



## POWER FAILURE

Politics, Patronage, and the Economic Future of Buffalo, New York

DIANA DILLAWAY

266 pp (Illustrations)

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"Power Failure offers a series of case studies in Buffalo's failures of leadership and missed opportunities over the past half century....Although politicians make easy marks, Dillaway's studies place the lion's share of the blame for these failures with the power elite—the city's oldest and wealthiest families, the heads of banks and influential law firms and insurance companies, those who sit on boards of directors for various companies—whose money and control of the city's institutions have always lent their decisions

(or lack of decisions) special weight....Reading Power Failure is a head-shaking experience—a painful reminder for the civic-minded of what might have been."

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"Diana Dillaway has meticulously set out the causes—economic and social—of the decline of Buffalo, NY, once the fastest growing and most promising city in the nation...This compact volume is must reading for any North American student of urban history. It ought to be in every school and college library in Upstate New York."

**Douglas L. Turner**

*The Buffalo News* Washington, DC bureau chief

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# BEST OF BUFFALO SHOPPING & SERVICES

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :



We begin with a hat tip to some of our **Best Ballot Stuffers**, who congregate perennially in this section of the Best of Buffalo polling.

Of course, there's a distinction to be made between ballot-stuffing and mounting a campaign. Plenty of our finalists in this section handed out ballots to customers and urged them to vote. That's fair enough. It is likewise fair to send out emails to all your friends and customers with a link to the Artvoice Web site. We like that people want to win our Best of Buffalo awards; it's flattering. But sometimes the lust for recognition leads to perfidy. The telltales are the same every year: dozens of xeroxed ballots, for example, filled out with the same pen, in the same handwriting, mailed on the same day. Often the ballot stuffers will fill out just enough categories—roughly 25 percent of the ballot must be complete, or we throw it out—to make the ballot count. In this electronic age we can often uncover online ballot stuffers, as well; it's trickier, but our tech guys are aces.

To give an idea of how much ballot-stuffing we're talking about: More than 1,000 ballots were disqualified. The majority of these invalid ballots were chucked because they were obvious frauds.

**Rotten Jack's Creep Shack** was among the more ambitious of our ballot stuffers this year, having tried to creep into the winner's circle in the **Best Gift Shop**, **Best Men's Clothing**, **Best Women's Clothing** and **Best Web Site** categories. Perhaps they stretched themselves too thin; they didn't send in enough votes to win in any one of those categories. And once we pulled the fraudulent ballots, they didn't even place.

**RedHouse Tattoo** also mounted a furious ballot-stuffing campaign. Curiously enough, they need not have bothered: We pulled stacks of clearly bogus ballots for RedHouse out of the mix—a hundred at least—and they still finished as a finalist for Best Tattoo.

Have a little faith in yourselves next year,

RedHouse. Let the people speak. They like you...they really, really like you.

As for the rest of this section, our readers' responses begged the same question as every one of Artvoice's special issues: Who needs to go to the mall? We are a region rich with small, energetic and creative businesses. We make special mention of two that are likely to be displaced by the proposed Elmwood Village Hotel at the corner of Elmwood and Forest. **Don Apparel** placed in the voting for **Best Antique Store** and **Best Thrift Shop**. **Mondo Video**, owned and operated by Artvoice film editor M. Faust, placed in the voting for **Best Video Store**. Whatever one's position on the hotel, the city can ill afford to lose businesses like these, which thrive on high pedestrian traffic, proximity to college students and, frankly, cheap rent. Let's hope both shops find new homes that offer all those conditions.

### Best Antiques Store

Stock Exchange  
Horsefeathers Architectural  
Gothic City Collector's Cove  
Don Apparel  
Coo Coo U  
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### Best Bookstore

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 Chez Ann  
 Capello Salon & Day Spa  
 Amy-n-Aimee

**Best Head Shop**  
 Terrapin Station  
 Skunk Tail Glass  
 Pavilion International  
 Desert Reflections  
 Decades

**Best Liquor Store**  
 Spirits of Allentown  
 Premier Group: Prime Wines  
 Hodge Wine & Liquor  
 Gates Circle Liquor & Wines  
 Frontier Liquor

**Best Day Spa**  
 Village Spa  
 Falling Waters  
 Excuria Salon & Day Spa  
 Elite Salon & Day Spa  
 Capello Salon & Day Spa  
 Attilio's Salon & Spa

**Best Florist**  
 Wildflowers & Co.  
 Mother Nature Plant Emporium  
 Michael's Florist & Gifts  
 Maureen's Buffalo Wholesale Flower Market  
 Graser's Florist  
 Floristry  
 Brighton-Eggert Florist

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 Studio 806  
 Signature Salon  
 Salon Bandelian  
 Papillon Salon  
 Modern Salon  
 Excuria Salon & Day Spa  
 Elite Salon & Day Spa  
 Chez Ann Salon  
 Capello Salon & Day Spa

**Best Men's Shop**  
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 Ultimate Men's Shop  
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 Napoli's  
 Aldo's Uomo



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**Best Tattoo**

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Strange Brew  
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