaway..... 8

Art Classic:
 Alexander Calder Sees the Circus..... 7, 9

From the Morgue (classic articles):
 Gambling Secrets of Nick The Greek
 (Part 3)..... 10

Dotcomix:
 The Adventures of Kim Dotcom..... 11

Dr. Caprio's Sex Clinic:
 Driving Husband to Adultery?..... 11

New World Records:
 World's Largest Crocodile..... 14

Limerick of the Month..... 14

Horoscope for March..... 14

Region's Best Event Listings..... 15

ECCENTRIC TANTRUMS
The College-Textbook Price-Gouging Cartel
 Part 2 of a Series

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census, general inflation has gone up 250% since 1978 while the cost of college textbooks has gone up 812%, far more than even medical costs. And what impact does this have on the student-loan crisis? For the huge number of student-loan recipients enrolled in community colleges or paying in-state tuition at state schools, the cost of their books could eat up close to half of their entire student-loan package. When does the madness of this vicious cycle stop? Will hackers have to download college textbook files and offer them free through file sharing? When our government and business leaders fail to address such a basic and obvious problem, ordinary citizens have no recourse but to take matters into their own hands.

A couple of times over the last few years the federal government has, only under pressure, started to consider some token gestures such as making book publishers offer parts of bundled packages à la carte or making them include book prices on their marketing materials directed at college professors. But like almost everything the government does, it's wasting a huge amount of time and money putting a Band-Aid on an amputation. You can put a shine on a turd, but it's still a turd underneath.

One apologist for the textbook industry noted that developing a textbook is a very intense, involved process that could cost as much as \$750,000. We believe this. If we had zero cost controls or incentives to spend less we could spend \$750,000 on developing a blueberry muffin. Another thing this apologist doesn't mention is that this cost is for the initial development of a first edition. What about the 20 further editions of the same book that come out afterward, which are just as expensive for the student to buy as the first? And with changes so minor it would take a more efficient publisher a day and a half to complete? In fact, out of all of the current offerings by the textbook industry, not even 10% are first editions. When does the madness of this vicious cycle stop?

CORRESPONDENCE
Current Mail

QUESTION
 I have always wondered what year this photo [see page 11] of my now deceased grandfather was taken. It is my favorite photo of him. Do you know?
 —Mike Hagenbarth, Lawrenceville, GA
The Police Gazette responds: That's a fantastic photo! The date of the Police Gazette he's holding is April 1951, so the picture certainly wasn't taken earlier than that.

Letters from the Vault:
January 1971

NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN
 I know many people who have traveled to England to get medical treatment rather than pay the exorbitant fees demanded by doctors and dentists here in America.
 When a national health insurance plan was first introduced in England, the medical profession scorned it, so Winston Churchill gave them an ultimatum: if you don't want to go ahead with the scheme, there are thousands of interns who will. There wasn't a squawk anymore.

—D. Deerling, Los Angeles, CA
HOORAY FOR SOCCER
 Why doesn't the Police Gazette publish more articles on the greatest spectator sport in the world—soccer. It's a far more exciting game than baseball, basketball or football. It's strange that soccer is the Number One sport throughout the world, except Canada and the U.S.A. The reason why it hasn't caught on here is the moguls who control organized sports in America, won't let it get started. They control the stadiums and many of the sportswriters.
 —Tom Yolansky, St. Louis, MO

Write to us at letters@PoliceGazette.US. Please include your city or location. Writing to us at the above address constitutes your consent to have your letter published. Letters become the property of the National Police Gazette and may be edited.

"Like" our Facebook page.
National Police Gazette FB



Recent Headlines
 Kindergarten Teacher and School Nurse Held in Murder-for-Hire Plot
 NY Mom Arrested for Having Stripppers at Son's Sweet 16
 Proposal Horror Story: Machine Guns, Lost Ring
 Woman Loses Job at Burger King Before Robbing a McDonald's

