



THE MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

VOLUME 13

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 1986

ELECTION RESULTS

Due to our lack of Party status on the ballot Libertarians ran as independents in the last election. They did a great amount of work on their various campaigns to increase the recognition and acceptance of libertarian views on issues. A summary of the results follow:

Brian Wright - Secretary of State: Ex officio multiple term LPM chairman, Brian, did his usual articulate and well-versed job of addressing issues as our top of the ticket candidate for the important office of Secretary of State. That office, housing the Elections Division, is the source of many of our ballot access problems and even more proposals for restrictive legislation, as well as including licensing and other enforcement divisions related to victimless crimes. Brian's appearance of Tim Skubick's "If I am Elected" public TV series was well-received. Brian garnered 18,524 votes.

Denise Kline - Board of Education: Denise received over 42,000 votes and the distinction of being our highest vote getter. She speculates that she would have done even better if the League of Women Voters had sent her candidate questionnaire before the deadline for receiving them. As a result, her responses were not printed in most newspapers. Denise's finish would have qualified us for ballot status if she had been our "top of the ticket" candidate. David Weidner who worked with Detroit area libertarians in his race

cont. p. 2

RETURN OF THE BALLOT ACCESS DRIVE

The next attempt to return the Libertarian Party to the Michigan ballot is tentatively scheduled to begin early in 1987. The coordinator for the drive will be Chad Colopy. Chad is our NatCom representative, a member of the National Party's Ballot Access Committee, and on the Board of the Metro Detroit Libertarians.

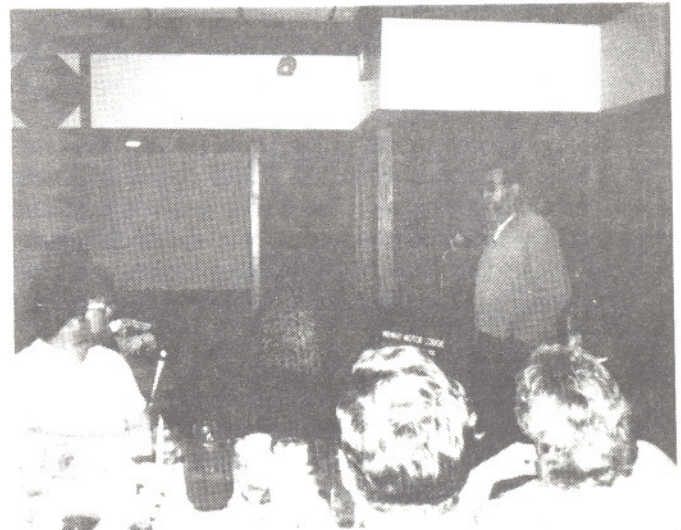
One proposed method of expediting the ballot drive is to solicit commitments for signatures prior to the starting date. Another expedient is to send the names of friends around the state to LPM headquarters for distribution to local ballot drive coordinators. This will facilitate timely collection from folks that may be geographically difficult for you to petition personally. Further details on the drive are expected from Chad following the next NatCom meeting.

LIBERTARIAN WEEK: HESS SPEAKS TO OVER 150 NEWCOMERS

The featured attraction of Libertarian Week for 1986 was a series of appearances by LP News editor and political activist Karl Hess. A Renaissance man of the first order, Hess covered a wide range of topics including alternative communities, appropriate technology, and political organization. The banquet in Southfield addressed among other topics the need to end factionalism in the LP by learning to relate to other libertarians on a personal basis rather than in terms of ideology. Stressing the need to relate one to one Hess noted, "Even IRS agents can be nice people when they're not working."

The turn out of people new to the LP or long absent made the tour, organized by a number of Lansing area activists, one of the more successful outreach events in recent memory. Despite a bad cold, Hess packed a full agenda into a two and a half day visit where audiences were treated to many gems of wisdom and pragmatism. Of particular note was Karl on creative poverty: "The government doesn't let me own anything but I use a lot of nifty stuff."

Upon arrival Thursday, October 30, Karl Hess, was whisked by his hosts, Don and Evy Warmbier, to the Southfield branch of Oakland Community College. There he addressed a government class of approximately 35. Clay Conrad, the organizer of this event, reported that Karl was enthusiastically received and entertained questions for most of an hour. cont. p. 6



ELECTION RESULTS cont.

for State Board of Education, amassed 24,312 votes. Votes for write-in educational board candidates such as Gwendoline Stillwell, Bette Erwin and Michael H. Miller or other Libertarian write-ins such as None of the Above, have not yet been reported. We hope to investigate when all election results are certified on November 24.

Lawrence Ludlow - 26th State Senate: Lawrence has the distinction of receiving our highest percentage number of votes this year; he garnered 11% in his two-way race. Larry spoke before a VFW gathering in East Detroit, and his "Mental AIDS" (Acute Idea Deficiency Syndrome) quip about his incumbent Democratic opponent made it into the "Detroit News".

Virginia Cropsey - 9th State Senate: Virginia's efforts included three candidate's nights, a radio debate and a TV League of Women Voters debate. Virginia also helped stage an effective "Democracy Dumping" coup with a write-in campaign for Dick Chrysler. She received 710 votes in her try for the Michigan State Senate.

Emily Salvette - 17th State Senate: Emily spoke at a chamber of commerce breakfast and also appeared at two hospital auxiliary breakfasts. Emily gained 489 votes in her campaign.

Gary Bradley - 30th State Senate: Gary received 631 votes (1.02%) in a very low budget campaign concentrating on public forums and local media. Newspaper coverage was excellent in Clinton and Shiawassee counties. The candidate was unsure to what extent his press releases were covered in the Livingston County Press. The campaign focussed on the proposals for licensing farmers and methods for improving the business climate.

Dale Dobberstein - 58th House: Dale received 0.7 percent of the vote running a campaign emphasizing the spending record of the incumbent and the current drug scare including a new Lansing anti-paraphrenalia law. The high point of the campaign was a 30 minute interview with Dale and the Tisch candidate on WKAR TV.

Dick Whitelock - 99th House: Dick ran a very active campaign in both the Republican primary and subsequently as an independent. He was reported to have 358 votes in the final election compared to 1500 in the primary. Dick observed that this is an indication of how the system is set-up in order to preserve the status quo, since the same person under an Independent label at the end of the ballot receives less recognition. Dick vows to keep the politicians cages rattled in continuing his Libertarian activities and publicizing issues.

Chuck Congdon - 102nd House: Perennial candidate Congdon received 2.5% of the vote in his biannual match against Mike Hayes. Chuck made the ballot access problems of third parties a centerpiece of his campaign and had some interesting positions on gun control. Coverage in the Midland Daily News was extensive albeit less than supportive. Chuck plans to

(cont. column 2)

OFFICE MOVES DECEMBER 7TH

Due to a more lucrative lease from the neighboring tenant, who is expanding, Petroff Management duly notified the LPM of a need to move by December 7. Petroff has been accepting reduced rent for some time on a month to month basis. The outstanding balance will be reflected as a contribution to the LPM by Petroff so their in kind contributions are now on the same order as Denise Kline's whose payments for coordinating expenses were suspended in 1984 despite a contract through June 1986.

Emily Salvette has agreed to take over handling inquiries for general information and will be temporarily coordinating the distribution of the LPM mail and phone messages to appropriate individuals. Let's plan to give Emily a lot of gratitude and, more importantly, as much help as possible during this period of transition. For information on activities in the Lansing area, Gwen Stillwell has agreed to serve as liason. She will also be storing much of the LPM library. Thanks, Gwen.

The office will be open on December 6th and probably on November 30th for anyone wishing to store, buy, or borrow any of the furniture or outreach materials not previously distributed. Jon Addiss plans to sell several pieces of office equipment presently on loan to the office and may be somewhat partial to LPM members. Arrangements can be made with Jon to view his items by appointment from November 20th.

This is a disappointing development but perhaps the Party can learn some valuable lessons as the functions of the office are dispersed to local groups who may provide new insights and methods.

Late note: Just prior to press time Petroff management indicated the possible availability of another site at the rate presently being paid by the Party. Details next issue?

DIRECTORY

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Vice-Chairman	Jon Addiss	(517) 321-1200
Secretary	Denise Kline	(517) 484-2188
Treasurer	Jeff Grund	(313) 475-7685
NatCom Rep	Chad Colopy	(313) 363-5508
MetroDetroit Libertarians		(313) 332-7834
MSU libertarians		(517) 351-0514
Allegan County LP	Bruce Smith	(616) 857-1013
Bay County LP	Mike Murphy	(517) 892-5290
Clinton County LP	Gary Bradley	(517) 224-4784
Genesee County LP	David Gillie	(313) 686-6589
Grand Traverse Co. LP	Nick Hamilton	(616) 946-6246
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Ingham County LP	Gwen Stillwell	(517) 337-2584
Kalamazoo Area	Sheryl Loux	(616) 343-4737
Kent County LP	Bill Hall	(616) 453-5346
Midland County LP	Joe Overton	(517) 631-0305
Monroe County LP	Charles Dawson	(313) 654-2561
Oakland County LP	Bill Hollander	(313) 673-3305
Ottawa County	Jack Wainer	(616) 363-8087
St. Clair County LP	Mike McGriff	(313) 987-3458
Washtenaw County LP	Jim Greenshields	(313) 665-0574

stick around until folks are sick enough of the government to elect him for a much needed change.

David Raaflaub - Supreme Court: With next to no finances or media exposure, Dave propelled himself to a breathtaking 24th place finish on a crowded judicial ballot. He developed a position paper calling for an end to the judicial tenure system of using fines and has been active in writing Legal News about the deplorable parking situation in Ann Arbor.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR GOVERNMENT INDOCTRINATION

By Dick Whitelock

Another glaring example of intrusive Big Government at work!

The State Board of Education's recent decision to force the requirement of State Certified teachers into the private domain of home schoolers is a violation of the most basic element of free choice.

Those parents who have chosen to teach their children at home or send them to a private school have done so for a number of obvious reasons: To escape the rate of illiteracy and substandard educational and moral values that have been prominent in government schools; To protect their children from the exposure to drugs, alcohol, peer pressure, violence and any number of other undesirable elements that have become associated with the educational atmosphere in government controlled schools.

It should be enough that our system of public education is already patterned like that of Soviet Russia, but apparently the State Board of Education wishes to exercise more power over the minds of our young people.

What is the State Board of Education trying to accomplish? Do they want all children who are presently being educated in a healthy and friendly environment of home schools to experience the same atmosphere that has turned millions of public school students into functional illiterates? Such a result would seem their goal.

It's time that the people of Michigan recognized the intrusion by government into the educational process for what it is the most costly, bureaucratic, dictatorial, and inefficient method of education ever perceived.

A system of education in which the basic ingredients are forced attendance, government selected curricula, government selected teachers, high taxation, lack of competition, with criminal prosecution for those who fail to abide by the rules, has absolutely no place in a free society. Such a system is more descriptive of a penal facility or a concentration camp.

While there are many well qualified and dedicated people involved in public education, there are also a great number who seem intent on maintaining government control of the process at any cost, regardless of the effect on the quality of education that is made available to the students.

I am appalled that seven individuals on the State Board of Education are allowed to dictate their whims to millions of Michigan parents by eliminating their right of choice. I am equally appalled that our legislators have not taken the necessary steps to uphold the Constitutional rights of their constituents by proposing the abolishment of governmental interference in the education of our children and grandchildren.

cont. column 2

HOMESCHOOLERS' ALERT: URGENT ACTION NEEDED

The HomeSchool movement in Michigan is at a crossroads at this time due to an authoratative edict by the State Board of Education and impending detrimental legislation. The State Board has chosen to tighten the requirements for schooling children at home and have threatened to fine all parties not complying.

An even greater threat may be imposed by Senate Bill 176 which has passed the Michigan Senate and is scheduled to begin votes in the State House on December 2. SB 176 is a revision to the Juvenile Code which would increase the jurisdiction of Probate Courts. The result, if the Bill is allowed to pass in its present form, is that homeschoolers will not only be threatened with legal action; additionally Probate Courts will be able to take their children away from parents who homeschool.

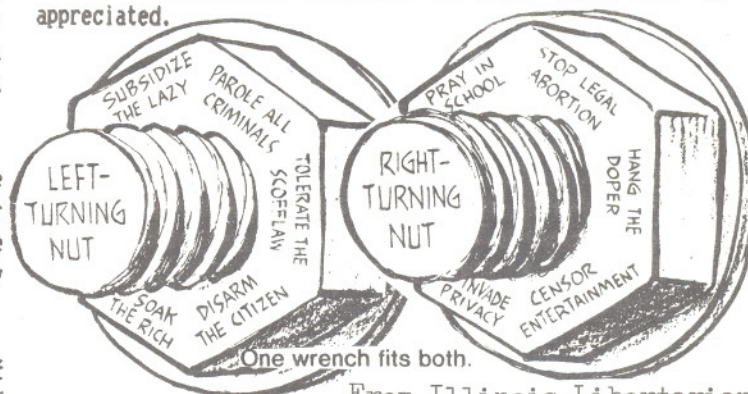
Please help prevent further atrocities in diminishing educational alternatives and to protect the individual rights involved by calling or writing your Michigan legislators and/or newspaper and media editorial columns soon.

Specifically ask legislators to (re-)introduce an amendment to define education in such a way that it does not come under the purview of the Probate Courts. An amendment originally drafted by Senator Nye may contain useful wording.

Anyone wishing more information or who can help, please contact:

Educational Freedom Coalition
c/o Fred McGlone
528 Ann St.
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517)351-7340

The Educational Freedom Coalition is composed of several groups in Michigan who are interested in homeschooling. They are looking for support from any quarter cognizant of the issues. Libertarian responses to their needs will be appreciated.



From Illinois Libertarian

In light of these recent developments, I would call for the abolishment of the State Board of Education. I would also propose that legislation be implemented which would protect the rights of parents to choose whatever form of education they feel is best suited for their children without fear of government mandates or intrusion.

November 4 MDL Meeting & Party

After a short board meeting, an election night party was held at Emily Salvette's house. Everyone agreed that this was the best part of the campaign! The movie Brazil was shown courtesy of Mark Seller's tape and VCR. Also viewed was Brian Wright's interview mentioned elsewhere; a taped interview of Virginia Cropsey; and an appearance by Larry Ludlow on "Russ Gibb at Random." About 35 libertarians enjoyed the refreshments and conversation, which lasted well into the wee hours.

Next Metro-Detroit Meeting

The next MDL meeting will be during the 4th week of January, 1987. The tentative speaker will be Stephen Fielder, chairman of the National LP Ballot Access Committee. We are trying to arrange this for Saturday, January 31, so that people from around the state can join us. Details will be announced in the December issue. Call Emily Salvette at (313) 332-7834 for more information.

Individual MDL Activities

Tim O'Brien sent out the first of a regular series of press releases during the last week of October. The subject is drugs. He is currently writing a reply for WKBD TV channel 50 on debunking the myth of democracy. For more information contact Tim at (313) 649-4236.

Mark Sellers is developing a fund raising letter to be mailed to libertarians in the near future. Keep your check book handy! Mark's phone number is (313) 247-4257.

Larry Ludlow is working with Keith Edwards to begin a "Principles of Liberty" course in February. Larry is also working with a group of libertarians to develop a speakers bureau as a method of outreach to community groups. Larry's plan is to have the bureau in place by March. Contact Larry at (313) 792-9388. In addition, Larry gave an editorial reply on channel 4. The subject was getting out the vote, or as Larry called it "organized kleptocracy." He also had a letter printed in Crian's Detroit Business nov. 10 on the problems of state-managed investments.

Virginia Cropsey asks all Metro-Detroit libertarians to contact her when they perform any libertarian acts. These acts consist of writing a letter to the media, call in to a talk show, or any other event. Please contact Virginia at (313) 977-6628.

Paula Moreland has established a monitoring system for letters to the editor in area newspapers. She has "watchers" checking every day for letters that sound close to libertarian positions. Paula will then contact these writers and send them libertarian information. This action is designed to generate new members and interest in the Libertarian Party. If you would like to assist Paula, contact her at (313) 398-8751 or write her at 21221 Westhampton, Oak Park, MI 48237. Welcome aboard Paula!

Bill Shotey is sending out information packets to prospective libertarians in the Metro-Detroit area. Please call if you have prospects or news to be included in this column. Phone (313) 561-0379. Deadline for the December issue is December 3rd, 1986.

NETWORKING IN LANSING

We've had to juggle a number of activities lately in order to allow everyone to be two places at once, but with the expert guidance and cooperation of Pat Heller and others we have managed it to date! MSU libertarians continue to meet weekly at 7PM on Thursdays; Tri-County Libertarian Alliance meets monthly on the third Thursday and by arrangement, and an Advocates "Discovery Group" has been started by Michael Miller on Wednesdays.

One particularly exciting day "networking" in the Lansing Mid-Michigan area went like this: editors Kline and Bradley met with Portlanders, Rose and Carl Homa, and talked to Dick Whitelock of Ionia about future publications and assistance; nothing particularly unusual about that. Then Dale Dobberstein, Kline and Bradley, entertained media (TV, public radio, and the State News eventually called) at Lansing Headquarters on the issue of private property, rights and responsibilities of partiers, and legal handling of violence in connection with the controversial Cedarfest. Channel 10 TV may do a feature on the role of the Libertarian Party in Michigan politics as a result of publicity gained by Dale on this and other local city council issues. At the same time Gwen Stillwell was networking with homeschoolers interested in perserving freedom in educational alternatives.

That Wednesday evening was planned with three allied activities of interest to libertarians. Gary went off to represent Pat Heller at an LS Society meeting, of interest to those aspiring to freer communities in colonizing space. Mike Miller was hosting his first Discovery Group discussing Bergland's "Libertarianism in One Lesson". Remnants of Mike's group reconnoitered with Denise and Dale at Alan Ginzburg's poetry reading. There we were able to interject libertarian positions as an alternative to the stale Left-Right dichotomy into which so many are drawn. We also met the organizers of the University's Great Issues series, which may host libertarian speakers in the future. . . .

BUDGET BRIEF

In response to numerous inquiries regarding the LPM budget, and lacking an official report from the Treasurer, the editors offer the following preliminary information on per capita and general expenditures.

Of the \$25 combined membership dues, \$12 goes to LP National and approximately \$12 goes towards newsletter and mailings, with only \$1 remaining for general operations. This presumes 12 newsletters per year and a small membership, since per capita printing costs are significantly reduced for larger quantities. Dues-paying memberships in the last two years have ranged from 275 to 90. Special mailings in the same period have reached up to several thousand interested people.

The general monthly budget has been \$100 per month for phone (including extra white pages listings and services), \$100 for newsletter, and until recently \$100 for rent, plus \$25-35 miscellaneous expenses for answering inquiries, typewriter ribbons, etc. Monthly pledges have been \$125, down from over \$400.



LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

112 West Allegan, Lansing, Michigan 48933

(517) 484-2188

1984 plus 2

It's the last year that political contributions will count as personal tax deductions for you and your family.

Government invasions of privacy pass for efficiency mechanisms.
Wars on drugs are conjured (making victims of the victimless).
Real weapons are deployed under various guises.
Education suffers: pretenses are preferred to knowledge
and control is institutionalized rather than
freedom, privacy, choice or rational deliberation.

Libertarians are helping raise the issues in newspapers, periodicals, schools and before government bodies in order to restore the principles of Freedom and Responsibility.

In 1987, the National Convention will feature The Culture of Freedom and the Libertarian International conference will pursue the Ethics of Liberty. (Would you like to suggest a theme for Michigan's convention? _____)

Please help us and help yourself by supporting the Libertarian Party as a Member, Subscriber and/or Contributor to keep the freedom network growing. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP, GIFT SUBSCRIPTION AND CONTRIBUTION FORM

Join or renew by January to avoid a planned dues increase. Memberships will be extended a full year from their current March expiration. If you have renewed since October, please consider sending a Gift Subscription or passing this form along to a friend.

Name _____	Telephone _____
Address _____	County _____
_____	Congressional District _____
City, State, Zip _____	House/Senate Districts _____/_____
___ Change of Address	___ New Member ___ Renewal

Combined National and Basic Michigan Membership @ \$25.....\$	_____
Basic Libertarian Party of Michigan Membership @ \$15.....	_____
Special Libertarian Party of Michigan Memberships	
___ Benefactor @ \$1000	___ Lifetime @ \$500
___ Patron @ \$250	___ Contributing @ \$100
___ Sustaining @ \$50
LPM Student Membership @ \$5.....	_____
National Membership @ \$15.....	_____

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 _____

Contribution to Ballot Access/Petition Fund.....	_____
Donation for Operating Fund.....	_____
Donation for Campaign Fund.....	_____
Gift Subscription @ \$10, \$2.50 additional includes information package.....*	_____*
Information Packets @ \$5 singly, \$3 for 2-5, \$2.50 for 6 or more.....*	_____*
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

MONTHLY PLEDGE PROGRAM

___ Yes, include me as a monthly contributor to the Libertarian Party of Michigan.
Monthly Pledge \$ _____ Starting Month _____ Ending Month _____

*Please send ___ Info or ___ Gift Subscription to the following people. (Feel free to use extra paper for additional names, and tell us which items you are ordering for which people. Thanks again for your cooperation in extending libertarian ideas.)

HESS SPEAKS TO NEWCOMERS cont.

Friday began with an 8:15AM presentation to about 100 University of Detroit Academy students of Political Communications and of Political Science generally. Hess was able to convey something of his knowledge and experience in journalism and politics, as a former Newsweek writer and still avidly published freelancer. Topics during the weekend ranged from mundane politics to libertarian alternatives and from alternative ecological and technological communities to being downright neighborly. Psychologist Dr. Bette Erwin was the contact for the U of D Academy event.

The Warmbier's escorted Karl Hess to the LPM's Lansing Headquarters to prepare for the 11:30AM media conference with the Capitol Press Corp. A dozen correspondants were present, including the major wire services, Lansing State Journal's main political editor, public radio and others.

In the afternoon, Karl conducted an impromptu seminar at MSU attended by a mixture of students, faculty and interested persons. While the debate between so-called Left and Right politics so typical of university communities was heated, we gained at least one convert.

The Lansing Tri-County Libertarian Alliance sponsored dinner party on Friday night was attended by about 40 people, and over half of them were new faces! We appreciate the announcement by the Lansing Beat and the activities of the MSU Libertarians led by Pat Heller, Cliff Schwink and Michael Miller which contributed to the promotion of the event.

Karl's luncheon speech before the Midwest Regional Conference of NAAFA centered on networking for social change. The leaders of the national organization were particularly inspired by Karl's remarks which were referred to during the weekends workshops and at the keynote speech the next day, a large part of which espoused individual rights, reported conference chair Jerry Lamb.

Finally, Karl addressed Libertarians from around Michigan and their guests at the Southfield Holiday Inn on Saturday night. Karl's speech emphasized the prospect of working together for a freer society. It was inspiring, as was the lively music (featuring a tribute to Phil Ochs) performed by Tim O'Brien and his brother, Mike.

Thanks to all those who attended, supported, and worked to develop the week's activities.

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN
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(517) 484-2188
Gary Bradley, Denise Kline
Co-Editors

OFFICERS:
Janet Parkes Chairman
Denise Kline Secretary
Jon Addiss Vice-Chairman
Jeffrey Grund Treasurer

DEADLINES:
For December, materials must be received at LPM Headquarters by Dec. 5 or to Gary Bradley; 1001 Cass; St. Johns, 48879. For January, send material by Jan. 7 to Denise Kline at Rte. 3-Box 14; Stephenson, MI 49887. Usual Deadline: 7th.

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Dean Ahmad
(301) 951-0559



NATIONAL LIBERTARIAN PARTY DENOUNCES ADMINISTRATION HYPOCRISY
ON TERRORISM

(Aug. 5, 1986) Libertarian Party National Secretary Dean Ahmad announced today that at a recent meeting held in Baltimore, Maryland, the Libertarian National Committee unanimously passed a resolution condemning Reagan administration hypocrisy on terrorism. The text of the motion follows:

WHEREAS on May 27, 1986, Dr. Isma'il Raji al Faruqi, a world renowned Islamic studies scholar and an American citizen, and his wife Dr. Lois Faruqi, a respected scholar in Islamic Art and Architecture were murdered in their home in the Philadelphia area under circumstances which the county coroner in the Philadelphia area has publicly indicated to be a case of assassination,

THEREFORE, the National Committee of the Libertarian Party expresses its sympathy to Muslims throughout the United States for the loss of this distinguished exponent of human rights,

and WHEREAS, the murder of the Faruqis is only the most recent in a string of terrorist acts in the United States, including the yet unsolved bombing murder last October of Christian Arab-American Alex Odeh, in Santa Ana, California,

THEREFORE, the Libertarian Party denounces these acts of terrorism on American soil. We decry the priorities of the present administration to use terrorist incidents abroad as an excuse for military incursions, and we proclaim that the only function of government which may be legitimate is the defense of the rights of its citizens, and the exercise of any proper police powers may only be on its own territory. We deplore the hypocrisy of irresponsible foreign intervention and a lack of concern for bringing to justice those responsible for the brutal murders of Dr. Isma'il Faruqi, his wife Dr. Lois Faruqi, and Alex Odeh.

NATIONAL LP RADIO CAMPAIGN

Jim Turney announced a new "generic" radio campaign with a soon to be available audio tape with a series of ten 60 second radio spots.

He said, "It has been a pet project of mine to have a national radio campaign for the party because it very effectively targets a particular audience."

Each ad will be of a dialogue type that features two people discussing, in a very animated and ear grabbing manner, a subject of intense current interest and promoting the Libertarian party and its candidates.

Although the generic ad does not promote a particular LP candidate by name, there is provision for the candidate to identify him/her self on the "tail" of each ad. By doing so, the candidate "customizes" the ad, and qualifies it for the reduced radio political advertizing rate.

Turney appointed Dr. Bruce Daniel, LP Chair Placer County Calif., to head the project. Sarah Foster, Editor of the CALIFORNIA LIBERTARIAN NEWS; Kim Goldsworthy, LP Chair Region 63 and Phillip Lanier are co-ordinating with talented audio specialists, to produce the master tape.

"If every LP candidate in the country would buy \$300 to \$500 of radio time during their campaigns, the party would have its first national radio coverage. It is a very do-able thing, and ought to have significant impact," Turney said.

Tapes will be available in early September. They may be ordered from the Placer County Libertarian Party; PO Box 165; Loomis, Calif. 95650 Cost: \$25

EDITORIAL: SO LONG, THANKS FOR THE FISHES

By Gary Bradley

As of January 1, I will be relinquishing the post of newsletter co-editor due to prior commitments. I agreed to accept the position only for the period of September to December on the resignation of my predecessor and stated that at the time. The LPM is at a point where communication within the membership is critical and I hope someone will be inspired to take over my share of the duties. (Denise Kline may continue her share of the duties if someone asks her nicely since "nicely" isn't a manner with which she's had recent familiarity.) To sell the position, I will tell you explicitly, it isn't very hard unless you want to make it that way. The present production takes about one night a week to put contributions on the word processor. The rest of the newsletter is written in 2-3 evenings the week prior to publication. The paste up and dealings with the printer have been done by Denise and take 5-8 hours. The job is nothing that can't be handled by 2 people with a home computer, if you feel letter quality printer reproduction is adequate. There, however, is the rub.

Some of the leadership of the LPM has taken the stand that quality (read style) is more important than timeliness. I personally hope my successor will continue to use computer justified, low cost production methods and produce the newsletter on a monthly basis. Be fairly warned that if you attempt this, you will be appreciated by me and the members that didn't quit during the long periods of silence (about half of them) but not by some of the folks that "run" the Party.

The remainder of this editorial will deal with my parting observations on those folks who think they run the Party. I would normally wait for my final issue to speak my mind on this but I feel I should allow one issue for response (presuming the funds aren't cut off). There is an old joke about rules by religious hierarchies ending "He no playa the game, he no maka the rules." A comparison of church and Party came to me shortly after the Libertarian College of Cardinals (LCC) met November 16th with the effective result of excommunicating the Lansing diocese. As reported elsewhere in this issue, the Lansing office will be closing December 7th. The Lansing group suggested that for the sake of continuity, the phone should be transferred to another Lansing location since a change of both phone and address would create excessive disruption. Additionally, the reintroduction of changes in ballot access laws are sure to begin again and several sources in the legislature make it a point to notify us when action is imminent. Despite these arguments, the decision was made to disconnect the phone and install a recorded message directing inquiries to a Detroit area number to be installed by the LPM at the home of an activist (who this editorial is not meant to disparage in any way).

The reason for the LCC to do this seems to be that the interest of the Party is less important than giving a public insult to the Lansing group after the decisions of the previous LCC meeting, where it was decided that Karl Hess

should not be invited for Libertarian week because there wasn't time to do it and it would probably cost too much. The Lansing group disagreed and undertook the project on their own initiative. The coverage elsewhere in this issue is proof that a significant appearance schedule was arranged in the time available. Also, the event did make a small profit as of preliminary accounting. (The Southfield event produced only about a third as much in contributions as would be expected from similar events a few years ago.) Apparently the only thing worse than disagreeing with the LCC is proving you were right.

Other highlights of the November meeting included: The foremost proponent of Party separation of powers agreeing that the disposition of the office closing should not be left to the discretion of the officers. The Treasurer, who has persistently complained that only the lack of adequate petty cash accounting at the office has prevented him from doing his job, revealed that as of November 16th he hadn't got around to opening the September bank statement. Displays of the use of Robert's Rules of Order orchestrated to prevent the discussion of issues. Finally there was a statement by one LCC member that better reflects the attitude of the body than anything I've heard there in years. "I hesitate to suggest that any action be taken, because then someone may think I should do it, and I won't."

He no playa the game but he sure maka the rules. This has been the crux of LCC operation since I became a Party member. The LCC is often composed of a quorum of people who believe that activism consists of showing up at 9 meetings a year and telling people that are willing to volunteer their efforts exactly what manner those efforts will take. The net effect of such behavior is that anyone with new ideas or individual methods for contributing are treated so badly that they don't stick around very long. (I have heard rumors that the platform developed during my tenure will be challenged in its entirety by the previous Platform Chair who produced nothing.) Fighting the state is a tough job but having to go twelve rounds with your supposed allies first makes the game too hard for anyone with a lick of sense. I can only make a supposition as to why certain people seem bent on destroying the Party from within. I think perhaps they don't want the Party to grow since a smaller pond makes them a bigger fish.

I haven't yet reached the point of resigning my Party membership, but my activism is definitely at an end until I see some changes in policy by the LPM. Most former activists made tactful exits with noises about burnout and personal commitments. I was planning to do the same before the last LCC meeting but those who know me know that tact isn't my strong suit. I'm curtailing my efforts for the state Party out of disgust and feel the members should know it. It's not the kind of graceful exit I'd hoped for but as the old saying goes, "It's better to be pissed off than pissed on."

Note: The views expressed are those of the author and are not endorsed by either the other editor or the Party.

LIBERTARIAN MUSICAL NOTES: AL STEWART
Review by Gary Bradley

"You may not see just where the sense is
In the actions of the state.
You may not know the consequences
Of their actions till too late."

- Al Stewart, Night Meeting

In Al Stewart's most overtly political album to date, he demonstrates that the anarchist leanings that have run undercurrent in his lyrics since 1974's Past, Present and Future have come to the fore. Half of the recent album Russians and Americans is devoted to politics, probably the reason the publicity accompanying its release was negligible. The good news is that it can often be found in the cut-out bins these days. The better news is that he may even be a libertarian. Certainly on foreign policy issues one can find few songwriters who so consistently enjoy using the lessons of history to remind us of the mistakes we insist on repeating. Most of all, Al Stewart is a thinking person's songwriter which should be a libertarian virtue even if you disagree with his politics.

One of the major appeals of the Scottish soft rocker is the image of his speaking from a declining empire to the ascending ones to the east and west. The title cut of Russians and Americans is, in essence, an exhortation to the peoples of two countries formed in revolution to resist the temptations of empire proffered by leaders out of touch with the countries they lead. Admittedly his outlook for reform is bleak and songs like "Night Meeting" and "Rumors of War" are dark visions of the future but the final note of the album is more upbeat as "The Candidate" is abandoned by voters with better things to do like going to the movies.

For those not familiar with Stewart's work, the best but least historically influenced album is Year of the Cat from 1976. This contains his most consistent combination of superior lyrics and music. His other albums, while good, often contain tracks that could just as well be skipped. For those interested in the historical side of Stewart, the previously mentioned Past, Present and Future is his best album. A concept album, it was intended to have a song for each decade of the twentieth century ('80's & 90's courtesy of Nostrodamus). The first decade got lost and the future got lumped but the album remains interesting. The choice of the WW II Russian front for the 1940's piece is very well done while the sense of history about to repeat in "The Last Day of June 1934" is the lyrical apex of the album.

Stewart generally gives one the sense of being pop music's singing anarchist but his lack of economic stance leaves us with insufficient information for our completely claiming him as a fellow libertarian. The only economic reference that comes to mind is the slightly favorable attitude to activities "On the Border":

"The fishing boats go out across the evening water
Smuggling guns and arms across the Spanish Border
The wind whips up the waves so loud
The ghost moon sails among the clouds
And turns the rifles into silver on the border."

The Musical Notes column is the first of what will hopefully be many columns contributed by the membership on artists whose work has a special appeal to libertarians. Tim O'Brien has agreed to write the December column on the works of Phil Ochs. Help make the newsletter more interesting and share your listening pleasures with the rest of us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 28-30: Canada's Annual Meeting will feature Murray Rothbard. Contact the Ontario LP in Toronto for details.

December 6: Office moving in Lansing with 1:00pm break for pizza and limited LCC meeting. Anyone welcome to attend.

December 13: Several LPM members are provisionally forming the Michigan Committee to Legalize Sex. The committee will begin a feasibility study on the chances of mounting a successful petition drive for a ballot initiative to repeal all state laws criminalizing sex between consenting adults. The organizational meeting will be held at 916 W Cavanaugh Apt. 8, Lansing MI 48910 at 7:00pm.

January 12: Technophiles should note the formation of a new L-5 Society local chapter in East Lansing. Those interested in forming a free society somewhere other than on Earth may want to attend the next meeting at 7:30pm on Monday at Abrams Planetarium on the MSU campus. Surveys have shown that the dominant political orientation of L-5ers is libertarian. A good outreach event.

January 31: Metro Detroit Libertarians meeting featuring National Ballot Access Coordinator Stephen Fielder.

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