



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Volume 16, Number 1

Third Annual Volunteer Day Project Planned

by Alan Lindsay

On January 27th, 1989 libertarians in more than 100 cities will celebrate the third annual Volunteer Day, and the sixteenth anniversary of the Presidential Proclamation ending the draft. Libertarian activists, Paul Jacob and Alan Lindsay, are seeking volunteers to help out with Volunteer Day events and to write letters to the editor.

As they did last year, local participants will take a birthday cake to recruiting offices to "Show our support for the volunteer system." As an alternative, some local groups will present a cake to anti-war and anti-draft groups who worked to end the Vietnam era draft. Lindsay says that the main purpose of the event is to make a positive statement supporting one of the few government actions we applaud, ending the draft.

Last year more than 20 libertarian groups organized local Volunteer Day events. This year Lindsay says "we will use

the experience gained last year to give our volunteers a better shot at news coverage and better turnout."

This year the Volunteer Day Project will be expanded to include a national effort to solicit radio interviews and talk shows for Volunteer Day speakers. Lindsay plans to call on several hundred stations to seek speaking opportunities for the group.

Some other activities will include a letters to the editor project and an op-ed program. Lindsay says that the group will submit op-eds by Paul Jacob and other advocates of an all volunteer armed forces.

Metro Detroit Libertarians is planning to join in the celebration by delivering cakes to recruiting offices in Royal Oak and at Selfridge ANG base in Mt. Clemens.

Volunteers are needed to attend local events and write letters to the editor. Call MDL Public Events Coordinator Ken Morris at 446-3135.

Another Tea Party

In a latter-day version of the Boston Tea Party, WXYT talk show hosts Roy Fox and John McCulloch have started a movement which has quickly spread across the whole country. When the discussion on the Fox morning show turned to the proposed 50% pay increases for federal employees, a caller remarked that he intended to mail tea bags to President Reagan, Senators Levin and Riegle and his congressman with a note saying, "Read my tea bag. No 50% pay increases!"

Host Roy Fox was quick to suggest that all his listeners do likewise and soon John McCulloch, the WXYT afternoon host and a speaker at the last LPM convention, had jumped on the bandwagon. The movement quickly spread to other radio talk shows across the country.

No one knows yet how many tea bags have descended on Washington DC but, perhaps, the fruits of the symbolic protest can be transported to and dumped into Boston Harbor in commemoration of Sam Adams' first tea party. Of course, if the Bush campaign is to be believed, maybe no one would notice.

The National Taxpayer's Union has set up a special P.O. Box to collect the tea. Send your Tea Party contribution to:

Tea Bag Revolution
Box 91011
Washington, DC 20090

LPM Candidate Given Incorrect Vote Totals

Stan Gentry, LPM candidate for Michigan House of Representatives, 70th District, did not receive 1,180 votes or 4.18% as reported in all the local media and the last issue of *Michigan Libertarian*.

It seems that the person responsible for data entry at the Warren City Clerk's office mistakenly added nearly 1,000 votes to the totals of all the candidates in the race. This discrepancy did not have much impact on the Republican candidates but, of course, made a significant difference to all the minor party candidates.

The revised (and now, presumably, correct) total is 190 votes or .76%.

Gentry first became aware of a discrepancy when he received the official election results from Macomb county in the mail. A call to the Warren City clerk confirmed their error in the earlier report. The adjacent city of Centerline (which, together with part of Warren, comprises the 70th district) vote total was never in error.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed," Gentry told *ML*, "but I don't think the difference between one percent and four percent will have much impact. I guess it does make me a little more inclined to pursue freedom on the non-political front."

[Editor's Note: This revision means, incidentally, that the LPM's most successful Michigan House candidate was actually Bill Johnson in the 51st District with 1,114 votes or 2.82%.]



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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From The Editor...

Tim O'Brien

There Is No Train!

Between now and the next election there will be the usual assessments and reassessments of Libertarian campaign strategies and tactics. Amid all of this, I would like to know why we've never chosen to lead with our obvious strength.

There is, after all, a fundamental difference between the Libertarian party and all other political parties. And it is not merely that our's is "the party of principle," i.e. founded on a philosophy. True, the fact that we have a principle (beyond simple electoral expediency) distinguishes us from Republicans and Democrats. But it does not separate us from the various socialist parties. They are also founded on a principle -- namely, that the interests of individuals should be subordinated to those of the group. Libertarians, of course, believe that the socialist principle is incorrect and that the only justification for the existence of the group is to guarantee the rights of the individual members who make it up. But this is not the essential distinction. What really sets us apart from every other political party is our belief -- nicely distilled in our Libertarian pledge -- that no individual or group ever has the right to initiate force against a peaceful, honest person.

All of this should seem obvious to libertarians. So, why hasn't this crucial difference between us and the rest of the political world ever entered into any of our campaigns? In other words, why didn't Ron Paul loudly and persistently denounce both Dukakis and Bush as the advocates of violence that they are?

Many would answer that the American public would be offended by such aggressive rhetoric. In fact, it is frequently claimed that some of our positions are too radical to be palatable to the average voter. But I don't believe that is really the problem. The problem is that we present our philosophy defensively -- almost apologetically -- "Well, the free market could..." when we should demand that our opponents justify their advocacy of coercion. How would Governor Blanchard, for instance, respond to the question: "Just what gives you the right to force people to pay for your favorite charity?"

I think it's about time we started prefacing every answer to every question with "Unlike my opponents, I don't believe the solution to this problem is forcing people to..." I think it's about time we started taking every opportunity to say: "Put down the gun, Mr. Bush!"

A few years ago, several of us attended a town meeting in Warren with Senator Don "100%-liberal-rating" Rieggle. One of the questioners was an older gentleman who expressed concern that the Social Security system was near bankruptcy and he near retirement. "Why is it," he wanted to know, "that so much of the fund has been used for purposes other than providing retirement benefits?" In

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response, the good senator launched into a heart-rending discourse on the need for compassion which included an anecdote about a young father of four who was tragically killed in an industrial accident and the plight of his widow and helpless children. "Don't you feel something for this family?" he asked the now properly chastised and crestfallen questioner. "I think we need to be generous in these kinds of situations." To which I, no longer able to restrain myself, shouted from the audience, "Yeah, you're real generous... with *his* money!" The old gentleman perked right up. The senator turned beet red. And the crowd burst into applause. The moral of the story is that it is a relatively easy thing to put these guys on the defensive.

Needless to say, the Republicrats will be less than thrilled by this new confrontational tack. Perhaps we can even goad one of them into suing us for slander. But, in a slander suit, truth is a defense. And it would be interesting to watch one of these statist squirm on the witness stand while trying to explain how he or she does not believe in violence and yet refuses to take the Libertarian pledge not to advocate its initiation against people who don't fall in lock-step with the state's game plan.

And the media would finally find something interesting to report on us. I can almost see headlines like: Libertarian Candidate Calls Governor a "Thug."

Instead of whining about not having our natural rights recognized, I believe we should simply assume these rights and start demanding that statist explain why they continue to ignore them. The politicians know we are right and they are, I'm sure, very grateful that we don't publicly call them out. I believe we should start using a much more challenging campaign style. Until we do, I'm afraid we aren't going to make much progress. Because it's just not enough for us to know the truth -- even when it's an obvious truth. If we're going to make a difference, we have to shout it out to everyone else. We have to make it increasingly uncomfortable for statist like Blanchard and Riegle and Bush to continue serving as chamberlains to the American empire.

All of this reminds me of that fairy tale classic The Emperor's New Clothes. Certainly a favorite among libertarians. But it seems that most, perfectly satisfied with the innocent child's observation that the emperor is actually naked as the conclusion, forget the denouement of the story. Actually, the fable ends: "The Emperor trembled inside, for he felt himself that the child may be right, but he thought, 'I must go on and finish the procession.' And so he held himself even more straight and proud, and the Chamberlains walked along carrying the train which wasn't even there!"

Finding New Members For Fun And Profit

The LPM Membership Committee has added an extra incentive for finding and signing up new members. The LP is sponsoring a contest for our most successful recruiters. Whoever signs up the most new members (at least 10) during February and March 1989 will receive a \$50 gift certificate for Laissez Faire Books. \$20 and \$10 Laissez Faire gift certificates will also be awarded to the second and third place finishers. The prizes will be awarded at the May LPM convention.

'89 LPM Convention

The 1989 Libertarian Party of Michigan convention is now in the early planning stages. The convention will be held the weekend of May 5-7 at the Ramada Inn in Southfield. Murray Rothbard is scheduled to be the Saturday night banquet speaker. Look for more details in your membership renewal packet which should be arriving in your mailbox in the next few weeks.

Vote For Any Two

An important clarification needs to be made regarding the vote totals reported in the last issue of *ML*. Several races -- including all of the board races -- were contests in which voters were instructed to "vote for any two" of the candidates running for that office. In terms of percentage of the vote, these kinds of contests tend to make our relative strength at the polls appear to be less than it actually is since any one candidate can only possibly get one of the two available votes from any particular voter. For example, LP candidate for MSU Board of Trustees, Diane Szabla received 65,522 votes or 1.08% of the votes cast in that six-way race. But, since each voter cast two votes -- and, obviously, could not cast both of them for the same candidate -- Ms. Szabla got 2.16% of the 50% of the votes she could possibly have received (or 1.08% of the total votes cast in the race.) Naturally, the same reasoning applies to all of the other races in which voters were asked to vote for more than one candidate.

LP County Meetings Scheduled

Wayne

The first meeting of a newly re-organized Libertarian Party of Wayne County will be held at the Henry Ford Centennial library in room 111 at 7:30 pm on Thursday January 26th. The Henry Ford library is located on Michigan Ave. near Southfield in Dearborn. For more information call 562-6212

Macomb

The Libertarian Party of Macomb County will be having an organizational meeting at the Red Lobster restaurant on 16 Mile at Van Dyke in Sterling Heights at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 6th. For more information call 977-6628.

National LP Chair Resigns

LP national Chair Jim Turney resigned his position at the December 4 NatCom meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

Though re-elected easily by the membership as a whole at the national convention in Seattle a year ago, the controversial Turney had never had a smooth relationship with the National Committee. His unilateral decision to purchase a computer system and his airing of personal grievances in the LP News were only two of the incidents which lead to a continually expanding group of detractors. Finally, even Paul Jacob, Turney's own choice for National Director, could no longer work with him and resigned immediately prior to Turney's own departure.

Vice Chair David Walter was elected to the position of LP Chair. 1984 LP presidential candidate David Bergland was elected to the Vice Chair position. Former BAC coordinator Steve Fielder was chosen to replace Sam Treynor who had been acting Treasurer.

[Editor's Note: For more details on these and other changes at national see Bill Hall's NatCom report on page 10]

LPOC Meeting Held

The Libertarian Party of Oakland County held a meeting on January 6th. Although not as well attended as the "reorganization" meeting held in November, important ideas were discussed and steps were taken toward putting in place the machinery necessary to get Libertarians elected. Various strategies were discussed for potential candidates to use in running for office.

Several Township Coordinator positions were filled, but LPOC still needs members willing to volunteer for the remaining areas. Interested persons should contact Joe Cote or Doreen Wright.

Pete Hendrickson volunteered to be Education Coordinator and plans to enlist Principles of Liberty teachers and match them up with people interested in taking the libertarian introductory course. He will also investigate alternatives to the SIL program.

The proposed by-laws were distributed for consideration prior to the April county convention. Joe Cote has additional copies available for members who were not in attendance but are planning to attend and vote at the Oakland County convention. Amendments will be considered at that time.

We Have the Means, I Hope We Have the Guts

by Steve Silver

Many libertarians had high hopes for the 1988 election. We had an articulate candidate running against a pair of Republican candidates who were, by all accounts, uninspiring. As we waited weeks for returns our hopes turned into anger, then dejection. We need to put aside these negative emotions and examine what went wrong. Then we can make the necessary decisions to turn the dejection of '88 into elation in '92.

Ron Paul was a very popular conservative congressman from Texas who was horrified by government growth occurring under a supposedly conservative president. Mr. Paul should have attracted a large number of like-minded voters because many conservatives supposedly mistrusted Bush.

This did not happen for two reasons. First, most conservatives are basically happy with the status quo. Second, the media had no interest in covering a well-to-do white anglo-saxon who was, in their view, a far right radical.

By nominating Russell Means in 1992 we can turn the 1988 election on its head. Nomination of the leader of the Wounded Knee Indian uprising would appeal to liberal audiences -- the advantage being that liberals are at least interested in change.

If handled properly we could turn the liberal media into our biggest promoters. As Dr. Breggin has explained, the media are the high priests in a religion based on first inciting, then assuaging guilt. There couldn't possibly be a better candidate to appeal to the media sense of injustice. By playing on their collective guilt, Means might even get invited to the debates. He could even use Jacksonesque rhetoric, eg. the presidential debates are just the exchange of vain promises and accusations between two rich white men totally out of touch with the majority of Americans.

Russell Means is also up to the challenge. He would certainly be the most charismatic speaker Libertarians have ever had to lead our ticket. His speech turning down the vice-presidential nomination at the convention had the normally cerebral Libertarian faithful clapping, cheering and crying.

If media support could get John Anderson five million votes, imagine what it could do for Means with the support of the libertarian movement. All it will take is a little guts on our part.

Project 5192

There is a good deal of talk going around the LP about how to deal with the continuing ballot access problem. It is rumored that Andre Marrou will be actively promoting an effort which is being called: Project 5192. That is -- ballot status in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia for the '92 election. *ML* has also heard that Ron Paul is taking an active interest in the effort.

Paul Campaign Manager Resigns on Election Eve

In a sad culmination of the year long Ron Paul for President effort, campaign manager and treasurer Nadia Hayes resigned on the day before the election. The long-time Ron Paul business associate left amid allegations of financial improprieties as campaign workers were dismissed early that afternoon and informed that Hayes would not be returning.

A letter dated November 9 went out to about a hundred LP officials over the signature of Paul campaign chair Burt Blumert which said, in part:

On Thursday, November 3, 1988, it was brought to my attention that there was a possibility of financial irregularities in the Ron Paul Investment & Political Newsletter company. On Sunday, November 6th and Monday, November 7th, I took part in meetings in Houston with the company's accountant and legal counsel. They presented evidence to Dr. Paul, Lew Rockwell and me which confirmed that indeed there were financial irregularities. Since the Ballot Access Committee and the Ron Paul Campaign shared staffing with the newsletter company, I took the following action: changed all signature cards at the bank, physically impounded all ballot access and campaign records and documents, and made arrangements for CPA firms to launch immediate audits. The good news is that in a preliminary review of the material by the company's accountant, he found no evidence of irregularities in the ballot access and campaign accounts.

As to the exact nature of the "irregularities," the amounts involved, the time-frame and whether or not prosecution is planned, *Michigan Libertarian* has been able to get only rumors and third-hand accounts. It is unclear whether or not these details will ever be known since the NatCom voted at the December meeting not to investigate the matter any further.

Election Results -- Another View

by Gwendoline Stillwell

Yes, the Libertarian Party of Michigan did retain ballot status in the 1988 election. Isn't it obvious, however, that if it weren't for the flub made by the Legislature we would not be there? It is obvious to me that we will be hard put to make it again, given our record to date. I think this calls for some hard looks at our vote totals and what some candidates are doing right.

May I suggest that we single out all candidates receiving over 1% and find out what they did during their campaigns? This may provide us with some unexpected clues as to what is effective.

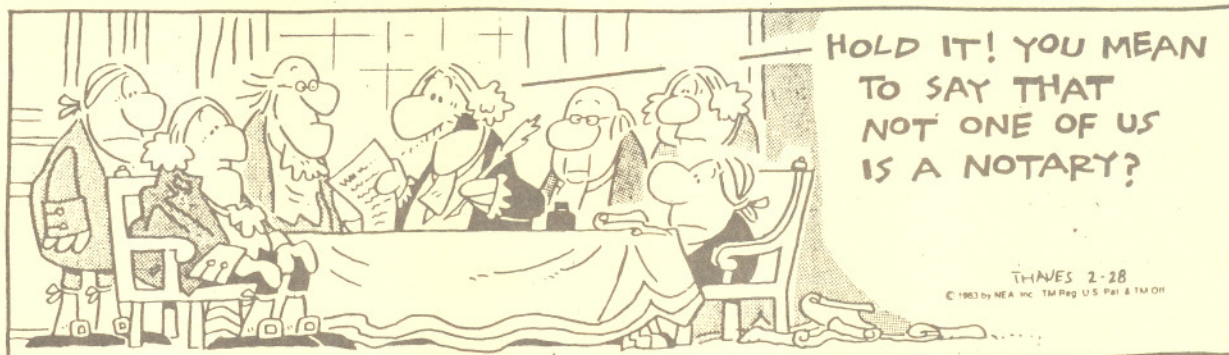
Furthermore, I think we should price out each campaign by category to see if we are spending our money wisely. It doesn't seem to grow on trees in libertarian yards.

We may as well admit the media is rigged and ignore them whenever possible. Aren't we capable of establishing our own methods of publicity? I think we are.

Beginning now, no matter how unappetizing it is to read the socialist 'rags,' we as Libertarians must keep constantly informed as to what is going on in the state and how it is being fed to the gullible public. Write, write, write letters to the editors!

Lastly, may I remind all Libertarians, if we are to gain any worthwhile wins at all, it will not be by imitating the present two parties. We must listen to the needs of the people. We must offer new options with different outcomes in a different way.

Frank and Ernest



Notes From the Interface

by Brian Wright

Constantly in search of serious horsepower for prosecuting the libertarian cause, this battle-worn guy wandered into a meeting of the Objectivists Club of Eastern Michigan a few months back. I'd heard good things about them from a new acquaintance who shared my satisfaction with Rand's fundamental ideas, so I expected the best: namely, that independently of the libertarian movement (which many of us had developed from explicit, logical extension of Objectivist ideology) a group of prime intellectual allies had emerged.

Well, maybe some were sitting quietly in the back row.

I, too, had resolved to keep my trap shut, but when the issue of George Bush vs. Ron Paul vs. None of the Above arose -- specifically, with the question, "Now is there anyone who wants to argue for the Libertarian candidate Ron Paul?" -- I had to say my piece.

Then one thing led to another and I was engaged in spirited, multi-issued argument with about seven of the top local disciples. This was completely fascinating, first, because I'd once been a "boy Objectivist" myself and afflicted with many of the same frozen abstractions -- e.g. the supreme value of American government, corporations as man's savior, conservationism as destroyer, alternative lifestyles as subversive, free-market justice as ludicrous, futuristic ideas as unworthy of comment, etc. -- and, second, because in terms of reasoned debate I was mopping the floor with these poor little Randroid cheerleaders.

Not all of them, to be sure, but certainly anyone who came against a libertarian position directly. And I'm not bragging; keep in mind that in a straw poll that evening, George Bush beat Ron Paul something like 30-4. Anyone supposedly liking liberty and voting for Bush is obviously more than a bit mixed up. Demonstrating contradictions in this crowd was like pointing out rocks in a cave.

And, unfortunately, it seemed that that's where a majority of these people had been living for the past decade or so. Hadn't they read anything? How about Wollstein, Childs, Rothbard, Raico, Liggio, James J. Martin, Walter Karp, to identify an infinitesimal subset of luminaries. What about the LP platform? What movement brilliance and spirit so blithely ignored!

But not wanting to make a social pest of myself, I consciously broke off the engagement early and sought a lull that permitted a graceful exit. I drove home with more than a touch of sadness and disappointment. This latest local effervescence of Objectivism's formal rank-and-file had clearly not universally surmounted the venom of official dicta nor acquired a more enlightened, reasonable, tolerant, or encompassing view of libertarianism.

(Note: It's likely that many in the audience received their first formal "training" in Objectivism (and "knowledge" of libertarianism) from former local radio talkshow guru, Mark Scott (The man who knows everything is now in New York) and/or frenetic, self-appointed Randian messiah, Peter Schwartz. These two gentlemen represent the Cuffy Meigs and Floyd Ferris, respectively, of the neo-Objectivist salient for individual rights).

Ironically, consistency between the fundamental principles of Objectivism and libertarianism (esp. as manifested in the (current) LP platform) is transparent: In proposing liberty as a political solution to various concrete problems, serious-minded individuals offer reasons. Giving reasons presumes the importance of reason and, thus, respect for the object of reason, reality. Finally, problem-solving is inherently pro-human, presupposing the value of its individual human subject(s). Q.E.D.

It would be nice to make these connections explicit and to fully elaborate what makes such unifying sense in each of the philosophical fields. Further, a healthy radicalism there -- for reason, reality, and self-interest -- would be at least as valuable as passionate advocacy of liberty. It is impossible to sell liberty to people who can't or won't think or who care little for the facts or for themselves.

But when we go to leading official proponents (including Rand herself when she was alive) of Objectivism, this philosophy that almost uniquely gives so much sense to liberty, the reaction has been, in effect, "Don't bother me, don't bother me, don't bother me."

Perhaps there exists a customary true believer phase in the development of good concepts and strong minds. Still if I had to choose between being an Objectivist and having an independent psychology, I'd go for the latter, expecting the former to come along in due course. Ideally, however, we need to bridge that gap.

Although the leader of the OCEM asserted the explicit acceptance if not encouragement of libertarians within the organization, many on his side of the Objectivist-libertarian relationship would demur. As would many on our side. This is unfortunate. Nonetheless, I remain hopeful that substantial numbers of libertarians and Objectivists will eventually coalesce to whip our real, common (and real common) enemies: ignorance and statism.

My optimism stems from a Jeffersonian conviction that enlightenment conquers all. Specifically, Objectivists will become allies as they become psychologically independent of Rand and her coterie, as they increasingly see the functional

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Strange Bedfellows

by T. O'Brien

Moscow Stock Exchange?

U.S.S.R. In an attempt to revive their moribund economy, some members of the Soviet government are actually talking publicly about opening a stock market in Moscow and selling shares of stock in state industries, both at home and abroad. At a meeting of the Supreme Soviet some weeks ago, Boris Gostev, the Russian finance minister, not only admitted for the first time that his country was suffering the equivalent of a \$51 billion deficit, but also conceded that the Soviet Union might adopt this bastion of western capitalism as a possible solution. He suggested that workers might be interested in buying shares in their own factories with the prospect of making them profitable.

If the NYSE is actually joined by a MSE, it would be interesting to visit Red Square and watch Lenin turning over in his glass tomb!

Revelation

Iran. For a country known for its lunatic government, a recent letter sent by Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, heir-designate to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, demonstrated a surprising degree of political common sense. Addressed to ultra-radical Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, the letter said, in part:

"In the name of the Almighty:

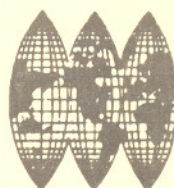
"After the war, major changes in the economy, politics and relations with the people were expected. Shortages, injustices, inflation, lack of sufficient income, extreme price discrepancies -- the source of which is the government itself -- lack of expertise and compassion, a miserly attitude, rigidity of certain trade officials ... have totally paralyzed the country's economic situation ... It is necessary to replace totally miserly, rigid and inconsiderate officials because some people cannot change their ways ... The government-imposed punishments have not been successful. They have caused many problems. For example, the actual running of the government is in the hands of immature children who hold grudges ... We will get no results with frequent arrests, harshness, punishments, detentions and killings ... The world also condemns us with its propaganda and we will be politically isolated. With regard to arrests and punishments, we should use them only when necessary ... We have several million Iranian refugees abroad ... They are interested in returning to their country. The propaganda, atmosphere, and the rigid attitude have frightened them ... The mere existence of each one of them abroad is a means of propaganda against the nation and an indication of fear and harshness in the country... Important decisions, communications and courses of action will not remain secret. Intentional and politically motivated lies will be disclosed, finally. Why should things be kept secret from the people when the enemy knows them and discloses them?"

Notes from the Interface - Continued from previous page

limitations of traditional institutions such as monopolistic government, as they discover that "unfinished" people can do a number of decent, wonderful, and, yes, even rational things, and when they experience the special joys and advantages of shedding their armor suits.

As for libertarians' enlightenment, my ambition is that we as individuals constantly stress the logical connection between reason and freedom. Educational alternatives to both church and state need top priority. Ad hoc or special projects should demonstrate scholarship and solution of real problems. The LP must remain humanistically oriented. Tolerance is vital. And "when in doubt, make no law."

Could be the makings of a beautiful friendship.



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Your Sovereignty

from *How I Found Freedom In An Unfree World*

by Harry Browne

You've probably heard all your life that there are things in this world more important than yourself. If so, it can take time to accept the fact of your own sovereignty. It can seem natural to assume that your future will be decided by others, that your purpose in life is to serve society, your country, or the world -- as determined by others.

But whether or not you accept it, you *are* sovereign. You rule one life -- and you rule it totally.

You decide which information you will accept or reject. You decide what your next action will be. You decide what moral code you'll live by.

What has happened to you up to now in your life is far more the result of *your* choices than of anything else. Others have affected you, but *you* are the one who decided whether or not you'd associate with them.

If you've acted upon information that later proved to be false, it was you who decided to accept that information. If you've become involved in relationships with people who later proved to be difficult, it was you who chose to become vulnerable to them. But it was also you who made all the choices that led to the good things you've enjoyed in your life.

You are the sovereign ruler who has chosen which city to live in, which job to take, which people to associate with, which rules to live by. Others may have made requests -- even demands -- but it was you who made the ultimate choices regarding your action.

But what is most important, it is also you who will make the choices in the future. Whatever you did in the past, you did for the best reasons you knew at the time. But today, you have more alternatives to choose from. And tomorrow, you'll have even more. There's no reason why you have to repeat your choices of the past -- unless they proved to be best for you.

What you do from here on will be entirely up to you. You will decide -- whether or not you decide to think of it in those terms.

If you decide to think that you have no control over your own life, then you'll probably choose to do as others demand -- whether that be the government, society, friends, or family. And you might choose to place the blame for your misfortunes upon them.

But if you choose to recognize your own sovereignty, you'll probably think it ridiculous to grant others the responsibility for your success or failure.

A free man would never consider it sensible to allocate the credit or blame for his life to others. If the market for his services should change, it isn't a disaster to him. He's been mentally prepared for that possibility -- and he immediately looks for something new, while others might sulk over their poor luck.

If the product he sells goes out of fashion, he looks for something that *is* in demand. If he finds that the city in which he lives no longer pleases him, he looks for one that does. If the government raises taxes, he looks for a way to avoid them. If someone tries to take his property from him, he takes steps to protect it; he doesn't rely upon the police and then blame *them* for his unhappiness if they fail.

He would never consider the possibility that his life is only what others decide to make of it.

He recognizes that others will seek their own happiness -- and in their own ways. And he knows that what they do may not be in his self-interest sometimes. He accepts that, without bitterness or accusations, and he relies upon himself.

He recognizes his own sovereignty, he values his own life above all, and he refuses to waste that life -- or any part of it -- by making others responsible for his future.

That free man has no advantages that you don't have. His freedom didn't result from an accident of birth. His good fortune hasn't been a matter of luck.

He's free because he recognizes his most priceless asset, the same asset that *you* possess -- sovereignty.

Every person is the sovereign ruler of his own life. But few people ever recognize that fact. Those who do will make it their business to find freedom. Those who don't will invariably resign themselves to whatever "society" makes available to them.

Yes, you are the ruler of your life. You choose what you'll believe, what you'll accept, what you'll do.

You've chosen the path you've followed up until now. And you'll make the choices that will take you from where you are now.

What are you going to do with that power?



"My mother always wanted me to be a used-car salesman, but I didn't have high enough morals."

Invictus

by William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

NatCom Report

By Bill Hall, Great Lakes Region NatCom Rep.

The Libertarian National Committee met in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on December 3 and 4, 1988. The meeting focused on NatCom and national office personnel changes, national party finances and the 1988 ballot access effort. I was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment, so this report is based upon my conversations with other NatCom members following the meeting, and minutes of the meeting and written reports since received by me.

In response to considerable criticism of his management from NatCom members, Jim Turney resigned as National Chair of the LP. Dave Walter, national Vice Chair, was elected by the NatCom to replace Turney as Chair. David Bergland was elected Vice Chair to replace Walter. National Treasure Sam Treynor resigned, and was replaced by Steve Fielder, who defeated former Treasurer Cliff Thies for the post. Robert Murphy of Oklahoma (program committee chair at the 1987 Seattle convention) was elect-

ed to replace Steve Fielder as an at large NatCom representative.

Prior to resigning, Jim Turney had requested Paul Jacob's resignation as National Director, and had received it, effective December 15. Kirk McKee (acting National Director) was confirmed as permanent National Director, but has since resigned, has suggested hiring Nick Dunbar of Florida as National Director, and expects to make a decision on this matter in early January.

Bert Blumert, chairman of the Ballot Access Committee, reported that approximately \$625,000 had been raised in the year since he was appointed chair of the committee, that about 68% of those funds were spent on petitioning, 19% on telephone fundraising, 11% on direct mail fundraising and 2% on overhead.

Reports on the financial health of the national LP were incomplete. It appeared that expenses exceeded revenues during August, September and October, but a recent report from Treasurer Steve Fielder indi-

cates revenues exceeded expenses in November. He indicates that the year should end up very close to budget, which called for a paydown of vendor debt, with gross revenues through December 20 in excess of \$308,000. A 1989 budget of \$304,000 was adopted which provided for debt reduction, the accumulation of funds in a reserve account and compensation for a ballot access field coordinator.

Now is the time to sign up all "interested" as members of the national Libertarian Party. For every 20 national members a state has on February 28, 1989, it can send one delegate to the 1989 national Libertarian Party Convention in Philadelphia. As of November 21, 1988, Michigan was entitled to 16 delegates and Wisconsin was entitled to five.

If you have any questions concerning the meeting or any concerns I might be able to address, please contact me. I can be reached during the day at (616) 459-6121.

Camouflage Fatigues for Expectant Troops

Reprinted from *Insight* magazine 11/28/88

Among the standard objections to women in the military is that some inevitably get pregnant. Now, however, the Defense Department has found at least a partial solution to the problem: maternity camouflage fatigues.

Although maternity uniforms have been available for several years for office and dress wear, only now is the Pentagon providing maternity field and battle apparel. The new uniforms have a front stretch panel in the trousers and what has been described as a "generously blossomed" top.

The uniforms may well be necessary. Even though women are barred from combat jobs, many open specialties require "cammies." But the innovation does raise some questions. What, precisely, is being camouflaged?

How long will it take before camouflage maternity outfits reach the Army surplus stores, and could this set a new fashion trend?

And might that venerable insult, "Your mother wears combat boots," give way to gibes about the rest of her wardrobe?

\$55,000,000,000 -- Amount the Japanese spent last year on pinball.

\$30,000,000,000 -- Amount the Japanese spent last year on defense.

-- *Harper's* magazine

Life in These United States

by T. O'Brien

Never A Second Offense

West Virginia. Wheeling City Councilman John Carenbauer has hit on a sure-fire solution to both the drug and drunk driving problems -- summary execution. Carenbauer has submitted a resolution calling for the federal government to immediately kill (without all of those namby-pamby legal technicalities of indictments, trials, etc.) everyone caught with drugs or driving while under the influence of alcohol.

"After a couple of years," observes the councilman, "you would have a lot less people taking dope and a lot less people driving drunk."

In fact, after a couple of years, you would just plain have a lot less people.

Parking Under the Influence

Colorado. The State Supreme Court here has overturned the Court of Appeals and ruled that sitting behind the wheel of a parked car is "driving" for purposes of enforcing the state's requirement that suspected drunk drivers submit to breathalyzer tests.

It seems that a Mr. Herschel Warman had fallen asleep with the motor running in a convenience store parking lot. A suspicious police officer awakened Mr. Warman demanding that he produce identification and, ultimately, take a blood-alcohol test. Warman insisted that he was not driving and refused to comply.

In upholding the one year suspension of the weary parker's driver's license the court held that even though he was asleep at the time, Warman was "in actual physical control of the vehicle, since the vehicle can be put in motion by minimal physical activity, even if the activity might be unintentional."

One wonders how West Virginia city councilmen might deal with this problem.

A Good Candidate for Business School

Ohio. Columbus print shop owner Kathy Gatton makes most of her money selling lecture notes to courses being held at nearby Ohio State University. Grade A Notes, Inc. provides some 400 subscribers with one quarter's worth of notes for \$18.95 per class or \$2.00 apiece for individual lectures.

Seniors and graduate students earn \$10 per lecture taking the notes which are expected to be typed and turned in within 48 hours of class. Grade A currently covers 15 large lecture courses that are a part of the university's basic education requirements.

Although not exactly thrilled with her service, Ohio State hasn't attempted to interfere with it either. And Gatton points out that, "Grade A Notes are a supplement to help students get more out of a class. The small minority of students that are skipping class and buying notes would be skipping class anyway."

Someone should ask OSU's Business School professors what they think of this entrepreneur's efforts. Maybe she should be enrolled there. Or, perhaps, even teaching.

What's in a Name

Florida. When Tallahassee couple Michael Boydston and Susie White married they decided to both adopt the hyphenated surname Boydston-White. No problem for Susie. She simply went to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, produced her marriage certificate, and had her name changed on her driver's license to Boydston-White. However, it was a different story for Michael. The government office informed him that he would have to pay \$57.00 to get a court order having his name legally changed.

Mr. Boydston-White then filed a lawsuit against the FHSMV seeking an injunction allowing him to obtain a new license without a legal name change and ordering the agency to abolish the gender-based rule.

"They are treating women one way and men another in violation of the equal protection clause of the Constitution," says an ACLU attorney who is representing Boydston-White in the matter.

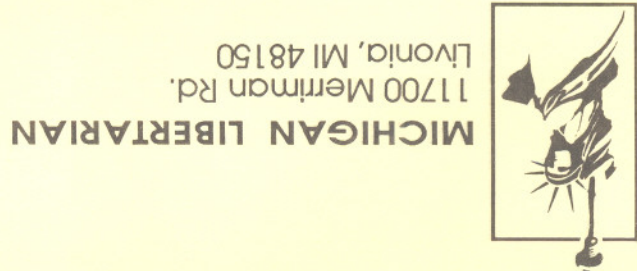
An even simpler solution: abolish the requirement that individuals have state issued licenses to drive on public roads.



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