

# Open LETTER:

September 1994

## Get Out The Vote!

### Here's Your Chance:

Voters will soon be swamped with appeals from candidates running for office in the November election. But not all candidates will have equal exposure, and people should know about all the choices they will have in the voting booth.

Voters who live anywhere in Michigan will be able to cast a ballot for Jon Coon for US Senate, and for many Libertarian candidates for statewide education positions, as well. Educator Erwin J Haas and lawyer David H Raaflaub are on the ballot for the State Board of Education, and Thomas W Jones and Brian Wright are candidates for the Wayne State University Board of Governors. On two other college boards, all Michigan voters will have the ability to vote for Ben Bachrach and author Dr Mary J Ruwart for Michigan State University Board of Trustees, and for Gary R Bradley and LPM Vice-Chair Emily Salvette for the University of Michigan Board of Regents.

Particular to the mid-Michigan area, residents of the US House of Representatives 8th district (Ingham, Livingston, etc. counties) will be able to vote for Libertarian Gerald Ralph Turcotte, Jr over Republican Dick Chrysler and Democrat Bob Mitchell. Voters in US House district 7 (Eaton, Calhoun, Jackson, etc. counties) can vote for Libertarian Kenneth L Proctor over Democrat Kim McCaughtry and incumbent Republican Nick Smith.

Last month I printed a sample letter to complain when any Libertarian campaign is being ignored by the media. Following is a letter to thank the press when they do give good coverage. This is just as important as complaining... please use it!

Dear (REPORTER/EDITOR NAME):

It is usually so easy to accuse the media of political bias, but you have proven that idea wrong with your recent article, in the (NEWSPAPER) on (DATE), page (PAGE/SECTION).

You were correct in naming all 3 candidates that are running to fill the U.S. Senate seat in November, and your fairness was refreshing. So many times a paper will highlight the major party candidates, but neglect to tell voters about ALL the options they will have open to them in the election; including the option to vote for a qualified candidate who is not a typical Republican or Democrat, but a principled Libertarian instead. I was glad to see your report was not inaccurate this way.

As you know, Jon Coon has been criss-crossing the state, raising money and campaigning for more than a year now, and has been winning the support of voters everywhere with his no-nonsense policies that stand above the empty rhetoric of the career politicians.

If you should find you need additional information on this serious candidate for future stories, your editor should have a full media kit detailing Coon's stance on important issues. If you have not seen this information, or you would like follow-up quotes or an interview, you can reach his campaign office at 1-800-JON-COON. I'm certain Jon will be happy to supply you with any information you may need to make your future reports complete in all aspects.

Thank you for your continued fairness, and I'll be reading with interest!

Sincerely,

:Michael Emhart, 0794.

The LAMM normally meets the second Thursday of each month. In September, the meeting will be held the third week:

Thursday, September 15 at Sneekers Restaurant, 600 N Homer, across from the Frandor Shopping Plaza, off US-127, in Lansing. People usually begin to arrive, and dinner can be ordered around 6:30. The meeting begins at 7:00.

The program at the September meeting will include questions and answers with Linda Ploeg, or a representative of her campaign. Linda is the Republican candidate running for the state House of Representatives in the Lansing district, and has scored 80/80 on the Nolan diamond chart quiz on self-government.

It promises to be an interesting and enjoyable program... hope to see you there!

The Libertarian Alliance of Mid-Michigan was founded in 1981 to promote ideas that support and enhance personal freedom, free market economics, and political liberty. The LAMM is not responsible to any other group that calls itself "libertarian." The LAMM is run without officers for the benefit of those who attend its meetings. For information about the LAMM, call Jon Addiss at 517/394-0122.

:Post Office Box 80985 Lansing Michigan 48908-0985



### RANTS:

**"If you support the ACLU, you support the KKK and other sick organizations."**

**:Kevin Loudon**

### Quit promoting death

Usually when people recommend a book, movie or play, it's because they've read it or saw the event and they're sure you'll enjoy it.

Also I wouldn't buy a car from a dealer unless I knew he owned the same brand he's selling.

It follows that no one should accept assisted suicide until all these "vulture culture" suicide advocates have killed themselves and somehow get word back that Jesus lied about a hell for non-believers who reject his authority and power.

When it comes to death and dying: "You first, Dr. Kevorkian!"

**STEVE REICHENBACH,**  
Lansing

### Supports gun buyback

I am responding to all the negative publicity generated from the Lansing police gun buyback program.

I for one, do not feel that it should matter as to who brought the guns in and why!

All the general public should be concerned and grateful for the fact that just possibly, one child's life was saved due to this buyback.

Let's not be judgmental and say there was no victory.

Maybe gun buybacks will get guns out of the hands of irresponsible teenagers. I certainly am one citizen who applauds the Lansing Police Department and all area merchants for all their contributions and efforts.

Thank you.

**M. PRINCE,**  
Lansing

### Yes, change bicycle law

In response to Jack Ridenour of Lansing about the law requiring bicyclists to ride in the same direction as motor traffic, I say, "Hurray for you, Jack!"

Just days after your letter appeared I saw a family riding bicycles on a heavily-traveled city street. The father pulled a fragile-looking trailer in which there were two small children. The threat of death or maiming to those infants was so apparent it ruined my day and yet give me shivers when I recall the scene. If they had been facing traffic, although still dangerous, their father would have had more control over their safety.

I wonder why a safety council and bicyclists should feel scornful toward someone wanting to change this bad law. It brings to mind the resistance some motorcyclists put up when the helmet law passed.

A task force to study a common-sensical change of the present outdated dangerous law is a good idea. If Michigan citizens can be involved, I volunteer.

**VIRGINIA LAW BURNS,**  
Laingsburg

### ACLU distorts justice

Well, I see the American Civil Liberties Union has once again managed to distort justice. The recent decision of the Michigan Court of Appeals saying the city of Lansing cannot move a Ku Klux Klan rally away from the Capitol is an outrage.

The ACLU is insisting that taxpayers pay for the KKK to have the opportunity, once again, to rally at the Capitol. The ACLU screams that the Klan must have its right to free speech, no matter what the costs. The rally last April cost various police departments and the city of Lansing more than \$100,000. What a ridiculous waste of taxpayers' money.

Officials of the ACLU work hard to distort justice and hide behind the Constitution.

Remember, folks, if you support the ACLU, you support the Ku Klux Klan and other sick organizations and people.

**KEVIN LOUDON,**  
Lansing

### Oppose legalizing of drugs

Have we not the courage to stand against legalization of drugs for the sake of our children and grandchildren?

■ Alcohol, a legal drug, leads the causes of automobile accidents by a mouth.

■ Adolescent drug use is on the rise.

■ Drug use often results in child neglect and child abuse.

■ People "under the influence" commit most of the violent crimes.

We need truthful information about marijuana. Marijuana is an entry-level addictive, an immune system suppressant and lowers inhibitions and destroys value systems.

Drug use is a health issue. Let's not endorse drugs but immunize our children against drug use with accurate information!

**MARY HARPSTEAD,**  
East Lansing

### Push health-care reform

Congress is now debating the issue of health-care reform. The League of Women Voters hopes citizens will make their individual voices heard.

Special interests are spending millions of dollars to defeat comprehensive health-care reform. It is essential that citizens contact their representative and senators and urge them to pass health-care reform that will provide coverage for all Americans.

Over the course of a year, one in five Americans will be without health-care insurance for some period of time. Even people with good insurance may lose coverage because of layoffs, changing jobs, or scaled back or canceled benefits.

The League of Women Voters believes that the health-care system needs reform. The system must provide universal coverage and a benefit package that includes preventative, primary and acute care. The access we have to health care, the quality of the care and its cost will have a direct impact on each and every one of us.

Call, write or visit your member of Congress today and tell them you want real comprehensive health-care reform that includes coverage for everyone.

**PATRICIA DONATH,**  
Vice President  
Lansing Area League of Women Voters



# d RAVES:

To Agree And Disagree With

## It's extortion

Webster's definition of extort is to obtain (money, etc.) from a person by force or undue or illegal power.

Here are two examples of Lansing-sponsored extortion.

1. The Building Safety Code Compliance Office charges you \$65 to invade your house to inspect it to make sure it is up to "code."

2. The Public Service Department charges \$20 per bulk item to remove old furniture or appliances from your house, but first, you must get it to the curb.

How can these outrageous fees be justified?

Our city leaders are wondering why people are getting out of the city. These are just two of the many examples we face in this city and why the extortionists are forcing all of us out.

MARY MASSOGLIA,  
Lansing

## Government fumbles

According to the State Journal article, "Judge blocks abortion, waiting period law." It seems to me that if that law is illegal, then the five-day waiting period to purchase a gun must be illegal!

In the same paper, the note about the University of Michigan spending our tax dollars to build (open) a nightclub (for \$221,721) is outrageous! Just to have no alcohol? This is just another usual misuse of tax dollars. No university should be building nightclubs. Their business is education. Let someone in the private sector do the nightclub building!

BETTY LEPPALA,  
DeWitt

## Excess taxes

Lansing Township calls itself a "no growth" township.

Why does a "no growth" township that increased my property tax (and my neighbors') by 18 percent last year now demand a 29 percent additional increase in Aug. 2 millage voting?

These two tax hikes would come to a total of 47 percent in scarcely over a year.

Maybe it's time to throw the rascals out — as voters did twice in the 1970s, via the recall route.

ROGER F. LANE,  
Lansing

## Let rapists pay

The question of who pays for abortion is about responsibility. Who is responsible? The person who committed the rape, of course. Incest the identity is always known, and that person should be made to pay for the abortion. Every convicted rapist should be given an additional fine to be used to pay for the abortions of anonymous rapists.

ROBIN ARTISSON,  
Grand Ledge

## White House vacancy

Recently I sent a letter to the White House addressed to President William J. Clinton, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C., 20510. This letter came back stamped "not at this address." I have slowly come to the realization that Mr. Clinton is really just not all there!

PAUL S. PENDER,  
East Lansing

## Guns a right

Law-abiding armed citizens all over this country are being singled out as nothing more than ubiquitous felons. If this bipartisan boondoggle of a crime bill goes through, our right to keep and bear arms will be extremely hindered.

Something must be done to preserve your liberty and mine. I speak as one poor individual, but when I speak, I speak the language of thousands. To protect liberty, the people have to retain power against government. What they call assault rifles we call accessibility to freedom.

RON JACKMAN,  
Mason

## A tough world

So U.S. Senate candidate Spencer Abraham is going to single-handedly change Congress if he is elected!

Doesn't he know how little influence freshmen senators have?

He must be living in a dream world.

HELEN POWERS,  
Lansing

## Next, try knife control

With the most recent murders in California it is evident that we need a bill passed (such as the Brady Bill) to control ownership, usage and purchase of knives.

This bill could be known as the "Nicole bill," and we could have rallies around the country decrying the use of knives. We could point with alarm at the numbers who cut their wrists in suicide attempts using a knife. We could point out the many children who suffer cuts from playing with knives!

We could distort statistics in such a way as to get this bill passed as was done to get the Brady bill passed.

Let's hear it from all of you who feel that knives should be controlled as to their purchase. A waiting period of five days for the purchase of any knife would be a start in the right direction to get the knives out of the hands these who might hurt themselves or others.

GEORGE W. WARD,  
East Lansing

## None of the above

To vote "none of the above":

1. Cast a blank vote! (The governor's race this election; they expect people are going to vote that race.)

2. Cast a write-in vote! A politician's nightmare. Heaven forbid. Clerks hate to count them and the press hates to report them but some are cast each election.

How about the press educating the electorate on ballot use and how to scare the pants off of lobbyists, PACS and politicians?

A box for "None of the Above" is putting a ring in the nose of the ignorant.

KENNETH E. FRY,  
Potterville

## RAVES:

"The question of who pays for abortions is about responsibility."

:Robin Artisson



# An Open INVITATION:

You are invited to send in your thoughts, comments, and **Open LETTERS** on any topic pertaining to public policy, individual liberty, personal responsibility, or free market economics. Your ideas will be printed with little or no editing, and shared with hundreds of people in the mid-Michigan area. If you are a member of a group working towards increasing liberty or shaping political policy, send in updates about what you are doing... there are many others who may like to join you.

**Open LETTER** is edited and laid out in the **Freedom Reading Room** by Michael Emhart. Printing is paid for by Liberty Coins. Postage is paid for by Jon Addiss. The views printed here are not necessarily the opinions of the editor or sponsors, although most **Interested Parties** probably do agree!

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## SEPTEMBER 25, 1994: Plan On Being There!

The east steps of the Capitol building in Lansing will be the site of the Michigan "Brass Roots" Second Amendment rally, on Sunday September 25th at 2pm. Special guests at this event will include hunter and rock star Ted Nugent, and future US Senator Jon Coon. The rally organizers ask people to not bring guns, but to bring spent brass cartridges from a gun they will never give up. The cartridges will be melted down and made into a plaque that will be presented to the Michigan Legislature. At least 50,000 people are expected to attend this rally-- the main event of the Coon campaign that will be held in our area. If you are interested in more information, or in helping with the organization of this event, contact Mark Owen locally at 337-0517.

**LAMM Meeting Switched To Thursday, September 15 To Accomodate Republican Candidate Linda Ploeg.**

(Details Inside...)

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