

ARTVOICE

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People & Politics

Well, well—people and politics. If it weren't for the Sabres, what else would there be to talk about? There is hardly a politician in Western New York who did not receive at least one vote for **Best Politician**, which proves that every public servant has a mother collecting press clips somewhere. On the other hand—or maybe this is the same hand—there is hardly a politician in Western New York who did not receive a vote for **Worst Politician**, which proves that after every election there is a sore loser. The city's new mayor, after just 100 days in office as of the closing of the *Artvoice* polls, had managed to land on both lists—which proves that everyone is watching **Byron Brown** closely. It's worth noting that, excepting perennial finalist **Sam Hoyt**, the finalists for Best Politician are all new to their offices. Optimism?

Kevin Gaughan lived up to both his reputations—good citizen and gadfly—by finishing as a finalist on three lists: **Best Community Activist**, **Best Unelected Public Servant** and **Most Eccentric Citizen**. If only he'd placed in **Best Buffalo Sabre** and **Best College Sports Team**, Gaughan would be the Mark Spitz of the People & Politics category.

Best Buffalo Sabre, of course, is a work in progress—the post-season continues and there is plenty of opportunity for new heroes to emerge. But we think our finalists, all except Martin Biron who did not play, had a good series against Philadelphia, and the winner...well, let's just say he made *Artvoice's* national team.

It's a little early in the spring to ask our readers to name a Best Buffalo Bison, it's true, but the *Artvoice* staff was chagrined that Buster—valuable as he is—was a finalist in this category. We suspect it means that too few people take advantage of the cheap seats at Dunn Tire Park. Really, Buffalo—take an afternoon off this summer, buy a bleacher seat, a hot dog and a beer and get to know your hometown team.

Finally, our **Drag Queens**—a furious contest this year, so close and rife with ties that we list the top eight finishers instead of the top five. This race is far too close to call. Who will emerge victorious: **Vanity Vogue**? **Vicky Vogue**? The indefatigable **Chevon Davis**? V? You'll have to attend the **Artvoice Best of Buffalo Party** on Monday, May 8 to find out.

Best Buffalo Bill

- Willis McGahee
- ★ Takeo Spikes
- Marv Levy
- JP Losman
- Brian Moorman

Best Buffalo Bison

- Torey LoVullo
- Tim Laker
- Ryan Garko
- Coco Crisp
- ★ Buster the Bison

Best Buffalo Sabre

- ★ Ryan Miller
- Maxim Afinogenov

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- Martin Biron
- Daniel Briere
- Chris Drury

Best College Sports Team

- ★ University at Buffalo men's basketball
- Niagara University men's basketball
- Medaille College women's basketball
- Canisius College women's basketball
- Canisius College men's basketball



Ryan Garko

Best Community Activist

- Tim Tielman
- Robert Kresse
- Michele Johnson
- Kevin Gaughan
- ★ Harvey Garrett
- Eugene Abrahamson
- Camille Hopkins
- Ani DiFranco

Best Drag Queen

- Vicky Vogue
- Vanity Vogue
- Malibu
- Jayme Cox
- fanta-see island
- Chevon davis
- Armani
- ★ V



Malibu

Best Entertainer

- ★ Tom Stahl
- The Stripteasers
- Terry Buchwald
- Malibu
- Lance Diamond

Most Eccentric Citizen

- ★ The lady wrapped in white who walks Elmwood
- The deer lady
- Kevin Gaughan
- Jimmy Griffin
- Eric Starchild

Best Patron of the Arts

- The Knox family
- ★ M&T Bank
- Charles Penney
- Cecile and Stephen Biltekoff

- Ani DiFranco

Best Politician

- Satish Mohan
- Sam Hoyt
- Mark Poloncarz
- ★ Byron Brown
- Brian Higgins

Worst Politician

- Tony Masiello
- Tom Reynolds
- ★ Joel Giambra
- George W. Bush
- Byron Brown

Biggest Waste of Taxpayer Dollars

- Joel Giambra
- Every other overpaid politician
- Endless feasibility studies for Peace Bridge, traffic on Main Street, waterfront development, etc.
- ★ Bass Pro
- Any money spent on a casino in Buffalo

Best Unelected Public Servant

- Michele Johnson
- ★ Kevin Gaughan
- Judy Einach
- James Williams
- B. Thomas Golisano

Best Use of Taxpayer Dollars

- ★ Waterfront development and greenway
- Streets maintenance and repair
- Police and fire departments
- Buffalo school reconstruction
- Arts funding