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Freedom's Phoenix Digital Magazine viewing tips

By Nick Barnett

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Libertarian Activism in France

By Gilles Laurent

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IN France, the libertarian movement is small. Many people turn to socialism, communism or nationalism according to the result of the last presidential election. The candidate of the "Parti Socialiste" (the equivalent of your democratic party but more leftist on economics than yours) won the election, the candidate of the "Front de Gauche" (communist party) did 11% and the "Front National" (nationalism and protectionism party) did 18%. We, the libertarians, did not have a candidate because we needed 500 signatures from 500 mayors. It's very difficult to obtain these signatures because we want to stop the subsidies that mayors receive from the state to do some projects in their cities. So, we are small but we are here and we are very energetic like Ernest Hancock in his radio show 😊 and we have some projects to make progress on our libertarians ideas.

BASTIAT 2012

Recently, we launched the [Bastiat2012](#) project. The idea is to present our candidate for the presidential election, Frédéric Bastiat, the famous French economist and deputy in the 19th century. We created a website with a political program, with his old texts, we did a book with his best texts, we put signs about him in the street in different places (Paris, Strasbourg, Rennes, Colmar, Bordeaux, Aix-en-Provence etc...), we distributed flyers, we did a political campaign like



for a real candidate. Our slogan was "A dead candidate can be better than our living candidates". We also did a "What if" video inspired by the "What if Ron Paul" video (you can have English subtitles by clicking CC) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxYQb-WmB3g>

Et si nous avions fait fausse route depuis 60 ans ?



This video had great success.

FRANCE for RON PAUL 2012



At the same time, we created a Facebook page "[France for Ron Paul 2012](#)" to inform French people about the Ron Paul campaign and his ideas of liberty. We translated some of Ron Paul's speeches and videos. Our biggest work was the translation of the documentary "*For Liberty*", a great success with 10,000 views :

Qui est Ron Paul ? For Liberty Re-cut - Ron Paul 2012 DVD (French subtitles)



Finally we did a real website : [RonPaulFrance.Fr](#)

LA MONNAIE SAINTE

For some projects we simply copy you, our Americans friends, because your movement is advanced compared at ours. So when I saw the [donttreadonmeme.com](#) website and the dime card project, I realized immediately that is a genius idea to explain the concept of inflation, including neophyte people in economics and people who are not in the libertarian movement. You can see the face value and the real value in silver. The difference is the steal by inflation. So I contacted the [donttreadonmeme.com](#) team to ask how to do the dime cards. And 3 months later, I realized my French dime cards with old French coins in silver. Around the French dime card that I named "carte franche" (a translation

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meaning frank card or honest card), I did a website to explain very simply the concept of inflation. I named this website <http://www.lamonnaiesaine.org> (monnaie saine means sound money)



CONTREPOINTS

In France, I think that the most important libertarian project is Contrepoints.Org. Contrepoints was created in 2010 with the observation that there was no libertarian media in France. "Internet is a dream tool because you can do a lot with very little money" says Lexington, one of the website's founders from liberaux.org association. The name Contrepoints is an allusion to the magazine Contrepoint, a 70's magazine with Raymond Aron. Now there are roughly 100 writers voluntarily who write articles about actuality and libertarianism for Contrepoints.Org. In 30 months, the website is a success and has over 500 000 page views by month. There is too a youtube channel Contrepoints-TV : <http://www.youtube.com/user/contrepointorg>. The next step is the professionalization of the project.



PULP LIBERALISME

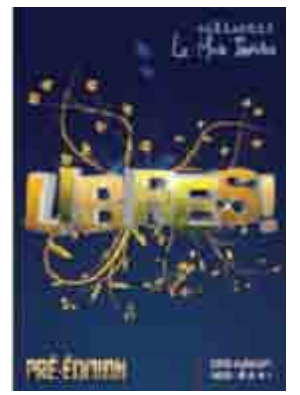
Pulp Libéralisme is an initiation book between a book and a comic. The idea is to explain very simply the classical liberalism and Austrian

Economics school ideas. The book is divided into 36 chapters where each chapter answers to a libertarianism cliché. On each page there are simple explanations, a quotation from a libertarian author, and a humoristic picture from an old American comic whose bubbles had been modified. The book is available on <http://editions-tulys.fr> or on Amazon.



LIBRES!

"Libres" means "Free" in French. Libres! is a book written by 100 authors. Each author made a double page article on a particular subject with a libertarian view. The authors are very different, there are University Professors, businessmen, students, secretaries, lawyers, etc... and there are very different subjects, such as education, drugs, money, immigration, poker legislation etc... The book will be available in September 2012 on <http://www.lamaininvisible.org> or Amazon.



Here is a link to Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock on 06-05-12 where Ernest interviews Gilles and his friend and fellow activist, Edouard Hesse (or watch video archive below):



Gilles Laurent is a French libertarian activist. He is the creator of the French Dime Card Project, creator of the webpage LaMonnaiesaine.Org (La Monnaie Saine means The Sound Money), and he also did the French translation of the Silver Calculator App. You can visit him on his facebook page at Facebook.Com/GillesLaurent67.

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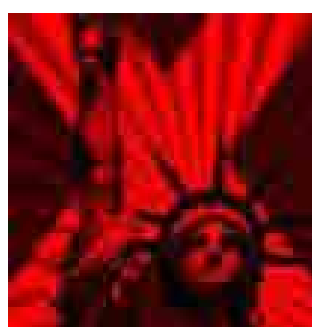
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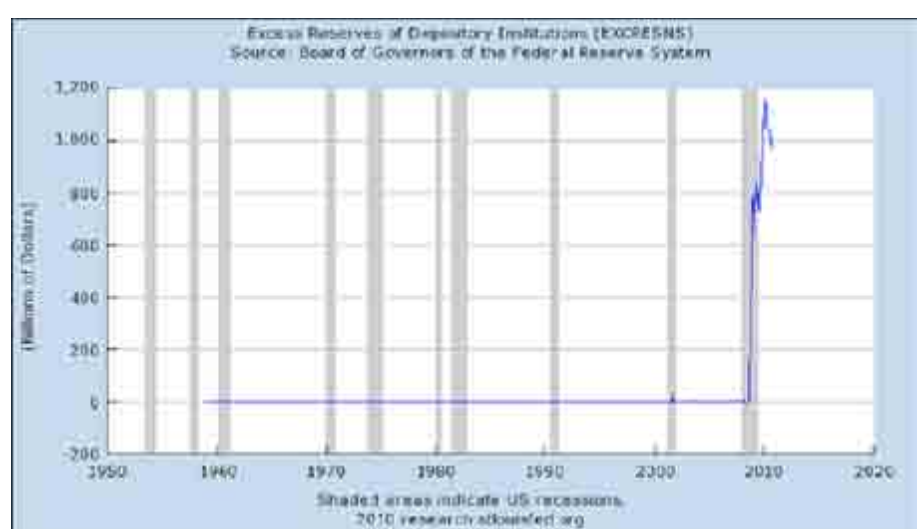
Taxmageddon—It's Worse Than It Sounds

By Glenn Jacobs

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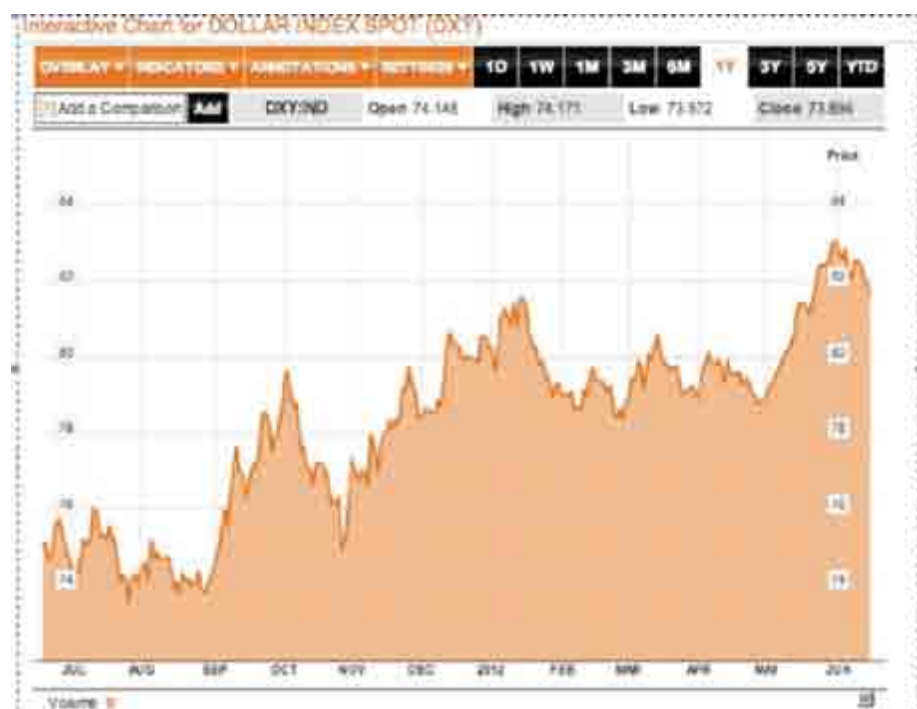


DESPITE all of the Federal Reserve's interventions, the U.S. economy remains moribund. To borrow a term from Lord Keynes, the Fed is "pushing on a string." Instead of trickling through to the general economy, the trillions of dollars that the Fed has injected into the banking system have either stayed with the banks in the form of excess reserves at the Fed (note the "hockey stick" on the chart below) or have gone into the financial asset markets, causing the "wealth effect" of rising stock prices. The economy, however, has not benefited from these huge influxes of newly created currency.



The problem that the Fed faces is how to increase the velocity of money, i.e. how often dollars change hands. Normally, the Fed accomplishes this through "inflation expectations," that is, folks spend money now because they fear that their dollars will have diminished purchasing power in the future. [With consumers and businesses racked by fears of uncertainty](#), this tactic is not working.

The crisis in Europe presents other problems for the Fed, besides the European contagion spreading to our own banking system and financial markets. First, the current flight to safety away from Europe and into the dollar is causing the dollar to strengthen, making the American exports more expensive on the world market. Second, Europe accounts for about 22 percent of American exports. A disruption in Europe means a dampening of demand for American exports. These two facts are a double whammy for the American export market, one of the few bright spots of our economy. You can bet that Bernanke, et al, are closely monitoring the Greek election.



And don't forget that this is an election year. Since the Great Depression, no sitting president has ever been re-elected with a headline unemployment rate north of 7.4 percent. Currently, U3, the "official" unemployment rate, stands at 8.2 percent. You can make another bet that the White House is putting massive pressure on the Fed to "do something."

The election places Bernanke in a political dilemma. If the Fed does nothing, Democrats will accuse Bernanke of undermining President Obama's campaign. If the Fed acts too blatantly, Republicans will accuse him of helping Obama. For this reason, the Fed will not want to embark on any serious monetary interventions too close to November. But, since there is a lag between the time the Fed injects money into the banking system and before the money has the desired effect on the economy, if Bernanke believes the economy is going to deteriorate going forward, he is going to have to take action rather quickly.

One thing that Bernanke could do to increase money velocity is to stop paying interest on the excess reserves held at the Fed. But, with the economy in such fragile shape and Europe looking worse all the time, Obama may not have the patience for such a move to begin working.

As I mentioned earlier, monetary policy takes time to work. On the other hand, fiscal policy--tax and spending policy--works much more quickly.

The overall problem for the government is that individuals and businesses are not spending. The Fed--"the lender of last resort"--has made plenty of money available, but it is just sitting there. I wonder if a desperate Obama will propose making the federal government "the spender of last resort" [a la FDR](#)? What if the economy begins another downward spiral over the summer, following the pattern of the last couple of years, and Obama proposes a massive "stimulus" and jobs program?

But, you argue, the Republicans in Congress will block such measures and the debt ceiling will again be an issue by the Fall. This is true. For instance, the Obama campaign is running a new ad in nine swing states: [I have a jobs plan, and Congress should pass it now.](#)

On the other hand, what if Obama doesn't need Congress to act? What if he could enact these policies under his own authority? He can. Yes, it would be a radical step, but he can.

Many of us libertarians freaked out over Obama's executive order (EO) of March 16, 2012, [National Defense Resources Preparedness](#). Basically, this EO authorizes the federal government

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to nationalize all private property and industries. Similar EOs have been on the books since the Cold War, but what is particularly disturbing about this one is that it allows the President to take these actions in “non-emergency” conditions [Sec.201(b)].

However, what I find even more interesting for our purposes here is Part 3--Expansion of Productive Capacity and Supply. Under this section of the EO, the government is authorized to make loans to private companies with the Federal Reserve acting as guarantor of the loans:

PART III - EXPANSION OF PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY AND SUPPLY

Sec.301. Loan Guarantees. (a) To reduce current or projected shortfalls of resources, critical technology items, or materials essential for the national defense, the head of each agency engaged in procurement for the national defense, as defined in section 801(h) of this order, is authorized pursuant to section 301 of the Act, 50 U.S.C.App. 2091, to guarantee loans by private institutions.


(b) Each guaranteeing agency is designated and authorized to: (1) act as fiscal agent in the making of its own guarantee contracts and in otherwise carrying out the purposes of section 301 of the Act; and (2) contract with any Federal Reserve Bank to assist the agency in serving as fiscal agent.

(c) Terms and conditions of guarantees under this authority shall be determined in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The guaranteeing agency is authorized, following such consultation, to prescribe: (1) either specifically or by maximum limits or otherwise, rates of interest, guarantee and commitment fees, and other charges which may

be made in connection with such guarantee contracts; and (2) regulations governing the forms and procedures (which shall be uniform to the extent practicable) to be utilized in connection therewith.

Sec.302. Loans. To reduce current or projected shortfalls of resources, critical technology items, or materials essential for the national defense, the head of each agency engaged in procurement for the national defense is delegated the authority of the President under section 302 of the Act, 50 U.S.C. App. 2092, to make loans thereunder. Terms and conditions of loans under this authority shall be determined in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of OMB.

In summary, President Obama (or a future president) could declare that current economic conditions represent a threat to national security and using the powers he gave himself with this EO, he is authorizing the Federal Reserve to make loans directly to certain businesses to stimulate the economy and promote job growth, thus bypassing the Fed's traditional method of injecting money into the banking system, and instead injecting the money directly into the economy.

Would any President attempt such a radical step? Probably not, but then we never thought that GM would be nationalized either. In any case, the Fed and the government are going to have to address increasing money velocity at some point. While and increase in the velocity of money will lead to a short-term boom, with all the money that the Fed has already created, the end result is going price inflation like America has never seen. 

Glenn Jacobs [[send him email](#)] is the actor and professional wrestler Kane. His articles appear in on [LewRockwell.Com](#). You can visit his blog at [AdventuresOfCitizenX.Com](#)

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The Horrors of State-Run Schools and Schooling

By Brent Veinotte

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THE Daily Bell is pleased to present this exclusive interview with Brent Veinotte.

Introduction: *Brent Veinotte has worked in private education for the last 10 years, in a variety of activities. As host of the School Sucks Podcast, every week Brett shares his discoveries about American schooling with thousands of listeners. He is also now the vice president of a tutoring and educational consulting company in New Hampshire. Brett worked as an Outdoor Education Leader at a boarding school in Vermont in 2000, then taught at the Great Expectations school in Manchester, Vermont from 2004 to 2006, where he designed new curricula for all classes he taught, including American History, World History, Media Ethics, Film History and a variety of mathematics courses. While teaching at Great Expectations, he completed masters level coursework in educational leadership, and the secondary education certification program at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. After leaving Great Expectations in 2006, Brett began to work exclusively as a private tutor in the greater Boston area. Much of this work was related to standardized test prep but also included providing essay writing support to college applicants, leading training sessions for prospective teachers planning to take state certification exams and serving as a liaison between parents and public schools to address student needs and parent concerns. He also worked as writing consultant to a London School of Economics graduate student, advising on foreign policy issues and Austrian School Economics.*

Daily Bell: Give us some background on [School Sucks Podcast](#). How did it start? What does it do now?

Brett Veinotte: School Sucks Podcast began in 2009, and it was intended to be a sharp, comical and pop-culture-friendly exploration into something that most people couldn't care less about. Unfortunately, it's something that significantly affects us, in ways that most folks never even realize.

Our aim is to take the word "education" back from the state. Today that word is a euphemism for compulsory indoctrination funded by threats of force against property owners, designed to serve the needs of the power elite. What education really is: a lifelong pursuit of self-directed, intrinsically motivated and purposeful knowledge acquisition. Public school and education are more antonymous than synonymous.

Daily Bell: Give us some background on yourself and where you were born and grew up.

Brett Veinotte: I was born in Pennsylvania, in a town I later discovered was run by the mafia. I used to really like sharing what I thought was

an exciting fact. So imagine my disappointment when I eventually realized that all towns, cities, counties, states and countries are controlled by some form of organized crime.

I grew up near the New Hampshire seacoast. After some moving around for college and career, I came back to NH. I highly recommend it as a place to settle down.

Daily Bell: You had ten years in education. Tell us about that.

Brett Veinotte: I was once on track to be a certified public school teacher in the state of Massachusetts. Despite my original career goals, I managed to avoid teaching in public school. However, I was trained to teach with public school teachers. My student teaching experience was in a public high school, and in even private school I was introduced to the burden of "state standards." When I left private school, I found that the system had followed me into private tutoring (grades, college pressures, student apathy, etc.)

At some point, around 2005, I began exploring the so-called "failure" of the public education system, how and why it "failed" and the subsequent widespread implications. Once I came to understand the history and intentions of government schooling, I realized that it is only a failure for those who believe its purpose was enlightenment. When we come to understand that the intentions were conditioning, handicapping indoctrination and control we have to acknowledge its success.

That being said, not only did I want to stop participating in the problem, I also wanted to find some means of evaluation and action that would be a dramatic departure from any previous educational reform debate. Those desires, after a few failures, eventually manifested in my tutoring company and School Sucks Podcast.

Daily Bell: When did you decide that education wasn't doing what it was supposed to do?

Brett Veinotte: It's an interesting question because what I eventually realized is that government school is doing exactly what it was supposed to do. I think many libertarians reach a point, probably early in their development, where they ask some variation of this question: "Is our society managed by the dumbest and most myopic people on the planet? Or is there just some other agenda we're not being told about?"

Up to this point, human history is basically playing in a loop. It's a continuous story of how a small group of people controls a large group of people, by fear or by force. And this is achieved by keeping most of the large group relatively

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ignorant and hopelessly dependent on the supposed leadership of the smaller group. It's predators and prey, and government school is just one of the predators' newer tools. And in 21st century America, if people don't believe this applies to them, they are simply the latest dupes in this cycle.

Daily Bell: When did public schools get their start – in Germany?

Brett Veinotte: While there are sparse examples of compulsory schooling going all the way back to ancient Greece, the pre-German-Unification Kingdom of Prussia is probably the most significant step. However, the system in Prussia was simply a new method of perpetuating a practice that was already thousands of years old, and that was the science of turning human beings into controllable and predictable resources. In Prussia, the goals were militaristic; the rulers and elites wanted a reliable fighting force, with soldiers who wouldn't be made less efficient by annoying habits like the exercises of volition and self-preservation.

Daily Bell: Tell us more about the Iron Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck.

Brett Veinotte: Bismarck was a Prussian aristocrat, credited with masterminding the German Unification under Prussian rule in the latter half of the 1800s. He was like a brilliant chess player; he thought way ahead. However, like Hitler many generations later, he was able utilize an already existing momentum of German thought to ultimately achieve his goals.

Key to Bismarck's plan was a popular embrace of nationalism and a strong ethnic identity. At the time Bismarck began to implement his plans, the schools had been building that momentum for at least two generations. The success of his "Blood and Iron" speech speaks to the impact the schools were already having. In this speech, he criticized the ideas of diplomacy and multilateral decision-making, and argued instead for concentrated power and military aggression. And the people, who were ultimately the victims of this agenda, happily embraced it.

Daily Bell: Didn't he plan for Gymnasiums to educate children by grade to bond them for eventual warfare?

Brett Veinotte: Yes. And this is the genesis of the age-based sorting system we still see in schools today. Like I said, he thought way ahead.

Daily Bell: How did Bismarck's horrid system expand around the world?

Brett Veinotte: The Prussian system was imported to the United States in the mid-19th century by a Massachusetts politician named Horace Mann. He praised the system for its efficiency and regimentation but he was also forced to acknowledge the abusive nature of the Prussian model. Amazingly, he simply dismissed this concern by claiming that such a control structure could be used for good ("the perpetuation of republican institutions") in the United States.

Daily Bell: Didn't it get a foothold in America because of Irish prejudice?

Brett Veinotte: As early as the 1860s it was a factor. It was no coincidence that a system

formed in Prussia to instill a sense of ethnic superiority and the mystical idea of nationalism would have the same effect in the United States. Catholics and immigrants were big targets. There was a strong xenophobic desire to stamp out diversity in general, and the school system was even embraced by the KKK for that potential molding function.

From Massachusetts, it expanded quickly around the country. As a simple and general rule, when one government observes another devising a clever and subtle new way to control its subjects, the observer will imitate the doer.

Daily Bell: Give us some insight into John Dewey. What was his impact on modern education?

Brett Veinotte: Dewey was a so-called educational reformer who came along roughly two generations after the system's implementation. In retrospect, we could say that Dewey's reform was actually an acceleration of the existing system's worst features. In a nutshell, Dewey asserted that an individual's mind was essentially property of the larger society.

I believe that he believed he had the best of intentions but the actual results of his ideas were monstrous. Dewey believed in the eventual emergence of what he might have called a 'humanistic society based on the principle of interdependence.' Or state socialism, if you strip out all the euphemisms.

While Dewey helped introduce the look-say method of teaching literacy, or teaching illiteracy if again we strip out the euphemisms, that was not his most significant contribution. Dewey seemed to understand that the schools were a profound power for indoctrination in nationalism and ethnic superiority, and he wanted to use this power for an even 'greater good': the inculcation of collectivism. And to achieve this, individualism had to be significantly downgraded.

John Dewey was all about the greater good. That sounds nice. But what is it, who decides it and how many smaller goods should be sacrificed to achieve or maintain it? He once wrote: "Every teacher should realize he is a social servant set apart for the maintenance of the proper social order and the securing of the right social growth." Okay, so who defines "proper" social "order" and "right" social "growth" for all? Moral, mentally healthy people don't seek that kind of power.

Daily Bell: What is your mission going forward at the podcast?

Brett Veinotte: Simply put...expansion, empowerment and exposure. For the last few months I've been working very hard to tap into YouTube, where I believe there is a huge group of young people ready to embrace our message. In every podcast and video, I try to include a strong message about how demented and philosophically corrupt government schooling actually is. So no matter where a person starts, they get some introduction to this message. I hope that this realization helps rebellious or labeled (ODD, ADHD) students realize that it's the system that is defective. Not them.

Daily Bell: What are some of the big issues you will continue to cover?

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Brett Veinotte: That's where the exposure comes in. One of the aims from the beginning of the show was to encourage critical thought. I want young people to have the tools to detect and deflect government and corporate propaganda. And they won't get these tools in school.

We recently began a series on logical fallacies, where we take a critical look at intellectually insulting ruses like Mitt Romney and the viral video, KONY 2012. I want to help young people build their intellectual self-defense, so they can identify and expose dangerous frauds. Between the schools, the mainstream media and politics there is no shortage of new dangerous frauds in need of exposing.

Daily Bell: How should people feel who work in the current system?

Brett Veinotte: That depends on how much they've discovered about it. I remember how I felt at different stages in my career, even in private school. From my own experience, it's a gradual process that begins with denial and rationalization. My only advice for these people is to be honest with themselves. However, they should also be realistic about what they can do.

Daily Bell: What should they do?

Brett Veinotte: People used to tell me: "if you want to change the system, you have to work within the system." And that is the world's worst advice. People who believe in that idea should try the following: Pick a place you really want to visit. Take a picture of that place and put it up on the wall. Set up a treadmill in front of the picture and then get on and start walking towards your destination. Call me when you arrive there and then I'll consider your advice.

First, a government, or government program, really can't change for the better. It simply grows and rots until it collapses on top of its dependents. It is designed to stay the same for the people who are benefiting from its current state – unions, service contractors and politicians in the case of the schools.

Second, considering the powers that such individuals would be up against, they should ask themselves: "How small and non-efficacious do I want to feel?" The whole work-within-the-system suggestion came right out of the system and is designed to make people feel worn down and powerless, so they will eventually give up and begrudgingly accept the status quo.

I can't tell others exactly what they should do but I can say that what I've done has been very rewarding and empowering for me personally. I got out.

Daily Bell: What kind of advice do you give to parents and children?

Brett Veinotte: To young people: Please don't take what I say as the final word on any of these topics. Please do your own research and carefully consider any course of action before you take it. Act in accordance with reason and individual purpose.

However, there is not a one-size-fits-all solution. My advice would vary greatly on an individual-to-individual basis. One of the most frustrating encounters is with the people who want to me to talk to them like I'm a politician. They'll ask, "So

what's the solution?" as if such a person exists who knows what is right for millions of strangers. People who ask questions like that seem to have absorbed all of school's most destructive messages: obedience to authority, trust for those in power and conformity to a single way of doing or thinking about something.

Here's something that I have in common with Barack Obama, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum: I don't know how to solve complex social problems and I don't know exactly what is best for millions of unique individuals with a wide variety of needs, concerns and desires.

And here's the difference: I won't pretend that I do. I won't lie to you, promise you things, insult your intelligence and delude myself into believing I could have such wisdom or power. I'm not a politician.

Daily Bell: What kind of advisory services are you involved in?

Brett Veinotte: That's the perfect follow-up question. I am the vice president of a company that provides tutoring and college consulting services. In my work, I meet with people one-on-one, analyze needs and then make suggestions or take action based on those unique needs and goals. I try to present a wide spectrum of choices, to show young people that they have a myriad of options.

I have been shying away from college consulting in the last few years, because I was realizing it was more of a service for parents. I feel like a more accurate name would be "Let me present you to my son or daughter as an expert and then I'll pay you to tell them why they have to go to college..." consulting.

Daily Bell: Do you think this growing anti-public school movement you participate in is turning into a full-fledged power?

Brett Veinotte: First, I don't wish to present myself as anti-public school. I try to express my philosophy in the affirmative. I favor and value individualism, curiosity, critical thought and voluntary interactions. And school is a widely accepted institution that honors none of these things, and yes, that needs to be pointed out.

I'm also unsure about the word movement. I have identified many other individuals and projects working with a similar philosophy and towards similar ends. We are allies but we certainly do not speak with one voice.

Daily Bell: Who do you consider your colleagues?

Brett Veinotte: Accessibility is one of my favorite features of the new media; people you once admired from afar can quickly become your friends and collaborators. I have made some really meaningful connections with people like Richard Grove, Wes Bertrand, Gardner Goldsmith, Jason Osborne, Stefan Molyneux and Laurette Lynn. If I needed a cohost for a show, those names would be at the top of my list.

Daily Bell: Are there plans for a larger coalition?

Brett Veinotte: Not specifically. The only purpose of any cohesion would be to spread the

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message faster, further and more efficiently. However, I accept that any meaningful philosophic and social evolution is a very gradual process.

Whenever I hear the word coalition I picture political action. So I shy away from that because I do not believe the government is in any way legitimate. And according to government school textbooks it would appear that any complex social, economic or cultural problem can be solved quickly and efficiently by simply involving the state. That is fiction. There are zero major problems in this country today that were caused by not-enough-government-involvement.

Daily Bell: How are you making a difference?

Brett Veinotte: Most importantly, what I do makes a major positive difference in my life. That's the number one reason why I do it. Beyond that, I recognize that my impact has been modest as far as its reach. The show has millions of downloads but I know very little about what the results of those downloads are for the individuals on the other end. I have received roughly 1000 emails and comments from people who claim the show had a profound impact on their lives. It might not seem like too many but it's more than I ever could have reached if I had confined myself to a classroom.

Daily Bell: How can parents and children make a difference?

Brett Veinotte: I would suggest focusing on actions that can make a direct difference in their personal lives. For parents, offer your children alternatives to these government indoctrination centers. For students who are stuck there, ask questions. Questions are what can stop ridiculous and corrupt ideas from becoming world religions and political ideologies. Curiosity is very powerful if it's being practiced by enough people simultaneously.

Daily Bell: What kind of education SHOULD children have?

Brett Veinotte: The kind they would have without government school: a natural, intrinsically motivated, personalized and rewarding one. And

that would mean a thousand different things for a thousand different learners.

Daily Bell: Where do you stand on home schooling?

Brett Veinotte: It depends. If it is used for the purposes I just described, it's great. That's unschooling. That's natural and respectful to the child. However, if it's used for Rick Santorum purposes – to shield children from reason and reality – I strongly oppose that.

Daily Bell: What do you think of higher education?

Brett Veinotte: I have mixed feelings. It depends on a person's goals. College is not the 13th grade, and it a very expensive place to figure out what you want to do.

In the last two generations, there have also been some hints of a scam. In school and society, we see all of this pressure for students to attend college, regardless of their long-term goals, or lack thereof. In government, we see heavy subsidies being shoveled into higher education – easy money that students who learned nothing about debt can get their hands on. These subsidies send a signal to the colleges that they can raise tuition. So now we have a situation where more graduates are finding themselves \$150,000 in debt in an economy with no jobs.

Daily Bell: What is the real function of education? Isn't it to make somebody an autodidact?

Brett Veinotte: Education is a natural process, not a synthetic one; curiosity is the real teacher. We are all autodidacts until institutionalized schooling interferes.

Daily Bell: How does the US as an empire fit into public education?

Brett Veinotte: Everywhere. The schools produce obedient conformists who rarely question authority – the perfect fighting force. The curriculum is stocked with subtle but consistent messages of nationalism (we call it patriotism), just war (making the world safe for democracy) and

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geopolitical superiority (America is the best) – three rationalizations for military aggression.

Daily Bell: Do you have any thoughts on why education ended up like this?

Brett Veinotte: Because it's run by government. Because it is based on the threat of force. There was no other way for it to end up, and I believe it is exactly what it was intended to be. Education has too much potential a control tool to be left to individuals, families and markets.

Open oppression usually has a very finite life. When prisons are built everywhere and filled with people, revolution becomes inevitable. However, oppression can continue indefinitely when the prisons are built somewhere they can't be seen, like in the minds of people. And that's government school.

Everybody understands that there are aggressive and predatory criminals in this world. Some use myopic brut force to carry out their crimes – guns, knives or fists. But the smartest and most resourceful have always used government. It's the best place to hide criminality in plain sight.

Daily Bell: Is there a power elite pushing the world toward global governance?

Brett Veinotte: I'm not sure if it's one group or several but as a student of history I know what people in power want: more power. And we can certainly see evidence of that push in institutions like The UN, The Council On Foreign Relations, Bilderberg, The EU, IMF and the World Bank.


Daily Bell: Where does public schooling fit into this larger globalist focus? Aren't children being brainwashed into globalism?

Brett Veinotte: Even though there might be some messages that lead to an embrace of globalism, this indoctrination wouldn't have to be so direct. Because public schooling inculcates obedience, intellectual apathy and conformity, most people can be tricked into accepting or even embracing any agenda that powerful elites wish to pursue – welfare, warfare, corporate bailouts, fiat currency, progressive taxation, property seizure, the drug war, Homeland Security, etc. Globalism would just be one example of many.

Daily Bell: Websites and resources you recommend?

Brett Veinotte:

- John Taylor Gatto's body of work, especially the [Underground History of American Education](#)
- Any [John Holt](#) book
- [FreeDomainRadio.com](#)
- [CompleteLiberty.com](#)
- [TriviumEducation.com](#)
- [TragedyandHope.com](#)
- [Schoolsucksproject.com](#)

Daily Bell: Thanks for your time and keep up the good work. 

Brett Veinotte is the host of School Sucks Podcast ([SchoolSucks.Podomatic.Com](#)).

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PorcFest is a Free State of Mind – or An Ode to Alternative Currencies

By Angel Clark

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THIS is one of the most difficult posts I've ever had to write. Not because it's emotional, but because I hate to think about the fact that I am no longer on vacation. I know that sounds like such a first-world problem, but

to be fair, my vacation was PorcFest 2012.

filled with alternative currencies. You give the machine your Federal Reserve Notes (FRN) and decide whether you want silver, gold, or [Bitcoins](#). Naturally, one of my first stops at PorcFest 2012 was to purchase my favorite [Silver Dime Card](#) as a souvenir (yes, that's right, I wanted to hoard at least one). Armed with my "Enemy of the State" [card](#), I was ready to enjoy the PorcFest economy.



Sunset at PorcFest 2012 – Photo by Nikki Darling



Some of my Favorite Silver Dime Cards – Rothbard and Firefly – from Don't Tread on Meme

Despite the name, PorcFest 2012 was not about bacon (although there were hundreds of pounds of bacon consumed at the event). The [Porcupine Freedom Festival](#) is a weeklong event organized by the [Free State Project](#). PorcFest 2012 was packed with liberty lessons, speakers, and consenting capitalist acts.

I have stated in the past that I am like a child when it comes to making purchases with alternative currencies. I don't care what I'm buying; it makes me happy to use gold, silver, copper, and even Bitcoins to do so. I feel like there is an inherent lack of coercion in the transaction and it's a feeling one does not often get to enjoy in the "United States".



Nights at PorcFest 2012 – Photo by Nikki Darling

I see no reason to go into detail about the schedule of PorcFest; you may read about the [events here](#). I will be focusing on one of my favorite aspects of the week, the alternative currencies!



I exchanged coffee for silver, copper, and Bitcoins. The coffee that I exchanged was not from the "United States" and had not been examined by the FDA. No government representatives had declared my coffee maker and teapots "sanitary". Amazingly, no one died from consuming a beverage that had not been deemed "safe for consumption" and "sanitary" by the government. This may have been a fluke.



PorcFest 2012 Alternative Currencies – Photo by Ross from Don't Tread on Meme

I just happened to be camping right next to the activists of [Freedom's Phoenix](#) and [Don't Tread on Meme](#), which means I was next to the [Moneylith](#)! The Moneylith is a vending machine

During my time at PorcFest 2012, I exchanged silver for chicken fingers (which I highly doubt were the actual fingers of chickens), burgers, hot

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or An Ode to Alternative Currencies



The FR33 Aid tent – Photo by Claire Haus

dogs (which I don't think contained actual dog), gyro, French fries and French toast (which may not have originated in France), and even orange juice. Oh, and of course, there was bacon. Not once did I get sick, although I did get one heck of a hangover... Again, this may have been a fluke. It is doubtful one person could consume that much food over a prolonged period of time that had not been checked by the government and remain healthy.



Photo via Nikki Darling

Ruby Hilliard has a giant steak at PorcFest 2012 – She must be shocked that no government representatives checked her food to see if she should eat it.

I had two favorite exchanges at PorcFest 2012. The

first was a Bitcoin exchange. It was truly a first for me. I had already had one Bitcoin transfer to my website, but now it was raining and laptops were difficult to move. I was ready to do something I never expected. I gave a stranger my phone number. About a minute later, I had a text message. I was sent [Bitcoins](#) through a text message!

The text message, to be more exact, was a link. I clicked the link and was sent to a temporary Bitcoin wallet, through Coin-



Rain at PorcFest 2012 does not always mean a bad time – Photo by Nikki Darling

apult.com, which I could use to send the funds to my own wallet. Apparently, [Coinapult](#) also lets you send coins with just an email address as well. Bitcoins through a text message, my mind is still wrapping around the possibilities! I also now have in my possession a physical Bitcoin (but that's a tale for another day)!



Physical Bitcoin Card – Photo via Ross from Don't Tread on Meme

Another exchange was with a friend of mine who also listens to my show. He asked for a coffee and stated that he wanted to make

an exchange entirely with alternative currencies. He gave us a Silver Circle Movie round and was given a coffee and some copper rounds. The look on his face reminded me of how great it is to engage in voluntary interactions.



Angel Clark gets a shirt from Ross at Don't Tread on Meme

Exchanges made with Federal Reserve Notes are inherently coercive. The Federal Reserve prints it out and deflates the value of the currency currently held by others. This very act should be considered theft.



Agorist Valley Site 32 at PorcFest 2012 – Photo via Nikki Darling

To engage in voluntary interactions that are consenting, well, that's a big part of why this piece was so difficult to write. I have to accept that I am no longer at PorcFest. It's back to the state, the FRN's, and the life I knew before. I have come to realize though, that while I am deep in government interference, in my mind I can head back to PorcFest. PorcFest is a Free State of mind... 🍁



Family Fun at PorcFest 2012 – Photo via Nikki Darling

Angel Clark is a liberty-oriented lady, and blogs at [SussexCountyAngel.Com](#). Angel focuses on economics and civil liberties, but you will hear her opinions on plenty of other topics. The Angel Clark Show airs live weekdays on [LRN.FM](#), from 5-7 p.m. Eastern. Angel also has podcasting of her show listed on [RadioFreedomUS.Wix.Com/Radio-Freedom](#).

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Self-Publishing: An Interview With Tarrin Lupo

By Tarrin Lupo

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AN interview with [Tarrin P. Lupo](#) about how he become a self-published [author](#), and how you could, too. Tarrin is best known for being the author of the historical fiction series, "[Pirates of Savannah](#)" and his children's book "[Catch That Collie](#)". He has successfully published thirteen eBooks and short stories. He is also a liberty activist who runs a news service called [The Low Country Liberty Report](#) and co-hosts the [Wheels off Liberty podcast](#). He currently resides in Savannah, Georgia, and is a member of the [Free State Project](#), spending time in New Hampshire promoting the ideas of Freedom and Liberty.

In the interview, Tarrin explains the difference between self-publishing and traditional routes to publishing for authors. He talks about the business of self-publishing and provides guidance on how to successfully market your work. He shares his thoughts on the skill of writing and on what it takes to write commercially. He also provides his views about intellectual property and the publishing industry and his thoughts about where the industry is going.

Self-Publishing interview on mp3:



Tarrin Lupo on Self-Publishing (Video)

Interesting talk by author Tarrin Lupo on various aspects of self-publishing, given at the [Agora I/O](#) "unconference":



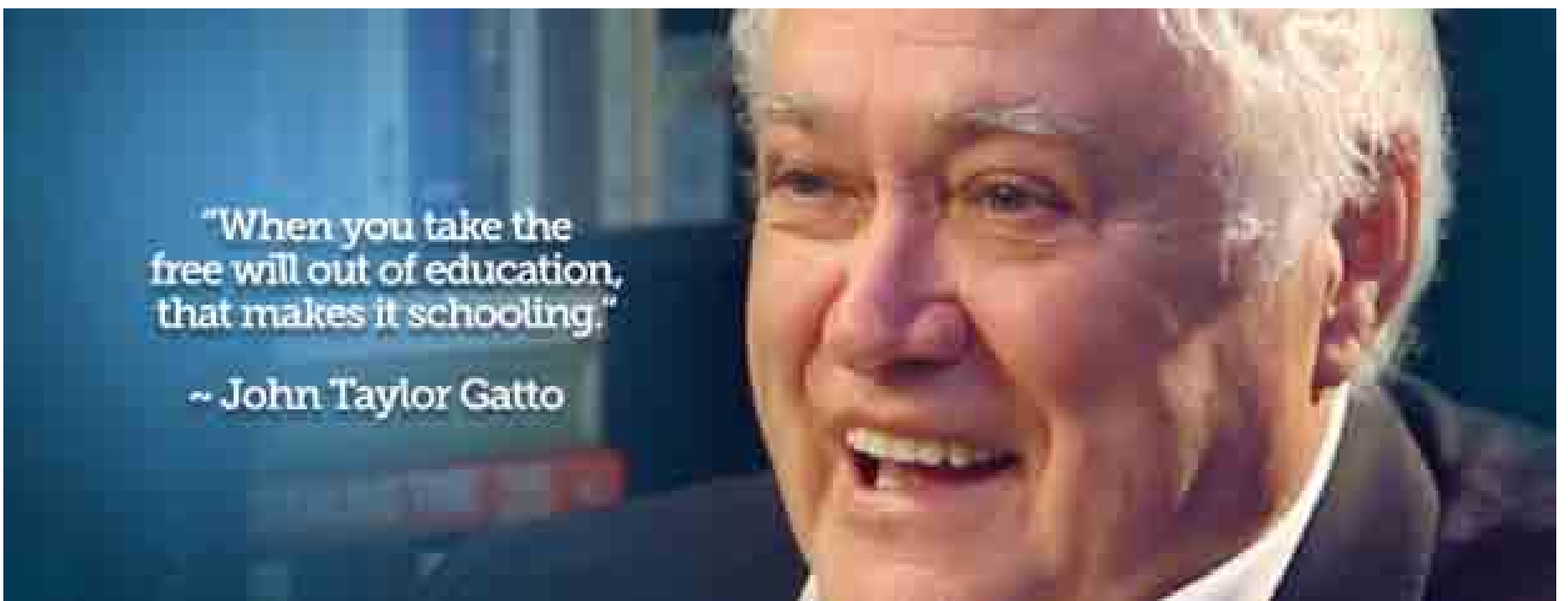
This information and mp3 was provided courtesy of The Voluntary Life Blog ([TheVoluntaryLife.Blogspot.Com](#)). Video is provided by [YouTube.Com](#) and [Agora I/O](#) (the free online liberty conference). Tarrin P. Lupo is best known for being the author the historical fiction novel "[Pirates of Savannah](#)" and his children's book "[Catch that Collie](#)". Tarrin is also a full time liberty activist

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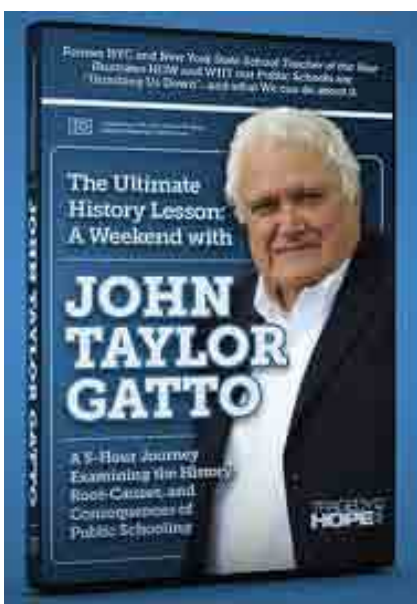
"The Ultimate History Lesson: A Weekend with John Taylor Gatto"

By Cody Hall

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IT'S been almost one year since a community of liberty-minded individuals combined their volition to produce what [John Taylor Gatto](#) himself has coined "*your birthright*". Thank goodness they took the initiative when they did, to memorialize this incredible man's work; as only a few weeks later, John Taylor Gatto suffered multiple strokes. It is for this reason that I wish to share the story of a series of synchronistic events, incorporated with a relentless drive for objective truth, that culminated into "[The Ultimate History Lesson: A Weekend with John Taylor Gatto](#)", and how it's being leveraged to aid John's recovery.



"In 1992 when John Taylor Gatto won the New York State and New York City school teacher of the year award; he used the opportunity to expose the fraud of public schooling. In 2001, he published "[The Underground History of American Education](#)",

illustrating in chapter 9 how "[The Cult of Scientific Management](#)" creates a world where individuality and self-reliance are re-defined to dissolve liberty, and create collectivism. In 2012 John delivers to you a timeless message, presenting you with your birthright and inheritance... to be free, and independent. It's called "[The Ultimate History Lesson](#)", and it's a 5-hour message, from John, to You." – Richard Grove

I'm going to begin this story with the conclusion and call for action, and then I'll circle back to explain why I feel this is a worthwhile fundraising effort for John Taylor Gatto.

Summary: John suffered multiple strokes in the weeks after finishing "[The Ultimate History Lesson](#)". Since then, he has been hospitalized off and on and is now at home trying to recover. His economic resources have been depleted and he needs our support right now.

Every purchase of "[The Ultimate History Lesson: A Weekend with John Taylor Gatto](#)" with the coupon code "[FREEDOMSPHOENIX](#)" through this link goes toward supporting John in with funds for medical needs, and personal rehab that his depleted insurance no longer covers. When you [purchase the UHL Gatto Fund-raiser pack](#), you will receive \$140 of value for \$55; and Tragedy and Hope will make a \$15 donation to both John Taylor Gatto and Freedom's Phoenix.

Here's the context and background events which led to the creation of "[The Ultimate History Lesson](#)".

This story starts to pick up in May 2011. An independent film producer named Richard Grove has been attempting to make contact with the legendary iconoclast of education, John Taylor Gatto, for over a year and a half; in the hopes of filming an interview with John that could be produced as media of the highest quality. The goal: to examine and map-out the history, root-causes, and consequences of public schooling; then share this media with the world as a public service.

Who is Richard Grove? In 2003, [Richard was a Wall Street whistleblower](#), and as a result of the rude awakening of that journey, he and his fiancée Lisa seized the opportunity to be the change they needed to see in the world.

On July 4, 2009, they created an online research and self-education community at [Tragedyand-Hope.com](#), and have since published the [Peace Revolution podcast](#), which is ranked #1 in the Higher Education category on podOmatic. Tragedy and Hope empowers individuals with the tools of intellectual self-defense, as there are many who are searching for cognitive liberty.

The community is named after the 1966 historical tome "[Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in Our Time](#)" by Carroll Quigley.

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The Tragedy and Hope Community is a fear free zone of mutual respect, wherein approximately 2000 individuals from all over the world are cooperatively researching, discovering and promoting how to consistently think clearly and how to learn anything for themselves, via a systematic method of critical thinking which can be applied to all subject areas of life. In addition to the community and podcast, Tragedy and Hope creates a variety of independent media which is presented to the public free of charge thanks to the voluntary donations of various community members, who find value in the creation and distribution of their unique brand of educational productions.

After a year and a half of numerous correspondence attempts to John, receiving no reply, an individual within the Tragedy and Hope community offered assistance to Richard and was miraculously able to put Richard in touch directly with John. Since Tragedy and Hope has a severely limited budget, Richard and Lisa had planned on driving to John's home to record the interview themselves. Well, during the once in a lifetime phone conversation Richard was having with John, Richard discovered that the interview would need to take place at what is now referred to as "Tragedy and Hope Studios" in Connecticut over a two day period. This would entail the purchase of a round trip airplane ticket, the rental of a hotel room, various hospitality costs, and of course, the creation of a studio environment (which by the way, did not yet exist at the time); all of which had not been calculated for initially.

Richard had a huge choice to make. He could succumb to the victim mentality of scarcity, decline the opportunity, and wait until he had enough money (knowing they may never speak again)... or, think like a producer, leverage faith, and discover how to meet and surmount the obstacle of funding by engaging other liberty-minded individuals.

Richard accepted, and the rest, as they say... is History.

At this point they only had a couple weeks to raise the funds, book the flight, reserve the hotel room, gather a production crew, and create a studio environment in their modest rental home.

Richard created a "chip-in" widget, commonly used to do fundraising on the internet, and placed it in the Tragedy and Hope community (where I happen to be a member), explaining the situation and the opportunity; therein describing the details of how we could successfully carry out the production, so that our community could understand how they could help.

The response was incredible and humbling, for everyone involved; including me, as that was how I became an Associate Producer on the project.

Within the first two hours, enough money was raised to book John's plane tickets. Within the first two days, enough money was raised for the hotel room.

Over 200 individuals from all over the world donated to become "Associate Producers" on the Ultimate History Lesson project. Without the generosity of these individuals funding it all the way through post-production and its subsequent release on DVD and Blu-Ray, there would have been no "Ultimate History Lesson".

Once the plans were set and the necessary services funded, John Taylor Gatto flew to Connecticut to be interviewed at Tragedy and Hope Studios on 4th of July weekend, 2011.

Tragedy and Hope community members travelled from Arizona, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, to voluntarily aid with the camera work, audio work, photography, and cooking. The result is something unique, full of meaning, and timelessly appropriate for individuals of all ages.

Once the historic weekend came to an end, the immense task of post-production began. It took Richard over 6 months of diligent work and persistence every day, he patiently refined the raw materials into the finished product. The herculean task of this project was reduced with the donation of a custom built film editing computer, made possible by T&H community member Tony Myers; who's now an Executive Producer on the new T&H video series "[History... So It Doesn't Repeat](#)".

For anyone who doesn't know much about filmmaking, post-production is where a film is created and it can be a daunting process. Richard Grove strives to create media of the highest quality given his modest means of doing so, and in the "Ultimate History Lesson", his work shines bright - providing HD content both for free online and in beautiful Blu-Ray & DVD packages; with cover art donated by graphic designer and T&H community member Greg Hardesty, in Italy.



From my perspective, the knowledge that is gained by watching this 5-hour journey into the history of compulsory public school is more valuable than anything I learned at my time in college.

Each hour builds upon the next and once you've reached hour five, John has not only exposed the true objectives of compulsory schooling but also illuminates the natural creative entrepreneurship in children. John would take amazing steps to re-ignite the child's love of learning.

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Instead of circumventing the child's volition by deciding what they are to be taught, John asks them what they want to learn.

Some would call this form of teaching radical.

I would call it freedom.

Here is a sample from mid-way through the interview; which illustrates the essence of what I'm communicating:

(Video) "[How to Train Fleas?](#)" / John Taylor Gatto, a sample from The Ultimate History Lesson

There's also [this fantastic review](#) by a homeschooling mom, who was educated at Harvard, Stanford Law, and also holds an M.B.A. from Stanford; describing how she watched all 5-hours start-to-finish, in one sitting. She writes *"But beyond the general joy of learning I get when I listen to Gatto, I find that his contribution is most relevant to me in two specific ways: First, Gatto lays out a comprehensive, novel (nowadays anyway) and scrupulously thought-out and tested approach to education. Second, Gatto explains the history of modern schooling and how and why we moved away from his traditional, intuitive approach to educating our young to what we have today, which he clearly distinguishes as schooling as opposed to education."*

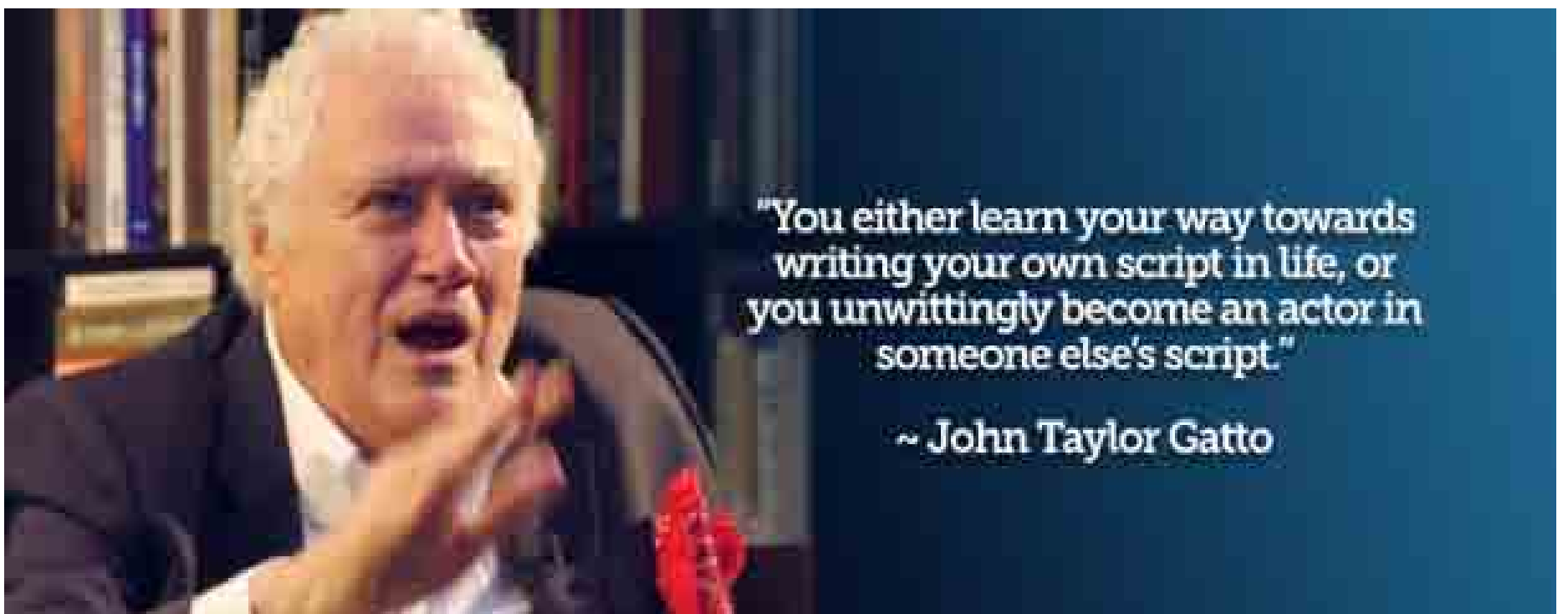
As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, John suffered multiple strokes in the weeks after finishing "The Ultimate History Lesson". Since then, he has been hospitalized off and on and is now at home trying to recover. His economic resources have been depleted and he needs our support right now.

Every purchase of "[The Ultimate History Lesson: A Weekend with John Taylor Gatto](#)" with the coupon code "FREEDOMSPHOENIX" [through this link](#) goes toward supporting John in with funds for medical needs, and personal rehab that his depleted insurance no longer covers. When you [purchase the UHL Gatto Fund-raiser pack](#), you will receive \$140 of value for \$55; and Tragedy and Hope will make a \$15 donation to both John Taylor Gatto and [Freedom's Phoenix](#). It's a win/win/win situation; You get your Birthright, John gets Help, and Freedom's Phoenix gets some much-needed funding to continue reigniting the flames of freedom! 🦅



Cody Hall is also an Associate Producer of [The Ultimate History Lesson: A Weekend with John Taylor Gatto](#), and is one of the many individuals learning how to achieve Cognitive Liberty in the [Tragedy and Hope](#) online community.

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My Contribution To Activism By Powell Gammill

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I cannot say I have any particular activist focus. I usually been involved in other people's ideas rather than my own. I have learned a lot from other activists over the past twenty years or so. So I guess I will pass on a few rules for activists that I tucked away over these years. None of them are likely mine. They are the wisdom of others that I thought merited my remembrance and practice. It is by no means comprehensive nor absolutely the last word. And I am sure I have forgotten some. Just my thoughts.

1. If you are not a little uncomfortable with your position you are not going far enough. Corollary: Take the most extreme position you can on an issue, that way you don't have to fight for territory later. (ahhh, L. Neil Smith, probably badly quoted by me, but a great place to start)

What is the point of activism if it is not going to ruffle the feathers of the protectors of the status quo and get them to respond? How do you get people to join you, or pay attention to you unless there is controversy? Never compromise on the truth or your principles---you cannot win by half way measures or giving just a little bit.

2. If you are not having fun you are doing it wrong. (an Ernieism = standard saying of Ernest Hancock)

If you are going to do activism at least think of something fun to do. It is a lot easier to get others to join you if it sounds like fun to do it. It also looks better when you are enjoying yourself if for no other reason than it pisses the bad guys off even more.

3. Always know what they can charge you with and what the penalties are.

Not that this matters a whole lot. Cops can charge you with pretty much anything and worse when they know they have nothing to charge you with every state has a law the cops use and the judges (those bastards in black dresses sworn to uphold your Rights) uphold whatever they charge you with. In Arizona it is "disorderly conduct - fighting" (a potential felony if armed and a serious misdemeanor otherwise) in other states it is "disturbing the peace," etc....

4. Call the cops.

I still remember the first time I was with Ernie when he picked up the phone and speed dialed Sheriff Joe. 'Hey, Joe, how's it going? Some buddies and me thought we'd hang out over the freeway at _____, waving some signs to the cars below tomorrow afternoon. You don't have a problem with that do you?' Joe: 'Ah, ah, uh, not if they aren't doing anything illegal.' Ernie: 'That's great Joe, just wanted to give you the heads up! Bye.'

But "Ernie," I said, "The Sheriff's dept. doesn't patrol the highway. The DPS does.' To which Ernie said, "That's OK, word will get out." And it did. 😊

Why did he do that?

The most dangerous thing that can happen is a cop comes screeching up, bails out with his club and angrily confronts a bunch of protestors being on his turf without his permission. Doesn't matter that you don't need his permission, nor that it is not his to grant. It just matters that he is armed and pissed off.

Better to have the supervisors alerted and they send out some cops to observe because they will be on their best behavior (usually). Don't let cops be surprised and usually they won't react in a manner that is deleterious to your health, time and wallet.

Sometimes they will still behave badly as a forewarned group. The publicity is a good thing as they trample your Rights. So is the 42USC1983 lawsuit. Personally, I would recommend in that situation not pressing your point. Getting arrested is NEVER fun...though you should make it look like it is.

When the cops are assigned to show up to your protest it helps get the media out there. They find out about your event from the cops and cover it hoping someone will get arrested, clubbed, dragged off or at least provide some entertainment.

It is a lot more fun when the cops are there than if they ignore you (ignoring you would be a smart move for them).

The City of Phoenix has a unique program. They have a group of detectives who show up at protests to protect the protestors from problems. Now they are really there to keep the city from getting sued. But in reality, the most stress free protests I ever did are in the Phoenix city limits with these guys around. Every city if they were smart would do this. But of the more than dozen adjoining cities in the Phoenix metropolitan area, Phoenix is unique. Every other police agency including the Sheriff's Dept and the state police do not look upon activists with amusement.

5. Confronted by cops.

Not all cops are bad guys, or your enemies. It is just that a majority of them are. These are the guys who can beat you, pummel you, break bones, dislodged teeth, shoot you, kill you, gas you, electrocute you with impunity. So personally when the cops show up don't count on



waving the piece of paper called the CONstitution to protect your Rights. It won't and you really don't want a demonstration of how it won't. So pay attention to what they say. Show respect or at least consideration. Don't answer questions. Ask questions. Don't be intimidated, but confrontation doesn't work in your favor. But questions do...delivered with a smile Remember you cannot legally lie to a cop, but they are encouraged to lie to you. Questions are never lies. Or silence is golden (but more likely to get

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you arrested in my opinion than asking the right questions). Anything else is dangerous.

You cannot talk your way out of an arrest. The arresting officer either has probable cause to make an arrest and if he does he must, or he does not (in which case the arrest is illegal and his limited immunity is on shaky ground). If a cop wants to talk, it is because he has reasonable suspicion but not probably cause, and he wants you to say something to give it to him. My defense attorney warned me he would charge me double if I talked to any government employee without him being present.

Usually cops just want to restrict where you are and what you are doing. But sometimes they want you to leave. Remember any threat they make must be followed through or they are a paper tiger. So pay attention to what they say and weight the cost/benefits of your words and actions accordingly.

If you are on public property (sidewalk) or city easement you are on good standing to hold your ground. Be polite and non-destructive. Smile



and have a good time...it is hard to attack someone who is friendly (as opposed to being perceive as laughing or disrespecting someone). Respect and friendliness don't really hurt to give even if you don't mean it. And t looks better for the cameras. Don't endanger others (block sidewalk, hang signs OVER the freeway where it can fall onto the freeway).

Got your protest sign on a stick so it is easier to hold up and wave?... "threatening with a deadly weapon"---I kid you not. Got your video camera on a tripod? "Arrest with a deadly weapon." If you get arrested do you have anything that can be construed as a weapon? It matters not that you have a Right to have that gun in your purse, that knife in your pocket, the pepper spray on your belt.... That would add 5 years onto any fairly minor sentence.

6. Getting arrested.

Gives you instant credibility and you become a news story. But it is no fun being handcuffed behind your back. If the guy wants to be a dick he can handcuff you brutally tight. Your choices are resist, cooperate or go limp. Resist will get you beat if you can't get away. You will be arrested and charged with multiple issues: resisting arrest, interfering with government operations, refusing to produce ID, assault on a cop(s). You WILL be pacified. Even with your hands handcuffed behind your back and placed inside the back of a cop car you may be tortured. There are plenty of youtube videos (well, until the cops order youtube to take them down) of helpless guys being pummeled, gases, electrocuted by cops in the back of a squad car.

Go limp, passive "resistance" by not resisting, complete non-cooperation. Often will get you charged with resisting arrest, interfering with lawful orders and government operations, and not infrequently gets you transported to the loony bin.

Cooperation especially if you look like you are enjoying yourself is probably the best approach. I have seen people call cops bluff when they threaten to arrest by turning around and placing their hands behind their back (awaiting the cuffs). I have also seen people get arrested doing this inviting move...but generally they didn't get roughed up...at least in front of witnesses and cameras.

When you get arrested cooperating you often are cited and released usually with the warning of don't go back. And they keep your sign (if any) as "evidence." This is a point. If you want the potential to get cited and released you need to have your government ID (driver's license) on you or you go to jail. Jail is no fun: fingerprinting, photographing, drug testing, strip searching, a fun crowd to hang out with, bail arranging (if you owe any government agency make sure whomever posts your bail does so stating it is their third party bail, not yours, or that money raised will be confiscated for your "debt" and you will continue to rot in jail. But some people really like to piss off the cops by not identifying themselves (or answering any questions) or having any ID on them or signing anything or filling out anything....gives you a heck of a story to tell, but it is no fun in jail.

Don't give them a reason to arrest you or pile on the charges. Having illegal substances on you is dumb. Having fake ID is dumb. Having a lot of intel on you is dumb (they will scan everything). Having a lot of unnecessary items or too much cash to explain (usually over \$500) is dumb. [but it can help make bail.] They will clone your cell phone sim card too for intel on your contacts, who you called and when. Password protect (usually a weak system) or use a burn phone if you care.

Writing your criminal defense attorney's phone number written on your arm in ink is a good idea. As well as keeping it on speed dial. Ask to call your attorney before anything and repeatedly to any cop who will listen. Some states the charges can be dismissed if evidence is suppressed because you were asking to consult your attorney before they _____ did something.

Be prepared for an old cop or jailer's trick of coming up close to you and stepping on your foot. No one sees it. No camera records it. Your natural reaction (that they are counting on) is to shove them back in pain. You are then arrested for assaulting a police officer. Resisting arrest "STOP RESISTING!!!!" as they pummel your nearly lifeless corpse. These guys are ruthless bastards who now they will get away with it---be prepared. You need to fight the impulse and instead cry out in pain, try to back away, look at where they are stepping, point to it...you need attention and maybe a hard to see camera view will be more clear by your reaction. believe me if it shows up the cop coming into your space so he can deliberately bait you by stepping on your foot is obvious. Ask, "What are you crazy?!" Why did you step on my foot.?" It may hurt but have fun.

In the Phoenix area, Sheriff Joe loves to give you your money back when you get out in the form of a paper check. Nice...penniless, he also dumps you out onto the street in one of the worst parts of town (are county lockups located anywhere else?) at 5 min. before midnight because a judge specifies the day you are released not the time and they get money for every hour you are in their custody, so...best to have either a credit card or ATM withdrawal card (which they will scan) for the cab. But worse they may keep the cell phone as evidence because they haven't cloned it yet. Not just who ya gonna call, but how are you gonna call [homeless guys frequently let you use their phone].

7. Be Leaderless

Keep any events leaderless. The cops always want to know who is in charge. They always

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arrest anyone they deem leaders. They usually threaten to hold leaders responsible (both criminally and financially) liable for the actions of the mob. They have in the past mirthfully charged people with "possession of cell phone" who were anywhere near a march believing such people may be directing the mob. I do not know if they still do this practice considering everyone has a cell phone nowadays and young people are constantly texting and tweeting.

8. Got a government number? (another Ernieism)

Ernie noticed the news media won't cover events or people unless they get a government number which he interprets as permission from the government to report on the event/action. I don't know whether he is correct or not, but I have observed that when you do have any kind of government number associated with you that you do in fact get news coverage.

9. If you didn't film it, it never happened. (a recent Ernieism inspired by the Ron Paul r3VOlution 2008 and PhillyDave) Personal protection, news on youtube, credit and inspiration. [multiple cameras, audio recording]



Cops hate cameras that are not their own or the corporate compliant media's. Too often it captures that Rodney King moment that requires authorities

to step forward and justify overt police criminal behavior. Judges are upset they have to take a position and bar such video being introduced as evidence because they have no intention of watching your Rights being trashed or that you in fact did not do anything the cop claimed in his arrest report. 'That is alright your honor. It is already on youtube with 83,000 hits so far. The whole planet can see it even if you don't want whatever shred of conscience might remain to be troubled by the truth.'

You don't need the media---you are the media. Cameras both still and video are cheap these days. Cell phones will do both and record audio while simulcasting to the web so police cannot confiscate the evidence. Be the signal.

Already have your zinger lines for the media. You can already guess what they will ask. Why are you here? What do you hope to accomplish? Preface your comment with its question and they can edit you asking and answering a question as if the reporter had asked it. Makes them look good and you get to answer the question you want answered.

10. Say it in four words or less. (sign)

Making a sign? The biggest mistake is people write a long message on their sign. Nobody can read fine print either speeding or passing by. Keep it to 3 to 4 large lettered short words. If you can't say it in 4 words or an image a sign is not appropriate and you look silly.

11. Say it in 15 seconds or less.

You should always be prepared to be asked by the media why you are there? What are you hoping to accomplish? Don't you think this is a waste of time? Or that nobody agrees with you? Or that your candidate is unelectable? Whatever.

Be prepared before hand with an answer. Remember whether they are writing or broadcasting your answer they will only give you 15 seconds of fame. Make it count. It needs to be catchy. To draw attention. Or it will never get out. First and foremost the media may be a corporate statist tool but they are in the entertainment business. Give them a zinger and no matter how much they disagree with you they will use it. Keep it short and pre-planned and there is less opportunity to twist your words.

The best way to ensure they ONLY get what you want to say is to say only what you want to say and conclude the interview politely. It will piss them off, but they either use it or not. Give them a bunch and they will use 15 seconds of whatever makes you look the worst guaranteed.

One way to control this is to ignore whatever they ask you and to prefix your answer by "re-stating" a question as if the reporter had just asked it. "Why yes, Jessica, (or whatever) that is most insightful, but I think the lack of any genuine investigation into where \$4 million tax dollars disappeared is even more outrageous." "Did someone bribe Chief Justice Roberts? I don't know, but I find his vote switching just as troubling as his son starting work for Blue Cross next week."

12. Know your medium, know your audience. Don't be boring. Audience participation ("HONK = OUT OF IRAQ!")

13. Voting is immoral, it is part of the system you are fighting and never freed anyone. Don't wish for it. Don't protest for it. You may get it.



14. If they find your car they will search it (best to have minimal stuff inside and not one seed or paraphernalia or residue of non-approved substances). Tow it. Ticket it if they can.

15. If you claim to be a member of the media.... remember you cannot be recorded as participating in the event. You must be covering it. Don't hold signs. Don't shout slogans or chants. Carrying a camera is no protection it is an invitation to assault by the cops. Just ask 4409 or Carlos Miller.

16. They will be videotaping and photographing you. Count on it. Wear a mask/disguise if this bothers you. They do target the ones they can't ID as much as the ones with the cameras. Be on best behavior. Stupid shots are preserved forever, but shots of you being adult and preserving your Right to protest look good...they don't want you looking good. And don't confront the people who may very well be working for the police with cameras. They have as much Right to be there photographing you as you have photographing them. Maybe less so in that they could intimidate you from exercising your Rights, but no judge will back you up and besides the more attention the merrier.

17. Keep your enemies close and your friends closer. This means keep a eye on your enemies as they plot against you, but be even more vigilant of your allies who are more likely to betray you at your hour of victory. Sad but true. 🌻

Powell Gammill is the Senior Editor of [Freedom's Phoenix.Com](http://Freedom'sPhoenix.Com), Micro/Molecular Biologist, and a libertarian activist.

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The Freaks and the Masses

By Larken Rose

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ONCE again, [Porcfest](#) was an enjoyable freak-fest: a gathering of those weird, abnormal and unusual people who like to think about and talk about economics, philosophy and morality. Let's face it, those of us who have the patience and interest to obsess and nitpick over every imaginable aspect of a voluntary society, or discuss Austrian economics for hours on end, are not "normal." We aren't the mainstream. We are the freaks.

As it happens, the "freaks" are almost always the ones who move humanity forward. It is those who dare to doubt conventional wisdom, who dare to disagree with popular opinion, and who dare to cling to principles when no one else will, who eventually drag the masses along toward actual civilization. So I'm proud to be one of the "freaks," despite all of the personal inconveniences that tends to cause (being ridiculed, insulted, demonized, robbed, locked up, etc.).

One problem, however, is that the masses outnumber the freaks by a large margin. Even if all the freaks understand something, it can take years, even centuries, for the masses to be dragged into understanding it too. This has been true of astronomy, physics, biology, and all sorts of other topics and issues. Normally this might not matter much. If 99% of people never understand anything beyond Newtonian physics, who cares? But in the case of philosophy, it matters a lot, because the ignorance and superstitions of the masses have direct, horribly destructive consequences. The masses waving their flags and swigging their beer on July 4th are enabling torture and mass murder, and don't even know it, because their faith in the god called "government" is completely warping their view of reality. The enthusiastic voter is giving his blessing to mass extortion and violent aggression, simply because he's never imagined that society could be anything else.

So where does that leave us freaks? We really need to pull the masses in the direction of sanity and morality, and away from the cult of "government." But if we try to do that by talking to them the same way we talk to our fellow freaks, nothing will happen. If we give Joe Sixpack a copy of some huge von Mises book on economics, he'll use it as a coaster for his beer. Think the average soccer mom just can't wait to dive

into Lysander Spooner's "No Treason: the Constitution of No Authority"? Hardly.

We cannot approach the masses as if they're like us, because they're not. If they were, there would be a couple hundred million people attending Porcfest every year (which even [Roger's Campground](#) might find challenging). We freaks like the endless intellectual reasoning and logical debating. The masses don't. If we can't give them an important, simple, practical reason to doubt what they've always assumed, we will never make a dent. And if the masses continue to bow to "government," while the freaks don't, the usual outcome is a lot of dead freaks, and a lot of enslaved masses.

Can You Handle the Truth?

This is not just an intellectual exercise, or some irrelevant obsession with trivia. Quite literally, the future of mankind depends upon whether the masses give up their statism or not. Right now, almost everyone assumes that someone has to be "in charge," and that everyone else has to obey and pay tribute to whoever is in charge. The result of that superstition has already been hundreds of millions of murders, and billions of instances of robbery, extortion and assault. And it continues. So yeah, fixing this is pretty important.

But, as most readers of [Freedom's Phoenix](#) are already aware, no amount of urgency, pontificating, explaining and arguing will get through to the masses, unless we can find a way to make it matter to them. To them, a voluntary society is just some weird crackpot hypothetical theory that they don't have the time or interest to think about. They do as they're told, pay their "fair share," vote every once in a while, go with the flow, and expect everything to turn out fine.

But don't give up and run for the hills just yet. I'm happy (and surprised) to say that more and more "normal" people these days are waking up, questioning statism, and sometimes even turning into "freaks." In fact, the rate at which this is now happening has me totally stunned. Even lots of "normal" people I know personally can now discuss the idea of a stateless society without their heads exploding.

As an example, in past years, Porcfest was a minarchist-fest, with a few fringe voluntaryists and anarchists hiding on the edge somewhere. Now the anarchists are loud and proud and everywhere, and it's the minarchists sounding

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somewhat apologetic, like recovering statist who just need one more "hit" of political action. ("I can give up voting whenever I want! Maybe. Kind of. Help me!")

I think the key to getting people to embrace voluntaryism is to show them that "government" and "political" action--voting, campaigning, petitioning, legislation, etc.--goes against their own virtues, and morality, and goodness. The best reason for them to give up statism is not just because WE don't approve of it, but because it goes against their OWN values and priorities. The difference between us freaks and the masses is not that we're good and they're bad (sorry to burst anyone's bubble), but that we like to obsess about philosophical principles and eliminating intellectual contradictions, while they're content to let someone else choose their "principles" for them.

So having a message of "what you want sucks, and what I want is awesome," is not only ineffective; it's also untrue. Ultimately, almost everyone wants truth and justice to prevail. Trouble is, most people have been led to believe that "government" coercion is the way to make that happen. Their ultimate goal is perfectly noble, but their means of trying to achieve it ("political" action) is bat-poop looney and hugely counter-productive. Instead of starting by throwing their blunders and bogus assumptions in their faces, start by acknowledging their good intentions and noble goals. Then show them why what they really want can never be achieved via "government," but can only be achieved through a lack of "government"--i.e., a society that abides by the non-aggression principle.

All the while, keep in mind that you're the freak, and they're not. So don't talk to them as you would talk to another you. Talk to them as if they don't really care about the complexities of Austrian economic theory, because they don't. Talk to them as if they are normal, good people, who mean well, but who have accepted a lot of bogus assumptions on faith, and who haven't yet bothered to think much about such weird things as politics and philosophy.

(P.S. I'm making this last paragraph a footnote, so it doesn't seem too much like a self-serving commercial--even though it basically is. I believe, based on sixteen years of nudging people towards voluntaryism--with quite a few success stories, I might add--that I've come up with a method of gently but firmly removing people from the cult of statism more quickly, more comfortably, and more effectively than anything else I've ever done, or seen anyone else do. The method is a two-day, interactive event, which I call "[Escaping the Myth](#)." The first one will be happening up in Troy, Michigan (just north of Detroit) this July 21st and 22nd. So if you're in that area, and know a statist or two that you just can't seem to get through to--and who doesn't?--then come to this event, and do whatever it takes to bring them along. You won't regret it. For more info, or to purchase tickets, visit www.LarkenRose.com.) 

Larken Rose is author of several books, including [The Iron Web](#) and [How to be a Successful Tyrant](#).

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People Not Politics

By Davi Barker

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I have been a street activist longer than I have been a liberty activist. In fact, I was birthed from my mental slumber into activism while begging for change

on the street. In 2003 I used to sit on the sidewalk with one palm extended and the other holding a sign which read "Take or Give." Interestingly it was my observation that many panhandlers would give coins, while shoppers would often take coins. One day a police officer approached me and told me that panhandling was illegal. I calmly informed him that I was not panhandling. That the coins in my hand were not mine, but were left there by other people for someone else to take, and he was free to take them. He then informed me that sitting on the sidewalk was illegal and ordered me to move. I respectfully asked him if he would enforce such an ordinance on a statue of Buddha that was sitting across the street with coins in its hand. He said no. So, I graciously requested that I be given the same religious freedom as the statue, to emulate the prophetic practice of sitting still and keeping quiet. He said he had better things to do than argue the Constitution with me. I thanked him, and invited him to tend to those things. Befuddled, he left me alone, but it got me thinking about money.



In a flash it came to me that money was nothing at all. It was just an intermediate step between goods and services. It could not be eaten like

grain. It could not be used in manufacturing like petroleum. It was not backed by gold or silver. There was no material difference between paper notes withdrawn from the ATM and paper notes printed by a counterfeiter. This was some kind of magic, and the public's pathological belief in that magic. In short, the dollar was a unit of faith, and in reality it had little more in common with actual value than the statue had in common with Buddha. It was just an intermediary.

At that point I had not yet discovered liberty, but I had discovered the issue that would lead me to it: fiat money.

From that moment on, I was a street activist. I began approaching people walking downtown, or sitting at cafes offering to show them a magic trick for a dollar. If they gave me the dollar I would hold it up as a prop as I explained the transition from the gold standard, to the silver certificate, to our current faith based paper note. I explained that this was misdirection, smoke and mirrors, which is basic stage magic. I showed them the magic trick. Afterward I asked them, "Is this information worth a dollar to you?" If they said no, I graciously returned the dollar and went on my way. The seed was planted. But if they said yes, I would rip the dollar in half, keep half for myself and give the other half back to them. When they protested I explained that I had not destroyed any value. In fact, I had created value. Because now I could take my half and go on my way, and they could take their half and share this information, which they already said was worth a dollar. See... magic!

Destroying money actually proved to be more profitable than begging for it. I could easily attach half of one bill to another and spend them back into the market. I have since learned that banks take these bills out of circulation because the serial numbers don't match (which is apparently the source of their magic), so I like to think that I was doing my small part to combat inflation by reducing the money supply. But tearing money in half only satisfied my lust for monetary mayhem for so long. Soon I was burning money, which is less profitable. The dollar is perhaps the perfect conceptual tool. Like a flag it is a potent symbol, but burn a ten dollar flag and people just repeat old arguments about freedom of speech. Burn a one dollar bill and people panic like you've set fire to their god. See, the dollar does have an intrinsic value. The entertainment value of shattering someone's economic illusions.

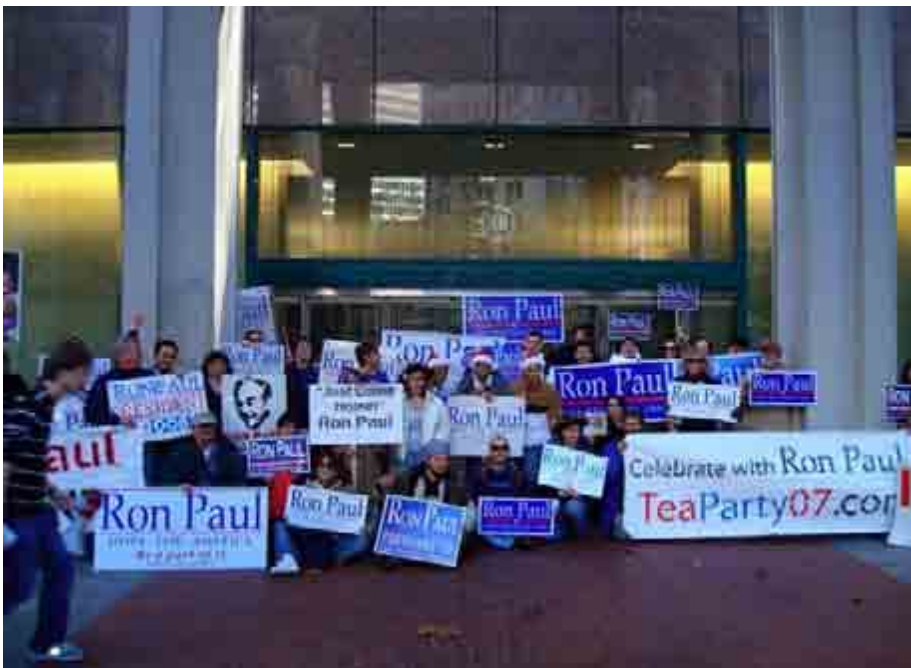
Although destroying money is a federal crime. [Title 18, Section 333](#) of the US code states, "Whoever mutilates, cuts, defaces, disfigures, or perforates, or unites or cements together, or does any other thing to any bank bill, draft, note, or other evidence of debt issued by any national banking association, or Federal Reserve bank, or the Federal Reserve System, with intent to render such bank bill, draft, note, or other evidence of debt unfit to be reissued, shall be fined

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under this title or imprisoned not more than six months, or both." Land of the free my ass. Luckily, if they ever come after you you've already burned the evidence.

At that time my street activism was more like street theater, but you can't rail against fiat money for long before you discover Dr. Ron Paul. By 2007 I joined the Tea Party, waving signs, walking districts, and collecting signatures for Ron Paul. That year, on the anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, hundreds of us gathered at the Federal Reserve building in San Francisco and marched to the bay carrying tea crates labeled with all the State predation we abhorred. Then we chucked them off a pier. (All tethered of course. San Franciscans are nothing if not environmentally friendly.) A revolutionary fervor had seized us. We had stared into the face of the Leviathan and said, "Not one step further! You have trampled on mankind long enough." It seemed that the tide of authoritarianism had finally reached its high mark and would begin to recede; that the momentum of our movement would soon shake the shackles of the world. I had found a political home among the libertarians.



I quickly learned a major danger of street activism. When I acted alone entertainment was motivation enough, but in a group there is a choir that preaches to itself. This was educational for me. Someone gave me a copy of the Creature from Jekyll Island and all the pieces began to come together. But we were caught in an echo chamber. We hadn't changed the world as much as changed ourselves. And soon, like the housing market and the dot com boom before it, our enthusiasm bubble burst, and the reality set in that we were not going to see the change we'd been striving for.

Four years later I joined the Occupy Movement. So I took to the streets, back to the San Francisco Federal Reserve building and joined the encampment. My previous activism had landed me a position writing for Silver Circle's blog, which has become my primary outlet for anti

Fed ranting. So, I covered my Occupy experience there.

OCCUPY SF Speaking Truth In Front Of The Federal Reserve Bank 10/15/2011 (Video):



This time I had no illusions about the success of our efforts. The Occupy Movement was different. Confused and angry. All certainty and no substance. Some activists believe if enough of us stand together the State will have to take notice. Maybe we get this idea from documentaries about the 60s, I'm not sure, but it's not true. It probably never was. Marches and demonstrations are not truth to power, or democracy in action. They are pressure valves, channeling the frustration of activists into a nice ineffective activity so they can blow off steam. I had given up the fantasy that enthusiasm could change the world, because I had seen the bubble burst before. I wasn't there to challenge the State. I reverted to an old strategy. I was in the street to talk to the people. I pulled long nights debating property rights with Marxists, and collaborated with honest money advocates to host educational workshops. I took polls and started conversations with strangers. Because the world doesn't change during bursts of emotion. It changes in quiet moments in between them.

You'll never find me chanting or sign waving. My only goal is to get in people's heads and shatter their illusions. Because at the end of the day liberty will not be granted by the State, it will be achieved in our relationships, one on one, face to face, in the street. 🌿

Davi Barker is a Bay Area artist whose work deconstructs media images, creating colorful kaleidoscopic images designed to show that all discord is an opportunity for the emergence of spontaneous order. All my enhanced collage work is at www.facebook.com/EccentricCircle and I've also got a lot of graphic art at www.facebook.com/Vote4Nobody. You can also see my writing at www.SilverUnderground.com and www.Daily-Anarchist.com.

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Homeschooling for Free Minds

By Lilo Gray

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HAVING homeschooled for the better part of 17 years now, I have an abounding amount of thoughts on the subject. Pros, cons, do's and don'ts, successes and failures. There is a lot to know and many philosophical decisions to be made, not only initially, but continually as my family's goals and beliefs are honed and sharpened. But there is one thing I know with certainty and never have to question. Homeschooling is the only choice for my children and our family because it has given all of us the tools to think for ourselves, to stand up to an ever increasing totalitarian government with the ammo only a free mind can possess, and to be the champions of the individual against the collective that one day may provide future generations with a hope of true liberty and freedom that we are so greatly lacking today. This is why we homeschool, and if you believe in a free society, you should too.

Think about this for a moment. From kindergarten, even pre-school, all the way through and including college, you and/or your children are controlled at every possible angle. Children are told when to go to the bathroom, forced to read and study subjects they will never use and certainly do not enjoy, forced to accept politically correct agendas such as everyone is equal, (and I mean equal as in everyone learns, and is equipped with the same gifts and synchronized intellectual developments), put in artificial environments and told they are being prepared for life, etc., etc., etc. Do you ever raise your hand to go to the bathroom at your job? Anyone beat you up for your lunch money at the office? Do you only work with your own age or gender segregated in separate office spaces? Usually not. You, as a parent, are forced to accept all kinds of mind laundering that is fed to your kids against your very own principals and ideals. And worst of all, who do you think your children's role models and examples are? I love kids, but when you put 35 fifteen year olds in a room and stir, it comes out looking like [Lord of the Flies](#). And we think this is a good way to model and mold future citizens? So where do we as a society think that sequestering our children in public daytime education camps prepares them for anything other than a life of conformity. Yes. You can see it now, can't you? Our government has a plan for our kids, and I for one, don't approve.

Our government does not want a populace that questions its authority. Free thinkers are dangerous. Homeschoolers are a threat to the Borg and

believe me, I want to be that threat. But do you? If we want a society built on freedom, how does locking them up all day long and chastising them for being individualists encourage their own gifts and talents? Our brightest and best entrepreneurs have been allowed to follow their passions to almost the exclusion of anything else. Edison being one of them. I encourage you to think outside the box and decide if you want your child to be whoever they were meant to be, or part of the hive.

I know what you are thinking. But, but, I went to public school and my education was OK. Or, how am I going to homeschool? I don't know how to do algebra or advanced sciences. How is little Johnny going to get into college? Don't you have to have a license or a degree to homeschool? Will my kid have any friends? My wife has to work to support our fancy house and two cars; we can't make those kinds of sacrifices. None of these questions have pat answers. There are so many different ways to homeschool. I could write a book on the how to homeschool my way, and just touch the tip of the iceberg of all the ways to go about it. But the best thing I can tell you is every one of these questions has been asked a million times by over one million homeschoolers in this country, and every single one has figured out not one, but thousands of ways to accomplish an excellent education for their children. You can do it as well.

So if you are still unconvinced, let me inform you with some staggering statistics. Please take note that none of these points are the reason we homeschooled our four children, but I find that for people new to the idea, it gives them great food for thought and can serve as some great ammo for the doubting spouses, family and nosy neighbors.

- Homeschool students who voluntarily, (I love this word voluntarily when it comes to testing), participate in scholastic achievement tests score, on average, 40 points higher than their public school student peers.
- The homeschool students that participate in these tests that live in the states with the LEAST governmental oversight score the highest!
- Homeschoolers do not use public taxes stolen from you to educate their children and give them an exemplary education for a tenth of

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the cost of public or private school. On average, 500 dollars for a homeschooling kid, and anywhere from 5,000 to 12,000 per public schooler depending on the state. Do you think you are getting your money's worth?

- Homeschoolers are regularly sought out and accepted at more than 1,000 colleges around the U.S. because their self study habits have been developed from birth and they haven't been told every day of their life how to think. Therefore, their portfolios can be quite diverse and impressive.
- Studies have shown, (over 15 independent testing services), that mothers without college degrees who homeschool their children turn out kids scoring just as high as mothers with a college education. In fact, mother's who have a teaching certificate that homeschool, often do worse than mother's who have no formal teacher training. Imagine that!
- Homeschoolers, as a rule, take much less attention deficit drugs than their public school peers. (Must be the fact that little boys are actually encouraged to run around outside whenever needed instead of being chained down to a desk all day, but I'm only speculating here.)
- 71% of homeschoolers continue to participate in their communities and are politically involved compared to 37% of adults who were public schooled.

There are a million good reasons to homeschool. But the biggest for us is, who do you want to be the most influential person in your child's life? Lord of the Flies? Or YOU! The parent, who knows your child better than anyone else on the planet. Everything else, everything, is secondary.



Let me get you started on an intellectual journey. If you have ever considered it, or at least would like some information on homeschooling, here

are some resources to get you started. It's not easy, there are many hurdles and frustrations, but trust me, if you only read to your children, teach them basic math, writing, and reading skills, took them out into the real world, gave them interesting experiences and get them involved in their neighborhood, and loved them with all your heart, you'll do better than your local public school at helping them be who they were meant to be. Themselves, accepted and loved, as they are. I find the following very inspirational:

[You Can Teach Your Child Successfully](#) by Ruth Beechik

[The Three R's](#) by Ruth Beechik

[How to Get Your Child Off the Refrigerator and on to Learning](#) by Carol Barnier


[And the Skylark Sings with Me](#) by David Albert (highly recommended for outside the box thinkers!)

For those who might wish to homeschool a teenager:

[The Teenage Liberation Handbook](#) by Grace Llewellyn

[Senior High Formula](#) by Barb Shelton

These are only the tip of the iceberg. There are so many resources to help anyone through the process of homeschooling that I could publish a book just on the resources available. And there are many good ones out there already. A wonderful book on the perils of public education written by a public school teacher, is [Dumbing Us Down: the Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling](#), John Taylor Gatto. If you only read one book on why you should highly considered homeschooling, this is a scathing criticism of how our public education system is systematically and purposefully molding the minds of our young to fit into a totalitarian government controlled society. Wonderful stuff!

All this said, homeschooling is not for everyone. There are definitely people out there who should not attempt to educate their child. But there are so many people who are more than capable of doing so that are turning the raising and educating of their little ones over to people who do not have their child's best interests at heart. Think about it for just a second and realize what you could do with your kid if you had them for eight hours a day with little distractions, few behavioral problems, and a wide open schedule to take lessons, go to museums, go to parks, play, and better than anything, develop and dive into whatever passion animates their heart. Imagine who they could become if no one was holding them down, forcing them to conform, punishing them for coloring outside the lines. That is true freedom. 

Lilo Gray [[email her](#)] is a homeschooling mother, glass bead artist, horsewoman, serious gardener and a huge people person. She lives with her liberty loving husband and her children in southern Arizona. All of her children have been homeschooled, with the last three having never attended a public or private school.

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“REVOLUTIONS ARE ECONOMIC”

By Ross Edwards

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TODAY’S the anniversary (not exactly) of the day when dozens of men signed their death warrant to what I consider to be the most concise *universal* statement of human rights in history if there ever was one, Thomas Jefferson’s

Declaration of Independence. *Consent of the governed*: what’s not to understand? *Nature’s God*: he defers to the reader’s own spiritual experiences. This shot across the bow isn’t the nebulous Constitution. It’s unapologetically direct: The King did X, and we’re doing Y.

“That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government.”

But if TJ were alive today on this anniversary, surrounded by millions of Red/Blue citizens of the empire who neither read nor care about this founding manifesto, to see that the King is not an ocean away but is rather your neighbor in a TSA uniform, I suppose he might agree on one edit: When They do *G*, We do *g*. I’m a voluntaryist, and by that I mean when we *alter or abolish*, let’s build *governments* by consent rather than coercive *Government*.

Individuals operate by incentives, and feedback is necessary for economies to improve. After all, Mises named his economic treatise *Human Action* and his methods *praxeology*, the study of individuals making decisions according to value and time preferences. Contrast this with the Keynesian top-down, fixed-formula-based, prescriptive approach. If civilization is what we seek, then no human relationship should be without consent, and no service ought to be communized: not education, not security, not dispute resolution, nothing. And certainly not currency. Are you keeping up with me, Tea Party? I’m just getting started; let me talk about political change...

Yur doing it wrong. Granted, I made my own journey from conservative roots to 9/11 nationalism, then to *Atlas Shrugged*, the crash of 2008, the *original* Tea Parties, to Ron Paul, to Austrian Business Cycle Theory, then to finally asserting that John Galt was an anarchist (not a Republican!) and the Ayn Rand Institute is simply controlled opposition. If he were alive today, he wouldn’t be running for Libertarian

chair, either. He’d be an Agorist. What’s that? Let me explain what real change is about...The Marketplace.

Yur doing it right! *Agora* is the greek word for the open market, and yes it’s that simple. As much as one might like to rescue the term *Capitalism*, I must alert you it’s a straw man set up by Karl Marx and places far too much importance on materialism. It’s ancient, cynical, and an incomplete explanation for the creation of wealth. In truth, classes only exist because there is a State. Say that to a Progressive and watch her head explode! If you think you’re going to win- over the zombie populace with Capitalism apologetics, you’ve already conceded ground to the collectivists and corporatists. Also, don’t allow any economy to be called a free market until you’ve removed the most communist thing a government could do: establishing a monopoly on currency. Don’t defend any “free market” economist like Milton Friedman or the vested interests from Wall Street who allow this camel’s nose under the tent. Look to the Austrian School, instead, for an understanding of money and credit.

How could an engineer design a machine if the value of an input oscillated wildly over time, not from predictable phenomena but rather from rank lab error? How could an entrepreneur plan his budget if the unit of account changed in value daily, not from anticipated market phenomena but rather from the agenda of a planning board called The Federal Reserve? If one champions the free market as the solution to social problems, he must allow free competition in everything, *especially* money and interest rates, or else set up the market to “fail” and authoritarians to win favor of the masses. I quote my addition to the Mises.org wiki:

An Alternative Currency, generally speaking, is a money circulating without official recognition or enforcement by a State, in contrast to Legal Tender which does. Users of an Alternative Currency might prefer accepting it not only for economic advantages (such as speculation in precious metals) or privacy advantages (such as the digital currency Bitcoin) but also for its political protest impact on the Legal Tender monopoly of the official State currency.

Murray Rothbard defined a *money* simply as the most marketable of commodities, and that’s

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what the Silver Dime Card project is about. You can audit The Fed, you can end The Fed, but why not start by ignoring The Fed? If we provided a quick guide to the market price of silver, what would people circulate if left to their own devices? It's about *rediscovering the price system* based upon a few universal barter items, in this case silver, for the not-so-distant future when all fiat currencies collapse. I know that we Americans are disconnected from the days of negotiations and market prices. We could use some practice in [catalactics](#). I'll admit that even at our favorite agorist gatherings like the Porcupine Freedom Festival the most renegade of us still stumble over exchange ratios of dime cards to FRNs to gyros, but it's good practice. By getting a running start on barter culture, we hope to reduce the level of ugliness between people during the transition to a free(r) society. Then we'd be ready to advance to Bitcoins or gold-backed debit accounts, an existing market solution currently prohibited to Americans.



True, buying stacks of laminated pre-1965 US silver dimes isn't the best wealth preservation strategy. Leave that to our friends at [Roberts & Roberts Brokerage](#), [Silver Circle](#), [American Open Currency Standard](#), and the late [Liberty Dollar](#) and [Del Valley Silver](#). Our dime cards, along with Shire Silver, are simply smaller-valued compliments to bullion transactions. And retrofitting a vending machine, The Moneylith, to dispense silver, gold, and Bitcoins isn't the best retail strategy, but it shows how ridiculously serious we are. To bring it all together, there's our free Silver Calculator barter app for iPhone and Droid, now multi-lingual, multi-national, multi-coin, and over 10,000 downloads. More than anything, our flashy and irreverent Silver Dime Trading Cards are cultural kindling. There's the "Bastiat 2012" group in France already making "dime" cards to supplant the dying Euro. You put these tools into peoples' hands, you change the culture, you win. (At least with the ones who matter.) Politics? A Pyrrhic victory, at best. 🌸



Ross Edwards is a freedom activist, especially as it applies to economics. Visit his webpages at [DontTreadOnMeme.Com](#), [OnceUponADime.Info](#), and [WhatIsThisCoinWorth.Info](#).

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NOT GUILTY ON 83LBS OF MARIJUANA AND STILL NO JUSTICE

By Marc J. Victor

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ON July 2, 2012, the jury returned a verdict of NOT GUILTY in favor of my client who transported 83lbs of marijuana in her mini-van from Douglas, Arizona to the Phoenix area. She was relieved and overjoyed. I was overjoyed too, but left wondering how many like her are living in cages for unknowingly driving a relatively harmless plant destined for adults who want it. The outrageous aspects of this case are too numerous to describe in one article. However, one point is clear; so long as the Drug War persists, no person is safe.

On July 19, 2010, fifty-three year old Maria Carillo-Tremillo was traveling with her autistic daughter from Douglas, Arizona to Phoenix. She was expecting to meet a woman who would assist her in purchasing used clothing from various locations to resell in Mexico at a modest profit. Her mini-van was pulled over by an officer for allegedly following too closely.¹ The officer did not see or detect any odor of marijuana. After issuing Maria a warning, the officer commenced a conversation with Maria in English despite knowing Spanish was her primary language.^{2 3} After advising her of her right to refuse, the officer asked and immediately received unrestricted consent from Maria to search her mini-van.

A drug interdiction dog was immediately deployed. The officer claims the dog alerted.⁴ Before any marijuana was found, Maria and her daughter were arrested and transported to the police station while her vehicle was towed for inspection. After lifting the vehicle with a hydraulic lift, a hidden compartment underneath the vehicle was discovered and torn open without a search warrant. Eighty three pounds of marijuana were located in the hidden compartment.

There was no investigation. No fingerprints were requested, and no investigation into Maria's cell phone or bank records was conducted. There was no investigation into her lifestyle or her reasonable explanation for her trip. She explained how she received the mini-van a few days before the trip from a man who offered to have it "fixed" for her in Mexico. She explained how that same man arranged the trip to Phoenix for her and orchestrated the details of her trip. She had the man's phone number and information as well as the woman she was instructed to meet. There was no interest and no attempt to investigate Maria's claims of innocence. She was instantly and conclusively presumed guilty.

Anything Maria said was immediately and absolutely disbelieved. Maria was charged with a mandatory prison version of Possession of Marijuana for Sale. Despite having no criminal record whatsoever, Maria was presented a plea offer for prison and given a public defender who advised her to accept the plea and go to prison rather than risk additional prison time by going to trial.

1 Maria adamantly denies following too closely.

2 Maria is not literate in English. Both a bi-lingual officer and a phone application to interpret were readily available but not offered.

3 Not that it matters, but Maria is a legal permanent resident hoping to secure citizenship.

4 Drug dog "alerts" are almost always subjective. Any skilled handler can easily manipulate a dog to "alert." In any case, illegal drugs are only located less than 50% of the time after an "alert" from this dog in an uncontrolled setting. The use of drug dogs is a huge threat to our liberty and can legally justify a full search of virtually any person, vehicle or place anytime without a search warrant.

On November 29, 2011, Maria came into my office seeking legal representation. She brought the police report with her for us to review. After a review of the police report and a discussion with Maria, it appeared to me the officer was planning to fill in with opinions, exaggerations or lies what he was lacking in evidence; namely that Maria knew the marijuana was present. After assessing the case, we decided Maria was indeed innocent.⁵ Although she could not afford to hire us to represent her, we refused to turn her away and arrived at a modest arrangement. It simply wasn't in me to turn her away.

Throughout the case, the officer and the prosecutor repeatedly asserted Maria knew about the marijuana and was guilty. Their conclusion was based on a laundry list of mostly meaningless observations such as the following: Maria looked at the officer using her driver's side mirror prior to the stop, she decreased her vehicle speed when the officer pulled behind her, the mini-van was on I-17 which allegedly is a known drug corridor, the mini-van was registered in Douglas which allegedly is a known drug area, recent vehicle registration, recent vehicle insurance, Maria was traveling with her autistic daughter, Maria appeared nervous during the traffic stop, Maria put her hair up, Maria allegedly had a high pulse rate as she stood outside her vehicle in July at approximately 2:00pm in Phoenix.⁶ Indeed, this was the evidence.

We drafted and filed several motions to suppress evidence based on various issues related to the stop, the search, and the drug dog. After hard fought evidentiary hearings, all our motions were eventually denied. With no choice but prison, the case proceeded to a jury trial. The jury selection process commenced with the usual state efforts to weed⁷ out anyone who would judge the law or not in some way absolutely agree to follow the law as directed by the judge.⁸ Soon thereafter, it was our task to weed out all the people who could not be fair to the defense. This generally includes people who absolutely believe police officers or simply can't be fair to the defense because marijuana will be mentioned during the trial.⁹

As expected, the officer testified to his laundry list of meaningless reasons why Maria allegedly knew about the marijuana. I had fun on cross examination. Maria testified as I knew she would. She was honest, sincere and far from someone who would knowingly transport marijuana. Through an interpreter, she clearly detailed a reasonable explanation of what happened and absolutely denied any knowledge of the marijuana in question.

As it became clear the trial was progressing poorly for the state, the officer was recalled to the stand. Despite several pretrial hearings where he previously testified and several pretrial interviews, for the first time ever the officer testified that, based on his extensive training and experience, Maria's autistic daughter

5 Even had she been factually guilty, I would still consider her a victim of the drug war.

6 Maria states the officer never took her pulse at all. She also denied being nervous. The officer also stated Maria couldn't provide him with her friend's name, but Maria repeatedly said she indeed told the officer her name.

7 Pun intended.

8 Hardly anybody asserts anything about jury nullification anymore.

9 Indeed, several people were struck from the jury pool for both reasons.

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was likely a common tool for drug smugglers called a “distracter.” The officer went on to describe how, despite the glaring absence of any reference to it in his police report as well as his previous contradictory statements, the autistic daughter made him very suspicious at the scene. This was offered as a main reason why the jury should convict Maria. I believe this was entirely fabricated testimony. It was the most fun I ever had on cross examination. I was in heaven.

After the judge summarily denied all four of the defense requests for special jury instructions, despite the fact that we provided citations to Arizona Supreme Court case law mandating that the defense is entitled to jury instructions on the defense theory of the case, it was time for closing arguments. I explained to the jury about how they are supposed to be the final check on government tyranny. I attempted to inspire them by discussing the founding fathers and various concepts of freedom.


After deliberating for a full day, the jury got it right. I interviewed the jury afterwards. They didn't believe the officer's testimony. They realized the state's case was based on mere speculation and not evidence. They acquitted Maria and went home. It was a complete win for the defense.

However, I can assure you Maria doesn't feel like a winner. She was an inch away from going to prison for several years for absolutely no valid reason. She had countless sleepless nights and endured torturous stress. She worried about who would take care of her autistic daughter if she went to prison. She endured the

eight hour round trip from Douglas to Phoenix many times. She believes the officer lied and embellished about what happened at the scene. She witnessed a prosecutor who resolved every inference and speculation against her. She witnessed a judge deny all defense motions, overrule countless defense objections, refuse all defense requested special jury instructions and allow undisclosed last minute state witnesses under the guise of rebuttal testimony. It doesn't feel like justice to her.

I have said for years marijuana cases have no victims. I was wrong. This marijuana case had a victim who suffered immensely. Maria was indeed a victim, but not as much as she could have been had the state succeeded. It all makes me wonder how many people like Maria are currently in prison wasting away because of our immoral drug laws.^{10 11} This entire matter was unnecessary.



As a criminal defense attorney, I would have preferred representing someone accused of committing a real crime involving a real victim. Our laws need to change, and we cannot be the land of the free until they do. In the meantime, score one for the good guys! 

(Marc J. Victor is the owner of Marc J. Victor, P.C. and a certified specialist in criminal law)
www.AttorneyForFreedom.com

¹⁰ The problem of drug smugglers utilizing people who unknowingly transport drugs is now so prevalent that there are law enforcement created terms emerging to describe such situations. “Blind Mule” “Goat” and “Unwitting” are some such terms.

¹¹ I intend to include those who are factually guilty of producing, transporting, selling or possessing drugs too. All drugs should be legalized immediately. See my article entitled [Legalize Methamphetamine!](#) for a detailed discussion of why all drugs

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Women, War and the Ethics of Empire

By Angela Keaton

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THE Daily Bell is pleased to present this exclusive interview with Angela Keaton.

Introduction: *Angela Keaton is the Director of Operations at Antiwar.com. She is currently chairman of the board for the [Ladies of Liberty Alliance \(LOLA\)](#) and national secretary for [Out-right Libertarians](#). Among her proudest movement moments were as producer for [Antiwar Radio](#) with host Scott Horton from 2006-2011.*

Daily Bell: Give us some background on yourself.

Angela Keaton: Grew up surrounded by a family of immigrants, artists, intellectuals and academics in New York. Various family members were influenced by the ideas of Murray Rothbard, Ayn Rand, Milton Friedman and strident anti-communism. Was mostly schooled privately or at home which I left at 15 or 16, unaware that most people were not terribly interested in the nature of government power. After some culture shock and confusion, found myself at a large state university in the Southeast collecting degrees (an excuse to get paid to read), hanging out at the few punk rock and gay clubs and participating in assorted performance art, Dadaism, obscurantist word play and prankery.

In the early '90s, I was simultaneously preparing a bourgeois career as a lawyer and political scientist and a bohemian one in the arts, both of which came to a grinding halt during my young adult rage over the brutal destruction of a commune outside of Waco, Texas by the United States Government (USG) in 1993. People's reactions to that siege became a litmus test of both one's character and empathy. Later came to the realization that all of this could be combined and expressed through radio journalism.

Daily Bell: How did your views evolve and become anti-war oriented?

Angela Keaton: How much evolution does one need to mind one's own business and keep one's hands to one's self? One can glean that from simple observation.

The focus on the antiwar issue began on September 11, 2001. The events that day were no shock. The Rothbardian view of history was the window to the future; the violation of the non-aggression principle only reaps violence, chaos and destruction. 9/11 was the inevitable response to the USG's foreign policy in Central Asia and the Middle East. The courage of the late Harry Browne during the hours the followed was inspirational. Browne's essay, "When Will We Learn," was published the next day at Antiwar.com.

Daily Bell: How did you become directly involved in [Antiwar.com](#)?

Angela Keaton: Had been reading Antiwar.com since about '99. Remember joking around with my friends after reading a 2003 *San Francisco Weekly* article, "Intrepid Antiwarriors of the Libertarian Right Stake Their Rightful Claim to Power," which was a slightly skeptical and comedic take on Antiwar.com. (Mused that it would be the ideal place for someone like me.) By 2006, my buddy, Free Radio Austin's Scott Horton, came up with an idea that eventually became Antiwar Radio. Not long after he put me on the phone with Eric Garris. I was terrified and in over my head within a minute of the conversation. Two years later I was full time. Having abandoned any normal career path, I am both punished and blessed in daily reckoning what it means to be an American in the age of Empire.

Daily Bell: What is your role in antiwar.com?

Angela Keaton: My [job is simple](#): to end the United States Government (USG) campaign of violence, oppression and brutality abroad. Specifically, I raise money, organize activism Antiwar.com might sponsor, handle media requests, am ombudsman for the donors and readers, represent us at conferences and liaison to the libertarian world.

Realize that this is a very fortunate and lucky thing: I work with and for people at Antiwar.com who uphold high standards in commitment, integrity and work ethic.

Daily Bell: Give us some sense of your writings and videos today.

Angela Keaton: Video: "[Antiwar.com's Angela Keaton on Fox News's 'Freedom Watch'](#)" and "[Angela Keaton on Fox Business Channel](#)."

Much of my writing through the last decade was on a blog called "Anarchist Bitch" which archived my time as host of the Liberated Space, my comedic riffs on the internal libertarian culture war and coverage of the death throes of the Libertarian Party (US). Occasionally, I sucker punch on [LewRockwell.com](#) and the [Libertopia Festival blog](#).

Daily Bell: What is your sense of the world today? Who is primarily behind most major wars today? Is it NATO and the West?

What is going in the Middle East? Please give us your reactions to the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, etc.

Angela Keaton: Here's where you ask variations on all the same questions, which is the key to the answers.

1. When we discuss power, we are discussing people who behave badly. These people sometimes find their interests aligned. No dark conspiracies needed. People should watch old t.v.

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soap operas, read classic novels or observe children. That would be far more helpful in understanding the hows and whys.

2. People are pack animals besotted with hierarchy. We adore status, class and categories, the last of which allows us to stick things in boxes without having to think critically or use the most basic discernment. It also allows for the one true and real conspiracy: language. "Women," "The Gays," "The Arabs," "The Jews" don't exist. Only individuals exist. Mock Ayn Rand all you wish but the concept of the individual as something real and vital is not only morally righteous but would be a consequentialist step toward peace. Recognizing individual human dignity makes bombing and torturing people more difficult.

3. Treat someone poorly long enough and he or she will eventually react either with passive-aggressive resentments or with direct action.

4. There is no such thing as 'bringing democracy' or 'liberation' by the USG, NATO, The West or whatever terms it is one uses to describe the Empire. First, how can the most potent violent force in human history bring anything but violence? Second, Latins, Arabs and everyone else the USG tries to pound into submission are painfully aware of CIA coups, phony revolutions, paid off puppets, military aid bribes, client states, colonialism and the giant military installations in their back yards. The victims aren't fooled. One doesn't have to slog through Zinn or Chomsky or Rothbard to see what is in front of one's face. 'Spreading Democracy' is a euphemism for maintaining the Empire: the expansion of the most powerful state in human history, which oppresses and violates the most basic rights. Why would any sane, rational person want any part of that?

5. Not everything in the world is done by the CIA. Paranoia, however, is a creative and natural response to observing the evil done by the state. If you have the misfortune of being any sort of racial or religious minority or a woman or anyone who dare not fit, sooner or later you might come to the realization that the state, government, the USG, is racism, patriarchy writ large. Conspiracy theories flourish under suppression and subterfuge.

Go to a college campus, hang out at Fraternity Row. Take in a student council meeting. When there is power to be had, the unethical will seize it. It's a character defect to desire power over others. Human beings are full of character defects.

Daily Bell: The argument has been made that the West is creating a kind of Islamic arc in the Middle East and Africa to manufacture an enemy to continue a kind of phony war on terror. Your reaction?

Angela Keaton: The USG creates enemies. It's all a cycle of blowback now. Chickens or eggs – does it matter? The real question is when will we be evolved enough to engage in ethical trades for resources and lands? When will we be sophisticated and tolerant enough to live and let live? And when will we learn to resolve conflicts without violence?

Daily Bell: Is Islam evil? Is there a difference between Sunni and Shia Islam? Is the West in some sense fighting a genuine war against terrorist Islam?

Angela Keaton: There was a time when intellectuals, free thinkers and adventurers saw Islam as this quaint little religion. Hippies and drug enthusiasts embraced Sufism and people were encouraged to travel to these exotic places. Call it patronization or Orientalism if you wish but it is far preferable to hysterical Islamophobia, anti-Arabism and all the related forms of bigotry, which should be horrifying if anyone actually bothered to remember anti-Semitic rhetoric leading up to the holocaust. How many times do we need to learn this lesson?

Daily Bell: Is Islam inevitably a terrorist religion?

Angela Keaton: My immediate reaction to this question was something flip as in, "No more so than Catholicism leads to pedophilia or Judaism to Zionism," but the new atheism does service to the great lie of USG foreign policy. Terrorism has tangible root causes in war, torture and occupation. One only needs the simplest understanding of human nature to recognize that people will take action to remove the boots on their necks. Actions have consequences. A is still A and people will still hate you for killing their children.

While I am at this point, while this is highly unfashionable to say, for me, Catholicism and Judaism minus the mysticism, spiritually and tribalism inform my ethical understanding of the world. These ideas that are supposedly the underpinnings of western civilization are what I act out upon. There is nothing unique about me. The world is likely full of millions of people who likely have that same relationship with Islam. These questions all have roots in a lack of

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empathy and imagination. Muslims are not cartoons. They eat, breathe, form families and try to impress their mothers just like we do.

Daily Bell: Does Islam mistreat women? Should the West rescue the women of Islam?

Angela Keaton: The first part: No more so than any other patriarchal religion. The treatment of women by men is the subject of another entire interview but let's say that Islam is particularly anti-women. Feminism is part of the struggle for basic human dignity, which cannot be created by force. Force, the use of violence, the use of power and privilege over others will not end force, power and privilege and the use of violence. The cynical use of feminism in regard to the occupation of Afghanistan is another example of how the USG co-opts and corrupts every aspect of each modern liberation movement.

The second: "Rescue?" Women are not small children or inert objects. Any authentic feminist revolution comes from within the woman herself. If one wants to see feminism in action Malalai Joya stood up to the USG, quislings, war lords and elites on her terms without any regard for her own comfort and safety. That's courage any woman anywhere can draw upon.

Daily Bell: Is Western society different and better than Islamic societies? Is Afghanistan better off with a Western-style government?

Angela Keaton: How does one begin to parse this out? If you mean by "the rule of law," "guaranteed human rights," etc., clearly the USG is not an exemplar. If you mean by efficient means of producing consumer goods, distributing literacy and marginally better treatment of minority groups, perhaps but if the Tea Parties, Occupy, black bloc, the new anarchists inspired by Ron Paul are any indication, more and more people are less and less impressed by cheap microwave ovens.

Daily Bell: Regardless of the rationale for such wars, should the US and NATO withdraw from them? Is it necessary to the defense of the US to participate in them?

Angela Keaton: Yes. No. In fact, the pursuit of the empire is not only antithetical to the national security interests of the American people but undermines any claim to Judeo-Christian ethics, Western civilization and basic human rights.

Daily Bell: Are you a supporter of closing down American bases around the world?

Angela Keaton: Yes.

Daily Bell: What is your position on a reasonable defense for the US and for NATO?

Angela Keaton: NATO? I am not a fan of collectives of any kind, particularly street gangs with the ability to carpet bomb.

Respect and friendship with all. Free and voluntary trade. Can't we just buy oil like normal human beings? People can exchange goods and services for land. That's what normal would look like.

Every day, I wake up in Los Angeles surrounded by millions of people of every imaginable race, creed and color, speaking scores of different languages, in both sexes and all gender constructs. It rarely erupts into violence apart from what is instigated though the police state and the drug war. These people, each an individual, make exchanges with each other without treaties or armed guards.

Daily Bell: Will you continue to advocate these views? What is next for you?

Angela Keaton: I will continue do so as long as Antiwar.com will have me or until the Empire is dissolved.

Finding a way to get paid for hanging out at the gym and visiting all the places I read about.


Daily Bell: Any books, articles or websites you want to recommend?



Angela Keaton: Besides Antiwar.com: Arthur Silber's blog, The Power of Narrative, Chris Floyd's Empire Burlesque, the Black Agenda Report, the American Conservative, anything at the Future of Freedom Foundation blog, especially Andy Worthington, and Glenn Greenwald. The National Interest carries some of the best consequentialist work including nearly everyone at Cato's foreign policy division. Subscribe to Rational Review and TomDispatch. Books: [Why Peace](#), edited by Marc Guttman; [We Who Dared to Say No to War](#), edited by Tom Woods and Murray Polner, [ComeHomeAmerica.US](#), edited by Paul Buhle, Bill Kauffman, George O'Neill, Jr. and Kevin Zeese and [Against Equality: Don't Ask to Fight Their Wars](#), edited by Ryan Conrad.

Daily Bell: Any other comments?

Angela Keaton: I smile every time I re-read that line in the chat logs where we learn that Bradley Manning is a gay, libertarian, atheist, computer nerd.

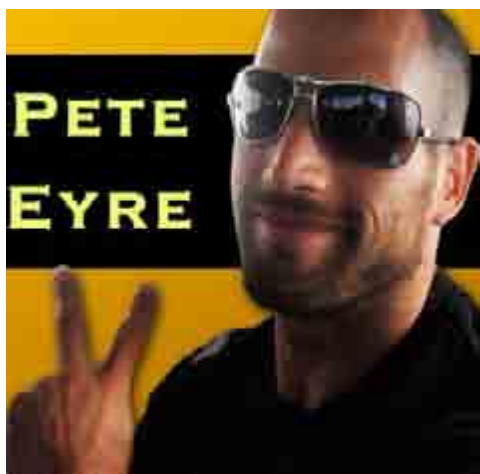
Daily Bell: Thank you for your time and sharing your thoughts with us. 

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MARV, PorcFest & the Battle of Ideas

By Pete Eyre

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IN mid-2005 I learned of the Free State Project (FSP) from Jason Sorens, who was addressing an internship program based in DC in which I was involved. The goal of the FSP - to get liberty-oriented individuals from around the globe to relocate to New Hampshire (aka the 'shire) to work together to achieve "liberty in our lifetime" - definitely resonated. A couple of weeks later I was in northern New Hampshire at The Porcupine Freedom Festival, or PorcFest - the FSP's week-long annual fest held to showcase the growing community. The sheer size and diversity of people actually living the ideas was infectious.

Over the next few years I became more-involved with the FSP. Though I was unable to attend PorcFest in 2006 and 2007 due to working at summer seminars for college students hosted by the Institute for Humane Studies, I was involved with the Mid-Atlantic FSP group and with a FSP brainstorming group. It wouldn't be a stretch to liken me as a spokesperson for the FSP, especially to those who were entrepreneurial and doers. Think of me as John Galt and the 'shire as Galt's Gulch.

In 2008 I again made it to PorcFest, this time with Bureaucrash, the then-principled organization that's now-defunct. While there, I was able to reconnect with old friends (one who first informed me of agorism) and meet new people that I'd up until then only communicated with online. It was refreshing to be surrounded not by armchair philosophers but people putting ideas into practice.

After spending four years inside the Beltway, where it seemed almost everyone else was subsisting off the wealth created by others, I concluded that I could have a bigger impact outside the belly of the beast. My friend Jason Talley and I each dropped \$8,000 to together purchase a 2000 Four Winds Hurricane. We dubbed the 30' RV MARV, the Mobile Authority Resistance Vehicle, and escaped from DC.



We traveled north to Keene, a small college town in the 'shire known for it's media creation and hotbed of activism, and spent a week further ironing-out some aspects of Motorhome Diaries (MHD), a project dedicated to "searching for freedom in America." We were soon joined by Adam Mueller (Ademo Freeman), who upon learning of MHD, had emailed and expressed his desire to join, and we together criss-crossed the country pointing our video cameras at those we thought advancing the broad freedom movement.

That summer we attended PorcFest 2009. I wasn't too surprised to find that some of those we had met on the road only a few months prior or had already relocated to the 'shire. By late 2009 MARV had carried us 21,000-miles and we'd published a couple hundred videos, hosted about 60 meetups and connected with thousands in 41 states. It was clear the community was growing. It was thanks to the suggestion of a friend that we stopped by the Freedom's Phoenix workshop, where I met many activists I'm now fortunate to call good friends.



After MHD Jason and I put MARV up for sale. By that time MARV was painted black and gold and had an interior to match - lots of thought-provoking bumper stickers on the walls and an impressive guestbook on the ceiling. We made a video that included a walkaround of MARV and encouraged those interested in owning the RV to contact us. Though we received some feedback, nothing was significant enough to cause us to part ways with MARV.

A few months later I bought Jason out of his half of MARV for \$6,500 and, recognizing the impact had through online content creation and in-person connections, Ademo and I founded Liberty On Tour (LOT), which sought to "advance the voluntary society." We returned to Keene for a few months to iron-out logistics for LOT and while there, became more involved with those on the ground in the area.

That summer - 2010 - MARV transported us and number of others from Keene to PorcFest. Some had bartered the ride up for their labor repainting MARV, in preparation for our pending tour. Being surrounded by so many inspirational people only underscored why it's my favorite week of the year. Not just for recreation, but for learning and deepening connections - all things critical to the implementation of a voluntary society. Shortly afterwards Ademo and I kicked-off our tour, which brought us to 13 cities in 13 weeks, from Keene to San Diego to Miami. Again, we were able to develop relationships with many awesome individuals, capture some solid content, and share ideas.



In 2011 we contemplated doing a longer tour for CopBlock.org - a decentralized site dedicated to police accountability that Ademo founded in early 2010 - but due to the uncertainty caused by multiple legal threats levied against us, it simply wasn't feasible. Instead, we did a shorter

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five-city, five-week route under the LOT banner called the Free State Friendship Tour. With the exception of Greenfield, MA, where we faced a multitude of charges include felony wiretapping, we traversed the 'shire to help focus a spotlight on all the going-ons in the 'shire.

MARV was instrumental in the success of MHD, LOT and to a more limited scale, Cop Block. Quite literally MARV was our work-horse, a combination vehicle, home, kitchen, and mobile command center, which allowed us to bring-together the burgeoning community united by the simple yet paradigm-shifting idea of self-ownership.



Yet realities have to be faced. Despite the fact that MARV's maintenance was covered by project budgets (advertisements from organizations, businesses and projects, and donations from individuals who appreciated our work, sometimes in exchange for a t-shirt or hood) my initial buy-in of the RV and my later buying-out of Jason represented a sizable chunk of change. At least for someone like myself, who's trying to be a full-time activist. So, earlier this year I decided to raffle MARV. I figured it much more realistic that a number of interested individuals would put-up a lesser amount for a ticket than one person would be able to buy MARV outright. Crowdsourcing. The long-tail.

Raffle tickets were priced at \$20 for one or \$100 for six. I created an overview video and shared it through MHD, LOT and my personal site. Others shared it as well. The raffle went live in April. Raffle details were included on the relevant page, as was a spreadsheet showing current ticket holders, and related playlists and links. Transparency was the name of the game. I sought to move 500 raffle tickets for the raffle to be live and noted that if 850 raffle tickets were sold the winner would also receive \$1,000 to use for gas or whatever else. Incentives matter. The raffle was slated to end at PorcFest 2012, which was fitting since many present had been directly or indirectly involved in MARV's life.



Feedback gotten from those who knew of the raffle demonstrated the benefit of listening to market demand and feedback. While a lot of people expressed their affinity for MARV they questioned what they'd do with the RV were they to win. Fortunately someone who hoped to acquire MARV pledged an ounce of gold to the winner should they choose to buy a raffle ticket to support future projects. The fact that a \$20 investment for a raffle ticket might net a \$1,600 gold Maple Leaf served a powerful motivator. So too did the knowledge that the winner of the raffle could donate MARV back to me for use in a future, with the money raised from the raffle then serving as a cushion to loop-in more people to grow capacity and have a bigger impact.

When it was all said and done I moved about 420 raffle tickets, with about 1/4 of sales online and 3/4 of sales in-person. There were some takeaways from the process, not shared to dwell on the negative but to glean lessons-learned in case I or someone else does something similar in the future. After all, it was the first time I attempted to raffle off a vehicle. For example, it would have probably helped to park MARV in a busier location in/around Keene, possibly compensating a business owner for the space taken in the parking lot, just to get more eyes on the vehicle and thus more raffle tickets sold. It probably also would have helped were I to have created a few more videos about my memories with MARV, just to keep attention on the raffle.

The winner - David Blizzard who resides in northern Georgia - had purchased a few tickets online. He intends to leave MARV as-is, a rolling billboard for liberty, and use it to vacation.

A future Cop Block tour in another vehicle is a possibility. Whether Ademo will involved is uncertain; his ability to plan his life has again been made uncertain due to the claimed double-standards many unthinkingly afford to those who wear badges. He's currently threatened with three felony wiretapping charges for following-up on the rights-violating actions of Manchester Police Department employee Darren Murphy, who slammed a student's head off a lunchroom table at Manchester's West High School.

My goal is to one day live in a world where outlets like MHD, LOT and Cop Block are no longer needed, since no one claims and no one grants extra rights, and where the spontaneous community that forms for a week at PorcFest is the year-round reality.

It's bound to happen. The push for transparency will expose would-be aggressors. And as cliché as it is, the truth will set us free. Good people will increasingly collaborate in-person inside and across geographical boundaries thanks to the Internet. As A. Whitney Griswold said, "The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas" Like the FSP, MARV was merely a vehicle used to share an idea, and ideas have consequences. 🌿

Pete went to school for law enforcement but ultimately concluded that he could have a bigger impact through other avenues. After four years working in the libertarian think tank world in DC, he hit the road with [Motorhome Diaries](#) and later [Liberty On Tour](#). He's now active with [Free Keene](#) and [Cop Block](#).

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The Depression Goes Global

By Charles Goyette

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WHILE the attention of the financial world and the business press have been focused so completely on the daily developments in Europe – though there's not a game changer among them – other economic news from around the world has been largely crowded out.

The real news is that the depression is going global.



The spreading of the slowdown can be seen in the so-called BRIC nations. Surging growth from Brazil, Russia, India, and China has helped drive some of the world's economic vitality for a few years now. But the downturn is now taking hold in those countries, leaving little to resist the rip tide of depression.

Here are some economic highlights from each of the BRIC nations:

Brazil: Commodity exports are crucial to the Brazilian economy. China is the largest buyer of Brazil's exports, so a slowdown in China and lower commodity prices have affected Brazil. Growth has slowed considerably there already. 2010's 7.5% growth was sliced to only 2.7% last year. It's a trend in force: the Brazilian economy actually contracted in April. Foreign investments in Brazil appear to have reversed and become disinvestments.

Russia: Resource revenues, primarily earned from oil and natural gas exports, have helped drive growth of the economy and the middle-class in Russia. But it is a restive middle class that has taken its anti-Putin protests to the streets. As natural gas prices have taken a big hit in the last few years, and with oil down sharply since spring, Russia will run larger deficits, financed by inflation, a policy that will create more unrest. Earlier this year, the Russian central bank, which has been a net buyer of gold, surprised many with its first gold sales in five years.

India: Consumer price inflation in India is about 10%; food prices are increasing at a rate closer to 11%. Interest rates are high, the state deficit is widening, manufacturing has turned down sharply, and GDP growth is stalling. Standard & Poor's, which dropped the outlook for Indian debt from "stable" to "negative" in April, says the slowdown puts India's investment grade debt rating at risk.

China: Now the second largest economy in the world, China's demand has had a huge impact on commodity prices. Slipping commodity prices may tell more about what is going on (or


not going on) in China than any official numbers, which are no more reliable than government numbers in the U.S. Besides the slowing export sector determined by conditions outside the country, China has blown up a huge real estate bubble of its own. Central economic planning, state-owned enterprises, and crony deals, all widespread in China, are no more functional there than they are anywhere else in the world.

The People's Bank of China's concern about a slowdown was seen earlier this month as it cut key interest rates for the first time in years.

It has become a cliché, but it is nevertheless true that we inhabit a global economy. We cannot escape the effects of slowing conditions elsewhere in the world. Thanks in part to emerging market demand, U.S. exports were up 17% last year, mostly in manufactured goods. As emerging markets slow, so do U.S. exports. China's slowdown threatens its ability to continue sponsoring U.S. debt. And then there is the inevitable currency warfare that ensues in a slowdown, as countries "race to the bottom" in their competitive devaluation of their own currencies, in the futile hope of generating prosperity by stimulating exports at the expense of destroying the people's purchasing power.

My local newspaper sums up the G-20 nation's talks in Mexico with a headline that reads, "G-20 talks on Europe debt spur optimism: Obama is encouraged strong action is near." It's like Groundhog Day. It's no different than the news stories about the European crisis that have run for years now. But no matter how many times the scene is repeated, the crisis of sovereign nations that spend more than they produce and cannot pay their bills is not fixed by loaning them more money.

The media focuses relentlessly on re-writing old news from Europe over and over. But despite the optimistic headlines, it is a situation that worsens as the debt deepens with each new rescue plan.

Meanwhile few notice that the tide is going out on the global economy. 

Charles Goyette [[send him mail](#)] is the author of the New York Times bestseller [The Dollar Melt-down](#). His new book is [Red and Blue and Broke All Over: Restoring America's Free Economy](#). He is also editor of [Freedom & Prosperity Letter](#), a monthly political and financial newsletter dedicated to revealing the truth about the U.S.'s political scene and economic climate. [To learn more, go here.](#)

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A TALE OF TWO FREE STATE WEEKENDS

By Boston T. Party

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I'VE wanted for years to make one of these, but usually had my own FSW Jamboree going on the same weekend, or was in Africa hunting. This year, neither intruded -- and I was free and keen to come out! It was time that I took a break, as the revised/expanded [Hologram of Liberty](#) was newly in stock (to include a July Kindle release).

2012 PorcFest was very well organized and fairly "high-end" as an event. It was attended by a few hundred people, many of them PorcFest veterans. Lots of infrastructure. Buildings. An A/V system, and a stage. I had hoped that ample food services would be available, and was not disappointed in George's outfit and his "Bacon Weave" omelet. The VIP Tent was the happening place, which surprised us members with nonstop free beer and booze -- thanks Jarrod! The rolling hills are beautiful, and the Roger's Campground is a superb venue for the FSP throng. I was there the entire week, but missed the low humidity of Wyoming! My thanks to Tracy Ward for selling my books for sale at her campsite in Agora Valley, and to those who purchased them.

Before my talk on Friday morning, I was on two broadcasts: Radio Free Live and Ernie Hancock's "Declare Your Independence" -- both of which are always a pleasure. Between those hosts, we covered a wide variety of subjects, and I'm keen for that spontaneous environment of ideas.

I gave my featured PorcFest talk on "[The Tectonic 10th Amendment Battle of the States vs. the Feds](#)".

We libertarians all desire a profound reduction in the level of federal regulation and taxation, and part of that answer may ironically be found in the recent resistance to the USG by the various 50 States. Boston T. Party will describe how this phenomenon may be our only imminent practical solution to restoring a laissez-faire Republic!

In my talk, I began with the line, "Being the founder of the FSW, I feel sort of like a Dodge truck at the Ford dealership!" It got a good laugh. I then spent about 45 minutes in overview of the *coup d'etat* nature of the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 and its Constitution. I closed with my prediction of a disastrous 5-4 ruling upholding the individual mandate of Obamacare, and that state resistance to such may give us some desperately needed breathing room.

That afternoon I joined Bill Buppert's panel on "Resistance and Rebellion" with sci-fi author F. Paul Wilson and others. This was a fascinating round-robin which covered many shades of opinion on the long-term efficacy of resistance. My salient comment there was that collectivism cannot be eradicated, and resistance to evil is like cleaning a kitchen counter in order to eat off of it vs. eliminating 100% of bacteria (the anarchist goal). I closed that thought with the opinion that even if all the best libertarians

managed to colonize the Moon or Mars, within a few generations they would be fighting statism amongst themselves. The urge to control others in order to avoid one's personal responsibility seems embedded in human beings, and it's preferable not to have utopian notions regarding imperfect beings.

On Saturday I had the pleasure of meeting Ben Stone (a.k.a. the "Bad Quaker") via our valued FSWer Michael W. Dean for the purposes of doing a couple of half-hour podcasts. We covered my books, the new *Hologram*, and my forecasts about freedom in the future. Thanks, Ben!

My impression of the attendees was a bit mixed. I made many new friends, and saw a lot of old ones. PorcFest was very top-heavy with the hippy crowd, and I gave a miss the "Bigger, Gayer Dance Party". Although open carry is not uncommon, there were only a few obviously tactical guys about who seemed to have considerable training. Porcers there were pretty nice to me, especially considering that I usually sported an FSW T-shirt and hat. All PorcFest needs is an adjacent gun range and some capable instructors! I had fun, and look forward to returning sometime. Thanks to Jason and Sharon and their fine crew!

2012 FSW Jamboree



This was our 6th annual event, four days of camping, shooting & BBQ, with inside bathrooms, hot showers and a full kitchen. We enjoyed a swap-meet (books, guns, shirts, gear, etc.), raffle, Soapbox contest, late-night sing-along, some impromptu martial arts, a mini-Appleseed, and a 1-day handgun course of mine. Our Jamboree is a much more relaxed and informal event than PorcFest (although this year we had a mike and PA system -- *woo hoo!*).

Having run the previous five Jams myself, this was the first I've handed off to another, I must say that Terence served us all extremely well. (His helmsmanship there greatly relieved me of some time and pressure that I used to get back to writing.) Such events are not easy things to host or budget for. If, after all the work and stress, he politely declined the job next year, I wouldn't blame him!

Being much less organized than PorcFest, the FSW Jam relies mostly on *ad hoc* volunteers and has a family reunion type of atmosphere -- one which I'd like to retain. (With the FSP's higher numbers, their PorcFest must be as highly organized as it is.) There's nothing wrong with a cadre of T-shirted official volunteers with

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schedules and radios, but our Jam would seem to lose something if we ever became that structured. I've long thought that a cap of 200 attendees seemed about right, to keep the event tight and foment a sense of "oneness" vs. 500+ people splitting off into coteries and missing out on each other. In fact, I'd prefer two or three events a year, vs. one huge Jamboree.

We enjoyed meeting many folks from Colorado, and one new Jamboreester/Riflechick-in-training from the Denver area put it well:

The atmosphere I experienced was laid back, with impromptu groups talking about everything under the sun, mingling about, joining in and stepping away from conversations as they saw fit. Everyone was so friendly and knowledgeable, bringing different opinions to the table. Of course, there were different personalities (how could there not be?) but I think they meshed well and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.



As is normal for us, most (at least 75%) Jamboreesters were openly armed. It's part of FSW culture. Our pistol and 500yd rifle range with steel targets is next to the campsite, and the happy crackling of gunfire was heard throughout the day (and often night) and folks come and go at their leisure. Rifles of all kinds were represented: Scout bolt-actions, AR15s, M1As, AR10s, etc. Though the Friday heat was memorable, the Appleseeders ground it out (with an East coast friend earning his FSW Rifleman score). Many students had never before shot even a .22 rifle, and learned much that scorching day!



The next day, most of those hardy souls (6 of 8 were women) returned to the range for a full Saturday under my handgun tutelage. The students generally shot Glocks and

XD's, but a 1911, EAA Witness, and Colt .38 Special were also present. It wasn't quite as hot as Friday, but the wind was a nuisance. All students did superbly, and got a good intro to the basics (including legal scenarios, safety, presentation from the holster, reloading and malfunction drills, movement, and one hand/weak hand shooting) which usually require 2-3 days elsewhere.

We always cap off our Jam with a Saturday BBQ which we self-cater in traditional family-style manner, with plenty of cheer, conversation, and camaraderie. Some filtered back to the range, most hung around the BBQ area, and a few stayed out until the wee hours with beer and song. Although not our largest Jamboree, the quality ratio was very high this year and several attendees have now either moved out to Wyoming, or will do so shortly. This is always very exciting news, and I wish them our best from the FSW. We look forward to becoming their friends and neighbors!



For the 2013 FSW Jamboree there are some exciting new ideas in the works to ramp up the size and quality of the experience. Details to be posted on www.freestatewyoming.org in the future. If you haven't yet made one of our events, please reserve 2013 Memorial Day Weekend for us. Come see why we freedom-lovers and shooters enjoy Wyoming so much! 🌻

Kenneth W. Royce is an [American author](#) who primarily writes under the [pen-name](#) of **Boston T. Party**. He has written non-fiction books that offer a [libertarian](#) stance on [privacy](#), [police encounters](#), [tax resistance](#) and [gun politics](#). His books are published by Javelin Press, which only publishes these works. He has written one [fiction](#) novel, *Molôn Labé!*, and is one of the founders of the [Free State Wyoming](#) project.

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Big Contest Announced for Porcfest 2013.

By Tarrin Lupo

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BIG prizes are up for grabs next year at the Porcupine Freedom Festival. First I wanted to say, this was my 4th year at Porcfest and I have to say the best one yet. I see signs of a tipping point coming

very soon. I speak and sell my books at liberty festivals all over the country and have been to pretty much all of them worth going to. Almost all of them are convention style events, but Porcfest is very different. Although it has structure and speakers like convention style events, it is much more free flowing and relaxed.

If you have ever been on a cruise, it has a very similar feeling to Porcfest. Like a cruise there is simply too many great events to go to them all. When you finish the event you need a vacation from your vacation. It has quickly overtaken all freedom-oriented events in the country to be the granddaddy of all liberty events.


Many events preach the free market but are hamstrung by the local regulations. Porcfest is the only festival I can think of that has a truly working free market. All the vendors working with out licenses or inspections. One thing I noticed over the years is most of these vendors are running on a shoestring budget. To help these brave but broke activists a few friends and myself have created a contest for next years event.

I know it's 340 days away, but next Porcfest will be the best one yet. To celebrate 10 years of awesomeness, we are going BIG. I just wrapped up a huge sponsor for our new liberty scholarship/investment show. Basically I am running an

event called "The Agorist Pitch". Agorist business ideas will compete for Gold, Bitcoins and silver. So far, the winning business ideas win some major funding to help their business idea become reality. So far, 1st place is an ounce of gold, second place is \$1000 of Bitcoins and 3rd is \$500 of silver. I hope to make the prizes even larger next by the time of the contest.



Coins shown above are not necessarily the same ones that will be awarded at contest.

Contestants will be given 3-5 minutes to pitch their business and the crowd and a panel of three donors will judge who gets the money. A person can no longer say they can't afford to go to Porcfest when they can win their expenses. Start working on your pitch and presentations now folks, because your competition is. 

Good Luck and Good Hunting,
Tarrin P. Lupo

Tarrin P. Lupo is best known for being the author the historical fiction novel "[Pirates of Savannah](#)" and his children's book "[Catch that Collie](#)". Tarrin is also a full time liberty activist

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Think Unique

By Ruby Hilliard

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THE Porcupine Freedom Festival, or [PorcFest](#), is a festival put on by [The Free State Project](#) where liberty lovers from all over the world gather in Lancaster, NH, for one week and have a philosophical meeting of the minds. There are many different types of people that come to PorcFest. Some are scholars in economics, politics and science. Some are artists and agorists-in-action selling and trading food and wares. Others are just there to participate in one of the largest Freedom festivals in the USA. One thing these people all have in common is individuality. They think for themselves. They don't need to be TOLD how to think and aren't there to become part of a collective of people that all think the same. The refreshing thing that I love about the diversity of people participating in the liberty movement is there is always someone to challenge your ideas and help them evolve. The things they have in common are their individuality and the desire to live free from authority.

It reminds me of [Stanley Milgram](#) and his published research [Obedience to Authority and The Perils of Authority](#). In his experiments, he was attempting to measure the willingness of participants to obey an authority figure that instructed them to perform acts that would conflict with their conscience. His experiment showed that 37 out of the 40 participants in his experiment would deliver an increasingly larger dose of electric shock to another human just on the command of someone they deemed an "Authority" figure. 37 of those participants delivered, upon command of the "Authority" figure, the maximum dose of 450 volts to a person they could not see, who simply answered questions wrong. While there never was any other person being shocked, the participants in the experiment overwhelmingly

obeyed the "Authority" figure regardless of the screams of agony coming from the person being "shocked." The participants were described as having varying degrees of tension, sweating, and lip biting but continued on, regardless of their personal stress level. They lacked the ability to think or ACT for themselves against AUTHORITY.

Milgram found through these and other experiments that between approximately 61-66% of all people will do what is told of them by an "Authority" figure without question. Another approximate 30% will do what is told, then question, then perhaps refuse to take orders but that only about 3-7% of people have the ability to refuse orders. It is my belief that a large portion of liberty participants fall into this 3-7% category. Most show a capacity for free will, self-ownership AND the ability to act according to their own conscience experience.

The attendees of Porcfest come from all over the world, cultures and religions. Whether they call themselves Libertarian, libertarian, Voluntaryist, anarchist, minarchist, etc., they don't need to wear matching uniforms or attend the same religious ceremonies to be accepted by their peers. You don't have to fit into a certain demographic or socio-economic class to take part in the debates and discussions. The main difference between most of these people and the rest of the world is their capacity to welcome, embrace and LOVE YOU, for being UNIQUE. Come to PorcFest and experience the freethinking 3-7% for yourself. You can attend speeches, question and answer sessions, and other forums that expand and challenge the traditional-thinking mind. You may also get more free hugs than you know what to do with. I know I did...and I liked it. 🌻



Ruby Nicole Hilliard is an artist and author living in Savannah, Ga. Ruby writes, edits and illustrates the "Pirates of Savannah" historical novel series and stays busy on the side taking commissions for fine art portraits, and cover art illustrations. See some of her work at [LupoLit.com](#) and [SamAndRubyArt.com](#).

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Theories and Queries: A Middle Ground in the Schism of the Liberty Movement

By Meghan Kellison and Rebekah Johansen

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PICK a side: either you're a crazy person who believes 9/11 was an inside job done by fluoride-drinking reptilians, or you're a globalist puppet bent on enforcing statism and splintering the liberty movement for personal gain. At least, those are the straw man-based categories that the liberty movement can be divided into. However, is there a middle ground, somewhere in between the two extremes where there can be peaceful coexistence in the movement? Is it possible to be a "skeptical conspiracy theorist"? Reason, after all, must be used to assess any argument. But emotionally charged division can create confusion or even discredit libertarian principles in the eyes of others when egos are causing infighting. The liberty movement often seems to be a bit of a sausage fest, and that becomes glaringly obvious as some major male activists have taken center stage in bickering over the direction and image of the revolution. This article seeks to find common ground.

Meghan:

Liberty is based on the idea of individualism, but this divide is collectivizing the movement into two categories that are really no better than the false left-right paradigm we escaped from when we ditched the Republican and Democratic parties. Now, it is my belief that hyperbole is being used by both sides to describe the other to make them appear more extreme than they really are. Our enemies, per se, are not the people we agree with on over 85%-95% of the issues, they are the ones who seek to destroy our liberties. This is not a movement of leaders vying for status; it is made up of individuals who have realized we don't need leaders to tell us what to think and how to feel. The battle lines are not drawn, and no one has control over who gets kicked out of the movement because of an image they want to portray. I am a skeptic whose skepticism has led to the discovery of some very real conspiracies, but labeling individuals as "skeptics" or "conspiracy theorists" detract from the real issues and create false stereotypes that close hearts and minds.

My good friend Rebekah Johansen and I have been discussing this topic, and seek to clarify the beliefs of the supposed two sides and hopefully prove that there is less difference than some would have you believe. We have a slightly different perspective perhaps aided by our lack of need to dominate things with a big show of appendage-measuring...to quote Papa Bear... bloviating.

I'll give you some background on where I am coming from. Pretty much my whole life I have questioned the official story of how things are, but retained a fairly mainstream view for most of my life up until about six years ago. Then, things started to change. As an avid democrat, I already disagreed with the Bush Administration on virtually everything, and began doing research at the behest of a few Ron Paul supporters I knew. I was an English major at the time, so reading for me was and still is one of my very favorite things. So, I started voraciously reading sources outside the mainstream news, and after months and countless hours of fact checking and comparing sources, I came to the conclusion that not only is truth truly stranger than fiction, but just about everything I was taught in public indoctrination school was wrong. It was

not only wrong, many things were outright lies. History, science, and medicine were the biggest subjects where there was widespread efforts to cover up the truth.

I came across a guy named Alex Jones, and learned about banking elites who supposedly controlled much of the world through debt. For a short while, I digested most of his documentaries, and found myself eventually thinking that the world was going to end in 2008. He taught me a valuable lesson, though, that you cannot let fear rule your decision making. I am not advocating that we sit down and take the erosion of our liberties lightly at all, though we must be peaceful to be effective.

Probably the biggest cover up I came across that had the most impact on me was the discovery that our government was complicit in the attacks on 9/11. There was a massive failure at all levels, and really too many coincidences that day for me to think it was anything other than a terrorist attack that the government knew about beforehand and failed to prevent that was then covered up by the 9/11 Commission Report. Whether or not it was highly planned is debatable for me, and honestly I am somewhere in the middle there. I do believe government is inefficient and unable to exert the control some individuals within it want to due to the nature of the beast, but I also contend there seems to be a very highly active criminal element that really does want to hurt people to serve its own interests. The expansion and scope of the military industrial complex is well known, and while it is indeed real and powerful I also believe this contributes to certain other unfounded conspiracy theories. There are straw man arguments used to harm the credibility of anyone who questions the official story, and this includes ridiculous theories (i.e. holographic planes) that cause division and ridicule.

However, why is it hard for some "skeptics" to believe that 9/11 could have been a false flag to further desires of the Empire? It has only happened all throughout history, so I doubt our government would be any different. There is nothing new under the sun, and those who have power over others will seek to retain and extend that power by any means and to the detriment of anybody. As for those with the access to the strongest military and weaponry in the world, you can bet that they will abuse that power over and over again. This nation's government has been warring openly and covertly since the beginning of this country, and there is no rule of law that applies to the most powerful criminal elements in the government. Also, you cannot judge a powerful person's actions within the parameters of your own moral compass because the rules don't apply to them (defined as bankers, politicians, lawyers, judges, cops); therefore, they are more likely to break them. I will not go so far to say I know it was an inside job and exactly who did what, but if the premise holds true that government is evil perhaps we should take a closer look when they tout an official story of any kind.

I don't allow facts about the world we live in to keep me in a state of paranoia, though. No amount of hollering about collective groups that supposedly control the world will convince me of a greater conspiracy that can be pegged to one source. I don't think the Jews, Muslims,

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 in the Schism of the Liberty Movement

Christians, Communists, Atheists, Illuminati or any other group that gets the finger pointed at them is wholly responsible for the evil conspiracies that do happen in the world. Those humans at the top levels of power structures seeking control are wicked, but they're also stupid and incompetent. They don't have super human intelligence, just greater access to resources that provide them with more control. Because of gangs within government, it is very difficult to affect change whether through participation or voting.

The system is not designed to work for the average person, and perhaps this is one of the areas where Rebekah and I differ. We met while campaigning for Ron Paul in 2008, and she remained active at the local level throughout this last campaign while I chose to withdraw. I still watched the videos and reposted and encouraged everyone I knew to read Paul's books and listen to his speeches and I debated about free market principles and voluntary exchange, but I had a growing sense of discouragement after seeing how we were treated in our own community years ago. Due to this and other developments I have seen over the past year in politics, I can no longer morally justify voting for anyone at this point unless it is Rebekah Johansen for State Committeewoman (wink wink).

Rebekah:

Thanks for the endorsement. Okay, now some background on me. I'm 21 years old and was homeschooled – really unschooled – my entire life until dual-enrollment at junior college. Like Meghan, I grew up questioning the norm. And although most of my life was outside the mainstream (my siblings and I were raised vegans and never vaccinated, and we were breastfed and home-birthed, for instance), my politics were solidly mainstream for most of my life. At 10, I first became aware of politics and vaguely supported George W. Bush because my parents did at the time... I later learned, because of his stated ideals of a smaller government and humble foreign policy. But I wasn't very knowledgeable beyond the basics.



At 11, I sat with my family and watched the towers fall. The 9-11 attacks were the first world event I can remember, and what I remember is fear. My political socialization wasn't just in the context of 9-11, it was 9-11. I still have some angry, nationalistic essays I wrote

at the time saved on my old computer. Like Meghan, I learned to deal with confusing emotions through the outlet of writing – and soon, activism.

In 2004, I campaigned for George W. Bush with my siblings, with our patient mother driving us to the headquarters and to events. Fully involved in the “war on terror” mindset, I knew all the neo-conservative Republican positions and truly believed them for awhile, though I remember my skepticism for the Patriot Act and Iraq War, both of which made me deeply uncomfortable.

I was finishing junior college and about to enter the university level when I first started seeing Youtube videos featuring an awkward little man named Ron Paul. Apathetic and discouraged at the time because of Bush's failed record of delivering smaller government, I began to tell people “I like Ron Paul except for foreign policy and the drug war.” The more I listened to Ron, though, the more I came to understand the principles of liberty in general.

In that process, conspiracy theories basically were just part of the territory. I'll never forget the first few awkward meetups when almost everyone was talking about the New World Order or whatnot and I just went with it. After all, I was learning so much new information, why wouldn't I believe these theories as part of my larger paradigm shift? Alex Jones, Mark Dice, Luke Rudowski, Adam Kokesh, Jesse Ventura... they became my icons, and I immersed myself in the conspiracy crowd, albeit with private misgivings. There were plenty of bad moments: don't get me wrong. Much like in 2004, when I put aside my uncomfortable nagging feelings over some things, I learned to put aside doubts I felt when realizing how uncomfortable everyone's reaction tended to be. I ignored how little effect I had over four years or the fact that I often found myself unable to convey a theory that seemed so clear in my head to any reasonable extent to others.

But over the next few years, I threw myself into alternate theories, third parties, and generally causing as much trouble as I could. I decided never to vote for Republicans – or not often – and became very involved in third party activism and stopped going to most events I considered “establishment.” But I soon became frustrated with the leaders of the conspiracy movement, beginning to question their credibility as well as the results they produced – and my experience with a third party in 2008 was enough to

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convince me that trying to recreate power structures will do nothing to stop the problems inherent therein.

For the following years, I was involved off and on with local things. I stopped really caring about things, but the cognitive dissonance was not sustainable. And then 2012 arrived, and I found a reason to be active again. I got back fully invested in local, state, and national politics and found that making friends and headway was actually pretty easy.

It was not until the early part of 2012 that I really sat down to think about the influence of so-called truther movements on the Ron Paul movement. I cannot justify to myself that there is any positive influence to this strand of liberty politics. Some time alone, some reflection, and some interactions with at least a few awesome people who really “get it” helped me sort out my priorities and realize that you can be a perfectly valid liberty supporter without believing everything is part of Agenda 21 or the New World Order.

As Meghan mentioned earlier about collectivizing – it is important that neither side do so. I don’t trust my government. I also don’t think there’s some grand conspiracy to every event. If there is, I’m speculating, and what good will I do in trying to spread my speculation? I don’t believe central organization is possible in economics because of limited information – so why would I believe the opposite when it comes to world leaders? And I firmly believe that at very few levels of power is it truly “us against them”; remember, we were all ignorant to liberty principles at some point. I find a good deal of skepticism and reliance on empirical evidence goes a long way, regardless of what your beliefs are.

At this point, my goals are simple: to take advantage of existing structure to further liberty principles as effectively as I can. I owe it to my values to be effective, even if I have to be mindful of my words and actions. I see the reasoning behind the Rand endorsement and don’t think Jack Hunter is an inside job. If you come to REC meetings talking about 9-11, I’ll probably ask you to leave... but I’ll ask nicely. My goal is exposing people to liberty, not to Bilderberg. I’m involved with the Republican Party because it is the most effective vehicle toward accomplishing liberty, and I have no intentions of throwing up my hands or spoiling things without good reason. This is my path, but others may well be different.

Meghan:

I realized after being politically active in the traditional sense that I had no faith in politicians or any part of politics in regard to fixing the problems facing this country, and my favorite way of reaching people was in the realm of writing. Poetry, essays, essay long debates, blogging, personal connections with people, helping support projects like the silver dime cards--- these were my preferred ways of spreading the ideas of liberty. I am not fully convinced that this country can be saved from itself because I

don’t know if the people en masse want it to be. I have to focus on the numbers when it comes to the economy, and the numbers don’t lie when they imply we are heading for some severe economic problems. My focus is now in informing people of what’s to come and providing them with solutions for after the collapse, and I really hate the way that that sounds like conspiratorial thinking, but I am not encouraging bartering with silver and the participation in a silver economy for nothing. The truth is, there are many parts of this body of liberty, and each one is important in helping the uninformed come to the reality. Some people choose to [run for office to raise awareness](#), some choose to [write](#), some people create their own [radio programs](#) or [TV programs](#), some start [news/information based sites](#), some provide [precious metals](#) for future use, some create [Moneyliths](#) to encourage the silver economy, some rub shoulders and whisper in the ears of the big wigs at major networks, some provide survivalist gear for tough times, some [move to another state](#) to try to gain a majority to affect change, and the list goes on and on. Denigrating what some parts of the body do because it is not your approach is nothing short of egotistical and collectivist, and only amounts to a pissing contest.

Rebekah:

I’m okay if someone disagrees with me. We’re all called to do different things. Think about what you’re trying to accomplish, and work toward that goal. It is time for a moment of reckoning in the liberty movement, because for too long, we’ve been trying to do many different things, and it’s been ineffective. If you believe politics is pointless, don’t get involved in politics. If you don’t believe in conspiracy theories, don’t get involved in the truther crowd. While I do believe certain conspiracy leaders are counterproductive and damaging, they can do their thing – just don’t interfere when I’m doing my thing. A split might be necessary, but it can be a peaceful split. We have common ground on many things, but a little respect for others’ territory is fine. The important thing is that we rely not on fear but on logic, reason, and, at risk of platitudes, what got us here: love. 🌸

Meghan has been writing poetry, prose, short stories, and essays for several years, has been published in small independent publications (mostly poetry), and currently runs the blog at Roberts & Roberts Brokerage (<http://rrbi.co/category/blog/>). Her focus is on social issues, politics, fitness, and natural health topics. The best way to contact Meghan is on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001243544080>

Rebekah Johansen is a 21 year old student at the University of West Florida, currently pursuing a master’s degree in Political Science/ Public Administration and working full time in the software industry. She was homeschooled her whole life before attending Pensacola Junior College and the University of West Florida, graduating as one of twenty-five Spring 2011 graduating Honors scholars. She has been active in local and national politics, most recently taking a leading role in the local Campaign for Liberty, Young Americans for Liberty, and Ron Paul 2012 efforts. She’s active in many local, state, and national political efforts and is currently running for RPOF State Committeewoman in Escambia County, Florida. [Here is an link](#) to her campaign page on Facebook.

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How to Live a Healthier Life By Stephanie Weeks

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WE are living in pretty exciting times. An age where preppers abound. People are looking to be more self-sustaining and shifts are being made in lots of areas. We are seeing new currencies taking form, new forms of energy being released and we are watching the sickness industry transform into the wellness industry. Prevention is definitely a wiser choice. We want for all of our liberty loving friends to be prepared and in the best state of wellness possible. Most preppers have a great stock of food, however you should remember to also pack food with high nutritional value. Unfortunately, most of the refined, denatured, processed, green harvest, genetically modified factory food is void of any nutritional value.

To get the same amount of iron as 1 can of spinach in 1950, you'd have to eat 50 cans of spinach today! Same with practically all the other fruits and vegetables out there.

It is our goal to help our friends understand the benefits of wellness and what's needed in our diets, that's been stripped away, so we can make sure we all stay healthy.

What would happen if you bought a diesel truck and you gave it gas? It would break. It was designed for specific fuel, Diesel. When you give it Diesel, it functions correctly. It's the same with the human body. Our bodies are made up of cells. When the cells are healthy, then the tissues are healthy, then the organs, and the systems of the body become healthy. We should be focusing on what the cells need if we want to maintain wellness. We know that cells need to be fed, cleansed, regulated, defended, and repaired, and they must communicate properly. Communication is probably the most important because if the cells can't talk to one another, they can't do anything else.

I'm sure you know how blind people read with brail, rubbing their fingers over the bumps to get the message. Well, our cells function in much the same way. On the end of each cell there are brail bumps, called glycoproteins. The macrophage, our killer cells which are part of the immune system, rubs over each bump to decipher whether it is a good cell or a bad cell, and whether to kill the cell or leave it alone. Now if the killer cells gets to a cell that it does not recognize, it has two options: to kill it or to leave it alone. Now what would happen if it didn't recognize a good cell and decided to kill it? Well, that is what an auto-immune disorder is, where the body attacks itself.

If the macrophage gets to a cell it can't read and decides to leave it alone and it happens to be a cancer cell, then you have a problem that could eventually kill you. Someone dies of cancer every minute in America. We all have cancer cells living in our bodies. It's the job of the immune system to kill them. All disease and wellness is a cellular event.

In 1996, Harpers Biochemistry, a very prestigious medical textbook, published a new chapter

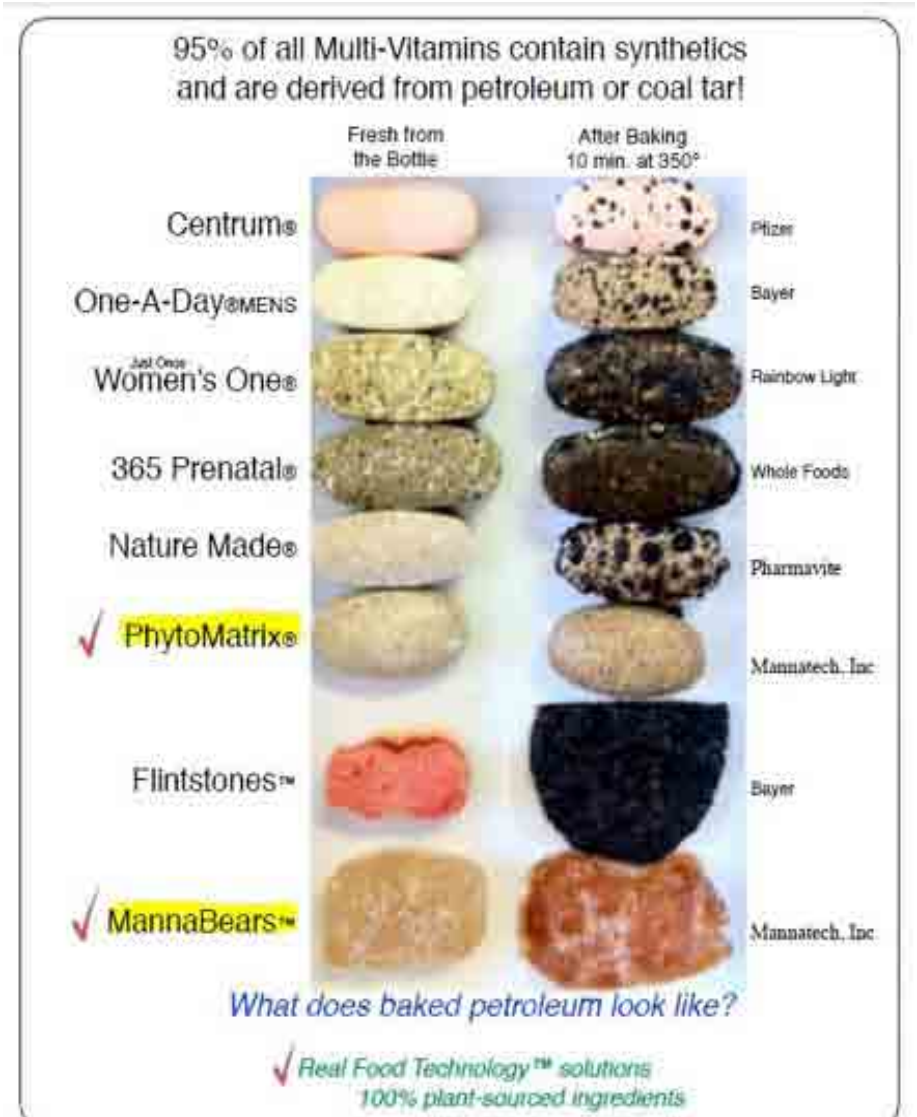
which outlines the discovery that out of the 230 some odd sugars known to science, 8 of them are essential in helping the body make glycoproteins on the ends of your cells. The problem is that we are not consuming them anymore. We are now only getting 2 of the 8 sugars in our modern American diets. WE ARE MISSING 6!!!

What is the most important nutrient? The one that is missing!

So some scientists in Texas filed and received patents for a composition of matter formula made up with the 8 essential sugars needed to make glycoproteins. It comes in a powder or capsule, and by adding it to your diet, your cells now have the Braille bumps (the glycoproteins) and now the killer cell can recognize who is a good guy and who's a bad guy. So it clears up that intracellular communication.

This is the most important discovery in medicine. Unfortunately, your friends won't hear about it for another decade.

Next - Food formed vitamins and minerals feed the cells boosting the immune system, support normal growth and development, and help cells and organs do their job. How would one find a good supplement with all the options out there? 95% of these products are synthetic meaning they are made in chemical plants out of coal tar and rocks. Now, our bodies cannot digest rocks and our bodies were not designed to process coal tar and petroleum. If you are currently taking a vitamin supplement, here is a very simple test you can do at home. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Place one vitamin on a piece of tin foil and set the other aside. Bake the vitamin for 15 minutes. When you remove the vitamin, you will notice one of two things: either the vitamin will have browned like food does when you cook it and look relatively similar to the uncooked vitamin, or it will be oozing out tar and making the kitchen a little stinky. Now which would you prefer to take? A plant-based supplement or one made of coal tar? When you consume a plant-based, real food supplement, your body can assimilate it as food.



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Cells also have to be cleansed, defended and repaired. You can learn more about how to effectively do that at www.DefeatDiseases.com

We recommend a great product to have on hand called NutriVerus - it puts wellness in your life. One jar of NutriVerus packs a powerful nutritional punch. It is comprised of vitamins and minerals, antioxidants, glyconutrients (for proper cell to cell communication) and rice bran. It comes in a powder that you can mix in smoothies, or sprinkle on whatever food you like to eat.

Our goal is to wipe out global malnutrition which kills 5 million children a year (15,000 children a day!) To accomplish this goal, we need your help! We have set up a program that works like Toms Shoes. When you take care of your own wellness by purchasing a tub of Nutriverus, we donate one to a malnourished child. Donations through consumption. Instead of begging for money, we simply ask you to take care of yourself. Malnutrition isn't just a third world epidemic, either. Here in America, there are tons of over-fed, under nourished people. This is a free market solution to solving this massive problem. All we need to do is connect 5 million consumers with 5 million orphans and the problem is solved!

(The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher or editors of Freedom'sPhoenixEzine. All information should be confirmed and critically evaluated by our readers.)

Some folks out there need the product but have a hard time affording it. We have that covered, too! We created a customer referral program so if you would like to get the product for free, all you have to do is refer a couple of friends who could benefit from better nutrition. It's a great financial opportunity for those who want to change the world and help a lot of people! If you are interested in an additional residual income stream, give us a call and we will explain what is needed in 5 minutes. We have a 6 month 100% satisfaction guarantee. Not many companies will let you take their products for 6 straight months and if you are not completely satisfied, you get all your money back with no questions asked. We do it because we know how awesome you're going to feel once the proper fuel is added to your diet! Procrastinate later, get healthy now! 

www.SuperGlycoNutritents.com

Stephanie is a wellness consultant and social entrepreneur. She has traveled the globe extensively and is a sought out speaker. Stephanie loves outdoor activities and when she is not saving the world from malnutrition she enjoys working with the [Ladies of Liberty Alliance](#) to educate and empower liberty minded women.

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The Serious Problem of Overhydrating in Endurance Sports

By Dr. Mercola

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IN an effort to prevent dehydration, it's common for many endurance athletes to guzzle down large amounts of fluids before, during and after competing.

The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) even encourages this approach, stating that “the goal of drinking during exercise is to prevent excessive (>2% body weight loss from water deficit) dehydration and excessive changes in electrolyte balance to avert compromised performance.”¹

But is this really the right thing, or the healthiest thing, to do?

Exercise scientist (and experienced endurance athlete) Dr. Tim Noakes doesn't believe so -- in fact, he points out at least a dozen deaths that have occurred in endurance events due to drinking too much fluid.

Intrigued as to how this problem came about, Dr. Noakes studied the hydration fad over the last few decades, then wrote a book about it, “Waterlogged: The Serious Problem of Overhydration in Endurance Sports.”

The topic is particularly dear to him because 30 years ago he personally advised people to drink as much as they could—only to find out later that this advice could be deadly.

The Problem With Drinking Too Much During Exercise

According to a survey by Loyal University researchers, over 36 percent of runners drink according to a preset schedule or to maintain a certain body weight.² Another 9 percent drink as much as they can during races. These runners are choosing to ignore their body's thirst mechanism and instead use other methods to dictate their water consumption, which they believe, mistakenly, to be superior.

Many buy into this belief, and health agencies and sports drinks advertisers have been spouting the misinformation for years. But as the Loyola researchers noted:³

“These beliefs are frequently based on misconceptions about basic exercise physiology.”

Overhydrating will actually *worsen* athletic performance, not improve it. As you begin to consume too much water, your cells will start to

swell, leading to such symptoms as gastrointestinal upset, dizziness, soreness and others. In severe cases, the sodium levels in your blood may drop to dangerously low levels, causing hyponatremia -- a condition in which your cells swell with too much water. While most of your body's cells can handle this swelling, your brain cells cannot, and most of the symptoms are caused by brain swelling.

This condition is most common among athletes, although anyone can be affected by drinking excessive amounts of water. Dr. Noakes explained:⁴

“The brain swells, and because it is in a rigid skull, it cannot swell very much. The more it swells, the more pressure, and that eventually squeezes the arteries supplying blood to the brain. Ultimately, there is less oxygen getting to the brain, and certain parts become damaged. Once it affects your breathing centers, then you're in real trouble, because it stops breathing, and that is essentially irreversible.”

Your Body is Designed to Tell You When to Drink

According to Dr. Noakes, the first drinking guidelines put out by The American College of Sports Medicine said that runners should “drink regularly during exercise,” which is fair advice. But then an individual working for the U.S. military published a paper saying that U.S. soldiers should drink 64 ounces of water per hour in order to improve performance.

Though the paper was not based on concrete evidence, it was widely embraced by the military, and then filtered through to the American College of Sports Medicine's guidelines for runners. Today ACSM still recommends drinking “ahead of thirst,” a move that Dr. Noakes says “impairs exercise performance.” He uses the example of African hunters who were able to chase down an antelope for four to six hours in mid-day heat, without a source of fluids until after the hunt ended (when they would drink the animal's blood and intestinal water). He continues:⁵

“Dehydration is not a disease, and it only has one symptom, and that is thirst. If you start to exercise, and you don't drink, after a period of time, you will become thirsty—that's your body's way of telling you to drink.”

The idea that you should drink ahead of thirst is absolutely nonsensical... why should humans be different from every other creature on earth

1 Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise: February 2007 - Volume 39 - Issue 2 - pp 377-390

2 Br J Sports Med. 2011 Jun;45(8):646-9. Epub 2010 Sep 28.

3 Br J Sports Med. 2011 Jun;45(8):646-9. Epub 2010 Sep 28.

4 Outside Online June 19, 2012

5 Outside Online June 19, 2012

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to be told when and how to drink? The reality is you don't need to be told when and how much to drink.

We have a 300 million year developed system that tells you with exquisite accuracy how much you need to drink and when you need to drink. It's called thirst. If you rely on thirst you won't ever become dehydrated, and you won't also ever become overhydrated."

Are Sports Drinks Really Necessary?

Aside from the now disproven dogma that you need to chug lots of water during exercise, it's also commonly said that you need to replace your electrolyte balance ... and sports drinks are positioned as the ideal way to do so. But according to Dr. James Winger, author of the Loyola study:⁶

"There is no need to replace minerals during exercise, because the loss of minerals has no deleterious effect on the body."

The fact of the matter is, sports drinks represent a nearly \$4-billion market in the United States.⁷ And because of their glitzy marketing campaigns, which often feature celebrity athletes, many people are under the impression that these drinks are healthy and essential during or after a workout, offering such benefits as improved athletic performance, increased energy and superior hydration during exercise.

The leading brands of sports drinks on the market typically contain as much as two-thirds the sugar of sodas and more sodium. They also often contain high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS).

Fructose is known to be highly toxic when consumed at levels beyond which glycogen stores are replenished. The excess either converts to triglycerides in the liver, which in turn raises your risk of heart disease and does nothing to satisfy the immediate glucose needs of your cells, or accumulates in the blood where it reacts with proteins through the Malliard reaction (glycation), essentially "gumming up the works" with destructive glycation byproducts that cause accelerated aging and diabetes complications, to name but a few of their adverse effects.

And if that's not bad enough, crystalline fructose may be contaminated with arsenic, lead, chloride and heavy metals.

Many sports drinks also contain artificial sweeteners (they can lead to impaired kidney function, depression, headaches, infertility, brain tumors, and a long list of other serious health problems), artificial flavors and food coloring, which has been connected to a variety of health problems, including allergic reactions, hyperactivity, decreased IQ in children, and numerous forms of cancer.

Not to mention, sports drinks are up to [30 times more erosive to your teeth](#) than water. And brushing your teeth won't help because the citric acid in the sports drink will soften your tooth enamel so much it could be damaged by brushing.

It's just not worth it, especially considering only a very small portion of exercisers work out

hard enough that a sports drink might be necessary. They basically "work" because they contain high amounts of sodium (processed salt), which is meant to replenish the electrolytes you lose while sweating. But as Dr. Winger said, this isn't even necessary during a *marathon*, let alone during most regular workouts:⁸

"During a 26-mile marathon, there is no role during or after the race for oral supplementation of salt."

And even then, if you *did* feel a beverage other than water was necessary, [coconut water](#) is a far better choice than virtually any commercial sports drink on the market.

So How Much Water is Healthy?


Even if you're not an endurance athlete who is chugging 64 ounces of water an hour, you may still be stressing yourself unnecessarily regarding your water consumption. Scientific evidence to support the widely touted recommendation to [drink eight glasses of water a day](#) is also lacking, and has even been called "thoroughly debunked nonsense."

Drinking eight 8-ounce glasses of pure water a day may not be likely to cause you harm; it's just that the evidence is lacking on whether that is the magic number for everyone, and most likely it appears that it is not. The reality is that many people are dehydrated and would benefit from drinking more water each day, and from making water their primary source of fluids.

Your body will *tell* you when it's time to replenish your water supply, because once your body has lost between one to two percent of its total water, your thirst mechanism lets you know that it's time to drink some water!

The color of your urine will also help you determine whether or not you might need to drink more. As long as you are not taking riboflavin (vitamin B2, also found in most multi-vitamins), which fluoresces and turns your urine bright yellow, then your urine should be a very light-colored yellow. If it is a deep, dark yellow then you are likely not drinking enough water. If your urine is scant or if you haven't urinated in many hours, that too is an indication that you're not drinking enough. (Based on the results from a few different studies, a healthy person urinates on average about seven or eight times a day.)

But since your body is capable of telling you its needs, you needn't worry about measuring your water intake or counting your glasses. Simply using thirst as a guide to how much water you need to drink is a simple way to help ensure your individual needs are met, day-by-day.

Of course, if it's hot, exceptionally dry outside, or if you are engaged in exercise or other vigorous activity, you will require more water than normal. But again, if you drink as soon as you feel thirsty, you should be able to remain properly hydrated even in these cases. 

⁸ Adventure Journal September 27, 2011

Dr. Mercola is the founder of the world's most visited natural health web site, [Mercola.com](#). You can learn the hazardous side effects of OTC Remedies by getting a FREE copy of his latest special report [The Dangers of Over the Counter Remedies](#) by going to his [Report Page](#).



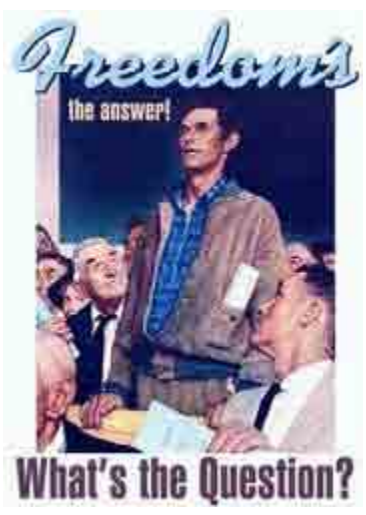
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⁶ Adventure Journal September 27, 2011

⁷ Beverage Industry July 12, 2011

Publisher's Backpage - Our Trip By Ernest Hancock

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FROM June 5th to July 6th Donna and I traveled over 7500 miles across the country. From Phoenix to Kalispel, Montana to Lancaster, New Hampshire to Austin, Texas to Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to Show Low, Arizona and back to Phoenix, Arizona.

Along the way we met many people and experienced a lot of America on many levels. We continued to do the 3 hours every day of radio (Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock M-F 9am-Noon Eastern Time). We chronicled the trip using the show's archive pages and kept adding photographs and graphics and MP3s of the shows to each day so that a [full archive of the trip accumulated](#).

There are many more details shared each day in the MP3 of the radio shows and many came along for the ride by listening to the show.

Below are a few of the 2000+ pictures taken to help highlight what was experienced. But most of the color can be found in the interviews and observations found in the radio files. But I'll try to provide a summary of my observations and conclusions in this article.

The primary goal was to deliver to Porcfest the "Moneyolith" for the activist behind www.DontTreadOnMeme.com For the past 18 months we have focused on educating others on the importance of learning about money and the use of alternative currencies. Just at the Monolith from '2001 A Space Oddessy' represented the "Dawn of Man" via an increased level of understanding and intelligence, the "Moneyolith" represented the "Dawn of Money" and a reeducation of 'Generation Next'. The LOV3olution that was inspired by the teachings of Ron Paul, pure libertarian philosophy and Austrian Economics has evolved into a much greater understanding.

This American Road Trek was a continuation of this education and the sharing of our efforts with those that would benefit the most and would be helping to make the effort a viral meme for an entire generation. The trek was also to explore what might lie ahead as the next goal in the continued development of an awakened generation.



Ready to go. Fully packed with supplied for a month of travel and over a week of camping, electronics for the Radio Show, PA System, tools, the Moneyolith, the Money Dome (a geodesic dome built as a vendor retail space for the Porcupine Festival - pictures below) and supplies. We have two almost identical 1998 Montero SUVs that get over 23 miles to the gallon

on the highway, but the aerodynamics and the weight brought that down to about a 12 miles per gallon average.



The northeastern corner of Arizona is mostly Native American Reservation land. It is very beautiful in its own way but barren. We always make a stop to support one of the few industries left, jewelry.



Near the top of the mountain that leads down to Page, Arizona (Glen Canyon Dam is at the top of the Grand Canyon and is responsible for Lake Powell) was another series of jewelry stands. In the background you can see the start of the Grand Canyon.



Much of Utah is dotted with small farming communities like Panguitch, Utah.



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Here I am at the auto parts store in Idaho Falls, Utah getting a new hub and bearings to replace damaged ones on the trailer. Donna and I had left the trailer under the supervision of a Sheriff Department's dispatcher watching the trailer for us in a small town's Sheriff station further north on the highway while we got parts for the repair.



A deputy offered to hold his flashlight for us for almost an hour while I filed the axle so it would take the new bearing. But the replacement hub was incorrect. We were able to use the old Hub and the new bearings to make it the 40 miles back to Idaho Falls to try for the correct parts but Donna and I had to sleep in the parking lot for 4 hours waiting for the parts store to open.



The radio show started at the same time the parts store opened so it was my goal to have the repair done by the end of the show and work on the repair during the commercial breaks. The store manager made a trip to a local supplier to get the correct parts by the start of the 2nd hour and I was determined to be on the road by the end of the 3rd hour.



We had all of the tools that we needed (The axle filing would have been a lot easier the night before if I had my Dremel kit but I thought I was really over prepared as it was and didn't bring it... arrrr), and with the proper parts all I had to do was pack the bearings with grease and properly assemble the hub and I was golden... but this is a messy job.

Just as I was getting ready to get really dirty during one of the final two show breaks a man appeared offering to help. He explained that he is a regular listener that makes cassette copies of the show for his neighbors. He listens using a satellite dish and pulls the signal from LRN.fm's feed. He knew from our previous show from Salt Lake City, Utah that we would be passing through Idaho Falls. When he heard what we were doing he called the 3 O'Reilly Auto Parts stores to find out which one we were at and rushed down to help. Ron packed the bearings and finished the assembly just in time to be part of the radio show in the last segment.



Donna and I took Ron for a very pleasant breakfast and learned a lot about the politics of Idaho. Thank you Ron.



On our way to Kalispel, Montana to meet with Pastor Chuck Baldwin and visit the Liberty Fellowship Church we almost ran out of fuel. The only pump available was closed but Donna was able to encourage the lady owner that lived just across the street to open up for us.

You may notice that the Ron Paul signs had been removed from the vehicle. It was during this time that Rand Paul had endorsed Mitt Romney for POTUS and every encounter with people on the road at rest stops and service stations had dramatically changed. What was a pleasant experience had turned to one of sadness and confusion and it became a drain on both Donna and

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I. We are very use to being ridiculed by the un-informed and defenders of statism and are only encouraged to 'defend the faith', but we were unable to console people that were deeply affected... so we packed the magnetic signs. Unfortunate.



These house size hay stacks dotted the landscape.



This seemed to be a typical ranch in the Big Sky Country of Montana



We did leave her with some DailyPaul Silver Dimes for her trouble... she was of like mind. This wooden Indian was at the entrance to her store.



Kalispel, Montana is the largest town in the Flathead Valley.



The valley supports over 100,000 people and is rich in isolation, wildlife, water (a forty mile long lake) ranching and farming,... a very good place to ride out troubling times. It was June and the temperature was still in the 60's during the day. Something to consider for some.



Northwestern Wyoming was the only experience we had with that state. But the western Rocky Mountain states are all beautiful and open and you can physically feel the stress leave your body on such a trip with these views.



Our friends and fellow activists from Phoenix had arrived a week earlier to attend church the previous Sunday and to spend time with long time friends that had already settled there. After visiting with Pastor Baldwin and Liberty Fellowship on Sunday we drove towards South Dakota and interviewed Chuck Baldwin the following morning, as well as the relocation director for the church. [06-11-12 -- George Hudson - Chuck Baldwin - LIVE from Gillette, Wyoming \(MP3 loaded\)](#)

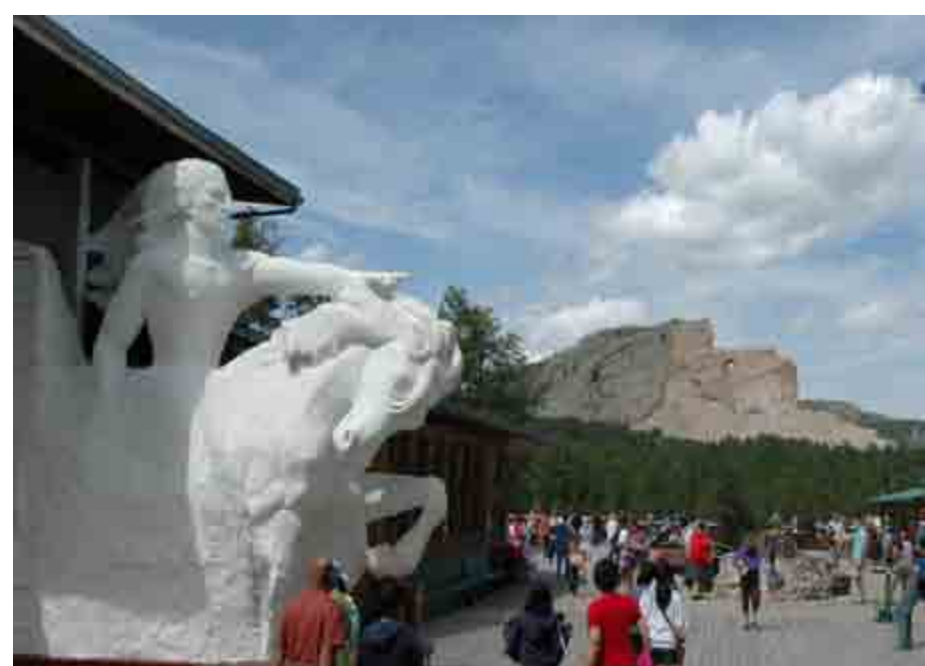


In the Summer of 2009 I attended a freedom oriented week long event in Sturgis, South Dakota and took the time with a couple of the attendees to visit the Crazy Horse Monument. I was so impressed that I wanted to make sure that

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Donna experienced it also. The 4 heads of Mt Rushmore fit inside Crazy Horse's Hair. This is a fascinating story about the Native Americans claiming their heritage in the face of four faces representing their oppressors.



We drove through the parking lot just to get this photo.



Donna slept in the car and I got comfortable outside.



Windmills of Iowa:



Show from Davenport, Iowa:



Trip was void of traffic jams and congestion until we hit the Chicago area:



Show from Streetsboro, Ohio:



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A familiar sign at the KAC (Keene Activist Center in Keene, NH):



Keene Activist Center (a.k.a. KAC) in Keene NH:



Ernie sits in with Ian Freeman and Mark Edge on Free Talk Live at the KAC:



Picking up Drew (Phillips) in Keene, NH on our way to Porcfest in Lancaster, NH:



The Moneydome at Porcfest 2012:



The Moneylith at Porcfest



Porcfest was a great place to showcase the Moneydome and the Moneylith - they were both very popular and were placed in a perfect location. It was hard to walk by them and not stop and see. More photos to come in the next edition. 🌸

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