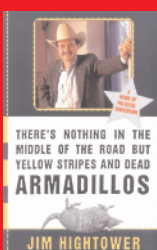




– photo credit Dan Turner



National radio commentator, columnist, public speaker, political sparkplug and author of *Thieves In High Places: They've Stolen Our Country And It's Time To Take It Back*

Jim Hightower has spent three decades battling the Powers That Be on behalf of the Powers That Ought To Be – consumers, working families, environmentalists, small business, and just-plain-folks.

Twice elected Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Hightower believes that the true political spectrum is not right to left, but top to bottom, and he has become a leading national voice for the 80 percent of the public who no longer find themselves within shouting distance of the Washington and Wall Street powers at the top.

Known as “America’s Most Popular Populist,” Hightower is a modern-day Johnny Appleseed, spreading the message of progressive populism all across the American grassroots:

He broadcasts daily radio commentaries that are carried in more than 100 commercial and public stations, on the web, on Armed Forces Radio, Radio for Peace International, One World Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio.

Each month, he publishes a populist political newsletter, “The Hightower Lowdown,” which now has more than 100,000 subscribers and is the fastest growing political publication in America. The hard-hitting Lowdown has received both the Alternative Press Award and the Independent Press Association Award for best national newsletter.

Constantly on the hustings, he delivers about 100 speeches a year to colleges, union meetings, environmental groups, citizen rallies, farm and food organizations, social justice gatherings, teachers, legal activist, community groups, and others.

His newspaper column is carried in more than 75 independent newspapers, magazines, and other publications. He also writes a monthly column for The Nation, America’s leading progressive journal.

A New York Times best-selling author, his latest book, *Thieves In High Places: They've Stolen Our Country And It's Time To Take It Back*, is published by Viking Press. His previous books are *If The Gods Had Meant Us To Vote, They Would Have Given Us Candidates*, *There's Nothing In the Middle Of the Road But Yellow Stripes and Dead Armadillos*, *Eat Your Heart Out*, and *Hard Tomatoes, Hard Times*.

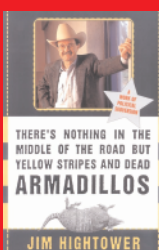
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— photo credit Dan Turner



He frequently appears on television and radio programs, bringing a passionate populist viewpoint that rarely gets into the mass media. In addition, he works closely with the alternative media, and in all of his work he keeps his ever-ready Texas humor up front, practicing the credo of an old Yugoslavian proverb: “You can fight the gods and still have fun.”

Hightower also devotes much of his energy to revitalizing grassroots progressive politics with his nationwide “Rolling Thunder Down-Home Democracy Tour.” Sort-of like a county fair of progressive activism, these festivals include top-notch speakers, great music, how-to workshops, food, drink, games, clowns & fun for the whole family. In 2002, the Rolling Thunder Tour traveled to Austin, Chicago, Tucson, Seattle, Minneapolis and Duluth. The 2003 schedule will take the democracy-fest to about 10 cities including California, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire.

Hightower was raised in Denison, Texas, in a family of small business people, tenant farmers, and working folks. A graduate of the University of North Texas, he worked in Washington as legislative aide to Sen. Ralph Yarborough of Texas before returning to his home state, where he was editor of the feisty biweekly, *The Texas Observer*.

He then made what he calls “the only downward career move you can make from journalism” by entering politics. He was twice elected to statewide office, serving two productive and boisterous terms as Texas Agriculture Commissioner (1983-1991).

Since then, Hightower has become his own media conglomerate, using his writings and voice to reach millions of people a year, raising issues, raising hope and raising hell. Describing himself as a Luddite with a Web site, Hightower provides updated information about his newsletter, radio commentaries, books, speaking schedule, and other work at www.jimhightower.com.

“If Will Rogers and Mother Jones had a baby, Jim Hightower would be that rambunctious child, mad as hell, with a sense of humor.”

—Molly Ivins

“You were eloquent, timely, provocative, and will be much quoted. Your speech was a highlight of our conference and just what we needed.”

— American Library Association

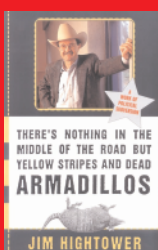
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“All of us are still basking in the warmth of the most successful evening that the Alliance has ever sponsored. Your appearance at the reception and your remarks to the overflow crowd created an exuberance that has inspired all of us to go forth and slay the dragon of greed and corruption that has taken hold in our nation today. Truly you exposed the thieves in high places. Now, hopefully, we can dislodge them before our vital social programs and rights are totally dismantled.”

— Michigan Alliance to Strengthen Social Security and Medicare

“Hightower is brilliant, funny, inspirational and ingenious in the way he motivates people and views the world.”

— University of Montana, Missoula

“You are a national resource, and downright near to an endangered species . . . you were, as you so often are, making sense, making people laugh, and emboldening them.”

— Campaign for America’s Future

“Thank you for your plenary at the Southwestern Social Science Association’s annual meeting . . . best plenary session attendance we have had in forever . . . I received numerous compliments for choosing you as our speaker this year.”

— Southwestern Social Science Association

“We are so appreciative that you took the time . . . to share your expertise and humor on the education and political scene . . . gave you rave reviews . . . some comments include ‘thanks for telling the truth about politics’; ‘awesome presentation’; ‘lots of great information’; ‘thought provoking’; ‘great food for thought’ . . .”

— Pennsylvania State Education Association

“You certainly accomplished our hopes for the keynote speech. We wanted a speaker who would stretch participants’ understanding of the need for structural change and organizing...you hit the nail on the head.”

— National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness

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