

The Free State Project

“Liberty in Our Lifetime”



The Quill

The Year in Perspective

By Jason Sorens

The year 2003 was the most eventful year in the Free State Project's ("FSP") short history. In my September "From the President" article, I surveyed the year's membership and publicity growth to date. Since then, New Hampshire has been chosen as the Free State, and we had an amazing boom of publicity and new signups in early October. At one point, the FSP was the eleventh national



story on Yahoo! News.

Since early October, things have slowed down substantially for several reasons. One is the leadership turnover, with Elizabeth's and my resignations because of time constraints. As expected, Kelton and Doug are facing a steep learning curve in their new positions. I have full confidence in their abilities, and all their work with the FSP so far has demonstrated their drive and determination to get things done. A second reason is the ongoing tweaking of the Web site. Having moved to a new server and undertaken a redesign, we still see some kinks need to be worked out. A third reason is that we haven't undertaken any major advertising in the last few weeks. That will be changing soon, with the development of a fresh recruitment and publicity strategy, focusing on local activism, continued targeting of liberty-friendly publications, and advertising in some new, issue-oriented outlets. Finally, things are simply slower around the holidays. Last year, mid-November to early February was a very slow time for the FSP.

So while I know many members get anxious see-

ing the new signup figures rising more slowly than in the past, I suggest patience and continued support and interest because we have a great deal to look forward to. I'll now mention a few of my thoughts on where the FSP is going, and how it can continue to draw the kind of fascination and interest we've seen all along.

Doug Hillman is working on expanding and consolidating the local groups programs. Eventually the entire United States, and perhaps parts of Canada, will be organized into local or regional groups, and these groups will serve not only as the locus for socializing among Porcupines, but as the centers for training new leadership, sending out speakers to area events, making contact with local media, and greeting new Porcupines. It's important to have more contact as we all start to think about becoming neighbors in New Hampshire.

Practical matters in the near future will include talking to possible major donors about funding a talented, full-time President to take the FSP to the next level, and encouraging those Porcupines who did not vote in the state contest to recommit to the FSP.

There's been some talk about encouraging people to move early. I already know of a handful of Porcupines who have moved, and there are undoubtedly some I don't know about yet. Moving early will help people to get situated earlier in New Hampshire and even to begin doing legwork for New Hampshire organizations. However, we still have to keep our focus on recruiting the next 15,000 members above all. Almost 50 percent of Porcupines say they will wait until 20,000 signatures before moving, so we need to continue spreading the word so that we reach 20,000 by the end of 2006 as planned.

On a similar note, we should not focus too much on current political happenings in New Hampshire.

Continued on page 3

Welcome to the December edition of "The Quill," the Free State Project's monthly newsletter! "The Quill" will be published on the Web every month in PDF format, and you are encouraged to print out copies and distribute them in your local community! We welcome suggestions, articles and questions from readers; send these to us at: newsletter@freestateproject.org.

Mary Lou Seymour
The Quill Project Manager

Signed-Up Members
as of
December 10, 2003:
5,194



Porcupine Profile — *The Quill* Staff

By Mary Lou Seymour

This month, I'd like to salute the wonderful staff of *The Quill*, Devera Morgan, who is responsible for design and layout, and copyeditor Ivan Santana, without whose remarkable talents, extreme patience and willingness to keep working until it's "exactly right," *The Quill* would not exist.

Devera Morgan lives just east of Dallas, Texas with her husband Bruce, and their two children, Gabriel and Elizabeth. The two 34 year olds own their own Software Consulting Company (<http://www.devtechservices.com>), and have been in business since August 2002. They have been involved with the FSP for about two years. Volunteering both time and money to the organization as a whole, as well as, the local Porcupines in Dallas/Fort Worth, (who this month had their largest meeting ever of 19! GO PORCS!), and now New Hampshire. The entire family is very excited about the move to New Hampshire. They expect to be there around March 2004. Devera is responsible for designing, formatting and publishing *all* versions of *The Quill*, in .PDF and HTML, and what a wonderful, professional job she does!

Our meticulous copyeditor, **Ivan Santana**, is not only responsible for nit-picking through the articles and finding all the misplaced commas and spelling errors, but editing the articles to "fit" and making sure our glorious prose "flows." Ivan lives in New York City with his beloved Elizabeth and a miniature poodle named Alfie. He's been a copyeditor for four years and a proofreader for 18 years. His blue-penciled road started rather stereotypically. "It all started with my misspelled high-school yearbook's title. For years, I wondered how this happened and whether there could have been a way to prevent this. In the meantime, I returned to America, graduated college with a double major in English language and philosophy, and ran into a cousin who's the lawyer of the family. He noticed that I was good with words and spelling. He hired me as a proofreader. From there, I temped in many financial, law and medical firms in New York City. While at a law firm, I was introduced to copyediting by two incredible copyeditors who mentored me in the art. The rest is history. After leaving that law firm in the wake of Black Tuesday, I've started my business as a telecommuting copyeditor. When people ask me what I do, I tell them that as a copyeditor, it is my job to strengthen the fabric of society, held together by a common language, by not having mistakes or inaccuracies distract the readers' attention from the message that is being presented. As a lingual lapidary, it is my job to retain and make the author's words shine." When asked about his interest in the FSP, Ivan turns wistful. "I grew up having to carry a *cedula*, or identification papers. When I came to America, I vowed that I would never have to carry papers again. After Black Tuesday, every high-rise building that I entered demanded papers. As citizens of the Republic, we have forgotten Franklin's dictum concerning essential liberty and temporary safety, and with the FSP's help, I will do everything I can to bring back the Republic I knew and to fight for freedom in my lifetime."

Once again, Devera and Ivan, thanks for your unstinting work for the Free State Project and *The Quill*! It's a great pleasure working with you both.

From The President

By Kelton Baker

In November, I attended the 2003 New Hampshire Expo, and while there, I had the wonderful opportunity of meeting with about 200 expo attendees, of whom 50 were other fellow out-of-state Porcupines. Out-of-state visitors were able to meet many friendly New Hampshire liberty activists who heartily welcomed us, and learn more of their very organized and effective set of actions being promoted, such as the newly created NHLA. Also, Governor Craig Benson brought

a room of people to their feet in cheers, laughter and applause as he spoke, outlining what he intended to do to further limit and reform state government in New Hampshire. Meeting and thanking the governor for welcoming our group to the Granite State was a highlight of the afternoon. The 2003 New Hampshire Expo was an event that got underway, full of energy, and ended every night with people talking enthusiastically until late into the evening with the nightly common theme being that New Hampshire was chosen as the FSP's Free State. Out-of-state visitors had lots of questions for New Hampshireites and they, in turn, had questions for the visitors — "Liberty In Our Lifetime" met "Live Free Or Die."

I will share for another time my travelogue of my four days in New Hampshire and the impressions I got.

The Year in Perspective

Continued from page 1

Remember that the FSP is a long-term project, with significant long-term effects expected. Those who do move early to New Hampshire will want to get involved in liberty-friendly organizations, and the FSP should continue to provide information on those groups for that reason. But the FSP is still not political, and our mission must remain recruitment and relocation assistance. Also, I fear it may hurt liberty-friendly organizations and candidates in New Hampshire if they associate themselves too directly with the FSP. The media will latch onto their day-to-day successes and failures as litmus tests for the FSP's effectiveness. Not only does this miss the essence of what Porcupines hope to achieve, but it allows political adversaries a chance to draw connections that do not make logical sense but may be politically advantageous for them.

As the FSP continues to grow, we will be attracting people who are new to the freedom philosophy, or who come to the ideas of small, responsible government through the FSP. Whether we like it or not, we will be tasked with defending the general freedom philosophy, and in future this intellectual and practical defense may be the main mechanism for recruitment, as the "libertarian" core of recruitment becomes tapped out. We will need to continue defending the concept of a State that limits itself to ensuring that people are free to pursue their own conceptions of the good voluntarily. We can point positively to how civil society in America and especially New Hampshire addresses social problems and provides collective goods without resort to coercion. This goal ties in nicely with the imperative of showing people concrete ways in which their lives will be better if they move to New Hampshire, and of showing New Hampshire residents how the quality of life in their state will be enhanced by a moderate, sustainable flow of hard-working, neighborly, intelligent, freedom-loving immigrants from the rest of the United States.

By the end of next year, the FSP might be the most important freedom organization in the country. If this happens, it would be a metamorphosis far beyond what the FSP originally was, or what I ever expected it to be — until now. There may be much more at stake in the FSP than we thought. After thinking about it, I find that possibility exciting, and I hope you do too. ☀

From The President

Continued from page 2

However, I must state that New Hampshire is far from being the crowded state that some people mistakenly believe it to be. In fact, to this Westerner, being in New Hampshire seemed more like being in the mountainous towns of Aspen, Telluride or Tahoe than anything else.

To all those who visit New Hampshire, please make your travel narratives and your impressions about New Hampshire known to all Porcupines. The news of those few who have already made the move is especially welcome and a common experience we all should cherish. The FSP's emphasis is to look to the planned future of New Hampshire, our new designated Free State for those who long for liberty.

I must emphasize that it is not the FSP's task, the corporation, or its officers to engage in any political action within New Hampshire; but individuals who now seek to look to New Hampshire as their home are certainly not discouraged from doing everything and anything they can to work with others in building the Free State and to even make the move themselves. *On way toward the Free State, we shall have freedom in our lifetimes!* ☀



Winter Wonderland, New Hampshire, February 2003

Photo by Devera Morgan

FSP Board of Directors

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Officers

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Doug Hillman,
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Organizers

Stephen Cobb

The Quill

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Our Staff:

Mary Lou Seymour,
Project Manager

Devera Morgan,
Design & Layout

Ivan Santana,
Copyeditor

Amanda Maxwell,
Events Calendar

Contact Us:

On the Web-
freestateproject.org

E-mail-
info@
freestateproject.org

Phone (toll free)-
888-532-4604

Snail mail-
565 College Drive
Suite #C-160
Henderson, NV 89015



FREE STATE PROJECT EVENTS

January 10, 2004, meet for brunch at 11:30 a.m.
1050 Lounge and Restaurant, 735 10th Avenue and
50th Street.

Respond to Thomas Ruks at TRuksLP@yahoo.com or
visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TriState_FSP/.

Manhattan Libertarian convention events will be held as
well on January 10. See Manhattan Libertarian Party
details soon at www.manhattanlp.org/.

FSP Speaker Bureau Update:
Suggestions, comments and "nastygrams" to Phil
Denisch at pdenisch@cbiz.com

December 15, 2003
Cumberland Libertarian Party/BoR Day
Harrisburg, Pa.
Time to be announced.
Local group delegation.

January 8, 2004, 7 p.m.
Berks County Libertarian Party
Dempsey's American Kitchen (Routes 222 and 724) in
Shillington, near Reading, Pa.

January 14, 2004, 6 p.m.
Phil Denisch, speaker
Harford County Libertarian Party
Golden Szechuan Restaurant, 554 Baltimore Pike, Bel
Air, MD 21014

January 21, 2004, 7 p.m.
Dave Mincin, speaker
Pittsburg Libertarian Party
Ritter's Diner, 5221 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA
15224-2303

January 26, 2004
FSP Interim Vice President Doug Hillman, speaker
Shelby County Libertarian Party, Memphis, Tenn.
Place and time to be announced.

LOCAL PORCUPINE GROUPS

TriState Free State Project (Connecticut, New Jersey,
New York)
Meet up with local FSP supporters.
<http://fsp.meetup.com/>.

January 5, 2004, 7 p.m.
FSP Local Group
Ithaca FSP (Finger Lakes region of central New York)
Contact Brian Sullivan for details.
E-mail him at ithacafsp@usa.com

Third Saturday of each month, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Dallas/Fort Worth Porcupines
Meet with local FSP supporters and help with local
outreach.
Location: Varies
Contact: bruce_morgan@devtechservices.com

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**565 College Drive, Suite #C-160
Henderson, NV 89015**