



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

May/June 1989

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Volume 16, Number 3

LPM Convention A Great Success

The early May convention of the Libertarian Party of Michigan was a spectacular success according to everyone who attended.

Nearly 70 people registered as delegates with many more attending various activities. There were easily more than one hundred delegates, friends and other folks just interested in the ideas of liberty at the Saturday night banquet featuring Dr. Murray Rothbard.

Attendees also heard from other luminaries in the libertarian movement including Joseph Bast of the Heartland Institute, Richard Ebeling and Charles Van Eaton from Hillsdale College, Republican State Representative Margaret O'Connor, and Ludwig von Mises Institute founder Llewellyn Rockwell, Jr.

LPM Chair Dick Whitelock ran unopposed for reelection and was given another year to continue his good work as Chair by the enthusiastic delegates. Vice Chair Virginia Cropsey was reelected in a close race with Beth Cammarata -- a long-time libertarian, but new to the party -- who was nominated by *ML* Editor Tim O'Brien. Incumbent Treasurer Jeff Hampton was

Troy Recalls School Board

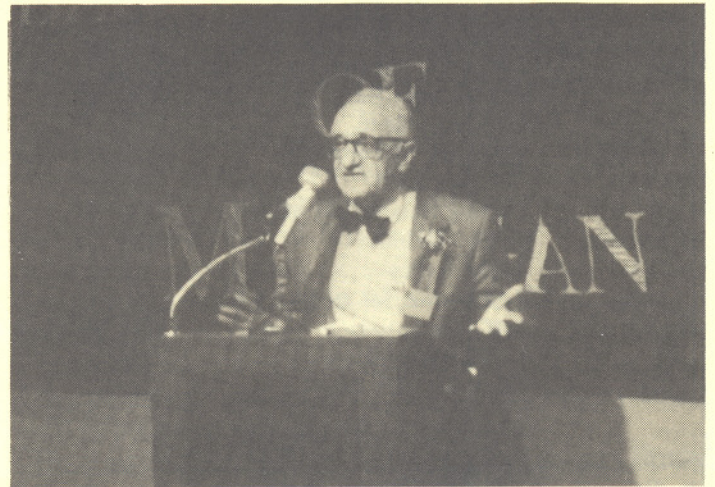
Voters in Michigan have once again demonstrated their displeasure with profligate politicians and bureaucrats in a way they understand -- recalling from office six of the seven School Board members in a special election on May 8.

The City of Troy twice requested funding to build a new High School. Twice the voters turned down the request. Not to be swayed by such inconveniences, six members of the suburban Detroit community's School Board voted to issue bonds to cover the cost of construction.

Outraged voters collected enough petition signatures to require a special recall election. All six of the offending politicians were removed from office.

The entire affair harkens back to the 1983 maneuver

Continued on page 10



Dr. Murray Rothbard addresses LPM banquet.

also reelected without opposition. Incumbent Secretary James Hudler did not seek reelection and was replaced by Lynn Bellair -- also a newcomer to the LPM.

The long anticipated bylaws debate brought in three proposed revisions. LPM Chair Dick Whitelock's proposal was the most conservative of the three, providing for proportional representation on the LCC, but otherwise leaving the existing party structure relatively unchanged. A second possible revision, proposed by *ML* Editor Tim O'Brien, though dealing exclusively with articles III and IV of the existing bylaws, was far more sweeping in its scope -- creating a seven member executive committee, abolishing the LCC and providing for quarterly meetings open to all LPM members who could attend and vote either in person or by proxy. A third proposal by Tom Jones (who has been championing the cause of proportional representation on the LCC for as long as everyone can remember), would have created a five member executive committee as well as proportional representation on the LCC through a fairly complicated electoral system. All three

Continued on page 10



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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Livingston:	Bill Johnson	Wayne:	Evy Warmbier

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From The Editor...

Tim O'Brien

Repeal Prohibition

Of all the issues about which libertarians express their concern I believe that there is none more important at this point in history than the insanity of the government's "War on Drugs." The few remaining rights we have managed to retain are in grave danger in the name of this Jihad by politicians who have hit upon the ultimate campaign issue -- emotionally laden providing a rich source of rhetorical material and unopposed by any organized lobby or PAC which might target the Drug Warriors for defeat in a future election.

The consequences of this unhappy situation are as inevitable as they are catastrophic -- virtually unbridled expansion of state power. The federal government now claims that local authorities are overwhelmed and that this justifies use of the military for civilian law enforcement. Drug Czar Bennett has successfully imposed some firearms restrictions, would like to shoot down unidentified civilian airplanes suspected of smuggling and declare martial law in Washington D.C.

Private property is being confiscated by a Customs Service Director (whose name escapes me, but I think it was something like "Schikelgruber") in a plan he calls "Zero Tolerance." It goes on and on. Who would have believed a few short years ago that the American public would accept government examination of their urine?

Fortunately, the tide seems to be turning against this intolerable threat to our liberties. Notables as widely separated on the traditional political spectrum as William Buckley and Larry King are calling for an end to this lunacy.

Continued on page 11

Correction

The last issue of *ML* contained a story reprinted from the 2/6/89 issue of *Spotlight* entitled "Cash to Become Another Victim of the Drug War?" by Martin Burns. The story quoted some of the more draconian provisions of the recently passed *Omnibus Drug Initiative Act of 1988*. It was brought to my attention by a careful *ML* reader that the section numbers were incorrect. The correct section number for the part of the law headed *Study of withdrawal of legal tender status of \$100 Federal Reserve notes* is Section 6187. The correct section number for the part of the law headed *Bank Secrecy Act Amendments* is Section 6185. The language quoted in the article is correct.

Tax Protest

by T. O'Brien

The usual band of die-hard libertarians turned out for our annual tax protest on Monday, April 17. And, as usual, the weather was miserable -- wet, windy and cold. But these are no "sunshine patriots," and enthusiasm was not dampened by the inclement conditions.

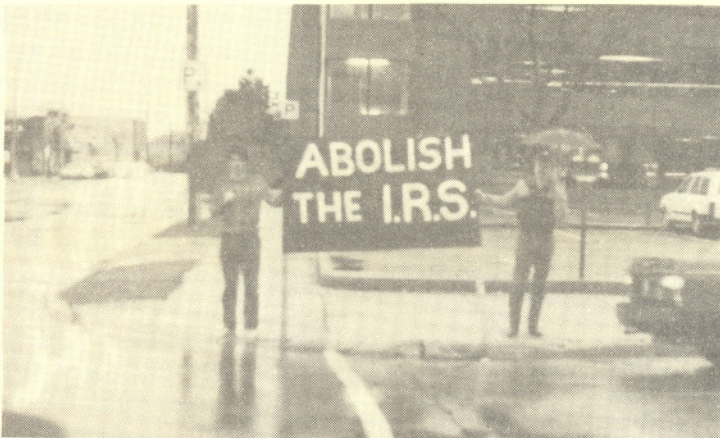
About a dozen activists both from MDL and LPM demonstrated at the Royal Oak post office from early evening until around 10:00 pm when the group adjourned in order to reconvene down at the main branch of the post office in downtown Detroit to catch some TV coverage on the annual cutsey "Those silly last-minute filers" piece all the TV stations seem so fond of doing.

Unfortunately, the coverage was not as good this



year as the news of the day was dominated by an appearance by President Bush at a Hamtramck rally where he pledged one billion dollars of U.S. tax money to the government of Poland. Fortunately, several libertarians also attended the noon event to let our beloved president know how we felt about his plan. TV coverage of this earlier event included an on-camera appearance of LPM Vice-Chair Virginia Cropsey displaying a sign which read "Who will free the U.S. Tax Slaves?" and a quote from *ML* Editor Tim O'Brien who explained to reporters that "libertarians do not approve of U.S. tax money being used to prop up communist governments."

By coincidence, O'Brien and MDL organizers Emily Salvette and Stan Gentry were approaching the rally as the Bush entourage came down the street and were just in time to display a huge banner which read "Abolish the IRS" for the benefit of the passing statist. And they at least saw it. Someone in the Bush limo was clearly seen to be gesturing towards the sign as the motorcade passed by.



Chance of a Lifetime

by Gwendoline Stillwell

The Libertarians of Michigan missed the chance of a lifetime during the summer of 1987. Voltairine de Cleyre was inducted into the Hall of Fame in the Michigan Women's Historical Center in Lansing, Michigan. Her birthplace, St. Johns, Michigan, held a ceremony and placed a plaque on the house where she grew up. Not only did Ms. de Cleyre's family attend, but the author of her biography, Paul Avrich, Professor of History at Queens College of the City University of New York, was the speaker of the day. Mr. Avrich spoke at length about Voltairine de Cleyre. He called her the most important anarchist of her time.

Mr. Avrich became interested in her life while researching the anarchist movement of the 1800's. She stood out as the most interesting and impacting of

all her peers. Eventually she commanded a book of her own by Mr. Avrich.

His biography, *An American Anarchist*, is well worth reading. It covers events of her early life that influenced her thinking and chronicles her activities as an anarchist in her adulthood.

I find her especially fascinating because her life centered around St. Johns (my home town). She came back to St. Johns again and again during her lifetime for rest and restoration.

So now during the Clinton County Historical Weekend Home Tour her childhood home is one of the stops. Three cheers for an early anarchist and St. Johns, Michigan.

Marijuana, The Constitution, and Religion

by Randy Nivison

If violations of peoples' rights are done flagrantly enough, the press and film crews will surely cover the event. Proof of this is contained in the affairs staged in Ann Arbor, Michigan the first two day of April of this year. A pro-life "rescue" operation blocking a clinic and violating others' rights was enthusiastically covered; as was the rowdy celebration downtown following an important UofM basketball victory. But a rally of two thousand people violating no one's rights and asking for political consideration took brief notice in the back pages of the region's largest newspaper.

The event known as the "Hash Bash", has been held annually since the 1960's Vietnam protest era. Considered a rite of spring, it had become part of that other era. Once again, a mass movement seems to be growing and gaining steam. As many millions of Americans are being systematically excluded from the political process and denied rights, the size of the rallies is growing. A

wide diversity of people came and watched and listened. Some were having fun. Others were more serious. Erosion of freedom is no small matter.

The rally included a mini-parade consisting of "minute men" and activists who came to speak. The cause is for more tolerant marijuana legislation. Dressed in early American clothing, an appropriate theme was hit upon. The idea is that there was a reason for the constitution, and the reason doesn't include a fifty two year old witch hunt. These opponents of harsh marijuana laws believe that usage is a private matter and culturally oriented. Since usage of itself creates no other victims, no hindrance should occur.

George Washington was an amazing individual. In addition to holding this nation on track, he resisted the temptation to declare a monarchy. A Deist in religious matters, Washington and many of his contemporaries

believed strongly in the concept of religious tolerance. Since Deism wasn't a traditional, institutionalized religion, the framers were careful to build safe-guards into the constitution. They wanted to keep government out of religious/cultural matters and vice-versa. Turmoil during the previous two centuries involving government and religion indicated that this was indeed the only way to turn. Wanting an instrument from which all government power would be derived, the framers struck compromises. They set forth a set of rules for government and rights for people (who were to be the source of power).



1989 Ann Arbor Hash Bash

Although these framers made allowances for a changing republic with a versatile document, they wanted no alterations of the original intent. Governmental actions and policies seem to have run contrary to this notion, however. Increasingly, specialized political action groups have gone a long way in determining public policy. Administrations

have led social reforms instead of following the constraints of limited government; and self-centered legislators have been willing to ignore the fundamental rights for millions of Americans.

Aside from all the other considerations involved in arresting millions of Americans because of a prohibition, it's an intrusion into one's religious and spiritual domain. Marijuana contains a mild psychedelic compound which generates changes in the conscious state. This is a more accurate description than that of "mind altering drug". What has been labeled as a "high" is in reality a person achieving a numinous experience. There is much precedent to believe that this is the case, especially since psychedelics have been used the world over in conjunction with religion. The characteristics of the numinous include mystery, bliss, fear, independence, and understanding. This is a person's

Continued on page 15

By Any Other Name

[Editor's Note: The mailbox has been busy lately. ML also received an April 26, 1989 letter from LP ballot access expert Richard Winger responding to a story that appeared in our last issue. It is reprinted below.]

Dear Editor:

The March/April issue carried a report on Dick Jacob's strategy session. Apparently Jacobs argues that the Libertarian Party would be more successful if it used the name "Independent Party".

Other third parties have already tried calling themselves the "Independent Party", with no positive results. Examples are:

1) The Populist Party of Connecticut got on the ballot in that state for the first time using the label "Unaffiliated Party" and was the only third party on the ballot for statewide office (except for Treasurer, for which there were 4 candidates.) The "Unaffiliated Party" got 3,800 votes for U.S. Senate (.39%), 9,565 votes for Governor (.96%), 4,846 votes for Secretary of State (.52%), 4,186 votes for Treasurer (.45%), and 5,057 votes for Comptroller (.54%). It had one candidate for congress who got 735 votes, or .42%.

In 1988 it petitioned for a place on the ballot using the name "Independent Party". It got only one candidate for Congress on the ballot. He received 1,054 votes, or .44%. The party also got some candidates for legislature on the ballot. The candidates for State Senate averaged .96%, and the candidates for lower

house of the state legislature averaged 1.44%. No third party in any state in the USA in 1988, which had candidates for the state legislature, did as badly as the Connecticut Independent Party.

2) The American Independent Party affiliate in South Carolina always appeared on the ballot as the "Independent Party". It first appeared on the ballot in South Carolina in 1968. It had no candidates for statewide office that year, but its 3 congressional candidates averaged 2.50% of the vote. In 1970 it polled 2.15% for Governor in a 3-way race, and its 3 congressional candidates averaged .85%. In 1972 it polled 1.49% for president (the candidate, Congressman John G. Schmitz, averaged over 2% in those parts of the USA where he was on the ballot). In 1974 it polled 1.56% for Governor, and again averaged .85% for Congress. In 1976 it only polled .24% for president (its candidate was former Governor Lester Maddox of Georgia), and its congressional candidates averaged .47%. In 1978 it polled .85% for Governor. In 1980 it polled .24% for president (its candidate was former Congressman John G. Rarick of Louisiana). It hasn't appeared on the ballot since and is no longer in existence.

3) In 1980, independent presidential candidate John B. Anderson formed the "Independent Party" in North Carolina and got it on the ballot, since it was easier then to get a third party on the ballot than to get an independent candidate on the ballot. Anderson polled 6.7% in the USA, but only 2.8% in North Carolina (compared to his 5.1% in Virginia).

Richard Winger

Norma Jean Released

Famed cop turned callgirl turned LP candidate for Lieutenant Governor of California Norma Jean Almodovar was released from federal custody on December 14, 1988

The convicted "panderer" was in Detroit just in time to catch the end of the LPM convention at the Ramada in Southfield. She was here to do an interview on *Kelly & Company*. [Editor's Note: See story on page 10.]

She thanked everyone in the LPM again for their continued support during her long ordeal as a political prisoner of the state. In a February newsletter *Out - But Not Free* she sent out to supporters, she said:

I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your concern and support over the last 18 months. The cards and letters that you sent me really helped me keep my spirits up and made me feel that I wasn't alone in this ordeal. Those of you who helped me out with your generous gifts, and you know who you are, I

can't begin to tell you how grateful I am.

I wish that I could sit down and write each and every one of you a letter personally, because I owe you that. I hope that you will understand that it will be a little while before I can because I have to rebuild my life, and find a new way to make a living. I will not be able to work as a callgirl ever again, but then I haven't since 1984, before I went on probation. Now that I am on parole, which is much worse than probation, I couldn't consider it, although I will certainly miss that part of my life.

And she is far from free. She can be "violated" by her parole officer for even the most trifling things and be immediately put back in prison. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200. While here she was very fastidious about "Our" seatbelt law.

But, Norma Jean is an unstoppable bundle of energy and totally dedicated to the libertarian cause (as well as the cause of the movie rights to her Cop/Callgirl book.) The movement could use about a million of her.

Libertarian Party of Michigan Bylaws

It appears that many members of the LPM would like to see some reform of the bylaws under which the party operates. The major focus of concern seems to be proportional representation on the LCC. But that is about where the agreement ends. There is not even a consensus on what the LCC should be proportional to: Membership by county? Number of votes received for our presidential candidate in the last campaign by county? The population at large by congressional district?

A two hour session at the convention did little to resolve the issue with the original bylaws emerging completely unchanged. A call for a special mid-summer convention to consider only possible

bylaws revisions was narrowly defeated by the delegates at the convention. However, another motion setting up a special Bylaws Committee was passed. Charles Hahn was appointed Chair of this committee and is looking for input from the membership. The plan is for the Bylaws Committee to study various alternatives in detail and then make specific recommendations at the convention next year.

If you have any ideas on bylaws revisions, they should be sent to Charles Hahn, 1 Hanover, Pleasant Ridge, MI, 48069 by July 31. If you have any questions, call Mr. Hahn either at work (313) 222-5960 or at home (313) 548-5865. To provide a starting point, our current bylaws appear below.

Libertarian Party of Michigan By-Laws

as amended April 2, 1988

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "Libertarian Party of Michigan," hereinafter referred to as the "Party."

II PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to further the principles of individual liberty as expressed in the Statement of Principle of the National Libertarian Party, by nominating candidates for political office and by entering into political information activities.

III. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Party shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. None of these offices shall be combined. All of these officers shall be elected at a regular convention of the Party by the attending delegates and shall take office immediately upon the close of such convention and shall serve until the final adjournment of the next regular convention.
2. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Libertarian Central Committee, and at all conventions. The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Party. In the absence of directives from the Libertarian Central Committee, the Chair shall have the power to speak for and to generally manage the affairs of the Party.
3. The Vice-Chair shall act as assistant to the Chair and shall perform the duties of the Chair if the Chairperson is unable to perform those duties.
4. The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Party and the Libertarian Central Committee.
5. The Treasurer shall receive, expend, and account for the funds of the Party under supervision and direction of the Chair and the Libertarian Central Committee.

IV. THE LIBERTARIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1. The Libertarian Central Committee of the Party, hereinafter referred to as the "LCC," shall consist of the officers of the Party and one delegate (when possible) from each county.
2. The LCC shall have the control and management of all the affairs, property, and funds of the Party.
3. The LCC shall meet at such times and places as it may determine, by call of the Chair, or by written request of one-third of its members.
4. A quorum of the LCC shall consist of twenty percent of its members. A majority of those present shall rule except as otherwise provided in these By-laws.
5. A two-thirds vote of the LCC may remove a member from office, LCC membership, as well as pass resolutions of the Party or deny any candidate endorsement. The LCC shall fill the vacancy of any office except that of the Chair which shall be completed by the Vice-Chair.
6. The LCC shall have the authority to levy dues which shall be required for registration at any convention of the Party.
7. LCC delegates shall be appointed at the annual convention by county caucus.
8. After the completion of caucuses under section 7, any remaining vacancies on the LCC may be filled by the Convention without regard to county residency.
9. Any vacancies occurring on the LCC between conventions may be filled by the LCC without regard to county residency.
10. If any member of the LCC shall be absent from three consecutive meetings, his position shall be declared vacant and may be filled by the LCC.

11. The LCC may levy annual dues of not more than 20 dollars upon each Party member.
12. The LCC shall have standing committees. Each committee shall meet at least twice a year and report to the LCC. Every LCC member shall serve on at least one committee. Any LPM member is encouraged to participate in these standing committees.

V. LOCAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

1. Party members may form organizations entitled to be known as the "Libertarian Party" of their respective areas.
2. The LCC shall charter affiliate parties from those organizations requesting such status in each county of Michigan. A copy of the petitioning organization's proposed operating rules shall be submitted with the petition. No organization shall be so chartered which does not ratify the Statement of Principles of the Party.
3. The autonomy of the affiliate parties shall not be abridged by the LCC or any other committee of the Party, except as provided herein.
4. The LCC shall have the power to suspend affiliate party status from any organization by a two-thirds vote of the LCC. Such suspension is subject to written appeal within 30 days notification. Failure to appeal shall be interpreted as an act of secession by the affiliate party. The LCC shall not suspend any affiliate party within a period of three months prior to a State Party Convention.
5. The appeal of the affiliate party is to be directed to the Judicial Committee of the National Party. Written arguments shall be sent to the Judicial Committee by representatives of the LCC urging revocation and by representatives of the affiliate party opposing revocation. The Judicial Committee shall rule to either revoke the charter of the affiliate party or to reinstate the charter within 30 days of receiving the arguments and no later than 30 days prior to a State Party Convention. Should the Judicial Committee fail to rule, the affiliate party's charter shall be reinstated with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.
6. Organizations which wish to become affiliate parties shall apply for official designation on a standard petition form adopted by the LCC. The petition shall be signed by not less than two members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan residing in the appropriate county.
7. There shall be no more than one affiliate party in any one county. The affiliate party shall determine who shall be delegates from its respective county to all State Party Conventions.
8. County organizations which have already organized at the time of the adoption of this by-law are exempt from Article V, Section 6.

VI. CONVENTIONS

1. The Party shall hold an annual convention each year between April 1, and July 1, performing such business as required herein.
2. The Party shall hold a convention upon the call of the LCC.
3. All members of the Party who attend and register at a convention shall be delegates, as long as the Party has less than 401 members.
4. A majority shall rule at the convention except for the platform and resolutions of the Party which shall require a two-thirds vote of those present, or as otherwise required by these by-laws.
5. The LCC shall have supervision and management of all conventions.
6. The officers of each convention shall be the officers of the Party.
7. A person who has never been a member of the Libertarian Party of Michigan must become a member 30 days prior to a state convention before being allowed to vote at that convention.

VII. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

1. Nomination of candidates for office shall be made only at a convention during the election year. No candidate may be nominated for an office for which they are legally ineligible to serve.
2. Delegates to the national convention shall be elected only at the state convention immediately prior to the national convention by majority vote. Rules governing delegate procedures shall be determined by action of the LCC.
3. Nominations shall be made from the convention floor by the delegates.
4. The Party's nominee for each office shall be chosen by a majority vote of the delegates in attendance at the time of balloting. If no candidate has a majority after the fourth ballot, the candidate with the least number of votes shall be struck from the next ballot until one candidate receives a majority.
5. Votes cast for "None of the Above" in voting on the Party's nominees for public office, the Party officers, and members of the LCC, shall be considered valid. Should a majority of the votes be cast for "None of the Above" in balloting for a public office, no candidate shall be nominated for that office. Should "None of the Above" be selected for any Party office, that position shall be declared vacant and none of the losing candidates for that position may be selected to fill the vacancy for the term of office.

VIII. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be granted to any person who affirms the Statement of Principles.

IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the By-laws, or convention rules of the Party.

X. AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at a convention, or by a four-fifths vote of those LCC members attending a meeting called for that purpose.

Candle for Liberty

by Steve Silver

The 1989 Michigan Libertarian Party convention held May 5-7 at the Ramada Inn on Telegraph in Southfield had all the trappings of a national convention. There were party stars like Rothbard. There were long debates on how to properly punctuate our bylaws. There was even some campaigning by national figures like LP Chair hopeful Matt Monroe. However, the most entertaining event happened after many of the faithful had gone home. Cop/Callgirl/LP candidate Norma Jean Almodovar arrived at 5:30 Sunday evening for a Monday morning TV appearance. About twenty libertarian junkies had the unique pleasure of having dinner with the most famous "working girl" since Xavier Hollander.

Norma Jean was once a Los Angeles policewoman. Her honesty and hard work made her few friends in the department. She finally got fed up with the corruption and decided to get an ethical job as a prostitute. But Norma Jean had kept a diary in her former occupation and began to write a book on her experiences in the police department. When word of the book got out she was set up by an undercover cop and arrested for "pandering." Her manuscript was taken as evidence. It has never been returned. Her experiences after her arrest make Kafka's story of *The Trial* seem tame by comparison.

None of this stopped Norma Jean from seeking and getting the California LP nomination for the office of Lieutenant Governor -- a race in which she garnered a

very respectable 90,000 votes.

Ultimately, our callgirl-candidate ended up sentenced to three years for the heinous crime of, as she puts it, "trying to get someone laid." Libertarians around the country wrote to her in prison. That emotional support and the notoriety of this blatant miscarriage of justice prevented the state from conveniently causing her to disappear.

Mrs. Almodovar has rewritten her book and is currently negotiating movie rights to her story. Of course, the talk shows love to have her as a guest. She did two local shows in Detroit (the *Kelly & Company* program for which she had come to town and a last-minute appearance on WXYT radio) before leaving to do the *Morton Downy Show* in Kansas City.

Perhaps a couple of quotes from the Sunday dinner will help explain her popularity. "My parents wanted me to be a missionary," said Norma Jean to us hangers-on, "so I proselytize about liberty while in the Missionary position." She kept everyone at the table amused with her pithy observations. "Police uphold the law. They arrest us [prostitutes] during the day and visit us at night." She's philosophical about her time in prison, now. "The prison guards were nice to me because they didn't want to be in my book." Then she added with a sly grin, "they will be anyway."

Norma Jean Almadovar is a real treasure. She supplies a vital ingredient that the freedom movement desperately needs. Her humor and biting sarcasm both energize us and frighten the statist. We are all very lucky that the state couldn't blow out Norma Jean's candle.



LPM Convention continued

proposals were rejected by the delegates, as was a call for a special convention to consider only bylaws revisions. [Editor's Note: See story on page 8.]

Delegates and alternates to the national LP convention in Philadelphia late this summer were also selected. Delegates: Evy Warmbier, Brian Wright, Dick Whitelock, Emily Salvette, Dick Jacobs, Don Warmbier, Doreen Wright, James Hudler, Tim O'Brien, Jim McAbee, Jack Elder, Janet Parkes, Virginia Cropsey, Dale Dobberstein. Alternates: Pete Hendrickson, Gary Bradley, Denise Kline, John Addis, David Hunt.

New LCC representatives were chosen by county caucus as follows: Eaton -- John Addis, Ingham -- Dale Dobberstein, Ionia -- Keith Fox, Kalamazoo -- Patrick Morrissey, Livingston -- Bill Johnson, Macomb -- Keith Edwards, Oakland -- Emily Salvette, Ottawa -- Dick Jacobs, Washtenaw -- David Hunt, Wayne -- Evy Warmbier.

Treasurer Jeff Hampton reported that the party currently has approximately \$3400 in assets and \$1600 in liabilities, leaving a net worth of about \$1700. Preliminary estimate is that the convention netted a \$1400 profit.

Troy Recall continued

by Gov. Blanchard and his cronies raising the state income tax 38%. Following the massive tax increase two state senators (and, very nearly, the Governor himself) were recalled from office -- proving that there is hope for stopping statist through the electoral process. Justin King, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Schools Boards is reported to have remarked, "I'm afraid that vultures, who will use any excuse to remove officials from office, will jump into the fray." Are you listening fellow vultures?

Love & Marriage & The State

by Dar Tisdale

What right does the state have in telling you whether you can get married? But, you say, the state doesn't tell me whether I can get married or not. Oh no? Answer this question -- do you need to have a marriage license to get married? Can you get married without a marriage license issued by the state? But, you might continue, you can just skip the "civil" part and rely on a religious ceremony. So, here's another question -- Do you know of any of the clergy that will marry you without a state-issued marriage license?

Exactly what is this vital piece of paper? Simply put, a license is legal sanction to do that which is otherwise prohibited. In other words, a license is permission to do something.

Thus it is that one *does* need the **permission** of the state to get married. And if you do not want a member of the clergy to do it, but want, for instance, a ship's captain to perform the ceremony -- do you really think you can find one who will marry you without the "marriage license" from the state?

So there you have it. If you do not have the permission of the state, you do not get married. Period.

Ask yourself, what right does the state have in telling you whether you can get married, or not get married. Do you think the state had any voice in such inherently personal decisions when this country was born?

What can be done about it, you ask?

First, if you feel that those in the clergy should be the ones to perform marriage ceremonies and you can find one who will do it without a license from the state - this would be the way to go. But if you are of the

mind that it is the church that marries people, and you cannot find anyone in the church who will do it without a "marriage license," then you have a problem.

And, if the wedding ceremony is a religious ceremony, as many think, what about the First Amendment to the Constitution which says that Congress shall make no laws with respect to the establishment of religion? While the "marrying" of someone may not be the establishment of a religion, where does the state get off telling a church that the church needs a license to perform a ceremony of the church. But of course if the church is incorporated, then isn't it a creature of the state? But that's another matter.

Back to the matter of getting married without a license. If you can't find anyone in the clergy that will do it without a license, there is an alternative. That is the time-honored institution of Common Law marriage. You are married according to the Common Law, if you live together and you introduce your partner to a third party as your spouse. That is, you say to Mr. Brown, "Mr. Brown, I'd like you to meet my wife, Mrs. Smith."

Years ago this suggestion would have been abhorrent to many. Perhaps it still is. To be pointed out as someone in a Common Law marriage was to be called a sinner.

But given the current situation where one must obtain the permission of the state to marry (and not being able to find one of the clergy willing to marry you without a license from the state), this may be the only option a libertarian has.

From The Editor continued

I believe that there are two things we as Libertarians should be doing to help. First, let's use the power of language to best advantage. Just as we have begun referring to what are commonly called "public schools" as "government schools," let's start calling drug laws what they are: "Prohibition." This is a word which has very negative connotations in most people's minds. When you say "Prohibition," people think of poisonous bathtub gin, machine gun turf wars between criminal gangs and the federal government intruding into personal decisions with disastrous consequences. (Gee, that sounds familiar, doesn't it?)

Second, I think the LP should organize an annual

"Repeal Prohibition Day" to go along with "Tax Protest Day" and "Volunteer Day." Some particular day, perhaps in mid-summer, could be chosen on which Libertarians and others sympathetic to this cause could stage demonstrations in front of federal buildings around the country. Such an event would undoubtedly attract more media attention than either of the other two, helping to keep the alternative before the public while simultaneously positioning the LP on the right side of an issue we will hopefully one day win. Who knows? Maybe, with a little more repression by the feds, a little bit of luck, and a lot of hard work, we might not even need a second annual "Repeal Prohibition Day."

Drug War P.O.W.s

Part II

[Editor's Note: Following is an interview with two Detroit, MI residents who have found themselves on the front lines in the War on Drugs. Jim and Bill are retired musicians who live together in a townhouse on the city's east side. They have been trying for several years to get the legal system to make a distinction between "medical dependents and your average street junkie.]

ML: Let me start by getting a little background on both of you. First of all, I noticed that the essay that you sent me, you wrote under pseudonyms. You would prefer not to be identified by name, is that right?

Jim: I think we better not say our names in case anything comes up in court where they might say "Hey, they're saying this and they're saying that."

ML: Okay. That's no problem. I'll just use fictitious names. Now, let me get some background. Let's start with you, Jim. How did you become medically dependent on these controlled drugs?

Jim: When I was in the Navy -- right after Pearl Harbor -- I first got morphine. But it really wasn't until years later, well, 18 years ago now, with my heart and so forth, that I started taking Dilaudid.

ML: What about you, Bill?

Bill: When I was 30 I came down with Rheumatic Fever and spent six months in the hospital. Well, I couldn't take aspirin because I'm allergic to it. Then, after I got out, this osteo-rheumatoid arthritis continued to deteriorate so first I started using Demerol and then that wasn't effective any more so I started using Dilaudid. And over the years, you see you have this endocrine gland which produces this fluid that is supposed to alleviate pain, but when you put something chemical in your body, you deplete this trigger mechanism of the endocrine gland. So, it doesn't function any more. You become dependent on the drugs that the doctor gives you. And, back then, it was no problem. The doctors would examine me and run all kinds of tests and then give me a prescription.

ML: So, this is a permanent situation for you?

Bill: Yes. I tried withdrawing about five years ago. But, it's impossible. My body is such that it demands this medication. If I don't get it, I'm a dead man. I know this. The doctors know it. And yet the drug enforcers will come and say, "Hey, you're using too much of this medicine." And they stop the doctor from writing your prescription. Do you know that we've been to probably twelve or fifteen doctors in the past year? And they're scared to even talk to us!

ML: Because they've been intimidated by the DEA?

Bill: That's right.

Jim: They drive you right into the hands of the pushers. They could correct this situation. They could put the pushers right out of business. All they have to do is let people who need medicine have it!

But, you see, the narcotics officers claim that "you're addicted to this medicine." That may very well be true. But my body is such (and we have statements from pharmacologists) that I need this medication. So, why should officials come along and tell doctors, "you have to stop writing this prescription"?

Bill: "You're taking too many."

Jim: Yeah. "He's taking too many. He's an addict. So, cut him off. I don't give a damn about his legs. I don't give a damn if he dies of a heart attack during withdrawal."

Bill: So, you go to your doctor to get a prescription and he says, "No. They told me they're going to take my license if I write for you. I want to write for you. I know you have this condition. But, I'm not going to lose my license."

Jim: I've got X-rays here. I don't have a bit of cartilage in my knees. The bones rub right up against each other. Some times I'm in such pain that I can't get out of bed. But, it doesn't matter to them.

ML: The doctors?

Jim: No. The drug enforcers. The doctors care, but they can't do anything about it. In fact, I have a letter, signed by my doctor, saying that, if I don't get my medication, I could die. They knew that when they told him to stop writing.

Bill: They just don't care. You see, they have their rules. I think that they are responsible for the people out on the streets charging \$20 or \$30 for a tablet to a person who needs his medication. And this person is going to get his medication, regardless -- even if he has to steal for it. He's going to get his medication. And they are responsible for this. They could stop it.

Jim: We're talking about medical dependence here. We're not talking about kids taking drugs to get high. We're talking about people who need medication just to survive. People who have used for so long that they can not stop.

ML: I know what you're saying and the distinction you're trying to make. But, it seems to me that 'medical dependent' or not, is still fundamentally an irrelevant question. Every individual has a right to put into his own body whatever he wants and...

Jim: But how can you say that to a judge, or how can you say that to a jury? How?

ML: It's tough. And I'll tell you why -- because we live in a statist society...

Life in These United States

by T. O'Brien

Prophecy for Psychiatrists

Arizona. The State Supreme Court here has reversed two lower court rulings and held that a psychiatrist can be held liable for failing to warn all possible victims of a patient's potential for violence.

The case involves one John Carter who attacked his stepfather two days after being refused treatment by a doctor at a county emergency psychiatric center.

The state would undoubtedly prefer a plan giving crystal balls to their licensees to admitting that they've failed in this area considered by them to be too important to be left to the market.

Welcome to the Gulag

Virginia. A tactic long used in the Soviet Union to deal with undesirables who have never been convicted of a criminal offense is to simply declare them "mentally ill" and commit them to psychiatric care in a state facility. Now the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond has ruled that, not only may individuals in the U.S. also be so incarcerated, they may be forced by doctors to take drugs against their will, as well.

The case involved a Michael Charters who was found incompetent to stand trial (on a charge of verbally threatening President Reagan in 1983) and ordered committed to an Alexandria mental health facility. Doctors there determined that Mr. Charters was in need of some medication which the inmate steadfastly refused to take.

In reversing a lower court ruling that held Mr. Charters entitled to a judicial hearing on the question of whether or not he was competent to determine his own treatment, the Appeals Court held that it was doctors

who should determine proper medical treatment rather than judges and that judicial appeals of treatment decisions would impose "exceedingly heavy burdens" on judges and hinder medical personnel.

Nowhere did the courts consider whether Mr. Charters was entitled to have anything to say about his treatment.

Clearing the Air

Vermont. In another case of govt vs. govt the town of Winooski has been denied the power to tax the neighboring city of Burlington for the latter's noise pollution intrusion on the Winooskians' airspace. The good folks claimed that takeoffs and landings at the nearby municipal airport interfered with their "enjoyment of the land and constitutes taking of Winooski land by Burlington." They thought their inconvenience was worth \$90,222 and sent a property tax bill for that amount to Burlington.

But Judge Matthew Katz ruled in favor of the defendant city stating that "although air rights over land may be bought, sold, developed and taxed, such rights do not include airport runway zones for takeoff and landing."

Maybe this kind of thing can become a trend. Governments would still be consuming productive people's wealth, but at least they could start preying on one another and leave the private sector alone. That way government could move up from being counterproductive to mere uselessness.

Marijuana continued

attempt through a religious experience to find meaning and understanding.

It is a constitutional violation for Congress to enact any laws with respect to any establishment of religion or to prohibit the free exercise thereof. Examples of violations with regard to the constitution would have to include the state laws passed against marijuana prior to the federal law passage in 1937. This is explicitly forbidden in the second paragraph of Article VI defining the federal relationship. Properly read, the last word "not withstanding" can be substituted with the definition "In spite of". Injected at the front of the stanza it would read "In spite of anything in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary".

This issue must be rethought. We started out in this nation with the concept of freedom and every individual's right to pursue happiness. It would be unfortunate to end up with a situation where majorities set the agenda by brute force and in effect rule everyone. If this happens, the American experiment will have failed.



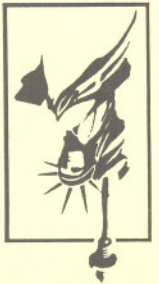
"I say, that is good!"

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