

Dean,

I am displeased and disturbed by a letter you sent to President Barbara Landavazo of the Corning Chamber of Commerce (with copies addressed to Chamber Manager Valanne Cardenas, the Board of Directors of the Corning Chamber of Commerce, the Corning Observer, and the Red Bluff Daily News), dated October 8, 2010, in which you state:

“I went onto the Chamber’s Website this morning and was shocked to find that the official Corning Chamber of Commerce Website is hosting a link to the ‘Reelect Gary Strack Website.’”

As you are well aware—having discussed this with me personally on two occasions—I created and maintain the Corning Chamber of Commerce Web site, <http://www.corningchamber.org>. It would seem a simple matter, should you have questions regarding this Web site, to address the questions directly to me. This would not, however, have been appropriate in this instance, since the assertion you made in this letter is untrue. Addressing this assertion to me, then, would not have been efficacious—in particular, since I would have responded directly to your statement and cautioned you against making such false statements. For that reason, you chose to address your letter to others.

Your letter continues:

“As a dues paying member of the Chamber, and as a candidate for Mayor, I hereby object that the official Chamber website is hosting local political links for any candidates, including this one for Gary.”

Your first assertion was that the Corning Chamber of Commerce had a link to Mayor Gary Strack’s Web site, <http://reelectgarystrack.blogspot.com/>. Now, your assertion is that other “...political links...” appear there, as well. I shall avoid the conspiratorial concept of imagining that you are attempting to directly obfuscate the issue by introducing spurious allegations—thus making addressing your invented issue more difficult—and state simply that *no individual political candidates’ Web sites are linked from the Corning Chamber of Commerce Web site*. There is a link from the Re-elect Mayor Gary Strack’s Web site to the Corning Chamber of Commerce Web site. There is, however, no reciprocal link. Surely, you cannot suppose that I am willing to accept that your complaint regards a link to the Corning Chamber of Commerce Web site. If, however, you wish to make that your platform, I suggest that *anyone* may link to the Corning Chamber of Commerce Web site, and there is no possible manner in which such links could be controlled—nor, in fact, would it be to the benefit of the Corning Chamber of Commerce to attempt doing so. Inbound links can only be seen as beneficial, certainly.

Your letter continues:

“I know for a fact that not all Chamber members support the reelection of Mayor Strack but that is not the issue.”

If, as you stated, this “...is not the issue,” why state it? The only reasonable explanation—in my opinion—is you intended to further cloud the basis of your complaint. Additionally, your letter was *not* directed to the membership of the Corning Chamber of Commerce. It is, therefore, unreasonable to make reference to whether or not Mayor Strack is supported by those members—in particular, since you are, thereby, giving witness to the personal positions of the membership without allowing them the opportunity to respond.

Your letter continues:

“I do not believe the mission of the Chamber of Commerce includes taking sides in local political campaigns and elections...”

I can only imagine that your purpose here was to make an irrefutable statement that would be universally accepted—thereby adding credibility to your complaint. This might easily seem sound judgment to you, but I find it self-serving and wholly without merit. This sort of subterfuge is analogous to saying, “The sun is shining,” at a time when this is plainly seen to be factual and adding, “It is Wednesday.” There is no relationship between the first and subsequent statements, and it is not logical that the second follows as a matter of course from the first. It is only utile to make the first statement as it might be imagined that it lends credence to the second statement. In fact, this is not supported by logic.

Your letter continues;

“...especially given that the City (i.e., City of Corning taxpayers) make an annual contribution to the running of the Chamber.”

This statement is factual but has no relevance. I suggest that it is of the nature of the prior statement—serving solely to cloud the premise of your complaint and add supposed credibility to that complaint by including an obviously factual statement. Additionally, the statement lacks merit and basis for inclusion, since the taxpayers were not addressed in your letter and are not, therefore, able to attend to this matter directly. This presents yet a more disturbing concept: It is very possible that your “complaint” is actually not a complaint in the true sense of the word—setting aside for the moment the basic fact that your “complaint” is a falsehood—and that it is, instead, a veiled opportunistic tugging at the collective heartstrings, as it were, of the local voting public. This would certainly explain your addressing the letter to the Corning Observer and the Red Bluff Daily News. It all becomes painfully and frighteningly clear: It is your goal to plant the seed within the collective mind of local voters that you are being disenfranchised by forces beyond your control—thus making you the “victim,” in effect and bestowing upon you the position of “underdog.” Thereby, it would be your position that it is *you—the “common man”* fighting the “establishment” for the betterment of the community at large.

Such a notion is, of course, preposterous—given your avowed political positioning. Nonetheless, it is certainly something that you might easily imagine is “worth trying.” So you have.

Your letter continues:

“I hereby request to be advised as to when this link went up on the Chamber’s website, and the name of the person who authorized the posting of Gary’s link on the Chamber’s website?”

The link is *to* the Corning Chamber of Commerce Web site *from* the Re-elect Mayor Gary Strack Web site. I believe this *to/from* qualification has been fully addressed and requires no additional explanation.

Regarding “...the name of the person...” I repeat my earlier statement that you are fully aware that I created and maintain the Chamber of Commerce Web site. As I said, we discussed this in person.

Your letter concludes:

“I also respectfully request that the link to the “Reelect Gary Strack website” be immediately removed from the official Corning Chamber of Commerce website.”

Since the link is to the Corning Chamber of Commerce Web site, and there is no reciprocity, your request is groundless.

I will end this message with a quote from an email sent to you, in which I restate my political advertising position. While I have no doubt that this position is clear in your mind, I feel it would be of interest to many of those who will receive this message as Bcc. It is of particular importance, I feel, that I state very clearly the venues in which political advertising will be placed by me. At no time did I indicate that the Corning Chamber of Commerce Web site would be included.

David

=====BEGIN QUOTED MESSAGE=====

From: California Technologies [mailto:catech@calif-tech.com]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 2:29 PM
To: Dean Cofer
Subject: Web Advertising

Dean,

As we discussed at the Olive Festival, I offer advertising for all local candidates on two active Web sites for only \$ 50.00 per month.

These ads appear on my personal blog (<http://dlhweblog.blogspot.com/>) and on the Calendar of North State Events (<http://northstateevents.blogspot.com/>).

My personal blog has been accessed by

The Calendar of North State Events has been accessed by 255,737 visitors since May 28, 2003!

My personal blog has been accessed by 462,301 visitors since March 15, 2002!

I took some photographs of you at the Olive Festival. One of these would be ideal for an advertising spot.

Mayor Gary Strack is on these sites now. You can see how an ad would look by viewing Gary's ad.

Give me a call to take advantage of this opportunity.

David

=====END QUOTED MESSAGE=====



Photography - Web Design - Computer Services

David Louis Harter

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530.824.9133 (office) - 530.228.9133 (mobile)

<http://www.calif-tech.com> - California Technologies

<http://www.calif-tech.com/events/indexps.html> - Photo Gallery of Local Events

<http://www.dlhphotoblog.wordpress.com> - David Louis Harter Photography

<http://www.nowseethis.wordpress.com> - Now See This - Random Photographs from My iPhone

<http://www.nikonphotographer.com> - Nikon Photographer

<http://www.nikonphotographer.freeforums.org> - Nikon Photographer Forum

<http://www.dlhweblog.blogspot.com> - David Louis Harter's Blog

<http://www.corningchamber.org> - Corning Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.worshipinggod.org> - Harvest Christian Center

<http://www.corning skate.org> - Corning Skatepark Association