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News

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Departments

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« Tommy Chong in Calgary | Main | Saskatchewan bans hand-held cell phone use while driving; are car radios next? »

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

Seeds of Liberty: The Marc Emery Story (Peter Jaworski)

Regular readers of this blog will know that the *Western Standard* is publishing *Seeds of Liberty: The Marc Emery Story*. In my last update, I announced that the co-author of the book is Dr. Michael Wagner, a Christian conservative who wrote the definitive history of the Canadian social conservative movement.

Today, I am happy to announce that the other author of this book is our very own Peter Jaworski, editor of the *Western Standard*. Below is Jaworski's impressive bio for those of you who don't already know his accomplishments:

Peter Jaworski is a PhD student in Philosophy at Bowling Green State University. He holds an MSc from the London School of Economics, an MA from the University of Waterloo, and a BA(H) from Queen's University. He was a visiting instructor at the College of Wooster, an instructor in Canadian Studies at Bowling Green State University, and teaches philosophy, also at Bowling Green State University.

Jaworski won the Felix Morley Journalism competition in 2003. He has been published in the Reader's Digest, the National Post, the Western Standard, the Fraser Forum, and was a columnist at the Orono Weekly Times for three years. He was co-anchor of Political Animals, a weekly political talk show on 88.9 WBGU-FM for three years. He is the current editor of the Western Standard online.

He was a 2002 Charles G. Koch Fellow placed as a health care research intern at the Cato Institute. He interned twice with the Fraser Institute, for the Canadian Statistical Assessment Service, as well as Children First: School Choice Trust. In 2003, Jaworski was a policy analyst with the International Policy Network in London, England. He was a 2007 research assistant at the Social Philosophy and Policy Center. In 2009, Jaworski worked as a research assistant for Scott Reid, Member of Parliament for Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington.

As I wrote here, "[Dr.] Wagner has done an excellent job documenting the complete Marc Emery story, but the libertarian tone and sympathetic treatment of Emery in the book is largely the responsibility of his co-author." That's Jaworski, of course.

Now who should write the foreword for this book? Thoughts?

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Seeds of Liberty: The Marc Emery Story (Peter Jaworski)

Tommy Chong in Calgary

Karen Selick says "censorship is not the answer"

Chavez seizes farmland, but good things on the horizon

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Agha Ali Arkhan on Banned in Caledonia

ROKR on Seeds of Liberty: The Marc Emery Story (Peter Jaworski)

david mccallum on Seeds of Liberty: The Marc Emery Story (Peter Jaworski)

The Stig on Hello Mullah, Hello Faddah

Baker on Seeds of Liberty: The Marc Emery Story (Peter Jaworski)

Autonomous on Seeds of Liberty: The Marc Emery Story (Peter Jaworski)

Zebulon Pike on Banned in Caledonia

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Posted by Matthew Johnston on November 25, 2009 | Permalink

Comments

Emery is nothing but an egomaniacal serial attention seeking convicted criminal.

I'm surprised that so many intelligent people buy into his schtick.

Posted by: Bocanut | 2009-11-26 9:40:22 AM

Positive tag lines sell more books. If his supporters titled it "Narcissist: A Marc Emery Joint" it wouldn't sell.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-26 9:49:25 AM

How about Conservative Senator Nolin, who penned the 2002 Senate Report on the Non-Medicinal Use of Drugs to write a forward?

Posted by: DrGreenthumb | 2009-11-26 10:08:56 AM

Not another Emery post! Christ, is there nothing more important to write about than a left wing criminal?

Posted by: Johan i Kanada | 2009-11-26 10:16:14 AM

I hope Emery repudiates every word in the book when he gets out in 5 years time. In fact, I want him to become a devout Christian in prison and reject his previous sinful life. Yet, I doubt he has that strength of will. After all, he only threw himself into his cause and business once he realized the law was after him - for real.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-26 10:27:56 AM

Emery thinks he is a Messiah or a Moses. He has successfully deluded a few gullibles like his poor wife and the western standard and a few others.

You all look so foolish.

Posted by: snowgirl | 2009-11-26 10:33:27 AM

I would suggest that you get Alan Young, professor of constitutional law, Osgoode Hall (and Emery's defense counsel when Emery was in London) or perhaps Dr. Lester Grinspoon of Harvard (and author of definitive studies supporting an official reassessment of marijuana and supporter of legalization) or Dana Larsen (Marc's best man and the editor of Cannabis Culture Magazine for the first ten years of its fifteen year lifespan).

Marc Emery has done more for Canadian liberty than any other Canadian that I know about. Tommy is right to stand up for him.

Marc Emery fought for and won our freedom:

- to shop on Sunday if we choose to do so
- to have free choice in the music lyrics we write or listen to
- to have unrestricted choices in the literature (magazines and books) that we choose to read.

Emery has counted very much already and truly is a civil libertarian of the first order! These are just a few of the battles that he has fought by breaking UNJUST laws and eventually getting them changed. He has tried to use the same approach with marijuana law reform.

I for one believe that TRUTH should be our highest value. I have heard Marc Emery speak at many locations across our country and have never heard him misrepresent either people or the evidence relevant to the issues discussed.

Stick to the truth. Stick to facts and leave the childish taunts and personal attacks for the elementary school playground where the bullies haven't yet grown up.

Even if one views Marc as a criminal, he is a Canadian and should be subject to Canadian standards of justice. He has never been to the USA and should not have to go there now. If he must be punished, do it in Canada or don't do it at all!

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11/30/2009 10:49 AM 2 of 11



Posted by: Rev. Chris Lawson | 2009-11-26 12:54:40 PM

How did Emery affect Sunday shopping laws?

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-26 1:03:02 PM

You know, it kills me that people who are so opposed to Marc Emery seem to read everything that is printed about him. Hey, if you don't like the guy or his crusade, do us all a favor and stop reading and commenting on it. Bocanut, Zeb, Johan and Snowgirl, don't you have better things to do? Maybe you can make up some Prohibition signs and hang out on a corner together. That would be funny as hell. I can see the signs now, "Marijuana is bad, mmmkay?" or maybe "Leave our children in the hands of gangsters, support prohibition". I'm sure you can think up some good ones, or not.

I like the idea of the Senator doing the foreword. It would add more weight to it.

And finally, Zeb, you crazy racist, I hope you wake up someday and realize Santa....I mean god, isn't real.

Posted by: Steve Bottrell | 2009-11-26 5:08:50 PM

Emery's relationship to his followers appears similar to that of The Leader in the 1998 Simpsons episode "The Joy of Sect". The cult's school teaches that The Leader is responsible for everything in the universe, even the rising and setting of the sun. So it seems with Emery - his believers think that he did everything, and serves as the solution to all problems. Boy are you people in for trouble. He's actually a drug dealing comman.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-26 5:31:36 PM

You all look so foolish.

Posted by: snowgirl | 2009-11-26 10:33:27 AM

Said the woman who has amounted to less than nothing. I would give anything for you to share with us, some of your contributing heroes.

Posted by: The V word | 2009-11-26 5:41:27 PM

Zeb, I come by my admiration for Emery honestly.

Nobody here thinks Emery is perfect, in much the same way as almost nobody thinks Ezra Levant is perfect.

But both fight the good fight and both deserve our support.

You're not an advocate for freedom until you support the freedom of people whose lifestyle you disagree with. That applies to many of Emery's supporters who are pro-freedom on pot, but statists on economic matters.

Jump aboard the freedom train, my friend.

Posted by: Matthew Johnston | 2009-11-26 5:43:14 PM

He's actually a drug dealing conman.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-26 5:31:36 PM

Who's the conman?

Posted by: The P word | 2009-11-26 5:44:56 PM

How anyone can admire that narcissistic drug dealing pervert is beyond me! The only freedom he's interested in defending is his own, and he did a horrible job of it. In fact he did everything he could to undermine it.

Try picking a winner next time, and not someone who says he's for freedom. They often have ulterior motives - Ernst Zundel, Ontario's hero, for one. NAMBLA complained about being oppressed as well.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-26 6:09:02 PM

Great to see a true liberal like PJ in print on this important story.

Posted by: JC | 2009-11-26 6:21:28 PM

Calling Emery "a drug dealing conman" is a slander. He sold seeds. Were these seeds what he advertised? Yes. No con involved. Were these seeds "drugs"? No. No drugs involved.

By the way, these SAME SEEDS are sold in dispensaries all across California TOTALLY LEGALLY as this is being written. So it shouldn't have been a crime for Marc to do the same.

Marc is as much of a criminal as someone who sold grape seeds over the border during the prohibition of alcohol. Someone could grow grapes and make wine which was illegal. Hard cider is made from apples. Better bust Johnny Appleseed too!

Marc's involvement with Sunday laws goes back to his London bookstore days when he opened up on Sundays in defiance of a bad law. The public stir almost single-handedly created by Marc led to the demise of this out of date law. This daring stance stands in my eyes as an equivalent to the brave stance that Rosa Parks took in her defiance of a bad law regarding black people on buses having to sit at the back. The stir that she created by defying an out of date law got it changed.

Perhaps all those people who oppose Emery might suggest a more effective way of getting a bad law changed! Voting this party or that brings no change. Petitions are just tossed in waste baskets. Professional government review committees like the Shafer commission in the USA and the Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs in Canada recommend legalization of marijuana after they have done exhaustive studies but the governments that sponsored these studies then ignore their recommendations. Who can blame Emery for trying his approach, especially when it has actually brought change to key issues in the past!

Bravo to the Western Standard for their intelligent support of this genuine and heroic (but still admittedly imperfect) Canadian activist. Bravo to Tommy Chong for wearing supportive T-shirts to alert the public to the mistreatment Marc has received by being prosecuted for his innocuous offenses.

Canadians everywhere should be offended that a citizen of this country has to be sent to a foreign country (that he has never even visited) to have his day in court.

Please note that this posting involves no slander or name calling but just presents facts and logic. Rational people should ignore any other kind of post.

Posted by: Rev. Chris Lawson | 2009-11-26 7:23:55 PM

You're right. Emery didn't con anyone. He just deluded himself into believing he was invincible. He was wrong! He should not have sold his product to the US. While the state of California may have turned a blind eye, the Drug Enforcement Agency had a different opinion. Emery should have seen the very appropriate name of that organization and stopped his exports.

Hey how come you people don't stand up for Francis Raj, Timothy Woo, and Jonathan Valenzuela, the three BC men now in a US jail for digging a drug tunnel under the border in 2006? Aren't they innocent victims of an unjust system? I guess not, since they didn't dress up their plight as a quest for liberty.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-26 8:10:09 PM

Hey V Word.

The story is not about me you silly man.

Its about this Emery loser.

I'll publish my bio some day and you can buy the first copy!

ΙοΙ

Posted by: snowgirl | 2009-11-26 10:34:53 PM

I will tell you why Zeb. Because I have never heard of them, and even if I had, they would just be another footnote in the War on Drugs. They took no public stand for anything. They knew the risk, and still they broke the law. Why? Because of the fantastic profit prohibition has created. Marc is as public as he can be. He is saying lets stop the mechanism that creates these people who are driven by huge profits to break the law. Lets end the persecution of people who prefer pot to booze. Not everyone is a god fearing teetotaler. In fact most of us aren't. What else creates such profits for organized crime? Can you think of anything that even comes close? Its an unjust war, on innocent people. If you can't see that, I don't know what to tell you. Pull your head out of your ass maybe? I don't know.

Posted by: Steve Bottrell | 2009-11-27 12:56:52 AM

So Emery is just a gentle hippie oppressed by "the man" while doing a public service. The millions he (allegedly) made in doing so had no effect on him.

Yeah right.

It was all an image, carefully cultivated to maximize profits. Pathetic. Truly, pathetic. If people can't see that, they're blind. He's no hero, he just plays one on the nightly news.

The drug tunnel gang was hilarious - the DEA were on to them from the start. After months of digging and construction, the cops met them on the US side when they transferred their first shipment. Imagine their surprise! At least they had better lawyers than Emery - they're doing their time in a Canadian jail.

As that sage of our time, Nelson Muntz, put it:

HAW HAW

Emery is not a total loser: his sycophants are.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-27 6:59:09 AM

Can the opponents on drug legalization on this site actually post arguments instead of personal insults? And please, real arguments. Not circular ones such as Marc Emery deserves to go to jail because it's the law.

Posted by: Charles | 2009-11-27 7:55:51 AM

So let me get this straight:

Those who support Emery and "legalization" = logical arguments.

Pertinent criticism of the above = specious personal attacks.

Right. Nice one.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-27 8:26:34 AM

"Can the opponents on drug legalization on this site actually post arguments instead of personal insults?"

Posted by: Charles | 2009-11-27 7:55:51 AM

No they cannot. They do not have any arguments against which are supportable, insult are all they have. It is what one can expect from the losing side, lashing out in desperation foolishly.

Posted by: Abortion | 2009-11-27 2:34:09 PM

Those who support Emery and "legalization" = logical arguments

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-27 8:26:34 AM

There are new reasonable and logical arguments for marijuana almost everyday in many forms. This information is being solidified, and burned into the minds of the "web 2.0" world.

Professor Hiroshi Tasaka (Sophiabank Think tank) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TgXaaHPhAs

The Zebulons of the world need to get a head of the curve, and find the next ridiculous fight to fight, because this one is coming to an end for them. It is tipping Zebulon's, and there is absoulutely no turing off the age of instant enlightenment, as much as you would like to.

Posted by: The Weight of Evidence | 2009-11-27 2:46:44 PM

Posted by: The Weight of Evidence | 2009-11-27 2:50:49 PM

I prefer to do what Cartman does with hippies on South Park - wipe them out. They produce nothing for society. Every country on earth sees drug use as a social problem. Are they all inherently wrong?

I forget that these druggies are part of a cult, and so see the world though very different eyes. This is why debating them is like nailing jelly to a wall or talking at all to an Ontarian: there's no point.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-27 6:44:18 PM

Steve jobs, ya what useless non contributing hippie he tuned out to be

Posted by: Aotonomous | 2009-11-27 6:55:42 PM

Or Carl Sagan, What a stupid stoner he was eh Zeb?

How about you produce a real argument...

"I forget that these druggies are part of a cult, and so see the world though very different eyes."

Actually it is your faction that fails to accept truth and reality. Cannabis is one of the safest drugs out there (less addictive and deadly then caffeine). People who smoke it regularly are still able to achieve high status in society whether it be Arts(Pick A Famous Musician), Sciences (Carl Sagen), Politics (Previous 3 Presidents), Business (Steve Jobs), Media (Ted Turner), or Sports(Michale Phelps), Cannabis users have time and time again reached the pinnacle of success each of their chosen areas.

How About YOU Open YOUR Eyes Zeb!

Posted by: Baker | 2009-11-27 7:51:38 PM

How can a drug be safe?

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-27 7:56:50 PM

"Cannabis is one of the ***safest"

Roads are not "safe" per say, but there are roads that are SAFER then others due to design. This SAFER road is considered as such by comparison to other roads.

Cannabis is one of the safest drugs because when compared to most other common drugs (tobacco, alcohol, caffeine)it has a lower addiction level (power of addiction), and lower harm potential (ie. death, organ damage, etc.).

Posted by: Baker | 2009-11-27 8:12:37 PM

You are an adult right Zeb? Just wondering if you blatantly lack rational thought process's, or if they have yet to develop due to age.

Posted by: Baker | 2009-11-27 8:17:36 PM

Zebulon = dinosaur

bubbai, Zeb

Posted by: David | 2009-11-28 5:17:03 PM

Thank you for contacting the Western Standard!

I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Matthew Johnston

Publisher

www.westernstandard.ca

Phone: 403-701-3045

Email: matthew.johnston@westernstandard.ca

Posted by: Matthew Johnston | 2009-11-28 5:18:41 PM

A dinosaur? No. Just an average person who believes in clean living.

If you people keep your drugs out of my neighborhood, then we could get along fine.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-28 6:42:57 PM

Zeb me thinks you ingest many drugs on a daily basis.

Morning Cuppa Joe?

Libation in the evening when the chores are all done?

Enjoying your days with the intolerance and prejudice of a bigot.

I live only a few doors down from you and the neighborhood seems just fine.

Posted by: David | 2009-11-28 8:07:41 PM

Hey Zeb, how about people like you allow me to know specifically, my cannabis is not produced nor trafficked through your neighborhood or anyone's for that matter, but rather grown from industrial zoned areas and then purchased in retail zoned areas... Until then, drugs will forever be in your neighborhood.

Posted by: Baker | 2009-11-28 8:25:08 PM

Where I live, drugs are illegal but guns are. Be careful. We have the Castle Doctrine in full effect here, meaning I can use deadly force to protect my property.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-28 9:09:11 PM

I can use deadly force to protect my property.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-28 9:09:11 PM

What a goof!

Posted by: No chicken here | 2009-11-28 9:39:40 PM

"Where I live, drugs are illegal but guns are."

Made of cheese? what? **Incomplete Sentence. Please Finish.

"We have the Castle Doctrine in full effect here, meaning I can use deadly force to protect my property."

LOL grand! That's Awesome, Good for you! Too bad I have no need to trespass on anyone property let alone some specific person from the internet. /Clap

Do you have anything of value to say?

Posted by: Baker | 2009-11-28 9:51:00 PM

No he doesn't, trust me Ive been reading his shit on the standard long enough to know that Pike has nothing useful to say, ever.

Posted by: DrGreenthumb | 2009-11-29 12:43:23 AM

Thank you for contacting the Western Standard!

I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Matthew Johnston Publisher www.westernstandard.ca

Phone: 403-701-3045

Email: matthew.johnston@westernstandard.ca

Posted by: Matthew Johnston | 2009-11-29 12:45:47 AM

Why this obsession with Emery, a left wing criminal? Why don't you discuss important stuff instead, like democracy, individual rights, property rights, freedom of speech, tax payer funded bailouts for the business friends of government, the huge debts inherited by the next generation, and so on?

Posted by: Johan i Kanada | 2009-11-29 7:01:58 AM

Because many of the posters here are members of Emery's drug cult. They use this - their only forum - to attack anyone who questions their Dear Leafer. Others like the editorial staff seem oblivious to Emery's true intentions = maximizing profits for his business, and evade responsibility for his actions.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-29 8:34:52 AM

"Why don't you discuss important stuff instead, like democracy, individual rights, property rights, freedom of speech, tax payer funded bailouts......"

Posted by: Johan i Kanada | 2009-11-29 7:01:58 AM

Johan must be mentally challenged, the topic that is being discussed is exactly what he asked for. Try paying attention, while you make an attempt to comprehend from reading Johan i for idiot, Kanada.

Posted by: Marijuana is not a cult, but more of a culutre | 2009-11-29 8:49:20 AM

Holocaust deniers, NAMBLA and the CBC all want freedom of speech too. It's their only way to publicize their horrible agendas. Emery and his drug slaves are the same. Thus, the response must be the same = shut them down and wipe them out.

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-29 9:03:07 AM

"Others like the editorial staff seem oblivious to Emery's true intentions = maximizing profits for his business, and evade responsibility for his actions."

Posted by: Zebulon Pike | 2009-11-29 8:34:52 AM

Who understands what type of ad hominem rant was used here by Mr. blinding flashlight? I say it is "ad hominem abusive."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ad_hominem

Posted by: Johan Zebulon Matthews | 2009-11-29 9:09:33 AM

Okay everyone, I admit failure. My time in prison so far has changed me for good. I have now embraced the teachings of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and seek to repay my debt to society in full.

I now see the error in my ways. I apologize for selling drugs to people. They

are a blight on society. It brought me and my family nothing but misery and despair.

I now go on record opposing drugs in every way, shape or form. I encourage addicts to seek rehabilitation. It is no way to live.

Posted by: Marc Scott Emery | 2009-11-29 9:17:29 AM

"Because many of the posters here are members of Emery's drug cult."

I have already shown how the pro-prohibitionists could be considered a cult much easier then anti-prohibitionists. Ie. your complete disregard for reality.

"They use this - their only forum - to attack anyone who questions their Dear Leafer."

None of us are "following" this "leafer" as you claim, rather i've been following you. You however do follow marc and the articles written about him. On almost every one you have 1st-3rd comment. Who's the obsessed follower Zeb?

"Others like the editorial staff seem oblivious to Emery's true intentions = maximizing profits for his business"

So hes a business man? Really? He owned a Business that he didn't want to bankrupt him like most start up business do? He wanted to be successful? Good call buddy! lol.

How you come up with this gold is beyond me!

Posted by: Baker | 2009-11-29 9:17:33 AM

Zebulon Insane, your compilations of ad hominems make no sense at all. How can anybody argue with a crazy man? Try writing something that is based in reality, instead of delusional insanity.

Posted by: Johan Zebulon Matthews | 2009-11-29 9:18:03 AM

What Zebulon said is correct. I did it all for money. I developed a slick ad campaign to drag in addicts and feed their problem. Yes, I reaped millions from them, and now I feel very guilty. Once I am released from prison, in 2014 or so, I will restart my life. Jodie and I are already discussing missionary work in an as-yet undecided part of the world.

Posted by: Marc Scott Emery | 2009-11-29 9:29:00 AM

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