

# The City Buzz

## Constitutionalist Upheaval Raises Questions

*In light of recent revelations that Constitutionalist party whip Assemblywoman Caffarel attempted to leave the party, critics wonder if the faction is actually as stable as it seems*



### Girls Rule, Boys Drool

Assemblywoman Aguirre, left, replaced Assemblywoman Caffarel as party whip in an emergency caucus late last night. She is the latest in a long line of strong women to hold positions of power this year, including Assemblywomen Dunham, Petrikas, and Caffarel herself: an interesting occurrence in an assembly where women are in the minority.

ROCKLIN- Last night the Constitutionalist party was shocked to discover that party Whip Assemblywoman Caffarel had been planning to defect to the Patriots while still holding a leadership position. After being exposed, Caffarel was replaced as Whip and moved forward in the process of switching parties. The result is that, unless more members choose to change allegiances, there is no longer a majority party.

The Constitutionlists nearly lost another member in Assemblyman Krive

(rhymes with *easy*), who worried that leadership was “kind of stale within the party” – a reference to Assemblywoman Dunham’s impressive ability to hold the position of party leadership with few complaints from members. (Apparently Krive also recognized Dunham’s natural leadership abilities and the benefits of the party’s political stability as he ultimately decided to stick with the Constitutionlists.)

While it is unfortunate that they were apparently

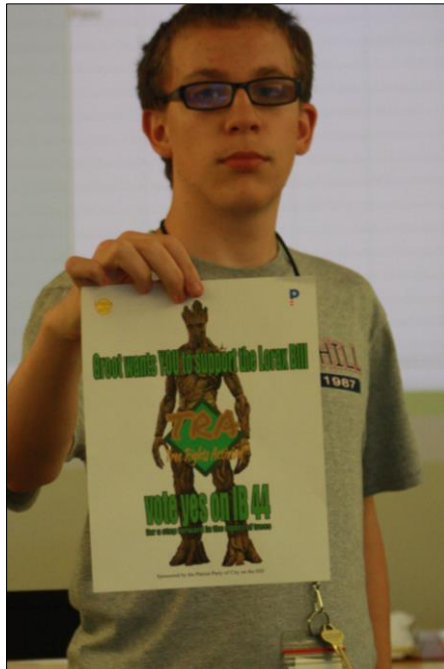
blindsided by Caffarel’s actions, the Constitutionlists seem to be presenting a cohesive front. Though rumors fly that, to quote Patriot Assemblyman Francisco, “There might be another plan going in place,” past reports of potential coups and defections have proven to be either completely unfounded or grossly exaggerated. In short, the party may be shaken but its leadership remains strong and its members united.

*Lauren Prichard*

## LORAX ACT STANDS STRONG

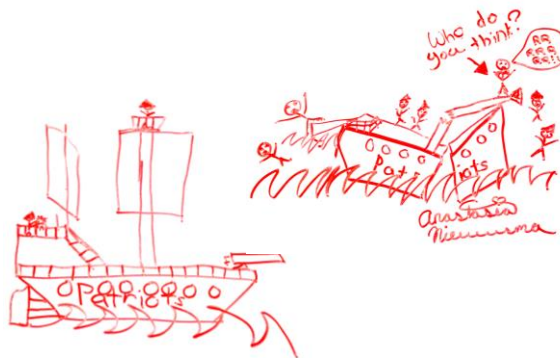
ROCKLIN- Support for Assemblyman Thomas’s Lorax Act has been rapidly growing over the last few days; what began as a grassroots movement has quickly branched out to obtain party-wide backing. Rooted in classic literature, the bill – which seeks to extend equality to foliage – is named for “the Lorax who speaks for the trees / which you seem to be chopping as fast as you please,” to quote environmentalist expert Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Thomas may have gone out on a limb in introducing a bill that many Constitutionalists initially dismissed as a joke. Though some expected the movement to wither and die, the Bill has succeeded in raising



Above: Assemblywoman Thomas displays a poster encouraging support for IB 44, known colloquially as the Lorax Act, or, more generally, “the tree bill.” The bill is sponsored by the Patriot Party – whether the campaign will sap their resources remains to be seen. Thomas’s impromptu stump speeches have also been effective.

Right: Political cartoons by Assemblymembers Francisco (far left) and Nieuwsma (far right) provide conflicting interpretations of the current state of the Patriot party. While the Constitutionalists have consistently remained strong, recent revelations indicate that perhaps the Patriots are successfully regrouping while the Constitutionalists are jumping ship in an interesting role reversal.



awareness for tree rights, prompting the Patriot party to release the following statement (truncated for brevity): “[W]e have renamed our ‘planks’ as ‘bricks,’ and our ‘platform’ as our ‘foundation’... due to the offensive nature of these words.” The *He for She for Tree* twitter campaign has also blossomed.

However, an anonymous source reported that for lunch Assemblyman Thomas ate a meal “ripe with vegetation” in the form of lettuce and tomatoes, which may conflict with the principles of his bill. Thomas deferred to the authority of the Tree Rights Activism group.

Regardless of its success or failure, the Lorax Act has planted a seed in the minds of many legislators. Those who attack the bill on particulars are clearly losing the forest for the trees.

### Gubernatorial Talent

At last night’s talent show, attendees were impressed by Governor England’s acrobatic expertise, which far surpassed similar efforts by the media.

### On the Record

Discussing his plans to move across the country to further his education, Assemblyman Gannage stated, “I’m not bringing that much stuff, but I’m bringing my board games – I have about 100 of those.”

A prominent Constitutional party member was overheard asking, “Why would I ever vote with my constituency?” The answer, according to Mr. Fellersen: “Conscience.”

### good morning Contributors



ANN MALANE is Legislative Liaison for Capitol Resource Institute and serves as Editor of the *City Buzz*.



LAUREN PRICHARD is Editor and the official Photographer of the *City Buzz*. She was also an Assemblywoman at City on the Hill in 2009.