

## Obama denounces Scottish independence

by: Darryl W. Perry

This September, voters in Scotland will be asked whether or not the nation should leave the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. And according to a recent poll, support for Scottish independence is at 46% (once undecideds are removed). The poll also found that two-thirds of people across England, Scotland & Wales expect the bid for independence to be rejected.

This poll, the first conducted on the question, comes on the heels of a statement by President Obama during a joint press conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron. Obama said, "With respect to the future of the United Kingdom, obviously ultimately this is up to the people of Great Britain. In the case of Scotland, there is a referendum process in place and it's up to the people of Scotland. But I would [like] to say the United Kingdom has been an extraordinary partner to us. From the outside at least, it looks like things have worked pretty well. We obviously have a deep interest in making sure one of the closest allies we will ever have remains a strong, robust, united and effective partner."

The Scottish Express reports, "Until now American diplomats have said their country would remain neutral over the independence issue. However, former US Secretary of State Madeleine

Albright has previously warned Scots not to back independence as it would bad for Europe."

The statement by Obama, and the warning by Albright seem to suggest that the people of Scotland should surrender their own desires for the "greater good." The statement by Obama seemed to infuriate Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond who responded, "As President Obama rightly observes, the decision on Scotland's future is up to the people of Scotland.

We are deeply fortunate as a nation that we have the opportunity to gain our nation's independence in such a profoundly democratic way, as Mr Obama himself previously acknowledged – and not through conflict as has been the case with so many nations, including the United States itself," adding, "An independent Scotland will mean that America has two great friends and allies here rather than one."

I, for one, would like to express my support for an independent Scotland, as well as an independent Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Lakota Republic, Kosovo, Tibet, Texas, Hawai'i, and any other group of people who seek, or may in the future seek independence. I fully support the right of self-determination, meaning that I believe everyone has a right to decide for themselves of which nation, if any, they choose to be a part.

## PorcFest: A social experiment

by: Darryl W. Perry

A social experiment occurred last week in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. This experiment took place during the huge gathering that is the Porcupine Freedom Festival. The Porcupine Freedom Festival (PorcFest) is the signature event hosted by the Free State Project, "an agreement among 20,000 pro-liberty activists to move to New Hampshire, where they will exert the fullest practical effort toward the creation of a society in which the maximum role of government is the protection of life, liberty, and property."

During this week of liberty from June 22-29, I vended via an "honor store," and I was not the only one doing so. I noticed at least two other vendors operating the same way. One vendor was selling t-shirts, and the other sold produce. I was selling books. All of us accepted Bitcoin. I accepted cash payments for anyone who wished to pay using that method. Additionally, some of the other people I shared my site with accepted cash payments on my behalf. On a couple of occasions people approached and stated they owed me money. This morning, Ben Stone ("The Bad Quaker") contacted me via email to say he owed me Bitcoin for a book he purchased for Jeffrey Tucker. Ben actually sent me more than he owed and an email stating, "Keep the change." While I admittedly did not keep a written record to fully account for all transactions, it did not appear that any of my stock went missing.

I did not get a chance to inquire with the other vendors operating honor stores about their experience, though I would presume they also had no unaccounted for merchandise. I would not dare operate an honor store in a different environment, because of the risk stolen merchandise. I cannot officially call this a scientific experiment; there was no control group with which to compare results. Based on my previous experiences, it is safe to presume that these results could be replicated in a scientific manner if the test subjects were able to self-identify themselves within the libertarian-quadrant of the Nolan Chart.

Additionally, I did not spend the entire week vending. I did get a chance to mingle with attendees and vendors as well as attend some of the events. Two things stick out in my mind most: the sense of community that comes from interacting with people with similar beliefs, and the entrepreneurial spirit of the community. I previously wrote about my PorcFest experience, as have others about theirs, but no amount of reading articles will give you the feeling of attending PorcFest. There were just too many great experiences during the week to begin writing them all down. From the impromptu game nights, to meeting new friends, to the Ramadan meal given out by Muslims for Liberty (in all 313 bowl of food were distributed), and everything in between; it truly is something you must experience to believe!

## Community Calendars

### RECURRING EVENTS

#### CONCORD

Second Saturday of the month – Concord Porcupines: Tandy's Top Shelf in Eagle Square – Noon-1:30pm.

#### DOVER

Last Tuesday of the month – The Dover Liberty Book Club: Kaleo Coffeehouse, 83 Main St. – 7:00pm

#### DOVER / EXETER / PORTSMOUTH

Thursday – NH Seacoast Liberty Meetup: rotates weekly between Dover, Exeter & Portsmouth – 7:00pm  
<http://www.meetup.com/nhseacoastliberty>

#### KEENE

Every Sunday – Keene Bitcoin Meetup: McCue's Billiards & Sports, 12 Emerald St. – 5:30pm

#### KEENE

Every Sunday – Social Sunday: McCue's Billiards & Sports, 12 Emerald St. – 6:00pm

#### LEBANON

Last Tuesday of the month – Upper Valley Porcupines: Lebanon Village Pizza, 45 Hanover St. #1 – 6:00-8:00pm

#### MANCHESTER

First Saturday of the month – Merrimack Valley Porcupines: The Quill, Amory St. – 11:00am

#### MANCHESTER

Tuesday – Taproom Tuesday: The Quill, Murphy's Taproom, 494 Elm St. – 5:00-7:00pm

#### MANCHESTER

Sunday – Shire Bitcoin Meetup: Murphy's Diner, 516 Elm St. – 6:00-9:00pm

#### NASHUA

Wednesdays – Freedom Forum discussion: Barnes & Noble, 235 Daniel Webster Highway – 7:00-9:00pm

#### NASHUA

Sunday – Nashua Liberty Meetup: Martha's Exchange, 185 Main St. – 6:00-8:00pm

#### WEARE

First and Third Thursday of the month – FreeWeare: Weare Town Grille, 840 S Stark Hwy – 6:30-8:30pm

Submit your events to [editor@fpp.cc](mailto:editor@fpp.cc) – please send event information by the final Sunday of each month.



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## Making a tiny portable home

by: Darryl W. Perry

I think most people will say they want to have a place of their own. I count myself among that group, though I have also said that I never want to buy land because of property taxes. I also love to travel. Some people have combined their home with their ability to travel and bought RV's or other portable living spaces, and the idea has always fascinated me. I've also been interested in tiny-homes (houses less than 1,000 square feet) for several years.

Recently, I had the opportunity to purchase a GMC 3500 Cutaway, aka mini-bus. I have lovingly dubbed this vehicle the "not-a-bus" as bus is, apparently, a legal term for an automobile that has the capacity to seat 16 or more passengers plus a driver. At the time of purchase, the not-a-bus only had seating for 14 passengers plus a driver, which also had the added benefit of meaning that a CDL was not required.

With the help of a local handyman, who worked for tools & food, I was able to get most of the seats ripped out. I left one seat, plus the driver seat intact. The one seat in the back that was left intact, is attached to a heater, and is also serving as the headrest for the bed that was fashioned from the frames of four of the seats that were removed.

In all, it took about 20 hours for two people working in tandem, to remove six of the seats; cut, grind and weld four of the seat frames together into a bed frame, and re-install one seat in a rear-facing position. Four of the seat cushions were placed back into the seat frames to make the mattress for the bed. A mattress topper was put on top of that to smooth out the seams.

continued on page 4



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## Congress “restricts” the DEA (with a \$35 million budget increase)

by: Darryl W. Perry

At the end of May, the US House of Representatives made headlines for voting on an amendment that would restrict the Drug Enforcement Agency from obstructing state industrial hemp programs, and from cracking down on medical marijuana facilities. An email from the Drug Policy Alliance states, “the U.S. House made an historic move by voting to prohibit the Drug Enforcement Administration from interfering with state medical marijuana laws. The bipartisan amendment passed with 219 ‘yes’ votes.” Adding “After years of hard work with our allies in Congress, there is now bipartisan consensus in favor of letting states set their own marijuana policies. And the votes are an embarrassment for the DEA, a federal agency that represents everything that’s wrong with the war on drugs. An end to our country’s failed 40-year drug war is truly within sight.”

This is definitely a good sign, and those members of Congress who voted to restrict the DEA should be lauded for doing the right thing. However, I feel I must disagree with the DPA. I don’t believe that the end of the drug war is in sight. If anything, this vote will become a rallying cry for supporters of the drug war. Even if the amendment that restricts the DEA in some areas makes it through the Senate and past the President, the DEA is going to receive a \$35 million raise! You read that right. Despite voting to restrict the DEA from interfering in states with legal

## Gardner Goldsmith files for US Senate run!

On June 12, author, television scriptwriter and public speaker P. Gardner Goldsmith arrived in Concord from his childhood home in Amherst to file as the Libertarian candidate for the 2014 US Senate against Jeanne Shaheen, and the prospective GOP candidate.

Goldsmith’s reasons are numerous, and center on principles.

“The courageous men and women of the Revolutionary Era understood ideals that are not popular among establishment politicians like Jeanne Shaheen and the GOP’s likely choice, Scott Brown,” he said.

“They understood that you have natural rights to your life, your liberty, and the fruits of your labor. They understood that you have a right to defend all those things with arms, without ANY interference from politicians and bureaucrats. They understood that you have a right to privacy, and formulated rules in the Constitution to protect against precisely the kinds of unwarranted searches that happen on phone and internet systems, in private homes, in airports, and in cars every oppressive day in contemporary America.”

“They wrote rules for the operation of the US government and clearly enumerated the powers granted to it.

“But today’s politicians pay no heed. They send the US military on aggressive missions without a legal Declaration of War in order to torture captives contrary to the Geneva Accords. They kill people without trial – men, women and children — by hitting them with drones, then tell us those who seek retribution hate America for our supposed freedoms.

industrial hemp or medicinal cannabis, the House is increasing the DEA’s budget by \$35 million.

Congressman Jared Polis put forth an amendment to only give the DEA the amount requested. That amendment was defeated by a vote of 339-66. Before the vote on the Polis amendment, Polis asked on the House floor, “What has the DEA done to deserve a \$35 million raise? Why are we singling out the DEA to receive funds above what the DEA itself requested in the president’s budget? The DEA has demonstrated time and time again that it can’t efficiently manage the resources it already has. It’s diverting funds to ridiculous things like impounding industrial hemp seeds, which have no narcotic content, intimidating legal marijuana businesses in states like mine [Colorado], wasting money on marijuana infractions that are legal in states where they occur.”

Polis doesn’t specifically mention the fact that the DEA has also raided businesses that previously sold products that contained synthetic cannabis, which was placed on the Schedule I of the list of controlled substances earlier this year, nor does he specify the countless men, women, children, and animals that have been killed because of the war on drugs, spear-headed by the DEA. I would like to be optimistic that the vote to restrict a small portion of the DEA’s authority is a step towards ending the drug war; however, I am realistic in believing there is still a lot of work to be done before the DEA is even abolished!

article“They take not only our money, but the money of people not even born, forcing servitude on them — to labor without personal consent. And they give us childish excuses. They say that ‘America has spoken’, or they are ‘defending freedom’, or they are ‘investing in America.’

“The last time I looked, theft and redistribution of wealth weren’t ‘investments’.”

Goldsmith concluded with this warning.

“This observation is one of not only Democrats and the current occupant of the White House, but of the establishment GOP. Scott Brown voted for the indefinite detention of Americans under the National Defense Authorization Act... And so did Jeanne Shaheen. Brown recently told radio host Howie Carr that he would ‘never sponsor a bill to further restrict the right to keep and bear arms’ but he did not say he would never vote for one if it were sponsored by someone ELSE. Meanwhile, Jeanne Shaheen sees fit to invade your medical privacy via her outrageous support for the so-called ‘Affordable Care Act’.

“They are shells lacking principle. Avatars without spines. They are dangerous to you, your earnings, and the futures of your children. They make nebulous statements about their love of home and country while burning the document that gives them their seats in power.

“They spit in your faces and call it rain. It’s time to stop the abuse and vote libertarian. Show them you are an individual. Show them your worth. You still have a chance to stand up for principle.”

## Bitcoin entrepreneur launches online institution to get “a better learning experience”

by: Darryl W. Perry

A young man by the name of Erik Finman has received a fair amount of news in the recent weeks after it came to light that he made a six-figure profit on a bitcoin investment, and then opened his own business. In 2012, Finman received \$1,000 from his grandmother and invested it in bitcoin. Mashable.com reports, nearly 18 months later, he sold his investment for \$100,000 “and used the earnings to launch Botangle.com, an online tutoring service that runs on video chat.”

In a Reddit AMA (Ask Me Anything), he said, “I’m Erik Finman, a 15-year old entrepreneur from Idaho... I owe a lot to my older brother. He told me about Bitcoins and help me get set up with 0.2 bitcoins that he gave me. And my grandmother just out of the blue gave me a \$1000 check for Easter... And I just said screw it, let’s buy bitcoins with this money so I can trump my brother in how many bitcoins he had at the time.” Adding, “With my earnings I decided to address some of the negative experiences I had in the educational system. Tutoring that is focused and student-centric and engages students in ways responsive to needs and available technology became my passion.”

Finman said he didn’t think of Botangle as a company when he first started the site; rather, he simply wanted a better learning experience than he was getting from his school. He now manages a 20-person team of programmers, designers, animators, and other professionals from all over the world, not including the experts who teach classes on the site. During the AMA, he said, “I am generating money. Just not profit.” Though, I’m fairly certain things will soon change for this young man, who has big dreams and a deal with his parents. “If I make a million dollars before I turn 18,” he said, “I don’t have to go to college. I’m going to do it or die trying.” He is currently continuing his education via homeschooling.

While this story, on the one hand is a success story about how people can turn a check from grandma into a six-figure profit, and use that money to start a business; on the other hand, this is a story about how public school is failing the students. This young man was not learning what he wanted to learn, nor was it being offered by the one-size-fits-all government school. He also wasn’t able to find what he was looking for on sites like Khan Academy. In an “interview” on Yabbly, Finman said, “Kahn Academy only has videos that only help to a certain extent. With Botangle you’re connected to a live person that you can talk to. You can tell the teacher your specific problem and he can help you solve it.”

Finman told Business Insider, “I think of it (Botangle) as an online institution. I’m working on making Botangle the best website on the web for someone to completely leave the status quo education system and learn completely through the web!”

When it comes to the free market, education and starting a business, Finman has found that “you can create anything you want with no barrier to entry on the Internet.”

by: Jeffrey Tucker

“That will be \$3.59.”

The cashier at this New Hampshire campground coffee shop had totaled the amount for my coffee and English muffin. She had to look at a list of prices and punch them into the cash register, one digit at a time. When I gave her \$1 bills, she put that amount in too. The drawer opened with a ding and she counted my change.

All the while, the owner was looking over her shoulder to make sure that she was doing it the right way. The employee was under training.

What’s so special about this? Nothing really...except that it seemed like 1975. There was no internet connection, no bar codes, no QR codes, no swiping, no tablets, no cryptocurrencies. It was as analog a scene as one can imagine.

It worked well enough. The shop can take credit cards for amounts over \$10 but the person in front of me chose this option and it delayed the service for up to 5 minutes. I could hear the clunky old carbon press run back and forth from the back office. It was then that I decided to use cash. Good thing I had some because the nearest ATM is 5 miles away.

What’s wrong with this scene? Nothing really. It’s what Joseph Schumpeter called “a picture of stagnating routine.” It’s probably the case that in many parts of rural America, technology works just like this. They’ve never really seen the need to switch to something more modern. When you think about the costs of equipment, the time and frustration, the database indexing, and the learning curve, perhaps this shop is right to keep doing what it is doing.

It’s easy to laugh, and be startled. I always resist this snobbish urge whenever someone near me brings out a flip phone, as if it were some dinosaur, forgetting that 10 years ago, such a phone was amazing. So it is with the cash register in this charming coffee shop. Fifty years ago, this machine would have been a technological marvel.

But what about the suppliers who make the goods for sale here, bring the coffee from far lands, manufacturer the wrappers that keep the cheese danish tasting fresh, the makers of the grills and the producers of the steel in the grills? These business-to-business operations can’t afford not to use the latest technology, and they do. The little shop might be thrown back in time but those capitalistic enterprises that sustain it are surely using the latest, or they face death by competition.

We are long accustomed to thinking of swaths of time in terms of technology. The Bronze Age. The Iron Age. The Industrial Age. The Digital Age. We imagine that these changes happen all at once. But the truth is that in any complex, functioning economy, the layers of technological advances are piled thickly on top of each other in an endlessly evolving, ever-changing process. For any single merchant, there is only the need for a change from one to another... when there is a need for a change from one to another.

Meanwhile, the market rewards innovations that are backwards but compatible with what already exists. The

## A pocket full of change

result is a complex system of technological layers that coordinate with each other. It ends up looking like a complex mosaic of old and new. It is an intertemporal ballet of innovation coordinated over large swaths of time and space.

No one directs the process. No one mandates change from one stage to another. The stages of development overlap and work to the betterment of all.

Just looking out the window toward the mountains, I’m seeing telephone and electricity poles that might have been put up 50 years ago, and wires that might have been around 30 years. These days all such things are buried down low. I’m also seeing a road that was probably first carved out from nature 200 or 300 hundred years ago. There are cars in the parking lot that range from new to decades old, each one serviced with parts appropriate to the age.

The job of capitalism is not only to forge a brilliant future different from the past; it is also to maintain the value of the past and coordinate it with an unpredictable future. Innovations that enhance rather than devalue accumulated capital can be more socially beneficial than those that tear us away from the past.

History changes through the choices of individuals, one mind at a time, through volitionally disruptive decisions that depart from routine. This means that change necessarily takes place not through large aggregate leaps but with an infinitely complex series of tiny steps that never stop rolling forward.

I write those sentences to remind myself. You see, I’ve recently been doing deep study of one of the most exciting innovations of our time: the blockchain that makes possible a trustless system of communication, contract, and property exchange. It’s mind blowing to consider the kind of world the blockchain can make possible, a world without third-party intermediation services standing between us and the connections we desire to make with anyone in the world.

This subject is so outlandish that its almost impossible to conceive of the implications. The blockchain could actually make obsolete every third-party system of control that is currently keeping us back, whether the system is financial, cultural, or even political. What could be the need for “representative” democracy in a world that makes peer-to-peer everything possible, regardless of geography?

Dreaming of such a world, seeing how it is the next step beyond the evolving cryptocurrency that stands ready to displace national monetary systems, it is helpful to remember just how slowly such innovations really do roll themselves out into real life. Those of us with heads full of tech can easily get impatient, observing that system X is so much better, and so obviously so, that it should clearly be adopted immediately. Why the delay?

But the truth is that there is a market function to the pacing of technological change. There is no such thing as starting over in this world. The evolution of civilization proceeds from what exists and gradually works itself toward what can be, with the highest possible consideration for maintaining the value of the work that has gone before.

To put the lesson in terms of computer code, no one in this world writes on a blank screen. Entrepreneurs and innovators are hackers working with an existing code, changing it a bit at a time toward improvement and carefully avoiding writing code that is not backwards compatible with what came before.

It’s a beautiful scene to watch the market economy evolve, finding the right balance between the value of the old and the value of the new. The contrast with politics couldn’t be more stark: here bad code is piled on top of bad code in ever more crusty layers that end up holding us back from where we want to go.

I’m charmed by the old-world coffee shop and its thrown-back systems. Still, when this wonderful place starts accepting Bitcoin, I’m prepared to say that our evolution to a higher state of being will be near complete. Meanwhile, I am the proud owner of change that amounts to 41 cents — a quarter, a dime, a nickel, and one rotten penny — rattling around in my pocket and pointlessly taking up space.

reposted from Tucker.Liberty.me

## Not a bus

continued from page 2

Wire was run above the windows, and curtains made out of pillowcases and bed sheets. Two more pieces of wire were run behind the steps and driver seat, and fleece blankets were hung to allow the back of the not-a-bus to be closed off from outside viewing. The next thing that I want done is to get screen put up around some of the windows, so that I can sleep with a window open and not have to worry about bugs getting into the sleeping area.

I am still trying to figure out what to do about a kitchen and bathroom; though, the plan is to ultimately have the not-a-bus become my own tiny portable house with wind and/or solar power to keep my laptop and cell phone charged. And, if one geographic area becomes too oppressive or boring, I can always take my house somewhere else!

