



# The Rhode Island Diogenes

Your Weekly Source For Satirical Political Commentary

*OFFENDING RHODE ISLANDERS  
ONE READER AT A TIME*

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## ASSEMBLY FAILS TO CLOSE LOOPHOLE

Providence – As this year's General Assembly comes to a close, it appears that a bill that would close the loophole in the law related to government corruption will not see the light of day.

Caught in committee and otherwise presumed dead for this session is a bill that would close the loophole related to the theft of honest services.

Prosecutors in the Attorney General's office have been at a loss in prosecuting government corruption cases based on theft of honest services.

"Nothing can be stolen if it isn't of value. The fact that most Rhode Islanders do not expect honest service from their elected officials makes it hard to make a case that the offending politician has actually stolen something" said one AG spokesperson.

"Every time we try to bring a case, we are stymied by this. If we could find only one Rhode Islander that had an expectation of honesty we could bring the case, but to live in Rhode Island you have to accept the fact that there is no expectation of honest services. The very concept is oxymoronic to them".

"I'm sure we could get a conviction if the law merely stated service, but by requiring "honest" service, the bar is set so high that it will be nearly impossible to get a conviction that would eventually be held up the Supreme Court on appeal" said an AG source.

## PARTY CANCELLED

Paris – The 505th surprise birthday party for Nostradamus has been cancelled when it was discovered that he had already known well in advance of the event and really didn't want to have a party in his honor.

"We tried so hard to keep it a secret, but that guy found out about it somehow. It was like he knew we were planning it all along" said Bryan Rodrigues, a close friend to the famed apothecary.

Several physics have issued statements that they already knew that the event would be cancelled because Nostradamus would find out before it actually took place.

"Hell, I didn't even bother to put it on my calendar, never mind shop for a present" said Jeanne Dixon. "But then again, he knew that we would know and we knew that he would know we knew. I guess just thinking about having a surprise birthday party is really enough of a gift for Nostradamus".

"In retrospect, I guess we were suffering from too much hubris thinking that we could put one over on the old guy. Besides, with the way he has been suffering from gout recently, I don't think he would have had much of a good time there, but he knew that all along" said Rodrigues.

## GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES HIRING FREEZE

Providence – Governor Donald Carcieri announced today that he has authorized by Executive Order a freeze on all hiring under the Executive Branch.

"My wife and all her extended family have gainful employment and, well, let's face facts, Old Stone is just not minting any more retired corporate executives" he said in a press release.

In Rhode Island politics it is traditional that once a person has attained an office, he or she hires on as many of his or her cronies as possible.

"While there could be jobs available if there were more Republicans in the state, the reality is that most Republicans have already gotten state jobs from kissing Democrat asses in the Assembly. It is just not realistic to expect that there would be more cronies available in the labor pool" said one Republican Party spokesperson.

"Sure, we can find an odd job here or there to give a private employment contract to, but by and large, we are not looking for anymore employees in the Executive branch"

The spokesperson did not preclude any rearrangements of employment. "The Governor wants to leave open this matter so that he can send Steve Kass to wherever he is needed".

## HAUPTMAN STORY TO BE PUT TO WORDS

Hopewell – There are rumors circulating that Bob Dylan has been in town to compile research for a new song proclaiming the innocence of Bruno Hauptman, convicted in the 1930's for a crime he probably did.

“This is the story of Bruno Hauptman, the man the authorities came to blame” said the singer.

The Hauptman story has all the making of a Dylan song.

“Testimony of a blind man and all that other circumstantial evidence, this should have been told earlier. At one time this guy could have been the best carpenter in the world”.

“If your German you might as well not show up on the streets less you wanna draw the heat” said the singer.

The kidnapping and subsequent murder of the Lindburg baby made world headlines and was dubbed the trial of the century, but Dylan believes that Hauptman was “falsely tried” and that the “fix was in”.

“It won't be over until we clear his name and give him back the life he lost in the electric chair”.

“All of Bruno's time cards were marked in advance. The trial was a pig-circus. He didn't have a chance”

“Someone has to ask the question, how can the life of such a man, be in the palm of some fool's hand”

“I guess that's just the way it goes when the press goes along for the ride” said Bryan Rodrigues, a spokesperson for Truth, Justice and the American Way.

“It is about time that people seriously looked into this” said Dustin Hauptman, the long lost brother of Bruno.

## What Do You Think?

Barak Obama has become the Democrat nominee for President. What do you think?

The power and wisdom of Oprah has once again prevailed upon the American people.

RH - Barrington

I still don't know what I was waiting for and my time was running wild....

Okay, now I'm on the same page.

JR - Cranston

Did he break the glass ceiling or did he throw off the chains of slavery? It's so confusing being a Democrat.

ER - Cranston

Is it real change or merely a substitute?

GC - Barrington

Who cares. I'm outta here in January.

MB - Barrington

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## VOTING RIGHTS RESTORED

Providence - The State Board of Elections has overturned a recent decision of the Cranston Board of Canvassers, restoring the voting rights to Bryan Rodrigues, a person who had publicly admitted that he “was cuckoo for Coco Puffs”.

“We can't let insane people determine the future of the state by giving them the right to vote” said one member of the Cranston board. “It's like that movie where the folks from the asylum are released and run the town”.

The State Board however took a different position. In their opinion they stated, “In reviewing all the election results of the last fifty years, we must conclude that hundreds, if not thousands of insane people voted. So what's one more?”

## ASK LIZ - Advice on Anything

Dear Liz:

I have been following the career of a person in a similar but different company.

She rose quite high in power, largely trading on her husband's name.

In a recent shake-up she was being considered to run that company, but they gave the position to another candidate. (I am told that it is politically incorrect to call him a dark horse candidate even though he exactly fits the traditional definition, being inexperienced and a long shot for the job).

As a gesture of goodwill, she was offered the second spot. Should she take the offer?

Evelyn - Tiverton

Dear Evelyn:

Being number two is never fun. The only up side is that you are paid to do whatever you want to do.

Still, you park where there is an open spot.

## THE HALLMARK

Charlie Hall



I'M VOTING FOR  
LOCAL NUTS