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[The Kochtopian Nerve Seems to have been Struck](#)

Posted by HART WILLIAMS, Guest Voice Columnist in [Guest Contributor](#), [Politics](#), [Society](#).

Jul 26th, 2011 | [9 responses](#)

WARNING: VIDEO AT THE END OF THIS PIECE MAY BE DISTURBING TO SOME VIEWERS.

Something about [my Nick Gillespie post](#) (appearance on Bill Maher's *Real Time* on HBO this weekend) struck a nerve among "libertarians" on YouTube. What's the big deal? Aren't the Kochs our benefactors? This is nonsense! Harrumph. Harangue. Harass.

But there IS something fundamental in not revealing who Nick Gillespie's patrons are –and Matt Welch's, co-author of the book Gillespie was on Bill Maher's REAL TIME to shill. Seriously. So, why is it a big deal to note that Nick Gillespie owes his career to the Koch Brothers — who still fund his/their paychecks?



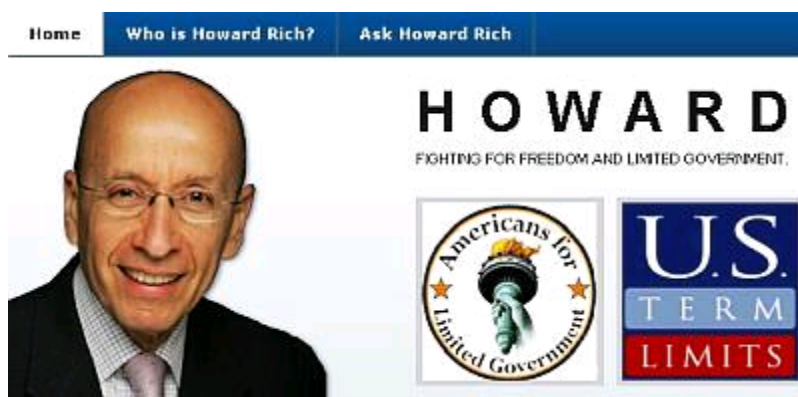
**The Koch Brothers
Charles and David**

The Koch modus operandi has always been to hide, to disguise, to operate under any name but their own. That's an unbroken series of demonstrable actions going back to the 1970s, and a slew of actions that carefully AVOID a causal link, but look increasingly likely as the evidence mounts. [In the 2006 "Howie Rich"](#)

[scandal](#), millions of dollars were slushed to dozens of states and [the Center for Public Integrity's investigation turned up that THREE individuals funded them](#) all, to the 99% + level, but we still don't know who those Three were.

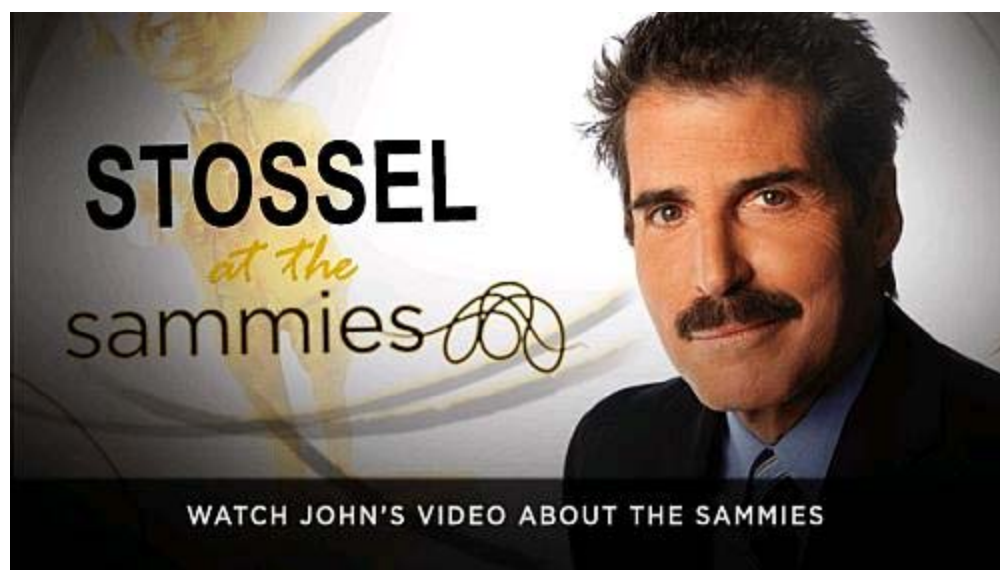
Really? We don't have a right and vested interest AS A NATION, in knowing who paid millions of dollars for a mercenary ballot initiative machine that moved through dozens of states and twice that many initiatives? Guess not.

The ever-comatose media said it was all "Howard Rich" and didn't even bother getting a photograph of their own. Just used the "official" picture from his website, like we use the high school yearbook or drivers licence photo of the latest mass murderer (until we can get that groovy Courthouse footage.)



But Howie Rich was never one of those three, seemingly. He merely disbursed the funds.

Those SECRET funds. Are they the same funds we find in ALEC? In the Sam Adams Alliance? The Club for Growth? The CATO Institute? The Mercatus Institute? The Institute for Humane Studies? Americans for Prosperity? Freedomworks? The Macinac Institute? The State Policy Network? The Rio Grande Institute? The Goldwater Institute? Citizens for Responsible Government, Inc.? Citizens for Responsible Government Foundation?



(OK, CRG's Foundation and Inc. became Americans for Prosperity Inc. And Americans for Prosperity Foundation, and FreedomWorks, Inc. and FreedomWorks Foundation, respectively or counter-respectively, and you will note that as I pick up the thimble, the pea is gone.)

For some reason, they really would prefer that you NOT know their names. But if their operatives are out

there actively pushing their oligarchic agenda, oughtn't we know about it? The Kochs say not. (As does [the tag team of Libertarian trolls who showed up at the YouTube page](#) to screech that I hadn't proven ANYTHING! ANYTHING!! And what GREAT guys the Kochs are — personally responsible for Gay Marriage in New York! Our Benefactors! Must've struck a nerve.)

SCHEDULE I (Form 990) | **Grants and Other Assistance**
126,500 | **to Governments, and Individuals**

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service
 Name of the organization: **WISCONSIN CLUB FOR GROWTH, INC.**

OMB No 1545-0047
2009
 Open to Public Inspection

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance
 1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the selection criteria used to award the grants or assist...
 2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for r...

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Governmental Organizations
 Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient of grants or other assistance reported in Part IV and Schedule I-1 (Form 990) if additional space is needed

1	(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant
	COALITION FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES 6907 UNIVERSITY AVENUE #176	03-0384091	501 (C) (4)	44,000
	CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT P O BOX 371086 MILWAUKEE, WI 53237	68-0626635	501 (C) (3)	126,500

Employer identification number: 11-3723921

The deception is intentional, and I kind of think that the Bill Maher audience would filter Nicky's commentary differently, did they know that the Kochs have been underwriting his paychecks [ever since he got to Reason ... in 1993](#). ([Wikipedia](#): Prior to joining Reason, Gillespie worked at a number of small trade magazines and other journalistic outlets. He worked for several years at Teen Machine magazine, where he interviewed celebrities and ghost-wrote an advice column for actress Alyssa Milano...."*)

[* See below for more on this Wikipedia page.]

Here's some fun, as long as we're playing button, button, who's got the button, here's a profile I found on Linked In:

Mike Flynn
Editor in Chief, Big Government.com
 Washington D.C. Metro Area Public Policy
 Current
 Editor in Chief at Big Government
Past
Director of Government Affairs at Reason Foundation
Director of Government Affairs at Berman and Company
Director of Legislation and Policy at ALEC

You might recall that [BigGovernment is the website that broke \(anonymously\) the Andrew Weiner story](#).



[Andrew Breitbart speaking at the Tea Party Express astroturf tour](#)

Or this, from Reason Foundation's LinkedIn page:

Reason Foundation Activity on LinkedIn

 **Reason Foundation** has a new Director of Wikipedia Maintenance

 **Sean McElwee** is now Director of Wikipedia Maintenance

21 days ago • [Like](#)

Gee. You don't suppose that he's massaged (or at least policed) Nick Gillespie's Wikipedia profile above?

Still, the mentality is telling: make sure that anything about Reason Foundation that's up is the best possible spin in Reason's terms.

I find it hilarious that they would have let this job description up online, but these little slipups happen all the time, which is the Kochian Achilles heel.



Tea Party Smartie

When you base your control on your control of information, information is always slipping through the cracks that you'd have preferred remained hidden.

The secrecy and intention to conceal tell the thoughtful reader all, ultimately, that the reader needs to understand that there is a reason for the concealment.

And it is in that Venne Diagram overlap wherein our own politics and our own states and our own laws in even our own municipalities deserve the truth as to who is behind legislation as in the current ALEC investigations.

As the Good Book says:

The wicked man fleeth, when no man pursueth...

[~ Proverbs 28:1](#)

But of course, this is all academic. Just rhetorical flourishes, right?

Well, the [Tea Party coalition just rejected Speaker Boehner's proposal](#) on the ongoing, tortuous (to the participants), torturous (to the public) “debt ceiling” crisis that has been manufactured and is playing out as Grand Drama.



Eugene, Oregon Tax Day Tea Partiers – 2010

Just down the freeway from me, something equally disturbing happened last week, and it does not presage anything pleasant for the Republic.

The [Douglas County \[Oregon\] News Review](#) reports:

Political showdown creates conflict in Roseburg park

by Heather Morse

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

A small political gathering of about 18 liberal thinkers at River Forks Park Sunday afternoon erupted in conflict when about 35 members of the conservative tea party intruded upon the meeting, waving flags and holding signs accusing the rival group of being communists, Marxists and socialists.

The liberal group — **organized by MoveOn.org** — decided to leave the park and move its potluck to a nearby home. Members of the conservative group followed, parking at the entrance of a private lane leading to the home to continue their protest.

Roseburg Democrats Dean and Sara Byers said Monday they told tea party members who followed that they were not welcome to drive down the lane to their home.

The Byerses said they got out of their car to stop vehicles from entering the driveway and one tea party member almost ran them over.

Sara Byers said she was so shaken she called 911. She said a Douglas County deputy called about an hour and a half later and said he had been unable to respond because of other incidents. Byers said she was still considering filing a criminal complaint against members of the tea party for harassment.

A leader of the tea party group, Rich Raynor of Roseburg, disputed the liberal group's version of events.

"They are liars," said Raynor, **director of Douglas County Americans for Prosperity**. "That is what communists do."

[...]

Raynor said the group believes MoveOn.org is a communist front and said he would not stand for America becoming a fascist nation.



Gee. As a founding member of MoveOn.org (which meant MOVE ON from the stoopid impeachment BS), I hadn't realized that the Red-staters were calling me a "Red."

Here's the actual [video from the park](#):

Courage.

[Hat tip to Carla Axtman at BlueOregon](#)

A writer, published author, novelist, literary critic and political observer for a quarter of a quarter-century more than a quarter-century, Hart Williams has lived in the American West for his entire life. Having grown up in Wyoming, Kansas and New Mexico, a survivor of Texas and a veteran of Hollywood, Mr. Williams currently lives in Oregon, along with an astonishing amount of pollen. He has a lively blog [His Vorpall Sword](#). This is [cross-posted](#) from his blog.

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9 Responses to “The Kochtopian Nerve Seems to have been Struck”



Absalon says:

[July 26, 2011 at 3:46 am](#)

Well, both Reid and Pelosi were ready to offer revenue-free deals, so as you can understand both sides are equally at fault for the debt ceiling issue.

Also, showcasing corporate influence just proves that you hate all corporations and want to attack them with legislation.

And now we don't need Logan up in this.



Absalon says:

[July 26, 2011 at 4:59 am](#)

Also, the Koch brothers support gay marriage in theory but if they ever have to choose between a homophobic, anti-abortion Christianist that will lower their taxes or a progressive democrat who won't raise their taxes but not lower them either, they will kiss the Christianist's ring on the spot.

So, they are like every libertarian ever.



[NICK RIVERA](#) says:

[July 26, 2011 at 5:54 am](#)

Mr. Williams,

I'm a bit confused.

In your TMV post, you start with Nick Gillespie (who is Editor in Chief of Reason.com, but you then go on to mention:

Matt Welch

The Koch brothers

Bill Maher

Howard Rich

ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council)

The Sam Adams Alliance

The Club for Growth

The Cato Institute

The Mercatus Institute

The Institute for Humane Studies

Americans for Prosperity

Freedomworks

The Macinac Institute

The State Policy Network

The Rio Grande Institute

The Goldwater Institute

Citizens for Responsible Government, Inc. Citizens for Responsible Government Foundation?

Americans for Prosperity Inc.

Americans for Prosperity Foundation FreedomWorks, Inc.
FreedomWorks Foundation
Mike Flynn (Editor in Chief of Big Government.com)
Andrew Breitbart (of Big Government.com)
Sean McElwee (Reason Foundation's Director of Wikipedia Maintenance)
The Tea Party Coalition

Did I miss anyone?

In any case, given the critical tone which you address virtually every single person or organization on that list, I am a bit confused as to whether you have objections to these people and organizations because of what each of these people and organizations have done or said or whether you're objecting to them on the basis of their association with the Koch Brothers.



[NICK RIVERA](#) says:

[July 26, 2011 at 5:56 am](#)

(...continued from above)

The title of your post focuses on the Koch Brothers. And yet your [initial post](#) and accompanying [youtube clip](#) focused on Nick Gillespie, who along with Donna Brazille, was a guest on Bill Maher's Real Time show.

In both your initial post and your comments made in the comments section of the accompanying Youtube video, you take Nick Gillespie to task for not openly acknowledging that of the [more than 20 people](#) who fund his employer (The Reason Foundation), just one happens to be David Koch. Yet nowhere in either your initial post or in the comments to the accompanying video do you take Donna Brazille to task for failing to acknowledge what people or organizations are giving her her paycheck. Nor, for that matter, do you bother to mention what people or organizations have donated to MoveOn.org.



[NICK RIVERA](#) says:

[July 26, 2011 at 5:57 am](#)

(...continued from above)

If your argument is that people expressing a political view should be upfront about who they are receiving money from, then I can sympathize with that argument. However, I find it somewhat bizarre that you could be so concerned about Nick Gillespie failing to divulge that one of the people who funds the Reason Foundation is billionaire David Koch, when you yourself failed to divulge that one of MoveOn.org's [largest financial contributors in the past](#) happened to be billionaire [George Soros](#).

Now, I didn't start this comment so that I could attack George Soros or any of the other people who have funded MoveOn.org throughout the years. However, surely you can see that by employing your "six degrees of separation guilt by association" argument that uses the Koch Brothers to smear libertarians and conservatives, you are employing the EXACT SAME tactics as right-wingers who love to use George Soros as a bogeyman to smear MoveOn.org and others on the left.

In the end, if you agree (or disagree) with a particular stance, does it really matter whether David Koch or George Soros happen to fund or contribute to that cause?

Reason.com and MoveOn.org BOTH opposed the Iraq War and spoke out very strongly against it. Does their

criticism of that war become any less valid simply because they received money from David Koch or George Soros (respectively).



[NICK RIVERA](#) says:

[July 26, 2011 at 6:13 am](#)

Absalon says:

Also, the Koch brothers support gay marriage in theory but if they ever have to choose between a homophobic, anti-abortion Christianist that will lower their taxes or a progressive democrat who won't raise their taxes but not lower them either, they will kiss the Christianist's ring on the spot.

So, they are like every libertarian ever.

That's a rather bizarre comment to make. Especially since the facts don't even begin to support it:

<http://reason.com/archives/2004/11/01/whos-getting-your-vote>

<http://reason.com/archives/2008/10/29/whos-getting-your-vote>



Absalon says:

[July 26, 2011 at 6:36 am](#)

"I am a bit confused as to whether you have objections to these people and organizations because of what each of these people and organizations have done or said or whether you're objecting to them on the basis of their association with the Koch Brothers."

Personally I am objecting to the fact that these entities pretend they are anything but marketers, paid by rich people to give rich people lower taxes.

Williams probably wants to highlight how widespread the rot is and how much of the libertarian networks rely on the money of people they fight for in the political sphere.

"Nor, for that matter, do you bother to mention what people or organizations have donated to MoveOn.org."

Anyway, moveon isn't constructed to give Soros tax cuts. It's not a marketing front for his financial interests, just his political interests. MoveOn isn't given money by Soros to get him richer, so it's not really an investment for him.

What is it with people and trying to draw false equivalence everywhere? It's the cancer of our age.



[NICK RIVERA](#) says:

[July 26, 2011 at 7:06 am](#)

Absalon said:

What is it with people and trying to draw false equivalence everywhere? It's the cancer of our age.

False equivalence?

Is it *not* true that liberals are constantly using the Koch brothers “bogeyman” tactic in the same way that conservative organizations are constantly using George Soros “bogeyman” tactic in order to smear liberal organizations?

The problem (it seems to me) is not one of false equivalence. It’s one of rampant hypocrisy—liberals and conservatives constantly criticizing each other for employing tactics that they use themselves.



Allen says:

[July 26, 2011 at 8:10 am](#)

This is so bizarre that I don’t know where to begin.

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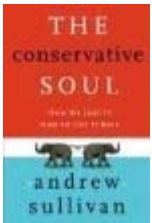
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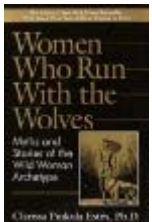
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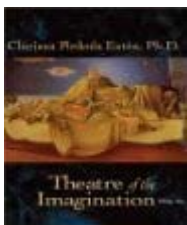
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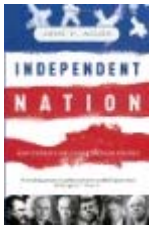
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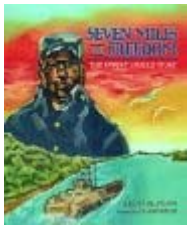
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