



THE BASEMENT

Aug. 2019
Vol. 7

Lambda-Psi Alumni Monthly Newsletter



PERSPECTIVE IS KEY. We all think about priorities; what areas of life are important enough to be one and what aspects of life are not. By reading this newsletter, it is safe to say you had enough good memories from 951 E. 10th Street to be interested in giving TKE some priority in your life. Since last year's 50th Anniversary weekend, the Alumni Association's primary mission has been out-reach. Some brothers we reached out to eagerly returned to Lambda-Psi while others have chosen distance. The questions often posed by those choosing distance are, "why do you care or how could I possibly make any impact"? Both are fair questions given the rigors of life and responsibilities outside of another elected commitment (TKE) this is where *perspective is key*. It is safe to assume you are likely an aspirational, family-oriented, community-involved, "busy person". We ask that you consider how TKE contributed to those developed traits. The same variables we actively chose to incorporate in undergrad (i.e., resourcefulness, teamwork, commitment) still play a big part in our successful lives today. Lambda-Psi involvement should not be viewed as an increased obligation but rather an opportunity to re-organize, re-activate, and re-energize back to our best selves. Where else can you continue building deep, personal connections with so many individuals at once who immediately all share common ground?!?! Genuine appreciation for the opportunity to share in something outside of ourselves cannot be understated. Please Join us at the 2019 Alumni Weekend next month!

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RAISING THE BAR

2019 Alumni Weekend
September 20-22



Annual Brotherhood Meeting



30 Hotel Rooms
Reserved



Friday Morning Golf Outing



Football Game
NO QUARTER!



Friday Night Cocktail Event



Let's Party!

For questions, please contact:

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2019 TKE LAMBDA PSI ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA
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**FRI
SEPT
20TH**

\$50 Per Golfer

Tee times between 11am – 12:30pm

Groups of four (4) will be selected based on experience, unless otherwise requested.

**BEST
BALL**

**Reserve your spot today:
RSVP Immediately**



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Brook Valley Country Club
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1 SPOT REMAINING!



BROTHERS MAKING HEADLINES

Inc. Magazine Ranked eAudit #450 on its 2019 Top 500 Fastest Growing Companies in America!

Inc. Magazine revealed on August 14th, 20 that eAudit, founded in 2013 by Lambda-Psi brother Ryan Butcher Scroll 446, ranked No. 450 on its annual Inc. 500 list. eAudit serves as a comprehensive parcel optimization and audit platform for clients looking to reduce costs. Ryan's company Offers actionable analytics, automated auditing and carrier optimization to their customers. In order to qualify for the Inc. 500 list, amongst other requirements, companies must have been generating at least \$100,000 revenue in 2015 and at least \$2,000,000 revenue in 2018. The Inc. 500 list represents a unique look at the most successful companies within the American economy's most dynamic segment-its independent small businesses. Microsoft, Dell, Domino's Pizza, Pandora, Timberland, LinkedIn, Yelp, Zillow, and many other well-known names gained their first national exposure as honorees on the Inc. 5000. The prestigious designation is somewhat bittersweet for Butch as he exited the company earlier this year [ask him that story over some drinks, it's a wild one] but as he stated, "Inc. 500 was a personal goal of mine from the onset, and the technologies we created in our 800 sq. ft Greenville, NC office saved our customers immense time and money. There were countless challenges solved, countless late nights, and countless sacrifices. It was not easy but we said we would do it, and we did it." Talk about law of attraction!! A great example of true grit and determination.



Butch plotting world domination in 2014.

When Butch started eAudit in 2013 there were many goals for the company. Create a great team, create a great product, create incredible value for our customers, scale quickly - to name a few. "The companies on this year's Inc. 5000 have followed so many different paths to success," says Inc. editor in chief James Ledbetter. "There's no single course you can follow or investment you can take that will guarantee this kind of spectacular growth. But what they have in common is persistence and seizing opportunities." Check out eAudit's ranking here – <https://www.inc.com/profile/eaudit>. It is safe to say...watch out for technology-based companies to grow in Greenville, NC and for Butch to be a key player.

BROTHERHOOD BIOS

Since 1968, TKE Lambda Psi Chapter has built proven leaders. Our sacred bond, held faithful by so many, was committed to for each of us to become the best version of ourselves. We cannot let this bond, cultivated during undergrad, die as alumni. As we start this chapter's new reality, the journey back to ECU campus, the brotherhood bio section highlights our storied fraternity men coming from all walks of life with dynamic skillsets. Our chapter is full of talented leaders able to do so much for each other.

The brotherhood bio section serves as that bridge over water to introduce brothers from all eras and hopefully accelerate our ability to help one another. If you see someone you would like to connect to [**growing your personal & professional network!**] then reach out, you already established common ground just by being fraternity brothers. Our hope as an alumni executive team is to add value so we can maintain a robust, mobilized alumni association. Each bio will feature the brother's name, scroll number, current location, why TKE is important, unique facts, and finally what skillset that brother feels they are experts in. The featured bio will continue in each volume of The Basement and our goal is to strengthen the bond and build deeper connections across our alumni base.

Each month five (5) new brothers will be selected and featured in The Basement and by the time our Annual Fall Alumni Weekend is here, the brotherhood bios should accelerate your ability to get to know brothers spanning from 1968 to 2017.

Please contact Matt Kraus (matthew.richard.kraus@gmail.com) to be featured in an upcoming issue of The Basement!

Name: Rick Horner
Scroll Number: 161 (Fall '77)
City/State: Wilson, NC



Why is TKE important to me? 951 East 10th was the home of the second family in my life. Although we all came from different places, with different backgrounds and ideas, we all seemed to somehow come together at that place. You learned how to give and take with a great group of guys. I left better for it.

Memorable TKE Experience: Probably the Spring of '84 comeback. I came back to the house and we were down to about 20 dues paying brothers. The finances were in shambles and the guys had only one social the prior semester. It wasn't fun anymore. We had a "turning point" brotherhood where we challenged one another to go forward or go home. We passed the hat for a couple of kegs, had a series of after downtown "Party at the TKE House" (\$2 cover of course) and the rest is history.

Unique Facts: I attended East Carolina for three terms – Ford, Carter and Reagan's. Started in '75 graduated in '85.

Skills/Occupation: Always the salesman I spent twenty years as a financial advisor then nine in commercial insurance. Public service: 14 years on Board of Education (four as Chair); Two years on Community College Board; currently serving my second term in the NC Senate.

Why is TKE important to me?

TKE taught me to live in the moment and enjoy all the company around me. I will forever be indebted to my brothers at TKE. The change and acceptance through all the different walks of life that we came from too become brothers was incredible.

Memorable TKE Experience:

The Basement the night Stairwell played., but all the parties and trips with my brothers have been amazing

Unique facts:

I have lived in 5 states since 2014 traveling with the same company. Destin Florida Data Center in Omaha NE Interior projects in Charlotte NC Built Clemson Douthit Hills Student Community at Clemson University Now working on Project Mustang in Alabama living in Tennessee (1,500 workers onsite a day working onsite. 845acre site with approximately 1.4 million sqft of building)

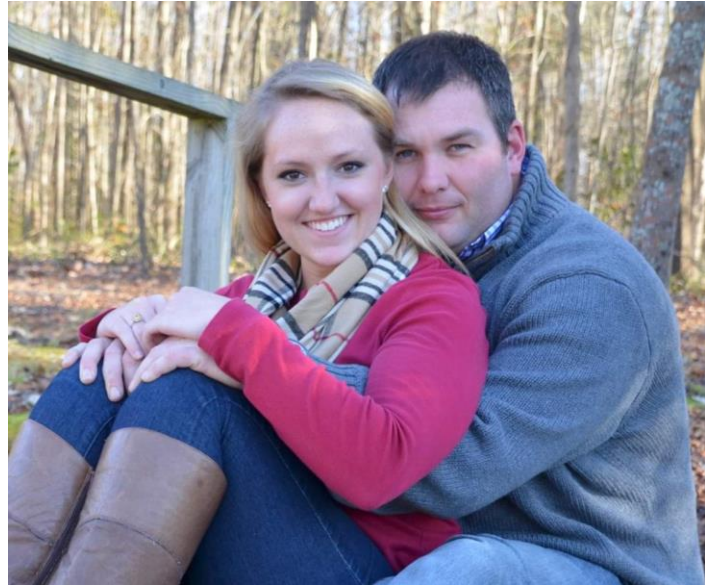
Skills/Occupation:

Superintendent with Holder Construction

Name: Thomas Wiggins

Scroll Number: 596 (Spring '09)

City/State: Chattanooga, TN



Name: Andro Tomic

Scroll Number: 496 (Spring '01)

City/State: Washington, DC



Why is TKE important to me?

Prior to joining TKE I feel like I was still trying to find the person I should be. The different people I met at TKE, and more importantly with unique backgrounds, helped me become the person I am today

Memorable TKE Experience:

Hate to admit; but going through the pledging process and everything involved with it. Whenever life knocks you down, remember that we're polar bears.

Unique facts:

Most loyal person you'll meet

Skills/Occupation:

Owner of Capitol City Construction with focus on commercial interiors and multi-family capital improvements. Offices in DC and Richmond, VA



Why is TKE important to me?

Tau Kappa Epsilon is important to me because taught me how to work with all types of people to reach a common goal...mainly keeping the house and staying on campus for the next semester.

Memorable TKE Experience:

My most memorable times as a brother are the pig pickings we started having my junior and senior year and continued my first couple years after graduating after Goose's dad donated the cooker.They were a great time to hang out with all the brothers.

Skills/Occupation:

I am a Probation/Parole Officer in Johnston County.

Name: Carl Martin

Scroll Number: 548 (Fall '06)

City/State: McGee's Crossroads, NC



Name: Adam Chinlund

Scroll Number: 634 (Fall '12)

City/State: King's Bay, GA



Why is TKE important to me?

TKE is important to me because of its diversity. Every brother came from a different walk of life and yet still share the same ideals.

Memorable TKE Experience:

My most memorable experience at TKE was being a driver for the alumni on homecoming weekend. You got to meet the older brothers that you normally wouldn't and listen to their stories.

Unique facts:

I've made six deployments on a Ballistic Missile Submarine .

Skills/Occupation:

Torpedoman onboard the submarine USS Alaska



DOC'S CORNER

A pivotal time in the TKE Lambda-Psi Chapter History

Brothers! The following story is recounted by Frater Drew Griffin in his own words. It is another GREAT TEKE STORY in the life of Lambda-Psi that needs to be told and savored. Please send me more of these!

In Spring 2007, Dennis “Buckwheat” Perry, a puffy-haired outspoken TKE icon who defines our three famous letters through his passion made a *huge* impact on Lambda-Psi TKE chapter. Across the TKE nation, Buckwheat is a TKE fraternity household name and his path has shaped the lives of past, present, and future Tekes everywhere.

Tekes often talk about not living until you’ve had some homemade cooking from Buckwheat. His legendary Mac n’ cheese, Chicago dogs with chili, and his world-renowned gumbo recipe have added levels of comfort to the TKE rush process for generations of Fraters.

Buckwheat’s limitless appetite for spreading the TKE message landed him east of I-95 in Greenville, NC charged up and ready to go for a full rush week; but it took our chapter’s gutsy brotherhood to take a major risk for it to happen. But wait...that’s all good Buckwheat can cook, he’s memorable with a wild haircut, and seems to love TKE but who the heck is he?

Buckwheat joined TKE in 1968 at University of New Hampshire. By his own admission, he was not a good fraternity man in undergrad. He only wanted to party. That changed when Buckwheat went back to college at Kansas State University once he realized how much he hated the “real world”. Perry needed a place to stay while living in Kansas, so he went straight to the TKE house. The chapter Prytanis offered him a place to stay if Buckwheat would work as a part-time cook. The legacy of Chef Buckwheat began in that house. While working in the kitchen, Buck had the opportunity to connect and build relationships with the men in the house that fall term. That November, he was elected as the chapter Prytanis by his peers which marked the beginning of Buck’s leadership in the Fraternity.



It was in that experience that Buckwheat realized the impact and importance that rush had for the Fraternity. At Kansas State, it was competitive during rush and that made Frater Buckwheat instantly fall in love with it. He’s quoted saying, “I did not finish my term as president. I immediately appointed myself as Rush Chairman because that is where the fun was at.” If the men at the other fraternities only knew what that competition created, they would have probably given up; at Kansas State, Buckwheat was given a second chance and his foundation as a rush legend will forever be derived from that experience.

DOC'S CORNER

After two years at Kansas State and interacting with TKE Nationals to possibly join the professional staff one day, the then Chapter Services Director T. J. Schmitz (Iota-Omicron) and Frater Bruce Ness (Delta-Psi) came up with a concept of having an International Rush Chairman through the professional staff. Buckwheat interviewed for a position at a hotel restaurant and was given an opportunity to prove that he was as good at rush as people said he was. During his interview, he told Frater Ness that he would rush any man in the restaurant in 15 minutes. After Ness pointed at a man, Buckwheat went toward him and 12 minutes later brought back Miles Standish (Alpha-Upsilon) who later pledged Tau Kappa Epsilon and ended up becoming a chapter president at Kansas State. Buckwheat got the job.

Buckwheat also was soon fortunate to meet Frater and Past Grand Prytanis R.C. Williams (Alpha-Pi) who was the leader in expanding the Fraternity after World War II. As a young member on staff, Buckwheat was asked to visit Frater Williams at the retirement home where he was living. "I remember him wearing a three-piece suit with a library bookshelf in the background and a steak dinner on his lap." Very few men have made Buckwheat feel intimidated over the years, but R.C. Williams is one of those men. He asked me, "How was Alpha? How was Beta? How was Gamma? And he went down the list of every TKE chapter." The experience and pride in the Fraternity that R.C. showed Buckwheat on that day in 1973 proved that fraternal greatness is something that does not fade with time.

Fast forward to late December 2006 when I, Drew Griffin the newly elected Lambda Psi Prytanis, received a general email blast from the then Director for Alumni Relations, Frater Louie Correa. The email indicated the aforementioned puffy-haired icon had 5 weeks yet to be scheduled in 2007 for him to assist with a chapter's rush efforts. Not having a clue what was so special about Buckwheat, I was close to deleting the email like any normal Lambda Psi when they receive information from Nationals but one statement caught my eye near the end. Frater Correa stated, "*if certain criteria are met by your chapter, then Buckwheat's visit would be 100% free of charge*". Ohhh snap, Drew had to find out the deal now... That hook was set.

Figuring the criteria would be insurmountable but also curious, I threw caution to the wind and cold-called Frater Correa while standing on Wright Plaza's brick wall in the heart of ECU campus trying to kill time in between classes. My phone then was a Nokia flip phone absent of text messaging, internet, Instagram, Google Maps, or anything other technological advancement beyond Alexander Graham Bell's initial discovery.

Fortunately, as fate would have it, Frater Correa picked up the phone almost immediately and I started trying to learn what's the catch for Buckwheat to attend rush week for free. Before Frater Correa went further, he made it clear the deal with Buckwheat is only for chapter's absolutely committed to their rush goals.



DOC'S CORNER

Of course, I wholeheartedly stated the chapter is committed but in the back of my mind knew there were some obstacles to deal with. Not only was the total brotherhood below 35 members, but the house was not fully occupied, and to top it off the chapter was still in significant debt. Regardless, I asked for the details. The following was communicated:

- TKE Nationals will front the bill for all Buckwheat's expenses to travel to and from Greenville along with lodging and his food (and rush week food). Estimated cost would be roughly \$1,000.
- I knew a "Great Deal" when I heard it! Let's do it!!
- But Frater Correa replied with a catch... The \$1000 cost will be yours to pay if you do not meet the rush goal greater than or equal to the previous semester's total number of initiates, which for Fall 06 was 12.
- A daunting challenge... Therefore, in Spring 2007 Lambda Psi would have to obtain 12 pledges otherwise owe \$1000 to TKE Nationals. Remember I said we were in significant debt at the time!?!?

Though daunting, I thought I should at least bring the idea to the brotherhood since everyone knew the upcoming rush period was pivotal to the fraternity digging out of debt, increasing chapter size, and trying to hold on to the house. After little debate... the chapter gave it a green light and decided to roll the dice. The brotherhood began to prepare for one of their most critical rush weeks to date and just three weeks after their initial meeting **Buckwheat arrives!**

The first thing Buckwheat does after Fraters Ryan Troutman, Jason Barrett and I pick him up from the Greenville airport is visit the local grocery store and look at the produce. He always says, "you can tell a lot about a community by their produce." Soon after arriving at 951 E. 10th St. it was time for a brotherhood meeting for Buckwheat to introduce himself.



It was powerful. He oozed cherry red and gray. His personality and love for TKE was contagious. By end of the night, all Lambda Psi was locked and loaded for rush week. Each night before rush would start, Buckwheat would start by boiling cinnamon and other spices in the kitchen. When asked why, he'd reply, "people want to be in a house that smells good. First impressions are everything."

DOC'S CORNER

As potential pledges would walk into the TKE house, it was like a playbook getting executed each night, building off the previous night. Word traveled fast up and down College Hill the Tekes were making homemade Mac n' cheese, Chicago dogs with chili, and his world-famous gumbo. The Lambda Psi brothers were now beholden to a master playwright in action!

No sit down with Buckwheat Perry would be complete without a story about Frater Ronald Reagan (Iota). During Reagan's campaign for President in the late 1970s and early 1980s, there was an advance team that would arrive at campuses a few days prior to set the venue. They would contact Buckwheat so he could get a group of Tekes together at every site because it had a great impact on Frater Reagan's morale. "He [Reagan] surrounded himself with Tekes. He felt comfortable with them. It became a fixture; anytime he would speak on a college campus, he would ask, 'Where are my Tekes?' His advance team would call me and say we need as many cherry shirts as you can get. It wasn't hard getting a group of Tekes together to see Ronald Reagan."

On one occasion, Buckwheat grabbed the shoulders of President Reagan to get his attention for a quick photograph. The back of Buckwheat's neck was soon met by the gun of a Secret Service agent who quickly reminded Buck that you do not lay a hand on the President. After that altercation, Buckwheat finally posed for the picture with Frater Reagan as he looked up to Ronald and said, "What are the chances of me getting a rush party in the Rose Garden?" Frater Reagan, with a twinkle in his eye, replied, "Buckwheat, don't push your luck," as a grin was shown from ear to ear.

Guns are a common man's fear but for Buckwheat Perry, his fear is hospitals. During a visit to a hospital in Rochester, New Hampshire, Perry had to undergo a surgery that placed him in a recovery room. "I remember two nurses running into my room. They were hysterical with 36 red carnations in their hands." The carnations were delivered with a note that read, "Buckwheat, Get Well Soon. Ronald Reagan." Buckwheat received a letter from the President of the United States because he was a Frater in the Bond. This moment is something that Perry would refer to as a prime example of what makes TKE great.

From the 40th President of the United States to the King of Rock & Roll, Buckwheat has had the most unique experience as a member of TKE. While visiting Memphis, Buckwheat approached the gate at Graceland and got on the intercom and said there were a couple of Fraternity brothers there to visit. Buck and another staff man were buzzed through and they met Frater Elvis Presley (Beta-Psi). They were given a guided tour by Elvis. "He was a very gracious man. We had a couple of cokes and he took us through his whole place." Only Buckwheat Perry can share TKE stories that connect generations of people together.

Before the end of the week Lambda Psi achieved its goal and welcomed exactly 12 new pledges who were fired up to join the fraternity!!! Lambda Psi was undoubtedly pumped to notify Frater Correa. A proud moment for the fraternity.

Thank you, Buckwheat.

Drew's final thoughts from that experience are: "There's a key life lesson in this story. Bet on yourself and your organization to achieve its lofty goals. Our collective journey continues, and we need each one of you to build Lambda Psi into the best version of itself."

Thanks, Drew!

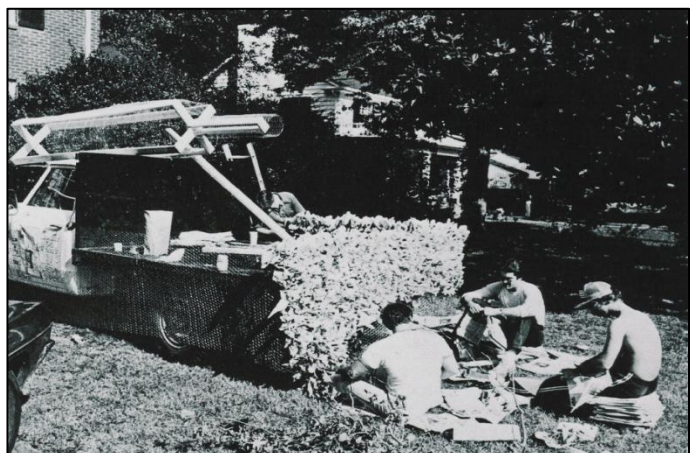
YITB,
Doc

eMail/call me and tell about some of your stories and memories from your ERA. The Basement needs to publish those stories. Email: dlepay@gmail.com or 727.224-1439



A LOOK BACK

There were no better times than spending a warm day hanging on the porch at 951 E. 10th St. as classes let out, and a cold brew was waiting on us to toast the day. The below pictures will serve as a look back into times like that to remind us who we are from 1968 onward...Enjoy!





WE NEED YOU



1968 1978 1988 1998 2008 2018 2028

The Lambda Psi of Tau Kappa Epsilon is comprised of 700+ Brothers spanning the past 5 decades. Unfortunately, we only have **50%** of the brotherhood's active email addresses and even worse, we have gaps in our scroll numbers and need your help identifying these missing brothers.

And that's where *you* can help.

We are looking for brothers to represent 5-year increments in which they were an active brother. This would greatly help the alumni association gather contact information and scroll numbers, distribute information, promote upcoming events, etc.

If you're interested, please contact **any** member of the alumni board!

1968 – 1973

1993 – 1998

1973 – 1978

1998 – 2003

1978 – 1983

2003 – 2008

1983 – 1988

2008 – 2013

1988 – 1993

2013 – 2018



ALUMNI BOARD CONTACT INFO

The Lambda Psi Alumni Association Board is here to serve. We ask you to join us in re-building our chapter's foundation. It is easy to walk away, it is easy not risk failure, and it is easy to not be vulnerable. The new Lambda Psi experiment is underway and when thinking about what type of men we need for this journey, the following excerpt from a 1910 speech delivered in Paris, France by President Theodore Roosevelt comes to mind:

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Reach out to anyone below to get involved. We need *more* strong hands to commit small actions so we can reach our large goal of building Lambda Psi into *the* premier ECU fraternity.

Lambda Psi Alumni Association Board

Name	Scroll	Position	Phone #	Email
Drew Griffin	526	President	919-796-1170	colonelgriffin14@gmail.com
Marshall Warren	138	Vice President	480-773-3617	mwarren03@gmail.com
Joe Moss	IY-564	Treasurer	252-864-5568	onebadtke@gmail.com
Ryan Troutman	518	Secretary	336-908-0098	rmt0512@gmail.com
Jim Kevil	140	Housing	973-903-7818	j.kevil@yahoo.com
Doc Lewis	60	Fundraising	727-771-7040	dlepay@gmail.com
Dylan Moore	661	Event Planning	252-414-0712	dsmoore2895@gmail.com
TJ Hill JR Rochester	581 592	IT	336-508-7897 901-853-7071	thomas1hill@gmail.com trulyjr@gmail.com
Don Troutman	145	Charity	336-707-3330	dontroutman57@gmail.com
Britt Starling	536	Finance	910-596-1187	cbs020990@yahoo.com
Scott Mosher Cameron Bush	199 193	Rush	802-448-4394 910-762-7606	smosher@nuharborsecurity.com piratebush@yahoo.com

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