



FLATLINE

Volume 5 Number 1

Sooner or later, everybody winds up in Flatline

April 1, 2007

FDNY TRADES EMS TO NYPD FOR HAZMAT



CHIEF PERUGGIA SHOWS OFF NEW AMBULANCES

With the Voluntary sector gobbling up ever greater percentages of territory, EMS Chief John Peruggia has developed a new tactic to attract clients to the municipal sector...a fleet of Weinermobiles. "Frankly, everyone who needs a ride to the hospital will relish going in one of these," said Peruggia pointing to the first of 10 donated by the Oscar Meyer company.

Not everyone is as enthusiastic as Peruggia. Lt. Michael Sullivan of the Fire Safety Education Unit is furious. "Hot Dog (an oversized Dalmatian costume) is our mascot. EMS is just

mocking our efforts at fire safety awareness. Less fires means we need less firemen...wait, don't print that!"

Shaped like an enormous frankfurter and measuring nearly 34 feet in length, the Weinermobiles are proving somewhat difficult to maneuver in city traffic. Their 11 foot clearance also makes them too tall to navigate many parkways, bridges and EMS stations. Top speed is only 25 miles per hour.

When asked how patients would be loaded into the porthole nearly 5 feet off the ground, Chief Peruggia responded, "I haven't got a clue!"

'FRIENDLY' HINTS IGNORED

Following secret negotiations between Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has approved the transfer of ownership of two key emergency service operations. The agreement, which was made public today, forfeits the NYPD's control of Hazardous Materials incidents in exchange for oversight over EMS, the city's municipal ambulance service.

Since the takeover of EMS eleven years ago, the FDNY has done little more than change the color of the ambulances, admitted Chief of Department Sal Cassano. "We tried giving them friendly hints for years...first in Rockaway, then in 2005 we knocked down both Harlem EMS stations for no particularly good reason. They never got the hint. Now we can get back to what this job is really about: fighting about beer, berets and broads."

A grinning Commissioner Scoppetta could hardly control his enthusiasm. "We'll start demolishing the rest of the EMS stations starting tomorrow."

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly welcomed the new arrivals. "We'll start by making them full members of the uniformed service community and provide pay parity with police officers. They'll finally get the respect they truly deserve. We never wanted Haz-Mat anyway."

FLATLINE is published every month on April Fool's Day by the Office of Public Information, which apparently has little else to do. The editors vehemently deny any similarities between persons living or dead and the persons libeled in this publication.

Your comments are welcome. Please address them to:

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**I.G. ACCUSES CELEBRITY
GROUNDHOG OF FRAUD**



Staten Island Pete, the prognosticating groundhog responsible for predicting the arrival of spring each year, was arrested by detectives from the Inspector General's office yesterday.

Following up on evidence from a related case, investigators found documents in the rodent's nest including a Master's Degree in Meteorology from St. Regis University, the same fictitious institution that provided phony degrees to at least a dozen FDNY officers.

"It's hard to believe that Pete would risk his reputation and his career pulling a boneheaded stunt like this one," stated Detective Ed Richards. "Although it does explain why the furry perp was never right".

If convicted of the fraud charges, Staten Island Pete faces up to three years in jail.

**LOCAL 2507 PRESIDENT
CRASHES GRADUATION**

No one was seriously injured when Local 2507 President Patrick J. Bahnken apparently lost control of his personal car and drove through the plate glass window of Queens College this week. He was admittedly "running a bit behind schedule" en route to the graduation of the latest TOP class when the accident occurred. Police Officers at the scene issued him a summons for reckless endangerment and nick-named him "Drive-In Bahnken"

The accident delayed the graduation of 27 TOP students for nearly an hour. 90 TOP's began training at the EMS Academy on February 30th. As usual, the vast majority failed to measure up to the Academy's mediocre standards and were returned to Riker's Island to finish their sentences. The following are the graduates of TOP 07-02:

- Jose Canusee*
- Dawn Searly-Leight*
- Wah-So Prou*
- Lee Wehail*
- Dee Twilight*
- Les Gleeming*
- Brad Stripes*
- Ann Brightstars*
- Trudy Perilus-Feit*
- Orr D. Ramparts*
- V. Washed*
- Verso Gallant*
- Lee Streemink*
- Andy Rockets*
- Red Glare*
- D. "Bombs" Burstein-Innair*
- Gabe Proof*
- Trudy Night*
- Thad R. Flagg*
- Wah Stilldare*
- Jose Duzdat*
- Starr Spangult-Bannah*
- Yetta Waivover*
- Dee Land*
- Oprah Frei*
- Andy Home*
- Oprah Brave*

ATTENTION DYSLEXICS:

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EEMREGCNY
DAIL 191** 

GAY FIREHOUSE ESTABLISHED

Greenwich Village can claim the distinction of having the city's first all gay and lesbian firehouse. In response to numerous complaints of harassment by other firefighters, the Assistant Commissioner Lyndelle Phillips of the FDNY's EEO Office mandated the immediate reassignment of all members assigned to the newly built E8/L11 on Christopher Street. As of today, they were replaced by 50 gay and lesbian firefighters.

The men appeared elated at the erection of the new facility, while the women firefighters took the historic day in stride, showing no particular interest.

To facilitate the new units, the lesbians staff the ladder company, while the men run the engine. According to Capt. Mary "Butch" Cassidy of L11, "the men take pride in stretching their hoses and working the nozzle until they obtain a satisfactory stream, and frankly have always had trouble understanding our more complex front-mount apparatus". While the women have no trouble getting their vehicle into the house, the men insist on driving in through the back door.

**FDNY WELCOMES VISITING
JAPANESE EMS OFFICIAL**



Commander Haz Matsuti, the head of the Tokyo Fire Department's Special Unit for Super-Hazardous Incidents met with Capt. Jeff Race of the FDNY's HazMat Battalion yesterday to discuss tactics and strategies in hazardous materials response. Capt. Race was particularly interested in Tokyo's mitigation plans for dealing with recurrent attacks of giant radioactive lizards.

NATIONAL EMS NEWS

TRANSPLANT ORGAN BOX SHUTS DOWN CABLE CARS

An insulated cooler marked "organ transplant" found abandoned on a cable car atop a San Francisco hill shut down the famous trolley system for several hours yesterday.

Once police Bomb Squad units analyzed the box and determined that it was non-explosive, paramedics standing by at the scene were called in to examine the contents. The ambulance crew immediately transported the organ, later determined to be a human heart packed in ice, to San Francisco General Hospital where a search was begun for its owner and intended recipient.

Acting on a tip from one of the responding paramedics, the medical staff performed a DNA test and confirmed that the heart belonged to entertainer Tony Bennett.

Reached at his Los Angeles home, Mr. Bennett later confirmed that the organ was indeed his and that he'd accidentally misplaced it years ago and had been searching for it ever since.

COMMISSIONER RECEIVES MAYOR'S MANAGERIAL AWARD



Commissioner Scoppetta gives his acceptance speech after receiving the managerial award from the mayor.

In spite of the fact that he has never picked up an oxygen tank nor a fire hose, Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta received the Managerial Foresight Medal from Mayor Michael Bloomberg today in a ceremony at City Hall. Previous recipients have included such luminaries as Bernard Kerik, Christine Todd Whitman and Boss Tweed.

"When he became Fire Commissioner in 2002, he didn't have a clue about what the Fire Department does", said Bloomberg. "Today, he still doesn't. But the city hasn't burned down, so he must be doing a good job!"

LAWS OF HUMANITY EXPLAINED BELOW

If you graduated from a TOP Program or Paramedic Training in the past 25 years, you recited the Oath of Geneva at your graduation. By taking the Oath, you swear not to use your medical training contrary to the "Laws of Humanity". The editors of *Flatline* researched them and for your enlightenment, have printed the Laws of Humanity below:

1. All humans have the inalienable right to walk to the ambulance.
2. Humans shall not eat other humans until all other sources of protein have been exhausted.
3. No human shall use another human for personal conveyance. Rickshaw operators and bicycle-carriage peddlers shall be stabled with lesser species.
4. Treat others as you would have them treat you. If they are poorer, hungrier, uglier, without shelter or of lesser social standing, try to avoid them altogether.
5. Humans shall not ride in airships filled with hydrogen.
6. An apple a day keeps the doctor away. Aim for his head.
7. All men are created equal; all women are not. Take, for example, Pamela Anderson and Calista Flockhart. Need I say more?
8. Do others.

NEW PROGRAM SAVES TRAINING TIME & MONEY

Do you already know everything there is to know about being an EMT or Paramedic? Maybe you have a partner who fits that category? If so, one of you may be eligible for Right-to-No-Training. Recently introduced as a cost savings measure by Scott Holliday, FDNY's Deputy Chief of EMS Training, Right-to-No-Training is designed to focus training resources on those members who would benefit from instruction.

No screening exam is required (another cost-savings measure), just complete a statement that attests to the fact that you already know everything, have the document notarized and you qualify for Right-to-No-Training.

MONKEYS BANNED FROM ALL AMBULANCE DUTIES

CHIMPS REPORTEDLY 'OUT OF CONTROL'

McFARLAND SCRAPS PLAN TO EXPAND BLS COVERAGE

Following a six month study, the pilot program of using trained chimpanzees on BLS ambulances has been shelved by the FDNY's Assistant Chief of EMS, John McFarland. While the National Aeronautics and Space Administration successfully used chimps in early space missions, the six-month pilot program proved totally unsuccessful in the FDNY.

A recent survey indicated that nearly 60% of patients who call 9-1-1 for ambulance service cannot speak English. Neither can chimps.

"Unfortunately, they were out of control," remarked Chief of EMS John Peruggia, who developed the plan, "even more so than the EMT's they were supposed to replace. I had thought that trained monkeys would be easier to control than EMT's, but that proved to be a miscalculation."

"It was a natural outgrowth of my plan to pair one Paramedic with one EMT, effectively doubling the number of ALS units out there. We're going back to the drawing board - the department's Strategic Plan will have to be entirely re-written now."

The chimps adapted well to the training programs, but developed behavior problems once they hit the streets.

What seemed like an innovative plan to cut costs without sacrificing quality has once again yielded disastrous results. FDNY officials had planned to pair one EMT with one chimpanzee on each ambulance, effectively cutting the need for EMT's by fifty percent.

"It seemed simple: everyone knows you can teach a monkey to do any of the skills of an EMT," said Frank Gibbons, the FDNY's spokesman. Chimps are not represented by labor unions, and are not governed by minimum wage standards. Therefore, Fire officials surmised that the chimps could be paid in bananas instead of cash, of which the FDNY has a chronic shortage.

"We had no idea that the job was so complex that the chimps were overwhelmed with their new duties," said Gibbons.

PARKING RULES SUSPENDED

Alternate side of the street parking regulations have been suspended today in observance of April Fools Day. Any parking summonses issued by police officers or Traffic Enforcement Agents between 12:00 A.M. and 11:59 P.M. today may be disregarded.

Likewise, any subsequent notice of non-payment and any late fees or penalties assessed may also be ignored. Furthermore, communiqués from the Department of Motor Vehicles advising that your driver's license and or vehicle registration will be immediately revoked or suspended may be similarly disregarded.

It is recommended that you keep a copy of this official notice with you at all times should a felony scofflaw warrant be erroneously issued for your arrest.

In the unlikely event you are mandated to appear in court, disregard such notice. Any and all attorney's fees will be reimbursed by the Department of Transportation.

Improper convictions will be immediately overturned and any time served will be credited against your 2007 New York State Income Tax due at the rate of \$150 per incarceration day.

Should you be advised by the Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources that your employment with the New York City Fire Department has been terminated as a result of a driver's license revocation, arrest or conviction, please ignore the notice and report for duty at your regularly scheduled time.

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Golden
Szechuan
Dragon
Wok
Garden

Call ahead to save your time for waiting

Police & Fire Discount: 50%

Free Napkins for EMS

(with order over \$10.00)

SCHEDULING ANNOUNCEMENT

EMS Operations would like to announce that effective April 1, the functional operation of scheduling for training will once again be the responsibility of EMS Operations. If the Bureau of Training were responsible, they would be called the Bureau of Training and Scheduling or the Bureau of Training and Scheduling for Training.

The Bureau of Training would like to advise that they are not responsible for scheduling or for training EMS Operations in scheduling, which may account for errors in Operations Training Orders not issued by the Bureau of Training.

TERRORISM CENTER SHUT INDEFINITELY

The FDNY Center for Counter-Terrorism Planning and Disaster Preparedness was shut down today by DAC Joe Pfeifer when a large spider was observed crawling around on the ceiling of his Fort Totten office. "I'm absolutely terrified of those things," screamed Pfeifer, as he ran out the door.

This marks the fifth incident of this type in as many weeks. The Terrorism Center has previously been closed when reports of centipedes, millipedes, cockroaches, and other multi-legged creatures suddenly appear in the high-security location. The Center remains shut until such time as EMS Capt. Jerrold Gelbard can locate the bug and step on it.

"I have no idea how they slip past the gate unnoticed, crawl up here in broad daylight and defeat the alarm system," stated Capt. Gelbard. "The center can only be accessed by electronic pass cards or by punching 1-5-3 on the front-door keypad. Only the people who work here know that code."

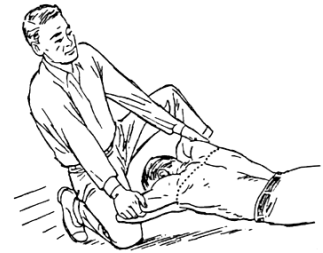
Capt. Gelbard admitted that the Center for Counter-Terrorism Planning and Disaster Preparedness was totally unprepared for these intrusions and had no plan for how to deal with the menace. "At least Chief Pfeifer had an exit strategy...I wish he'd shared it with the rest of us though".

Several security guards have been reprimanded by Chief Pfeifer for dereliction of duty.

NEW CPR STANDARDS DISCUSSED

A friendly discussion between spokespersons from the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross regarding whose CPR standards would be employed by EMS providers turned violent yesterday. After the Red Cross representative accused the Heart Association of constant "flip-flopping" on CPR standards, fisticuffs broke out and the AHA representative was knocked unconscious.

As a result of the melee, all EMS agencies will revert to the original 1931 Red Cross guidelines using the back pressure, arm lift method of resuscitation.



Tradition over Science: An ARC representative demonstrates modern revival techniques.

VULCAN SOCIETY PROTEST



Leonard Nimoy, the actor who played Mr. Spock in the original Star Trek television series, led a protest outside the headquarters of the FDNY's Vulcan Society this past February. The F.D.N.Y. Vulcan Society represents firefighters of African-American descent.

Mr. Nimoy was protesting the exclusion of Vulcans from the Vulcan Society (while Mr. Nimoy's TV character was born on the planet Vulcan, Mr. Nimoy was actually born in Indiana. Alien Vulcans don't really exist, however, with his career fading into obscurity, Mr. Nimoy seized at the opportunity for some free publicity).

With Mr. Nimoy at the protest was Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, who marked the beginning of Black History Month by denouncing as "inadequate" the efforts of the Vulcan Society to increase white firefighter representation within their own ranks.