

# The National Expirer

All the news that's fit to print—and some that isn't, too!

News of 2009 from George & Julie Halitzka

## Louisville couple arrested for Gross Cheapness during recession

LOUISVILLE – George and Julie Halitzka have always made pennies scream, but claim they never realized it was a crime. Now, the couple is being held on a \$50 bond for 346,882 counts of Penny-Pinching.

“These charges stem from the Obama Administration’s reform of our country’s torture policies,” said FBI spokesperson Seymour Simon. “We discovered that the Halitzkas were subjecting U.S. coins to undue pain and torment by squeezing. Even worse, they’ve failed to pursue a patriotic program of aggressive consumer spending during the recession. We had no choice but to arrest them.”

When the Halitzkas attempted to post bail in cash, the court ordered them to use a Mastercard. “You think you’re too good to carry a balance like the rest of us?” scoffed Judge Ebenezer Scrooge. Citing their Conscientious Objector status, the Halitzkas refused, but the judge was unmoved. “After few days in The Hole, you’ll know better than to pay your bills on time,” he said, as the bailiff applied handcuffs. “How un-American!”

The FBI’s attention was first drawn to the Halitzkas months earlier, when the couple allegedly set a budget of only \$10 for date nights. “Who comes in and orders nothing but an appetizer and two glasses of water?” said Applebee’s server Brittany Smear in a deposition. “They always paid with a *debit* card, even around the holidays. Clearly, it was my civic duty to rat them out.”

FBI investigators later learned that the defendants are funding Julie’s



seminary tuition with cash, and have saved \$509.04 using their Kroger shopper’s card this year. These revelations added counts to the indictment.

In a transparent attempt to garner jurors’ sympathy, co-defendant George claimed that he regularly donates to his church. But an expert on Christian finances cast serious doubts on his veracity. “Halitzka’s ‘donation’ story is hard to swallow,” scoffed televangelist Ben Mammon. “God promises to bless those who tithe, but the Halitzkas drive a dented 2000 Taurus and shop at Wal-Mart. Where’s that Tenfold Blessing I preach about?”

“We *do* give, and God *is* blessing us!” insisted George Halitzka. “We’ve never gone hungry; we pay bills on time —”

“Just paying the bills is a *blessing*? Get thee behind me, Satan,” said Mammon. He then called for his chauffeured Lexus on a gold-plated iPhone.

Meanwhile, Judge Scrooge planned to throw the book at the couple. “I have a nice, heavy copy of *A Christmas Carol* to heave their way,” he said. “Reading about Bob Cratchit’s penury ought to scare them into living beyond their means. No one needs to worry about tomorrow when they can charge their purchases today! (Using a Discover Card from Scrooge and Marley Bank, of course.) I’m tired of freeloaders who won’t pay 24.99% APR.”

The Halitzkas asked Scrooge if he was familiar with the term “irony.” The judge shook his head and glowered at the defendants: “No, but that sounds like the kind of thing a fiscal conservative would say.”

Co-defendant Julie was left with little hope for a speedy release. “We can’t afford a lawyer without charging it on Visa,” she admitted. “So unless we convince three ghosts to testify at our trial...we’re sunk.” ♦

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## Julie spends more time at Gymboree: claims she is paid to play around

During 2009, Julie has been able to stop substitute teaching and spend all of her working hours at Gymboree, where she leads music and play classes for preschoolers. She enjoys hanging out with Gympo the Clown far more than dodging spitballs, so it's been a welcome change.

"I really like my job," Julie told the *Expirer*. "What's better than getting paid to play and sing with cute kids? I blow bubbles and have fun with a parachute every day. Plus, special

events like the Halloween costume party (pictured) are a blast!"

Julie is also a worship leader with her church's music ministry, regularly singing from behind the keyboard. She's designing a new church website and working to digitize her congregation's worship repertoire. Julie's mentor, Worship Director Lee Anne Turner, is a big encouragement.

Julie is now in the home stretch of her seminary education, with only ten courses to go. Even at her current pace (attending classes half-time while she works to pay tuition), she should be finished by May 2011. Her next step will probably be to look for a full- or part-time position with a Vineyard church. Pray for Julie as she explores the possibilities! ♦

## Halitzkas share honeymoon suite to celebrate New Year in style

A few days after Christmas, George got an unexpected gift: severe abdominal pain. Since he was visiting his parents in Cleveland for the holidays, he went to see their doctor, and was sent to the hospital for an emergency appendectomy. Then the surgeon discovered an even more serious problem: a segment of George's colon was blocked and had to come out.

So the Happy Couple rang in the new year sipping on ice chips in Community Regional Medical Center's Honeymoon Suite. (Actually, the hospital calls it a "Medical/ Surgical Ward.") Thankfully, Julie was incredibly supportive during the entire recovery process, even spending a few nights in George's room on a cot. She helped encourage her hubby on the way to a speedy recovery.

After a full week in the hospital, George checked out of the Medical Marriott on January 5. Praise God that all of the damage seems to have been removed from his colon, and the surgeon believes there is little chance of recurrence. But a monster hospital bill is looming ahead: please pray that God will provide the funds to pay it. ♦

## George does more writing in 2009 "I get to sleep even later than usual," says scribe

Dramatically speaking, summer 2009 was a busy season. George wrote three character education shows that gave performances at summer camps, and he also led drama workshops at numerous locations. During the spring, he taught at his usual assortment of Christian theatre conferences and oversaw the drama club at Stophor Elementary School.

In the fall months, however, he's been primarily focused on writing. He continues to pen monthly articles for *Boundless*, and has contributed to *Living with Teenagers*, *LEO Weekly*, *Real Life Downloaded*, *Drama Ministry*, *Round Trip Missions*, and *Lillenas Drama*. His one-act play for young audiences, *Happily Ever After*, is scheduled for publication in 2010 by Playscripts, Inc. He's also done some marketing work and preached a couple of sermons for his church, the Highland Vineyard.

George's favorite story of 2009 was a short fictional piece, "No Good Deed," which he penned for *Boundless*. You can read it online at his website: [www.writingbygeorge.com](http://www.writingbygeorge.com).

Unfortunately, George has developed a nasty habit of keeping "Writer's Hours." In other words, he goes to bed around 2 am and doesn't wake up until 10 the next day. Julie occasionally criticizes his schedule—but George thinks she's just jealous. ♦

