

What Wouldn't You Do For 50,000 Votes?

For twenty years, the goal of the Libertarian Party has been a society in which individual rights are recognized and respected. Our goal was never to obtain 50000 votes for our gubernatorial candidate, and thus, recognition by New York State as an official party. But for some, I feel, this political recognition has become a goal in itself and replaced the goal of bringing about a libertarian society.

Past campaigns have emphasized a comprehensive set of issues that when taken in total represented our view of a free and tolerant society. Howard Stern is running for Governor so that he can make it possible for the state government to "fry" some people.

It has been said that the death penalty is not an Libertarian-defining issue, but in a society where legislators create crimes out of personal behavior and mandate harsh and punitive sentencing, where political hacks play upon the fear of crime that government policy helps to fuel, where police feel free to beat up upon and extort money and drugs from its citizens, where prosecutors with political ambitions suppress evidence that may acquit a defendant, and where state troopers tamper with and fake fingerprints, how can anybody seriously advocate the death penalty unless it is within the context of a full presentation of a large number of issues?

Howard Stern belittles and stereotypes various nationalities, ethnic and racial groups. His Jewish and Black stereotypes are offensive. I find his comments to and about women to be particularly objectionable, and his references to Asians and Arabs to be mean-spirited.

If our desire is to be taken seriously and if we are to present ourselves as intelligent, sincere and concerned about the issues that have an impact upon the day to day issues affecting our lives and freedom, we must appeal to the best qualities of character that each person in the electorate possesses. Howard Stern does not have that appeal.

For years I have been concerned about being consumed by the existing parties once we obtained ballot access. Little did I imagine that the party that has always emphasized the value and rights of people as individuals would be consumed by legions of "Libertarians-for-a-day" in support of a crude and rude radio personality.

Some have suggested that Howard Stern can get us 50,000 votes and then, with ballot status assured, we can begin to once again emphasize a full range of issues and continue our efforts to bring about a libertarian society. We'll use him," I have been told. How naive it is to believe in a counter coup. He is using us.

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State Controller 82
U. S. Senate 88
State Chair 85-89

