



# THE MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

WINTER 1986

VOL. 13, NO. 1-2

## LPM LOBBIES LEGISLATURE Signature Increase Defeated

About a month after the LCC meeting, when a committee was appointed to lobby the Michigan Legislature to relax ballot access laws, the House Election Committee reported out H.B. 5089. No notice was given to the Libertarian Party (nor even to some of the House Committee members). While H.B. 5089 attempted to triple the signature requirements for ballot access, the issue has become how much to lower requirements. Members of the House have considered amendments of from 500 to 15,000 signatures instead of the current 20,000, and the Senate has been approached regarding a 10,000 signature requirement. H.B. 5089 may also permit petitioning on a countywide basis instead of the current city or township pages, provide a route to the ballot for independent candidates, and extend the deadline for petitioning if the bill survives the legislative process.

Libertarians have converged on the State Capitol no less than three times in a contingent of from five to seven people. Contingents have included the four executive officers (James Hudler, Denise Kline, David Raaflaub and Jeff Grund), Charles Congdon, Jim Greenshields and Gary Bradley. They have met with legislators, distributed leaflets, answered questions, provided legal research and alternate ballot access proposals, and addressed the media with several news releases and a news conference.

Letters to the Editor to major Michigan papers, including the Detroit News and Free Press, from Charles Congdon of Midland and Gwen Stillwell of East Lansing were also instrumental in swaying public and legislative opinion. We had learned in conference with one legislator that Bill-Sponsor Peg Bennane with Chris Thomas, Director of the Elections Division, had met with Detroit papers in advance of the Election Bill's introduction. The Free Press, whose editorial the year before may have helped stop increased ballot access restrictions, put out a much weaker statement this year, and then only after the Bill had passed the Election Committee (without notice to third parties) and Libertarian opposition had begun.

Calls by mostly Lansing area Libertarians and David Raaflaub, Ballot Access Committee Chairman, have urged the reduction of signature requirements from the status quo. After the Libertarian Central Committee agreed on a proposal of 500 signatures comparable to Utah's requirement and still higher than several states, calls from Michael Miller and Gwen Stillwell have engaged their district Representative Jondahl, in proposing a 900-signature requirement. Whether this amendment, which compares favorably to the current requirement of 19,963, will be introduced seems to depend upon such political considerations as how much support it will receive and how Representative Bennane's ego will fare. Bennane has threatened to withdraw the Bill rather than let an amended Version pass.

On Thursday, January 16, Chuck Congdon and Denise Kline were in attendance when the House voted 87-10 against the largest Bennane-proposed increase and 68-29 to preserve

the status quo. Well-known liberal Representative Perry Bullard sponsored the amendment to return to a percent of the vote of the winning candidate for secretary of state vs. the larger percentage of all votes for governor. Support came from the other end of the spectrum in Representative Colleen Engler, who had been a sympathetic member of the Election Committee, and from self-described moderate, Representative Michael Hayes, as well as Representative Richard Fitzpatrick who had been considered for Majority Floor Leader.

The Libertarian Party joined the American Civil Liberties Union in a news conference on Tuesday, January 21. A statement from Congressman John Conyers who has introduced federal bill H.B. 2320, which limits signature requirements for federal office including President to 1,000, was read. State Representative Lynn Jondahl also issued a written statement, and Representative Perry Bullard was on hand with Howard Simon of the ACLU, Chuck Congdon for LPM and spokespersons for the Socialist Workers and Communist Parties.

Despite Representative Bullard's suggestion that parties content themselves with the status quo and lobby the Senate for further reductions in the signature requirements Bill, Libertarians have amassed some support for lowering requirements, the results of which will be seen in future weeks. The Senate as well as the House is being polled regarding easier ballot access, due to Libertarian efforts.



Burns Announces 1988 Candidacy--story p. 4  
Photo by Mike Stein



# DESIGN COMPETITION

From: Perry Willis, National Director

Subject: Television ads

Work is being done right now so that Libertarian television ads can be produced and broadcast in 1986.

These ads will be shown using money raised by the Libertarian National Committee (LNC), but they will also be available to state and local parties to broadcast with money they may want to raise for that purpose.

LNC Vice-Chair Sharon Ayres has initiated this project and has enlisted the aid of Alaska State Representative Andre Marrou in raising the required funds.

I and Stephen Davis, (former Arizona State Representative and 1984 LP candidate for the U.S. Senate in South Carolina) Stephen Davis, have so far accompanied Marrou on two fundraising tours. Davis joined Marrou in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. I travelled with Marrou to Phoenix, Tucson, Houston, and San Antonio. These two tours raised over \$7,000 for this project.

All of the money that has been raised, or will be raised for this project is being kept in a separate account and will be spent only on this project.

This project will occur in six phases:

1) 1st stage capital accumulation: We need to raise about \$16,000 to produce the ads.

2) Ad production: We will probably produce two commercials which we will then take on the road for further fundraising.

3) 2nd stage capital accumulation: In this phase we will need to raise about \$60,000.

4) Test phase: We will do a saturation test of the ads in one market. That market will be chosen on the basis of professional advice.

5) Analysis: We will look at the results of the test phase and plan how to proceed.

6) Follow up: After the test phase we hope to devise an ongoing program of television marketing. It will likely involve making commercials available to local party organizations for local broadcast with the National LP running them on national outlets such as CNN.

Special care is being given to this project. We want to ensure that our ads are produced and marketed well. As a result, part of our budget for this project will include the use of professional expertise in this area. LNC Chairman Jim Turney, who has an extensive background in audio visuals, will provide a great deal of guidance as we go about the task of finding the best talents for this project. We want to insure that television becomes an ongoing part of our outreach program.

In order to generate enthusiasm for this project we are going to conduct a "Design Competition." Anyone who thinks they can write a good one minute or 30 second commercial is invited to do so. We would like to ask you, as either a State Chair or a newsletter editor, to help us out by publicizing this Design Competition in your state or city. A newsletter article devoted specifically to this project would be greatly appreciated.

All competition submissions should be complete scripts; pictures to be seen on the screen and words to be spoken. No script should require longer than a minute to act out. More than one script may be submitted per person. Deadline for entry is March 1, 1986. Submissions will not be returned, but a winner will be announced in LP NEWS.

Also, it is very important that those submitting scripts keep at least two things in mind: 1) The expense required to produce their script. Multiple sets and special effects are more than we can handle. 2) The purpose of these ads is to induce people to call an 800 number, not convince them of some point of Libertarian doctrine. These ads are not for educational purposes.

Script submissions or contributions of money targetted to this project should be sent to LP Headquarters, 7887 Katy Fwy, #385, Houston, TX 77024.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call: 713-686-1776.



THE MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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NOTICE to 1985 LPM Members: Due to gaps in newsletters caused by various circumstances, those who renew prior to March 15, 1986 will receive a Ticket to a speaking event at the 1986 Nominating Convention which will probably be held in the Northwest suburbs of Detroit.

**LIBERTARIAN BANQUET**

By James Hudler

A sparse but enthusiastic crowd of thirty-five attended the 1985 Libertarian Party of Michigan Banquet on October 18, 1985, in the banquet room of Christoff's Dearborn restaurant. The featured speakers were Jim Turney, National Chairman of L.P. and Lyn Tinsley, Illinois State Chair.

Lyn Tinsley gave a speech patterned after the Marshall Fritz technique (Mr. Fritz is the head of Self Government advocates) entitled "Persuasion vs. Coercion." It was a speech written to give as an introduction to prospective libertarian groups. She used the banquet crowd as a testing ground for her speech. Some of the salient points that she made were: "I define government as a coercive monopoly with compulsory membership and compulsory funding;" "We libertarians, need to get rid of the divine right of majorities;" "Taxes are voluntary...if you don't understand what voluntary is, they have re-education centers like Leavenworth."

"According to a Washington Post survey, 60% of the baby boomers are quasi-libertarians," stated Jim Turney setting the upbeat tone of his speech. "Babyboom people learned their civil liberties in the 60's, now in the 80's they are learning their economic liberties. Technological change is toward liberty."

When reviewing the state of the National Libertarian Party, Mr. Turney stated that the National office record keeping was in "terrible shape," and on top of this the National L.P. was \$67,000 in debt. Now the debt is down to \$39,000. The L.P. office under the new management of Perry Willis is much better organized at one-half the cost.

The 1988 Presidential campaign, and preparing the National L.P. and office for it, provide the theme of Mr. Turney's goals for the L.P. His top priorities are to be on the ballot in 50 states and to have money in the bank by 1988.



# Parties redefining democracy



**Kurt Weber**  
Columnist

Democracy is going the way of the dinosaur and the dodo bird. Democracy is dying not of natural causes but is being killed by the tyrannical decisions of the Democrats and Republicans in Lansing.

The elected officials entrusted to keep freedom of choice alive are beginning to believe that they offer the only solutions to the multitude of problems that has confronted and will confront the citizens of Michigan. They apparently didn't understand what John F. Kennedy meant when he said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable."

This lack of understanding became quite apparent in 1983. Two legislators were recalled for their support of a 38 percent income tax increase. The recalls, perfect examples of citizens acting in a non-violent manner to change their government (a very democratic ideal), caused the powers that be to tremble. They could actually be held responsible for their actions while in office.

Instead of praising the peaceful revolution, the Lansing legal community decided that it would be better to change the rules of the game in its favor. The little kings and queens wanted to make it harder for their constituents to pull them from their pious positions of power. Such a move would definitely provide in-

creased job security, something akin to that of democratic dictators. Citizens, for whatever reason, would have to be patient and wait until the next election to show their displeasure with someone who was supposedly representing them.

The desire to reduce the boundaries of American democracy even further continued into 1984, with House Bill 4710.

Competition in the political marketplace would have almost been eliminated had the bill passed: Nearly 112,000 registered voters' signatures would have been needed for third parties to run candidates for office. Current law requires political parties, with the exception of the tired two, to collect approximately 20,000 valid signatures. Meeting this requirement provides new political parties the opportunity to be on the ballot.

Of course, once a party garners a certain percentage of votes in a gubernatorial election, it is allowed to stay on the ballot as long as it receives a certain number of votes in each subsequent election. If its vote falls below the number required, it's back to collecting signatures.

If fair is fair, one should expect that all political parties would have to follow this procedure to run their candidates, but such is not the case. The parties that were on the ballot at the time the law for ballot access was being formulated simply got ex-

emptions through a grandfather clause, enabling them to avoid a cumbersome activity like gathering signatures. They obviously knew that a politician's time is better spent campaigning.

The end result of insidious laws with stringent requirements for ballot status is easy to predict. Consider this analogy. If you were able, by law, to purchase a Chrysler car only after paying for 75 percent of it with your own savings, you would most likely turn to Ford or General Motors. Chrysler's sales would drop like a lead zeppelin, and the other companies would essentially be guaranteed a larger share of the market—not because of their superior products but because of their ability to get laws enacted that help stop competition. Such is the case with making it harder for other political parties to gain access to the ballot.

The entrenched—but not necessarily more intelligent—political parties, by making it even harder for others to compete with them, guaranteed themselves future dominance in the marketplace of political ideas. Much like Ford or G.M. in the analogy, they will have achieved their dominance by resorting to cowardly legal coercion to restrict competition. Obviously, those who fear competition are not good enough to win without handicapping their able opponents.

The lack of competition in the economic marketplace hurts the consumer, but consumers have recourse because they aren't forced to buy a faulty product, and substitutes are generally available. In the political marketplace, lack of competition forces all citizens to live by the rules written by "the lesser of two evils," not the best possible choice.

Brilliant schemes to limit the choices available to Michigan voters are again being hatched by the chickens in Lansing. One should find it ironic that a Democrat is leading the continued assault to contract the definition of democracy.

Rep. Michael Bennane of Detroit is the present-day proponent of reducing the political options available to Michigan voters. Bennane is attempting to amend the recently introduced House Bill 5089 so that political parties—excluding the Democrats and

Republicans—would have to collect 45,000 registered voters' signatures just to have their candidates listed on the ballot.

If anyone thinks collecting 20,000 or 45,000 valid signatures is easy, he is invited to try it. My experience from petitioning in six states for the Libertarian Party, the third largest political party in the United States, taught me a lot about how easy it is to achieve ballot status.

What is cynically funny about Michigan's restrictive requirements is that they are mild, relative to the laws of other states. In 1982, Ohio required 42,837 valid signatures before third-party candidates could be placed on the ballot (*Libertarian Party News*). Massachusetts demanded 65,000 signatures and allowed only 11 weeks for them to be gathered. Florida could easily be considered the father of ballot fascism. The Sunshine State felt in 1982 that 144,000 signatures were needed to help keep the ballot from getting clogged with frivolous parties.

Only the most naive, idealistic blind patriot could call our system a democracy after learning firsthand about the ballot access laws that exist in this country. And when the competition gets too close, the entry fee is raised higher still. Michigan is the textbook example.

Think about it. When the voting-age population that voted, as a percentage, has declined from 62.8 in 1960 to nearly 50 for the past two presidential elections (1983 *World Almanac*), it hardly seems like the electorate is satisfied with the choices offered. Yet those with the gold and making the rules continue to make it more difficult for new parties to establish themselves. Something is too obviously wrong in paradise.

The actions of Lansing's politicians, mimicking those found across this country, show a disturbing disgust for democracy. Attempts to suppress political alternatives to the traditional parties continue.

Democracy, in the minds of those elected to Lansing, is apparently defined as Democrats and Republicans. Freedom of choice, too, consists of choosing between Tweedledee and Tweedledum. And war is peace, slavery is freedom, hate is love.

Maybe the folks in Lansing did not hear John F. Kennedy. They should, however, read the U.S. Constitution. It states, "When a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security." Anyone for a recall?

## What can you learn from our 1984 campaign?

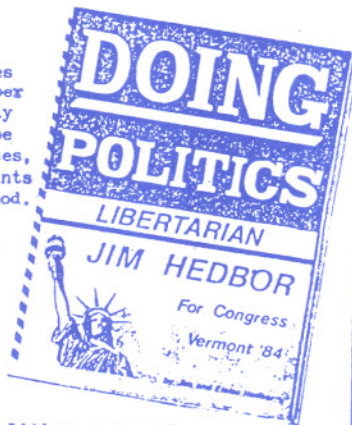
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## ANOTHER BURNS TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT

James "Libertarian" Burns of Nevada announced his intention to run for the 1988 Libertarian Presidential Nomination in 1985. Stephen Davis of South Carolina and a former Arizona representative has also announced. While Davis has been active in many Libertarian Party National projects, such as fundraising for the new radio-TV commercials, Burns has developed a plan of his own.

The Burns plan has four steps: (1) Ballot Status in all 50 states through coordinated efforts starting now; (2) Communications to develop members in discussion groups, other organizations, and through such mediums as letters-to-editors; (3) "Hit'em Where They Ain't," a strategy to concentrate on approximately four states where media can be generated, party strength can be increased and Libertarian governors can be elected; and (4) Nominate a Vice President who can raise money and recruit activists, especially to spend their vacations working on the target states.

Burns extrapolated in step four that Libertarians could outspend their opponents on media in key states, alleviating the idea that we are not serious and producing electoral results. VP candidates he suggested for fundraising talent included David Koch, major 1980 contributor, and Dick Bodie, Bergland manager and fundraiser. Bodie would also attract attention as the first black to receive an electoral vote following in the footsteps of first woman electoral vote.

Burns has suggested target states that would be publicized before polls closed in the West. Tentative states chosen include Vermont, where a strong party already exists having been the balance of power in the gubernatorial election, North and South Dakota due to their diversity to attract inquisitive media, and Wyoming with its small size.

However particulars develop, Burns and Davis offer opportunities for 1988.

### NEWS FROM WASHTENAW COUNTY:

The Ann Arbor Libertarian League, a UM campus organization, recently showed a video tape of Ayn Rand's last speech which she gave before a monetary conference in New Orleans. A talk was also given by Rich Birkett on the parallel ways religion and the state gain and keep control, and another by Dr. Bette J. Erwin on the relationship between a person's psychology and his or her political preferences. A sometime newsletter, LIBERTAS, has had two issues which give a three-month calendar of coming events. The League, however, is still unable to attract and hold members in any great amount, and those who are attracted seem to be too busy to do any work like staffing a literature table in order to let others know what, who and where we are.

Local Libertarians have, however, been busy in other organizations. Recently a group was formed to fight the proposed sound recordings rating code. The group, Concerned Citizens for Artistic Freedom, is currently being backed by another campus group, the Voice of Reason, so as to be able to get free rooms, but otherwise it is on its own. It is currently being run by anarcho-syndicalists -- that is, communists who eschew the state, or if you prefer, left-Libertarians -- but there are also two Libertarians involved. It is planning to concern itself with other artistic issues besides record rating. So far, however, there has been a surprising lack of interest among the student body at UM.

On a more positive note, collectivists were checkmated when they attempted to impose a handgun ban in Ann Arbor. It was announced that a city ordinance banning ownership of handguns would be introduced for first reading at Council on 19 Nov., and shortly after the announcement, a group, Citizens for Responsible Gun Ownership, was formed. Though mainly run by sportsmen and hunters, its founders included two Libertarians and an Objectivist. A mass meeting held on 12 Nov. at a local VFW hall produced a diverse group which included several members of the Liber-

## FROM THE CHAIR

By Chairman James Hudler



L.P.M. Party activism has been the name of the game for the L.P.M. officers and other party regulars, even though the general membership may be unaware of this fact. We have been so busy in fact, that the newsletter has been delayed many times.

### LOBBYING LEGISLATURE:

Our activism has centered mainly on lobbying the Michigan State Legislature. Specifically, we have been lobbying against House of Representatives Bill 5089 (which would have, in its original state, increased the signature requirement to over 50,000), the Governor's attempts to institute sobriety checks along Michigan highways, and various anti-smoking bills (e.g., a statewide ban on all cigarette and chewing tobacco advertising, mandatory non-smoking in a larger fixed percentage of restaurant space, and a mandatory warning message on all retail non-smoking tobacco packaging).

Once or twice a week at least four of the following: Jeffrey Grund, David Raaflaub, Denise Kline, James Greenshields, Gary Bradley, Charles Congdon, descended upon the Michigan House of Representatives to lobby against H.B. 5089. We managed to get the bill amended back to the original signature requirement. As of this writing, we are lobbying further to have the signature requirement reduced to 10,000. In fact, on February 11, 1986, we had

## GUN CONTROL AND ARTISTIC FREEDOM

By Jim Greenshields  
LPWC Secretary

tarian Party of Washtenaw County and the State Chair, James Hudler. Copies of an article on gun control, linking it with racism, taken from the December issue of Reason were passed out, and local LPer, Glenn Mensching, sent copies to all members of Council. During the mass meeting, the LPWC held a special executive session and voted to support the group, and Hudler announced that support to the assembly, giving the Party's stand on gun control. Just what influence, if any, Libertarians had on either the organization or the outcome is unknown. At Council there were signs that said "Legalize Victimless Crimes - Ban Handgun Bans", but the wording could not be directly attributed to us. No Libertarian spoke before Council, but those people who did, did a superb job. One speaker, a liberal who nonetheless said things that a Libertarian would agree with, scolded the Democrats for wasting time on this and also declaring, "How dare you try to pass something into law which tells me what I can and cannot do in my own home." Another speaker, representing Labor, threatened roundaboutly, but unequivocally to make Council all Republican if the Democratic majority passed the handgun ban. The vote went 7-3 against, with half the Democrats voting no.

Since the future of the Party is uncertain, involvement in movements like the above would appear to be the way for Libertarians to do the most good. We do not need to run the organization, and in fact, a horde of Libertarians descending upon a group might cause bad feeling and be counterproductive, but one or two could do the job. That job would be to try to steer groups in a clear direction and show them places where they may have a contradiction. We should keep our eyes open, therefore, and watch for such groups which may share an issue with us such as gun control and artistic freedom. After all, it is a lot better and far more productive than sitting around increasingly moribund Libertarian groups discussing the minuter points of philosophy.



it on good legislative sources in both houses that, at least for the 1986 elections, the signature requirement may be 10,000.

Special commendations should be given to the following people for their valiant efforts in trying to free up ballot access in Michigan: Charles Congdon (who was one of the most persuasive and energetic of lobbyists), the L.P.M. party officers, Richard Winger (California ballot access attorney who has furnished much useful information), Gary Bradley, and Representatives Margaret O'Connor, Colleen Engler, Perry Bullard, and Richard Fitzpatrick.

#### PETITION DRIVE:

Because of the uncertainty caused by H.B. 5089, the petition drive to regain L.P.M. ballot status has been in a holding pattern. After much discussion of this matter with the executive committee, we have decided to start full-swing with petitioning again as of March 1st, when hopefully H.B. 5089's fate will have been determined. But any petitioning that can be done right now will help!

Jim Turney (National L.P. chair), Richard Winger (ballot access activist), and the National L.P. ballot access committee are very eager to have the L.P.M. on the ballot as soon as possible. So much so that they are considering the expenditure of money on our ballot drive to pay for petitioners. Their hope is, that with our 1986 ballot status, we will run an educational board candidate statewide (i.e., no gubernatorial candidate) and obtain enough votes to assure our continued ballot status in 1988. Anyone willing to be a full-time paid petitioner, please contact Denise Kline.

#### FINANCIAL STATUS:

Our Treasurer, Jeff Grund, has given me the good news that as of February 11, 1986, the L.P.M. is in the black by approximately \$500. Our monthly expenses break down as follows: Rent - \$100.00

Telephone - \$100.00

Newsletter - \$100.00

General Office Expenses - \$25.00

Postage - \$50.00

The monthly pledge program nearly covers these monthly expenses, but not entirely. We could use your monthly pledge of whatever amount if you are not already doing so. Programs need desperately to be expanded. Election year requests for information are already coming in.

#### L.C.C. MEETING JANUARY 19, 1986:

This was one of the best attended meetings in recent memory. Approximately twenty L.C.C. members and interested L.P.M. members attended from the Ann Arbor, Flint, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Midland areas. Discussion and motions related mainly to H.B. 5089, the L.P.M. office, finances, L.P.M. Convention 1986, and advertisements for the periodical Full Disclosure in the MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN.

The motion was made by David Raafaub with support from Mike Miller concerning H.B. 5089 for the L.P.M. to lobby for a minimum 500 signature requirement. During discussion of this motion, Mr. Miller stated in response to possible criticism from the legislature, "I agree there are too many parties on the ballot. We have been trying to get rid of the Republicans and Democrats for years!" The motion passed.

Denise Kline is in charge of arrangements for the 1986 L.P.M. Nominating Convention. Nothing firm has been planned as of February 11, but a Southfield location and several speakers have been considered. We could use input from the membership.

The next Libertarian Central Committee will be on February 23, 1986, at 2 p.m. in the L.P.M. office. We encourage Michigan Libertarians, especially from the Detroit area, to attend and fill several existing vacancies.

#### N.O.R.M.L.:

On February 16 in Taylor, Michigan, the Michigan Chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws will meet to discuss future activism. A Libertarian contingent from Ann Arbor will be attending this meeting. Anyone interested in adding libertarian influence to this worthwhile cause, please contact Richard Birkett at 313-483-7947.

#### FUND RAISING:

The L.P.M. fund raising superstar award goes to Janet Parkes. Ms. Parkes volunteered to start telephone fund raising from Midland three months ago. To date, Janet has raised over \$400 in contributions.

## ANN ARBOR LIBERTARIANS

By James Hudler  
LPWC Chairman

The Ann Arbor Libertarian League, the educational student and university community organization on the campus of the University of Michigan, had a planning committee meeting on January 24, 1986, in the Mug restaurant of the Michigan Union. At this meeting, James Hudler, William Krebaum, Peter and Fritz Heinrichs contemplated the schedule of events of the Ann Arbor Libertarian League in the light of the University of Michigan Students of Objectivism Organization newly formed on campus.

A temporary schedule was set as follows:

February 6 - Incredible Bread Machine movie;

February 20 - "Is Dr. Who a Libertarian?" (a presentation by James Hudler on his contention that the British science fiction superstar is a radical libertarian).

During this meeting Mr. Fritz Heinrichs was elected president of the AAIL. For further information concerning the Ann Arbor Libertarian League and their events please call: Fritz Heinrichs 313-761-4354; James Greenshields 313-665-0574; James Hudler 313-475-9792.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENTS OF OBJECTIVISM:

Much to the surprise of the libertarian activists in the Washtenaw County area, an Objectivist organization has popped up on the U of M campus. The group was organized by Bradley J. Foster (a gun enthusiast who is a leader in the Ann Arbor based group Citizens for Responsible Gun Ownership), Darryl Wright, and Andy Murphy (who, at one time, supported the Ann Arbor Libertarian League). The membership appears to be made up of libertarians and vehement anti-libertarians, all with an interest in studying the works of Ayn Rand. (However, this writer would contend that there is a severe misunderstanding of the term "libertarian." I would place Objectivists and Ayn Rand enthusiasts as a subset of the class "libertarian." Some members of this new group consider large "L" Libertarians as anti-intellectual right-wing hippies.)

The calendar of events for the University of Michigan Students of Objectivism is interesting and very ambitious. These include videotapes of Leonard Peikoff, Harry Binswanger (both N.Y.C. Strict Rand Objectivists), discussions of Ayn Rand's books and a debate on the subject of "Objectivism vs. Libertarianism"!

If you would like more information on this group please write: University of Michigan Students of Objectivism  
3909 Michigan Union  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

or call Mr. William Krebaum at 313-434-5076. (Mr. Krebaum has become actively involved in this group. He has gone so far as to draft their constitution.)

I, who was one of the founders of the Ann Arbor Libertarian League which was the Objectivist group on campus from 1972 until now, wish them well. And my sincere hope is that these fellow travelers will realize in the near future that we, the Libertarians, are their friends, not their enemies. After all, John Galt and Dagny Taggart were good friends.

#### THE QUASI-LIBERTARIAN FRONT:

L.P.M., L.P.W.C. and A2L2 member Rich Birkett, at the time of this writing (01/28/86), is the only declared Republican primary candidate for the 18th Michigan State Senate seat. Mr. Birkett has received much press coverage with his vociferous attacks on Senator Lana Pollack and her extremely statist stands. The Ann Arbor News, however, seems to be in a bit of a quandary as to how to classify Mr. Birkett on the political spectrum.

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## PATRICK A. HELLER

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# SNATCHING DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY

by G. R. Bradley



This is one of those good news/bad news stories. There is plenty of both at the present time, but the critical fact is that a balance of that sort leads, at best, to mediocrity.

Item: The good news is that the poorest attended National Convention in recent memory resulted in a sense of cooperation to turn the Party around and redefine the role of the National Office. The bad news is that the poorest attended State Convention in recent memory resulted in general disagreement over the direction of the State Party and a distinct feeling of factionalism and hostility.

Item: Good news - the ballot drive is getting contributions from members that have not been especially active previously. Bad news - this doesn't come close to balancing the loss of activists from previous ballot drives who are too burned out to undertake a lion's share again.

Item: Good news - the National has cut its debt by more than half with the most successful fund-raising drive in the history of the Party. Bad news - the State Party sent out a fund-raising letter to solicit enough money to keep the State Office open in 1986 but barely received enough to cover the cost of the mailing.

Item: Good news - the Libertarian Central Committee is conducting itself in a more business-like and efficient manner than has been observed in years. Bad news - the efficiency has improved partly due to the abysmal attendance.

The next ten months will be a critical period for the LPM. The creation of the Self Government Advocates may provide a tool for attracting new members and also provide a forum for those who feel that libertarians should be above politics. There seems to be a general consensus that people involved with a political party should not be above politics and that political change can occur if we discern that compromises can be made on priorities, timetables, and degrees of change without compromising principles. In short, the grass roots of the party is tired of leadership

that would rather debate philosophy that win votes.

What can members who want to support a more aggressive marketing approach for our ideas do? You can make a commitment to do something in the next four months before we blunder into the next convention and election completely unprepared. Many of you think that you can't make a difference, but there is plenty that can be done for a few hours or dollars per month.

**Ballot Drive:** The ballot drive is failing in case this hasn't been pointed out elsewhere in this newsletter. What is required is that every member of the State Party get an average of 100 signatures. This may be unrealistic but if each member got 20-30 there would be a good chance of getting the rest from activists. At the very least get signatures from the registered voters in your family. Every signature counts.

**Membership:** If we could double the size of the State Party, the day to day costs could be almost covered from the membership dues. Think of three people you know who are sympathetic to libertarianism but not members. Give them a copy of Libertarianism in One Lesson. It's great as a belated Christmas (Hanukkah, Saturnalia) present. Better yet, give them a membership.

**Money:** At present, LPM expenses are running around \$5.00 per month per member. Revenues for a typical member are \$12.00 per year (LPM share of combined memberships). If you have a gripe about the way the Party is run, give \$5 or \$10 a month and get a voice as a major contributor. Just send your money and suggestions to the office while we still have an office. It will make a difference.

**Publicity:** Have you got a local paper? Write a letter about libertarian solutions to some pertinent issue. Get involved with Self Government Advocates. If you belong to an organization that sponsors outside speakers, get an LPM or SGA speaker on the schedule.

There simply aren't enough activists to keep the Party functioning adequately. It's up to the people reading this to decide if 1986 will produce a breakthrough or a breakdown for the LPM. Do one or more of the suggested activities. Show up at the next LCC meeting. GET INVOLVED. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance and about a buck a week. That's a bargain.

Renew by March 15 for Free Bonus--see p. 2

YES! I like what I read and I want to:

Join the Libertarian Party:

- Combined Michigan and National Membership ... \$20.00
- Michigan Membership Only ..... \$15.00
- Combined Student Membership ..... \$15.00
- Michigan Student Membership Only ..... \$ 5.00

School \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribe to the *Michigan Libertarian*, the monthly newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan ..... \$10.00  
(NOTE: All Memberships include newsletter)

Receive a copy of the Libertarian Party Platform ..... \$ 1.00

Become active. Please forward my name to the local Libertarian Party organization.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make checks payable to:  
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN  
112 W. ALLEGAN  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 PHONE: (517) 484-2188

NEXT L.C.C. MEETING:

Feb. 23rd. - Lansing

2:00 Sunday

Newsletter Deadline--March 1



## AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR

By Gwen Stillwell

The Ontario Libertarian Convention was held in Sarnia at the 402 Motor Inn on the weekend of October 18-20, 1985.

We arrived at 9:00, October 19, just in time to catch the business meeting. We were particularly interested in the budget report. Income was up 25%. The total number of contributors was up and the closing bank balance was \$3,155. They were hoping to have a cash reserve of \$10,000 to go into the elections.

A lively discussion ensued concerning the revision of the Constitution. Final decisions were to be made on Sunday. Many delegates held proxies for absent delegates and could vote their proxies.

After lunch we were treated to stirring debate on Strategic Defense Initiative. "Yes" was defended by Mirosław Matuszewski, Chairman of Canadian Coalition for Peace Through Strength. "No" Mike Tanner, Pres. Project Plough Shares Sarnia.

We were lucky to catch Jim Turney, U.S. Libertarian Party National Chairman. We were impressed with his enthusiasm and plans for regrouping the national party.

The banquet and dance were delightful. I especially enjoyed Dottie Lou Brokaw. She gave many practical suggestions for selling libertarianism, and her enthusiasm is catching. (Ed - The 1986 LPM Convention may be graced by Ms. Brokaw's presence!)

We were impressed with the Ontario Libertarians. They were friendly. We learned a lot and had a good time besides.

### LANSING LIBERTARIAN ALLIANCE ELECTS "NOBODY"

At the November elections of the Tri-County Libertarian Alliance in Lansing "nobody" was elected as Chairman. Instead, program chairmen volunteer each month to conduct the subsequent meeting. Lively discussions have ensued on "Aristotles' Ethics and Politics" led by Denise Kline, "Are Public Schools Necessary?" by 30-year teacher Gwen Stillwell, and "Gun Control and the Philadelphia Bombing" presented with videotape by Alex Bolt.

February's meeting will consider the topic, "Is Democracy Obsolete"? Materials from Ominous Parallels will be used by Dale Dobberstein in leading the discussion, which begins at 8:00 at 916 Cavanaugh, Apt 8. Everyone is welcome to come for potluck from 6:30 on. Call 484-2188 for more information.

THE WAYNE COUNTY LP meets the first Monday of each month at the Ram's Horn restaurant on Telegraph just north of Plymouth Road. Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:30. Contact Mike Palonus.

WASHTENAW COUNTY. All Washtenaw County LP meetings, Dinner is from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. Business meeting is from 7:15 - 7:45. The program will start at approximately 7:45. Normally, the meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month. Place: Dominick's Restaurant, U M campus on Monroe St.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY LP meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Harbor Steak House, 3251 Orchard Lake Road in Keego Harbor. Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:30. Contact Bill Hollander.

THE METRO DETROIT Libertarian Party Supper Club meets regularly in Southfield. For dates and times please contact Michael Palonus

THE MACOMB COUNTY LP meets the 4th Monday of each month unless otherwise announced. Call 978-8710 for place, time and agenda.

THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY LP meets alternate Wednesdays at WMU. For more information contact Mary Ruwart (616) 375-4959 evenings.

LANSING/TRI-COUNTY. The Libertarian Alliance will hold a Supper Club on the first Thursday of every month.

IONIA AREA LP meets on second Wednesdays.

# CALENDAR

## DIRECTORY

LPM Headquarters	Lansing	(517) 484-2188	Ionia County LP	Dick Whitelock	(517) 647-6252
James Hudler	LPM Chairman	(313) 475-9792	Ingham County LP	Gwen Stillwell	(517) 337-2584
Denise Kline	LPM Vice Chairman	(517) 484-2188	Jackson County LP	Gerry Potts	(517) 782-8949
David Raaflaub	LPM Secretary	(313) 769-2645	Kalamazoo Area	Sheryl Loux	(616) 343-4737
Jeff Grund	LPM Treasurer	(313) 475-9792	Kent County LP	Bill Hall	(616) 453-5346
Libertarian Nat. Comm.		(713) 686-1776	Macomb County LP	Virginia Cropsey	(313) 978-8710
Students for Individual Liberty and SIL		(215) 675-6830	Metro Detroit Libertarians	Keith Edwards	(313) 777-7488
Libertarian Student Network		(313) 676-1948	Midland County LP	Joe Overton	(517) 631-0305
Allegan County LP	Bruce Smith	(616) 857-1013	Monroe County LP	Charles Dawson	(313) 654-2561
Ann Arbor Libertarian Lg.	Bill Krebaum	(313) 761-5478	M.S.U. & L.C.C.	Dale Dobberstein	(517) 484-2188
Ann Arbor Area	Glen Mensching	(313) 662-7158	Oakland County LP	Bill Hollander	(313) 673-3305
Bay County LP	Mike Murphy	(517) 892-5290	Ottawa County	Jack Wainer	(616) 363-8087
Clinton County LP	Gary Bradley	(517) 224-4784	Pontiac/Waterford Area	Jim Hurrell	(313) 394-1245
Eaton County/Lansing	Jon Addiss	(517) 321-4430	Saginaw County LP	Sheila Hart	(517) 753-2315
Genesee County LP	David Gillie	(313) 686-6589	St. Clair County LP	Mike McGriff	(313) 987-3458
Grand Traverse County LP	Nick Hamilton	(616) 946-6246	Upper Peninsula	Joe Jindrich	(906) 932-2031
Hillsdale County	James Hudler	(313) 475-9792	Washtenaw County LP	Jim Greensheilds	(313) 665-0574
			Wayne County LP	Mike Palonus	(313) 282-5755
			W.M.U.	Kurt Weber	(616) 381-8257



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN  
NEWS FLASHES

NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

December 1985

Joseph Overton Polled More Than 1/3 of the Votes in the Midland City Counsel elections held in November of 1985. Overton had won in the August primary in order to be a contender in the November election.

"Taxpayer Protection Insurance" was the theme of Sheryl Loux as she ran for Kalamazoo City Commission in November 1985. Loux currently serves on the city's Alternative Resources Committee and has suggested millions of dollars in savings. Loux continues to research, develop and produce video programs on savings to be gained from privatization (i.e. - "Private fire protection" and "Private Mass Transit") and on other libertarian themes. Taped programs are available for airing on public access TV stations or for use with a VCR. Requests for information and contributions may be sent to 856 Farrell Ave.; Kalamazoo, MI 49007; (616) 343-4737.

"Reason" comes to East Lansing thanks to the efforts of Gwen and Duane Stillwell who have contributed a "Reason" magazine subscription and a copy of Rose Wilder Lane's Discovery of Freedom to the East Lansing Public Library. The Stillwells did have to await a review by library staff before the gift could be accepted. They are considering gifts to other libraries and have also opened their home library to visitors.

Jacobs v Patterson on Campaign Financing Appealed. The case, filed during the 1980 Dick Jacobs for Governor campaign, concerned the use of concert ticket sales by the Patterson campaign as a basis for obtaining matching funds. Attorney Robert Roddis has generously donated his time to represent the Libertarian Party of Michigan and Jacobs at all levels in the court proceedings.

Draft Registration was Debated on Both Sides Now, the PBS television station in Detroit on Tuesday, January 21. The Libertarian Party of Michigan was invited to provide questioners. Tim O'Brien, who had been active in draft issues in the 60's, quickly formed a contingent of Detroit Libertarians.



*"Where is it written in the Constitution that you may take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war in which the folly or wickedness of government may engage it?"*

Paul Jacob Defense Fund  
P. O. Box 15724  
Little Rock, AR 72231  
Phone: 1-800-SLAVERY

Ruth Bennett, Washington State NATCOM member-at-large, resigned -- creating an opening. Anyone interested in being a member-at-large should contact NLP for a list of NATCOM members and notify each of your candidacy or be present at the next meeting.

Perry Willis was retained as national director. National offices will remain in Houston at present. A move to return to Washington, D.C. was defeated. However, a committee was appointed to look at less expensive quarters within Houston.

Future NATCOM Meetings:

April 5 & 6, 1986 - Chicago  
coincides with Illinois State Conv.

August 2 & 3, 1986 - Baltimore

December 1986 - Hawaii

April 1987 - Atlanta

Dates for Hawaii and Atlanta to be announced later.  
National Convention - Fall 1987

Seattle, Washington - Region 3

H.W. "Skip" Barron coordinator

A motion to allow NLP Chair to appoint as committee chair non-NATCOM members passed with the recommendation that all committee chairs and NATCOM members attend at least one meeting per year.

A new category of committee was instituted: Self-funded action committees. The purpose being to allow a committee to be funded in whole or in part by its own fundraising efforts, and to also allow that committee to spend the funds it raises for its own projects.

Ballot access committee was reclassified as a self-funded action committee and authorized fundraising subcommittee.

A complete copy of December 1985 NATCOM Minutes may be obtained from:

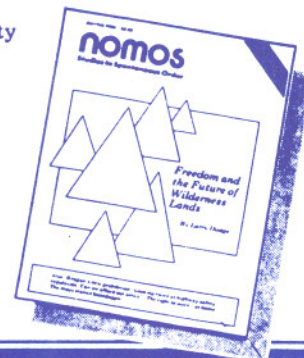
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