



# THE MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

VOLUME 13

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

DECEMBER 1986

## Excessive sentences contribute to prison overcrowding

By Forest Lathers

Most people agree that Michigan prisons are overcrowded. Many people advocate building more prisons to relieve overcrowding, and that certainly would be a solution. But is that the best solution? This reporter says it would be quicker, cheaper and more in line with the goals of justice to first identify and remove those who should not be in prison. If overcrowding still prevails, new prisons could be constructed.

In 1983, the Michigan Supreme Court established sentencing guidelines to address the problem of sentencing disparity, but those guidelines too often are not followed. Some cases are so far from fair that they are called "Political Footballs." Outlandish sentences, often handed out soon before elections, put the judge, prosecutor, police and mayor in a good light at the expense of justice and at great cost to the taxpayers.

This is a reprint of the first of several articles published in The Factor, a correctional newsletter, containing case information about prisoners who seemingly received too much time, or should not have gone to prison, or should have been paroled. These articles do not deal with issues of guilt or innocence, but only sentencing or unfair denial of parole.

Anthony Bigelow, Ned Craymer, and Gerald Werth were arrested and charged with breaking and entering. All plead guilty. Bigelow and Craymer were sentenced to probation. Gerald Werth was sent to prison. His sentence of 60 to 180 months does not reflect the term of 12 to 30 months specified in the sentencing guidelines. His minimum is five times greater than the guidelines recommend. WHY?

In August 1983, Ray Burns and Mark Coulier left the correctional center in Muskegon without permission. On January 26, 1984, Judge Ronald H. Pannucci sentenced Mr. Burns to 6 to 60 months for escape. Mark Coulier - who did not get into any trouble while on the unauthorized leave - received a sentence of 30 to 60 months by the same judge on the same date. Why was his minimum five times greater?

Mike Johnson was sentenced to 10 to 20 years for violating drug laws. Sentencing guidelines indicate a sentence of 12 to 24 months is appropriate for a first offense. In handing out a sentence that is ten times greater than the guidelines specify, Mecosta County Circuit Judge Lawrence C Root

indicated the harsher sentence was to teach a lesson to out of town people bringing drugs into the area.

The foregoing three cases are only a drop in the bucket of the estimated 900 Michigan prisoners doing time under excessive sentences or who have been unfairly denied parole. Werth, Coulier and Johnson could each be immediately released if their sentences were adjusted to conform with Michigan sentencing guidelines!

Occupying beds that rightfully should be empty is not the only problem. The minimums of these men total over 14 years more than guidelines specify. At the average rate of \$17,000 a year to keep a man incarcerated, those 14.5 years will cost taxpayers approximately \$246,500. [Editor's note: recent cost studies show the \$17,000 per year figure cited from Department of Corrections estimated may be less than half the actual cost.]

Governor James Blanchard has the power to commute sentences. He could, in fact, effect the release of those who have already served more time than the sentencing guidelines call for. The state could save nearly a quarter million dollars merely by adjusting the sentences of Werth, Coulier, and Johnson. The state could save millions of dollars and reduce or abolish the so-called need for new prisons by conducting a thorough housecleaning and releasing those with excessive sentences or those unfairly denied parole.

### NEWS BRIEFS

National: Karl Hess will be retained as editor of the LP News. Despite the controversy, no motion was made at the late November National Committee meeting thanks to numerous letters supporting Hess and Lysander Productions. Several Michigan and Metro Detroit Libertarians were among the writers.

National: Ron Paul, Karl Hess and financial analyst Bill Bradford remind us that new federal regulations will require disclosure of tax information and your Social Security number when filing for a passport after January 1, 1987. Paul recommends getting one now since they are good for 10 years and no specific travel information needs be given.

## ACTIVIST PROFILE:

EMILY SALVETTE: 'ONCE AND FUTURE' ACTIVIST

Emily Salvette was 1983 vice-chair of the Libertarian Party of Kentucky and now promises to play a vital role in the future of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Emily's dedication, ability and determination--as well as her description of herself as a "brown" person, the conscientious, responsible type so indispensable to their organizations--reminds me of the characters of Arthurian legend by whom brighter futures were made. Emily's systems organizational approach for growth of the Libertarianism is elaborated below.

Emily will be managing phone, mail, materials and records for the Libertarian Party of Michigan from her home in Bloomfield Hills. After having spent several weekends compiling and transporting material from Lansing Headquarters, Emily has already begun to reorganize the files and is sending information packages to inquiries.

The Salvette family consists of husband, John, also a libertarian, and two sons, 6 and 3. The children have both joined their mom at libertarian events at a few months of age, and Emily has been pleased to represent the conventional family role that some libertarians choose. She received her A.B. from the University of Michigan in 1977 with an Economics major and is currently taking classes at Oakland University School of Economics and Management.

She became involved in libertarianism through the pop-econ culture, reading books by such as Milton and Rose Friedman and William Simon, but she soon pushed on to The Road to Serfdom by Friedrich Hayek. In 1980 Emily observed that Ed Clark was the only presidential candidate who consistently voiced these views. In 1982, she got involved in Kentucky Libertarian, Ken Ashby's campaign for U.S. Congress. The Salvette's returned to Michigan late in 1984. Soon after attending LPM functions in the spring of 1986, Emily performed an integral organizational role in the newly-founded Metro Detroit Libertarians. It's heartening to hear Emily speak of the synergy between local activists coordinating efforts at what they do best. We are sure to hear more of new and old activists in the Metro Detroit area who comprise this support system.

Emily is also active in the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and was pleased to introduce the group to libertarianism by hosting Mark Sellers as a speaker. Common ground was found.

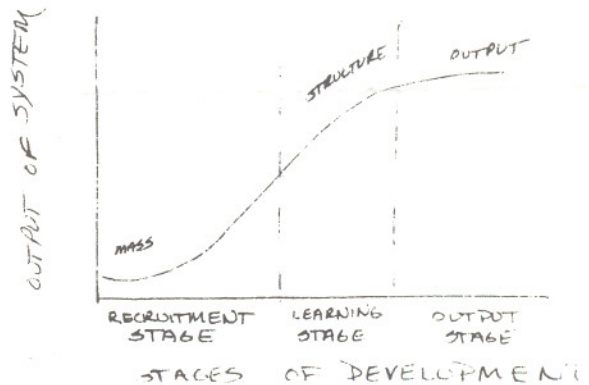
Speaking of traits she used to admire, Emily listed intelligence, learning, talent and wealth. Now the trait that she admires most is competence, the ability to do what one says they will do "on time, within budget and up to adequate quality standards!"

When asked about the future of the Libertarian Party, Emily provided the following organizational analysis, including a graphic presentation:

"The state Party organization is an indispensable element in the broad Libertarian Party structure. If you look at the Party from a systems perspective, you could see the National Party in an executive role, setting broad goals and policy. The State Party would be in the managing role, allocating resources (information and money). The local organization would have operational responsibilities, managing the necessary details to achieve the goals set by National, using the resources given it by the State Party.

"So, the LPM's function should be to act as a funnel, moving information, and possibly money, to the local group.

"Why? - because as a system, the Libertarian Party is still in its recruitment stage of development (see diagram). How does a group recruit supporters? One on one contact/persuasion at local meetings, lectures, social events, demonstrations, etc. Many, many such activities must go on to recruit the number of people we'll need to actually produce the output we want: Changing our political system from Statism to Freedom.



"It's obvious, I am a proponent of decentralization. Local groups should have responsibility for most events, as this will get more people involved. The more people we involve, the more people we can recruit. The more people we recruit, the sooner we can stop recruiting and start producing output.

"Note: Certain statewide functions e.g. newsletter, maintenance of mailing lists, fund raising for state operations would still be handled on a statewide scale - by several people willing and able to do such duties throughout the state."

Emily has strong values as well as practical strengths for detail and development. She looks forward to working with a network of libertarians to manage and build the Libertarian Party of Michigan. She says about her involvement that "I devote so much of my time and resources to LP activities because I can and because I believe the work is important." She says "This important work that must be done that I know I am trying to do well must be its own reward."



A MOVING EXPERIENCE  
December 7, 1986

Emily Salvette

The Stepanovich brothers, Bob and Dennis, were scheduled to take down the "Libertarian Party of Michigan Headquarters Upstairs" sign that cold, snowy evening. They'd phoned only that afternoon to see how they could help, having just heard of the office closing.

Others had worked on the project for weeks such as Emily Salvette who has generously volunteered to house LPM operations on an interim basis (See Emily's Profile in this issue.) and Chairman, Janet Parkes, whose interior design and organizational skills she hopes will rebuild a headquarters for the future. (Janet will be profiled in an upcoming issue and will present a prospectus as well.) Michael Miller has also graciously contributed his garage for storage. Mike, the dependable and omnipresent Gary Bradley who put in ten hours in just the day before the final move, Alex Bolt and JoDee Ott who provided transportation and vacuum, Denise Kline who sorted what year's of organizational activity between jobs had not left time to do, and Bill Shotey recent arrival from the West Coast were among the helping hands throughout the month long move out process. Gwen and Duane Stillwell in East Lansing will be housing and developing the LPM Library.

A healthy contingent from Ann Arbor were on hand the day of the move, and energies abounded as bids were taken on lamps and bookcase. Emily found some souvenir '76 Centennial coloring books for her kids and Jim Greenshields reclaimed the parson's table. Bill Krebaum and David Raaflaub entertained with the spirit of "Bob" as they moved, and Treasurer, Jeff Grund, headed the garbage detail into the dark of the basement. Emily, Janet, Mike and JoDee scrubbed, wisked, vacuumed and polished to show some respect and appreciation to our landlords for the rent reductions they'd extended. And of course, the day and the experience would not be complete without the excursion by archivist and multiple ex-chair, James Hudler, who will store the more esoteric of our memorabilia.

There was an atmosphere of cooperation and conviviality as things that needed to be done got done on that day in December. Perhaps this cooperation too can be moved on to other constructive projects for a libertarian future.

## DO WE NEED AN OFFICE?

In light of the LPM office being closed to expand adjoining space, Petroff management has made a rather generous offer of two offices in the Hollister building for the \$100 per month presently being paid. The nominal understanding is that for such a rate, one of the offices will be permanent and the other "floating" as vacancies occur. This arrangement could be used to provide one office for business and a second one for storage. The Hollister Building conference would be available for meetings. The offer is a bargain at current rates in Lansing but would still be a strain at the present level of Party income.

In terms of a budget, the recent figures indicate that without significant increases in the membership yearly dues will cover 9 newsletters per year and nothing else. What is needed to maintain a minimal working office, using volunteer help, is about \$250 per month for rent and/or phone charges. It now is up to the membership to decide if a Lansing office should be kept by their willingness to pay for it. At the January LCC meeting, a motion to retain the office, with a separate fund reserved solely for rent and phone, will be made if an indication of support from the members is received. Receipt of 1987 pledges for the office (either monthly, quarterly, or one time) sufficient to pay at least ten months will be considered adequate support.

If you feel that keeping an office is important for the LPM, send your pledge before January 10 to:

LPM Office Fund  
POB 14183  
Lansing, MI 48933

## NEWS ON NEWS

Next issue may see an improved format and print style since alternative computer technologies are being offered by some of our new members. Watch for details next time.

Rosemary Homa, who edits her employer's newsletter, has already contributed time to type and process materials.

You can contribute to the Michigan Libertarian newsletter. Send articles, letters-to-the-editor, campaign reports, comments on issues, your activist profile or a profile of why you are a libertarian (which may be printed anonymously if you prefer), poems, news reports, book and music reviews, and other items of interest will be accepted for consideration. Pictures of events of interest to libertarians will also be very much appreciated as will cartoons or other design work. For inclusion in a particular month's issue, send material by the 7th of the month to: Denise Kline (906)753-4456  
RTE 3, BOX 14 STEPHENSON, MI 49887

Advertisers: Space is available at \$3 per column inch.

UPCOMING ISSUES will feature: Ethics in the Computer Age, Prospectus for the Libertarian Party of Michigan, Declaring War on Prohibition, Phil Ochs review, local features, Lawful Plunder, Reason Mission progress, reports, announcements and more . . .

# CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec. 31: Lansing Libertarians gather at Dale Dobberstein's on 916 W. Cavanaugh Rd., Apt. 8 to ring in the New Year. Contact Gary at (517)224-4784 for details.

Jan. 2: Metro Detroit Libertarians board meeting at 7PM at the home of Mark Sellers, 14925 Hartford Ct. in Utica. Contact Emily at 332-7834 for more information. Any interested persons are invited to attend.

Jan. 8: MSU libertarians meet at 7PM on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. January's first meeting will feature Nathaniel Branden's taped Introduction to Objectivism. Meetings are held on the Third Floor of the Union in either of the adjoining Minnesota or Iowa rooms. Contact Mike at 351-0514 or Pat at 351-4720.

Jan. 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.

Jan. 15: Tri-County Libertarian Alliance workshop meeting at the home of Gwen and Duane Stillwell at 1542 Melrose in East Lansing. "Broadsheets in the Trees" Part I: Written Communication will involve participants in review and writing letters-to-editors, media releases and issue papers. News stories or samples of your own writing would be welcome contributions to the discussion and constructive activities.

Jan. 17: The Michigan Committee to Legalize Sex will hold its second meeting. 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 8:00pm.

## VOLUNTEERS

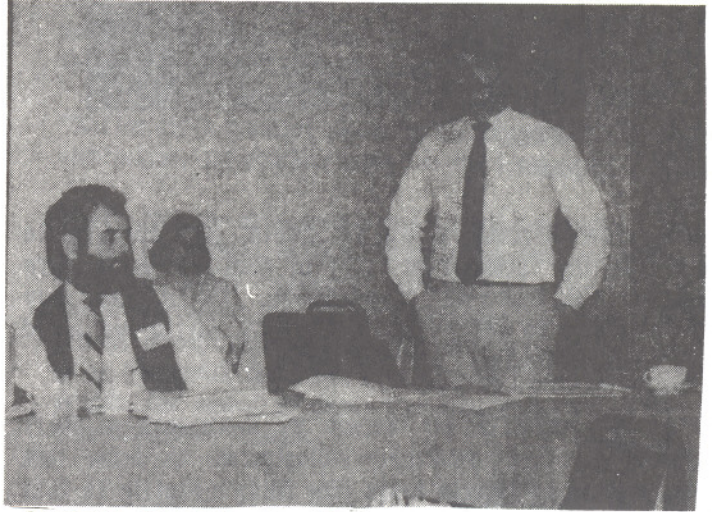
You are always needed. Let us know how you would like to help. Thanks.

## SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Chairman Janet Parkes has appointed Chad Collopy of Metro Detroit and Denise Kline of the Upper Peninsula to join her on the office site selection committee. As well as reviewing options pertinent to office locations and phone arrangements, interim office manager Emily Salvette has suggested that the Site Selection Committee consider office procedures. Anyone interested in making proposals to the Committee, offering suggestions, or participating in other ways may contact Janet Parkes.

Jan. 18: Libertarian Central Committee meeting - 2:00PM, place to be announced. Contact Janet Parkes at (517) 631-7396.

Jan. 30 and 31: Evening Receptions in Detroit and Lansing for National Committeeman and ballot access attorney, Stephen Fielder. Contact Emily (332-7834) or Mike (351-0514) for details.



Stephen L. Dasbach Janet Parkes

Stephen Fielder

Jan. 31: Metro Detroit Libertarians will hold their semi-annual meeting at Fairlane Charley's in Dearborn. The speaker will be Stephen Fielder of Shepardstown, West Virginia who is National Ballot Access Committee chairman. He will be discussing why we need ballot status. Doors open at 1PM--please join us for lunch--Meeting will begin at 2:30.

Advocates discussion groups on "Libertarianism in One Lesson" (Call Mike or Jon (517)321-1200) or Society for Individual Liberty discussion groups on Liberty Primer are forming. Let us know if you'd like to participate.

Volunteers who have helped, we appreciate it more than you may realize, certainly more than we have taken time to say. Please accept our thanks for all manner of your contributions and keep up the good work, toward liberty.

## PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The LPM Publicity Committee, chaired by Denise Kline, is seeking volunteers to review news, research issues, write and coordinate weekly media releases. Several experienced and published writers have already expressed interest in developing this project. However, more material will enhance its quality and scope. Assistance is available from experienced writers and media relations people. Legislative Watch activities will be incorporated into some Publicity Committee projects. Student interns and others are encouraged to apply for this kind of research, writing and public relations experience.



# LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

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(313) 332-7834

## LAST CHANCE FOR THAT TAX CREDIT

The new tax law eliminates the credit for political contributions, so you have to give during 1986 to use the credit. One half of your contribution, up to \$50 (on a contribution of \$100) for an individual or \$100 for a couple, is subtracted from the tax you would otherwise "owe" the federal government. In effect, Uncle Sam pays half of the contribution. Use the form below when making your gift.

### 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.)

Name _____	Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____	Address _____
City _____	City _____	City _____
Phone _____	Phone _____	Phone _____

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS:  
Paul for President

# Ron Paul for President

by Paul Jacob

Will former Congressman Ron Paul of Texas run for President on the Libertarian ticket? I hope so. The LP has had its problems finding candidates that have expertise at campaigning, mainstream credibility, and a solid Libertarian philosophy. Dr. Ron Paul has all three of these.

Plus, if he runs, then I can finally put a "Paul for President" bumper sticker on my car.

Seriously, a Ron Paul campaign could bring back for us the visibility and momentum we lost between 1980 and 1984 and are just now very slowly regaining. Visibility is one reason we are often believed to be the party of Lyndon LaRouche. (Is he a Republican-Democrat plot or what?)

While we were the most visible alternative to the major (old) parties in 1980 with dozens of prime-time TV ads that helped us garner almost a million votes, it was LaRouche who was all over the television in 1984. When people see an alternative with the ability to be on TV, they immediately think it's the Libertarians. Even if this perception by the public has hurt at times, it certainly is not a bad thing.

Television is expensive, but it's essential if we are to reach people. Running ads only on cable and then only very late in the campaign in 1984, we ended up with less than 250,000 votes. Reaching people is the whole ballgame. Ron Paul can raise the money to do it.

What would cause Paul not to run? The fear that there will be more of the factionalism and childish egoism that caused the Party to focus inwardly at the expense of outreach and growth, that sapped the strength of many an activist, and that led to a full-fledged split

in the Party at the 1984 convention. I'm not suggesting that fierce argument and discussion should stop or lessen even a single degree, but we cannot afford to become a debating society—especially an unfriendly one.

I'm certain that Ron Paul wants to know that the Libertarian Party is truly committed to taking its message to the people; not to purges or staging power plays or bickering internally. What do you say? Is the message of liberty in the eyes and ears and minds of 250 million Americans worth forgoing pettiness?

Be glad. My sense is that Paul will seek the nomination. At my July 1985 trial in Little Rock, Arkansas for having refused to register for the draft, Dr. Paul had this to say: "...the State is massive...the state is now encroaching on our personal liberties, it's encroaching throughout the world on a daily basis... and also in the economy. I think the State itself is a threat to us. It's a threat to the individual liberties, not only of Paul Jacob, but of every single solitary person in this country." Ron Paul was there to testify when I needed him; he'll be there in 1988 because the cause of liberty needs him.

**AUTHOR:** Paul Jacob is a member of the Libertarian National Committee and former chair of the Arkansas Libertarian Party. He is the president of Volunteers for America, an anti-draft educational group located in Washington, D.C. Jacob spent almost six months in federal prison for resisting draft registration. He has traveled extensively throughout the United States speaking to college groups, business clubs and libertarian groups and has also published numerous articles.

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

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See Page 5 for details.

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## The Culture of Freedom

Libertarian Presidential Nominating Convention  
Seattle Sheraton Hotel September 2 3 4 5 6 1987

**CULTURE** n 1: CULTIVATION 2: the act of developing the intellectual and moral faculties esp. by education 3: expert care and training 4: enlightenment and excellence of taste acquired by intellectual and aesthetic training 5a: a particular stage of advancement in civilization b: the characteristic features of such a stage or state

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