# NEW YORK INJURY TIMES

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INSIDE THIS MONTH'S EDITION

Gerry's Story continued...The Man Who Cures Cancer

### VOLUNTEERING- WHAT IT MEANS TO HELP SOMEONE

**Our Trivia Game!** 

Gerry Oginski

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## A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER What it means to help someone:

Two weeks ago on a Saturday night at 11:00 p.m., my son came to me breathlessly asking if I could take him to an ongoing house fire only two miles from our home. "This is not normal," I thought. But my son was insistent. "Please, it's really important..." I quickly relented and drove him 2 miles to where a working fire was ravaging a once-beautiful home.

You see, my son is the Captain of the "Juniors" - a group of kids who train as volunteer firemen. Since they are, by law, not permitted to participate in putting out fires yet, they train and go through the same drills that the 'regular' volunteer firefighters go through.

If you live on Long Island, either in Nassau or Suffolk County, you know that your fire departments are all volunteer. There are no paid fire fighters like those in the five boroughs of New York City.

When a working fire is called over the radio, everyone in the fire department community knows about it immediately. Even though my son and his friends cannot participate in putting out the fire, they are often on hand to help out the firefighters change their gear, learn from the senior firemen, and watch what should and shouldn't be done. My son, being handy with a camera takes lots of photos and posts them on the fire department web site for all to view.

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# GERRY'S FICTIONAL BOOK

continued ...

**"KING BABALONI ON RYE DE-CLARES PEACE WITH ISRAEL"** reported the New York Times.

**"DEATH THREATS MADE AGAINST KING BABALONI ON RYE"** declared the Washington Post.

"DICTATOR ACCUSED OF GIV-ING IN TO ENEMY IN EX-CHANGE FOR NOTHING" screamed Newsday.

"PARIS HILTON DOES MORE JAIL TIME- Cavity Search This Time" says The Daily News. Why do I write about my son's interests as a volunteer firefighter? Although I have lived in my community for over 30 years (I grew up here), I never really understood what it meant to be a volunteer firefighter.

Since I couldn't go home and pick up my son later, I had no choice but to hang out and watch the efforts of the volunteer firemen. Here are some of my observations:



There were about 10 fire trucks present, 2 ambulances and a few police cars. All with their lights flashing and blinding brightly in the dark night. There were hoses attached to fire hydrants, leaking water at their connections. A view of the house only 25 yards from the street revealed red flames shooting out of the roof and windows, lighting up the night sky. From my perch on the street, I saw a little boy and his mother bring a case of Poland Springs water bottles to a fire department officer- to give to the firemen who were coming out of the burning house.

I saw groups of firemen huddled together, similar to football teams huddled on the field discussing their



next play. In all, there were many firemen coming and going, wearing fire gear that is not only heavy to wear, but also gives you an eerie feeling knowing they're about to enter a burning building.

What I found most fascinating is that these volunteers willingly gave their time and energy on a beautiful Saturday night, in the middle of the night, to help out their neighbors in distress. I heard no complaints from any firefighter about being there, or taking time away from their ordinary pursuits or weekend pleasures.

It really made me feel incredibly lucky to live in a place where these folks, neighbors of mine, were so willing to help and perform a vital



community service. They don't get paid. They only get the incredible satisfaction knowing that they saved a life or a house from utter destruction. Believe me, this is not to minimize our heroes of the FDNY, but only to point out that our volunteer firefighters are incredibly devoted to



helping others at great personal risk to themselves. That evening I looked at my son, who will be entering 11th grade this Fall, and realized he has the desire to help others in need. Even though I was very tired by the time we left the scene, I was even more proud of my son than an hour and a half earlier when he breathlessly came to me and asked me to take him to an ongoing house fire.



### TRY OUR TRIVIA GAME!

Test your knowledge of medical malpractice and personal injury law. Answers appear at the end of this newsletter.

1. Lawyers are responsible for driving up malpractice premiums for doctors.

TRUE or FALSE?

2. A poor person who has no money cannot sue a big corporation for making a defective product that caused harm.

#### TRUE or FALSE?

3. A contingency fee allows people without money to hire well-qualified attorneys to represent them in an injury case.

#### TRUE or FALSE?

4. There are people in New York who enjoy jury duty.

#### TRUE or FALSE?

5. When called for jury duty, many people try to get out of their obligation.

#### TRUE or FALSE?

6. In a medical malpractice case or a simple negligence case, cameras are permitted in the Courtroom.

#### TRUE or FALSE?

7. Lawyers in New York are not permitted to advertise on highway billboards.

#### TRUE or FALSE?

8. A lawyer can have a picture of a pit bull or a shark in his advertisement to imply that he has the same qualities as those animals.

#### TRUE or FALSE?

9. If a lawyer rejects your case, he is obligated to tell you about the time limits you have to start a lawsuit, and also must recommend that you get another legal opinion.

TRUE or FALSE?

10. Pecuniary loss is the monetary loss to the injured victim or his family.

#### TRUE or FALSE?

#### BONUS QUESTION:

People who have Medicaid who are awarded money in an injury lawsuit do not have to repay Medicaid for the benefits they have received over their lifetime.

#### TRUE or FALSE?

# GERRY'S FICTIONAL STORY

#### ...continued from p. 1

Achmed's predictions turned out to be accurate. In exchange for getting rid of his cancer, the King agreed to peace with his enemy- Israel. Look where it's gotten him now, he thought. The death threats are real. The king, he's-a-hiding. His closest advisors are in an uproar. The general population is in an uproar. "I just hope he's not overthrown, or worse, killed during a rebellion," mused Achmed.

But what if peace is everlasting, he thought? That would be something. Something that nobody in recent history has ever been able to achieve.

Turning back to the man who can cure cancer, we see that his chief of security is contacted by the head of the CIA, Jim Babwee. "We have another mission for Jimmy," said Jim Babwee. This one involves curing lung cancer in a dictator who has destroyed his Country for his own gain. "How much?" asked Jimmy's security chief. "How much what?" replied the CIA bagman. "How much does he have in assets?" responded the security man. After thinking through the question for 10 seconds, the CIA chief said "I believe he has assets of over 2 Billion Dollars."

"Wow," whispered Jimmy's security chief. "OK, set it up" he said.

The thank you letters poured in. Requests for money were ever-present, as were requests for speeches and graduations. One parent even called to see if Jimmy would speak at his son's bar mitzvah- for a fee of course.

Jimmy was in awe of his own abilities. Never had he dreamed he would make such a difference in people's lives. All because of a touch of his hand.

When word got out that Jimmy had cured Babaloni on Rye's cancer, calls came in from foreign countries and from intelligence chiefs of various countries. They wanted in on the action. "Please tell Mr. Jimmy, that if he cures Sheik Abdul Bin Abdul Bin Mama Jama he will be handsomely rewarded with riches beyond his imagination," said the intelligence chief of Quatar. The French Ambassador to the United States, Jacque Coustou de Au Bon Pain, wanted Jimmy to cure his mother-inlaw's ovarian cancer. The ruling dictator in Kazakstan, Juan Carlos Keeweebala, wanted his wife cured of lung cancer. The calls never stopped.

Jimmy continued seeing these desperate patients day after day, month after month, year after year. His wife Allison decided one morning that the family needed a real vacation. Time alone with each other. "Sure," Jimmy said. "How do you plan on doing that when the whole world is knocking at my door seeking my help?"

"I've got a great idea," Allison said. Let's go water skiing, scuba diving, hang gliding, and my favorite, parachute jumping!" Jimmy said "How about some biking and hiking? Vermont sounds good. After a day of running around, I could visit one or two local hospitals," Jimmy said. "Fine said Allison. Anything just to get away."

The arrangements to get Jimmy, his entire family, their luggage and sports gear to their vacation destination was no easy feat. Jimmy required more security than the President of the United States.

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In order to accommodate everyone and everything, the security chief first thought driving everyone would be best. Not. In fact, Jimmy was the first to veto that idea. He wasn't going to sit for six or seven hours in a car, when that time could be better used.

The only other logical choice was to charter a jet plane to get everyone to their destination. But they couldn't just open up the yellow pages and look under charter flights for this family.

Instead, calls were made to the President's security detail. Jimmy's security chief wanted to know a list of charter airlines that the secret service used. He was immediately given this information, as Jimmy was now a close friend of W. The plane they sought to hire could take 24 people and their luggage and sports gear. It was a Gulf Learjet designed specifically for executives seeking the highest luxury accommodations and the ultimate in discretion.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA GAME 1. False, 2. False, 3. True, 4. True, 5. True, 6. False, 7. False, 8. False, 9. True, 10. True. Bonus: False

#### SEND TO:

The company guaranteed that the occupants of their planes and their itineraries would never be made public, and would never be found on the front page of any tabloid newspaper. In fact, if word got out who they took on their planes and where they went, they'd be out of business very quickly. That's why this company had so many repeat customers. Whether it was the CEO of a large oil company who decided to take his girlfriend to France, or a huge basketball star who partied with his friends on their way to Las Vegas, or even Senators who wanted a quiet indiscretion- they all used this charter airline. It was called 'Secret Airlines'.

Unbeknownst to those who flew on this charter plane was that this airline was the brainchild of the CIA. With a huge surplus of 'black' money, the CIA decided they needed multiple front-man companies that were really legitimate businesses. That's how the CIA came to start-up and run 'Secret Airlines'. How else do you think that King Babloni on Rye got into the country undetected? It was through the CIA and their front company, 'Secret Airline'.

To be continued next month...

