



# The Rhode Island Diogenes

Your Weekly Source For Satirical Political Commentary

*OFFENDING RHODE ISLANDERS  
ONE READER AT A TIME*

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## PROVIDENCE CUTS CRIME

Providence – “Don’t believe your lying eyes” the Mayor told a packed audience. Even though there seems to be a shooting or stabbing in Providence every other day, the reality is that according to the Providence Police Chief, the crime rate in Providence has been lowered.

“It was hard to get people in the statistics department to realize that ‘stabblings’ were little more than “misuse of culinary utensils’ and that ‘shootings’ were merely are result of ‘unintended play with dangerous objects’” said a spokesperson for the administration.

“Once we got that cleared up, we can clearly demonstrate that crime has been on the decline in the city” he continued.

Classification of crime has become this administration’s prime weapon against the rise of crime reported nationwide.

“It is important that you tell the truth. Crime needs to be accurately reported so that we can evaluate our performance. Just a few ‘kitchen accidents’ could make our murder rate seem unacceptable”

Defending his administration against attacks that claim earlier administrations had a better grip on crime, the Mayor would only comment “We have significantly reduced the number of assaults by assailants using ashtrays”.

In a statement the police administration defended its practice of reclassification of crimes. “Crimes are what we say they are” was the message.

## VIVA LA REVOLUTION

Philadelphia – Meeting in a steamy apartment in Philadelphia, representatives from various parts of the nation have concluded with the signing of a document that calls upon government to provide people with everything required to exist.

“We are striking a blow for freedom. We need to tell the world that as Americans we want our government to do everything for us. We don’t need to think about how the government spends money or whether or not we are given choices in our daily existence. We need bigger government”

The document, tentatively entitled the Declaration of Dependence, calls upon all free people to submit to the whims and will of those in government power. It calls for a stronger federal government.

To make this more palatable to the states, the group has announced that it will consider elimination of all the rights found in the first ten amendments, a largely symbolic gesture in that most of those “rights” have been severely compromised or eviscerated by Fourteenth Amendment analysis.

“Self reliance and self determination have no place in a free society” said the group’s leader. “The government knows what is best for its people. If it weren’t for government, there would be no such thing as entitlements, the very force that keeps America free” he continued.

## BUDGETARY TRIAGE

Providence – The General Assembly and the Governor have agreed on a budget that will supposedly balance. In order for that to come about, there have been severe cuts in various programs.

While making various cuts in programs, the budget leaves in tact the Lieutenant Governor’s office budget to enable that office to speak up about the needs of those being unfunded.

“What if we gutted the Lieutenant Governor’s office? Who would be able to speak out about all the help these people are not getting under this administration? Sure, we could use the money to actually fund programs, but then there would be no one to speak out about them, except for the people that have a genuine concern. How would that look?” said one legislator who asked not to be identified.

“We were forced to make difficult choices in this budget. So what if a few more poor kids go hungry or we need to release a few criminals back on the streets early, we decided that paying for someone to be a voice for these people makes so much more sense than paying for the services”

“Some people have the mistaken idea that the millions we have spent on that office is a waste, but once they see the progress Rhode Island has made in universal health care, stem cell research and emergency management, these Rhode Islanders will understand that a money to fund that office instead of programs was well spent”

“It is important to have someone to advocate for those programs that are not being funded”

## THE BUS STOPS HERE

Cranston – A meeting of the Board for RIPTA concluded that it will shut down at the end of October, a victim of being too popular in a time of economic decline.

“It is truly difficult to run a bus route when ridership increases. It was so much easier when we were fully funded and had no one riding” said one board member.

“The rising cost of gas is forcing us to take steps to eliminate service. I am sure that the people can understand this. They are being hit with higher gas prices as well, ironically forcing many to take the bus. Why should we be bearing the burden? We are a public transit authority” she continued.

Rhode Island is one of a handful of states that has not adopted the “inverse passenger” rule which holds that during hard budget times public transit needs increased funding while it needs to be cut during prosperity.

“We are always the scapegoat” he continued. “When times are good, we have millions to spend on campaigns to try to get people to abandon their cars and take the bus, but when times are bad, we can’t fund the service. Isn’t life funny?”

The increased ridership will force RIPTA to curtail several routes and make systemic changes. “I don’t like it, but I can understand. The legislature had some tough choices. Think about it, would you want them to pay a portion of their health care or have no Lieutenant Governor just so people could benefit from public transit?”

“I don’t know what people expect from public transit. They think that we have the ability to plan for increases in ridership just because we continually tell people to ride the bus”.

## What Do You Think?

With the Fourth of July just around the corner, many reflect on just what it is to be free. What do you think?

Freedom? I thought this year’s trend was Change.

WL - Pawtucket

If I leave here tomorrow, would you still remember me...

BC - Providence

Freedom? Freedom? You can’t handle freedom.

RH - Barrington

Freedom. You have to yearn it.

DC - East Greenwich

Freedom is not having any responsibilities while enjoying the fruits of others labors via taxation.

ER - Cranston

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## WILL PACE FOR FOOD

North Pole – In record numbers, polar bears are making applications to zoos. “It is a sign of the times. With global warming threatening their homes, more and more bears are seeking refuge in zoos” said one authority.

“There has been no group since the penguins who have tugged so hard at the heartstrings of the gas-guzzling, environmentally unfriendly and smug residents of the first world.

“Sure I care about them. I make sure I drive my SUV to get my coffee from a place that puts a cute picture of polar bears on the cup. I watch PBS on my in home theatre every time they play that film about the penguins. We need to send more money to protect them from those who do not care about saving the environment” said one protester.

“If we, as a society, fail to protect the vast wasteland of the Arctic, then we are not doing what we can as a society. If only we save one polar bear, it will be worth it” said Bryan Rodrigues of the Bears for Life Foundation.

## ASK LIZ -Advice on Anything

Dear Liz:

A recent round of budget cuts at my company spared me the ax, but I am not sure just how long it will be until they figure out that my function in the company is, for lack of a better word, redundant.

I think it is time that I begin to prepare for my future and leave this job behind.

It is not that I need the money from the job, but hell, why should it go to those who seem to need help?

Janice - Warren

Dear Janice:

Just because you have budget priority over programs that you may have advocated for in the past, you should simply count your blessings.

So what if you are so financially stable that the salary is chicken feed to you. It’s yours and not those poor people you had supposedly cared about when you were advocating for increasing spending on their needs.

## THE HALLMARK

Charlie Hall



PLEEEEEASE... I’LL BE GOOD