



The Liberty Agenda

News & Upcoming Events Of
The Libertarian Party of West Michigan

JAN / FEB
1993

1992 LP Candidate Election Return Highlights

LP Presidential candidate Andre Marrou received about 284,000 votes nationwide, significantly less than the one million many LP analysts had hoped for. This result was attributed in large part to a loss of votes to Ross Perot, whom many voters chose over Marrou due to their concerns with "visibility" of their vote as a protest against Bush and Clinton.

In addition, there was an unusually large number (twenty-one) of alternative presidential candidates across the country. Marrou and Perot were the only alternative candidates on the ballot in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. **Not counting votes for Perot** (who spent more money on his campaign than *all* of the other presidential candidates combined), **Andre Marrou received about 46% of the votes for alternative candidates** (and the next alternative candidate received about 16% by this measure).

(see *VOTES*, page 2 / column 1)

LP of Michigan Convention Coming Up April 30 - May 2

The LPM annual convention is being convened in Grand Rapids this year with the theme of "Religious Liberty." Details are still being worked out by the convention planning committee, but certain items can be mentioned now.

The convention will be held at the Days Inn in downtown Grand Rapids, and **reservations for rooms must be made with the hotel by April 15** (ironic, isn't it?). Rooms are \$54 (single or double), plus \$6/person for additional people (more than two). Reservation cards will be mailed out in a couple of months.

The convention will include speakers, seminars, LPM elections, bylaws discussion, and all-around friendly Libertarian "hob-nobbing." (More information in next issue.)

Newsletter Labels Now Give Status Information

In the upper right corner of your address label is a one- or two-letter code. The major codes are, or begin with, the letters "M," "S," or "I." Certain labels also contain a date after the letter code. Here are some words of explanation.

If the first (or only) letter is an "M," this declares your **membership status**. **After this code will be a date that indicates when you will need to renew your membership.**

If the first (or only) letter is an "S," this indicates your status as a **newsletter subscriber**. **The date indicates when you will need to renew your subscription** (or, of course, become an LPWM member).

If the first (or only) letter is an "I," this indicates that you are receiving a few free issues of the newsletter as the result of making an **inquiry** about the Libertarian Party. **If you see a date after this code, you will continue to receive the newsletter until this date.** If you join the LPWM by this date (\$10 annual membership dues), or if you donate at least \$5 to the LPWM for a one-year subscription to the newsletter, then, of course, you will continue to receive the newsletter after this date. Please consider becoming an LPWM member. (If you want to continue receiving *The Liberty Agenda* but you're on a fixed income and really cannot afford the donation, just call us or mail a postcard to us and let us know of your interest.)

Two-Party Socialism Fails To Solve Race Relations

by James Pruitt

I saw *Boyz 'N' The Hood* over the weekend, and while I found it fascinating, it caused me to think about where we're at as far as race relations in this country.

Have we really made any progress in the last thirty years? Or are we just spouting platitudes about racial harmony?

When America watches the nightly news and sees the stories about urban/black violence, I feel our reaction too often is "Oh my, what are those people up to now?" We don't see them as people, just characters from some story.

When we hear the statistics about black violence, mortality rates for young black males, or the pregnancy rates for black teenage girls, how do we respond? We generally get upset, sad, or disgusted. Maybe we'll even talk about it at work. Mostly though, we go on and think that the government or somebody else will take care of the problems.

In the movie an accusation is made against whites and Asians that they are responsible for putting a gun shop and/or a liquor store on every corner in the "Hood." For what purpose? So blacks will kill each other or destroy themselves in the process.

Racism isn't the reason for those businesses thriving. Economics is the reason. There is obviously a demand for those kinds of goods. And anyone with any kind of business sense will tell you that any good shopkeeper will meet the demand of any product. One more thing - these shopkeepers

(see *RACE RELATIONS*, page 2 / column 2)

LPWM Goes Traditional On Membership Dues

At its regular second-Saturday of the month meeting, the LPWM executive committee decided to implement annual **membership dues of \$10** in addition to the affirmation of the "Libertarian pledge" that **"I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor do I advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals."**

If you are currently a member (see "Calendar Of Events" on page 2) **your membership lasts until the next LPWM Convention on April 10.**

Also, **if you persuade four individuals to join the LPWM, you will receive a free one-year subscription to Reason** (a \$19.95 value), the leading libertarian-oriented magazine. Just have them indicate that they are joining the LPWM at your behest when they fill out the membership form.

Even more, **if you make an additional donation of \$25 or more** (beyond the \$10 membership dues), **you will receive the book of your choice** from the list of books shown on the membership/donation form (depending, of course, on availability).

Pass Liberty Agenda Along!

The information and the views expressed in this newsletter are for your use and, hopefully, enjoyment. We encourage you to make copies and distribute them to your friends and family.

Put in a word for the Libertarian Party with your family and friends. Sometimes a word is all it takes. Be a branch, and help extend the tree!

Libertarian Party of West Michigan
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WANTED!!

Material For *Liberty Agenda*

1. Clippings or copies of local news articles about privatization, volunteer efforts, and government waste and abuse (or any other gov't ludicracies) in West Michigan.
2. Articles about projects (volunteer or otherwise) you are involved in that would be of interest to libertarians.
3. Letters-to-the-editor that have been published or letters to elected politicians by Libertarians (for letters-to-the-editor please send clipping or copy from the periodical it appeared in - and be sure to indicate the periodical name and the date it was published).
4. Cartoons on current issues with a perspective that libertarians can appreciate.
5. And, of course, letters to *Liberty Agenda*!

Deadline for next issue: March 19, 1993

(VOTES, from page 1 / column 1)

On the other hand, LP candidates for Congressional, state, and local positions received better overall support than ever before in the history of the LP (i.e., since the December, 1971 founding). For example, four Libertarians were elected to the New Hampshire state house. Although no Libertarians have been elected to the U.S. Senate (yet), the total number of votes cast for LP Senate candidates was over 900,000, more than for any alternative party since 1914.

Here are some Michigan results:

U.S. House, Dist. 2	Dick Jacobs	4,712	2.0%	3-way
U.S. House, Dist. 3	Dick Whitelock	3,245	1.2%	4-way
U.S. House, Dist. 7	Kenneth Proctor	7,312	11.1%	2-way
State Brd of Educ.	Mary Ruwart	79,000+		
State Supr. Court	Robert Rodeis	193,324	9.1%	3-way
Univ of MI Trustee	Jim Hudler	3,517	1.0%	8-way
Wayne State Trustee	Tom Jones	3,563	1.3%	8-way
State House, Dist. 74	Jim Pruitt	1,199	3.1%	3-way
State House, Dist 76	Mike Gillman	1,057	3.1%	3-way
Kent County Comm.	Glenn Barr	1,751	16.6%	2-way
Kent County Comm.	Ryan Baughan	333	2.9%	3-way

(source: *Libertarian Party News*, 12/92 issue, except info for Ruwart)

Psalm 23: A Paraphrased Version

The Government is my shepherd,
it provides me with everything I need.
It provides me with a place to live.
It provides me with nourishment, comfort, and safety;
it even provides me with self-esteem.

The Government leads me according to The Public Interest
and The National Security,
for the sake of The Social Good.

Even if I need health care or medical attention,
I need not worry about anything,
for The Government is with me.
The federal, state, county, and city governments
provide me with a wonderful "safety net."

The Government has prepared a fantastic arsenal
of armies, war-machines, border patrols, tariffs,
and quotas to protect me from foreigners.
As a citizen who abides by every ordained law,
The Government annoints me with its blessings;
my cup overflows.

Surely kindness and gentleness will follow me
all the days of my life,
as I live according to the Decrees of State
and worship The Government forever.

(RACE RELATIONS, from page 1 / column 2)

are made up of all races.

If those problems were in Beverly Hills or closer to home, East Grand Rapids, what would our response be? There would be such an outcry that the police would sweep down and put a swift end to this "crisis."

Guess what? Their problems are our problems too. African-Americans are citizens too. WE need to solve it together.

Why don't we do something about it? Because it's only "drug dealers" and "drug addicts" and "welfare bums and cheats," so we know they don't count. So we sit in our homes, smugly confident in our superior morality, while we watch our cities die.

It's not just the average Joe, either. When you watch or read the news, look at what you see. Every day we hear about some new atrocity committed in Yugoslavia and why we should send our troops in to bring peace.

When was the last time you heard anything about the civil wars tearing Central Africa apart? Did you even know that Mozambique and Zaire were having civil wars?

The typical media response is that the African conflict is the result of tribal wars that have been fought for hundreds of years. Europe, on the other hand, is the bedrock of civilization. We should do all in our power to solve the crisis.

If you doubt me, remember the words of Bill Clinton in the first presidential debate? He called Yugoslavia a "quagmire" and Somalia "a result of tribal wars."

Think about this. Who has fought the two most brutal wars in the history of this planet?

Is Europe more newsworthy because of race?

We have to get politics out of the race question. We are all Americans. Democrats blame Republicans and vice-versa.

Both sides have validity to their claims, and yet, both are at fault. Both groups have had their champions in elective office for the past 130 years. All you have to do is look and you'll see what they've done.

The obvious answer is not more government interference, but more economic and philosophical freedoms. Sixty years of socialism has not produced the society we had hoped it would.

When we realize that we're all in the same boat, when we learn that we need each other, and when we allow people to have the freedom and liberty that the Constitution gives them, then maybe things will get done.

(reprinted from *Grand Rapids Community College Collegiate*, 10/21/92)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 13: LPWM Executive Committee Meeting (agenda: LPM [state LP] Convention planning), 7-9 p.m., 307 Garfield NW, Grand Rapids.

March 13: LPWM Executive Committee Meeting, 7-9 p.m., 1159 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids.

March 19: Deadline for material for *Liberty Agenda*.

March 26: *Liberty Agenda* mailing party, 7 p.m., 307 Garfield N

April 10: LPWM Annual Convention (bylaws discussion, selection of officers), 6-10 p.m., 1159 Leonard NW.

April 15: Annual Tax Protest Day (LP members at post offices nationwide, LPWM activists at downtown Grand Rapids post office).

April 15: Deadline for reserving hotel room at Days Inn for LPM Convention

April 20 (tentative): Registration deadline for LPM Convention.

April 30 - May 2: LPM Convention, Days Inn, downtown GR.

Editor
Todd Greene

Note: All material is by the editor unless otherwise indicated. The opinions expressed in *Liberty Agenda* do not necessarily represent the views of the LPWM or any of its members.

You Just Don't Get It! (An Editorial)

I was libertarian long before I knew the word "libertarian" existed. Years before I found out that there was a political party called the Libertarian Party, I was telling people that no person and no group of people has the right to force their values on anyone else, not even if they are acting as a representative of some government agency.

But so often when I'm discussing the very idea of libertarianism (individual liberty) with people, they seem to get bogged down with whether the libertarian position on any particular issue is "conservative" or "liberal." I am exasperated when people try to approach libertarianism in this way, because they demonstrate that they have just missed the whole point of libertarianism!

I've heard libertarians described as everything from "ultraconservative," to "on the liberal fringe," to "fence-straddlers." Such comments prove that the commentators really do not understand libertarianism, even though they supposedly know "the libertarian position" on a particular issue.

Libertarianism is not about being conservative or liberal. It's not about your beliefs regarding any particular issue. It's not about the control of gun ownership or tax credits for education or airline deregulation. These are peripheral issues. Sure, the libertarian perspective has a significant bearing on these issues, but what any person believes should actually be done is secondary to the fundamental principle of libertarianism.

This fundamental libertarian principle has been stated in so many ways: the "non-aggression" principle, libertarian neutrality, "no one has the right to force her values on anyone else," "I do not believe in nor do I advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals," and so on. Yet, as many times and in as many ways as this primary idea is articulated, people just don't get it!

Are libertarians conservative? Are we liberals? Are we authoritarian? Are we libertarian?

We are all of these. And more. Being libertarian is not relevant to what we believe about how people should live, work, or play. Being libertarian has nothing to do with who we think people should associate with or what we think people should spend their money on. It has nothing to do with what we think people should eat, drink, smoke, or otherwise consume. This is why among libertarians you will find a variety of beliefs that runs the gamut: Christians, Buddhists, and atheists; those who use all manner of recreational drugs and those who think that drinking beer, wine, or even coffee is a sin; pacifists and those who are on the gun course every other weekend with their Berettas.

What is important is this: **As libertarians, we have reached the understanding that whatever our beliefs are, we simply do not have the right to coerce other people into adhering to our point of view.** This still leaves all kinds of room for influencing others toward acting in ways that we personally believe are best. But those who cross the lines of voluntary influence and start using threats of aggression (stealing, bodily harm, kidnapping) initiate the interactions of violence and thus can say nothing when force is in turn used in defense against them. This is true of all criminals, even those criminals who call themselves (please try not to gag) our "public servants."

For Your Information **Libertarian Periodicals**

Reason

Reason ranks among the best of the libertarian periodicals - it is filled with good quality writing, well-done research, and mature libertarian thinking, and it all comes in a "slick," handsome publication. *Reason* has been published since the early '70s and has its contents indexed in the standard library reference *Readers Guide*. *Reason* is to libertarians what the *National Review* is to "rightists" and *The New Republic* is to "leftists." Publisher: **Reason Foundation, 3415 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90034.** One-year (11 issues) subscription price: **\$19.95.**

The Freeman

The Freeman is something like the "*Readers Digest*" of libertarianism (without all the advertising). In fact, several *Freeman* pieces have been republished in *Readers Digest*. *The Freeman* is a small booklet that runs about 40 pages long with short libertarian-oriented essays and articles. It usually contains one or two feature articles that are more lengthy and in-depth, such as "National Health Insurance: A Medical Disaster" by Jarret B. Wollstein in the 10/92 issue that runs about 7 pages. In addition, *The Freeman* has a generally Christian perspective which may appeal to many in the West Michigan area. This periodical has been published since the middle 1940s by **The Foundation for Economic Education, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533.** Subscription: from the periodical - "The costs of Foundation projects and services are met through donations. Donations are invited in any amount. A trial subscription to *The Freeman* is available to any interested person in the United States for the asking." I will add that if you like what you see when you get this monthly publication, you should probably donate at least \$20 to FEE for it. It's a good publication.

Liberty

This is hard-core libertarianism, with no punches pulled! Not a slick magazine, this is dozens of pages of text with several articles and essays by the cutting-edge libertarian writers on everything from commentary on current issues and events to deep philosophical discourse on such subjects as the "ecology of the free market" to "subjectivism vs. natural rights." If you're a libertarian-blooded American (!), you'll truly appreciate what *Liberty* writers say and you'll wonder why everyone else is still thinking in terms of medieval politics. Published by **Liberty Publishing, P.O. Box 1167, Port Townsend, WA 98368.** One-year subscription (6 issues) price: **\$19.50.**

(See next issue for more info on libertarian periodicals)

What does any particular libertarian believe about any particular issue? You cannot know without asking him. **A person is a libertarian when he appreciates and lives according to the idea that he has no right to use force against others for any reason other than the defense of himself, his family, and his property (and the defense of others who may have contracted with him for security services).** This principle is not about issues. **Libertarianism is about the bounds of rightful interactions with others.** This in turn implies the proper duties and limits of government power.

Got it?

Civilization can only revive when there shall come into being in a number of individuals a new tone of mind independent of the one prevalent among the crowd and in opposition to it, a tone of mind which will gradually win influence over the collective one, and in the end determine its character. It is only an ethical movement which can rescue us from the slough of barbarism, and the ethical comes into existence only in individuals . . .

- Albert Schweitzer

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BECOME AN LPWM MEMBER!

To become a member of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan, you need only send us the completed membership form with an accompanying donation of \$10 *and* affirm the following statement with your signature:

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor do I advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals."

Signature _____ Date _____

A donation of only \$10 is required for membership. However, additional contributions in any amount are requested in order to provide funds for the operating expenses of the LPWM. For every \$25 you donate beyond the initial \$10 membership dues, you may select one book from the list at right (circle letter(s)) →

Check either or both:

- ☐ Libertarian Party of West Michigan Membership (send dues of \$10)
- ☐ I want to help the LPWM with my additional donation of
(circle one) \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ W / H

- A. AGAINST THE GRAIN, by Boris Yeltsin (263 pages)
- B. DISTURBING THE PEACE, by Vaclav Havel (228)
- C. GOLDWATER, by Barry M. Goldwater (414)
- D. THE DIARY OF H.L. MENCKEN, Ed. by Charles A. Fecher (476)
- E. THE FATE OF LIBERTY: ABRAHAM LINCOLN & CIVIL LIBERTIES, by Mark E. Neely, Jr. (278)
- F. THE PRIVATIZATION DECISION, by John D. Donahue (264)
- G. THE TRIUMPH OF POLITICS: WHY THE REAGAN REVOLUTION FAILED, by David A. Stockman (422)
- H. WHY AMERICANS DON'T VOTE, by F.F. Piven & R.A. Cloward (325)
- I. A LAW UNTO ITSELF: POWER, POLITICS, & THE IRS, by David Burnham (419)
- J. THE BORDERLESS WORLD, by Kenichi Ohmae (223)

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