



ARTVOICE

v6n16 > april 19 - 25, 2007

BEST OF BFLD

2007

Jerome

All nominees are listed; winners are highlighted.



We received more than 2,000 attempts at ballots in or Best of Buffalo poll this year. Of those, more than 1,100 ballots were deemed valid and tallied. The finalists in each category are enumerated on the following pages—listed in no particular order—and the winners will be announced at our annual Best of Buffalo Bash on Monday, April 30 at Town Ballroom.

That party is free and open to everyone who cares to come, with live entertainment and food provided by our many nominees. A good time will be had by all, guaranteed, and the crowd will be studded with city's brightest stars.

Why only 1,100 or so valid ballots? Well, we toss some of them. Ballots that have fewer than 30 categories filled out are deemed invalid. We also toss ballots that we suspect come from ballot stuffers. We can usually tell by tracing IP and email addresses and comparing votes. For snail mail ballots, similar handwriting and numerous entries from the same return address are the obvious tipoffs. Occasionally we get a dozen ballots in one envelope, all filled out in the same handwriting, with the same pick for worst local politician. It's easier to identify fraud than one might think.

However, it should be said that ballot stuffing was far less common this year than in any previous Best of Buffalo survey. Though one member of Buffalo's Common Council voted for himself for

best local politician multiple times—he didn't place among the finalists and will remain nameless—most of the voting seemed clean. As a result, we've decided not to name a winner in the worst ballot stuffer category this year. Plenty of shops, bands and individuals seem to have mounted campaigns to drum up votes on their behalf—perfectly legitimate—but no one seemed to have crossed the line into outright perfidy. At least not on such a grand scale as to merit public shaming.

We tossed out votes for national chains and personalities—this is Best of Buffalo, not best of anywhere—but not at the expense of locals who have gone big. A vote for Rochester-based Wegmans stays, for example, as do votes for Ani DiFranco or the Goo Goo Dolls. (Tim Horton's was the toughest call. The Ontario-based chain fared pretty well in the best coffee category, but, despite the nearly local connections, we decided it didn't count. In any case, it wouldn't have won first place.)

Votes that were nonspecific or too difficult to unravel (seriously, in "best facade": "that place across from where I got a parking ticket"—I mean, come on) also were not tallied. We do our best to arrive at an accurate reading of our readers' minds, but we can't do much with "don't remember," "what's his name" or "semdf gherkiin."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 >

best fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late

night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best

steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best

fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late

eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best

best cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best

burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best

take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best

cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best

burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best

take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best

cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best

burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best

take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best

cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best

burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best

take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best

cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best

burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best

take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best

cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best

burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best

take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best

cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best

burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best

take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best

cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best

burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best

take out delivery • best fries • best burger • best sub • best steak • best

cheap date • best late night eats • best take out delivery • best fries • best

burger • best sub • best steak • best cheap date • best late night eats • best

Jim's STEAKOUT

THANK YOU BUFFALO FOR VOTING US

BEST IN SEVEN CATEGORIES!

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE SERVED YOU FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS AND CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO BE THE BEST IN BUFFALO!



- 3094 MAIN ST. 838.6666
- 3336 SHERIDAN DR. 836.3636
- 5651 TRANSIT RD. 688.8300
- 2180 SHERIDAN DR. 873.0300
- 2565 DELAWARE 877.7500
- 194 ALLEN ST. 886.2222
- 92 CHIPPEWA 854.6666
- 938 ELMWOOD AVE. 885.2900
- AND MORE TO COME!

LAFAYETTE TAP ROOM

Couldn't Get a Sabres Ticket? Neither Could We!

WATCH ALL THE SABRES PLAYOFF GAMES HERE!

• Full Stereo Sound • Home & Away
• Kitchen Serving 'Til Midnight • One Free Beer with Game Ticket Stub

LIVE GAME EXPERIENCE!

LIVE STADIUM ORGANIST!

CHARGE!

LIVE NATIONAL ANTHEMS!

LET'S GO BUFFALO!

DA DA DA DA DA DA


Buffalo's Legendary Home Of The Blues

LAFAYETTE
★ TAP ROOM ★

391 Washington Street Buffalo NY
716-854-2466 lafayettetaproom.com

IMAGINE!

There's A Great Neighborhood Gym Close To Your Home...



and Everyone Loves It There.

KC'S FITNESS

PERSONAL TRAINING **886-0252** BOXING WORKOUTS

MARTIAL ARTS PROGRAMS - NAUTILUS & FREE WEIGHT TRAINING - MASSAGE THERAPY
ELLIPTICALS, TREADMILLS, STAIRMASTERS & LIFECYCLES - WEIGHT LOSS CONSULTING

Celebrating Our 15TH Anniversary with Discount Memberships

1 Symphony Circle @ First Presbyterian Church • Kcsfitness.com

HELPING REAL PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL FITNESS GOALS

This year, for the first time, we asked our respondents to answer essay questions—best local scandal, biggest Buffalo pipedream, stupidest thing you did all year, etc. These made for good reading, leavening the sometimes tedious work of decoding and tallying votes. Here for, your reading pleasure, are some samples:

What's the stupidest thing you did all year?

"Revealed body parts at bars."

"Went swimming in a creek in the middle of February."

"Got married."

"Moved back to Buffalo!"

"Moved away."

"It involved a bottle of jamo, a rubber glove, a package of peeps and a shopping cart."

"Nothing. But in 2007 the stupidest thing I've done so far is fill out an on-line ballot."

"...got drunk, fell in a ditch (several times), tried to sing Oasis' "Wonderwall," played with fireworks, kept eating cherries marinated in Crown Royal—all in the same night."

Best Local Scandal:

Lots of winners here: Bucky Phillips, George Holt, the proposed downtown casino, teachers sleeping with students, Buffalo's school superintendent clashing with teachers and school board members...

But the number one vote-getter was US Congressman Tom Reynolds' handling of the Mark Foley scandal, as described by this respondent:

"Tom Reynolds bringing in a dozen children in to the press conference where he was going to talk about a sex scandal. I mean what was up with that? Awful."

Most Over-reported and Under-reported Stories:

The Bucky Phillips saga just edged out the October storm in the over-reported category. As ever, the proposed casino downtown placed high as both under-reported and over-reported. (And, as always, we'll take that as a sign that we should keep writing about it.) The Albright-Knox deaccession also placed in both categories. Our readers think Bass Pro gets too much coverage.

The rise of dangerous crime in the city placed high in the under-reported voting, as did the city's high school dropout rate and poverty and housing issues in the city's most neglected neighborhoods. So did variations on "any good news in the city."

About a dozen voters agreed with this voter on the most under-reported story: "Total erosion of democratic process with control boards. Most people just think it's about taxes and spending."

Biggest Buffalo Pipedream:

A familiar litany with which to nurture one's cynicism: Bass Pro, waterfront development, the hotel on Elmwood and Forest, the Peace Bridge and its plaza, the casino, the removal of the Skyway, opening Main Street to car traffic. Many doubt that Bashar Issa will really renovate the Statler and build a new skyscraper downtown.

WHLD-1270, the Voice of Reason. A host of other good-intentioned projects that have failed or never materialized.

Sigh.

Most Discouraging Sign That Nothing Ever Changes:

"No progress on the Bass Pro deal, no new bridge, no casino, complaints about a new business tower next to City Hall, no hotel on Elmwood, etc., etc., etc."

"Again putting all of Buffalo's hopes on one event, then that house of cards falling when that one event doesn't go as planned. See: Waterfront. There are other places to develop, you know?"

"The fact that they want to build a coal plant when we have an abundance of wind!"

"Buffalo Schools never seeming to improve."

"Re-electing the same politicians over and over again."

"Just go up and down East Ferry, East and West Utica, Bailey and the East Side and look at all the vacant and decrepit residences that should be bulldozed."

"The fact that you asked that question and nobody doubted it for a second."

Most Promising Sign That Buffalo Is Turning Around:

Writes one voter:

"Downtown is recovering all by itself. Buffalo is beginning to get projects without offering any incentives whatsoever. The Statler Towers are being renovated with no tax breaks...Labatt USA just moved here without asking anything. Vacant Class A office space downtown is nonexistent.

"The Main Place Mall food court is actually getting more restaurants. The Blue Cross building is moving into downtown—and the building they are vacating to do it already has a new owner and purpose. The waterfront is moving forward with no new taxpayer dollars. The Aud is ready to be knocked down, and more importantly, so is the Donovan building. The population of downtown Buffalo actually went up in 2006—and even if its less than 100 people, what a barrier to break to finally not be spiraling further and further down!

"How can you not be excited?"

A cautious amen to that.

—geoff kelly



Overwhelming response as usual to this category, more evidence of what our readers do when given lots of choices. (Perhaps this is why the local politics categories get less traffic?)

Sometimes it seems the more things change, the more they stay the same, with Kuni's back on the list for best sushi, despite having closed and reopened in a different location, alongside Kibarashi, which took over at Kuni's old spot.

Best new restaurant finalists include the revamped (Bistro Europa was previously a small retail venue), the restored (North reopened the dining room in the classic Lenox Hotel) and the reimagined (Stillwater makes use of the glorious space that was Lord Chumley's).

Empire Grill and the Chocolate Bar bring exciting brand new builds to different sides of the city: The Chocolate Bar's downtown digs in the Hampton Inn showcase skilled metalwork, a decadent chocolate fountain and a continuous screening of *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (original version) playing on monitors in both bathrooms. The ambitious Empire Grill is a huge, multi-level place with an atrium and modern, open-air feeling—all light and air as opposed to the Chocolate Bar's more sensual atmosphere.

The most genre-busting responses to our poll were found in the categories of best bar food, best Chinese, best late-night eats, best service and best steak.

For instance, the best bar food category takes us from the venerable Old Pink, with its famous steak sandwiches smothered in peppers and onions, to one of

Buffalo's best-loved gay bars, Buddies II, which may be the only dance club to serve food and do a helluva job of it, to the cavernous Pearl St. Grill & Brewery, which also boasts a full menu and table service to boot.

Best steak sees the popular take-out joint Jim's Steak Out on the same list with one of the city's high-roller destinations, Buffalo Chophouse.

Equally incongruent are the nominees for best Chinese, from the Elmwood Village/Buff State area take-out favorite Great Wall to the one-time Michelin-rated Ontario establishment Ming Teh, whose escargots in black bean sauce and reputation for authentic, gourmet Chinese food make it a destination restaurant for many on this side of the border.

Best late-night eats, if you follow our readers' recommendations, could land you at the considerably upscale Mother's, where you can usually order from both the dinner menu (think soft-shell crabs in season, filet mignon, smoked trout salad) and the bar menu (quesadillas, French fries, meatloaf sandwiches) until the wee hours; on the flip side, Buffalo's own local Tex-Mex chain Mighty Taco is nominated in the same category.

Finally, the finalists for best service prove that interpretation is everything, with the always bustling and super-efficient Pano's neck-and-neck with the sophisticated and sublimely elegant Rue Franklin.

Makes you wonder if it all depends on what the definition of "best" is after all.

—k o'day

FINALISTS LISTED IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER. WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AV BEST OF BUFFALO BASH, APRIL 30 AT TOWN BALLROOM.

best new restaurant

- Bistro Europa
- Stillwater
- North
- Chocolate Bar
- Empire Grill

most romantic restaurant

- Salvatore's
- Mother's
- Hutch's
- Left Bank
- Shango

best place for a cheap date

- Pano's
- Mighty Taco
- Amy's Place
- Jim's Steakout
- Louie's

best cheap breakfast

- Pano's
- Towne
- Amy's Place
- Bertha's
- Betty's

best waterfront restaurant

- The Hatch
- Harry's
- Root 5
- Shanghai Red's
- Dock at the Bay

best late-night eats

- Pano's
- Jim's Steakout
- Mother's
- Mighty Taco
- Towne

SHANGO'S INFERNO

enter the tenth circle & **taste the hEAT** Wednesday April 25th @ 6 five small plate courses increasing in hEAT! can you survive? 1 Night Only \$25 a person call to reserve your hot seat!

SHANGO'S spell is working on you! thanks FOR THE VOTES!

3260 main street near ub south reservations encouraged 837.2326 www.shangobistro.com

K. Gallagher's

I'll gladly vote for you Tuesday for a K. Gallagher's burger today!

K. Gallagher's Tavern and Grill
*nominated BEST BURGER 2007 serving lunch & dinner
73 Allen St Buffalo NY, 886-6676

Pasta Semolina Spaghetti Macaroni Tortellini Fettuccine Gnocchi Lasagna Ziti Penne Rigatoni Farfalle Ravioli Cannelloni

Jovi's ITALIAN GRILLE & BISTRO

FINE CASUAL DINING

SPECIALIZING IN ITALIAN & CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN CUISINE

NEWLY REMODELED OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER

CATERING & TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

2795 DELAWARE AVENUE KENMORE, NEW YORK 874.9103

best diner
Lake Effect

Pano's
Amy's Place
Towne
Kosta's

Mother's
Cecelia's
Shanghai Red's

best service

Shango
Hutch's
Pano's
Left Bank
Salvatore's

best patio

Cozumel
Pano's



CHOCOLATE BAR

best takeout/delivery
Kuni's

Just Pizza
La Nova
Jim's Steakout
Casa Di Pizza

best brunch

Off the Wall
Betty's
Left Bank
Shango
Cole's

best dessert

Sweet Tooth
Butterwood
Dessert Deli
Chocolate Bar
Delish

best deli

Globe Market
Marco's
Guercio & Sons
Joe's Deli
X-cel Produce

best bagel

Bagel Jay's
Wegman's
Elmwood Bagel
Spot
Amy's Place

best barbecue

BW
Kentucky Greg's
Buffalo BBQ and Brew
Fat Bob's
Donnie's Smokehouse

best beef on weck

The Bar Bill
Charlie the Butcher
Anderson's
Schwabl's
Swiston's

best wings

La Nova
Gabriel's Gate
The Bar Bill
Anchor Bar
Duff's

best fish fry

Hamlin House
Papa Jake's
Hoak's
Gabriel's Gate
McPartlan's

**best ice cream/
frozen yogurt**

Anderson's
Sweet Tooth
Antoinette's
Fowler's
Hannah's



KENTUCKY GREG'S

best burger

Grover's
Jim's
Sterling Place
Jimmie Mac's
K. Gallagher's

Ted's

Louie's
Connor's

best french fries

Ted's
Jim's Steakout
Louie's
Papa Jake's
Duff's

best hot dog

Street vendors
Taffy's

Awarded the #1 Independently Owned Pizzeria in the United States

Shipping Pizza and Wings Overnight to Anywhere in the United States

-A Buffalo Tradition Since 1957-

LA NOVA
PIZZERIA



THANK YOU FOR MAKING US #1!!!

Buffalo Location
371 West Ferry Street
881-3303

Williamsville Location
5151 Main Street
634-5151

Enjoy Casual Dining,
Take-Out & Delivery

Take-Out &
Delivery Only

www.LANOVA.com



BUFFALO'S BEST WINGS!

LARGEST SELLER OF BUFFALO WINGS

Buffalo's Premier Pizza and Wings!!

best pasta

- Chef's**
- Frank's Sunny Italy
- Santasiero's
- La Bella Sicilia
- Carminé's

best steak

- Hutch's
- Buffalo Chophouse**
- E.B. Green's
- Fiamma
- Jim's Steakout

best pizza

- La Nova
- Mr. Pizza
- Bocce
- Casa Di Pizza
- Franco's

Winner: Just Pizza

best sausage

- Spar's
- Mineo & Sapio**
- Scime's
- Johnny's
- Erie County Fair

best salad

- Globe Market**
- Le Metro
- Pano's
- Shango
- Brodo

best seafood

- Boston Hotel
- Harry's
- La Marina**
- Hutch's
- Hayes Fish Company

best sub

- Jim's Steakout**
- Wegman's
- Mike's
- DiBella's
- John & Mary's

best chinese

- Great Wall**
- Taste Good
- Chang's
- May Jen
- Ming Teh



BROADWAY MARKET

best greek

- Towne
- Kosta's
- Ambrosia
- Pano's**
- Mythos

best mexican/tex-mex

- Cozumel
- Gramma Mora's**
- Cinco de Mayo
- El Canelo
- Mighty Taco

best indian

- Taste of India
- India Gate**
- Tandoori
- Star of India
- Kebab and Curry

best middle eastern

- Falafel Bar**
- Sahara Grill
- Amy's Place
- Teta's
- Byblos

best polish

- Polish Villa**
- Bistro Europa
- Broadway Market
- Peter K's
- Ray's Lounge
- "My grandmother"

best vegetarian

- Betty's
- Amy's Place**
- Falafel Bar
- Off the Wall
- Lexington Co-op

best japanese/sushi

- O
- Kuni's**
- Kibarashi
- Fuji Grill
- Shogun

- King and I
- Papaya

best french

- Coda
- Rue Franklin**
- Le Metro
- Left Bank
- Bacchus

best thai/vietnamese

- Saigon Bangkok
- Saigon Cafe**
- Taste of Thai

best italian

- Frank's Sunny Italy
- Santasiero's
- Chef's**
- John's Italian Village
- La Bella Sicilia

best bar food

- Buddies II
- Gabriel's Gate
- Cole's**
- The Old Pink
- Pearl Street Grill & Brewery

2007

Catch up * Get ahead * Graduate
A smart way to spend your summer

Why summer @ Buffalo State?

The reasons are as varied as the 500 courses featured this summer.

Here are some of the reasons why over **3,900 undergraduate and graduate** students enroll in more than 500 courses at Buffalo State each summer...

- graduate on time—reaching your earning potential faster
- get ahead or catch up on electives or requirements in your major
- fulfill final credits to receive your Buffalo State degree
- complete professional certification requirements
- take advantage of affordable in-state tuition:

Undergraduate courses: \$181 per credit hour;
Graduate courses: \$288 per credit hour

[4-WEEK SESSIONS]
Session A May 29–June 23
Session B June 25–July 21
Session C July 23–August 11

[6-WEEK SESSION]
Session 1 MAY 29–JULY 7
[11-WEEK SESSION]
Session 2 MAY 29–AUGUST 11

Buffalo State
State University of New York

Online registration begins April 11.

Complete course listings, tuition and fees, and registration instructions can be found at: www.buffalostate.edu/summer
Pick up a course schedule at Cleveland Hall 210.

flexible sessions, from 3 to 11 weeks * convenient course schedules * small class size * courses available online * hassle-free parking * quality faculty

Serving WNY for over 30 Years!

Bob & John's
La Hacienda

1545 Hertel Avenue
836-5411

All Day Delivery Starting at 11:00am
Accepting all Major Credit Cards

Everyday Specials

Two Cheese 14" Pizzas

Cheese and One Topping with any kind of sauce

\$13.79

Large 5 Topping Pizza

Veggie or Mixed with Meat

\$12.95

Mon.- Sat. 11 am til 2:00 pm

All you can Eat **\$4.99**
Pizza, Soup, & Salad Bar per person

Sit Down • Take Out www.bobandjohns.com

The Wellington Pub

FRIDAY FISH FRY

Daily Specials
Great Burgers
& Beef on Weck

Banquet Room Available
Serving from 11am-11pm

AV BEST OF BUFFALO PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Let us now praise famous men and women—such convenient, and often willing, receptacles in which to pour our expectations and frustrations.

Too convenient really. What will our readers do, for example, when Erie County Executive Joel Giambra leaves office? Will you all continue to make him a perennial finalist in the worst politician category? (Maybe so: Former County Executive Ed Rutkowski got a few votes for worst politician this year.) Or will you turn back time, to the day when he was a perennial finalist in the best politician category? Certainly, whatever his political missteps, the county executive does not deserve a place among the finalists in the biggest local villain category, alongside Bucky Phillips and Altemio Sanchez. Neither do Pano or the Seneca Gaming Corporation, for that matter. Let's take a step back, people, and gain some perspective.

Your votes for local heroes and cheerleaders, on the other hand, seemed well considered. (Though gadabout Eric Starchild received a surprising number of votes for biggest local hero, as did "me" and variations on "who cares" and "aren't any.") Considered as partners or separately, Buffalo Police Officers Patty Parete and Carl Andolina were on a lot of people's minds.

As were the Buffalo Sabres, who routed every category in which they could possibly compete. Owner Tom Golisano placed in two categories all by himself: biggest local cheerleader and biggest local hero. Maybe, for the sake of Ralph

Wilson and the Bills, we need to hold a Best of Buffalo poll in late autumn. As it is, the Bills received a scattering of votes from disgruntled fans for favorite local amateur team.

On the media: Except when the voters made their intentions crystal clear, we dropped votes that might have resulted in *Artvoice* making the final five in any category. So, for example, a lot of you voted generally for "Artvoice" for best print journalist; alas, we are individuals and not a collective, but we thank you for the compliment (or, as the case may be, for the brazen attempt to win a prize package). Our own Mike Niman placed anyway, along with a clutch of writers for the *Buffalo News*. Meanwhile, the voting for best blogger and best Web site was plagued by the same confusion as always: As an illustration, Buffalo Rising is not a blog, or a blogger—it's a Web site that hosts a community of contributors, staff and non-staff. Newell Nussbaumer, inasmuch as he writes tirelessly for Buffalo Rising, qualifies as a blogger. Right? Fix Buffalo and Buffalo Pundit are blogs, but the utility and popularity of both as sources of information sort of blur the line. Right?

Confusing. But Best of Buffalo voting is often a nightmare to decode. In a result that nearly derailed the whole Best of Buffalo enterprise, Sanjaya-style, car dealer Billy Fuccillo almost made the final five for best drag queen. Or maybe we don't know everything you all know.

—geoff kelly



THE QUEEN CITY ROLLER GIRLS

best politician

Sam Hoyt

Brian Higgins

Satish Mohan

Byron Brown

"none of the above," "they all stink," etc.

worst politician

Tom Reynolds

Joel Giambra

Byron Brown

George Holt

"all of them," "it's hard to imagine a bigger pool of contestants," etc.

best individual activist

Harvey Garrett

Michele Johnson

Kevin Gaughan

Ani DiFranco

Aaron Bartley

best activist group

Women in Black

Citizen Against Casino

Gambling in Erie County

PUSH Buffalo

Western New York Peace Center

AIDS Community Services

biggest local hero

Patty Parete

Carl Andolina

Tom Golisano

Ryan Miller

Ani DiFranco

biggest local villain

Altemio Sanchez

Ralph "Bucky" Phillips

Joel Giambra

Seneca Gaming Corporation

Pano Georgiadis

loudest complainer

James Williams

Phil Rumore

Joel Giambra

Sandy Beach

Donn Esmonde

loudest cheerleader

Byron Brown

Tom Golisano

Brian Higgins

Newell Nussbaumer

Kevin Gaughan

best drag queen

Vanity Vogue

Malibu

Fantasee Island

V

FYA Valentino

best drag king

Buddy Lee

Mikey Lykesit

Geo Metro

Jim Class

Bud Wyzer

favorite pro athlete

J.P. Losman

Maxim Afinogenov

Daniel Briere

Ryan Miller

Baby Joe Mesi

favorite pro sports team

Buffalo Bills

Buffalo Sabres

Buffalo Bandits

Buffalo Bisons

Buffalo Destroyers

favorite amateur sports team

UB Bulls Mens Basketball

Queen City Roller Girls

Niagara University Purple

Eagles Basketball

Canisius College Golden

Griffins Mens Basketball

Canisius College Golden

Griffins Womens

Basketball

favorite amateur athlete

Jonny Flynn,

Niagara Falls High School basketball

Metal Mistress,

Queen City Roller Girls

Mia Mauler,

Queen City Roller Girls

Josh Hedinger,

Canisius College hockey

Yassin Idbihi,

UB basketball

favorite tv personality

Jodi Johnston

Kevin O'Neill

Don Paul

Chesley McNeil

Mary Alice Demler

favorite radio personality

Sandy Beach

Tom Bauerle

Shredd & Ragan

Janet Snyder

Bulldog

best print journalist

Mike Niman

Donn Esmonde

Jeff Simon

Jerry Sullivan

Bucky Gleason

best blogger

Newell Nussbaumer,

Buffalo Rising

Alan Bedenko,

Buffalo Pundit

David Torke, Fix Buffalo

Paul Visco, estrip.org

Jennifer Smith,

All Things Jen(nifer)

best local web site

estrip.org

buffalo.com

buffalorising.com

buffalogaybars.com

artvoice.com

FINALISTS LISTED IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER. WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AV BEST OF BUFFALO BASH, APRIL 30 AT TOWN BALLROOM.





Based on the voting in this category, you could create a composite of the typical *Artvoice* reader. She looks for love in late-night bars; she steals wireless from her neighbors; she loves the Albright-Knox, inside and out; she rides her bike to the Japanese Gardens in Delaware Park on weekends; she frequents a triangle defined by Allentown, Chippewa and Bidwell Parkway, straying occasionally into the East and West Sides to take stock of the city's declining neighborhoods. She likes her restrooms glitzy and Italianate, but she appreciates the Old Pink vibe too. She attends a lot of fundraisers and festivals, but she's kind of a homebody.

But maybe it's more interesting to hear about the places people wish they could find in Buffalo. The three most common responses to our essay question about nightlife ("Describe the night spot you wish existed") were: 1) a bar tailored to the respondent's personality (e.g. a geek bar, a sports bar, a Coyote Ugly-esque bar, an alcohol-free bar); 2) a 24-hour joint with decent WiFi; 3) bring back the Continental.

As for architecture, the all-time favorites never change: City Hall, the Guaranty

Building, the Central Terminal, the Ellicott Square Building. The Webb Building placed in the "most promising" category—a result somewhat soured by the death of a construction worker on the project. The Aud placed in this category too, though \$10 million in state funds to demolish the thing makes its future seem less than bright. Optimism about the old AM&A building downtown was dealt a blow this week, too: Its out-of-town purchasers have backed off their renovation plans and put it up for sale.

The Granite Works received a nod of approval, earning a place on the list of finalists for best renovation in 2006; may it fill with tenants soon.

This is one of the best years for Sabres hockey in the team's history, so it's hardly surprising that so many people should vote for "a Sabres game" as one of the best places to take the family or out-of-town visitors. But you might as well offer a trip to the moon—I mean, where are you all getting tickets? On eBay at \$200 a pop? Maybe Buffalo's economy *is* turning around.

—*geoff kelly*


COSEFINI 

EUROPEAN INSPIRED BOUTIQUE SHOPPING


luxury soap & lotion
baby gifts ~ hand bags
home accents ~ linens
jewelry ~ sleepwear

1004 ELMWOOD AVE BUFFALO 878-4050 660 MAIN STREET E AURORA 655-1900

Thank You
Artvoice
readers
for nominating Bagel Jay's
BEST BAGELS in
BUFFALO



Marshall's Plaza
2130 Delaware Ave.
874-1800
Hopkins @ Klein Rd.
Williamsville
639-1000



BUFFALO STATE
THEATRE DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

Pulse

ANNUAL SPRING
DANCE CONCERT

WARREN ENTERS THEATRE
APRIL 19 - 21 8PM
APRIL 22 2PM

TICKETS:
GENERAL PUBLIC \$15
STUDENTS \$10
B.S.C./ID \$5
B.S.C. STAFF \$10
SENIORS \$10

AVAILABLE AT
ROCKWELL HALL
BOX OFFICE
OR BY CALLING
716-878-3005

THEATRE@STATE!
The State of the Art in Theatre Training

Image design by Amberlight Photography ©2007 - (716)381-3302



Kibarashi
SUSHI BAR

Kibarashi, n., (kē·bā·rā·shē)
1. recreation, e.g., amusement and entertainment
2. a new level of sushi

HAPPY HOUR SUSHI SPECIALS
TWO FOR ONE MAKI ROLLS | MONDAY-FRIDAY 5-6PM

OPEN FOR LUNCH | Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 12 Noon

752 ELMWOOD AVE | BUFFALO, NY 14222 | 716.885.5530
Fax 716.885.5533 | Mon-Wed 5-10, Thur 11-10, Fri-Sat 11-11 | www.kibarashisushibar.com

FINALISTS LISTED IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER. WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AV BEST OF BUFFALO BASH, APRIL 30 AT TOWN BALLROOM.

best coffeehouse

Caffe Aroma
Clarence Center Coffee Company
Spot
Cafe Allegro
Higher Grounds

Downtown government buildings (City Hall and the Rath Building)
Everywhere in Allentown
My house/basement/kitchen/living room

best outdoor public space

Forest Lawn Cemetery
Bidwell Parkway
Delaware Park
Erie Basin Marina
Lafayette Square

best place to wi-fi

Cafe 59
Spot
Caffe Aroma
Central Library
"my house," "in my bed," etc.

best bathroom

Laughlin's
Chocolate Bar
Salvatore's Italian Gardens
Wegmans
My own

best place to find a lover

Delaware Park
Roxy's
The Old Pink
Elmwood Avenue
Variations on "my house," "my bed," "in my pants," etc.

best indoor public space

Ellicott Square Building
Central Terminal
Albright-Knox Art Gallery
HSBC Arena
Botanical Gardens

best street corner

Elmwood and Bidwell
Chippewa and Franklin

worst cellphone reception

WalMart
UB North Campus



I want a girl - just like the girl
that married dear old Dad!

...well ok, maybe times change but one thing that you can
always count on to stay the same is the great taste of Mighty Taco.



Get some today!



PHOTO BY: ROSE MATTERY

Elmwood and Auburn
Elmwood and Allen
Chippewa and Delaware

**most promising
abandoned building**
AM&A's downtown
H.H. Richardson complex
Central Terminal
Webb Building
Memorial Auditorium

best rehab project
The Granite Works
The Church
New Era Cap Co.
Darwin Martin House
Stillwater

best facade
Shea's
Guaranty Building
City Hall
Albright-Knox Art Gallery
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Building

best annual festival
Italian Festival
Gay Pride
Taste of Buffalo
Allentown Arts Festival
Elmwood Festival of the
Arts

Variety Club Telethon
(Women &
Children's Hospital)
Hunter's Hope Ball
(Hunter's Hope
Foundation)

**best place to take
out-of-town visitors**

Anchor Bar
On a walk down Elmwood
Avenue
Niagara Falls
Albright-Knox Art Gallery
A Sabres game

**best place to
take the family**

The Zoo
Niagara Falls
Delaware Park
Albright-Knox Art Gallery
A Sabres game

PLACES YOU WISH EXISTED

- It would look like a haunted house and the staff would be dressed like monsters.
- Buffalo needs a beauty bar where you can club and drink, but also have spa experiences!
- I'd love to see a bubble over downtown Buffalo's Main Street for about a block, and inside this climate-controlled, year-round hot-spot, there'd be shops and restaurants and clubs filled with people having a great time.
- The old Continental, except not as crappy so it doesn't get closed down.
- I still wish a restaurant was on top of the HSBC building.
- Arnold's from *Happy Days*!

BODY ART and APPAREL

ART N BODY

TATTOOS ★ PIERCINGS ★ HENNA

FINE CLOTHING BY

Sturess Ed Hardy Affliction SG

PLUS MANY MORE!

716-633-3170 Visit us at www.artnbody.com
WILLIAMSVILLE PLACE • 5407 SHERIDAN DRIVE • WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221

MYTHOS

ON ELMWOOD
HOME OF THE BEST CHICKEN SOUVLAKI...

THANK YOU ARTVOICE READERS FOR
NOMINATING MYTHOS BEST GREEK RESTAURANT!

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER
with a FLAIR!

"affordable elegance"

510 ELMWOOD AVE BUFFALO

(between w. utica and hodge) off street parking in rear at w. utica entrance
open 7am till 11pm daily 886-9175

Toni Ruberto
Buffalo News Reviewer



By today's pedestrian music fan, Buffalo is often referred to as the hometown of the Goo Goo Dolls, Ani DiFranco, 10,000 Maniacs (sort of) and the late Rick James. While these great talents serve as handy ambassadors due to their widespread popular success and fame, they represent only a sliver of the rich musical heritage of a city that's been home to songwriters ranging back from Harold Arlen ("Somewhere Over the Rainbow," sung by Judy Garland) to "Dyke" Arlester Christian ("Funky Broadway," sung by Wilson Pickett). The cultural and musical variety is rich here, and the roots run very deep.

Today, the city is teeming with bands and performers of every stripe, and it's much easier than it has ever been before for a local act to get some press and airplay. There's more networking among performers, thanks to Web sites dedicated to local music, and also more small, home studios in which to make quality digital recordings. There's also MySpace, which makes it easier to reach the world and/or easier to get lost in the crowd.

By the time it becomes common knowledge that a city outside the traditional music hubs of London, New York, Nashville and LA has a great local scene going, the phenomenon is usually past. What you get then are the wannabes who arrive from everywhere, like weeds, and choke out the native species as they struggle for gigs. Labels, radio DJs, music journalists and the like can try to milk it for a decade or more after that, and they often succeed in convincing people that there must be something in the water in Seattle, or Portland—or Glasgow for crying out loud. But the fact is, it doesn't come from the water.

All it really takes are talented, creative musicians, good venues and supportive fans to make a vibrant music scene. Right here, right now, we have all that and more. If you wait to be told about our scene through the mainstream media, chances are you will have missed the peak of it. So get out and support the venues, performers and bands our readers have nominated. It encourages them all to put out their best. And when they do, we all shine a little brighter. At least until *Rolling Stone* magazine finds out about it.

—buck quigley

FINALISTS LISTED IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER. WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AV BEST OF BUFFALO BASH, APRIL 30 AT TOWN BALLROOM.

best rock act

Every Time I Die
Strictly Hip
Jackdaw
Goo Goo Dolls
Lemuria

best blues act

Mick Hayes Band
Kate Engler
Mark Winsick
Jony James Band
Willie and the Reinharts

best country act

Old Sweethearts
Steam Donkeys
Stone Country
Bareback Jack
90 West

best acoustic act

Brian Wheat
Babik
Tom Stahl
Bob Zielonka
Ani DiFranco

best hip-hop act

Gr&d Phee
and Rhyson Hall
Pseudo Slang
Noble Truth and DJ Star
Constant Climax
Ebola Virus

best jazz act

Latin Jazz Project
Babik
David Kane
Macy Favor Big Band
Gamalon

best genre-defying act

Lance Diamond
Lazlo Hollyfeld
Babik
Skiffle Minstrels
Jackdaw

best individual vocalist

Tom Stahl
Alison Pipitone
David Moore
Ani DiFranco
Lance Diamond

best vocal ensemble

Vocalis
Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus
Buffalo Gateway Chorus
Choral Arts Society
Boys of Summer

best musician

Doug Yeomans
Ani DiFranco
David Moore
Adam Zadok
Tom Stahl

best club dj

DJ Anthony
DJ Cutler
DJ Lil Joe
DJ Lady Atram
DJ Julia

king or queen of charisma

Jen Parker
Jamie Cudney
David Moore
Paul Todaro
Lance Diamond



JOE RUBINO

buffalo music's best friend

Joe Rubino/Nietzsche's
Dwane Hall/Sportsmen's Tavern
Robbie Takac/Music Is Art
Pete Perrone/Mohawk Place
Ani DiFranco

IF YOU HAD A BAND, YOU'D CALL IT _ AND PLAY _:

- I'd play knobs, sliders, buttons and found instruments in a band called Black Tie Weenie Roast.
- I would play jazzy and clever adaptations of classic novels and call myself Cliff's Notes.
- Lily Vanilly and the Ike Dykes"—the triangle.
- The Character Assassins. We would wear red coats and sing completely false songs about Buffalo.
- Skeleton Jim and the Get-Fresh Hymns. I'd play an oscillating ukulele hooked up to a beatbox.
- Napoleon's Infamous Member. We would be a speed metal band that played songs about pop-culture phenoms.
- Helen Highwater and the Undertow, I'd play a Hammond B-3.
- I would carry Conor Oberst on my back and call it Bright Eyes on My Back, and sing only Gerard Way songs. We would dye our hair white and stop drinking. Well, forget that part about the drinking.
- I'd call it Polaroid Shark, and I'd play guitar.
- I would call my band "Skiing in Jeans" and play all '80s alternative, based on what I know and loved back in the day when I skied totally drunk on Sun Country Wine Coolers, in jeans at Kissing Bridge in high school.
- Giggle Blitz. We would play spaz rock that would sound like a swarm of bees in a huge glass case of hanging wind chimes.
- Buffalo's Worst Band. We'd only play songs by artists with geographic names (Boston, Europe, Chicago, John Denver)
- The Poop McGoo's. Comedy



BRIAN WHEAT



**EVERY THURSDAY
MICK HAYES 9PM**

**FRI APR 20
9:30PM
DIKKI DU AND THE
ZYDECO KREWE**

**SAT APR 21
2PM AM JAM
9:30PM
COUPE DEVILLES**

**FRI APR 27
5PM PETER & THE WOLVES
9:30PM
BILLY McEWEN**

**SAT APR 28
9:30PM
MAGIC RED AND THE VOODOO TRIBE**

**LAFAYETTE
★ TAP ROOM ★
391 Washington Street Buffalo NY
716-854-2466 lafayettetaproom.com**

**LET'S GO
SABRES!**

join us for drink
specials during the
playoff games

**\$250
BOTTLE
SPECIALS**

**\$4
PITCHER
SPECIALS**

**\$250
SHOTS
WHEN THE
SABRES
SCORE!**

**ESSEX
STREET PUB**
530 RHODE ISLAND
BUFFALO, NY • 883-2150



With all the stores that come and go, it's a wonder the number of retail establishments that have been around for ages, and that keep winning our Best of Buffalo polls year after year.

What's the secret? Is it location? Ambience? Professionalism? Luck? Whatever it is (and the formula is probably either a very simple or a mindboggling equation) we are lucky to have the tried and true existing side by side with the new and unproven. Should keep everybody on their toes, right?

This year we mourn the closing of some of those tried and true, like best CD/record store nominee Home of the Hits and best thrift shop nominee Don Apparel. Both establishments shut their doors for good this past year, though certainly not due to lack of loyal customers. We did not take them off the list of finalists—they were among the best in Buffalo right up to the moment they closed, after all.

But the beat goes on, and that same block of Elmwood has now gained the recently relocated Allentown Music (which, like the Lexington Coop, saw no reason to change a perfectly good name along with its location), a nominee for best music store, and opened up some prime storefront space for other brave entrepreneurs.

FINALISTS LISTED IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER. WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AV BEST OF BUFFALO BASH, APRIL 30 AT TOWN BALLROOM.

best antique shop

Antique Man
Stock Exchange
Antique World
Antique Mall
CooCoo U
Sarah's

best bookstore

Rust Belt Books
Old Editions
Oracle Junction
Talking Leaves
Secondhand Reader

Of course the Elmwood Strip boasts a majority of the nominees, but Allentown and the Hertel area are creeping up fast, and clothing stores, shoe stores, jewelry shops, tattoo parlors and hair salons from all over the city and the suburbs are represented in our poll.

A tour of the best produce nominees would take you from the farmer's market at Elmwood at Bidwell to Grant Street's Guercio & Sons to the Clinton-Bailey Market on the East Side.

Best butcher would take you all over the city with Federal Meats' various locations, and even into the realm of the imagination with Charlie the Butcher's disqualified nomination. (Charlie the Butcher is *not* a butcher, people—it's a restaurant.)

Best antique store nominees can be found from Allentown's the Antique Man to Clarence's huge Antique World to the Southtowns' Antique Mall, where you can find anything from kitsch to real home furnishings. Shops like CooCoo U and Sarah's Vintage & Antique Jewelry also fit the bill, leading buyers to Hertel Avenue and Williams-ville, respectively.

So go on a shopping tour of our Best of Buffalo categories and see practically the entire Western New York area while you're at it. Only don't bring your credit card. It probably wouldn't be wise.

—k. o'day

best video store

DVD Dot (RIP)
Mondo Video
Video Liquidator
Great American Newstand
Audubon Library

best cd/record shop

Record Theater (Main Street, Buffalo)
Home of the Hits (RIP)
Sit and Spin
New World Record
Frisbees



best music store

Jackson Music
Allentown Music
UCrest
Twin Village
Drum Outlet

best liquor store

Gates Circle Liquor
Hodge Liquor
The Premier Group
Spirits of Allentown
Frontier Liquors

best head shop

Decades
Pavilion
Skunk Tail
Terrapin Station
Strange Brew

best sex shop

Video Liquidators
Pandora's Boxxx
Kimberly's Intimate Apparel
Hamburg Turnpike
Great American Newstand

**HOT
COMMODITIES
IN 2007**

- Real news without Rupert Murdoch's profit-seeking lies.
- Guides on how to live sustainably (post-peak oil) and homestead skills (canning, gardening, wood, building).
- Bio tissue—I think legal issues will lead to selling of blood, organs, skin, cells, etc., be they human or animal. Perhaps the first step will be animal parts to use for "stronger" livestock, or animals for humans, i.e. baboon hearts.
- Pomegranates.
- Flipped houses in and outside this City of Buffalo.
- City property sold to out-of-state buyers—ugh!



STACHE

best pet store

Steve's Pets
Markheim Tropical Fish and Pets
Elmwood Pet Store
Animal Outfitters
Fish Place

best gift shop

Rotten Jack's Creep Shack
Spoiled Rotten
Neo
Positively Main Street
Everything Elmwood

best flower shop

Maureen's
Mother Nature
Graser's
Michael's
Floristry

best hair salon

Aimee and Amy
Chez Ann
Leon Studio
Studio 806
New Age

best manicure/pedicure

Chez Ann
Elite
Capello
Diva
Excuria

best day spa

Capello
Fallingwater
Excuria
Seasons
Elite

best tanning salon

Tanning Bed
Allen Tan
Sun Capsule
Tan Lines
Total Tan

best tattoo parlor

Hand of Doom
Redhouse
Art n Body
Rise Above
Cowpok

best piercing studio

Redhouse
Art n Body
Hand of Doom
Cowpok
Renaissance

best thrift shop

Amvets on Elmwood Avenue
Salvation Army on Niagara Falls Boulevard
Don Apparel (RIP)
Goodwill on Delaware Avenue
St Vincent DePaul shop

best shoe store

Shoe Fly
Shoe Biz
Sunday Skate

best sneaker advantage

Buffalo Fleece & Outerwear

best sports/outdoor gear shop

Laux Sporting Goods
Sunday Skate
Campus Wheelworks
Buffalo Fleece & Outerwear
Fleet Feet

best bike shop

Bert's
Rick's
Handlebars
Shickluna
Campus Wheelworks

best men's clothing shop

Stache
Krudmart
Riverside Men's Shop
Urban
Art n Body

best women's clothing store

Sweet and Dirty
Half and Half
Damsel in a Dress
Urban
Allen Street Dress Shop

best produce

Wegmans
Guercio & Sons
Lexington Coop
Clinton-Bailey Market
Elmwood-Bidwell farmers market

best fishmonger

Hayes
Wegmans
La Marina
Schneider's
Broadway Market

best butcher

Scimes
Spars
Federal Meats
Johnny's Meats
Wegmans

best natural foods

Globe Market
Washington Market
Lexington Coop
Feel Rite
Wegmans

best bakery

Sweet Tooth
DiCamillo's
Dolci
Delish
Pumpnick

SAKURA

JAPANESE RESTAURANT

3719 Union Road near Galleria Drive, Cheektowaga Tel: 683.7310



BUFFALO'S ORIGINAL BREWPUB

Dedicated to Fine Beers, Food and Fun!

CATCH THE SABRES AND OTHER EXCITING GAMES ON OUR LARGE SCREEN TV'S!

SIGN UP NOW For the Annual Golf Outing Monday July 9th Lancaster Country Club \$110 per person

Open Daily 11:30am Sunday at Noon

Entire Menu Available until 1am Friday & Saturday until Midnight Sunday thru Thursday

6861 Main Street
(716) 632-0552
www.buffalobrewpub.com



CASTELLANI ART MUSEUM
OF NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

Call 286-8200 for info.

first Friday
CASTELLANI ART MUSEUM

May 4th, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Opening for:
"Rob Lynch: Drink Orange Juice and Hang Out With the Horses"



Live Music, Art Opening, Refreshments, Cash Bar

Art Express

Theme: **Dip, Drip, Twirl and Swirl: Expressive Paintings**
Saturdays at 2:00 p.m., April 21st and 28th

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Call 286-8622 for tickets.

April 19th-29th

Fiddler on the Roof

Featuring Paul Todaro

Niagara University Leary Theatre
Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 716-852-5000 in the Buffalo area or 416-870-8000 if ordering from Canada

OPEN HOUSE

Save the Date

Wednesday • April 25
4pm - 7pm

SUNY ECC **KISS 98.5** **WILP 101** **103.3 EDGE**
City Campus North Campus South Campus

851-1ECC • www.ecc.edu

ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Explore Exciting New Career Opportunities

Nominated — Best Waterfront Restaurant & Best Patio



The breathtaking view and comfortable atmosphere make Shanghai Red's more than just a typical restaurant...

Offering a sumptuous menu of fresh seafood, steaks, chicken and pasta for lunch and dinner.

Sunday Champagne Brunch with over 100 specialty items

Join us for happy hour in the lounge or on the lovely patio

Banquet rooms with spectacular views available for 20 to 400

2 Templeton Terrace • (716) 852-7337
Located next to Erie Basin Marina on Buffalo's Waterfront

Shanghai Red's
RESTAURANT • BANQUETS



Buffalo, the animals, or American bison as they are more properly called, are a little like Buffaloni-ans, the people, in at least two ways: They conquer harsh winter storms by facing them head-on, and they like to gather in groups around cool watering holes.

Thankfully Buffalo, the city, is filled with cool places where its people can go to join the rest of the herd for a drink. Varied and plentiful, there's a bar to suit every drinker's taste in this town. From unassuming beer-and-a-shot corner joints where the proprietor still lives upstairs, to upscale, urbane nightclubs whose martini list alone makes Baskin-Robbins' selection seem skimpy—it's all right here.

This year, a couple of the top five new establishments—Blu Mirage and Chocolate Bar—were also among the top five upscale bars, according to our readers. The popular Mulligan's Brick Bar and Essex Street Pub both placed in the top five neighborhood pubs as well as top five dive bars—but this anomaly is less a reflection on the neighborhoods in which they're located as it is a testament to the quality of our dives. Meanwhile, seeming opposites Merlin's (best dive candidate) and Mother's (best upscale bar candidate) both placed in the top five old man bars—proving what? That money can't buy you youth?

Club Marcella, Roxy's and Buddies II placed in the top five for both gay- and lesbian-friendly bars. Q and the Cathode Ray got a special nod from the guys while Miss Kitty's and Adonia's also won the favor of the ladies.

Depending on your drinking preferences, you may want to note that there were no duplicates in three Best of Buffalo categories: best beer selection, best wine list, and best martini. Buffalo Brew Pub, Alternative Brews and Colter Bay, our readers say, are great places for suds;

while Bacchus, as the name implies, is a primo place for vino, as is Shango—and also Toro. And when many of our readers think of a martini, their thoughts turn to the Shadow Lounge, Club Diablo or Cecilia's.

Part chemist, part psychologist, part priest or priestess, the Best of Buffalo bartender category is filled with some of the most highly skilled practitioners of this sacred art in all the world. They are the ones who make a trip to the bar an occasion, and their attentive skill is what can focus and refine a kaleidoscopic wall of booze into the most perfectly refined martini, the most exotic mojito, the most obnoxious Harvey Wallbanger, or the most flirtatious Sex on the Beach. We raise a glass to them all!

If you like to mix live music with your drink, you're also lucky to be in Buffalo. Here you can often catch a national act early, by Buffalo standards, at the Town Ballroom or Sportsmen's Tavern, then pop in to catch some indie rock at Mohawk Place, before winding things up on Allen Street, bouncing back and forth between Nietzsche's and Allen Street Hardware. That's probably why all these places landed in our top five.

Movers and groovers are getting down everywhere from Level to La Luna, while popular dance halls like Club Marcella and Roxy's still can't stop the music. Other boogiemen and women preferred edgy Club Diablo.

As you see from the nominees, there's also no shortage of places to practice the great drinking sports of bowling, shooting pool, singing karaoke and pumping money into the jukebox. And if you're young, you probably aren't really a hipster until you've operated the "antique" jukebox in the Old Pink Flamingo. It ain't an iPod, but hey, babe—take a walk on the wild side.

—buck quigley

FINALISTS LISTED IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER. WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AV BEST OF BUFFALO BASH, APRIL 30 AT TOWN BALLROOM.

best neighborhood pub

- Cole's
- Essex Street Pub**
- Founding Fathers
- Allen Street Hardware
- Mulligan's Brick Bar

best upscale bar

- Blu Mirage
- Toro
- Nektar
- Mother's
- Chocolate Bar**

best dive bar

- Essex Street Pub
- The Old Pink**
- Merlin's
- Broadway Joe's
- Mulligan's Brick Bar

best new bar

- Staples
- Sample
- Stillwater
- Blu Mirage**
- Chocolate Bar

best lesbian-friendly bar

- Adonia's
- Miss Kitty's
- Roxy's**
- Club Marcella
- Buddies II

best gay-friendly bar

- Q
- Cathode Ray
- Club Marcella**
- Roxy's
- Buddies II

best male bartender

- Rich at JP Bullfeather's,
- Frizzy's
- Pat at Laughlin's
- Jimmy at Cathode Ray**
- Don at Club Marcella
- Jimmy at Underground

best female bartender

- Jen at Club Diablo**
- Nancy at Nietzsche's
- Jamie Cudney at Roxy's
- Jen-9 at Roxy's
- Jennifer at Underground

best beer selection

- Colter Bay
- Pearl Street Brewery**
- Colé's
- Buffalo Brew Pub
- Alternative Brews

best wine list

- Shango
- Bacchus**
- Allen Street Hardware
- Mother's
- Toro



best martini

- Shadow Lounge
- Cecelia's**
- Blu Mirage
- Club Marcella
- Club Diablo

best happy hour

- Goodbar
- Nietzsche's
- Pearl Street Brewery
- Pizza Plant
- Sportsmen's Tavern
- Ulrich's
- Buddies II
- Mulligan's Brick Bar
- Buffalo BBQ and Brew

best place to watch a game

- Faherty's
- Pearl Street Brewery**
- Mulligan's Brick Bar
- Buddies II
- Ying Wings n Things

best dance club

- La Luna
- Level
- Club Marcella**
- Roxy's
- Club Diablo

best live music

- Town Ballroom
- Allen Street Hardware
- Mohawk Place
- Nietzsche's**
- Sportsmen's Tavern

best karaoke

- Roxy's**
- Tudor Lounge
- Frizzy's
- Q
- Garden Park Cafe

best pool table

- Classic Cue
- Hippodrome
- Frizzy's
- Pearl Street Brewery**
- Club Diablo

best bowling alley

- Reccio's
- Voelker's**
- Thruway Lanes
- Transit Lanes
- Kenmore Lanes

best jukebox

- Essex Street Pub**
- Frizzy's
- The Old Pink
- Mulligan's Brick Bar
- Club Diablo

best place to watch young hipsters

- Spot Coffee on Elmwood
- The Old Pink**
- Allen Street Hardware
- La Luna on a Wednesday night
- Soho

best old man bar

- Buddies II
- Founding Fathers**
- Merlin's
- Mother's
- Eddie Brady's

STILLWATER



this spring go green

2007 NISSAN ALTIMA HYBRID



model #05017

42 MPG CITY

starting at \$24,400

tax credit of \$2,350



662-8008

3580 Southwestern Blvd.
Orchard Park, NY 14127
1 Mile East of Ralph Wilson

TREMENDOUS VARIETY, GREAT VALUE-THE BEST PEOPLE

Rediscover the Roycroft

-Artisan Classes, Campus Tours and Membership Opportunities.

Discover unique, handcrafted items on display and for sale. These distinctive gifts are created by over 50 local and national artisans with the same care and quality as in Elbert Hubbard's time.

Open 7 days a week: 10 am - 5 pm



31 South Grove Street
in East Aurora, NY
only 20 minutes from Buffalo

(716) 655-0261



www.roycroftcampuscorporation.com



For a city its size, Buffalo has an embarrassment of riches when it comes to the arts. Apart from 800-pound gorillas like the Albright-Knox, Shea's, Studio Arena and the Philharmonic, we're blessed with many smaller galleries, theaters and performance spaces where local visual, literary, musical and performance artists can share their work.

Many of these smaller venues also play host to internationally recognized artists and works in various realms, giving us the opportunity to remain well informed about what's happening on the global scene.

Our colleges and university also create an environment where younger people can explore their creative impulses. Many, in fact, stay here—recognizing the underground network of artists and venues here that can serve as a fertile environment in which to practice in their own particular field. Some of the individuals you see listed below are expats who had left for supposedly greener pastures, only to find they missed the green, green grass of home. This too is our gain, for when they return they tend to be wiser and more focused on work than hype.

Anyone who doubts Buffalo's interest in its arts scene need only review the uproar caused when the Albright-Knox moved to auction off many of its antiquities in an effort to focus on contemporary work. The fact that so many had such strong opinions, one way or the other, is proof that our cultural organizations are deeply ingrained in our sense of who we are as a city.

Our readers responded to our Best of Buffalo survey on the arts with a wide-ranging selection of talented individuals and organizations who are helping to carry us far beyond our image as an economically distressed, sports-crazed, snow-bound, gray, Rust Belt burg.

And while it may be true that there are fewer local wealthy philanthropists interested in pouring money into our cultural institutions than there used to be, there is a growing, enthusiastic, educated and hip crowd here who are less interested in expensive, gilded imports to our marble galleries than they are in creating and appreciating real, vibrant and thoughtfully creative, homegrown works of beautifully provocative art. It's all here, it's all good and it's all a part of what makes our city truly special.

—buck quigley

FINALISTS LISTED IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER. WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AV BEST OF BUFFALO BASH, APRIL 30 AT TOWN BALLROOM.



NIMBUS DANCE

best small gallery

- Big Orbit Gallery
- CEPA Gallery**
- College Street Gallery
- El Museo
- Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center

best new arts/performance space

- Soundlab
- The Church**
- Hallwalls
- Tornspace Theater
- Ghostlight Theater

best painter/sculptor

- David Derner
- AJ Fries**
- Catherine Parker
- Bruce Adams
- Elizabeth Jenney

best writer/playwright

- Kurt Schneidermann
- Manny Fried
- Jon Elston**
- Matthew Crehan Higgins
- Annette Daniels Taylor

best poet/spoken-word artist

- Michael Basinski
- Celia White
- Carl Dennis**
- Kevin Fehr
- Gabrielle Bouliane

best video/film artist

- Nick Adrian
- Marc Odien
- Addison Henderson & Korey Green**
- Jax DeLuca
- Dom Luongo

best genre-defying artist

- Mark Freeland
- Kadri**
- Leah Rico
- Anna Olsen
- Aaron Piepszny

best performance artist/dancer

- Beth Elkins
- Matthew Clark
- Kadri
- Michelle Gigante**
- Aaron Piepszny



MUSICALFARE

best dance company

- Neglia Ballet Artists
- Nimbus Dance
- Zodiaque Dance**
- Greater Buffalo Youth Ballet
- Matthew Clark Dance Academy

best theater company

- Kavinoky Theater Company
- Buffalo United Artists
- Irish Classical Theater Company**
- Theater of Youth
- MusicalFare

best local theater production

- Die Mommy Die! (BUA)
- The Birthday Party (ICTC)**
- A Man of No Importance (ICTC)
- A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Kavinoky)
- Reefer Madness (Alleyway)

best actor

- Brian Riggs
- Jimmy Janowski
- Paul Todaro**
- Chris Kelly
- Guy Tomassi

best actress

- Josephine Hogan
- Leah Russo**
- Lisa Ludwig
- Lorraine O'Donnell
- Michele Roberts

best cultural asset/organization

- Shea's Performing Arts Center
- Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
- Albright-Knox Art Gallery**
- UB Center for the Arts
- Shakespeare in Delaware Park

best supporter of the arts

- Robbie Takac
- Ani DiFranco
- M&T Bank**
- Celeste Lawson
- The people of Buffalo

best film series

- Anything at Hallwalls
- Buffalo Film Seminars**
- Bacchus' Summer Film Series
- Cinema Sotto Le Stelle
- Emerging Cinema

best cinema

- Market Arcade Film & Arts Center
- North Park Theater**
- The Amherst Theater
- The Screening Room
- Hallwalls