



Thoughts . . . Slime and the Mercury

I have great view of Manhattan from City Park. On windy days a copy or two of the Manhattan Mercury sometimes drifts by my feet. I have eagle eyesight and so I am able to keep track of the material that some call journalism. I read a front page column earlier this week that had the headline - Was **Sherow e-mail authentic?** I wondered why an email would be newsworthy. It turn out that the email was written by Jim Sherow to document the fact that some rude and crude citizen had given him a strong ration of grief over his political views. Discontent with Commissioner Sherow's political views is understandable, but discourse must be civil. Accosting a sitting Commissioner in a public restaurant using loud language, and offensive gestures is clearly out of line. No public figure should be subjected to that type of abuse. If that was the story line then I could let it rest. But the story goes on to insinuate that the individual in question was a member of the Political Action Committee Our Manhattan and that this particular individual was in fact espousing the "rhetoric of the PAC".

I read the article a number of times to see if I had missed something. I came to the conclusion that the purpose of the letter was not to highlight the trials and tribulations of Commissioner Sherow, but to slime his political opposition. It was troubling to see the support that the *Manhattan Mercury* provided to that effort.

Professor Sherow is a fine historian; he has published several works and is renowned for his research skill. It is unfortunate that none of that skill was applied to the circulated email. Jim omitted the location of the restaurant and failed to identify the individual in question – though Jim mentioned that he knew the man. A small amount of research to include a call to Law Enforcement agencies uncovered the location of the incident and the individual in question. I will not disclose the location or the man's name. But it is clear that the individual was not a member of Our Manhattan and has never been involved with or interacted with the group. I believe that information was known to Professor Sherow. Jim stated that the man's comments were like the rhetoric from Our Manhattan. Jim also failed to research, document and adequately portray the rhetoric of Our Manhattan. The organization is dedicated to reduction of taxes, responsible growth and maintenance of infrastructure. Some specifics include opposition to the Rental Inspection program that Jim champions. Clearly the policy view points of the members of Our Manhattan are in opposition to Jim's support (and recent votes) for higher taxes and his cumulative efforts over the past six years in contributing to the 268 million dollar city debt.

I am sorry that Jim encountered a "Jerk" – defined by the Cambridge Online Dictionary as a stupid person usually a man. I hope Commissioner Sherow has better restaurant experiences in the future.

The email letter was published in the Monday Mercury I Wonder Column. I do wonder why the Mercury went out of their way to slime the tax paying citizens of Our Manhattan?

Mr. K