

banging away tunelessly on a guitar, yelling "Howard Stern for Governor! Howard Stern for Governor!"

The porno shock-jock and clown Howard Stern has not only seized the publicity of a Libertarian race for governor. He has inevitably stamped the Libertarian Party, from this point on, in his own repellent and delayed-adolescent image. It should be clear to even the most loyal and most dedicated LP activist that the Libertarian Party is now dead as any sort of vehicle for serious social or political change. The Libertarian Party has been dominated by cultural leftists and hippie/druggies for several years. It is now and forevermore their helpless captive.

All we need now, to complete the merriment, is for Stern to top off his success this year by running for President in '96 on the Libertarian ticket. ■

American Jewry Saved!

by M.N.R.

Did you know that American Jewry was very recently in mortal peril, in imminent danger of another Holocaust? What, you didn't? Well, frankly, neither did I, because this dread peril was nipped in the bud by the ever-vigilant anti-anti-Semitic fighters of the American Jewish Committee before we even had a chance to find out about it.

What happened was this: recently, the eminent retired pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies, Steve Carlton, was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, to be inducted into the Hall with due pomp and ceremony on July 31. Free-lance writer Pat Jordan paid a two-day visit to the great pitcher on his 400-acre ranch near Durango, Colorado, to interview him and his views on life for the panting readers of

Philadelphia
m a g a z i n e .

These days, of course, it would be considered impossibly narrow-minded to confine star athletes to their views on their chosen occupation; instead, every ball player is expected to be a "role model" for every member of the nation's youth. So therefore, every athlete is expected to sound off on every Deep Topic. But the price for this respect has to be paid; for every one of his views has to be Politically Correct.

But Steve Carlton apparently flunked the PC test. According to Pat Jordan, Carlton turns out to be a right-wing survivalist, and a Conspiracy Theorist of History. According to Jordan's account (in *Philadelphia* magazine, April), Mr. Carlton

definitely seemed a Conspiracy Theorist, but he was a bit confused on which conspiracy was winning out. At one point he allegedly charged that the Russian and U.S. governments (separately? together?) are controlling us with "low frequency sound waves"; at another point, that the British MI-5 and MI-6 intelligence agencies are ruling the world, and at another that the "world is

controlled by a committee of 300 which meets at a roundtable in Rome." [In case any reader doesn't know what's in Rome it's spelled V-A-T-I-C-A-N.] But none of this disturbed the ever-watchful sentinels of the American Jewish Committee. What caught their eagle eye was the pronouncement that the "Elders of Zion rule the

world," and that "12 Jewish bankers meeting in Switzerland rule the world." In short, the famous *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*.

In our present world, no thought crime, however obscure, goes unpunished, although of course *real* crimes are committed with impunity every day. But the hawk-eyed sentries of the American Jewish Committee never rest, and

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they bombarded baseball leaders across the country with demands that Steve Carlton apologize, and that baseball cancel its plans to induct him into the Hall of Fame.

What do one's views of contemporary history have to do with baseball prowess? Not a damned thing, of course, but in a world of Political Correctness everyone has to toe the totalitarian line.

Did Mr. Carlton have the courage of his alleged convictions? Did he stand tall like the Bosnian Serbs and tell World Opinion to go to Hell? What do *you* think? No, it only took a few days for Steve Carlton to cave. In a statement released by his business manager, Mike Sheehan, Carlton angrily denied that his views are anything like those portrayed in the Jordan article.

No, no, no, said Carlton, the "article has almost no truth in it....It is wrong about my baseball career, my personal beliefs, my family life and my new hometown." Etc. And Carlton went on to insist on his lifelong record of deep respect for every person, "be they Jewish, Black, or white." (Presumably, blacks were thrown into the picture to

cover every possible angle." What, no denunciation of "homophobia"? No insistence on undying support for Nafta?

Mr. Carlton having groveled sufficiently, touched his head to the floor and backed slowly out of the room, the gracious Lords at the American Jewish Committee nodded their approval. The AJC withdrew its protest, and AJC spokesman Marc Palavin agreed that "the sentiments Mr. Carlton expressed are

laudable." Mr. Palavin added: "We're glad to see him agree that anti-Semitism has no place in baseball." Whew! Well, I'm glad *that's* settled!

In the meanwhile, off in the corner, Pat Jordan and *Philadelphia* magazine editor Eliot Kaplan "stood by" their story. The interesting point is that it hardly matters whether the story was correct, or whether Carlton was egregiously misquoted or not. The important point, for the American Jewish Committee and for American culture, is that Mr. Carlton hastened to deny the story and to bow the knee to the AJC. The important lesson for this story is not Truth, but Power.

(For this revealing slice of

Americana in *anno Domini* 1994, see the *Los Angeles Times*, April 14).

And so, thanks American Jewish Committee, for saving American Jewry, once again, from the burning pit. But please, next time, would you please wait a little bit before lowering the boom? Because it really would be nice to find what the next poor SOB has to say *before* he is forced to retract it. Just for a few days? Okay? ■

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Rumor Unfounded

by M.N.R.

A friend of mine recently heard, as solemn fact from a self-proclaimed reliable source, that I had become a convert to Catholicism. Amusingly enough, this is probably the longest-lived rumor in the history of the modern libertarian movement. As long as four decades ago, a friend waggishly warned me that I "was setting out on the road to Rome." The rumor is, as usual, not true, as in the case of most movement rumors that have not been sifted and published by Sarah Barton.

There is, through all the revelry, a serious point about the persistence of this rumor. For it reflects the inability of most libertarians, who are not only ignorant of but implacably hostile to religion in general and Christianity in particular, to conceive how