

Free Stater Alleged to be Silk Road Admin, “Inigo”

by: Ian Freeman

Free State Project participant Andrew Michael Jones of Norfolk, Virginia was arrested in December of 2013 along with others accused of being the operators of the Silk Road underground marketplace. Andrew is alleged to be the longtime site administrator, “Inigo”. Thus far, almost all of the news headlines about the Silk Road arrests have gone to Ross Ulbricht, who is accused of being the infamous site’s creator and head admin, “Dread Pirate Roberts”. Andrew is accused of similar allegations as Ross, “conspiracy to commit money laundering, narcotics trafficking, and hacking” and is facing spending the rest of his life in federal prison.



While Ross Ulbricht was not offered bail, Andrew was able to get out on \$1,000,000 bail thanks to his parents, who did not have anything close to that amount of money, so they put up their house and retirement incomes to secure a bond. His bail conditions include 24/7 house arrest at his parents’ house and being strictly forbidden from using any internet capable device. His girlfriend, Birdie, (who is also a Free State Project participant) is the one who reached out to me and she and Andrew’s family have set up a website to accept contributions to his legal fund, as they can use all the help they can get.

Andrew’s mother, Judy Jones, 68, told me this about him, “He’s very bright, kind, generous and has always been an idealist. When he first told me about bitcoins, he helped me envision a world where the central banks are no longer in charge of money. If it were instead a peer-based monetary system, so much good can come from that. I have hope for a better world thanks to his generation (the Millennials).”

Unlike Ross’ case, Andrew does not face the “kingpin” charge. Plus, he has not been libeled with allegations of murder for hire, as Ross has. Hopefully, that will help with this fundraising ability. He has retained the services of attorney Samuel M. Braverman and the bill will likely be very expensive.

As have many activists looking at moving to New Hampshire, Andrew and Birdie made the pilgrimage to Keene in December of 2012 and came to visit Social Sunday. I met both of them there and truly hope he can get through this difficult time with the minimum damage possible. If Andrew did not administer the Silk Road, then he’s a man wrongfully accused, but if he did, he’s a hero. The Silk Road was (and is) the most important

development to happen to the black market in our lifetimes.

It has reduced harm caused from unscrupulous dealers selling bunk product in the streets and has reduced violence by making both sides of each transaction anonymous, and separating them by distance. No one can get beaten or killed in a Silk Road transaction and the underground marketplace has a ratings system, ensuring the quality dealers are easy to identify. This open, yet anonymous competition for international business results in product quality and selection going up while prices come down from what one would pay on the streets. The Silk Road has literally saved lives, both of dealers as well as users who would have overdosed on bad street drugs, but instead were able to get good quality product from the Silk Road. If Andrew Jones was involved in the Silk Road enterprise, he should be given an award, rather than prison time. Of course, that would be in a just world that understands the insanity of drug prohibition, or any prohibition for that matter.



If you love liberty, please support Andrew’s defense by contributing via BTC or credit card/paypal (I just sent them a whole bitcoin.), and sharing this story via your favorite social media and online forums. Also, please share his defense fundraising site, DrewsDefense.org.

Finally, consider joining Andrew, his girlfriend, and Ross Ulbricht’s mother Lyn (she signed up at Porcfest!) and sign up now for the Free State Project. People who love liberty are moving to New Hampshire and getting active to build liberty-oriented community. Over 1,600 are here in NH already and nearly 16,000 are pledged to move once we reach 20,000 signers. We need you! Please read the Free State Project’s “Statement of Intent”, sign it, and start making your plans to move and get involved with the most exciting and successful migration for liberty in the world. Stay tuned here to Free Keene for the latest on this case.

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More information about Drew Smith’s case:

News of the arrest
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/20/silk-road-case_n_4481474.html

Great talk by Joseph Cox explaining the Silk Road and Deep Web
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ5omgCpBTM>

Wired article about SR and how it reduced violence the world
<http://www.wired.com/2014/06/silk-road-study>

Community Calendars RECURRING EVENTS

CONCORD

Second Saturday of the month – Concord Porcupines: (location varies, check facebook) – 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: (location varies, check facebook) – 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 – please send event information by the final Sunday of each month.



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Police shouldn't have what can't be purchased on the open market

by: Darryl W. Perry

A senior White House official has said that President Obama will review the programs that allow local police to obtain militarized weapons and equipment. The Washington Post reports, "The review probably will include the Defense Department's Excess Property program, which is designed to give away tents, generators, pickup trucks and all-terrain vehicles, as well as military aircraft, grenade launchers and heavily armed tactical vehicles. That program has distributed \$4.3 billion worth of equipment since 1997."

It is not known at this time whether or not the white House will investigate the grant program used by the Department of Homeland Security to give Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter Attack Trucks (BearCat) to municipalities across the country. Although we do know that DHS will take part in the review to be led by White House staff, and will also include the Domestic Policy Council, the National Security Council, the Office of Management and Budget, and the departments of Defense, Justice and Treasury.

BearCats, and other military style weapons, are given out upon request to police departments across the country under the guise of helping fight terrorism. However, in some locales these anti-terrorism tools are being used to serve warrants, or shut down protests as have been seen not just in Ferguson, but also during the 2009 G-20 protests in Pittsburgh, as well as both the RNC & DNC in 2012, and to a lesser extent in 2008.

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Market Basket was not a worker's revolution

by: Darryl W. Perry

It began as an epic family feud with seemingly everyone in New England taking sides. CNN reports, "The dispute began in June when the company's board replaced [Arthur T.] Demoulas, who was beloved for his leadership but had long feuded with his cousin, Arthur S. Demoulas, over control of the family-owned company. Arthur S. and his family controlled 50.5% of the shares of the company."

After the ouster of Arthur T. as CEO of Market Basket, management and employees walked out in what some were calling a worker's revolution. This revolt led to deliveries being halted, shelves being empty, and hours for part-time employees being slashed. Customers were asked by the protesting workers to boycott the nearly empty stores.

In late August the standoff ended, with the ousted CEO buying the company for an estimated \$1.5 billion. While the deal has not yet been finalized, Arthur T. and his

management team would return to the chain immediately. He addressed some of his employees and supporters the day after the purchase, telling them, "As I stand before you I'm in awe of what you all accomplished. You have demonstrated to the world that it is a person's moral obligation and social responsibility to protect a culture that provides an honorable and dignified place in which to work."

While this is being seen by some as a major victory for the power of a united work force in bringing about change at a corporate level; CNN reports, "It is believed to have lost several million in potential revenue daily." Adding that such a loss is "a major blow in the grocery industry, whose profit margins are low.

The situation also hurt employees. Management repeatedly threatened to terminate workers who did not show up, but held off while negotiations for a sale were ongoing."

During this debacle, I attempted to remain neutral, siding

with neither the corporate board, which reportedly knew beforehand that firing Arthur T. would result in a worker revolt; nor the employees who seemed eager to risk the future of the company in hopes of making a point to the corporate board.

Truth be told, this was not a worker's revolution, it was a weird double-hostage standoff situation that looked like both the board and the employees were threatening to sacrifice the business in the name of Arthur T. Demoulas. The board was only able to save face, by selling the company to the ousted CEO, and the situation was only resolved because the former CEO cared enough about the family business to keep it from being completely destroyed.

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by: Darryl W. Perry

For most of August, eyes around the world have been on Ferguson, Missouri. There have been protests and candle light vigils every night since August 9. Some of the protests have turned violent with police firing teargas and rubber bullets at both protesters and reporters, and looting by some of the protesters. The protests and vigils were sparked after police killed an unarmed teenager shortly after noon on Saturday, August 9 as the teen was walking away from the police with his hands in the air pleading, "Don't shoot, I'm not armed."

One week after the protests began, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency and implemented a curfew. Captain Ron Johnson of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, speaking of the curfew, said, "We won't enforce it with tanks. We won't enforce it with teargas."

It seems that Johnson's pledge was quickly broken as several canisters of smoke and tear gas were used, and seven people were arrested for "failure to disperse" after the curfew took effect. He said police were trying to give protesters "every opportunity to comply with the curfew."

One must wonder if the protesters arrested after the curfew began were given the same opportunities provided to the two reporters arrested last Wednesday in a Ferguson McDonald's? During that incident, in which two reporters were arrested and released without charge, police told everyone to leave a McDonald's and initially told the reporters they could stay. Wesley Lowery, a reporter for The Washington Post, said police returned a short time later, demanding that the reporters leave. Lowery says he was instructed to leave through one exit, then the other, as he turned his bag fell from his shoulder and he was arrested. Ryan J. Reilly from the Huffington Post was also arrested. The Washington Post reports, the pair of journalists "were then taken to the back of a police car, where they sat alongside a member of the clergy who had also been cuffed" for unknown reasons.

In a separate incident on the same night, police fired a "bean bag round" at a camera crew, apparently for getting

It's 1984 in Ferguson

too close to an altercation between police and an individual they were detaining. About 5 to 10 minutes later, police fired tear gas at another news crew. The first crew, from KSDK-TV, recorded this incident. KSDK reports the Al Jazeera America crew was yelling, "We're the press," and can be seen running away from the van. "Then two police officers can be seen taking down the crew's television lights and tilting the TV camera toward the ground." Police then approached the KSDK crew "with guns drawn" claiming to be responding to "a call that members of the media were in danger and in need of assistance."

Clearly, the way you respond to media in need of assistance is to fire bean bags and tear gas at them, then come up to them with guns drawn. The incident takes another Orwellian turn. The next day, the St. Charles County Regional SWAT Team released a statement, which reads in part, "The position of the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department is that the media has the right to cover these events and supports the freedom of the press, and the SWAT Team has not been any part of attempting to prevent media coverage. In fact, last night the SWAT Team officers were assisting the media in moving their camera equipment and media personnel to a safer area with their consent so that they could continue to cover the event."

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press sent a letter to officials in the Ferguson and St. Louis County police departments, as well as the Missouri Highway Patrol, stating, "Officers on the ground must understand that gathering news and recording police activities are not crimes. The actions in Ferguson demonstrate a lack of training among local law enforcement in the protections required by the First Amendment as well as the absence of respect for the role of newsgatherers."

It can not be said enough that if there is to be a freedom of the press, which the U.S. Constitution supposedly recognizes, the freedoms and protections of the press should be extended to everyone who considers themselves a member of the media, and police should be consistently reminded that journalism is not a crime!

Traffic fatalities decline when cannabis use rises?

by: Darryl W. Perry

At the beginning of the year, cannabis was re-legalized in Colorado. Those opposed to the move predicted dire results for the Rocky Mountain State, including increased usage and a rise in stoned drivers causing an increase in traffic fatalities.

Those opposed to the re-legalization cite examples of more people testing positive for cannabis in their system, which doesn't prove the person was actually high at the moment of testing, only that the person had consumed cannabis within the past couple of weeks. Radley Balko writes, "one dubious example, in which the Colorado Highway Patrol and some local and national media perpetuated a story that a driver was high on pot when he slammed into a couple of police cars parked on an interstate exit ramp. While the driver did have some pot in his system, his blood-alcohol level was off the charts and was far more likely the cause of the accident."

However, the media reports of this accident didn't mention alcohol as being involved. Could it be that the media reports, which included briefings by the police, were being

written in a way to further an agenda? Could it be that because alcohol has been legal longer, and is more accepted, that the media decided to gloss over a drunk-driving accident to perpetuate the myth of the danger of stoned-drivers?

A recent study was released showing the statistical highs, lows and averages for traffic fatalities during the previous 12 years. Traffic fatalities for both 2013 and 2014 are below the average, and 2014, to date, has been safer than 2013, during the same time period. Balko adds, "While the number of miles Americans drive annually has leveled off nationally since the mid-2000s, the number of total miles traveled continues to go up in Colorado. If we were to measure by rate, then, the state would be at lows unseen in decades."

In July, the US House Oversight Committee held a hearing titled Planes, Trains and Automobiles: Operating While Stoned to discuss "the impact of... increasing use of marijuana in our society." John Mica, who chaired the subcommittee hearing said, "We have no standard test for marijuana for drivers," adding "We are going to have a lot

more people stoned on the highway and there will be consequences."

Some have called for a zero-tolerance policy, saying the 5 nanograms of THC per milliliter of blood is too permissive. There is however a problem with zero-tolerance. Despite such a policy being thrown out in Arizona, it would essentially mean that anyone who uses cannabis on a somewhat regular basis would be prohibited from driving even if they are not high. Could you imagine the outrage if a legislator proposed prohibiting drinkers or tobacco smokers from driving if those substances had been used in the previous 2-4 weeks? One thing is certain, if no one were allowed to drive, traffic fatalities would approach zero!

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Police shouldn't have what can't be purchased on the open market

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Attorney General Eric H. Holder said, "This equipment flowed to local police forces because they were increasingly being asked to assist in counterterrorism. But displays of force in response to mostly peaceful demonstrations can be counterproductive. It makes sense to take a look at whether military-style equipment is being acquired for the right purposes and whether there is proper training on when and how to deploy it."

During a recent news conference, Obama said there is "a big difference between our military and our local law enforcement and we don't want those lines blurred."

Those lines became blurred when the local police began receiving and using military equipment. Those lines are also blurred because the police are using equipment that the average person is unable to obtain. I don't mean equipment that is too expensive for the average person to purchase, I mean equipment that the average person is prohibited from purchasing. The website for Lenco, the company that makes the BearCat, states, "all product information and brochures are... only available to Authorized Law Enforcement and Government Personnel and Government Agencies."

One proposal for dealing with the militarization of police, that I'm sure will fail everywhere it is attempted, is to prohibit local law enforcement from acquiring military-equipped vehicles or equipment that is not readily available in an open national commercial market.

Election reforms have failed

by: Darryl W. Perry

I've spent considerable time studying ballot access laws and election results, I've even written a book on the topic. One thing that is obvious is that election rules are rigged to support the parties in power. This is so obvious, that according to a recent poll by Rasmussen, 68% of voters think election rules are rigged to favor incumbents and are unfair to voters.

Often times, someone or some group will tout a proposal to reform the election rules in some way. Among the recent proposals that have picked up some significant level of support are: Top Two elections, "Clean Elections" campaign financing, and independent redistricting commissions. However, these have all failed.

The myth of Top Two, which was first approved by voters in Washington in 2004, is that more moderate candidates will get elected, and that elections will be more competitive. However, the truth about Top Two is that voter choice is virtually eliminated at the general election, and some voters are given the choice of voting for two candidates from the same party. This alone should be seen as disenfranchising every voter who is not a member of that party. The claim that more moderate candidates get elected has been debunked, as well. Ballot Access News reports, "Political scientists who have studied primary systems invariably find that top-two election systems do not elect more centrist candidates."

Clean Elections financing, which has been implemented to some degree in 7 states, is where "the campaigns of candidates who choose to participate in public financing programs are financed solely with public funds; these candidates are prohibited from raising funds from private sources." Another 7 states provide for taxpayer funded matching of campaign funds. The rules for matching funds are often times written in such a way as to only fund the campaigns of Republican and Democrat candidates, while the Clean Elections financing is offered to all candidates

and can be rejected. Both Clean Elections financing and matching funds are often rejected by Libertarian Party candidates who believe that financing of campaigns should not be controlled by governments.

Independent Redistricting Commissions are currently used in 13 states. Many of these so called independent commissions are nothing more than partisan commissions where elected officials are able to hand-pick the members of the commission; even the supposed non-partisan California Citizens Redistricting Commission, which is chosen by a combination of government auditors and members of the commission, "must include 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 members from neither party." To be approved, the "boundaries need votes from three Democratic commissioners, three Republican commissioners, and three commissioners from neither party." This is probably the closest thing there is to an actual non-partisan redistricting committee, however the major parties still have considerable influence over the process. A better way to create new legislative districts would be to make use of computer algorithms. Computer redistricting could eliminate political influence, especially if the only data put into the system are the populations, jurisdiction boundaries, and the number of districts needed. However, convincing a legislature to give up some of its power may be difficult.

Two election reforms that are rarely given much attention are reform of ballot access laws, and modification of the method of elections. The New Hampshire legislature heard a proposal a few years ago to implement approval voting, however without simultaneously reforming the ballot access laws to allow more than two parties on the ballot, such a change is meaningless. It's past time that we have a serious discussion about changing the method of electing those who supposedly represent us, and any serious discussion would include a complete overhaul of the current election system!