

The Best (and Worst) New Yorkers of 2016

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View of US presidential poll votes at the Empire State Building on Manhattan Island on November 09, 2016 in New York City.

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New Yorkers are fond of patting ourselves on the back. “We live in the greatest city in the world,” we say to literally anyone who will listen. “Come live in our large and inexpensive apartments. Don’t worry about the child-sized rats or inexplicable mounds of trash.”

In many ways, 2016 was an inexplicable mound of trash. Let's sift through it.

THE TEN WORST NEW YORKERS of 2016.

10) Norman Seabrook

The former head of the Correctional Officers Benevolent Association suffered a truly [spectacular fall from power in 2016](#) after years of preventing meaningful reform from reaching Rikers Island. Seabrook was arrested in early June on the orders of modern day [Untouchable Preet Bharara](#) after allegedly taking thousands of dollars in kickbacks for steering his union's money towards a friendly ponzi scheme (which quickly fell apart after Seabrook's arrest). According to the indictment, Seabrook once received \$60,000 in an \$800 Ferragamo bag, and then complained that the amount simply wasn't enough. Seabrook, who has maintained his innocence, then [successfully argued that he should be allowed to go to Disney World while out on bail](#). While Seabrook was enjoying hang time with Goofy, his union was assessing the damage he left, including a double digit loss to their pension fund. This week, [Seabrook compared his persecution to Jesus Christ](#). His trial should start this spring. It will be quite enjoyable.

9) Landlords

Average rents in New York City went slightly down in 2016, but most of that decrease [came from concessions on the higher end of the market](#). So if you are of modest means, housing was still hell, exacerbated by landlords with [little to no regard for the law or human decency](#). Just to pick two exemplars of the real estate community, we'll single out Steve Croman and Raphael Toledano, recommended for this list by [Brick Underground's Virginia K. Smith](#). Croman was [finally indicted this year](#) after being on the Voice's radar for decades for pressuring older, poorer tenants to move out of downtown properties, often through intimidation, lack of maintenance, and using former NYPD officers to track down tenants and harass them until they move. Raphael Toledano, a veritable prodigy of predatory management at the ripe age of 26, has apparently followed in Croman's footsteps, with tenants complaining that Toledano's employees have been harassing them so they will move out of their rent stabilized homes. A letter sent to Toledano by tenants [pleaded with him to stop sending his people](#) "in and around their buildings, after hours, on the street, and close to where they live." In [an interview with The Real Deal](#), Toledano asked a reporter whether he believed in god, then told him, "I'm worth a fuckload of money, bro."

8) Gregg T.

Gregg T. suffered a brutal fall from grace, much like fellow once-beloved 2016 meme, [Ken Bone](#). An intrepid journalist, with the help of a friendly civil rights lawyer, sussed out that Gregg T. was not just a rumped, lovable "See Something, Say Something" icon, but rather [an NYPD lawyer who bullied civil rights protesters into submission](#). Gregg T, AKA Gregg Turkin, tried to get Black Lives Matter protestors to admit that the NYPD had probable cause in arresting them before a judge would dismiss their case so that the protestors would lose the ability to sue the department later for their bogus arrests.

In 2016, we just couldn't have nice things. We couldn't even have our memes. And in the end, we probably should have been way more wary of the literal poster boy for snitching.