

OAKLAND LIBERTY

Newsletter of the Oakland County Libertarian Party

May/June 1994

Oakland Candidates For November Elections

Libertarians in Oakland County will have an excellent chance of voting for candidates at all levels of government. In addition to a full slate of board seats and a U.S. Senate candidate, four state senate races, three state house races, two county commission races and one U.S. House race will have libertarians represented.

The races are as follows:

State Senate:

District 13: Henry Freriks of
Royal Oak

District 14: Richard C. Gach of Bloomfield Hills

District 15: David S. Thompson of Farmington
Hills

District 16: Leslie Carol Balian of Leonard

State House:

District 34: Mary Wayfield of Madison Heights

District 37: Yepam Dervahanian of Farmington
Hills

District 45: Kay Barr Suri of Oakland

County Commission:

District 5: Barbara Goushaw of Waterford

District 22: Putnam Weekley of Royal Oak

U.S. House:

District 8: Gerald Turcotte of Holly

A listing of statewide candidates appears
elsewhere in this issue.

Candidate Profile: Leslie Balian - State Senate 16

Oakland County Chair Leslie Balian has decided to try her hand at politics outside the Party. On November 8th, she will be seeking to become the new State Senator from the 16th district in the northeastern part of Oakland County. While relatively new to that district, Leslie is a long-time resident of the county. She recently moved to the Leonard area with her husband Eric Bush and their eight children.

Leslie is an independent computer consultant. She attended the University of Michigan, earning a B.S. degree in 1980 and was also a recipient of the Hopwood Award. Following her matriculation, she was employed in Boston, Munich, and Rochester. She is active in numerous civic organizations.

Leslie plans to emphasize four major elements in her campaign. The first point of her presentation will be patriotism. She plans to remain true to the letter and spirit of both federal and state Constitutions in her duties as a legislator.

The second element of her campaign will be children and education. She will support more autonomy for local school boards in hiring and curriculum and help return control of education to parents rather than experts from the government.

The third element of her platform is a smaller government and lower taxes. She promises never to vote for a tax increase.

The final element of Leslie's platform is support for our right to keep and bear arms. She feels a well armed citizenry is the best deterrent to crime and to foreign adventurism.

Leslie will be running one of the more active local races in Oakland County. She plans to be a serious contender in November and needs the support of as many volunteers as possible.

Editorial:

BIG BROTHER AND THE PRICE OF FEAR?

For the last decade I have had the sense that the seeming ineptitude of the American legal system may be more insidious than most of us wish to believe. Each year more horror stories come to our attention about violent criminals committing additional outrageous acts while free on bond or parole. Occasionally these stories are used as tools of a particular politician as in the Willie Horton incident but typically the reports are treated as just another news story.

Thanks to the media, we now live in a climate of fear. If history teaches us anything, it is that such a climate is fertile ground for the rise of a fascist government. Fear is an emotion that promotes a feeling of helplessness. People who are afraid will accept restrictions on their own freedom without a thought, if the government convinces them that they will be safer as a result. Unfortunately, the majority of the citizens don't question such restrictions as their fears continue or increase, rather they accept still more restrictions. For a government seeking power, fear is a powerful tool.

Why are there so many dangerous criminals walking the streets and striking fear in the hearts of ordinary citizens? The government says they don't have enough prisons to hold all the criminals. How can this be true when our country imprisons more of its population than anywhere else on earth? Perhaps it would be instructive to see how the government treats different classes of criminals. The typical sentence for a rapist is seven years with parole in 30 months. The normal sentence for selling an "illegal weapon" is also seven years with no parole before 48 months. Thieves average seven months, tax protesters thirteen. A mugger gets about two years, failure to cooperate with a federal investigation is good for three.

What standards do our courts use for punishment? More and more it seems that the prisons are full of people whom the government views as a threat to its power rather than a threat to the people. Over half of the federal prison population are non-violent drug offenders. Another third

are people who have broken government regulations or failed to pay some assessment.

The one aspect of government prosecutions that has become more apparent over the last decade or so, is that the greatest wrath is reserved for those people who stand up for their rights. The case of the Tuckers in Georgia is typical. They were selling grow lights and hydroponic equipment, some of which was being used for growing marijuana. They maintained that they had every right to sell the equipment regardless of the uses for which the end purchaser might utilize it. The government gave immunity or reduced sentences to over a dozen marijuana growers to testify that the Tuckers had made it possible to grow their crops. The Tuckers were then charged and convicted of the total amount cultivated under the federal conspiracy laws, despite the fact that they were never in possession of so much as a seed.

The judicial climate in this country has reached the point where the biggest conspiracy exists between the criminals and the government. A real criminal will not hesitate to implicate anyone the government finds annoying in order to reduce his/her own sentence. This procedure is a win-win system for the state. The average citizen lives in fear of those real criminals walking the streets and also in fear that s/he has to keep his nose clean because almost anyone can be convicted of something.

People who let fear dominate their lives will accept anything that makes them feel a little more secure, even if it only gives the illusion of security. People who let their lives be ruled by fear will never question authority, will spy on their neighbors, and will ultimately walk into the cattle cars on the promise that they are going somewhere less frightening.

Americans were once a people who would rise up in anger at a government who put muggers and rapists on the streets while filling the jails with pot smokers. Once we would have taken our streets back ourselves instead of waiting for the "proper" authorities. Once we were too free to live in fear, but it seems those days are gone.

Benjamin Franklin said, "Those who trade liberty for security deserve neither." If I have any real fear today it is that we really do deserve the government we have.

Nine Libertarians Candidates Mount Statewide Races

Strategic considerations prevented the Libertarian Party of Michigan from fielding a full statewide slate of candidates for the November 8th election but nine of the thirteen slots are being contested. "Top of the ticket" rules regarding ballot status deterred the Party from running candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, or Attorney General since all of these positions appear above the United States Senate position. No matter how well other statewide candidates do in the election, ballot status for the entire Libertarian Party of Michigan is determined by the candidate closest to the top of the ticket.

In other respects, this is a banner year for the LP of Michigan with a very active race for U.S. Senate by Jon Coon of Henderson. This will be a full time campaign effort with a large staff and professional management. Jon has set his minimal goal as gaining major party status for the LP. While acknowledging that he will probably be outspent ten to one by the Democrats and Republicans, he feels a victory is still possible by being smarter than his opponents and mobilizing more dedicated volunteers. Any time you can devote to Jon's campaign is well worth it. Contact him at his toll free telephone number 1-800-Jon-Coon.

The LP is also running a full slate of candidates for the education boards for the first time in several elections. Candidates for the State Board of Education are Erwin J. Haas of Grand Rapids and David Raaflaub of Ann Arbor. Candidates for University of Michigan Boards of Regents are Gary Bradley of St. Johns and Emily Salvette of Ann Arbor. Michigan State Board of Trustees nominees are Ben Bachrach of Dearborn and Mary Ruwart of Kalamazoo. Libertarians running for Wayne State Board of Governors are Tom Jones of Detroit and Brian Wright of Farmington Hills.

Redistricting has made it easier than in the past to nominate candidates at the county level, rather than at state conventions. For a county such as Oakland, this strengthens the effect of local organizing. If you want to change the face of government, now is the time to get active.

A Libertarian Life In Paradise?

A libertarian community is under development on Rudder Cut Cay in the Exhuma chain of the Bahamas. The island has been deserted for seven years when a previous developer went bankrupt shortly after completing an artificial harbor and some roads. One acre lots are being offered by Kevin Bloom of Port Watson, Ltd. Down payments will be held in escrow until sufficient contracts are procured to attract investors to underwrite the project. The island also has an airstrip and several beaches. The size of the Cay is 400 acres with several elevations over 70 feet.

Due to the Free National Movement in the Bahamas, the climate for private investment by non-Bahamians has markedly improved in the last year. Many public utilities and services have been privatized or are up for auction. Most importantly the Immovable Properties Act has been repealed which means non-Bahamians may now purchase up to five acres of property without waiting for prior government approval. Particularly attractive to Libertarians is the continued absence of sales tax, capital gains tax, inheritance tax, and personal or corporate income taxes. There is also a \$50,000 exemption on property tax. If you work in the Bahamas, the IRS allows an exemption on the first \$75,000 of income. One acre lots are available for a \$1000 down-payment for either a vacation or permanent home on the island. Contact Kevin Bloom at 24 S. Holman Way #4C, Golden, CO, 80401, phone 303-277-1141

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Please direct submissions and advertising to the editor, subscriptions, address changes, and LPOC memberships to the publisher.

Federal Harassment of Scarboroughs Continues

On May 18, Karen Scarborough was brought before federal judge Nancy Edmunds on charges of probation violations. Prior to this time, Mrs. Scarborough's probation program had stipulated that she be confined to her residence from the hours of 8:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. seven days a week. She specifically inquired as to whether she could participate in Libertarian activities during the hours when she was not confined and was told that such participation was permitted. When Judge Edmunds saw news coverage of Mrs. Scarborough's participation in the April 15th tax protest at the Royal Oak post office, she convened the hearing, usurping the procedures of the probation officers.

After the facts of the case were presented, Edmunds admonished Mrs. Scarborough that "she should have known better" than to have participated in the protest. An additional four months of home confinement was added to the sentence and the confinement time was moved back to 6:30 p.m., barely enough time for Mrs. Scarborough to commute to her place of employment. The possibility remains that Edmunds will order an electronic tether to be installed against the advice of medical experts.

The active involvement of a judge in probation matters to the extent that Edmunds has pursued the Scarborough case is unprecedented. Observers have speculated that the government is going to extraordinary lengths to convict and punish the Scarboroughs for their anti-government activities. Ralph Musilli, attorney for Scott Scarborough, stated that anyone could have been convicted on the evidence presented by the prosecution, which was of such dubious quality it should never have been admitted.

The Scarborough's cases are now on appeal, chiefly on the basis that Edmunds gave non-evidentiary material favorable to the prosecution to the jury when they failed to reach a unanimous verdict. Karen Scarborough's appeal will be heard on June 23. Scott's appeal date is not yet set, but his attorney believes he will be granted bond if Karen's appeal is successful.

Donations to the Scarborough Defense Fund are still needed to defray legal expenses.

Notes From The Belly Of The Beast

by Scott Scarborough

This month my story will be about Richard Smith, a prisoner who works in maintenance in the prison. Richard is here for "felony misprision" which by his description is knowing about a crime and not reporting it. It sounds like that law violates everyone's fifth amendment right against self-incrimination. The government violate the Constitution? What else is new.

Richard owns severally sexually oriented night clubs in Texas. One of them is close to the former Branch Davidian compound in Waco. Richard wasn't interested in the Waco videotape circulating the country because, he said, he already knows Koresh and his people were murdered. As the closest commercial establishment to the compound, he hasn't had, or heard of other neighbors having, any problems with the Branch Davidians.

Richard has had problems with local government for years because they've tried to shut down his night clubs. He has sued them for hundreds of thousands of dollars and won. They were trying to set him up by infiltrating the clubs with undercover cops. But they didn't know that Rich had everything going on at his establishments secretly videotaped. With these tapes, he caught the cops in numerous lies that they made in court, under oath. This led to a \$40 million law suit against the local government. Rich claims the case was open-and -shut. During the case someone approached him and asked if he would burn down a night club. Rich said, "No, but see that guy in the corner? He's a shady character. You could ask him."

Rich is kind of naive in that he still doesn't think the whole thing was a set-up. The night club burned, the arsonists were caught and naturally they rolled over on Rich for "conspiracy" to get a lighter sentence. The prosecutor offered to drop the conspiracy charge for a guilty plea to "felony misprision" which was supposed to be six months maximum. Rich took the deal since he didn't think his lifestyle would make points with the jury. Then the judge decided he would make an example of Rich and gave him two years despite the sentencing guidelines. Equal Justice For All - my ass.

U.S. Senate Candidate Goes All Out

by Barbara Goushaw

"The Coon Campaign is setting the standard for other Libertarian campaigns across the country" . . . L.P. News April 1994

"The most electable guy in the race" . . .
Denny McClain WXYT Radio

"The best organized Libertarian campaign ever" . . . Joe Knight, L.P. campaign organizer

"Want impassioned listener response to your talk show? Book Jon Coon, Libertarian Candidate for U.S. Senate" . . . Bill Ballenger, WKAR Radio & Editor of *Inside Michigan Politics*

"What do you expect to get out of this race?" . . .
Gongwer News Service on "Off The Record"
"We expect to win. That's why we're in it." . . .
Jon Coon

Could a Libertarian from Michigan actually win a U.S. Senate seat? That is the question on the minds of virtually everyone who comes in contact with the Jon Coon for Senate campaign. The Coon for Senate team, however, doesn't ask it any more. They are in it to win. "That's been the goal from the start," says campaign manager Barb Goushaw.

"There is an intense level of voter frustration out there," says Jon Coon. "It has left a political vacuum. Political vacuums don't exist for very long. Someone will come along and fill the void, and if it's not the Libertarian Party, I shudder to think who it might be."

So Coon embarked on an ambitious plan to capture the Senate seat being vacated by don Riegle. Coon kicked off his campaign in May of 1993 by resigning from his job as a timber buyer to campaign full time. He officially announced his candidacy on an hour long interview on WXYT talk radio with host David Newman. Since then, Coon has done over 100 radio interviews and has received coverage in newspapers across the state. His campaign has run radio ads in Detroit and Grand Rapids, and has a TV commercial starting the week of June 20. He has been endorsed by a wide variety of business

people, both Libertarian Party members and non-members. His list of endorsers includes economist David Littman and rock star Ted Nugent.

The Coon campaign has targeted the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms as a major issue. They have scheduled a Second Amendment rally for September 25, on the steps of the Capitol in Lansing. This event, which is co-sponsored by Ted Nugent, is expected to draw over 50,000 people who are deeply concerned about the right to keep and bear arms.

As with all campaigns, fundraising is a major challenge. The Coon campaign has raised and spent three times as much as any other Libertarian campaign in Michigan history, and has substantial amounts still outstanding in their monthly pledge program, which remains the funding backbone of the campaign.

"It's not that people disagree with the Libertarian message," says Jon Coon. "Most people we talk to find themselves agreeing with our positions on the issues. The challenge is to prove that we are viable. The only way to do that is to campaign hard, stage events that people will pay attention to, and raise the money to do paid advertising."

The campaign is also focussed on the "message to Washington" theme. This is based on the idea that competition from a viable third party with a grounded base of principles can effectively put the entire Congress on notice that their jobs are no longer secure. "No freshman Republican or Democrat, no matter how well intentioned, can have the impact of one Libertarian," says Jon Coon. "Their ideas will only be lost in the shuffle of internal party politics. Send a Libertarian to Washington and Champagne glasses will be dropping from suddenly numb fingers all over that town."

For additional information phone 1-800-JON-COON.

Attention Business Owners

Libertarians make good customers. If you would like to advertise in Oakland Liberty, the charge is \$2.50 per column inch. For details contact Gary Bradley at 810-673-2693.

Conventioneers Revel In Decadence

by Karen Scarborough

The best attended LPM convention in recent memory was held April 22-24 at the Metro Airport Ramada Inn. The event was superbly organized by Nancy Gerogolian and various volunteers. The official kick-off, "A Night In Libertaria," was hosted by the Washtenaw County Libertarian Party. Attendees could be seen gambling, watching peep shows, and , later in the evening, viewing a floor show complete with erotic dancers. It was truly an evening of political incorrectness, as condoms were hawked along with handguns (of the squirt gun variety). Surprisingly enough, not one person participating in the decadent behavior was injured, murdered, or morally corrupted, even though freedom of choice ran rampant. Could the mainstream media be wrong?

The more somber events of Saturday night at the LPM banquet included the presentation of the Freedom Fighter Award posthumously to Dick Jacobs, longtime Libertarian activist and candidate. Accepted by Jacob's wife, Carol, the award preceded keynote speaker, attorney at law, Ralph Musilli. Musilli, who represents Scott Scarborough in his ongoing battle with federal authorities, emphasized the dangers of a growing and ever intrusive government. The speech was followed by the ever popular auction, conducted by Barb Goushaw, campaign manager for Jon Coon.

Anyone not totally alert Sunday morning was abruptly awakened by the words of Aaron Zellman, as he warned of the dangers of government genocide as a result of increasing gun control legislation. Unfortunately, our own LPM Chair, stating that the first amendment is the most important, is not aware that the second amendment is the one that insures that the others won't be usurped without a fight.

LPM officers were elected next with three candidates vying for the office of LPM Chair, Keith Edwards, Karen Scarborough and David Raaflaub. Three votes were required before Edwards received a majority, winning by four votes. Emily Salvette won the Vice-Chair position, also sought by Jon Coon. Karen Scarborough is the new Secretary, defeating Pat

Baker, the incumbent. Dave Nagy won the Treasurer's seat for another term by acclamation. New Members-At -Large are Barb Vozenilik, Jon Coon, and James Hudler. The first Executive Board meeting was held at the home of Emily Salvette early in May.

LPOC Newsletter Gets Facelift

by Karen Scarborough

There is a new look to the LPOC Newsletter this month, compliments of Gary Bradley. Bradley, long time LP member, was co-editor of the Michigan Libertarian from 1986-87, has contributed articles to other libertarian publications, and served on the now defunct Libertarian Central Committee. He hopes that by donating his writing and editing talents, he will raise libertarian awareness, thereby increasing LPOC membership and participation.

Bradley presently resides in Waterford, assisting Scott and Karen Scarborough with their government battles. A chemical engineer by training, Gary is currently seeking employment in his field after having lost his business due to government interference.

Get Active

A frequently heard complaint among Libertarians is that they don't have the time to do the kind of activities necessary to get the Party established as a political force in the community. Unfortunately they also seem to lack the funds to hire a full time staff to do it. The LP is a voluntary organization and every contribution is helpful. Here are some suggestions of actions that take little time but could achieve great results if everyone reading this took action.

- 1) Give Libertarian introductory materials to one new person every month. Most of us meet at least one person per month that might be receptive to Libertarian ideas. Keep some outreach materials handy.

- 2) Put up a yard sign for a Libertarian candidate and ask a friend or neighbor to do likewise.

- 3) Write a letter to the editor of your local paper at least once per month expressing a Libertarian viewpoint.

DANGEROUS DOUBLESPEAK: GOODBYE CONSTITUTION

by Karen Scarborough

We, as Americans, are always disillusioned to find our Constitutionally guaranteed rights null and void, courtesy of the federal government. The rarely compromised First Amendment, the right to free speech, is gradually heading out the door along with the Second Amendment. This is especially threatening to the lives and liberties of political activists in the Libertarian movement. Lest you think this conclusion a trifle paranoid, consider the position of long-time Libertarian Party member Scott Scarborough at the Royal Oak post office, exercising his right to free speech. Scarborough, ascribing to a Randian school of thought where "words have exact meaning", was reasonably sure he could participate in the activity. Terribly and horribly, he was wrong. A respected engineer at Ford Motor, he was hauled before a federal Grand Jury on numerous occasions, professing ignorance of the smoke bombing at the Royal Oak post office.

Authorities were so sure of his innocence that immunity was granted, in hopes that Scarborough would turn in the real culprit. Tactics often found in Communist countries (where no free speech exists) were then implemented. Scarborough was taped in his own home by a convicted felon, responding to leading statements made by the felon regarding the incident. Although the government never possessed originals of the tapes, and although Pete Hendrickson, the felon, failed three polygraphs, Scarborough and his wife were led away in handcuffs and indicted on charges of perjury and conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Although familiar with the decline of Constitutional rights, Scarborough looked forward to a fair trial where his name and reputation would be cleared. Wrong again. The courts now pick juries from pools preselected by the prosecution. This unconstitutional act, along with a statist judge and prosecutor willing to break the law to achieve their goals, was enough to send Scott away to prison for eighteen months as "an example to other tax protesters."

As portrayed in the Scarborough case,

conspiracy laws consistently endanger the right to free speech because a conspiracy conviction requires little or no evidence to be presented. Evidence can be ambiguous and hearsay testimony by "unindicted co-conspirators" is admissible, making conspiracy difficult, if not impossible, to disprove.

Conspiracy laws and the ever continuing violations of the Constitution are now allowing a tyrannical government the ability to ruin the lives of decent, moral, law-abiding individuals like Scott Scarborough. He spends his time in prison comparing the horror stories of fellow inmates to his own.

Do you still think you have the right to free speech? That would depend on whether the government is required to mean exactly what it says. There now seems to be a trend toward referring to this type of lunacy as "interpretation." It runs the gamut of failure to imprison those who would actually violate the rights of others to our esteemed President calling taxation "contributions." Clearly the government's "interpretation" of the Constitution renders the sacred document meaningless.

If, indeed, the wording of the Constitution has no meaning, how then do we know which acts will be considered punishable crimes? The answer is easy: We don't! Just as we would not order from a menu absent of prices, so would we also refuse to play a game without knowing the rules. This, however, is no game. The government plays to win and makes up new rules wherever necessary to achieve that end.

As long as the new "doublespeak" is allowed to continue, we will continue to see our Constitutional rights compromised, one by one, until they cease to exist. The government will insist on calling some revised document the "Constitution", but just like calling taxes "contributions", it will bear no resemblance to the real thing. A long time ago someone said, "The ends justify the means." It wasn't our government that coined that phrase, but it could have been.

Note, correspondence to Scott should go to:

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