

## POCALYKO NAMED CAMPAIGN LAURIATE

By William Nicoson

*“Father, I cannot tell a lie: I did it with my little hatchet.”*  
– George Washington by attribution of Mark Twain.

I’ve spent much of my time in recent weeks reading campaign literature. Countless brochures, pamphlets, and mass-mailed letters have stuffed my inadequate mailbox, forcing me to use all my strength to liberate the mail from the box. But I’m not complaining, because campaign literature can be high art, close to poetry in its compression and flair. It can also be absolute drivel. Worse, it can be wielded as a weapon of political assassination.

Now that all the entries have been tallied, it’s time to award the prizes. Let’s call them the Morris Ratings in honor of that non-partisan pol famous for dressing any of his mendacious clients in the fastidious robes of George Washington’s eternal verities.

The Morris Hatchet, First Class, goes to “Progressive Republican” Mike Pocalyko for his flyer entitled in bloody red letters: “Who Voted to Protect Child Molesters Who Murder Children?” You turn the page and learn, in out-sized type: “Delegate Ken Plum Did!” Reston’s Delegate Ken Plum, like many citizens, opposes the death penalty, but has never voted to shield child molesters from the force of our system of criminal justice, including investigation, arrest, trial, conviction and incarceration.

Another Pocalyko flyer was entitled “Democrat Delegate Ken Plum Voted Twice to Allow Guns on School Property.” On the reverse page we are admonished to “Protect Our Children from Ken Plum’s Votes Against Our Children!” and are informed that the votes were cast against HB1462 on Feb. 9 and 25, 1999. In fact Plum voted for HB1462 on Feb 9. On Feb 25, he voted for an amendment which would have authorized school boards to make decisions about guns on school property. He has voted on four other occasions to keep guns away from schools.

Still another Pocalyko flyer had the poetic title: “TRASH for CASH.” We learn on the reverse page that “Democrat Ken Plum has Taken Over \$25,000.00 IN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NEW YORK TRASH HAULERS and is Now Voting to Turn Virginia into a Garbage Dump.” In fact Ken Plum received no political contributions from trash haulers this year and \$750 last year. Trash haulers paid about \$25,000 to all Democratic candidates in Virginia. (Oh, that’s it: Plum chairs the Democratic Party in Virginia.) Plum’s candidacy was endorsed by both the Sierra Club and Clean Water Action.

Did Mike Pocalyko distribute any positive campaign literature? Yes, I got a flyer early in the campaign setting a positive agenda and indicating his endorsement by four eminent Virginia Republicans, all of whom represent Restonians: US Senator John Warner, Congressmen Tom Davis and Frank Wolf, and State Senator Bill Mims. Of course that was before Pocalyko was

awarded the Morris Hatchet, First Class. I hope his eminent endorsers are having second thoughts. For the sake of their constituents, I also hope they find better candidates next time.

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