

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW Zach Pedley of The North Brewery

On the Ground Floor of a Burgeoning Beer Business

In January of this year the New York State "Farm Brewery Law" went into effect. The law, which is patterned after the successful "Farm Winery License," is designed to encourage and support the state's craft breweries and hops farmers. Small beer producers receive a very generous state-tax credit and are exempted from the annual State Liquor Authority fee. But, perhaps most important for the future of the state's economy, the law creates a "Farm Brewery License," which relaxes some restrictions on how a small brewery's beer can be sold and consumed, allows the brewery to open a restaurant, and allows for tastings similar to what the state's wineries now enjoy. The law has encouraged local brewers; Water Street Brewing opened last year in Binghamton, The North Brewery this year in Endicott, and more are on the way.

The benefit for farmers is that in order to maintain a farm-brewery license, a brewery must make "New York State labeled beer," meaning a certain minimum percentage of the beer's hops and other ingredients—not counting water—must be produced in New York State. From now until the end of 2018 the percentage is 20%, from 2019 to 2023 it's 60%, and from 2024 onward 90% of the ingredients in a New York State la-

beled beer must originate in New York.

We met with Zach Pedley, owner and head brewer of The North Brewery in Endicott, at his place of business at 110 Washington Ave. After reading our minds and offering an American Dream IPA, Zach explained he's all for the new law's requirement. "I would love that," he said. "The more hops produced in New York State the better. I would definitely be willing to get hops from New York State if the farmers grow a variety, not just hops native to New York but start blending and creating new hops. New York State used to be the hop capital of the world; I would love to have New York back on top of that list."

The North Brewery just opened in February, but ran smack into instant success. It appears only the sky is the limit for this fledgling brewery going forward.

NPG: Tell us a little about the business.

ZP: My father and I bought the old Elk's Bakery right around a year ago. There's three brewers here: me; Joe [Biscardi], who's my brew partner, my father [Eric Pedley] brews every now and then. We've probably brewed around 35 different beers since we opened.

Explain what kind this is.

The beer your drinking is American Dream; it's an East Coast IPA, so it's very citrusy, grapefruit. You get that little kick too. It's very cloudy; I don't filter my beer. I believe you don't need to filter your beer. That's one of our mainstay beers here, that beer and False Prophet. False Prophet's a rye pale ale.

How many different ingredients do you use in something like the American Dream?

In the American Dream I use three different types of malts and five different types of hops.

It's not as bitter as a lot of IPAs.

I like bringing back styles that have died. East Coast IPAs have died because West Coast IPAs have taken off. Those are the IPAs that a lot of people see in places like Cyber Cafe, really hoppy, bitter beers. I do those beers, but American Dream sells a lot because a lot of people think IPAs have to be bitter and hoppy, but you might like an IPA if it was an East Coast IPA.

Is the grapefruit flavor a feature of the East Coast IPA? Or is that something you added?

I don't put grapefruit in my beers. I rarely put fruit in my beers. If I do I'll make a note and tell people. But to get that grapefruit flavor there's a couple ways you can do it with hops, like Citra hops. You can get a lot of grapefruit flavor from Citra hops. Or you can blend my favorite hop, which is motueka. It's from New Zealand. If you blend motueka with chinook you'll get a very grapefruit flavor. That's mellowed actually from the other beers I've had. I have a single hop Citra IPA that I do, and it's just like a grapefruit hop bomb in your mouth.

How did you come up with the name "North Brewery"?

The name really doesn't mean anything or have anything to do with the beers. I want my beers to be more popular than the name. The North Brewery name came about because I wanted the brewery name to be vague. So with the name being just "the north" it worked.

What's your history and background? What did you want to do growing up?

When I was growing up I never really knew what I wanted to do.

Did you grow up around here?

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Paul Juser and The City from Another Universe

The Vampire of Doom City Part 5

Every June, Bambi Madden's birthday is celebrated with a balloon release at Otsiningo Park. The CBS procedural "Without a Trace" offered to include Bambi Madden in the true-story section at the end of an episode. According to Amanda Barry, one of Madden's 12 siblings, the story fell through when the Binghamton Police refused to cooperate. Madden's family then hired a private investigator from Virginia who met the same brick wall. He returned their money, claiming the case was unsolvable. The family plans a fundraiser this summer, after the balloon release, so they can hire another investigator.

Barry believes the police conspiracy, citing the Vampire graffiti and a wealth of circumstantial evidence. A friend of Bambi's mother worked as an undercover prostitute for the BPD, and lost her job after relating a story out of school about two officers who joked about Madden's corpse never being found. When rumors surfaced that Madden's body was buried in the basement of Sarah's Bar, police did only a cursory walk-through without breaking any ground. They also will not release the name of a drug dealer who was sent to prison based on Madden's testimony. He'd been released shortly before Madden's 2006 disappearance, and word on the street had him looking for revenge.

Barry spoke with the *Police Gazette* in the



back corner of Nezuntoz, where she drank coffee from Dunkin' Donuts. Her face bore the signs of someone who's lived a hard life, some of it self-inflicted. Bambi Madden was commonly known to be a prostitute, and inhabited an area of the city rife with drugs and crime. Barry couldn't cite any hard evidence for a conspiracy beyond the Vampire messages themselves and a note tied to a rock thrown through the window of Bambi's landlord. This was the same building where Madden resided in the lower apartment until she disappeared. Barry didn't know if the note still existed, but promised that someone had a picture of it somewhere. I'm sure I would have recognized the handwriting. But the *Police Gazette* has not heard from Barry since.

Barry admitted she knew Michael Petrucci. He'd been a drinking buddy to her father. I didn't read about Petrucci's 2010 arrest until I began writing this story, but I'd noticed his absence. For years I followed through muddy back alleys, along flood walls, and shrouded areas beneath highway supports where no person in their right mind is likely to stick their nose. Petrucci was the graffiti artist who captured not only my interest, but had garnered print and television time as well when it seemed he might know details someone didn't want in the light. Petrucci was arrested as the graffiti artist I'd named "The Vampire." According to Barry, charges were dismissed against Petrucci the day of his trial and he was shipped out of town and never seen again. Petrucci told the family he had a letter with proof of Chief Zikuski's guilt. He was about to deliver this information when he was arrested.

Barry confirmed Petrucci's drug and drinking problems, which can have a synergistic effect with any number of chemicals Anitec and Titchener flushed down the toilet in that part of the city. The Vampire held Zikuski accountable for the murder of Michelle Harris in some of his earliest messages. The wife of a rich Owego used-car dealer is a far cry from Zikuski's alleged MO of prostitutes like Bambi Madden and Terry Dit-

tman.

I came to predict Petrucci's movements. If Zikuski made the news, I would find a new message within a few days. After the conviction of Bobbi Jo Hatchcock for the 1997 murder of Dittman, the Vampire blanketed the Riverwalk and Boscov's parking garage with claims of a hoax. A masterpiece on the riverbank side of a highway bridge support not only gave intimate details of Zikuski's relationship with Dittman, it also accused Zikuski of funneling \$80,000 to Osama bin Laden. It was hundreds of words and illustrations. Petrucci spent hours back there, spelling out a conspiracy that quickly descended to nonsense. I found his final message in the Boscov's garage, shortly after Zikuski spoke on national news following the A.C.A. shootings. The Vampire suggested that Jiverly Vong had not taken his own life, but had instead been shot by police. Oddly enough, Zikuski was not mentioned. Unknown to me, Petrucci was arrested shortly after.

Petrucci didn't have any secret evidence on the Madden disappearance; he plugged names he saw on television into a story I'd been watching him write for years. Petrucci's real crime was to convince a grieving family to place their hope in a theory and drive the investigation to inaction. After speaking with Barry, I reached out myself with questions to the Broome County Sheriff and Binghamton Police. Sheriff Captain Fred Akshar responded by email: "...if you wish to discuss the disappearance of Bambi Madden and the associated people in that case, we would be happy to meet with you..." When I arrived, I was told the Madden and Dittman cases were both jurisdiction of the Binghamton Police, and the Sheriff's office could not comment on either. Binghamton had not yet responded, so I called that morning. I spoke with a detective that referred me to Lt. Burnett, who was off that day. I was transferred to his voice mail. I did my best to explain myself, and my position, but my call was not returned.

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