

The Free State Project

“Liberty in Our Lifetime”



The Quill

The Free State Project Gets Serious About Advertising

By Amy Finstad

Goose Creek, S.C., November 5, 2003.

Welcome to the January–February 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
February 9, 2004:
5,441*



unacceptable abuse of power.

Incidents like Goose Creek illustrate why we’ve come together, and these serious issues represent an opportunity to spread our message with effect. We just have to know of them and use them to our advantage.

In December, the Free State Project (“FSP”) placed a series of advertisements that directly addressed the Goose Creek community. The ads featured graphic footage of the police raid in their local high school and asked the question, “Is this acceptable?” This serious, issues-based approach proved to be a powerful and provocative tool for showing how real our concerns are and where we Porcupines stand. In addition to exposing the FSP’s purpose to over 22,000 people outside of the libertarian mainstream, the ads garnered national attention through Associated Press interviews, articles and online discussions.

To continue the momentum, the FSP has launched the Shadow Advertising Initiative. This

We’ve seen the news coverage. For some, what took place was merely accepted as an unpleasant yet necessary exercise against the “Drug War.” For those who love individual liberty, it was a categorically

program will support grassroots efforts in uncovering and exposing blatant disregard for our constitutional rights in communities across America. The FSP will provide design, placement and budget assistance for members who want to bring attention to sensitive issues such as asset forfeiture, abuse of eminent domain and regulatory restrictions on homeschooling, and so forth. Effective ads will revolve around constitutional rights violations that the average citizen would understand and agree. Not all of our advertising will need to be national coverage issues like what happened in Goose Creek. We want to place ads that resonate within a community.

There’s no getting around the fact that the initiative will require funding. We are seeking members to not only provide leads but to donate a portion of the placement costs to supplement this very important program. The FSP has dedicated up to \$500 per month in matching funds. For example, the Goose Creek *Shopper* ad placement cost \$230. A member graciously donated \$115 toward placement and the FSP matched this member’s donation 100 percent. Another member donated an additional \$300 to cover the placement in the *Goose Creek Gazette* to secure broader coverage of this highly provocative story.

The rewards of this aggressive grassroots effort, from reaching potential new members to gaining additional press coverage, will be invaluable to our goal of recruiting 20,000 individuals so that we can achieve liberty in our lifetime.

What’s going on in your community?

Please contact Doug Hillman by e-mail at dhillman@freestateproject.org with information on potential issues that you’d like to bring to the attention of your community. Doug will contact you immediately for details.



Organizers

Robert Chesnavich

Stephen Cobb

Tim Condon

George Reich

Varrin Swearingen

Being Involved

By Kat Dillon

For the first early years of my daughter Kira's life, she was in daycare while I worked. While she was there, it was so easy to let the little things slide since there were other adults who would jump in and teach her the things that I had missed. If I didn't show her how to tie a shoe or sing the alphabet song, others would. But that is not what happened.

When Kira turned five, I decided to homeschool her. Suddenly, the enormity of the job hit me. I realized all there was for her to learn and I had to make sure it happened. Me. *Alone*. She had to get all there is to know about the world and how it works

Fellow Porcupines Desperately Seeking Alternative Forms of Education

By Devera Morgan

Across the country, a trend has been growing for more than a decade. More and more parents are realizing that the public school system no longer offers what their children need. Private schools offer an attractive choice, but most private schools are parochial. As the number of parents seeking alternatives to public schools

swells every year, parents are finding secular alternatives in short supply.

My husband Bruce and I are faced with this problem. We made the decision to homeschool before our first child was born. With our help, Gabriel was able to read before he was four, and could recite spelling rules I'd never learned in school. Our goal has never been to develop an *überkinder* by pushing him to his limits, but rather a child who is equipped with the tools to follow his natural curiosity and to learn to the limits of his heart's desire.

However, by the time Gabriel was five, it was clear that we were not going to be able to meet his needs with our current methods. With the birth of our second child Elizabeth and the start of our

new business, Gabriel was on his own more often when learning. Boredom was driving him away from wanting to learn, and our time with him became inconsistent. In addition, we live in a sparsely popu-

Porcupine Profile — David Mincin

By Tim Condon

This month's Porcupine of the Month is David Mincin, who joined the Free State Project ("FSP") in August 2002 and lives in Pittsburgh, Pa. Dave, 55, grew up in Pittsburgh and holds two bachelor's degrees, one in social science from the West Liberty State University and another in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh.

A divorced father of two sons, aged 23 and 19, Dave is a consultant for Belzona, an industrial-repairs company. "I'm the fix-it guy," he says. "If you've got a problem, I'll give you an out-of-the-box solution, today."

When asked what brought him into the FSP, Mincin said, "I saw a newspaper article, checked the Web site, looked at the folks running the program; they didn't seem to be a bunch of nuts, and seemed to have a credible, well-thought-out plan, so I signed on." His political philosophy? "I'm an old hippy. I consider myself more a classical liberal than a libertarian in the traditional sense. People should be able to make their own decisions for themselves."

Currently, Mincin is deeply involved as an FSP activist. Among other things, he's the national FSP volunteer coordinator, an FSP greeter for Pennsylvania, a member of the FSP speakers' bureau, a member of the FSP media e-mail and faxing tree, and a leader of a local Pittsburgh Porcupines group who meet regularly. If that's not enough, he's one of the main planners for the upcoming Porcupine Freedom Fest scheduled for Lancaster, N.H., in June 2004. He's also working on the FSP's presence at the upcoming Pennsylvania Libertarian Party state convention, will be speaking at a Pittsburgh Libertarian Party meeting this month, and is trying to arrange various speaking engagements. "I'm thinking there might be a couple of things I'm missing," Dave says, "It's kind of hard to keep track."

Is this hyper-activist Porcupine planning on moving to the Free State any time soon? "I expect to be in the Free State by February 1 or March 1," he says. He first looked over New Hampshire at the "NH Getaway" gathering in 2003, before the state was chosen as the Free State. "When I went there I didn't know those folks from a grape . . . just some talk on the computer," he remembers. "But as amazing as it may sound, within a couple of hours I felt like they were my friends."

About the FSP's future prospects, Mincin says, "I do believe the migration is going to be successful. I think we could have ended up on the moon and we could make it happen. New Hampshire is now my home even before I get there, and once I do, I'll do all I can to welcome those who follow. We can make this

through me. It changed me from a semi-apatetic parent to an actively involved parent in every aspect of her life. It was only after I started homeschooling her that she learned how to tie her shoes or sing the

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A Note From The Chair

By Jason Sorens

Recently, Tim Condon's term on the Board of Directors expired; on February 1, we voted unanimously to elect Jean Alexander from Oregon to fill the fifth slot on the Board, term expiring May 15, 2005. We're proud to have someone of Jean's experience and dedication to liberty on the Board. You can find her biography on the Web site in the "About Us" section.

The Board will be having its next regular meeting on February 14, when we will take up the issue of a new Interim President, after Kelton Baker's term expires. We are also looking for a new Treasurer, as our current Treasurer is frequently called away out of the country and would like to hand over his duties to someone else. If you know of someone qualified for this important position, please let me know at jsorens@freestateproject.org. We are also considering all issues relating to leadership structure and ensuring that we have a permanent President and permanent Vice President. ✨

Being Involved

Continued from page 2

alphabet song.

By now I'm sure you're saying, "All that is nice, Kat, but what does this have to do with the Free State Project?"

I think we all have to take that leap of faith and become very involved activists. Every one of us has a pet project, whether it's the Free State recruitment, gun rights, education reform, fighting off the Leviathan, and so forth. It's time for the enormity of the job to sink in. It's time to realize that if we personally don't do what it takes to recruit more people for the Free State Project, it won't happen. The same goes for every pet project.

It's been too easy for me, and I suspect others as well, to just sit back and say, "Well, someone else will take care of these problems if I don't." We have chosen the Free State. There isn't anyone else out there who will make the Free State for us if we fail. It only takes turning on the television and seeing the evening news to know how *urgent* it is that we stand up and take our freedom back. So please, take charge of that pet project. Make it happen. You. *Alone*. ✨

Desperately Seeking...

Continued from page 2

lated area of Texas where he has no friends close by to play with regularly. We soon realized that what we were providing was not the *best* that we could do for him. Fortunately, I had received an advertisement in the form of a CD-ROM in our local newspaper the year before. It was for a private school ten miles away, with a system called Montessori.

After receiving that CD-ROM I did quite a bit of research on the Internet and I was amazed at what I found. The Montessori system seemed to offer all of the things that the homeschooling parents wanted for their children! Self-paced; self-motivated curriculum; an open-plan classroom where materials are out for children to choose what they want to do; and *extremely* small teacher-student ratios, thereby allowing teachers to focus on the students and not discipline! Flabbergasted, I asked, "Why have I never heard of this?"

So now, after Gabriel has been in this system for a year, we reach a dilemma. We have searched in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, and there are very few Montessori schools available; and those that we do find only offer "early childhood" programs, capable of educating children only through age six.

Where does this leave us? *Well I was hoping you would ask!*

The only choice I see is to remedy this situation and take the bull by the horns. I am currently trying to compile a list of resources and people who would either want to send their children to such a school or who would be available for teaching at, and possibly administering at, such a school.

Together, we Porcupines will give our children, through education, the means to lead fulfilling lives with liberty and freedom in their hearts and lifetimes!

We have been looking at real estate to establish the school in Coos County, N.H., around Gorham and Berlin. To give or receive more information please contact me by e-mail at Devera_Morgan@devtechservices.com. ✨

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The Quill

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FREE STATE PROJECT EVENTS

February, 21–22, 2004 — N.H. Mensa
Location: Manchester, N.H.
Speaker: Jason Sorens

February 27, 2004, 9–11 a.m. — American Enterprise
Institute
Location: 1150 17th Street, N.W., D.C., 12th Floor
Speaker: Jason Sorens

March 4, 2004, 7 p.m. — Berks County LP
Location: Dempsey's American Kitchen (Routes 222
and 724) in Shillington, Pa. near Reading, Pa.
Agenda: Local Group Delegation

March 20, 2004 — Fountainhead Institute Chicago, Ill.
Location: To be determined

March 20, 2004, 9 a.m. — Pennsylvania LP
Location: Harrisburg Hilton Harrisburg, Pa.
Spear Lancaster

LOCAL PORCUPINE GROUPS

Ithaca Local Group update. The next meetings are
scheduled for:

March 8, 2004, Monday at 6 p.m.
May 11, 2004, Tuesday at 6 p.m.
Regional Summer Barbeque to be announced
Contact: Brian Sullivan at bsulliv1@twcny.rr.com

Dallas/Ft. Worth Porcupines

First Saturday of each month: Social gathering
Third Saturday of each month: Business meeting
Times: 3–7 p.m.
Location: To be announced
Contact: Bruce_Morgan@devtechservices.com

The Free State Project

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