

# OAKLAND LIBERTY

Newsletter of the Oakland County Libertarian Party

September/October 1994

## SCARBOROUGH'S READY FOR NEXT SHOWDOWN

by Karen Scarborough

Another devastating blow was dealt to Scott and Karen Scarborough by the federal government in their attempts to have perjury convictions reversed by the Appeals Court. An eight page opinion rendered by the court in early August affirmed the conviction of Karen Scarborough, stating that "The evidence, therefore, *when viewed in the light most favorable to the government*, creates sufficient basis from which the jury could find the defendant [guilty]." (Italics added.)

Both Scarborough and her attorney Thomas Wilhelm contend that the written opinion is no more than a virtual word-for-word restatement of the prosecution's presentation. The opinion was issued Per Curiam, which means that none of the three judges hearing the case will accept responsibility as the author. The opinion was also given "not for publication," which means that it sets no precedent and applies only to the particular case in question.

Scott Scarborough, serving an eighteen month prison sentence at Morgantown, West Virginia, was clearly despondent over the news as he repeated over and over, "I just can't believe they can do this to us." There was every reason to believe that the case would be overturned on appeal, given the amount of severely egregious judicial errors and blatant violations of the Constitution during the original trial.

There may be new hope for the Scarborougs as of this writing. Attorney Tom Wilhelm, in a quest to see justice finally done, filed a motion for reconsideration with the Appeals Court, citing a case which did set precedent. The case, U.S. vs. Segines, was identical to the Scarborough

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## Activists Needed As Election Nears

With November 8th drawing closer, the Libertarian Party is in need of action by the membership and supporters of the movement. The general consensus is that the dissatisfaction of the electorate is at an all time high. This might produce a strong showing for the LP, but only if volunteers come forward to help.

This election seems to be arousing a record amount of disinterest by the media. As this issue goes to press shortly after Labor Day, the traditional campaign kick off, the newspapers and television are giving the election only cursory coverage. This seems like a good predictor that this election will again be covered like a horse race instead of a contest of ideas. This is probably a credit to the Jon Coon campaign, which would have to receive extensive coverage if newspeople acted like journalists and not book makers.

Foremost on the activist agenda is demonstrating a presence to the public. Yard signs for the Coon campaign have recently become available and bumperstickers have been a staple for some time. Contact 1-800-JON-COON for these items and cajole your friends and relatives to display them.

The Coon campaign has also produced the best Libertarian television commercial to date, featuring your tax dollars being flushed down a toilet. Unfortunately without funds to run the spots, no one is going to see them. The time is now to reach for your wallets and send a donation.

On the local scene, Oakland County Chair Leslie Balian is running an active campaign for the State Senate. She will need help distributing campaign fliers two to three weeks before the election. VOLUNTEER NOW!



Editorial by Gary Bradley

## **OF SECTS AND SCHISMS AND FIGHTS AND FACTIONS AND CABBAGES AND KINGS**

Anti-government political junkies get ready, there's a new Party in town. In August the formation of a new political party, the Constitution Party was announced. The founder of the party is Aaron Russo, noted concert promoter and movie producer. Other founding members include former Libertarian Presidential candidate Ron Paul and long time Libertarian activist and Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) founder Larry Dodge. The stated objectives of the party are similar to libertarian principles but appear to make a greater effort to appeal to those who are radically conservative in economic matters.

Do we really need a new political party with a philosophically libertarian ideology? From a practical standpoint, the answer is that we need a *viable* party with that viewpoint. It remains to be seen whether the Constitution Party is that party but it is becoming increasingly evident that the Libertarian Party is not. A few examples:

At the national level of the LP the officers and members of the national committee receive no compensation for expenses incurred while attending meetings or doing other LP business. This is one of the reasons that we now have a Chair who is a local activist in the teacher's union. Steve Dasbach was hardly anyone's first choice as Chair but his only opposition was a fourteen year old girl, Natalie Lloyd, daughter of a prominent Ohio activist. Natalie and "None of the Above" received over a third of the vote at the Salt Lake City convention, demonstrating the base of support of the present leadership.

One of Dasbach's first acts was to appoint a Republican activist from Wisconsin as the National Director. Despite the fact that the present director had given notice that he would leave a week after the convention, the National Committee refused to vote on a new director until the convention. This left a window of eight weeks for Dasbach to appoint Perry Willis, a former National Director as "interim director." When the time came for the new director to take over, Dasbach announced that he would be terminated due to irreconcilable differences.

Willis then became the permanent director at a salary of \$65,000 per year. His previous performance was so lackluster that no NatCom would have appointed him to the position directly. It appears evident that the national staff of the LP is not earning their salaries. This money could better be spent compensating the expenses of people willing to serve on the NatCom or as officers. Instead, it costs them several thousand dollars a year to do so.

The latest fiasco, of course, is the LP's wholehearted endorsement of Howard Stern as the New York gubernatorial candidate. Apparently Howard researched the candidacy diligently since as soon as he learned there was a financial disclosure requirement, he dropped out of the race. The entire matter was more ammunition for those who wish to make the LP appear to be unprofessional clowns and misfits rather than a real alternative.

It is apparent that the LP is a sinking ship and that for every two activists trying to bail it out, there is a third activist bringing more water on board. Can the LP be saved? Ten years ago I was sure it could. Five years ago I hoped it could. Today I'm tired and I hope Jon Coon can save the LP in Michigan because I know I find it increasingly difficult to give a damn.

We finally have a serious candidate running a serious campaign with the centerpiece being gun rights. In the middle of that campaign the LPM newsletter runs a front page article about the unimportance of the second amendment. How skilled Libertarians are at snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

For a long time I have tried to convince LPM members that we need to be more pragmatic in terms of electoral politics and that the purpose of a political party is to elect people. I was frequently accused of being "unprincipled" for those view. As a result, I no longer try to tell anyone else what approach to politics they should take. I plan to continue to belong to the Libertarian Party, but I have also joined the Constitution Party. I do not see a conflict in that position as yet. At some point one of these parties may decide there is a way to win elections without selling out principles. That is the one that will gain my final support. Until then I will help *anyone* oppose government tyranny. Contact Karen Scarborough for CP info.



## BRASS ROOTS RALLY DRAWS 10,000

The Jon Coon for US Senate campaign was responsible for organizing the largest event ever sponsored by a Libertarian group in Michigan. Supporters of gun rights turned out at the steps of the Capitol in Lansing to send a message to politicians bent on ignoring the Second Amendment. State police estimated that over 10,000 people appeared on a cold, rainy Sunday, September 25th, to put the political establishment on notice. The mainstream press did an exceptional job of ignoring the rally.

Following the pledge of allegiance led by State Senate candidate Dominick Vincentini and a welcoming statement by Jon Coon, the crowd heard from Dennis Fusaro from Gun Owners of America. GOA is perhaps the most steadfast pro-gun organization in the United States. Many of its members feel that the National Rifle Association has become more concerned with its own power than with the protection of its members. This was underscored by the fact that the NRA declined to be represented at the rally since they have decided to endorse Spencer Abraham. The NRA is expected to attempt to convince its members in Michigan that a vote for Jon Coon will be like a vote for Bob Carr. Why this should bother the NRA is anyone's guess since Carr won their endorsement in all of his races for the US House. It was only in the last year when he supported the assault weapons ban in exchange for Democratic Party aid in a close primary that the NRA turned against him. Why the NRA would object to candidates putting pragmatism above principle, when they have set the standard is a mystery.

Jon Coon was next to address the crowd, vowing to remain firm on his support of gun rights when he is elected. The speech warned the listeners that voting Libertarian is the only way to be sure of sending the gun grabbers a message about how many citizens are concerned about their right to bear arms. Coon implored all those present to urge all their friends and relatives to vote for him. Merely the votes of those present at the rally may be enough to change the result of the election if the polls are correct.

Other speakers at the rally included Gary Stewart of Speak Out America, Republican State Representative David Jaye, one of the foremost supporters of gun rights in the legislature, Mark Scott, radio talk show host and anti-statist gadfly, Ray Southwell of the Militia of Northern Michigan and many more speakers too numerous to mention.

The final offering was given by Ted Nugent, rock star, bow hunter, and prominent gun rights activist. In an emotionally charged speech, Nugent attacked Bill and Hillary Clinton and various members of the political establishment. Resentment against the government was evident from the signs and bumper stickers seen around the rally. The crowd responded passionately to Nugent's diatribe against the political establishment. At times it seemed fortunate that the legislature was not in session or those gathered would surely have been deemed a threat to the "public" safety.

The crowd seemed disappointed to have the rally end. It was an event that Libertarians in Michigan and around the country will be talking about for quite some time. Local organizer Michael Miller noted, "It was the first time we (Libertarians) experienced solidarity with the public. It was great to hear the roar of the crowd since we've never drawn a crowd large enough to roar before."

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## Scarboroughs

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case in that non-evidentiary material was also given to the jury. The Appeals Court ruled that "the district court abused its discretion" and subsequently granted the defendant a new trial. It should be noted that not only was a precedent set by this case, but it was set by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals as well; the very same court that denied Karen Scarborough's appeal.

The Scarboroughs anticipate that this time, justice will indeed be done. "They'll have to do some pretty fancy footwork to distinguish between the two cases," stated Tom Wilhelm. In the unlikely event the conviction is upheld, the case will then be filed with the U.S. Supreme Court.

Scott Scarborough's appeal was heard on September 26th. A decision is normally issued about six weeks later but the wait can be as long as six months. If the decision takes longer than two months or is unfavorable, Scott will be transferred to a halfway house in the Detroit area on November 15. A welcome home party for Scott will take place soon after the case is reversed or he is allowed to spend a weekend at home, whichever occurs first.

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### CAVEAT EMPTOR

In the last issue we published an article about a group of real estate speculators trying to establish a libertarian community in the Bahamas. At about the time of publication, the editor wrote to Kevin Bloom for additional information and some documentation that the project was legitimate. Among other items, we requested a letter from the company's solicitors in the Bahamas and information about the present owners of Rudder Cut Cay, to assure that negotiations were, indeed, ongoing. We have not, as yet, received a reply to that inquiry.

If you have any interest in this project, we suggest that you too proceed with great skepticism and refrain from writing any checks until you have done adequate research. If you receive information indicating that this is a viable and legitimate project please share it with us. If you receive information to the contrary, please forward that to us also.

## OFF THE RECORD

By Libby Tareyon

### MAESTRO - THE WEDDING MARCH!

Rumor has it that MDL facilitator and WDET commentator Tim O'Brien has popped the question to Nancy Gerogolian, former NOW activist and LPM convention organizer in 1994. Ms. Tareyon has learned through the grapevine that a b-i-i-i-g December wedding is planned.

### THANKS BUT NO THANKS

Recently one of our observant members caught a glimpse of none other than the infamous Doreen Wright at the Second Amendment Rally held at Freedom Hill. Evidently the nervy Ms. Wright was seen making a desperate attempt to get back in the good graces of other Libertarians by offering to help with the Jon Coon campaign. Campaign manager Barbara Goushaw politely informed Wright that the Coon Campaign neither wanted nor needed her kind of help after the way she "helped" the Scarboroughs into a perjury conviction. Wright claimed not to know what Goushaw was talking about. Hmmm....Ms. Tareyon would like to offer Ms. Wright a one-way trip to Disneyland on the Potomac where reality is nonexistent and Ms. Wright can revel in denial forever if she chooses.

### MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY!

Those running for office received a letter from Dr. Mary Ruwart encouraging them to "join forces" with the Natural Law Party by agreeing not to run candidates for the same offices they were seeking. Doesn't Mary (and Keith Edwards, who backs this half-baked, unprincipled idea) know that the NLP promotes the forced implementation of Transcendental Meditation (funded by taxation) to achieve a more harmonious, touchy-feely society? Ms. Tareyon feels an uncontrollable urge to genuflect at this point.

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### CONTRIBUTORS WANTED

Oakland Liberty needs articles about Libertarian activities taking place in Oakland county or about local events of particular interest to libertarians. Announcements for events at least six weeks in the future are also welcome. Send all contributions to the editor. Thank you.

JON COON, US SENATE CANDIDATE WILL UPDATE US ON THE CAMPAIGN  
& TELL US HOW WE CAN HELP - Wed. Oct 19 - MR. B'S, 423 MAIN,  
ROCHESTER - 6:30-Dinner/Bill Munro answers your questions on  
land patents - 7:30-JON COON - For more info call Leslie  
Balian (810) 969-0666

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JON COON TO SPEAK!  
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