



THE ITHACA LIBERTARIAN

**Volume 2, Issue 2
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Website & Bumper Stickers

A giant step for our outreach and growth will be publishing our own website! We currently have a webpage at the LPNY website (<http://ny.lp.org/lthaca>) and, of course, we would continue to publish there, but our own site would give us complete creative and content control over contents, plus being a lot of fun for us! Anyone have website creation skills? We already have an initial site map done. What domain name should we use? ithacalibertarians.org? Contact Brian if you have ideas.

As soon as we have a definite plan for the website, let's get some Ithaca Libertarians bumper stickers with our new website address on it. One color ink, 3" x 11.5" vinyl stickers are .75 each in lots of 250 (plus 8.25% sales tax, er, I mean tax). 500 are .55 each. Perhaps we could sell them for \$2.00, with the profit going to the treasury.

LPNY State Rep Needed

All officially recognized LPNY Chapters need to have someone to represent the Chapter at the quarterly State Committee meetings. Andrew Gardner was elected as an At-Large State Committee representative at the LPNY Convention (congratulations Andy!) and he'll be traveling to the quarterly regional committee meetings for the upcoming year. Our Chapter's State Committee Rep would represent our Chapter at the meetings and be able to contribute to the discussions and votes that take place on the Committee's email list throughout the year. If anyone is interested in considering this important mission, please contact Christa.

Outreach Coordinator

Ellen Ricketson is our new Outreach Coordinator! We have placed an OPH table on our calendar for the next four months. Please let Ellen know if you can help at the Saturday afternoon tables. If you have any outreach or promotion ideas, let Ellen know.

There is much to do in the promotion of liberty in our area and we intend to make a difference! Your skills and talents are needed here at the Ithaca Libertarians - is there something that you've thought we could be doing or that you would like to do? Maybe help with the website, a cable TV show, an IL flyer and logo, meeting the public at an OPH table or you name it, we can use it.

Ithaca Times Press

From: Ithaca Times

Date: April 20-26, 2005, page 7.

Section: HEARD & SEEN

The Ithaca Libertarians and 2004 Libertarian Party national presidential candidate Michael Badnarik stood up for taxpayers everywhere and protested taxes on April 15. Marching in front of the Ithaca branch of the federal post office on North Tioga Street, protesters stopped supposed taxpayers on their way into the facility to lament the state's high tax rates.

**celebrate
independence day!**

See Page 2 for Details!

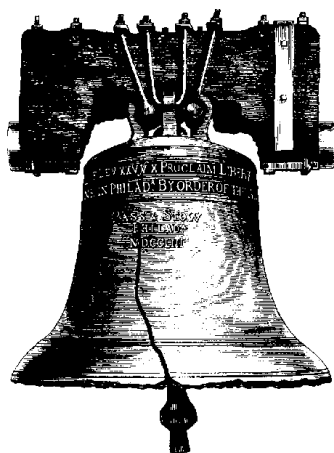
THE ITHACA LIBERTARIAN

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*Please direct newsletter comments
and submissions to the Editor.*



Calendar of Events - 2005

- May 14 OPH outreach table on the Commons
 - May 20 Ithaca Libertarians monthly meeting
 - June 11 OPH outreach table on the Commons
 - June 17 Ithaca Libertarians monthly meeting
 - July 3 Ithaca Libertarian & Free State Project Independence Day Campout & Celebration!
 - July 15 Ithaca Libertarians monthly meeting
 - August 13 OPH outreach table on the Commons
 - August 19 Ithaca Libertarians monthly meeting
- * Other events in planning and research stages include a Penn and Teller 'Bullshit' party and outreach attendance at an area festival or community gathering.
 - * All monthly meetings above held at Bool's Flower Shop 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca at 5:30pm.
 - * OPH outreach tables will be on the Ithaca Commons - location & afternoon times TBA.

NYLP calendar with state and local events:

<http://ny.lp.org/calendar>

Treasurer's Notes

Thanks to all who donated money, supplies, and energy, we were able to complete a number of projects last month. We sent a direct mailing to over 300 LP members, inquiries, and prospects to promote the Constitution class and other Badnarik events and inform them about the Ithaca Libertarians. We purchased brochures and flyers from LP headquarters that we used at our outreach table on the Commons and can continue to use for additional events throughout the summer. And we bought art supplies for our tax day posters, and for a large painted "Ithaca Libertarians" banner. With your continued support we'll be able to keep getting our message out to Tompkins County!

Carl Ricketson
Treasurer, Ithaca Libertarians

celebrate
Independence day!

Libertarians, Free Staters, friends and family!

Sunday, July 3, 2005

**430 Enfield Center Road East
Ithaca, New York**

1 PM until Breakfast!

Camping - Games - Bonfire

BBQ 6 PM

**Bring a dish, snack, or beverage to share
RSVP (607) 387-9683**

Sponsored by the Ithaca Libertarians

"Evil" Corporate Robots By Curry Taylor

For those of you who have not seen the recent Blue Sky Studio animated production "Robots", you may not understand the references which are to follow in this article, so I recommend that you go out and see the movie before you read any further. Go on; I'll wait. Okay, I warned you.

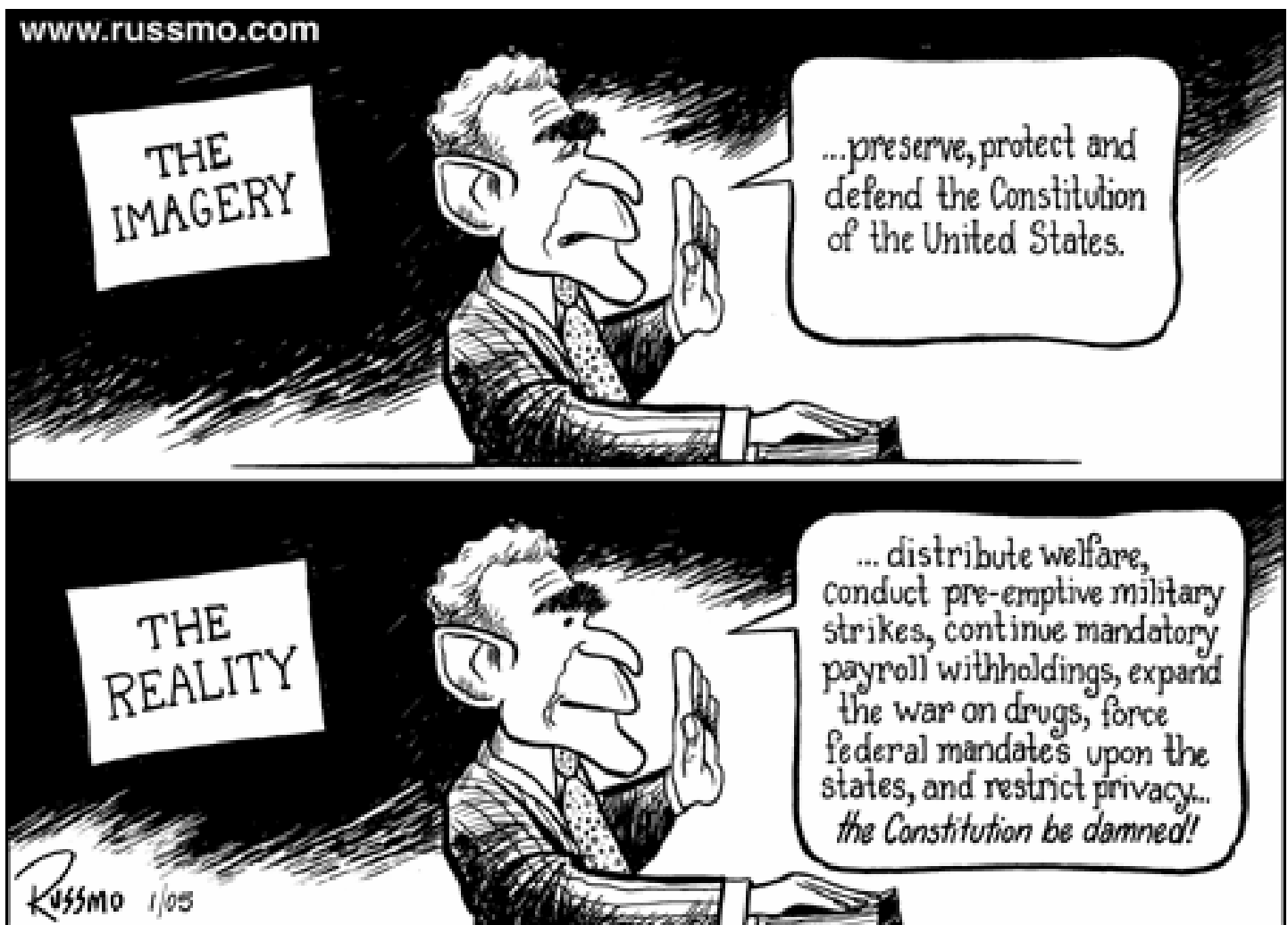
On a whim, I decided to go and see the film "Robots", about a young robot boy who is raised in a poor family but who aspires to be much more than a worker for his entire life, a dream which his father had but which never materialized. The young boy, Rodney, sets off to Robot City to follow his dream of working for Big Weld, the adored founder and CEO of the Big Weld Industries corporation. When Rodney tries to get in to see Big Weld, however, he is laughed at and told to go back home. Then, immediately, we flash to a corporate executive meeting atop the Big Weld Industries building, where Ratchet, the acting leader of the company, is telling all the lesser executives that

profits for the company must be maximized at all costs, despite what any of the consumer robots actually want or need.

"Oh, great," I thought, "Here comes another narrow-minded, shameless attack on the American corporation courtesy of the leftist Hollywood elite." (This is despite the fact that almost all of the prosperity that California currently enjoys was ignited through the uninhibited growth of corporate enterprises.) I held this point of view for a few minutes before I started to think again. Throughout the film, it is a small minority of individuals (namely, Ratchet and his mother) who actually conspire to push a short-term, profit-expanding shift in company output, while completely eliminating older products which are still in high demand but which Ratchet claims are less profitable.

One of the complaints from the Left (or the Greens) about the corporate world is that it is subject to corruption, and that an entire business is therefore deemed "evil" after some corrupt actions related to a

(Continued on page 4)



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business are uncovered. Happily, just about everyone in the movie "Robots" is very good natured and is concerned about the betterment of robotkind, including almost all of the employees of the Big Weld corporation and Big Weld himself. This very accurately reflects the reality of the American corporation: Most employees, even those in the upper echelons of the business, do mean well and listen to the concerns of troubled consumers and citizens. For example, even with all of the horrid corporate corruption cases you have heard about recently (e.g. Enron, Halliburton, etc.), it is always a small set of individuals who have decided to cook the books, form improper allegiances with our government officials, or in some other way lie to the people. Very rarely, if ever, is it possible to demonstrate that such abuse is a corporate-wide conspiracy involving a vast majority of all the employees of the company. In addition, such behaviors (lying about profits, having under-the-table deals with politicians, etc.) are not allowed even in our capitalist American society, and they are punishable through the judicial system when discovered.

Another point that I liked about the movie is that Rodney, the tireless young boy robot, never gives up. He sees problems in his family's life, in the life of his friends, and in the lives of every other robot in Robot City due to the blind policies of Ratchet. But instead of crying, complaining, and *lobbying the government* to fix his problems for him, Rodney takes it upon himself to help fix the problems! He realizes that his ability to invent makes him in demand, so, inspired by the words of the venerable Big Weld himself, "See a need, fill a need!". Rodney sets out to begin competing with the newly-corrupt Big Weld Industries. (Just where is Big Weld, anyway?) This is absolutely crucial to understanding one of the basic principles of a free market economy: the more diversity and competition which exists in a particular field, the better quality and cheaper the products will be in that field to the end consumer. The movie stops short, however, of having Rodney form his own business, which would have been a fine solution to all the problems, electing instead to have Rodney rescue Big Weld from the submissive state Ratchet had placed him in and eventually fight a violent war between Ratchet's mother's minions and the rest of the robot consumers.

One major point that the movie misses is the dynamics of a capitalistic economy. Companies which act in the

way that Ratchet acts (i.e. ignoring supply and demand in lieu of forcing high-priced products onto a market which cannot bear them) will eventually suffer in their bottom line. Diversity and competition will guarantee that: other companies which make more affordable, more necessity-driven products, will overpower a company which tries to spoon-feed a market where there cannot be one. This is a basic implication which is directly derived from the principle of supply and demand: if the market is allowed to freely exchange goods and services in a diverse setting, then "greedy" corporations which charge higher prices for a product that no one can buy will lose market share. All real life companies know this; it is a shame that many people do not understand this principle. In the real world, Ratchet would have lost in the long term even if he would have won in the short term.

The reality is that a business can still maximize profit in a way which is consistent with the fair principles of capitalism, and without sacrificing the integrity of the business. Most businesses know this and are very wary of how even the smallest of their actions are going to be perceived by the public. Companies work very hard to try to show the public that, while they are in business to make money, they do not do so at the expense of the market, an entity which is ultimately dictated entirely by the consumers themselves. The dynamics of the free market is another principle which is often misunderstood by those who misinterpret capitalism to be an oppressive, instead of a liberating, economic force.

Overall, I liked this movie, and while it is fair in some regards to the American business, it doesn't present a clear picture of the whole capitalistic system in others. You may say, well, it's not really that important or fair to overanalyze such a film; after all, it's just a kid's movie. Granted, any entity making statements in an entertainment setting has the right to say and claim whatever they so choose, even if it is a lie or is misleading. However, we also have the right to respond to those claims and criticize the implications of said statements. Moreover, the ideas that are fed to our children are much more important than we might tend to believe on an average day in Adulthood. This is because the children of the current day, in any given time period, will always be running the show 30 years hence. So it is important to point out whether the ideas that children are exposed to are misleading, biased, or oversimplified.

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