

Chapter 2 – Inaugural Ball and Redneck Extra-Terrestrial Gypsies

Talk About the Town

Troy's Podman Dances to the Beat at Inaugural Ball

Nancy R. Winsome, Troy Sentinel

T.A.T.T enjoyed a special treat this evening; the inaugural ball of newly elected Troy Mayor Paul Podman. Held this year at the elegant ELKS lodge downtown, the Inaugural was the social event of the year; and everybody who is anybody was there.

Mayoress-elect Linda Podman, on the arm of her husband, made her grand entrance in a gown to **die** for. Her pink tennis shoes provided a perfect match. The ladies gathered around her, the men turned their heads at her passing, the pigs grunted their approval. Troy has not seen the likes of this couple in many a year. Dare we say Royalty? Dare we say King and Queen of our fair town?

T.A.T.T. spied former mayor Alistair X. McBush, still chafing from his recent brushes with the law. But he was the hit of the party tonight, and his homebrew had a certain charm we've found lacking on other occasions. We were willing to ignore a certain goaty aroma emanating from the eminent ex-mayor, but his choice of evening attire accessories was atrocious. Honestly, brown steel toed hunting boots with black tie? Has he no sense of color coordination?

The River Ridge Trailer Trash Boys showed their ugly heads. Mr. Podman wisely kept his distance, despite persistent rumors of association. The Boys themselves seemed on their best behavior; none of the shenanigans that marred the Apple Bobbing Festival this spring. Of course, the ladies present had all been warned and were on their guard. Mr. Birdman, the head Boy, was elegantly dressed in a T-Shirt with painted tuxedo, blue jeans, and natty white sneakers. Mr. Bro Mudd, the apprentice Boy, was dressed in the essence of bad taste, a loud Hawaiian shirt with poorly matched shorts and sandals. Someone should teach that Boy a few lessons in fashion.

Podman administration staff member Ernest T. "Bigmouth" Bass was another big hit. Unwisely imbibing perhaps more than his fair share of Alistair's moonshine, he sat down at the old piano and belted out one old fashioned sing-along after another in between swigs from the big jug. His wading trousers provided the perfect accoutrement to his red and white checked flannel shirt. Perhaps a trifle underdressed for the occasion, but that's Bigmouth for you, never one to overdo things. He may be excused, given that he provided the evening's entertainment. His rendition of "Feelings" had the whole crowd rocking. Police chief Rocky Mancini generously hauled the semi-conscious former handyman to his squad car at the end of the festivities, and graciously provided a place for him to stay the night.

At one point, the Troy Fire Department threatened to shut the event down, citing fire safety violations in the crowded lodge. Fire Chief Danny O'Brady insisted the place could hold no more than 15 safely, and there was easily twice that number; not to mention the livestock. But Mayor Podman showed his true colors, taking the good chief aside into the kitchen and plying him with, well, let's just say "good will".

The Mayor was his usual gracious self, the man we've become accustomed to during this long election season. He agreed readily to a chat with T.A.T.T.

"I wish to remind my constituents that I am a true-blue red-blooded Italian-Hungarian-American Extra-terrestrial", he told T.A.T.T. "As such, I feel I have a particular sensitivity and affinity with the folks of this fine town. I think we'll get along fine."

T.A.T.T. asked him what his goals were this term. "Our first priority is to get the sewage system fixed in the Executive Mansion. My esteemed predecessor, Mr. McBush, let it go to pot." He nodded to McBush as he said this, and McBush raised his glass in return and laughed his hearty laugh, muttering something unintelligible.

"Next", he continued, "we're planning an extensive campaign of agricultural renovation. I plan on returning our neglected farms to a paying basis. This will require time and patience and study. We're beginning some experimental plantings on my own property even as we speak." His eyes acquired a dreamy, faraway look as he said this, as if he was looking forward to a time when all citizens will reap the benefits of progressive agricultural policy.

There you have it, good folks of Troy. The great man has spoken, and you heard it first from T.A.T.T. Next week, I'll bring all the juicy gossip from the Quilting Bee. This is T.A.T.T., signing off.

Birdman:

I've said it once and I'll say it again. "I swear that man ain't right" "No way, No how". I do concede formally on my bet. Have the mayor change the sheet.

Jr.

I'm curious.....will there be scandal between the mayor and the "head" boy??? Only too common these days.. How's the hangover Bigmouth??? Jr.

Ernest T. Bass

The Mayor's office wishes to report that the Mayor fully supports the Gay Marriage ban currently under consideration in the Virginia House of Representatives. The Mayor has stated many times that he supports Family Values and the sanctity of marriage between

male and female. The Mayor further wishes to clarify that he does not condone any discrimination whatsoever on the basis of sexual preferences, be it heterosexual, homosexual, or other deviant activities practiced by the former Mayor of our fair town and that group informally known as the River Ridge Trailer Trash Boys, and in particular that individual known as "The Birdman". Furthermore, the Mayor's office wishes to clarify that the Mayor's staff indulges only in clean, wholesome, family oriented activities, and any rumors you've heard to the contrary should immediately be disregarded.

Ernest T. "Bigmouth" Bass, Press Secretary

Birdman:

What? I see a slander suit in the works. Well I never! The Birdman's morals are only a slight bit more twisted than other gangsta's he associates with. You shall be hearing from my lawyer if I can find him and if he is outa the slammer. Sumbitch shot someone in the foot and killed him dead I hear for calling him "Esquire". He thought that meant he was into "farm animals".

Podman:

Well, <huff> <huff>, The Mayor's office did not approve "Bigmouth's" last statement, which leads the Mayor's office of thinking that there is little doubt as to where "Bigmouth" picked up his moniker. Mister Birdman, <huff> <huff>, please accept His Honor's apologies for Bigmouth's extra-curricular statement. This will not happen again... until it happens again. -

Alistair:

I also wish to lodge a strong complaint. Nothing was ever pinned on me. You should be ashamed of yourself, Mr. Bass, for spreading false innuendo. I am unjustly accused, and so is my beautiful, innocent, loving goat! You shall be hearing from me in court.

Sincerely, Alistair McBush, former mayor and counsel for The Birdman

Ernest T. Bass

Memo to Mayor
Subject: Damage Control

NOT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

Mr. Mayor,

I am saddened by this state of affairs and your loss of confidence in me. I feel that public reaction has gotten out of hand, and that damage control is impossible. I therefore feel that my only course of action is to resign my position as Press Secretary. It has been an honor to serve you. Now I'm going to cut and run before the s**t hits the fan.

Sincerely, Ernest T. "Bigmouth" Bass

Birdman:

Mr. Mayor, Your honor Sir: Oh great one, Your Majesty:

Damn, now I feel bad! He was the best thing that ever happened to this administration since sliced goat cheese. Rather than accepting his resignation may I suggest you cancel his subscription to Mad Magazine instead which is by far the worst punishment imaginable and make him watch the Russian News Channel for a period of ten rubles or less.

Podman:

This decision weighs heavy, I tell you, heavy on my mind. I will have to consult my heart to find the correct answer. My decision on "Bigmouth" will be forthcoming.

Woody Bobward:

NEWSFLASH!

Podman Press Secretary Ernest T "Bigmouth" Bass has resigned amid rumors flying about mistreatment of parrots and goats. ASPCA investigators have been called in. Mayor silent and not returning calls. Details at 11.

Woody Bobward, Troy Sentinel

Woody Bobward

Mayor Implicated in Hit and Run

Woody Bobward, Troy Sentinel

November 8, Troy, Virginia – Newly elected Mayor Podman was implicated in a hit-and-run accident at the Chappahannock River Bridge late last night. His secretary, a mysterious gypsy woman who goes only by the name Mrs. X., has accused Mr. Podman of fleeing the scene of the accident.

Mrs. X. (who declined to be identified and insisted that I not use the pseudonym Deepthroat) claims that she was thrown clear of the car and into the river during the accident. When she cried for help to Mr. Podman on the bridge, she claims that he told her to hang on, that he was going for help, and then disappeared. Their chauffeur, a Mr. Bro' Rat McMudd of River Ridge, Virginia, was also at the scene. Mrs. X claims that the chauffeur also disappeared. Mrs. X. was fished out of the river hours later by rescue workers.

Mr. Podman refused to answer calls from this reporter. One can only speculate as to what he was doing riding around with his secretary at that hour of the morning. Police Chief Mancini is investigating. He said that an APB has been issued for the chauffeur, a member of the infamous River Ridge Trailer Trash Boys gang. Any information on the whereabouts of this person should be immediately forwarded to the Troy police department. A reward is being offered.

The photos below depict the scene of the accident, and the mysterious Mrs. X.



Birdman:

Life was so much easier when the Mayor was just an ordinary law abiding citizen.
"Power Corrupts" The horror of it all!

Podman:

Press release from His Honor Mayor Podman of Troy:

November 8, Troy, Virginia

Today the tawdry reputation of the Troy Sentinel has hit a new low.

I have been accused of being seen with a mysterious Mrs. "X" and being a part of an unfortunate car accident.

Well, the Mayor would like the record to show that Mrs. "X" is in fact the girlfriend of Mr. Bro' Rat McMudd! Yes, Ole "Bro' Rat" is trying one of his all too known to me dirty tricks. And to think I used to call these "Trailer Boys" my friends.

As far as me even being in the accident, Mister Bobward should indeed check his facts just a little more closely. If he checked his facts, he would realize that the third party in the car was indeed Mr. Ernest T. "Bigmouth" Bass. One could easily make the mistake of identifying me as "Bigmouth" because of various physical similarities.

Mister (and I use the term loosely) Bobward, you owe an apology not only the Office of the Mayor of the Great City of Troy, but also to every Red Blooded American who believes in Mom, Apple Pie and the American Way for offending them with your "yellow" journalism".

Sincerely,

His Honor "Podman"

Mayor of the Great City of Troy

Woody Bobward:

Podman Staffer Involved in Tawdry Triangle

Woody Bobward, Troy Sentinel

It has come to our attention, through undisclosed sources, that a member of the staff of Mayor Podman has been involved in a secret sex triangle with notorious felon-at-large Bro' Rat McMudd, and his gypsy girlfriend J.B. Is this the kind of example to be set for the children of our fair city? No, I don't think so. Details at 11.

Agent Rummy:

CIA interoffice memo.....This smells of a smear campaign by Bro' Rat McMudd....what does he have to hide and why does he want the Mayor's good reputation tarnished so brutally?

Birdman:

I smell a rat! How bout you Jr.? My, my, my!!!