

From *The Dead One Smiles* by Don Thompson  
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## 1 MAKE UP FOR PEACE

Remember that smiling dead clown found in a service room at the Swifton Palace Hotel in Chicago the year before last – 2019? Well Dear Reader, hang on to your hat. I'm going to tell you what really happened on our planet, in our country, in the glorious carnival of Chicago. It has been said that this is all fake news, but it actually happened. It is all true.

You have probably heard by now of the magnificent, world renowned, Chicago law firm of Fenton, Pettigrew & Cohenstein with multiple offices around the world and hundreds of lawyers. It is a result of a merger between a declining old-line, waspy firm headed by the snobby, antisemitic, socially registered lawyer named Gaybourne St. Charles and an upcoming firm headed by Zenon Cohenstein who could sell heaters in Hell. St. Charles' firm was named Fenton, Pettigrew, Sidley and Lord. After the merger it assumed the Fenton, Pettigrew & Cohenstein name and was nicknamed F, P & C, which some disrespectable people said stood for Fart, Pee & Crap. St. Charles was the Chairman and Cohenstein was the Vice Chairman.

F, P & C was a general business firm representing large and wealthy clients. The youngest lawyers at the firm were employees called "associates". As they progressed many would be made "partners", although technically they would still be employees. Part of their pay would be a percentage of the profits of the firm, but they would not have any ownership interests in the firm. The real owners or partners were called "equity partners". They each owned a percentage of the firm and were the ones bringing in the most money.

Like all large law firms F, P & C was constantly engaged in activities to bolster its reputation and keep its name before the public, or at least the part of the public with lots of money. One of its rising young stars was John Sweeney. Unlike most of the younger lawyers he had developed a large clientele of his own early on. Most were in the show business, entertainment and internet areas. He had consequently been made a partner earlier than other lawyers of his age. In late 2017 he developed an idea to get massive publicity for the firm and also, for some of his clients. His idea was to involve world leaders in a costume ball to raise money to foster world peace and tolerance. The event would be called Make Up For Peace and it would raise money to further its objectives. A big client party full of big shots is not a new idea, but with F, P & C's contacts and a little monetary consideration really big shots from all over the world could be gathered together, even President Flinton, her defeated opponent Ronald Hump, and the third-party candidate Moe Niden, all of whom were running for the Presidency in the 2020 election. Match these people up with prominent religious leaders and how could you not escape notice. Once you get some big names, they attract other big names or, in Humpese, big, big, very big names.

Of course, a little extra is always advisable when going after the big ones. Sweeney's scheme involved making loans to the great leaders through hidden sources. The leaders would not be personally liable for the loans, but they would supposedly post collateral, mostly phony. The loans would go to entities with hidden ownership which many big shots have for things like that. For those without such entities, F, P & C would create them. It is not unusual for persons and companies to make campaign contributions to politicians, but there are some legal limits and requirements for disclosure. Plain outright payments are also embarrassing if exposed. This scheme of Sweeney's would get the money to the big wigs without any disclosure or limits. Whether or not there would be repayment of the loans was another matter. So – who would throw their money away like this just for world peace? The Swifton Bank. This was a large client of F, P & C and one of the largest banks in the world. It was part of an empire of various large companies owned by the Swifton family. The empire was headed by Arthur Swifton and he was fast friends with Graybourne St. Charles. F, P & C represented all the Swifton companies and most of the family members. The Bank owned and occupied a large building in the middle of downtown Chicago and F, P & C also had its main offices there. The Bank would be glad to pay a little for influence with certain people.

But not too much. Sweeney had sense enough to figure that out. The event was to be a large fund raiser for charities working for world peace and tolerance. Most of those present would be paying, not getting paid. They would be buying publicity and prestige and would be showing up to network and be seen. The amounts donated and the donors would be publicized. The Bank would front the organizational funds and, of course, would be reimbursed. A lot of these funds would be paid by The Bank to the massive hotel where the event was to be held and the actual goods and services would come from that hotel. The hotel would of course be The Swifton Palace Hotel, owned by the Swifton family. It was the largest hotel in downtown Chicago and could easily handle the event. It would be a large event for any hotel, but considering it would only be for the very rich or well-connected people, there would not be that many people involved in relation to the money to be raised. The event itself would be organized as a charitable corporation and all donations would be tax deductible.

What would F, P & C get out of this? Publicity and another networking event. It was going to be listed as one of the Organizers. There would be several other Organizers too. One would be the American Serenity Providers Society or ASPS for short. (There are always disrespectful people about and they often referred to the Society as AssPiss.) ASPS had a worldwide membership of all religions. It had headquarters in Chicago in a 2,500 foot tall skyscraper at the mouth of the Chicago River called The Aspire. The Aspire was the home of the Evangelical Congregation of The Angel Gabriel, or ECOTAG, which had accumulated large wealth by selling various levels of angelships and publishing The List, a list of ASPS donors and how much each one gave. If you were important, or wanted to be, then you had better show everyone you were giving big money. ECOTAG was referred to as the Gabrellian faith. Its founder and leader was The Prophet Andy, who also lived in The Aspire. The Prophet was also the leader of ASPS.

Sweeney also thought of adding the Organization For World Everlasting Peace, or OWEP for short, as an Organizer to get some of the world leaders. This had been founded by Ronald Hump in 2017 to aid in his battles with Sillary Flinton over just who was who, although those in the know knew that they owned at least some companies together which were involved in matters best conducted outside the country. This was all exposed in *The Dead One Complicates* and *The Dead One Protrudes* which you must read.

There would be a big fee for admission and various Sponsors could reserve public rooms in the Hotel for their own purposes. Big fees would be charged for this (over and above the Hotel charges). Besides the admission fees and Sponsorship fees there would be separate charges for admission to certain rooms where there would be various activities. As with *The List* published by ECOTAG, there would also be separate donations with a list of donors and disclosure of how much each gave. In the main ballroom there would be dinner, presentations, a costume contest and entertainment followed by dancing. The whole event would be on TV and the internet. The press would be there. Everyone who wanted to proclaim to the world their importance would want to be there and would be glad to pay for it. There would also be a hotel full of the most important people to network with and F, P & C would be one of the networkers. To top it all off there would be gambling which Sweeney figured the event could get special permits and licenses for from the various governmental bodies in control of Chicago. Besides the usual gambling, the event would take bets on how much money would be raised by the gambling itself and the other activities.

Sweeney wasn't just dreaming this up for fun. He had clients who could perform there and who would want to be seen there or claim credit for being there. He often worked with Cohenstein and one day in 2017 when he was walking to a meeting outside the firm offices with him Cohenstein said, "See that woman walking her dog over there? With all these apartments being built down here we see more and more dogs around here."

Sweeney said, "Which one is the dog?"

Cohenstein looked at him and said, "Four legs. That's how you can tell."

Sweeney then started telling the idea to Cohenstein and that started the ball rolling. Cohenstein could tell what could be *The Greatest Show on Earth* and he brought the subject up at a firm Management Committee meeting and they voted to proceed with the event. The Managing Partner, one of the Committee members, would proceed to take the matter to the firm's Events Committee. The Managing Partner was Bumper Lohman who was about as far removed from being a circus ringleader as a worm. And he was less noticeable – than the worm, not the ringleader. He was a doer, not the great leader. He ran both the factory and the office, but not the Executive Suite. He was a nobody and he would stay that way. The great leader could still take the credit. Many people in the firm did not even know what he did other than represent some odd, non-publicity hogging, clients. The people running the firm did know, however, that when something needed to be done and done right, they needed him.

The firm's Events Committee decided to create a separate committee for the event. To start with it would include Graybourne St. Charles, the firm Chairman. Dear Graybourne. He couldn't do anything, but he was the head of the firm. His nicknames were Graybee, Charlie or the Saint. However, some of his partners called him Grabby. Cohenstein would also be involved as well as Sweeney and Lohman. They could call on other firm personnel as needed. One of their first jobs would be to get personnel from ASPS and OWEP involved. Sweeney had already run it by those organizations and they had already indicated they wanted to do it. The committee would also include Arthur Swifton, head of the Swifton family and The Swifton Bank, and Biffster McCain. McCain was CEO of a large conglomerate too. Swifton's nicknames were Arty and Swiftly. McCain's were Biff and The Biffster. Together St. Charles, Swifton and McCain were best buds and were referred to as The Three Stooges. Birds of a feather flock together and these three had bird brains. However, they had widespread contacts with the incredibly rich which made them wizards.

Finally, another important figure was added to the committee to deal with the prominent political figures which had to be attracted. This was Bungus LaRue, the firm's head Governmental Affairs partner. Governmental Affairs means he was a lobbyist and a fixer. He was a former congressman and knew which wires to pull to get the right toots out of the locomotive's whistle.

Meanwhile Lohman, knowing that some basic skills would be needed, got together his own group to work out some of the details like how much all this would cost and what needed to be done by whom and when. He got together with the firm's Business Manager, the firm IT and Tech Support Manager, and Joe DiBello, one of the junior partners he knew to be most able, and got them working on budget, publicity and venue details. To get the publicity worked out he included Sweeney and to help with the financial aspects he included another young partner he respected who was also a CPA, Sean Featherbottom. He also told Sweeney to get together with Cohenstein to contact the firm's public relations firm if they thought that was necessary in this case, as if they wouldn't do that anyway. Cohenstein generally handled all the firm's public relations matters.

Thus we see that, while the big wigs composed the committee for the event, Lohman and Sweeney and the others would actually do the work, a thing which makes wigs fall off.

After asking those at F, P & C who were involved if it might be advisable at the early stage to contact his friends at some of the newspapers, Lohman did so. Lohman asked them what advice they had on publicity and the media. He knew he could get them to keep the matter confidential until the firm wanted to go public with it and, in return, they would get the details for the public news first. They gave their opinions and some hints about what they wanted to hear and Lohman passed these ideas on to Cohenstein.

Lohman's group had an initial meeting at which Sweeney outlined some of the details he had thought up. The event would be in mid-September, 2019. Before the party there would be campaign speeches from the candidates running for President in the 2020 elections. This would

involve the President, Hillary Clinton, who was running for re-election, Ronald Hump, her former opponent in 2016 who was running against her again, and the new third-party candidate, Moe Niden. As for this group of candidates, there was not much praise. Sweeney even said, "I hear the town where Hump was born charged his mother with littering." Then he had the nerve to say, "Why didn't some party nominate Daffy Duck to run? If they did, he would be the hands down winner." On this there was agreement.

Lohman then said, "We have to watch it when it comes to politics. Everyone has their own favorite candidate and anything we say to the contrary is dangerous. So, we shouldn't be critical of politicians in public. Also, remember that if we go far enough up in our ancestry and come back down, we will see that we are related to all of them."

The event would be held at The Swifton Palace Hotel, the largest in the country. This was on Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago. It was in a line of buildings along Michigan Avenue facing east to Grant Park. On the other side of the Park was Lake Michigan. The firm would use its clout -er- influence- to get part of the Park set aside and the part of Michigan Avenue between the Hotel and the Park closed off. Tents would be on hand in case of rain. This area would be used in late afternoon for speeches by the Presidential candidates before the evening events began inside the Hotel. The area in the Park and the closed off part of Michigan Avenue would stay available for use throughout the rest of the event for those who wanted to be outside. There would be ample food and drinks provided there.

Inside the Hotel the formal dinners in the ballrooms would be served at 7 pm and the official starting time of the other parts of the event would be at 8 pm. All of the Hotel would be in use. Many people would be there from out of town and out of the country and all the rooms would be used for them and some others who wanted private dressing rooms. The Swiftons also owned other hotels in town and arrangements would be made with them to handle any overflow. A shuttle service would be arranged for and would be in constant travel between the hotels. The Swifton Hotel had a grand ballroom. That would be used for the formal dinner, the presentations, the costume contest, the show and the dancing. All these events would be on video throughout the other parts of the Hotel and in the fenced off area in the Park. One of those other area was the smaller ballroom, which was still huge by most hotel standards. There were also numerous other public rooms the Hotel had for various events and those would be allocated to those organizations and individuals who paid the most for them. These people and organizations would be called Sponsors. F, P & C, ASPS and OWEP would each have one of the rooms. They were Sponsors, but they would get the rooms for free because they were Organizers. The rest were for sale, except one of the biggest ones. In that area there would be gambling, for which, once again, the firm's influence would be used to obtain permission. Sweeney had some Las Vegas contacts and LaRue had contacts with gambling interests too and they would work with them to set up the games. The Hotel also had a massive roof garden which was to be used as a bar and later, when the ballrooms had dancing, as a place for a "smoker" which was an old New York Catskill show circuit name for the appearance of comedians who told dirty jokes, such as: What

is the difference between a pick pocket and a peeping Tom? One snatches watches and the other watches snatches.

Sweeney had also proposed setting up what he called a cathouse, but he was talked out of it on the advice of Cohenstein who counselled him, "Just let the cats run free."

After the campaign speeches which would be held in the Park, the party would start with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, mingling, networking and visits to Sponsor and Organizer rooms. After that there would be a huge dinner in the two big ball rooms and after that, in the main ballroom, presentations and then a costume contest. After that there would be a show and then a dance in the main ballroom. There would be video of all this in the secondary ballroom and all the other public areas. Throughout, there would be activity in all the public rooms and especially in the gambling area. There would be bars with snacks all over. The candidates in the Park were scheduled for 5 pm. After that there would be time for mingling and then the dinner in the ballrooms would start at 7 pm. At 8 pm the presentations and other matters would begin and thereafter the event would remain open until 2 am.

There would be plenty of police and Secret Service personnel in attendance and also possibly personnel from the security services of other countries so facilities would be set up for them. There would also need to be special facilities for media. A lot of these facilities would be in the Park.

The object, besides firm publicity, was money. Entry fees, charges here, charges there, contributions. So, who was going to collect the money and how needed to be decided. Participants in the event would have to buy tickets. First there would be the admission ticket. After that there would be three kinds of tickets. One for the big ballroom, one for the smaller ballroom and one for those not dining in the ballrooms. The prices? Lots. Sweeney was talking about \$100,000 for the large ballroom. The mezzanine around the main ballroom could also be sold for a huge price. On top of this there would be the donation list. The largest donor would be first on the list and the rest of the donors listed in the order of the size of their donation. There would be suggested donations and there would be categories with the top category starting at a minimum of one million dollars. For those who the firm, ASPS and OWEP wished to attract who did not have this kind of money there would of course be some freebies. The Presidential candidates and certain other favored parties would not have to pay and would receive some of the loans from The Bank previously described. (By the way, when lawyers object with outrage to your use of the "F" word, they mean freebie or free.) Also, in the case of some people who the Sponsors really wanted there, but who would not particularly want to be there, the event would just pay them outright. Special spaces in the Park would be sectioned off where large campaign donors could go through a receiving line to greet and praise the Presidential candidates.

Sweeney went through all of this and then added that he thought he could get a lot of big-name entertainers there for free. It would be big publicity for them too. However, all the setup, stage

and operating hands and supporting personnel would have to be paid. They weren't getting big publicity. And, as Sweeney, put it, there wouldn't be any show without the stage hands.

## 2 ASPS AND OWEP

The first thing to do was to get ASPS and OWEP involved. For this Lohman's group decided to have St. Charles, Cohenstein and Lohman go see The Prophet, head of ASPS. They made an appointment and went over to The Aspire. Its name was short for Aspire to Heaven. The Prophet's living quarters were at the top and referred to as The Palace. Part of this complex was his grand Audience Room. The Audience Room was at the very top. The top of the building was conical and rose to a point. The Audience Room had a high roof going up to the pointed top. Outside, the top was surrounded by a fine spray of water at night which was lit up so it looked like a halo. As St. Charles and Lohman got off the elevator, they entered a foyer with everything in white. Furniture, floor, walls, ceiling, everything. A receptionist at the other end was dressed in white as were the guards who were dressed like angels with small symbolic wings. From this foyer a ramp led up a long white corridor with mirrors into the Audience Room proper. This was a circle with one side level with chairs for the visitors. The other side had semi-circular rings, each capable of holding chairs, rising to the top level. The top level had more space and held The Prophet's throne. It also had The Prophet's private entranceway which led to his private elevator and stairs. The throne had a gold frame studded with diamonds and red upholstery. Everything else was white. The conical walls above the throne rising to the tower's peak were glass and its opacity could be controlled to suit. St. Charles, Cohenstein and Lohman sat in the lower area beneath the throne and The Prophet entered from above and sat on the throne. Lohman was someone who put up with this kind of crap. St. Charles loved it. He was eminent and he met and frolicked only with others of eminence.

Seated on level below The Prophet, but still elevated well above St. Charles and Lohman, were the other governing members of ASPS. They were Cardinal Brandon Samuel, who everyone referred to as Cardinal Sammy, Rabbi Nathan Bierblatt and Imam Akmud Mahmood. Together with The Prophet they were called The Four Saints.

St. Charles and The Prophet and the other Saints were old acquaintances and co-conspirators in attracting the hearts and wallets of mankind and they started off throwing around what is left of the bull after he leaves the pasture. Eventually Lohman explained the details of the coming event to The Prophet who said he had already talked to some young thing named Sweeney about it and he had already got the other board members of ASPS involved. The Prophet ordinarily would be appalled at someone with the mouth of Sweeney, but he understood where the money came from as well as Sweeney did. He told St. Charles and Lohman that ASPS wanted to be involved as a Sponsor and Organizer and that Lohman should contact the business manager of ASPS and work through that person.

Lohman indicated that was fine, but in addition they really wanted someone from ASPS who could make decisions to be on the committee for the event. The Four Saints thought that was a good idea and indicated that The Prophet would be the one. The details of who would show up and when were to be worked out through Lohman's office and the business manager of ASPS.

They also discussed OWEP being a Sponsor and Organizer and The Four Saints were enthusiastic about that idea. Naturally Sweeney had already run it by The Prophet and he said he had already contacted OWEP and they were going to get back to him soon. Lohman said they had already talked about this at the firm and their Governmental Affairs partner, Bungus LaRue, was going to work on getting OWEP involved too. It was a new organization just recently founded by Ronald Hump and it would probably be eager for the publicity. LaRue had worked with Hump and also Flinton and even Niden and he seemed to think they would all like to help getting OWEP involved. Publicity is good. World peace is good.

The Imam was not too up on OWEP. He said, "Who are these people?"

Lohman explained how Hump had recently founded OWEP and that the governing members were President Querty Werty of the Philippines, Supreme Leader Ping Pong Poo of North Korea (called The Republic of Korea by them), Supreme Leader Watwa Falamumbhi of Iran, President Taptoe Gerdogan of Turkey, who was the Chairman of OWEP, King Ibo Fado of Saudi Arabia and President Candy Apple of Zimbabwe. The Imam just looked at him in disbelief.

After a moment of silence, the Rabbi said, "Well, if those dingbats are for peace, maybe there's something to go on there."

The Prophet said, "They have got good publicity so far. I'm surprised you haven't heard of them Akmud."

"Oh well then," said the Imam, "it could be good news. All those countries wanting peace."

After this Cardinal Sammy got up and started walking out. He was headed towards the washroom. The Prophet said, "Where are you going?"

The Cardinal said, "Heaven," and proceeded towards the washroom.

After the Cardinal returned the Four Saints got into discussing some ideas for furtherance of world peace through the event. The best thing they could come up with was coming on stage as a group, accompanied by the ECOTAG choir singing "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Cohenstein said, "That'll be first on the agenda." He promptly forgot it.

The meeting ended soon after that and those who were not saints proceeded down. 2500 feet down. As The Prophet often said to those who displeased him in the audience room, the long trip down would prepare them for what would ultimately be their fate on Judgment Day.



Lohman, Cohenstein and St. Charles left the Aspire and headed back towards the firm offices. On the way they started talking about the event. When they got to the Presidential candidates St. Charles said, "That's an impressive list of candidates."

"Yes," said Cohenstein.

"Well," said Lohman, "a rising tide floats all boats."

Cohenstein said, "Sweeney isn't here so I have to tell you – turds too."

St. Charles said, "Turds? What are turds?"

Cohenstein said, "Those are people from one of those Central Asian countries."

"Oh yes," said St. Charles. "There are a lot of them. Which one?"

"Turdostan," said Cohenstein.

"Ah, yes," said St. Charles. "I've heard of that one. So they're Turds are they?"

"That's them," said Cohenstein.

When they got back to the office St. Charles went to his own suite and Lohman and Cohenstein got ahold of Sweeney who was free at the moment and proceeded to Lohman's office. Lohman told his secretary, Tete, to get LaRue on the phone to discuss the event matters. LaRue was in Washington, D.C. attending to what he called a "governmental matter", but he was able to join the conference with Lohman, Cohenstein and Sweeney by speaker phone. He explained that the "governmental matter" was a push for legislation by the fashion industry making wearing clothes over one year old public indecency. F, P & C had been retained to help get the legislation through. The idea was that in these times of economic hardship a boost to the economy was needed which constant and more frequent changes in clothing would implement. People would have to spend more on clothing. The legislation was being vocally opposed by two members of Congress. One was a woman who was putting forth the view that fashion involves only women and that a bill covering fashion for both men and women therefore is sexist. The other opponent was an old male congressman who wore old suits. He was going on in public about how men's suits have changed over the years. They take the same parts of the suit and change them in different combinations and get people to buy new suits which still contain all the same parts. For instance, the lapels get wider and narrower. The jackets go from one to two to three buttons. The shoulders get more and less padded. The jacket itself gets tighter and looser, and longer and shorter. The pants get tighter and looser too and have pleats or no pleats. The legs get longer or shorter and tighter and looser and have cuffs or no cuffs.

Normal people would wonder how humans could be engaged in activity like this, but not the members of F, P & C who made money on it.

After this Lohman explained what had happened with The Prophet and then said they needed to work on getting OWEP involved. He thought LaRue should be in charge of that effort and that he could call on any of The Four Saints to help out through the ASPS business manager.

LaRue was ahead of them. He said he had already contacted the campaign offices of Flinton, Hump and Niden and they seemed to like the idea of the event and the idea of having ASPS and OWEP involved. They all stood for benign world peace and benevolent entry to Heaven. He was waiting to hear from them and thought the candidates themselves would like to get involved. He had opened the idea to their campaign offices of their helping to get OWEP involved, perhaps through the Chicago consulates of the governing members. He also mentioned that Zimbabwe did not have an office in Chicago, but had one in Washington and that Iran had no diplomatic office in the US, but worked through the Pakistani embassy. The Flinton office had been so enthusiastic that they even suggested getting Vlad, The Putin, President of Russia, involved. He was a big fan of Flinton.

Sweeney broke in with a comment that, "They're all bullshitters."

Lohman reminded him that, "Even a bullshitter drops a turd you can use once in a while."

Then Cohenstein said, "We want to use their names for publicity. We want to say they are going to be there, to make speeches, all that stuff. Hump, for instance has trademarked his name, and tries to use that to his advantage or to silence people talking about him or to control what they say. I don't know about the others. So we should make sure we get permission to use their names in the publicity."

LaRue responded, "Yeah, I know. I'll work that out with them."

Lohman told LaRue to contact his secretary for the contact details with OWEP's and ASPS's business managers and that was that. All was going well so Lohman, Cohenstein and Sweeney decided to go to lunch at the College Club where Lohman was a member. The College club was on Michigan Avenue a little north of The Swifton Palace Hotel. Once they got there and were seated, they got into the miscellaneous conversations that go on at such lunches.

They got to talking about the event and Sweeney said, "Those Four Saints are something. ASPS is raking in the money. So is The Prophet. I don't think everyone knows how profitable religion can be."

Cohenstein said, "It's the gentiles. The Prophet and the Cardinal. It's stacked in favor of the gentiles. The Rabbi and the Imam won't come together to resist. They can't agree on anything."

Sweeney said, "So you think it all involves sex?"

Cohenstein said, "What?"

Sweeney said, "Genitals. You say it's the genitals."

"Gentiles," said Cohenstein. "Goys."

“Well, they’re that too,” said Sweeney.

Then they went on to talk about clients. They started talking about some of the odd things they encountered. Sweeney started talking about a meeting with St. Charles and a client he had been in. He described the client as one of a type St. Charles often had in his office. She was an inherited wealth, socially prominent woman who was the wife of the Vietnamese Consul General in Chicago and a U.S. citizen and native Chicagoan to boot. She wanted to open a business in Saigon. She thought she could get into the money laundering trade whereby China was shipping its exports to the U.S. through supposedly independent companies in Saigon and through other countries in Asia. That way China could avoid the high tariffs and, in some cases, bans which the U.S. had recently placed on China’s exports to the U.S. As she said to St. Charles, “I want dong. Big dong.”

Sweeney told how St. Charles knew what a dong was, although he wouldn’t admit that he knew such horrid words. He just went into pause mode and stared at her. There were others in the meeting besides Sweeney. There was total silence from them too. Finally, Sweeney explained that dong was the name of the Vietnamese currency. There was a collective sigh of relief.

Even from St. Charles’s cat. St. Charles kept a cat in his office. It sat on a pedestal behind him most of the time, at least when St. Charles was not playing with it or stroking it. The cat’s name was Pussy. Sweeney described the reaction of the cat and then said, “You know, it’s embarrassing. It’s hard to explain to people that the male Chairman of our firm has a Pussy.”

Cohenstein said, “We gotta get a cork for your mouth.”

Lohman just kept silent. He was used to Sweeney’s comments, but he didn’t want to show approval, although he agreed. A large firm had many different sorts in it and they all had to get along. Also, you didn’t want to create trouble with the Emperor.

Eventually they finished lunch and walked back to the firm. On the way Lohman tripped over a pot hole in a cross walk in the street. He didn’t fall over, but the hole did catch his foot and his gait was interrupted. He said, “Potholes everywhere! We can offer billions to large companies to relocate here, but we can’t fix the streets.”

Sweeney said, “Yeah. You know, when I first heard about potholes, I thought they were talking about weed. Like, Dude, potholes are for weed.”

Cohenstein said, “Oh sure! Like crack holes are for cocaine, right?”

“No Dude,” said Sweeney. “Crack holes are for sex.”

Cohenstein wasn’t going to let Sweeney top him so he said, “I mean drugs. But you probably don’t understand crack because nowadays it’s all crystal meth. You remember the old TV show The Cisco Kid?”

Sweeney knew when not to kill a joke. “What about it, Dude?”

Cohenstein said, "Now they're coming out with a new show called The Crystal Kid. Same old western stuff, only faster."

Lohman put his hands on his ears and said, "Oh Christ!"

Cohenstein said, "Goy talk!"

Now Dear Reader, you might think conversations like this do not go on among the top lawyers of the land. However, they do and they are much more worthwhile than what those lawyers usually talk about.

When they got back to the firm they broke up and went back to their separate offices. When Lohman got to his he got good news. His secretary, Tete, told him that the Turkish Consul General, Syes Selpi, had called and said he would be the contact person for OWEPE and also that the great leader of Turkey, wanted to be in attendance at the event. Lohman called Selpi back right away to start working out some of the details and to find out just what the Consul General and the great leader, Taptoe Gerdogan, wanted.

### 3 PROBLEMS

Lohman had got back to working on his own client matters for a while, but then he had to attend a conference with another partner in the firm, Will Emery, and one of Emery's clients. Also in the conference would be lawyers specializing in corporate, securities and IP law. IP law involved patents, trademarks and copyrights as well as all the modern technology stuff. Of course, there would also be several more junior partners and a few associates. Important matters require a lot of brain work and a lot of billable hours. The client was Deng Farnum who had built up a large company offering software and internet services to its customers. Farnum himself was regarded as somewhat of a genius and innovator in the field. Emery had told Lohman and the others that he needed some help in their areas and also that he had some ethical questions about the matter his client wanted advice on. Lohman remembered the last time he had heard about this client of Emery's. The client, Farnum, had invented a device that would blow up loud motorcycles as they started. Because of that, this time Lohman was somewhat intrigued about what the client had come up with and what the problems could be.

The meeting was to be held in one of the firm conference rooms. The firm had four floors of these rooms on floors forty to forty-three of the One Swifton Plaza building where The Bank was headquartered. Lohman had arrived at the conference room before Emery and Farnum and as they arrived, they were talking about some people they had meet in the hallway who were leaving the floor. Apparently Farnum knew them and he was telling Emery, "They're something else. They're all big friends. I see them at all the parties. Sometimes they get bitchy though. They seem to be doing that more and more. What are they here for?"

Emery told him that he didn't know. Farnum turned to Lohman who he knew from prior contacts was the Managing Partner. Do you know what they are doing here?"

"Who?", asked Lohman.

"Candella and her friends," said Farnum. "You probably know them or have heard of them. Rich broads. Twiletta Fushay, Candella Pukes and Mary Lickerman."

As Managing Partner Lohman had heard of these ladies because they were producing large fees for the firm. Mrs. Pukes was independently wealthy and had numerous businesses as did Mrs. Fushay. The Fushay businesses were held in a trust which was managed by Mrs. Lickerman as trustee. Mrs. Pukes and Mrs. Fushay were clients of the firm. Mrs. Lickerman was not, but the Fushay trust was. Mrs. Lickerman was also independently wealthy and the other two ladies were her friends and looked up to her for business advice, particularly Mrs. Fushay who inherited her businesses from her deceased husband and had no business skills of her own. Mrs. Pukes was a widow too, but she had developed some of her businesses herself as well as inheriting some from her deceased husband and was capable of overseeing the businesses herself.

"Oh yes, I know them," said Lohman. "I don't know why they are here though."

They all got settled in one of the firm conference rooms and Emery asked Farnum to explain his idea. Farnum told everyone that a potential customer had contacted his firm about getting securities trading algorithms, trading strategies and inside information on securities trading strategies and corporate information so they could front run trades and trade on inside information. He explained that front running applies to orders for trades made by other investors. If you can find out if the bulk of the trades they want to make are buy or sell trades and you can buy or sell the securities involved before the other orders are executed, you can make money. If everyone wants to buy X its price will go up. If you can buy it first the price will go up after you buy and you make money. Trading on inside information is based on getting information about a company that would affect its stock price before that information is made public. For instance, if you could find out that the company's profits had gone way up before the company gave that information to the public, and you could buy its stock before the information is released to the public, you could make money. After you buy, the information is released and then the public starts buying and the price goes up.

Farnum then said, "Algorithms are software programs that send out buy or sell orders based on information they collect. Humans are not involved. If you know how they are structured and can send them information that will make them put out a buy or sell order you may be able to make money on them. You just have to know how they will react to the information you feed them and buy or sell first."

Farnum explained that he could get some of this information, and already had, by hacking into back up services and cloud storage devices, which were mostly huge computer complexes in the arctic areas, which placement helped deal with the huge heat they produced. He got the

information on pending trades by hacking into brokerage computers his firm had worked on. He explained that how he did this was confidential, but that it involved methods that were not secret and were publicly available. He wanted to know if there were any legal obstacles to this. He said that the methods he used were open and available to anyone and they could easily get the information. Therefore he said that what he was doing was just like reading an article that these companies had published on the internet or in a newspaper.

Farnum also had an alternate plan, in case companies were not going to release information that would affect their stock price. Some companies keep such news private until their own insiders did their inside trades. In effect Farnum's customer could get the inside information and then would buy or sell the stock of such a company, depending on whether the information would cause other people to buy or sell. Then his customer would release the information he had uncovered through use of Farnum's technology. Farnum explained that the news media these days just reports what the people they are reporting on tell them in news conferences or press releases. He said, "If you control the news you can control the market", at least in the securities his customer would trade on. His customer could do these news releases as a public relations firm or some sort of news organization and after his customer had bought or sold the stock of the company about to be reported on. The customer could buy stock in a company and then release a report favorable to the company that would cause others to buy stock in the company that would send the price up. That would amount to front running the trades that would result in the securities of companies reported on changing price.

Farnum further explained that this sort of thing was already being done by the firms themselves. He also pointed out that Flinton was rumored to be doing this with her constant Presidential news releases on the status of her trade deal with China being on and off. He said his customer told him that he heard that she and her friends were trading on this by front running it.

Lohman sat and listened to all this. Most people would say the client, Farnum, was talking about stealing something and trading in securities on inside information. There were laws against both. So, was this Farnum a crook? And, Lohman thought, "There he is just explaining all this to us as if we were crooks too?" But then, thought Lohman, the guy was involved in software and computers and storage devices. That is what he thought about. He didn't come up with the idea of getting the information and using it in the way described on his own. He was asked to look into the technique and he did. He wasn't someone who thought about the law or whether something simple to him was against the law. But he did have the brains to ask the lawyers about it. Anyhow, someone who thinks of blowing up loud motorcycles can't be a bad guy.

All the other lawyers in the room were either silent or asking questions about how getting the information was done. Finally, Lohman started talking. He explained that Farnum was in essence saying this was public information and what the firm needed to do was to determine if that was so. There would also need to be some further work done on getting more information on how it was done. He suggested that the firm get to work on that and that Emery should get in touch with him as the work progressed.

Now Emery could have said that and any of the other higher-ranking partners in the meeting could have said it too, but there is a sin in law practice. The sin is cutting the meeting – and the bill – short. Lohman, however, was more interested in getting things done than in seeing how costly the firm could make them.

The meeting ended and Farnum left along with most of the lawyers. Lohman stayed in the conference room with Emery to discuss who Emery wanted working on the matter. All assignments of associates and lower ranking partners had to be run through Lohman's office as an administrative matter. Lohman got the names from Emery and then went back to his office for more work on his own clients.

Several days later Lohman came into his office after being out to a client's offices for a meeting and his secretary, Tina Goblat, nicknamed Tete, told him The Whiner (pronounced Winer) wanted to talk to him. The Whiner was Moira Weiner, one of the partners. She loved to be offended. She was also one of the directors of The Open Gender And Sexuality Bar Association. Actually, The Whiner had once had a sex change operation and didn't like it so she had a reverse sex change. Anyway, due to her efforts, the firm had created a Bathroom Committee which she headed. The idea was to have open gender bathrooms that anyone could use and also to make it clear for other bathrooms that anyone could go into any bathroom where they identified with the sexual identity, if there was one. Tete explained that The Whiner was upset about a deadlock in the Committee. In fact, there were two deadlocks. First there was a deadlock over whether in the open gender as well as gender specific bathrooms the rule should be seat up or seat down. Either way, half the committee thought one seat placement was sexist and the other half thought the other placement was sexist. Also, there was a conflict over whether the committee's decision would apply to other firm offices and especially whether it would apply to the foreign offices.

Lohman got The Whiner on the phone and she went ballistic. "Bumper, you have to tell these people to follow the rules of common sense. Men use the seat up half the time and down half the time. Therefore any vote for a seat being up is only half a vote." She added, "And you're one of those men. You're biased."

Lohman tried to calm her down by saying, "That's excellent legal reasoning," to which The Whiner responded, "Don't you mock me!"

Then Lohman said, "That's like you kicking me in the nether regions after which I say, 'God damn it! Cut that out!' And then you say, 'How dare you take the Lord's name in vain!'"

She responded with, "Don't you try to shame me!"

Lohman said, "I don't think I could."

The Whiner said, "That's right, you can't." Then she brought up another outrageous matter. "We have other things to correct anyway. I went to a committee meeting of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District the other day. As you know, it used to be called the Sanitary District. One of

my clients is a big supplier. It was horrid! The chair was using the F word, throwing it around left and right. F here. F there.”

“Really?” Lohman said.

“Yes,” said The Whiner. “Effluent here, effluent there, effluent everywhere. All I could do is pretend I didn’t know what he was talking about.”

“Shit?” asked Lohman. That stopped her in her tracks. When Lohman realized what he had done to the poor innocent woman he corrected himself. He asked, “Effluent? Sewage?”

“Yes,” she said. “It’s just a cleaned-up euphemism for a very dirty word. We should take a public stand against that kind of government behavior.”

Then Lohman tried to tell her that he couldn’t decide these matters and he tried to convince her that the Committee had to work them out. This got nowhere so he eventually told her he would take these questions to the Management Committee, although what he really thought was that he would like to have Sweeney deal with her. All she had to say was, “There is an abusive and sexist atmosphere in this firm. We need a committee to work on that and we need to create a safe space here where victims can recover and be free from abuse.”

Lohman said, “I’ll bring that up with the Management committee too.”

The Whiner hung up and after she did Lohman went out to talk to his secretary Tete, about some things she was handling. Tete said, “What was she complaining about this time?”

Lohman told Tete about the bathrooms, sexism, safe spaces and the effluent. Then he said, “I don’t know what to do with her.”

Tete said, “Don’t worry. She always likes to have something or someone to complain about.”

Lohman said, “More like to and about”

Tete said, “If you don’t have anything to complain about life is terrible – which is a good thing to complain about. You did just the right thing. You made her day. I’ll write up a report for you to get out to the Management Committee and they’ll tell you to forget about it and then I’ll write up a reply for her. It will have a space for your signature under the title of ‘Racist Beast’.”

“Boy are you someone to complain about,” said Lohman. “I’m sexist. Get it right.”