

- [Leanne](#) January 11 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 10

David Sztybel is appearing on Animal Rights Zone and they want questions for him.

<http://www.veganfitness.net/viewtopic.php?f=12&t=22370>

Sztybel is critical of Gary Francione and his supporters, so should we take him on?

Post edited by GLF at 2011-01-17 07:57:11



- [Micki](#) January 11 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 615

Facebook Event:

http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=168673423178153&id=1582054925&ref=notif¬if_t=share_reply#!/event.php?eid=101139843293638&index=1



- [goiken](#) January 11 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 25

FYI

[Sztybel](#) said:

Francione is waiting for the carpet to be rolled out by fellow animal rightists in the legislature, or wannabes...The red carpet he is waiting for would be red with the blood of animals whose lives would be that much more hellish because he is 'waiting for the day' with his cronies.

This is where I stopped to take him seriously. His way of addressing the abolitionist position is filled by similar rhetoric and in most cases begging the question, why welfarist reform could as a theoretical or practical matter do any good for the abolition of the property status of nonhuman animals.

However I really think we should engage him. Or at least don't let him speak out unanswered.



- [Leanne](#) January 11 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 10

Sztybel seems obsessed by Gary Francione and I think he even has a blog with that title!! Some of his articles seem interesting but he cannot seem to shake away from a need to attack people from the abolitionist approach. Has Gary ever debated him, anyone?



- [GLF](#) January 11 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

I do not wish to speak unkindly about David but I think he is a disturbed person. He not only mischaracterizes my views but he lies outright and says and does things that are, quite frankly, insane (and I am using that term literally).

I was surprised when I saw him as a "guest" on ARZone but ARZone is a joke and Tim "I'm against violence but I deny that violence is violence" Gier, another person who is obsessed with me, apparently initiated the invitation. The fact that Roger Yates went along with this is somewhat puzzling to me but, as I said, ARZone is a joke.

As far as substance is concerned, Sztybel simply does not understand the economics behind welfare reform. He seems to think that welfare reforms are good incremental measures on the way to animal rights. That is called new welfarism. I have written a great deal about why that is wrong on theoretical and practical grounds. Sztybel, like all new welfarists, ignores what I say in favor of the mischaracterizations and misrepresentations.

It might not be a bad idea to challenge him on these assertions lest he mislead newbies but Carolyn Bailey, who runs ARZone, often will not allow people to criticize "guests."

Post edited by GLF at 2011-01-11 07:55:04



- [Dave](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 191

I do not think that Sztybel is worth engaging (directly, at least).

David is an academic who is doing whatever he can do to drum up some attention. His main strategy is to go after people with a significant name in the literature. (This isn't an unusual strategy. If it led to a reciprocal debate with a big name, and that led to some publications, then it would help him out tremendously on the job market.)

Sztybel's blog (<http://davidsztybel.blogspot.com/>) is essentially a personal diary of his angry, hurt (and, frankly, sometimes slightly weird) thoughts about Gary Francione. A great deal of what Sztybel says is much too personal for an academic blog. What little substantive argument does exist on the blog is so out-dated that it is not worth reading or it is so muddled and confused that it is hard to make heads or tails of. His "defense" of new welfarism consists primarily of making arguments that Gary has attributed to new welfarists for the better part of two decades, then ignoring Gary's objections to those arguments, and then insulting Gary (and the rest of us) to try to make him engage in debate.

For an example of how odd his approach can be, take a quick look at this pamphlet. This pamphlet is supposed to be appealing (because of its "simplicity") to the general public. I'll say no more. It really is bizarre. See http://sztybel.tripod.com/popular_menu.html and look at the first item.

Sztybel wants attention. That is the only explanation for some of the outrageous things that he says. And, as odd as it is, this ARZone chat will almost certainly be the biggest chunk of attention he'll have received in a decade. In my opinion, we should not engage him. We should not use his name in public. We should not treat him as a serious entity in the debate, because he is not one. If we do not engage him then within a couple of weeks whatever he says in the ARZone chat will be forgotten.

Post edited by Dave at 2011-01-13 09:43:14



- [Leanne](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [Quote](#) [Flag](#)

Posts: 10

Dave thinks we should leave it alone but Gary thinks challenging him is not a bad idea.

A quick internet search finds that he doesn't just attack Gary, although he often does.

These don't attack Gary or even mention him, or mention him in an OK way.

<http://sztybel.tripod.com/normsoc1.pdf>

<http://sztybel.tripod.com/normsoc2.pdf>

<http://sztybel.tripod.com/Marxism.html>

<http://sztybel.tripod.com/AR.html>

So, do we or dont we?



- [Dave](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 191

The fact that there are a handful of pieces of writing in which Sztybel doesn't mischaracterize and attack Gary isn't saying much.

I certainly won't object to anyone deciding to engage Sztybel. And if that's what Gary wants, then I'll gladly support it. But based on my experiences with him, I believe that there is a strong chance that it won't be productive and won't go well, regardless of what we say.



- [GLF](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Dave said](#): I certainly won't object to anyone deciding to engage Sztybel. And if that's what Gary wants, then I'll gladly support it. But based on my experiences with him, I believe that there is a strong chance that it won't be productive and won't go well, regardless of what we say.

People should do what they want. After thinking about the issue and reading some of Sztybel's more recent essays, I am inclined to agree with Dave that any engagement with Sztybel will not be productive. Moreover, ARZone moderators generally shield guests from any hard questioning and guests are allowed to prescreen and reject questions, or at least they have been in the past.

I think that there are good reasons to ignore ARZone as a general matter. It is increasingly becoming a place where violence is promoted and I see ARZone as part of the effort to turn "abolition" into new welfarism, just as "animal rights" was appropriated by the new welfarists in the 1990s and redefined as new welfare.

But again, people should do what they want.

Post edited by GLF at 2011-01-11 19:58:08



- [Trish](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 1,627

[GLF said](#): I think that there are good reasons to ignore ARZone as a general matter. It is increasingly becoming a place where violence is promoted and I see ARZone as part of the effort to turn "abolition" into new welfarism, just as "animal rights" was appropriated by the new welfarists in the 1990s and redefined as new welfare.

I agree.



- [Leanne](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 10

I'm really bothered by the response to my post. I'm a new member here and maybe I don't know the rules of the road, but it seems odd that Gary Francione would talk about another person the way he has. I don't know anything about David Sztybel, except for what I can read about him online, but it doesn't seem possible to me that a guy who has a Masters and Ph.D. in Philosophy, who is a teacher and published author could be "insane". But, as I said, I don't know him.

Maybe Dave does know him? Dave thinks Sztybel is pitiful, and desperately seeking attention as an aspiring academic. That sounds pretty condescending to me, and Dave sounds like he has an ax to grind.

I guess what really bugs me is the attack on ARZone. I noticed that Robert Garner was a guest there a little while ago, and that Gary asked him a question and even posted to ARZone website about some of the stuff Garner said. Was the site a joke a month ago?

Anyway, I don't know what everyone is so afraid of. If Sztybel's ideas are that bad, it ought to be easy to point out how and why. I don't understand why the tone here has to be so mean.



- [Dave](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 191

Leanne, Gary didn't say that Sztybel is insane. He said that Sztybel has said and done things that are insane. (There is a difference. Sane people can do insane things.) And it's true. Sztybel has said some pretty ridiculous stuff. Did you read the part quoted above by [@goiken](#)? If writing in a public blog that Gary and his "cronies" are waiting for a red carpet soaked in the blood of animals to be rolled out doesn't count as ridiculous, out-of-control, disrespectful, insane, ought-to-be-ignored garbage, then I don't know what

does.

I don't have an axe to grind. As far as I can tell, Sztybel has personal issues with Gary Francione that have led him to say some wildly inappropriate and disturbing things. If you've read his blog and you disagree, then I guess we'll just have to disagree.

I'd be willing to ignore Sztybel's angry, disturbing ranting if he was nevertheless making important, interesting arguments. But Sztybel's arguments are bad. Not all bad arguments deserve public counter-argument. For instance, the especially out-dated and bad ones don't. And David's are especially out-dated and bad.

No one is "afraid" of talking to Sztybel or discussing his arguments. You don't have to be afraid of someone to judge that talking to them is a bad idea.

Post edited by Dave at 2011-01-12 07:57:20



- [GLF](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Leanne said](#): I'm really bothered by the response to my post. I'm a new member here and maybe I don't know the rules of the road, but it seems odd that Gary Francione would talk about another person the way he has.

It is either the case that: (1) you have not read Sztybel's posts or (2) you agree with the substance of what Sztybel says.

If (1) is true, don't you think that you have an obligation to read what he says before you decide that it is in any way inaccurate or inappropriate to characterize what he says as disturbingly bizarre?

If (2) is true, then why are you here?

[Leanne said](#): I guess what really bugs me is the attack on ARZone. I noticed that Robert Garner was a guest there a little while ago, and that Gary asked him a question and even posted to ARZone website about some of the stuff Garner said. Was the site a joke a month ago?

To call what I said an "attack" indicates that you disagree with me but cannot offer any reasons why you do. Again, it is either the case that you are not familiar with ARZone or you agree with its orientation and direction. If the

former is true, how can you make an intelligent observations about the views of others? If the latter is true, then why waste your time here?

Post edited by GLF at 2011-01-11 22:31:23



- [Leanne](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 10

I previously stated that I didn't know him, or his work. I didn't claim otherwise. I also stated that it was the attacks on both David Sztybel and ARZone that I found disturbing.

It's odd that you now suggest that I read Sztybel's work, while at the same time you criticise a forum where he'll be asked questions about his work. It also seems that you're saying that only those people who already agree with you are welcome here. My purpose here is to learn.

If I'm not welcome here, please tell me and I'll be happy to leave.



- [GLF](#) January 12 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Leanne said](#): I previously stated that I didn't know him, or his work. I didn't claim otherwise. I also stated that it was the attacks on both David Sztybel and ARZone that I found disturbing.

How can you find criticisms of Sztybel "disturbing" when you do not even know what he says?

[Leanne said](#): My purpose here is to learn.

You have chosen a very odd way to go about that.

Post edited by GLF at 2011-01-11 22:56:06



- [GLF](#) January 13 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

On ARZone:

It is interesting to note that although ARZone co-moderator Roger Yates understands the distinction between "animal rights" and "animal welfare," and he has in the past criticized those who promote new welfarism as animal rights, he describes Sztybel's position as an "animal rights" position. Putting aside the issue that Sztybel produces largely incoherent and confused ramblings, his view is quite clearly new welfarist in that he claims to want abolition as an end point, but he maintains that welfare reform is a morally and practical way of achieving abolition. That *is* new welfarism.

This is an example of what I mean when I say that ARZone is part of the effort to reduce abolition/animal rights to new welfarism.

Post edited by GLF at 2011-01-12 08:52:51



- [goiken](#) January 13 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 25

[Leanne said](#): but it doesn't seem possible to me that a guy who has a Masters and Ph.D. in Philosophy, who is a teacher and published author could be "insane"

Maybe this interests you. When I wrote the the German Wikipedia article on [@GLF](#) and previously had a small section on Sztybel's critique included in a draft.

When I showed it to a person and asked for her comments she refused to look at it, unless I'd remove that section.

I was at first too astonished why she would do that. As you say, Sztybel has a degree and the critique that I included somehow got into a reviewed journal. Though I thought it was really begging the question that he addressed, it was not too disrespectful or otherwise completely inappropriate.

However I changed my mind on him after reading some more of his works (e.g. quote from above) and now completely share the position that there is probably nothing we can learn from his comments and that they cannot possibly be taken as serious remarks.

But on the other hand ARZone is no place for serious discussion in the first place (is it?) and I do not see how our engagement will necessarily appear as we were appreciating his work.

Although I share the concerns raised, I also find that [if there is no struggle ...](#)



- [Joe](#) January 13 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 45

[@leanne](#) You should read his blog. It is something you need to read to believe.



- [Conrad](#) January 13 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 84

Ok, this is weird. I actually met David about a month ago... i had no idea who he was. It was at a fundraiser and we had vegan chili. I have been reading this post for the last few days and only now realized (after seeing his picture) that ive met him. Wow. creepy.



- [Trish](#) January 13 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 1,627

[Conrad said](#): and only now realized (after seeing his picture) that ive met him. Wow. creepy.

<http://www.tk421.net/gallery/sounds/twilight.wav>



- [Conrad](#) January 13 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 84

[Trish said](#): [Conrad said](#): and only now realized (after seeing his picture) that ive met him. Wow. creepy.

<http://www.tk421.net/gallery/sounds/twilight.wav>

that link doesnt work for me...'

but from the file name i have an idea of what it may sound like.

Its weird that i sat at the same table with David, and talked to him. Im glad i

didn't tell him I'm an abolitionist vegan. That would have ruined the evening...
:p



- [Rob Johnson](#) January 13 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 29

David's entire theory is way out, rationally speaking, and is built on poor foundations. I actually critiqued it, he responded, and I critiqued a second time. You can read my critique of him here:

<http://animalrightsuk.blogspot.com/2010/08/david-sztybel-defence-of-welfarism.html>

and response here:

http://animalrightsuk.blogspot.com/2010/09/david-sztybel-2nd-response_11.html

Gary is quite right to say that the arguments he uses mischaracterises the abolitionist approach. He gets himself into quite a tangle.

And I too am confused as to the ARzone stance on new welfarists. From what I can see it seems to be built on the assumption that if we promote every diversity and class of thinking in the area of animal advocacy, then every one will come to the right conclusions. This is obviously nonsense, as things are already done a certain way in 'animal circles' - all the occurrence of the likes of David's theory does is strengthen what is an immoral stance. Every now and again having some abolitionist on (like Gary and Dan for instance) won't do much to change this - as a) most only log on to read the chats with people they already like, and b) the 'guests' are allowed to continue with next question after failing to answer rationally. Pragmatically very poor method. If it wasn't, then the animal movement wouldn't have gotten itself into a mess in the first place.

In fact the animal movement has been doing what ARzone are doing now for years, ie, promoting each view based on how many proponents there are of it. Hence why PETA are listened to, and the abolitionists are largely ignored. Why on earth having weekly chats will somehow change this is beyond me. It's my experience that change occurs as people promote the moral things, and criticise the immoral one's - not promote both. Else, again, there wouldn't be a problem in the 'movement' in the first place.



- [Mylène](#) January 14 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 483

[Rob Johnson said](#): It's my experience that change occurs as people promote the moral things, and criticise the immoral one's - not promote both. Else, again, there wouldn't be a problem in the 'movement' in the first place.

I think that this is one of my biggest issues with ARZone. Its moderators treat / present each guest as having equally valid views and defend having them there for the open chats as an opportunity for others to critique them. But in treating and presenting said guests (whether new welfarists, welfarists, pro-violence types and so on) as having equally valid views to those who are unequivocal about defending animal rights and non-violence, they're really just stacking the cards, unfortunately. This doesn't allow anything but awkward and one-sided discussion and merely serves to confuse those who honestly don't know enough about abolitionism or about the problems inherent in so much of the animal advocacy movement. So many walk away with a "we all share the same goal, but just use different variations of types of activism to get to it, so why can't we all hug, hold hands and work together" mentality, glossing over (or just never quite getting) that some forms of advocacy cause so much more damage than good and that shrugging this damage off is wrongheaded.

I used to think that the ARZone chats were a sort of "neutral zone" opportunity for frank discussion, but after having viewed what goes on in some of them and then seen what impact this has on some of the others who attend, I realize that I was so very wrong.



- [Rob Johnson](#) January 14 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 29

Yes, it is puzzling. I wonder if Martin Luther King Jr would have created a forum to discuss black rights and given his opponents the same degree of equal weighing? It seems obvious to me that it is only when other animals are involved that anyone would suppose that 'everyone's opinion is equal'. It doesn't seem right as a moral matter, and it doesn't seem at all effective as a practical one.

It's not my thing anyway, I have no interest in seeing David Sztybel forgo logic in his ongoing attempt to make a career out of opposing good ideas. I just wish there weren't people claiming to be abolitionists promoting his nonsensical ideas, which are just complicated enough to satisfy those who want to oppose abolitionist theory.



- [Everly](#) January 14 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 14

I took my time reading this thread. Thanks for the thoughtful and thought-provoking posts.

A couple of comments . . .

Although I didn't take Gary's comments to mean that Sztybel himself is insane, Sztybel's advanced degrees do not magically protect him from mental illness. Clinical "insanity" doesn't discriminate in any way. There are many, many people with and without advanced degrees who are mentally ill.

That said, I have a stronger opinion of Sztybel's mental state. Too much of his writing is disturbingly close to word salad or can even be characterized as such (the quote about the carpet of blood is a good example).

The other thing is the use of the word "attack" regarding Gary's comments. Disagreement, even heated disagreement, is not synonymous with attacking someone. Strong opinion are not attacks, either. (Don't get me started on Temple Grandin, for example.) I've seen nothing even remotely resembling an attack in this thread or even in this forum.



- [Trish](#) January 14 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 1,627

[Rob Johnson said](#): Yes, it is puzzling. I wonder if Martin Luther King Jr would have created a forum to discuss black rights and given his opponents the same degree of equal weighing? It seems obvious to me that it is only when other animals are involved that anyone would suppose that 'everyone's opinion is equal'. It doesn't seem right as a moral matter, and it doesn't seem at all effective as a practical one.

I agree.

[Everly said](#): I've seen nothing even remotely resembling an attack in this thread or even in this forum.

Those who have no substantive argument always accuse abolitionists of attacking them.



- [Mylène](#) January 15 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 483

[Everly said](#): The other thing is the use of the word "attack" regarding Gary's comments. Disagreement, even heated disagreement, is not synonymous with attacking someone. Strong opinion are not attacks, either.

People often conflate arguing in the debating sort of sense with arguing in the let's-throw-dinner-plates-around sort of sense. Over and above this, when it comes to non-human animal advocacy, not only do emotions frequently run high over the issues at hand, but there's a serious lack of misunderstanding by many advocates of the huge differences in the ethical frameworks involved (and of their respective approaches and goals), so people too often view the pointing out of those differences as personal attacks rather than seeing them as merely pointing out the differences. This is often where the "Why can't we all get along?" chorus starts up, whenever anyone points out these inherent differences or critiques certain approaches to show where they fail and points out how certain goals fall short of what we truly owe non-human animals.



- [Rob Johnson](#) January 15 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 29

[Mylène said](#): This is often where the "Why can't we all get along?" chorus starts up

It's an odd thing to hear isn't it. When I hear 'why can't we all get along' or something similar, I immediately think 'yes, why can't we all get along - human and non-human'. And therefore why can't we all appreciate that oft times animal advocacy is anthropocentric and therefore not conducive to us 'ALL getting along'.

Challenging an abolitionist with 'why can't we all get along' is tantamount to a white supremacist challenging a rights activist with the same - valuing a notion of in-group equality whilst ignoring the fact that this value judgement is damaging those outside the group.

Post edited by Rob_Johnson at 2011-01-14 08:03:49



- [GLF](#) January 15 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Rob Johnson said](#): Challenging an abolitionist with 'why can't we all get along' is tantamount to a white supremacist challenging a rights activist with the same - valuing a notion of in-group equality whilst ignoring the fact that this value judgement is damaging those outside the group.

Exactly. This claim, along with charges that criticism is "attack," or that criticism is "divisive," is nothing more than the claim that we all ought to be welfarists and ignore the moral issues.



- [Conrad](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 84

Transcripts of the ARZone Chat with David Sztybel:

http://arzone.ning.com/profiles/blogs/transcript-of-david-sztybels?xg_source=msg_mes_network

thoughts?



- [GLF](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Conrad said](#): thoughts?

Apart from the fact that he misrepresents my view and he rambles in absolute incoherency, no.



- [Dave](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 191

I read it last night. It was borderline comedic. I can't believe it actually happened.

I should say, for what it is worth, that Roger Yates did a good job of illuminating what a putz Sztybel was behaving like. Sadly, Yates was the only member of the ARZone staff who put Sztybel's feet to the fire, as it were.



- [GLF](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Dave said](#): Sadly, Yates was the only member of the ARZone staff who put Sztybel's feet to the fire, as it were.

As I say, ARZone is not to be taken seriously. That "chat" rather dramatically proves the point (again).

Post edited by GLF at 2011-01-16 12:11:27



- [Dave](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 191

It's too bad, too. There is room for a site that does what ARZone alleges to do.

I'd be happy if there were an honest space for "prominent" figures in abolitionism, regulationism, etc., to have interactive interviews/discussions with members of the public. It would be excellent to be able to publicly talk to and question people like you, Garner, Pacelle, Newkirk -- whoever. It would serve an excellent educative function and would, I think, bring many new people to abolitionism, if it was handled appropriately.

But the site would have to be dedicated to i) having genuinely relevant guests (rather than people like Hall, Feral and Sztybel who are engaged in personal campaigns of misrepresentation and insulting) and ii) to holding guests accountable for things they say, not shielding them from criticism, and so on. And, of course, ARZone wants to do neither. (The reason, I suspect, is that they actually have a hidden agenda.)

Still, I wish that a 'real' version of the site did exist.



- [Kerry](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 160

[GLF](#) said:

[Conrad said](#): thoughts?

Apart from the fact that he misrepresents my view and he rambles in absolute incoherency, no.

^THIS. I mean, I read the transcript this morning, and I was speechless. All I kept thinking was, "Seriously?" What a nutter. Also, the misrepresentation of Gary's position was so complete and pervasive, it's surprising (or maybe not?) that no one pointed this out.

Wow.



- [abolition](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 301

[Dave said](#): And, of course, ARZone wants to do neither. (The reason, I suspect, is that they actually have a hidden agenda.)

It is a bit simpler than that, I think. If people knew that they had to be accountable for the things they said and face criticism, they would simply not participate. Whether there is more agenda is another question, but just as a practical matter, the site as you imagine it would be highly improbable because the site would have to be 'bigger' than the gets. Most animal advocacy figures do not see truth, education, etc, as sufficient rational incentive to engage others in a critical dialogue about their views even for an hour or so on the Internet.

Perhaps if there were some money on the table. Or, Erik Marcus might do it for a BK Veggie, but then someone would have to buy it for him.

Post edited by abolition at 2011-01-16 18:28:12



- [GLF](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Dave said](#): I should say, for what it is worth, that Roger Yates did a good job of illuminating what a putz Szybel was behaving like. Sadly, Yates was the only member of the ARZone staff who put Szybel's feet to the fire, as it were.

Yates is familiar enough with my work to know that Szybel was misrepresenting me and he said nothing. I am now convinced that Yates is not concerned about education.



- [Dave](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 191

I've still not read the entire transcript. (It is almost unbelievably long.)

But I did see one point where Yates pretty much calls Sztybel a fool who is obsessed with you. Of course, he didn't substantively criticize Sztybel, call him on his misrepresentation, or anything of that nature. And that's a shame. But in a chat that otherwise just allowed Sztybel to spread falsehoods and babble incessantly while being patted on the back, it was the one moment of near sanity.

Of course, I've been a rather sharp critic of Yates in the past and this doesn't do anything change my opinion.



- [GLF](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Dave said](#): Of course, I've been a rather sharp critic of Yates in the past and this doesn't do anything change my opinion.

Alas, I have now come to agree with you and others about Yates.

[Kerry said](#): Also, the misrepresentation of Gary's position was so complete and pervasive, it's surprising (or maybe not?) that no one pointed this out.

It is not surprising at all. ARZone is just the internet equivalent of a (very) cheap tabloid newspaper. They're looking to create controversy, however illegitimate.

Post edited by GLF at 2011-01-16 21:09:54



- [Dave](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 191

Gary, do you think it is conceivable that one of us 'unknown' folks (say, me) could ever get any of the 'names' in protectionism/regulationism to agree to interviews (print or audio)?



- [GLF](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Dave said](#): Gary, do you think it is conceivable that one of us 'unknown' folks (say, me) could ever get any of the 'names' in protectionism/regulationism to agree to interviews (print or audio)?

Sure, but they would **never** answer any of the questions you would find interesting.

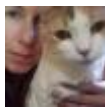


- [Dave](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 191

[GLF said](#): Sure, but they would **never** answer any of the questions you would find interesting.

I'm just imagining getting a live/audio interview with one of them and then, after allowing them to make their pitch for a while, beginning to ask hard questions and turn the screws. Do you think that they'd just stop the interview?



- [Elizabeth Collins](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 697

I think Roger genuinely wants ARZone to invite valid debate, and expose inconsistencies, I do believe this is genuine aim on his part. I just don't think it is succeeding, and the more I have observed ARZone the more I have been convinced that it does not successfully do so. Many egos get stroked, however. Also because none of us want to go on there and challenge the guests (I certainly am no longer interested, although I did partake in the first Bruce Friedrich chat—I believe he has been invited back— also as Gary pointed out, there is pretty much no point doing so as they can screen questions and dodge them completely, leaving the only place to do so in the ensuing commentary) then there are no abolitionists present and Roger is in the position of being a

host, as it were, and a moderator, and as well as trying to achieve what he thinks the site should achieve, in the face of all the things working against it. All those things being the things you all mentioned regarding the last chat they had, among other things. I don't think there is any deliberate attempt at subterfuge, at least not on Roger's part. I can't believe that.

[GLF said](#): Yates is familiar enough with my work to know that Szybel was misrepresenting me and he said nothing. I am now convinced that Yates is not concerned about education.

He said nothing? I thought Dave said he called him on it. *sigh* now I have to go read the darn thing. I am sure it will be stomach-turning.

Post edited by Elizabeth_Collins at 2011-01-16 21:31:15



- [Dave](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 191

[Elizabeth Collins said](#): He said nothing? I thought Dave said he called him on it. *sigh* now I have to go read the darn thing. I am sure it will be stomach-turning.

Yates (rightly) called Szybel on appearing utterly crazy and obsessed with Gary. And that was good. But, as Gary rightly pointed out above, Roger didn't do anything to illuminate the fact that Szybel blatantly misrepresents Gary's work, etc.

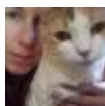


- [GLF](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

[Dave said](#): Do you think that they'd just stop the interview?

Yes.



- [Elizabeth Collins](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 697

[Dave said](#): Roger didn't do anything to illuminate the fact that Szybel blatantly misrepresents Gary's work, etc.

That's a shame, because that is more important that the guy being crazy and obsessed with Gary (although that is highly disturbing)



- [Conrad](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 84

[GLF said](#): Alas, I have now come to agree with you and others about Yates.

I thought that Yates was on the same page as with us and Gary... i have heard him in interviews with [@GLF](#) and others, and it seemed like an amicable relationship. What happened?

In what ways (other then Yates not coming to the defense of the Abolitionist Approach) has Yates been not representing abolition?



- [Trish](#) January 17 [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 1,627

[Dave said](#): Do you think that they'd just stop the interview?

I don't even think they would agree to an interview :)

[Elizabeth Collins said](#): because that is more important that the guy being crazy and obsessed with Gary (although that is highly disturbing)

Being obsessed with Gary? Yes, that's disturbing on many levels ;-)



- [GLF](#) 12:42AM [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 876

You can read for yourself Sztybel's presentation and you can also read the comments (or lack thereof) of the ARZone moderators, who claim to seek "rational discourse" and who claim to want to "educate."

You can make your own mind up about the quality of Sztybel's analysis and whether Sztybel's description of my position bears any relationship to reality. You can also decide for yourself whether ARZone is in any way advancing the cause of animal rights by events such as this, or whether ARZone is merely yet another entity contributing to the confusion about animal ethics.

I am not sure that much else needs to be said about this. In any event, I have nothing further to say.



- [Kerry](#) 1:33AM [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 160

[Mylène said](#): I used to think that the ARZone chats were a sort of "neutral zone" opportunity for frank discussion, but after having viewed what goes on in some of them and then seen what impact this has on some of the others who attend, I realize that I was so very wrong.

I agree and feel the same way. Perplexing business. I also really don't like the way the chats are moderated. And if anyone says anything mildly critical they're warned not to be rude or offensive. This to me is not conducive to serious debate.



- [Mylène](#) 1:34AM [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 483

Giving this guy (or others like him) a platform risks giving him the appearance of credibility in the eyes of the small handful of advocates who show up for the chats. It's unfortunate that they choose to do so.

I think that it's not a bad idea for those unfamiliar with Sztybel to inform themselves of what a nutter and/or phony he is so that when those who don't have their facts straight bring him up (e.g. those who may have seen him at ARZone and who may walk away with a skewed perception of Gary's work based on what Sztybel has spewed), they can respond appropriately. That being said, aside from a couple of passing references to him, I'd never heard of the guy before, so I doubt that most other animal advocates have, either.

- [Rob Johnson](#) 2:10AM [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 29

[Mylène said](#): Giving this guy (or others like him) a platform risks giving him the appearance of credibility in the eyes of the small handful of advocates who show up for the chats. It's unfortunate that they choose to do so.

I completely agree. There is no doubt that someone who believed in welfarism or new welfarism, would go away with a confirmed belief after such a chat. Especially animal advocates, who you have to say on the whole tend to want to have beliefs confirmed rather than find truths. If you want to challenge beliefs, a passing mention of one of the problems isn't enough.

I think there are basic differences in belief emerging here. I think there are a lot of people on this thread (including me) who believe that the way to challenge 'set in their ways' individuals is to point out the inconsistency problems with their views. Whereas the guys at ARZone clearly think every animal advocate is automatically a neutral, anarchist philosopher and therefore needs only be given an argument to be able to see it's positive and negative sides.

The ARZone view actually appeals to me, as it means that we must already live in a Utopian state (after all no-one would ever follow a bad idea), or that ARZone is the first time anyone has ever heard an animal rights theory before. Either way it's exciting to be observing such a revolution.



- [Everly](#) 3:08PM [Permalink](#) [QuoteFlag](#)

Posts: 14

I stand by my earlier comment that Szybel may have some mental health issues to address. The rambling, the word salad (and the near-word-salad), the undertone of seething anger, the seeming ownership of Gary's positions . . . all that and a real sense of confabulation on his part . . . Cripes, someone opened the nutbag and this guy fell out.

I can't believe anyone is giving this guy any credence or attention at all. He's a coat-tailer and not a good one, at that. "Best caring" . . . bah. Ridiculous.