

what I loved most about Watergate was "the process"—the process of impeachment, of Bringing the Man Down.

For a heady year or two, I actually believed that Watergate had permanently discredited the Office of the President, and not just the man Nixon, that never again would the American public trust any politician, especially any occupant of the Oval Office. I was of course wrong—especially after Ronald Reagan restored The Trust that the Establishment yearns to inspire in every American sucker. But still he was tossed out; they can never take that knowledge away from us. And for that, in an ironic sense, we are forever indebted to the Man Milhous. ■

Howard Stern for Governor?

by M.N.R.

It is said that the happiest day of a man's life is the day he acquires his sailboat; the second happiest is the day he gets rid of it. Well, I wouldn't say that the day I first joined the Libertarian Party was the happiest day of my life; but the day I left—about five years ago—was surely my second happiest. After being a Big Honcho in the LP for many years, it feels great to get up in the morning and know that I *don't* have to attend the next National

Committee meeting in some grungy hotel, or the next state or national convention. Above all, I don't have to worry about what crazy thing—platform, candidate, or official—the LP is going to fall into next, or worry about trying to head off this nutty deed at the pass.

So when the august *New York Times* erupted recently with a *front page* article (!) (April 3) on Howard Stern running for governor of New York on the Libertarian Party ticket, I didn't have to worry about whether or not such a race would be good or bad for the Party or its image, and if bad, to try to do something about it. *I didn't have to care at all.* I could just sit back and enjoy the spectacle. What a lark!

It was also fun to find out that this rather lengthy article, by-lined by Todd S. Purdum, featured two old friends of mine. (No, NOT Howard Stern!) One is Bob Goodman, a long-time Bronx activist, science writer, and earnest young man seeking ways of "outreach" for the LP. It seems that Goodman had been corresponding with Stern for years, possibly converting him to libertarianism, and of course has been listening regularly to Stern, notorious in the New York area as a very popular radio porno "shock jock" (to say "talk show host" doesn't quite give the flavor). When Stern announced on his program that he intended to challenge Mario Cuomo for the governor's spot, Goodman wrote suggesting

he run on the Libertarian ticket. Stern agreed.

The Libertarian Party, which has only 600 members in New York State, no money, and no prospects for getting on the ballot, was of course enchanted, for Stern urged his listeners to pay the LP dues and sign up, so they can vote for delegates to the April 23 state convention at Albany to select the nominee. Suddenly, Money, signatures, and even votes will be flowing in! Visions of sugar plums began to race through Libertarian noggins, and national LP marketing director Tamara Clark of the Nevada LP was rushed out to head up the Stern-oriented signature drive to get the LP on the ballot in New York.

The other friend highlighted in the *New York Times* article is Jim Ostrowski, a young serious-minded Buffalo attorney, who is truly a great guy, and one of the finest people in the libertarian movement. Jim is the only one I feel sorry for in this whole affair, because he was the one slated to run for the gubernatorial nomination before this whole circus began. Ostrowski very honorably, if unusually, decided not to insist on the legal technicality that these new members are really ineligible to vote. Instead, Jim wants to battle Stern "on the merits of who's a better candidate." Well, there's no question of who's a better candidate, a more articulate spokesman, etc., but *that's* not going to be the deciding

factor. I shudder to think of Jim Ostrowski soberly setting forth libertarian positions on the issues, while the skinny, eight-foot(?), half-naked hippie Stern yells insults and obscenities. Stern, of course, will win the nomination in a walk.

Essentially, apart from the rare principled "real person" such as Ostrowski, there are two basic wings to the Libertarian Party. Both wings are Left-Libertarian, but each stresses different aspects of the Left-Libertarian world-outlook. One wing tends to be "purist" in ideology, and hippie-rock-druggie in culture. The other wing is sober and "bourgeois" in culture, but opportunist and sellouty in ideology: their fondest dream is to get a job at some sellout think-tank, a sort of bush-league libertarian version of the Big Government Conservative-"free market" Washington think-tanks of the 1980s. The latter wing yearns for respectability, and is always eager to abandon uncomfortably consistent ideology for money and votes.

It is interesting to see what either wing will make of Howard Stern. The hippie wing will love Stern's porno-

shock-jock culture, but will balk at Stern's Politically Incorrect attitude toward sensitive racial and sexual matters. Stern, for example, was just about the only media person in the country, *of any ideology*, to hail Lew Rockwell's scintillating anti-Rodney King column in the *LA Times* just after the first, doctored tape came out. Lew's courageous and principled column got him denunciations from across the entire libertarian movement—but Stern read Lew's column aloud on the air and applauded every word.

Stern's announced platform for New York is simple, and interesting. He pledges to do three things immediately: bring back the death penalty, stagger road tolls so as to eliminate traffic congestion, and have road crews work only at night. Three simple and admirable planks, if not very far-reaching. And then, says Stern, he'd quit, and turn the state over to his lieutenant-governor.

If the hippie wing of the LP will applaud Stern's style but bristle at the shortage of ideology, the sell-out wing will be happy to overlook the culture to get the money, votes, and publicity;

but that wing, too, will balk at Stern's Political Incorrectness on race and sex.

Well, that's *their* problem.

But won't the Stern candidacy siphon off votes from the Republican candidate and spoil his chances to beat the monster Cuomo? The answers are Yes, and No. Yes, Stern will siphon off votes, but No, it will have no effect, because, as usual, the Republican Party in New York can't get its act together, and it is doubtful that any viable candidate will emerge from the muck. So it looks as if Cuomo, though now highly unpopular in the state, is going to waltz in again for his umpteenth term. For one thing, after his absurd performance in 1992, the chances of his running for President are nil. So anti-Cuomo conservatives won't be able to work up much of a passion to kick him out. And secondly, his finger to the wind, Cuomo has been making a lot of conservative-sounding noises, about the importance of the middle-class, lowering taxes, etc.

And finally, and of course, the Republican Party is hopelessly split on a candidate. The Party is rent by a bitter personal and ideological feud between two Italo-Americans who hold the highest Republican offices in the state: U.S. Senator Al D'Amato leading the center-right; and State Senate Majority Leader Ralph Marino, a buddy of the governor, heading the Republican liberal-left. Since Marino and D'Amato can't agree on

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a viable candidate against Cuomo, D'Amato, out of desperation, is plumping for Hudson Valley State Senator George Pataki. Pataki, by all accounts, is an estimable conservative; but he has one big problem: no one in New York has ever heard of him, including his own senatorial constituents. And Pataki hasn't got the personal fortune of a Perot or even of a Michael Huffington to get himself instant TV name recognition.

So, since chances of a viable and sound Republican candidate are minuscule, we all may as well relax and enjoy a Howard Stern run: at least it will shake up the Establishment.

On April 23, the die was cast, and Howard Stern swept to victory for the Libertarian nomination for governor, winning by 2:1 on the first ballot over several veteran Libertarian Party rivals. Stern's triumphal route to victory—or a half-hour of its highlights—was covered on network cable TV. But *not*, as one might expect, on C-Span. Instead, it was covered by Comedy Central, which we can expect to give similar coverage to the rest of the Stern campaign. After all, what *other* network can we expect to cover a comic-oriented campaign? We saw the Stern bus ride up to the Albany meeting from New York City, the Stern entourage decamping at the Community Center site for the state LP convention! Stern waving his hand

scornfully around the room, and declaiming: "This is a dump! Next year we'll hold the convention at my house!"

Stern and his raucous Stern Gang made mincemeat of the standard Libertarian attempts to discuss the issues seriously. Jim Ostrowski, scion of a distinguished legal family from Buffalo, whose father is a judge from Western New York, was greeted with the Sternian banner: "Ostrowski

Sucks!" One of Stern's radio producers scoffed, "we ruined their chess club." Sternian girls paraded around the room, their bosoms hanging out of their skimpy dresses, and when Stern's nomination was announced, Sternian girls stripped to their G-strings. Ostrowski's LP rivals for the nomination tried feebly to get into the Sternian spirit. Hippieish Dottie Lee Brokaw, veteran LPer from Binghamton, was nominated by someone who proudly proclaimed that Dottie had "attended every hemp convention." Dottie Lee, speaking for herself, took off her jacket to try desperately to get in the spirit of the action. Another veteran LPer, Norma Segal, proudly announced, as *her* main quali-

fication to be governor, the fact that she had been "Al Sharpton's [the clownish black radical activist] English teacher in high school."

When LP state chairman Ludwig Vogel ruled that the gubernatorial vote could take place by head count rather than by traditional secret ballot, Bob Flanzer, a middle-aged dentist, veteran LP activist, and long-time chairman of the Brooklyn party,

loudly remonstrated that "this is a putsch." I can sympathize with Bob Flanzer, a good guy who saw the party that he has long lived for crumbling around his ears.

Any thought that the LP could put in one of their stalwarts as Lieutenant Governor was quickly torpedoed by Stern, who shrewdly insisted that his own hand-picked candidate, Stan Dworkin, come in with him in a joint ticket.

Throughout the proceedings, Stern was surrounded, not only by a bevy of half-naked beauties, but also by various repellent clones, all sporting Stern's trademark long, curly brown hair, dark granny glasses, and rock-type attire. One of the clones kept

Stern and his raucous Stern Gang made mincemeat of the standard Libertarian attempts to discuss the issues.

banging away tunelessly on a guitar, yelling "Howard Stern for Governor! Howard Stern for Governor!"

The porno shock-jock and clown Howard Stern has not only seized the publicity of a Libertarian race for governor. He has inevitably stamped the Libertarian Party, from this point on, in his own repellent and delayed-adolescent image. It should be clear to even the most loyal and most dedicated LP activist that the Libertarian Party is now dead as any sort of vehicle for serious social or political change. The Libertarian Party has been dominated by cultural leftists and hippie/druggies for several years. It is now and forevermore their helpless captive.

All we need now, to complete the merriment, is for Stern to top off his success this year by running for President in '96 on the Libertarian ticket. ■

American Jewry Saved!

by M.N.R.

Did you know that American Jewry was very recently in mortal peril, in imminent danger of another Holocaust? What, you didn't? Well, frankly, neither did I, because this dread peril was nipped in the bud by the ever-vigilant anti-anti-Semitic fighters of the American Jewish Committee before we even had a chance to find out about it.

What happened was this: recently, the eminent retired pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies, Steve Carlton, was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, to be inducted into the Hall with due pomp and ceremony on July 31. Free-lance writer Pat Jordan paid a two-day visit to the great pitcher on his 400-acre ranch near Durango, Colorado, to interview him and his views on life for the panting readers of *Philadelphia*

m a g a z i n e. These days, of course, it would be considered impossibly narrow-minded to confine star athletes to their views on their chosen occupation; instead, every ball player is expected to be a "role model" for every member of the nation's youth. So therefore, every athlete is expected to sound off on

every Deep Topic. But the price for this respect has to be paid; for every one of his views has to be Politically Correct.

But Steve Carlton apparently flunked the PC test. According to Pat Jordan, Carlton turns out to be a right-wing survivalist, and a Conspiracy Theorist of History. According to Jordan's account (in *Philadelphia* magazine, April), Mr. Carlton

definitely seemed a Conspiracy Theorist, but he was a bit confused on which conspiracy was winning out. At one point he allegedly charged that the Russian and U.S. governments (separately? together?) are controlling us with "low frequency sound waves"; at another point, that the British MI-5 and MI-6 intelligence agencies are ruling the world, and at another that the "world is

controlled by a committee of 300 which meets at a roundtable in Rome." [In case any reader doesn't know what's in Rome it's spelled V-A-T-I-C-A-N.] But none of this disturbed the ever-watchful sentinels of the American Jewish Committee. What caught their eagle eye was the pronouncement that the "Elders of Zion rule the

world," and that "12 Jewish bankers meeting in Switzerland rule the world." In short, the famous *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*.

In our present world, no thought crime, however obscure, goes unpunished, although of course *real* crimes are committed with impunity every day. But the hawk-eyed sentries of the American Jewish Committee never rest, and

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