



THE MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

FIELDER KICKS OFF BALLOT DRIVE

MEANS ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY IN CA

FIRST CAMPAIGN STOP ON MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW

Russell Means renowned American Indian activist from South Dakota is seeking the 1988 presidential nomination of the Libertarian Party, he announced at the LP of California's convention on February 15. On February 17 he addressed the Michigan House Elections Committee on HB4090 which would increase the signatures needed to obtain ballot access. With freedom as his main theme, Means noted that already over 750,000 signatures are required to get on the ballot nation wide. California Libertarian Richard Winger, field representative of the Coalition For Free and Open Elections also testified before the Committee. A joint press conference was held in the Capitol later.

Unfortunately, the Bill was voted out of Committee the next week and has passed on second reading in the House. People are urged to contact their Michigan Senators to stop this signature increase.

METRO-DETROIT LIBERTARIAN SUPPER CLUB HOSTS PAUL JACOB

By Emily Salvette

PAUL JACOB, who spent almost six months in federal prison for resisting draft registration, will be the guest speaker at the March meeting of the **METRO-DETROIT LIBERTARIAN SUPPER CLUB**.

The group will meet on March 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ryan Road House (3950 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren, Ph. 313/939-1800).

Paul Jacob is a National Libertarian Party Committeeman and the former state chair of the Arkansas Libertarian Party. He is president of Volunteers for America, an anti-draft educational group located in Washington, DC. He currently works at the Cato Institute and was profiled in the February, 1987, issue of REASON magazine.

Mr. Jacob's program will begin at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public. For reservations call Emily Salvette by March 13th at (313) 332-7834.

By Bill Shotey

January 30, 1987, marked the kick off of the drive for ballot status in 1988. The event was a champagne and cheese party for Stephen Fielder at the home of Emily and John Salvette. Stephen is chairman of the National Libertarian Party's Ballot Access Committee. Fielder spoke on the need for donations and volunteers to get the Libertarian Party on the ballot in Michigan in 1988. Thirty-five Libertarians toasted Fielder and responded well to his words. Thanks for the great party, Emily and John!

On January 31, 1987, Stephen Fielder was interviewed on "Russ Gibb at Random," a half-hour TV interview seen on Dearborn's Cablevision Channell 11. The VHS tape of this interview is available for viewing; contact Emily Salvette (313) 332-7834. Fielder and Virginia Cropsey were interviewed by Chuck Wilbur of 1430-AM for his radio show in Macomb County. We expect this audio tape to be available as well.

At 1:30 p.m. that same day, Metro-Detroit Libertarians gathered at Fairlane Charley's for lunch.

At 2:30 p.m., Stephen spoke on the 1988 ballot access drive in other states. He used charts with the states in various colors to illustrate the status of the efforts. Fielder left at 4:30 p.m. to continue his trip to a meeting of the Lansing Libertarians.

Fielder inspired Lansing attendees to act in the important area of ballot access fund raising. Host Bob Stepanovich, former candidate and Capitol City Mortgage Company President, offered his skills over the phone. Dale Dobberstein volunteered for follow-up word processing. Contributions for the ballot drive will be sent to Ballot Access Coordinator Chad Collopy, payable to:

Region 10 Ballot Access
Suite 316
1994A Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013

Many thanks to Chad and Karen Collopy and John and Emily Salvette for sponsoring Fielder's visit.

SOFTWARE PIRACY: A LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVE

By Bill Shotey

by Mike Marotta

[Introduction: The ideas and opinions presented here are not in their final form. Anyone who wishes to discuss this topic can write to me at 5751 Richwood Ave, Apt #34, Lansing, MI 48911.]

For every program sold there are as many as six pirate copies in circulation. This represents a loss of sales to the creators of the software. They claim that their right to ownership is violated by software pirates who give away programs.

This same right is the basis for software piracy. The buyer of a program is its owner. The owner has a right to protect his property by making a copy of it so that the original diskette can remain safely stored away. If anything happens to the copy, the original is still available.

Libertarianism holds that there is no such thing as conditional property. The concept of conditional property is used by governments to regulate businesses and to seize homes. The fact is that you either own something or you don't.

If you own it, it's yours. If you buy a program what you do with it is your business. If you give it away that is no concern of the original seller.

Recently, software giants Ashton-Tate and Microsoft have severely curtailed their use of copy protection schemes. In true capitalist tradition, they have yielded to market pressures. Given two competing products, the buyers will purchase the product which is copyable.

Software is copyrighted. The copyright laws are used as justification of the inherent RIGHT of the creators to decide who will and will not have access to their product. Seemingly, this supports the capitalist notions of property rights.

I suggest that it shows the true nature of copyright laws. Copyrights were born in the earliest days of printing. Consider that income from the sale of copyrighted material is called a "royalty." New definitions of rights are needed which conform to the facts of reality in a cybernetic age.

It is no accident that the term "piracy" is attached to the copying of software. In days of old pirates derived their income only in part from looting ships. Much pirate activity was given over to smuggling.

Mercantilism caused piracy. Piracy died when free trade made it unprofitable. Today, we have a mercantilist situation in software. True free trade principles applied to software will lead to the recognition that the buyer of a software is the owner of it.

The Metro-Detroit Libertarians have added new activities about which we are pleased to report. The following is a complete list and the people involved.

MDL SUPPER CLUB - meets the third Monday night of every month. The next two meetings will be at the Ryan Road House, 3950 E. 14 Mile Road in Warren (313) 939-1800. On February 16, Keith Edwards will speak on the first part of a "Principles of Liberty" course. On March 16, Paul Jacob will speak on his experience at refusing to register for the draft. Dinner both nights is 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; speaker at 7:30 p.m. Call Emily Salvette at (313) 332-7834 to be notified of meetings. Call Virginia Cropsey at (313) 977-6628 for information regarding speakers.

It might be argued that this would cause a looter's world where no one would want to invest the time in creating software because they could not gain their rightful profits from it.

My counter-argument is that in a free trade environment, people will still be willing to pay (hefty) prices for NEW IDEAS in software so as to be the earliest to benefit from this increased power to do work. Those who wait for copies to trickle down will lag behind their competitors.

While computer capitalists decry software piracy they know they can't make a fuss about legitimate competition.

Consider VisiCalc. Created by Dan Bricklin, VisiCalc was quickly followed by "improved" products like Lotus 1-2-3, just as the Benz automobile was improved and resold by capitalists like Ransom Olds.

VisiCalc made Bricklin famous. He has had no problem selling his newest creation, DEMO, which allows one to quickly define screens which "model" the working of a not-yet created program.

Interestingly enough, VisiCalc cost about \$250 while Demo costs just \$80. The real motivation of those who seek to prevent "piracy" is to maintain a state-granted monopoly which will support high prices. The new view is that cheap software sells fast thereby bringing (sometimes tremendous) profits.

I want to make it clear that I earn royalties from sale of THE CODE BOOK published by Loompanics. I do not expect to be able to stop anyone who buys a copy from xeroxing it and giving it away. I would, however, take drastic (perhaps extra-legal) measures against anyone who stuck their name on my work and marketed it. The situation in software is just this: No one is marketing plagiarized copies. The real owners, the ultimate consumers, are merely disposing of their rightful property as they see fit.

BILL SHOTEY, regards and best wishes for your recovery. While Bill is hospitalized calls may be directed to Emily Salvette (313)332-7834.

ALERT: BALLOT (IN-)ACCESS ELECTION LAW HB4090 HEADED FOR SENATE

Please contact your Senators to oppose this increase in petition signatures to get on the ballot. Ask for an amendment to lower the signature requirement or even to maintain the status quo (16,300 this year due to lower voter turn out).

LIBERTARIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE (LCC) ACTIONS

January Motions:

Detail Treasurer's Report
Disconnent Lansing phone
Standing Committees:
 Ballot Access (Chad Colopy, Chair)
 Membership (Emily Salvette)
 Fund Raising (Janet Parkes)
 Ballot Legislation (Tom Jones)
 Issues (Dale Dobberstein)
Notice of Bylaws change/ Dues Increase
Vote on All Taxes Order of the Day 2/15
Mich. Gov't & Property Tax Reform 2/15

Election

Vice-Chair, Denise Kline
Secretary, Emily Salvette

Resolutions:

Impeach re Iran/Contra acts unconstitutional
Condemn gerrymandering in Mich. legislature

February Motions:

Bill Shotey seated on LCC
Election Law Ballot Access Reforms by Jones adopted as LPM position with amendments
Issues, Platform and Legislation chairs to formulate strategy

Reports:

Membership raised \$550
Fund raising for petitioning by Stepanovich
Ballot Access (Colopy): BONUS from National Ballot Access Comm. of \$2,400 if petitioning complete by July 15, \$1,800 if by August 15; also ALL MONEY they raise in Michigan will be spent here.
-Winger/Mears to testify
-Raaflaub/Jones to write release
-Kline put together media conference
Convention May in Midland (Parkes)
Survey prioritizes high media visibility

LCC TO CONSIDER DUES INCREASE ON MARCH 15

Notice is hereby given that part of the meeting shall be "for the purpose of amending Article IV, Section II of the LPM By-Laws to read 'not more than 20 dollars' instead of 'not more than 15 dollars.'" The meeting will be held in the Metro-Detroit or Flint area; contact Janet Parkes (517)631-7396 or Emily Salvette for details.

OPEN HOUSE WITH PAUL JACOB

Following the Central Committee meeting a reception with Paul Jacob will be held at 14925 Hartford in Utica by Mark Sellers. Jacob will be debating at a private meeting of the Reserve Officers Association earlier. The evening open house is open to anyone.

MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
____ Change of Address

Telephone _____
County _____
Congressional District _____
House/Senate Districts _____ / _____
____ 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.....\$ _____

By Chris Brockman

NEWS OUTREACH PROGRAM - is an effort to recruit freedom-minded people who are writing letters to editors of Detroit area newspapers. See a letter that makes you want to cheer? Then clip it, send it along with information on when and where it appeared and the address of the writer (if you can find it) to Paula Moreland, 21221 Westhampton, Oak Park, Michigan 48237. She will send the writer a special letter and introductory material on Libertarianism. In other cities, this program has been a successful recruiting tool. With your help, we can reach like-minded individuals in the Detroit area.

MDL NEWSLETTER - is published quarterly (January, April, July and October) and sent to all area Libertarians (contact Emily Salvette at (313) 332-7834 to have your name placed on the mailing list). Want to help keep other Libertarians informed? Contact Bill Shotey at (313) 561-0379 to become a member of the Newsletter Committee. Articles and items for publication should be sent to Bill at 22335 Francis, Dearborn, Michigan 48124 by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

MDL PRESS COMMITTEE - tells the world about us. Doug Moreland at (313) 398-8751 welcomes your participation in this committee. If you are willing to write press releases, make follow-up calls to reporters, arrange press conferences or are willing to learn to do these things, get involved. It's a great learning experience.

MDL SPEAKER'S BUREAU - arranges for our members to speak to other organizations on Libertarianism and the Libertarian Party. Being a speaker is a very rewarding experience and gives you an incentive to clarify issues in your own mind! Paul Lamoureux is coordinating this group. Call him at (313) 553-0991 (home) or (313) 868-6100 (work) if you would like to act as a speaker, or would like to arrange for one to come to your group.

PUBLIC EVENTS - such as tax protest demonstrations are highly visible ways to draw public attention to our ideas. They are also a chance to have fun with other like-minded people involved in a common cause! Virginia Cropsey will be coordinating these events. Call her at (313) 977-6628 with suggestions for activities or if you would like to participate.

MDL BOARD - coordinates the individual efforts of MDL members. We meet approximately six times per year to discuss our group's objectives, strategies and to review results of all our efforts. These meetings are open and board membership is open to anyone who is interested and willing to commit the time. To receive notices of board meetings, call Emily Salvette at (313) 332-7834.

January 29 was the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Paine. Paine, perhaps more than anyone, deserves the title "founding father" of our nation (Paine defined "nation" as the people in a country, who work together for mutual benefit, as opposed to its government).

Paine did as much with words to free America as Washington did with the sword. He was, in fact, with Common Sense largely responsible for convincing Washington of the necessity of breaking with Britain.

Paine was there, throughout the American Revolution, with words to bolster the cause beginning with "These are times that try men's souls..." He was there, later, to promote revolution in Britain with Rights of Man, and barely escaped the King's noose.

He was there in France, helping to write a revolutionary constitution and working for the establishment of a popular republic. He was opposed by those who wanted only to manipulate the public, was thrown in prison, and barely escaped Robespierre's guillotine. From his cell he had published Age of Reason, another attempt to provoke the revolution for freedom, by freeing people's minds from superstition.

From his writings, Paine's wisdom still shines today. Given recent events, it's an especial shame that his beloved America hasn't heeded that wisdom. Consider the following excerpts from the last number of the American Crisis series, published at the end of the Revolutionary War.

"To see it in our power to make a world happy--to teach mankind the art of being so--to exhibit on the theatre of the universe a character hitherto unknown--and to have, as it were, a new creation intrusted to our hands are honors that command reflection, and can neither be too highly estimated, nor too gratefully received."

"...let but a nation conceive rightly of its character, and it will be chastely just in protecting it."

"No one ever began with a fairer [character] than America and none can be under a greater obligation to preserve it."

"Character is much easier kept than recovered, and that man, if any such there be, who, from sinister views, or littleness of soul, lends unseen his hand to injure it, contrives a wound it will never be in his power to heal."

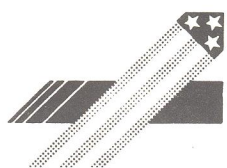
AN EDGE IN MY VOICE by Harlan Ellison
(Donning Co., quality paperback \$10.95)
Reviewed by Gary Bradley

"The more you agree with what a columnist has to say, the less effective the columnist is for you. ... Every column that you read, during the course of which you experience no anger or contentiousness, is a column you never needed to read."

So concludes Harlan Ellison in his latest collection of essays. The subject matter is diverse, negating the ability to praise or damn ideologically for a libertarian audience. The style, however, is unarguably distinctive and compelling (though the compulsions will probably vary between readers). The overwhelming theme of volume is outrage, whether at the despair he feels at the indifference, brutality, and stupidity of the Common Man or the ostracism, vilification, and neglect accorded to the Uncommon Man. For anyone interested in the social and political climate of America in the 1980's, this book should not be ignored.

If this collection disturbs those of a libertarian bent, so much the better. Ellison is an unabashed proponent of the 1960's Liberal school. His positions are familiar to us all but his delivery contains a passion that one seldom feels from the political representatives of his ideology. This is precisely why it is an important book for the greater audience of this review, because honest passion is a quality that libertarian argument is undeservedly short on. (A failing recognized by many and capitalized on by some of the Movement's more extroverted hucksters.)

Many of the diatribes are extremely enjoyable to lovers of freedom especially those castigating the Moral Majority, et al as fascist scum suckers hiding behind airs of pious divinity. His comments on aesthetics and the profound lack of same in American culture will undoubtedly fall on many kindly ears. Certainly there will be many a sense of identification with his columns expressing the quandry of how to be a



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

P.O. Box 23108
Seattle, WA 98102
(206) 937-3768

supporter of Feminism in the face of that movement's widespread, humorless bigotry toward anyone producing testosterone. He even proved to be an economic prophet in his pre-Tom Peters column on the reasons for the decline of American industry, appropriately titled "Why Everything Is Fucked Up, Since You Asked."

Where we will quickly depart company with Harlan is his ardent support of 1982's California Proposition 15 (Gun Control). These columns virtually epitomize the rhetoric of the anti-gun forces. Most notable, however, is Ellison's demonstration of gross paralogia, which he found deplorable in his critics in a previous column. (Paralogia: a mental condition where interests are narrowed to a point where thinking becomes restricted and unrealistic, the drawing of false inferences, and responses to questions that are wrong or beside the point.) The methodology demonstrates the fact that both sides of this debate are so emotionally biased that

distorted research significantly outnumbers the objective kind. As someone who was once shot at by some drunken clodhoppers looking for cheap amusement, I can identify with the emotional arguments, but leaving the government to pass judgement on who gets armed is pretty unappealing to my penchant for logical argument. I suspect few others will be converted on this issue.

Ellison is a writer and commentator with whom it is seldom easy to empathize. His opinions disturb as often as amuse. One thing is certain, however, and that is his claim as a foremost proponent of cynical optimism: the perception that Mankind has the capacity to universal greatness but is more likely to achieve a world where the dominant species is the cockroach. He is a proponent of Gunter Eich's philosophy "Be sand, not oil, in the machinery of the world." Most of all he is a very good writer and this collection will make you laugh and cry and get angry and possibly many other things.

At a time when the national contentiousness is directed at external enemies and socio-global circumstances, this is a book we need to read.

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Dated Material

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