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SECTION: CAPITAL REGION, Pg. D1**LENGTH:** 630 words**HEADLINE:** The political undead walk anew in Troy**BYLINE:** Fred Lebrun**BODY:**

All that happened in Troy on election night remains a subject of considerable wonder, even upon reflection days later.

Consider:

A single issue, shelving term limits, spurred voters to kick out a slim Democratic majority in the City Council that would have kept in office the best and most effective leader the city has had in recent years. Voters opted instead for an overwhelming Republican majority, who will, in effect, throw him out on his ear when his term ends in two years.

OK, sure, Mark Pattison, so you saved the city from bankruptcy. But what have you done for us lately?

Look who's raised his head again, the politically undead himself, Democrat and former City Manager Steve Dworsky.

The guy who a decade ago hocked City Hall, gave the store away to public safety unions and is generally credited with putting Troy in such bad shape it took a state-appointed control board to slap on a heart-lung machine to keep the city alive. Dworsky, the poster child for so many things that could go wrong with Troy, is actually being considered to head the Democrats' efforts to reorganize the city. Could this possibly be?

"It is," Steve says unabashedly, beaming a smile right through the phone.

To suggest he is eager to get started is to understate his enthusiasm.

"The first thing I would do is bring all the factions together and get us working together. That's what's happened, we're all broken up into factions. Mark has allowed that to happen."

That would include reaching out to, say, former Democrat, later Conservative and now thoroughly Republican Bobby Mirch? Bobby, who like Steve, is no fan of Mayor Pattison.

"Absolutely. Bobby is a good friend of mine. We have coffee several times a week and talk. Yeah, but he's probably too far gone (as a Republican) to bring back."

"But Democrats still have a 2,500-vote edge in Troy, so to lose means we went against the will of the people," says Steve, echoing the same drumbeat tattooed by observers from all sides. Democrats were killed when the City Council voided term limits voted in by public referendum.

"You know, Mark created this issue," observes Rensselaer County Democratic Chairman Timothy Joseph Murphy. "There was absolutely no need to raise this before the election, just to get voters all worked up. From a political acumen perspective, I find it astounding."

Which sounds like Chairman Murphy is not much of a fan of Pattison either, at least Pattison the politician. If, in fact, any such person exists, Pattison the politician.

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Murphy, who's a new chairman, admits he's been talking to Steve Dworsky and doesn't see the former city manager as the pariah others do. He likes Steve's passion. But it's also fair to say that Dworsky is a great deal more gung-ho about plunging into Democrat city politics again than Murphy is about letting him do it. "We have to talk some more," says the chairman guardedly. Meanwhile, another Troy politician once thought lost has been saved.

No one had a bigger grin on his face at the Republican celebration party Tuesday night than Bobby Mirch. "The garbageman is here and it's time to party," said Bobby, referring to his former job in the Pattison administration as the operative head of public works. That was before he took a shot at challenging the mayor in 1999, lost, and was summarily fired.

"I remember what the mayor said at the time to the press, he said, 'If you shoot the king, you better be sure you kill him.'

"Well, guess what. The king is dead."

Nor is Bobby Mirch discouraging speculation that he'd make a damn fine mayor, which is no doubt true. Merely an unexpected turn.

All this the voters of Troy accomplished in one night, and oddly enough without the benefit of a full moon. Contact Fred LeBrun at 454-5453.

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