



The Rhode Island Diogenes

Your Weekly Source For Satirical Political Commentary

*OFFENDING RHODE ISLANDERS
ONE READER AT A TIME*

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET CUTS INTO PLAGUE RESEARCH

Providence – Critics of the Governor's budget plan have cited his cuts to plague research as evidence that he is completely out of touch with the common man.

"We need to be secure in knowing that Rhode Island will not be plagued with the plague. Instead, we have budget cut after budget cut that will completely eliminate the program" said a Health Department worker.

Rhode Island has not seen the Bubonic Plague in its history, but several union leaders credit this to the fact that there is an on-going effort to make the public safe and that the budget cuts to eliminate such a program will lead to a widespread outbreak of epidemic proportions.

"I think the Governor is sadly mistaken if he believes that the plague is not a worthy health care objective. Think of the thousands who died in the Middle Ages. Does he really care about the people of the state?" said the Lt. Governor, herself a self anointed health care guru.

The plague is generally credited with decimation of various populations throughout history, destroying cities and economies.

Under the budget plan, funding for research will be suspended and the on-going plague prevention efforts in local schools will cease at the end of this school year.

See CUTS page 2

A Profile in Courage JACK REED – HOLDOUT SUPER DELEGATE

Cranston – Senator Jack Reed today boldly announced today that he will remain an uncommitted super-delegate to the Democratic convention.

"Anyone can take a side, but it takes guts to play it right down the middle" said the senior Senator.

"I have learned long ago that to get along in the Senate you cannot take sides. I am beginning to see what Linc Chafee was all about. It is great to be free of those commitments that bind"

Several have lauded Reed for his tenacity. "With modern fences being harder and harder to straddle, Jack has done a yeoman's job in doing just that. By keeping his cards close to his vest, he is doing what is in the best interest of party and state".

"Don't worry, when it is clear who the nominee is, Jack will be there" said a spokesperson.

Many suspect Senator Reed is taking a bold move to stay uncommitted because it is an election year. By showing that he can remain neutral in the face of such pressure to pick a candidate to support will show all his supporters just how committed he is to helping the party get it right.

"He is not looking to jump into anything too fast. He believes in being reactionary not pro-active in his approach" said a long time political ally.

CAMPAIGN 2010 SLOGAN TRY-OUT

Providence – It is time that those aspiring to higher office to take a few moments to perfect the message for their upcoming gubernatorial campaigns. This effort is primarily concentrated in what will be the campaign slogan.

Campaign messages are among the first focus points used to rally supporters. They must carry the message in a pithy, vibrant, truthful manner if they are to be successful.

Since everything these days is orchestrated and vetted through polls, most of the candidates test market several slogans in order to determine which is the most effective with the electorate.

Sources close to the candidates camps have been given some insight into these matters.

Steve Laffey, the only Republican in the horde of dozens, has been working with two ideas. The first is "In your heart you know he's not just right". It harkens to his Goldwater roots while toning it down a bit for the Rhode Island public. The second, "Crossing Guards Don't Belong" is a play on a nationalistic message, but it is considered too negative for the campaign.

Meanwhile, Lt. Governor Roberts has been also experimenting with a more positive theme of "With Responsibility Comes Power".

See SLOGANS page 2

SLOGANS cont.

Attorney General Lynch also a contender has ordered his campaign to show his softer family oriented side. His slogan "My Brother Runs the Party"

Treasurer Frank Caprio has been working on earlier public relations efforts. He is considering "A tow truck in every garage" or "Free Pizza"

Lincoln Chafee meanwhile is still mulling a campaign, but his staff is working on some slogan ideas. The most favored at present is "I think I might be like definitely running for Governor"

The Charles Fogarty team meanwhile is offering the message "Will work for food" or, as an alternative "Missed it by that much".

Robert Weygand, having landed himself a good paying state job, has been working on his slogan "Governor, for at least 2 years".

Providence Mayor David Cicillini is contemplating "At least I'm not Buddy".

Perennial candidate Robert J. Healey, Jr., often left off potential candidate listings by the state's major newspaper, has been toying with "You Can't Shine Shit".

"It fits both my image and the image that Rhode Islanders hold of their state."

CUTS cont.

"The way the Governor sees it, we have no economy to destroy and our cities are imploding anyway. How can a plague do anything worse than we have done to ourselves?" said an aide to the Governor defending the decision to suspend plague research as part of balancing the budget.

Union leaders hope to get the program cuts restored in the Assembly. "We have had these jobs for centuries and now we find we don't need them? It is so like this Governor not to care if people die from the plague" said one union staffer.

What Do You Think?

With television and on-line news, is The Providence Journal relevant as a primary source for news? What do you think?

Sure. People still need to know the whist tournament results don't they?
AG - Warwick

Without the Journal what would Rhode Islanders use to wrap fish and ten thousand dollar payments?
ED - Cranston

Oh, you mean that stuff they wrap around advertising. Sure it's relevant otherwise the coupons would fall out before I get to do my stores.
SM - Woonsocket

People often confuse news with what they read in the Journal.
RH - Barrington

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SOAP BOX DERBY NO MORE

Providence - In an effort to have truth prevail in the lives of our young children, the Attorney General is proposing legislation that would eliminate the words "soap box" from all derbies, unless the vehicles participating are actually constructed out of real soap boxes.

"It is the typical bait and switch approach. These vehicles are not constructed from soap boxes. They are constructed from plywood and other bits of junk wood" he said at a hastily called news conference.

"We need to pass laws that will protect our children from the fraud that occurs in the everyday world" he said as he stepped off his soap box to enter into a crowd of reporters to dodge questions about his gubernatorial aspirations.

ASK LIZ Advice on Anything

Dear Liz:

I recently underwent a performance review. As a result of that review, the company has added "superfluous" to my job description.

Since I now have a new responsibility, I believe I should be given an increase in salary. What do you think?
Janet - Bristol

Dear Janet:

I too have "superfluous" in my job description but I am highly compensated for the work I don't do. I do, however, have a similar problem as you.

A recent survey showed not only is my role superfluous, but it is also considered "redundant".

Since I too, like you, am doing more work, I feel that I should be getting much more recognition, but, alas, in these times one is lucky to have a job, never mind a job that has no responsibilities attached to it.

Maybe you can get them to add it to your title on the office door.

THE HALLMARK

Charlie Hall



THERE OUGHT TO BE A
LEMON LAW