



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Volume 17, No. 1

January/February 1990

Libertarians pound the 25th

by Ron Burcham

As reported in the November/December issue of the *ML*, a special election was held January 16, 1990, in Michigan's House of Representatives District 25. I was privileged to carry the Libertarian banner against older-party candidates, Roman Kulchitsky (R) and Charles Busse (D).

We had a wonderful time waging our uphill battle against more than \$150,000 in out-of-district money, contributed to my opponents' campaigns from massive war chests accumulated by their parties and influence-buying special interest groups. Final tally: Kulchitsky 8906, Busse 7340, Burcham 396.

While my campaign finances amounted to \$1.53 per vote, Busse spent more than \$13.00 a vote (to lose) and Kulchitsky spent *only* \$10 per vote. Our funds helped capture nearly 2.4% of the votes cast in the district, which, percentage-wise, *was nearly five times the Libertarian total in the previous election*. We now have 396 confirmed Libertarian votes in north Warren.

[Editors note: From some late-breaking precinct-by-precinct analysis by Dan Day, we have determined that in the 24 precincts (of a total of 71) in which literature was distributed door to door (see below), Ron's percentage of the vote was 4.6%, that is, nearly double the whole district percentage.]

During the campaign the Libertarian Party and yours truly were covered by three of the local television stations, all the major dailies and local newspapers, several local radio stations, and received front page coverage in the *Macomb Daily* on the day before the election. We extensively discussed our principles and convictions with editors, the other candidates, students (two classes at Mott High School), reporters, and constituents.

I have received phone calls and mail at my home asking for more information about the Libertarians. I answered all inquiries either in person or by telephone. One call was from a 31-year-old college student writing two papers: one on the legalization of drugs and the other on the abolition of the income tax. Folks the message is getting through.

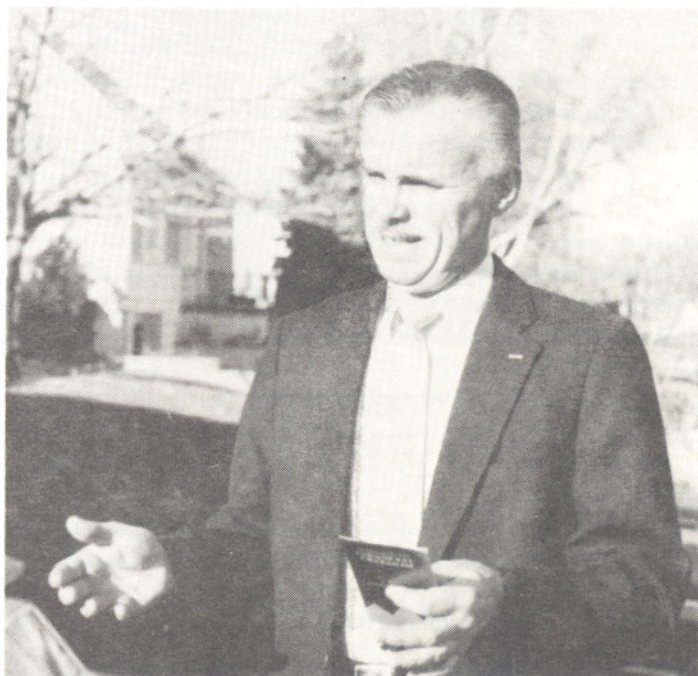
My campaign staff included Virginia Cropsey (media coordinator), Daniel Day (issues, speeches, and literature design), and Stan Gentry, campaign manager. I want to express my thanks to my staff and everyone who put their feet against the pavement on some really cold days to get the word out.

INSIDE

Celebrate freedom at LPM convention in Southfield Pg. 5

In four days the organization conceived, designed, printed, and distributed more than 9,000 pieces of campaign literature door-to-door. Everybody really had to hustle to get all that out in two days. Every time I thought we might not finish, another volunteer came forward to help. It was unbelievable! I am very proud of what my staff and volunteers accomplished in such a short time. I tried thank each of them individually, and if I overlooked anyone, I apologize and am thanking them now.

There will be another effort this fall at the regular general election. This effort will be even better organized and better financed. Imagine what we will accomplish with a \$10,000 campaign budget. The organizing for the fall effort will begin this spring with the warmer weather, so, if anyone wishes to be part of a campaign organization that will be accomplishing great things for liberty this fall, please call me at (313) 573-9473 or Stan Gentry at (313) 757-5085. Freedom in our lifetime is a very real possibility.



Here I discuss libertarianism with a neighbor [White Fang?]

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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Articles submitted for publication are welcome. They should be double-spaced and signed. All materials and information submitted for publication must be received by the middle of the first month indicated on the issue (e.g. Mar 15 for Mar/Apr issue).

Please submit all articles and editorial correspondence to:

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From the editor

Wither "Smash the state!"?

During the Christmas holidays, I was fortunate to have been able to spend time with my family. With reports on Christmas eve of Ceaucescu biting the big one (and just as I had learned to pronounce the mutha's name, too!), I remember making a casual comment to my brother as we motored to the party store: "Boy, it's sure been a rough year for dictators, hasn't it."

The off-hand nature of that remark caused me to consider that perhaps I am undergoing a change of attitude or approach toward inhumane political systems. The collectivism of the Eastern bloc was by-and-large extreme; now it appears to be genuinely less so. As a young conservative, I used to rail against communism in the most passionate and strident terms. As a young radical libertarian-anarchist, I would launch into similar invective against *any* form of state power —democratically installed or not.

In both cases the distinguishing quality of my expression was a deeply emotional outrage, rage against any political system that would dare violate the sanctity of the individual. It's taken some time, and I still have a bit of the firebrand, but I've begun to approach the problem of where the world is vs. where I think/know it should be with a little more poise. Now, I use more of myself than anger to get at the main objective.

For instance, a good acquaintance protests decriminalization of drugs. Instead of going ballistic on the poor rube, I do a Marshall Fritz sales routine like, "You know, Buford, I used to feel that way, too (to myself: when I was a total flaming idiot), but now I see that prohibition just doesn't work, etc." Or more sarcastically, "Yeah, but we need to go all the way on this: let's just round up all the people we don't like and kill 'em." Or take the direct, personal approach, "Hey, Jack, to be real honest with you, I just don't think you should be telling me what to do."

In particular, the nice thing about humor is that when one genuinely laughs, one asserts a benevolent universe; as a by-product, one's mind opens to a humane, problem-solving mode where all good things are seen as likely. Libertarians are being seen more and more as problem solvers, as human beings who really care about others and have the wherewithal to do something useful about it. That's a quality we must continue to nurture.

Most of us know that the death of the state, the death of legitimized coercion, will amount to a giant leap forward for mankind. Any libertarian worth his salt has an abiding hatred for the beast that goes deep into the bones. Unfortunately, a *large number of our peers don't yet see the state as a false friend*. So while keeping our fiery passion for liberty intact (and our powder dry), we need to approach these people more adroitly than with a clenched fist and a slogan. Events in Eastern Europe make me sanguine about patience in the chase.

From the chairman

A Libertarian State of the State message

[The following is a condensation of LPM chairman Dick Whitelock's news release responding to Governor James Blanchard's State of the State message, January 11, 1990.]

If it were possible for the people of Michigan to live on propaganda, false promises, hype, and political rhetoric, then Governor Blanchard's annual State of the State message would be good news for all of us.

While the governor continues to display his prowess as a smooth-talking politician, his proposals of more socialism and police-state activity do nothing to enhance the state's poor business climate, nor will they bring Michigan to the "superstate" status he claims even now exists.

Jobs

A few weeks of taxpayer-supported minimum-wage jobs for unemployed college and high school students in the summer does nothing to strengthen the state's economic base.

Michigan's unemployment rate remains high above the national average, property tax rates are fourth highest in the nation, and small businesses (who employ 75% of the workforce) are still saddled with the catastrophic single-business tax—a tax that has undergone tremendous lip-service but only minor reform under the Blanchard administration.

In order to create well-paying jobs for Michigan's work force, the state government must provide some genuine free enterprise incentives to potential employers. Selective tax abatements for corporate giants, whose costs are passed along to local property owners, do not provide a solution. The Libertarian Party challenges the governor and the legislature to remove all restrictive barriers that prohibit creation of jobs in Michigan.

Education

Governor Blanchard has consistently failed to deal with one of the state's most devastating problems: a dismal K-12 government school system.

Threats of punishment for school dropouts should be replaced with incentives that will instill desire and encourage students to remain in school. An old Prussian-designed system of forced education under control of the state should be abandoned and replaced with an educational system of choice. Such choice should apply not only to schools but to curricula as well.

(See *State*, page 4)

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Oakland: Emily Salvette	Ottawa: Dick Jacobs
Washtenaw: David Hunt	Wayne: Evy Warmbier

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The limits of tyrants are proscribed by the endurance of those they oppress— Frederick Douglas

Michigan Membership Monitor

**National to date: 337
(vs. 332 last issue)**

**State to date: 245
(vs. 244 last issue)**

**Michigan dues renewal month is coming up so let's keep on truckin'
Remember: Grow or die**

The Libertarian Party challenges the governor and the legislature to install freedom of choice in the selection of schools and to remove all barriers that prohibit educational competition. Home schooling, the establishment of private-sector schools by industry or local community groups, and other types of magnet schools should be encouraged. Equalized funding for K-12 students should be sought through near-term implementation of an educational voucher system.

Property Taxes

The governor's plan to limit property taxes to Detroit's rate of inflation is totally unrealistic. Property taxes have been responsible for the unequal funding of K-12 education, and continued increases have forced economic strain on low-income families and fixed-income senior citizens.

A Libertarian Party proposal would roll back property taxes at a rate of 25% per year over a four-year period to eliminate the property tax as a source of government funding. The abolishment of property taxes would give all parents the necessary funds to enroll their children in schools of their choice rather than be prisoners of government school district boundaries.

Further, as a property-tax-free state, Michigan would provide the incentives necessary to attract private sector employers. Job creation would flourish at an unprecedented rate, and property owners could once again claim true home and property ownership, instead of state-granted "stewardship."

Crime, Drugs and Prisons

Libertarians recognize that the way to reduce crime is to allow private sector employers to create jobs and for schools to provide an efficient system of quality education. When these goals are met, it will be unnecessary to continue the costly prison expansion currently underway.

More than 50 percent of Michigan's prison space is being used to house people convicted of nonviolent or victimless crimes. At an average cost of \$54,000 per bed in the state's prison system these spaces should be reserved for and occupied by those who have been convicted of violent crimes.

The exorbitant increase in police forces and prisons in this state, not to mention this country, would be unnecessary if police and courts were limited to the protection of individual and property rights. We demand the government call off its holy war against people who choose to live differently, though nonviolently. Not only are police states evil, they're expensive.

Welfare and Health

The current method of public, taxpayer-funded welfare, to which the governor is wedded, must be abandoned. The welfare of our citizens and our neighbors is too important to be left to the state. It is rightly only the province of voluntary charitable individuals and organizations.

The great majority of those who receive public assistance could actually be productive members of society if government policies would permit maximum creation of business and jobs. Like these people, the few individuals who cannot survive on their own are much better served by caring community, neighborhood, and family institutions.

That tradition of taking care of our own is far preferable to the massive, impersonal bureaucracy that lavishes 90 percent of its funds on its own perpetuation and generally treats the people it is supposed to help as slaves. Expansion of that system, proposed by Mr. Blanchard, represents a giant step backward in terms of helping the unfortunate and disadvantaged.

Libertarians recognize that the family unit and individual initiative are the backbone of America's heritage of productive generosity, and we condemn any government program that denies people the opportunity to reach their maximum human potential.

Democracy Caucus

If you want majority rule in the LCC (1 party member-1 vote, using proportional representation) and separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers in the LPM, send your name and address to
Tom Jones, 15336 Cruse, Detroit, MI 48227-3227

EXPRESSIONS OF GRACE

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Errata: . . . The editor expresses his sincere apologies for misspelling Larry Porzsolt's name in the last issue and David Littmann's name in the issue before that.

Building a Free World

1990 LPM Nominating Convention, April 20-22
Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Libertarian International
Miller, Barnett, Dasbach, Schimmel, Reed, and Lundy to speak

by Virginia Cropsey

The 1990 Libertarian Party of Michigan nominating convention at the Southfield Ramada Inn April 20 - 22 promises another all-star lineup of speakers and events, and features a Saturday-night tenth anniversary banquet birthday celebration of the founding of Libertarian International (LI), now International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL). Vincent Miller, founder of LI and current president and chairman of the board of ISIL will keynote the banquet.

LI was founded in late July of 1980 at the USLP Great Lakes/Students for a Libertarian Society convention at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. According to Miller, remarks by former LP presidential candidate Ed Clark, suggesting that the time was right for the establishment of an international libertarianism, prompted Miller to found the "International" at that time.

Friday night, Randy Barnett, libertarian legal scholar rated as one of the top five law professors in the nation by the *National Law Journal*, will address a cocktail reception autograph party for his new book on the ninth amendment to the United States Constitution, "Rights Retained by the People."

Cato Institute, publisher of the work, writes:

"The Ninth Amendment enjoins, 'The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.' How James Madison's single sentence is interpreted may well be the key to the meaning of the Bill of Rights—indeed the entire Constitution. Yet this simple guarantee of rights has confounded courts and commentators for 200 years. It was compared to an inkblot by Robert Bork and forgotten by Warren Burger."

Saturday morning Michigan's national committee representative and chair of the Affiliate Campaign Committee, Steve Dasbach, will present the latest campaign strategies for those who are running to win and/or to build the LP.

At the Saturday luncheon, Louis Schimmel, Jr., director of the Municipal Advisory Council of Michigan, will present "The City that Privatized Everything." Since 1986 Schimmel has been the appointed receiver of the city of Ecorse. His cost-cutting efforts have been featured in the Wall Street Journal, as well as the January issue of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce newsletter. This session should be very valuable for Libertarians who are "starting local."

After candidate nominations on Saturday afternoon, Mackinac Center president Larry Reed will present an "Indiana Jones Tour" of his recent trips to Cambodia, Poland, Malaysia, and Mexico.

Sunday morning's business session will be for the bylaws debate and election of officers and central committee representatives.

At Sunday lunch, Marilyn Lundy of Michigan's State Board of Education and an advocate of educational choice, will talk about national and state efforts to advance competition with the government's mental monopoly.

Other events are in the works, such as a late Friday night showing of *The Killing Fields* as background for Mr. Reed's presentation on Cambodia, and a possible talk by former Wayne County Sheriff Johannes Spreen on drug relegalization. Spreen came out for legalization last month.

Sign up for the early bird package today! Reservations received after April 1 are \$10 more. The Southfield Ramada Inn has rooms available for \$50/night for two persons, \$55 for three or four.

Mail room reservations to: Ramada Hotel, 28225 Telegraph Road, Southfield, MI 48034, Ph. (313) 355-2929. For convention questions, call Virginia Cropsey at (313) 977-6628. We have intentionally kept our prices low to encourage new interested. Please bring friends to hear our great lineup of advocates for liberty! Foyer tables are available for related groups for a per-foot price.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the "Early Bird Special" (mail to LPM)

Includes everything: three meals, Barnett cocktail reception, speakers, events, and business sessions (you must be a member to vote)\$60.00 before 04/01/90

For partial packages, please wait for convention/membership mailing approximately March 1.

Name _____
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City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____

The More Things Change ...

A historical perspective on the United States government's abuse of Panama

By Donald Warmbier

With his recent invasion of Panama, President Bush continues the long, dishonorable tradition of American intervention in that unfortunate little country. Some American actions had an almost comic-opera quality, such as the so-called Watermelon War of 1855, when American troops were used to put down an anti-American riot caused when a traveler failed to pay for a piece of watermelon. But the most ignominious actions were those in 1903-1904 surrounding the creation of the state of Panama and the US-controlled Panama Canal Zone. A brief review of these actions shows that the last 87 years have brought no improvement in the US government's self-serving, might-makes-right dealings with Panama.

In 1902, the US presidency was in the hands of the openly imperialist Theodore Roosevelt, and the US state had annexed Hawaii and grabbed Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. Roosevelt wanted a canal across Panama to allow the US Navy to be quickly shifted between these colonial outposts. A French company had previously attempted to build such a canal, but had given up in 1889. Congress passed a bill authorizing the payment of \$40 million to the New Panama Canal Company (NPCC), successors to the French company, in return for its concession to build the canal.

Panama at that time was a province of Colombia. The US offered Colombia \$10 million for a lease of land in Panama through which to build a canal. However, NPCC's concession expired in 1904. Colombia hoped that by delaying any deal with the US until after that year it could receive the \$40 million that would otherwise be paid to the NPCC.

Roosevelt got just as mad at the Colombians as Bush got at Noriega, calling them "inefficient bandits," a "corrupt pithecooid community," and "contemptible little creatures." With Roosevelt's blessing, employees of the Panama Railroad (a subsidiary of the NPCC) along with several Panamanian landed oligarchs, declared Panama an independent country in November 1903. The US Navy was used to prevent Colombia from sending troops to Panama to put down this pseudo-independence movement.

The US quickly negotiated a treaty with the new Panama government. Like Bush, Roosevelt justified his intervention with lofty sentiments: The US had "received a mandate from civilization" to build a Panama canal, Roosevelt said on January 4, 1904, when he submitted the treaty to the Senate for ratification. What was not known at the time, however, is that the stock of the NPCC was owned by a syndicate that included Roosevelt's chief financial backer, investment banker J.P. Morgan, and Douglas Robinson, Roosevelt's brother-in-law. In effect, Roosevelt had intervened to set up Panama as a separate country so that this syndicate could double its investment when the US government paid \$40 million to it rather than to the Colombian government.

While we know that Bush had ties to Noriega going back at least to 1976, the full story of those ties has not yet come out. When it does, the lessons of history suggest that America's latest intervention in Panama is likely to have been motivated by reasons no more noble than its predecessors.

Outreach material from LPM

Milton Friedman's "Free to Choose" videotape series, ten tapes, VHS format, each tape full color, 60-minute presentation.

1. Who Protects the Worker?
2. Who Protects the Consumer?
3. What's Wrong With our Schools?
4. Created Equal
5. From Cradle to Grave
6. Anatomy of a Crisis
7. Power of the Market
8. How to Cure Inflation
9. The Tyranny of Control
10. How to Stay Free

Available by contacting LPM Secretary Lynn Bellair at 24874 Valley, E. Detroit, MI 48021 (313) 774-7675. \$5 per tape covers postage and handling, rental for one week.

David Bergland's "America's Libertarian Heritage" may be purchased from the state office at 50 cents each in quantities of 50 or more (newsstand price \$1.00).

Attractive LPM fliers, including an enhanced version of Marshall Fritz' questionnaire, are available at 5 cents each.

Make checks payable to LPM, 11700 Merriman, Livonia, MI 48150.

Index on Liberty

For information on dozens of periodicals and organizations of interest to advocates of reason and liberty, obtain *Index on Liberty*, c/o ISIL, 9308 Farmington Drive, Richmond, VA 23229.

RESEMBLE
MONKIES



Libertarian News Around Michigan

Mackinac Center: A fresh voice in the analysis of public policy in Michigan

By Brian Wright

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a private, non-profit research and educational think tank, is devoted to advancing private sector solutions to public problems. Although it conducts special educational programs, such as high school debate workshops, its principal means of affecting public policy is through timely, scholarly reports and periodic "Viewpoint" papers describing the effects of various government policies on Michigan citizens and businesses, as well as practical alternatives to these policies.

The Center continues to draw fire from the politically comfortable, while at the same time showing citizens the benefits of private initiative. For example, the January 1990 issue of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce publication, *Michigan Forward*, features Greg Kaza's Mackinac-sponsored report on Ecorse, Mich., "the city that privatized everything."

Center president Larry Reed, 35, is well known to Michigan libertarians, having taught at Midland's Northwood Institute



Larry Reed

periodically since 1977, directed the Institute's annual "Freedom Seminar," and addressed several LP conventions. In 1984, Reed became executive director of the Center for the Study of Market Alternatives in Idaho. While there, he authored over 200 newspaper columns as a columnist for Idaho's two largest newspapers, wrote and delivered 150 week-day radio

commentaries, and gave more than 200 speeches. Reed's interest in comparative political and economic systems has taken him to thirty countries since 1985. Firsthand, he has observed and reported on hyperinflations in Bolivia and Brazil, black markets in the Soviet Union, economic reforms in mainland China, important libertarian opposition groups inside Poland, turmoil in Central America and the Caribbean nation of Haiti, and privatization efforts in Australia. He has published dozens of articles in magazines around the world on a wide range of topics and has been an activist for freedom and free markets since his high school days.

The genesis of the Mackinac Center was the Michigan Research Institute formed in Lansing by a group of citizens who saw the need for a new voice in the state on behalf of private enterprise solutions. In early 1988, the name was changed to the Mackinac Center, Mr. Reed was hired as president, and the organization moved to Midland.

Most recently, the Center responded with a Viewpoint analysis to the state's new Home Ownership Savings Trust (HOST) program that purports to give first-time home buyers a guarantee against rising housing prices. The program, of highly questionable legal grounding, authorizes the state of Michigan to sell variable-rate bonds that guarantee a tax-free rate of return equal to the state-wide average increase in housing values. Principal author of the paper, Gary Wolfram, a Hillsdale College economics professor, said HOST will benefit young, affluent investors in areas where real estate prices continue to rise, but is of little value to middle-class investors in many regions of the state.

In December 1989, a Mackinac Center Report, "Auto Insurance in Michigan: Regulation, No-Fault, and Affordability," was published in recognition of growing demands for increased government regulation of auto insurance premium rates, underwriting decisions, and insurance company operating expenses in Michigan. Finding that the private passenger auto insurance market is competitive (relative to other state-regulated markets) and that the principal cause of auto insurance unaffordability is the high cost of claims, the report argues that a better alternative to more regulation is to reduce the amount of mandatory coverage, and to institute policies to control claim costs for liability, personal injury protection, and physical damage coverage.

In fall of 1989, the Mackinac Center released a study of the Michigan Educational Trust (MET) on the same day the MET opened its 1989 enrollment period. The analysis, using a bit of arithmetic based on MET's own figures, shows that unless

(See *Mackinac*, page 12)

Libertarian News Around Michigan (cont'd)

Heartland Institute publishes trucking dereg study

Executive Director Joseph Bast announces that toward the end of January, he will be traveling through Michigan with Mr. John Taylor, coauthor of a timely new Heartland Policy Study on the subject of intrastate trucking deregulation. Mr. Taylor, a graduate student at Michigan State University, is one of Michigan's best known and most respected transportation analysts. His report, "Deregulation of Intrastate Trucking: Policy Implications for Michigan," is coauthored by Mr. Robert V. Delaney, a transportation analyst with Arthur D. Little in Cambridge, Mass.

The study finds that Michigan's laws needlessly raise freight costs, limit the range and quality of service available to shippers, contribute to air pollution, and reduce overall employment opportunities for minorities. Deregulation would reduce freight costs \$45 million, result in 1,170 fewer accidents (because of fewer miles traveled by empty trucks), and lower carbon monoxide emissions by 4.55 million pounds and nitric oxide emissions by 9.11 pounds. For information in your area about this premier Heartland initiative, please contact the following individuals:

- Detroit: David Littmann (313) 222-7241
- Grand Rapids: Al VerHoef (616) 878-2371
- Lansing: Barbara Cable (517) 799-7300 x219

A2 libertarians fight council backsliding on pot

The Ann Arbor Libertarian League and Washtenaw County LP hold joint meetings every Thursday at 6:30 at Dominic's Restaurant in Ann Arbor. The entire city council, in a move that has national drug-hysteria implications, has recently created a ballot referendum for the April election to increase the penalties for marijuana. The A2L2, NORML, and other concerned groups are organized to oppose this amendment to the city charter. The measure would raise fines from \$5 to \$25, \$50, and \$100 for the 1st, 2d, and 3d "offenses," respectively.

Ann Arbor libertarians are also organizing for the city council elections, planning strategy, and seeking candidates. Last summer A2L2 member Jesse Walker cohosted a radio program on the student station WCBN-FM called "Anarchy on the Airwaves." On his show he interviewed various libertarians and anarchists, provided commentary, and engaged in other "outrageous" activities. — GM

SE Michigan libertarians confront drug warriors

On Friday morning, January 19, several Libertarians and members of a Wayne county group devoted to repealing harmful drug laws staged a spirited protest at Henry Ford Memorial Library where approximately 50 state law enforcement officials were meeting to divvy up \$13.6 million in federal drug war funds.

Bruce Cain, editor of the *New Age Patriot*—PO Box 419, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127, Ph: 563-3192—and promoter of a Regulated Drug Legalization and Education (RDLE) initiative, initially contacted members of the LPM. Carrying signs such as "Libertarians for Relegalization of Drugs," and "No More \$ for the Drug War," the protestors marched outside the library and, toward the end of the meeting, were given the opportunity to speak to the assembled officials.

Mr. Cain raised a baggie filled with powdered sugar, stating that that amount of cocaine would have an intrinsic value of about \$2,000 compared to its current street value of \$100,000 and that any business with a 5000% profit margin would never cease to exist. WRIF-FM radio personality Peter Wurby also spoke on behalf of the legalization forces, chiding officials: "All of you claim that drugs are a growth industry, but you fail to mention that drug law enforcement is also a growth industry."

Finally, Metro Detroit Libertarians (MDL) spokesman Tim O'Brien addressed the body. Noting the origin of the funds, the Anti-Drug-Abuse Act of 1988, whose provisions call for funding three areas: education, rehabilitation, and law enforcement, he said, "If the \$13.6 million you are here to distribute can only be spent on law enforcement then the best thing you can do with it is put it in a pot and burn it." Libertarian speakers acknowledged the good intentions of many of the officials present, but made forceful Constitutional points and warnings.

The Dearborn Press and Guide, putting the number of protestors at 16, covered the protest with a front-page lead story. Participants were interviewed and gave cogent, human responses. LPM secretary Lynn Bellair, who was represented as a party member, was quoted as follows:

"I want things to be safer for my children. I'm out here to fight for the *relegalization*—they were all legal through the early 1900s—of drugs. I think the main reason we have as much crime as we do is for the same reason it occurred during Prohibition. Plus, I feel the government has no right to tell us what we can do in the privacy of our own homes. I think it's unconstitutional." — (from info by Tim O'Brien and Bill Shotey)

Oakland professor talks to MDL Supper Club

Dr. Peter Boetke of Oakland University's Department of Economics presented "Prospects for Liberty in the Eastern Bloc" to approximately 50 people attending the MDL Supper Club meeting, January 15, at Bootlegger's in Troy. Prefacing his remarks by clarifying that his libertarian activism was educationist as opposed to "Partyist," he made an important journalistic point: "What if Karl Hess were covering the events at Tiananmen Square—where he claims the sloganing was actually "Give me liberty" (not democracy)—or the Berlin Wall instead of Dan Rather?"

"Socialism was successful because it was intellectually seductive, not because of the number of votes received by Eugene Debs," said Boetke. Further, he maintains that libertarianism, especially in the context of Austrian economics, is now appealing to large numbers of young intellectuals and academicians who will increasingly be populating the world's public policy-formulating institutions. According to Boetke, this appeal is no fluke: "For instance, Libertarianism is the only theory that can explain recent events in Eastern Europe."

He attempted to demonstrate that point by a historical analysis of Marxism and communism in the Soviet Union, a country about which he has developed expert knowledge. A fundamental problem of socialism is its failure to appreciate the informational role of prices in a society, that is, its role in determining what to produce, how much to produce, and for whom. Without prices these decisions become political, and the economy becomes wildly distorted by the whims and foibles of those who hold power. Central planning simply cannot deliver the goods.

Boetke left the audience with a several witticisms and notable quotes, such as the following:

"Religion promises life after death. Communism promises death after life." – recent joke in the Soviet Union

"In the Stalin years the GNP could always be raised by reducing the denominator."

In general, Peter is optimistic long-term, especially regarding the Eastern bloc, but doubts the Soviet Union itself can experience significant free markets in the near future. Everyone appeared to enjoy Dr. Boetke's enthusiastic presentation and the lively discussion period that followed. – BW

You are what you think, and if you don't think, you can eat all the meat in Kansas City and still be a vegetable – Russell Baker

LPM and LP org to fight drug Nazis

LPM Vice-Chair Virginia Cropsey, in addition to having arranged to debate Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano on the issue of drug legalization (ref. Calendar, page 13), met with several organizations to explore possibilities for alliance on the drug decrim issue. On January 24, she attended a meeting at which representatives of the ACLU, New Age Patriot's RDLE (ref. story on drug law protest, page 8), and an organization out of Mt. Clemens, Save Our Constitution (SOC) (ref. ad, page 15), among others. The group will meet again in two weeks to set up the coalition's structure and goals.

On a national level, former Utah LP chairman Bob Waldrop has issued a flyer announcing **Operation Bold Strike**, a plan to run a full page advertisement in one or both of Colombia's national newspapers on Valentine's Day, the day before the Bush "Drug War Summit" in Cartagena, Colombia, February 15, 1990. The ad will be in Spanish and calls for an end to the War on Drugs and the war on the people of Latin America by the government of the United States. Several LP notables have responded to appeals to fund and carry forth this project, including Ed and Alicia Clark (who performed the translation), Ron Paul, Dave Bergland, Paul Jacob, Steve Dasbach, and so on.

It has been learned that the project will go ahead, and as of *ML* publication time, the full page ad will cost \$4100 and will run in *El Tiempo* newspaper. Waldrop reports \$2100 has been committed; he seeks contributions by 02/05, but even if you can't make that date and wish to help (there are bound to be future projects such as this), make out checks to Council of State Chairs, c/o PO Box 6175, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106.

National LP prepares for fall elections

The National Libertarian Party is making preparations for the fall elections by selecting 12 state legislative candidates who have a reasonable chance of winning office and giving them intensive campaign training. In an attempt to lay some groundwork and attract inquiries to build party membership, the NLP will be airing two television ads: an anti-tax ad to be aired in February and one that explains libertarianism slated for later in spring.

To help all state party candidates, National will conduct some fifty-minute candidate workshops through teleconferencing. Don Ernsberger, who ran a highly credible state-level campaign in 1988 (generating more than 200 newspaper articles), is expected to attend each local teleconference site to offer advice. Ernsberger conducted surveys during and after his campaign to scientifically measure the effectiveness of the various tactics he used. As soon as the teleconference schedule is set, the times and dates will be published in the *Michigan Libertarian*. – DD

(For add'l news around Michigan see, *Michigan News* page 12)

The Objectivist/Libertarian Question

Part II: Should objectivists Treat Libertarians as Allies?

by Brian Wright

In Part I of this article, I established that, by definition, big-O Objectivists could not cooperate with big-L Libertarians, certainly not to the extent of joining the party, but that small-O objectivists might be so persuaded. The stipulated definitions used in Part I are printed below:

- **objectivist:** in the context of this article, an individual who holds that reality is absolute and objective, reason is thoroughly competent and imperative, self-interest is morally right and necessary, and individual rights are supreme and inviolate.
- **Objectivist:** an objectivist who defers to Ayn Rand and her designated promulgating hierarchy (DPH), currently headed by Dr. Leonard Peikoff, in determining what the above definition of objectivist entails.
- **libertarian:** one who advocates the principle of individual rights, specifically holding that no one has the right to seek values *from*, or impose values *on*, others by initiation of physical force.
- **Libertarian:** a libertarian who belongs to the Libertarian Party. Qua political party, the LP strives to get candidates in public office who will work to eliminate government intervention in our economic and personal lives and, in the case of national government, in the internal affairs of other countries.

The general question posed in the first article was "Should objectivists enter, support, cooperate with, or be tolerant of the modern libertarian movement?" But we're focusing on a major subset of the movement: the Libertarian Party. Because membership in the party can depend on several considerations unrelated to moral propriety, let me simply try to demonstrate that it is all right for objectivists to be Libertarians and that, fundamentally, we're on the same team.

Rand is on record approving *ad hoc* activism, that is, she grudgingly sanctioned the support of groups to help defeat specific, exceptionally noxious acts of government. But she drew the line at establishing a political party or any organization that would identify itself with the principle of individual rights and seek to reify that principle across the board. She believed it premature considering the low status of rationality in modern culture.

The low status of rationality is conceded here. Work—and reason can be promoted by concrete action as well as abstract argument (or psychotherapy)—toward elevating that status is of the highest priority for securing political freedom long-range. But it is brutally clear that acts of self-protection cannot await the full flowering of reason in society. In the extreme case, one does not eschew thoroughgoing resistance to criminal acts simply because criminals are contemptuous of the logic of one's rights. Transposing this observation to the context of coercive modern governments, specifically *our* government, there must exist a point where full resistance is appropriate, whether people are generally rational or not.

We have reached that point.

The governments in this country, to indulge in Randian polemic, are running amok in an orgy of coercion. They attempt to control us in every area of our lives, from the schools we are forced to attend and subsidize to the substances we may ingest. The feds, in particular, have long abandoned any pretense of constitutional legitimacy by effectively declaring wars without congressional approval, invading countries at presidential whim, violating civil liberties on a wholesale basis, and making us pay for their corrupt aggressions—foreign and domestic—with the noxious, unconstitutional income tax.

Democrats and Republicans? Are they not so wedded to privileges of government power that their vision is blinded and/or their morals compromised? Read their platforms and meet their partisans. Watch their daily sleaze on TV. Listen to them! Is there a single, consistent voice for liberty, much less reason, among them? Together, they have foisted the sordid ravages of the welfare/warfare state upon us. Seeking political solutions through these two parties is like asking lenience of Ivan the Terrible.

(See *Objectivist*, page 14)

Liberty Digest

Tax Protest 1990: Abolish the federal income tax

Activists who are tired of finding a new "gimmick" for tax protest have a ready-made project this year: participating in a national movement to abolish the income tax! Philadelphia radio station WWDB talk show host Irv Homer (who, on a recent C-Span program concerning the drive, called himself a libertarian) has begun soliciting postcards calling for repeal of the income tax. Homer has been successfully enlisting the participation of talk show hosts around the country, as occurred during the successful effort a year ago to fight off congressional pay raises.

Locally, WXYT host Joe Madison is pushing the repeal effort. Send your cards immediately to: Joe Madison, WXYT Radio, PO Box 905, Southfield, MI 48037. Petitions for repeal are also solicited and should have the basic wording: "Yes, I wish to abolish the income tax and I encourage national talk show hosts to lead the debate and to collect signatures supporting repeal," followed by lines for name, address, and signature. The February issue of LP News carries this story, along with the address for Irv Homer, de facto national coordinator: WWDB-FM, Levering Mill Road, Balla, PA 19004. - VC

Prohibition decried in scientific journal

Information gleaned from *Florida Liberty* article by Howard McConnell: The September 1989 issue of *Science* carries an article, "Drug Prohibition in the United States: Costs, Consequences, and Alternatives," by Dr. Ethan Adelman. Dr. Adelman is quoted, "Libertarians, both civil and economic, view [decriminalization of drugs] as a policy alternative that eliminates criminal sanctions on the use and sale of drugs that are costly in terms of both individual liberty and economic freedom." He goes on to enumerate those costs and make a number of fundamental points that show how current government policies exacerbate, rather than eradicate, drug usage.

Group working on limiting terms of office

From LP member Roger Pope of Gibraltar, the *ML* learns of a national organization, Committee on Limiting Terms Lobby, which decries the fact that over the last decade, more than 95% of all congressmen who ran for re-election were victorious. The organization seeks to limit (unspecified) the number of terms of congressmen and senators and has the support of the following Congressmen: Bill McCollum, James Hansen, James Lightfoot, and Denny Smith. The literature neglects to state their party or geographical affiliation, but it makes a polished, reasonable case for structural limits.

From Roger's letter, "We as libertarians should jump at the chance to limit terms, as it would leave more seats open for us and fewer special interest incumbents to block our way. Entrenched public interest groups are probably the single biggest threat to liberty today." Interested members can check the organization out at PO Box 44433, Washington, DC 20026.

LP present at DC pro-choice rally

From Toni Black, in the national LP News: "Thousands of people now know that the Libertarian Party is 'pro-choice on everything' thanks to a small band of activists with a big banner.

"The party's message was highly visible at the November 12, 1989, Pro-Choice Mobilization in Washington, DC. The six-by-thirty-foot banner was strategically located between the Washington Monument and the Reflecting Pool, the high-traffic route of the rally. About 25 Libertarians, from babes in arms to the decidedly middle-aged, came from as far north as New York and as far south as South Carolina to provide a party presence at the rally. They distributed a flyer quoting the LP platform on abortion rights, the World's Smallest Political Quiz, Liberty Today, and other party brochures to a largely receptive crowd."

New Hampshire's Gene Burns draws large crowds

The newsletter of the LP of New Hampshire, *Libertarian Lines*, reports that about 180 people (about four times as many as expected) jammed into an auditorium in Concord on December 14th for the kick-off of east coast radio personality (and former LP presidential woobee candidate) Gene Burns' speaking tour through that state to promote the Libertarian Party. According to New Hampshire LP party chair Bill Winter, "It was probably the most hugely successful event the LPNH has ever hosted. If we can keep this up for the coming year, we are going to make remarkable strides in membership, and we're going to make the other political parties sit up and take notice."

Rediscovered tape of Ayn Rand interview available

Laissez Faire Books has acquired a videotape of a 30-minute interview of Ayn Rand. According to Roy Childs and some other sources, this interview by James Day is uniquely exciting and appropriate to the revival of the movement for individual freedom and the free market that is sweeping the world. Writes Childs: "The interview provides a great overview of her life and work: What is the nature of the ideal man? What is the relationship between reason, faith, and feeling? [and so on]. But most importantly, it brings her back so we can witness, again and again ... the Ayn Rand who so inspired and enchanted us from the beginning. Thank you, Ayn Rand!" \$29.95 from Laissez Faire Books, 942 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94103 (1-800-326-0996 for catalog or to order).

(See *Digest*, next page)

Llewelyn Rockwell, Jr. makes case for paleo-libertarianism

In a controversial manifesto, "The Case for Paleo-Libertarianism," published in the January 1990 edition of Liberty Magazine, Rockwell argues that libertarianism needs to be "deloused" in order to take advantage of the fracture between non-statist and statist conservatives (brought on largely by the West's victory in the Cold War). Libertarians, he opines, can restore the concord with partisans of the Robert Taft-type, noninterventionist, laissez-faire conservative ideology of yore, now re-emerging. But *first* we have to get rid of our "egalitarians," "soft-on-crime" left-wingers, amoralists, "Woodstockians," *lufmenschen*, and so forth—and a bunch of other epithets quite to the same effect.

Apparently Rockwell wandered into the wrong convention or decade or something. But, anyway, the former campaign aid for LP presidential candidate Ron Paul has also resigned from Natcom. Michigan's Tim O'Brien has submitted a passionate response to *Liberty*, which *ML* has learned will be published in its next issue. *Liberty*, PO Box 1167, Port Townsend, WA 98368. – BW

Mackinac, from page 7

their infant children are to eventually attend the University of Michigan or Michigan State University (as opposed to the 10 other colleges and universities covered under the program), parents are paying more into the program in today's dollars than the tuition costs would be in 18 years.

Needless to say, the above analyses—covered or featured in all the major Michigan daily newspapers—have not been warmly regarded by most state officials, particularly State Treasurer Robert Bowman. In response to the Mackinac Center's MET study, Bowman accused the organization of fronting for GOP gubernatorial hopeful John Engler and of having an axe to grind with the Treasury Department due to a denied sales tax exemption. Considering that kind of incisive criticism, the Center will undoubtedly continue to be a source of useful information to Michigan citizens for the foreseeable future.

Requests for information or donations, which are tax-deductible and earnestly sought, should be mailed to The Mackinac Center, 119 Ashman, PO Box 568, Midland, Michigan 48640.

One man with courage makes a majority – Charles Lindbergh

Principles of Liberty classes to begin in Macomb

The five-week course sessions are approximately two hours. The Socratic-method course led by Virginia Cropsey and Keith Edwards will combine the traditional Principles of Liberty packets, Advocates for Self-Government videotapes, the LP platform and Orpheus Publications materials. The week night and locations will be chosen to accommodate the most people. Call 313-977-6628 to enroll or for more information. – VC

Another Libertarian officeholder in Macomb County

After the LPM Candidates Night in December 1989, it was learned that Libertarian Dar Tisdale of New Haven has held local office for more than three years—as treasurer of the Lenox Township Economic Development Council. According to Dar, "Tell them [Libertarians interested in local politics] the best way to get on a committee is to call city hall and ask what's open. Something's almost always available. Then apply." During Mr. Tisdale's tenure, no tax-free municipal bonds have been issued by the commission. Good job, Dar. – VC

Michigan Decency Action Council taken to task

Grand Rapids Press columnist John Douglas, who has often written favorably of Dick Jacobs and other Libertarians, devotes a recent column to countering MDAC morality cops. The organization's newsletter had applauded the actions of Houghton County prosecutor, Douglas Edwards. Edwards had contacted the county's two video store owners stating that a tape they were renting, "The Devil and Miss Jones," could cause them to be in violation of state obscenity laws. Both owners decided to suspend any business in adult tapes.

The crusty columnist, after pointing out that the prosecutor obviously meant "The Devil *in* Miss Jones" ("The Devil *and* Miss Jones" is 1941 comedy starring Jean Arthur and Bob Cummings), says he's appalled: "Here's one man who makes a telephone call about the possibility of a videotape being obscene and the owners clean their shelves just to be on the safe side, since court battles are costly and fines are ridiculously high."

He continues, "Your imagination has to be working only at about one percent effectiveness" to see how this police action could extend to other kinds of entertainment or information, and concludes: "I absolutely refuse to believe that the government or anyone else should have any say in what adults read or see. It's called freedom and I can't understand why it's such a difficult concept to grasp." – MG

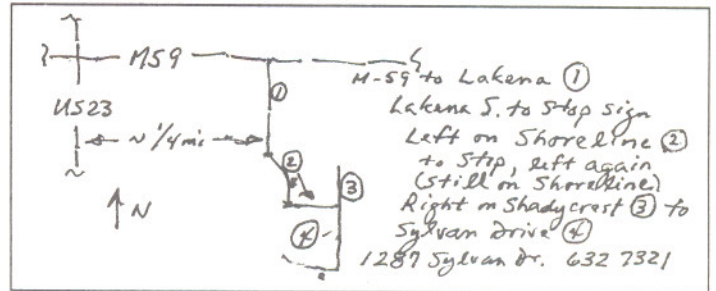
(For add'l news around Michigan, see *Michigan News*, page 14)

Calendar of Events

- Date** **Event**
- 02/11 **LPM Bylaws Committee meeting**
1:00 p.m., contact Charles Hahn,
1 Hanover, Pleasant Ridge, 313-548-5865
- 02/13 **Debate between Virginia Cropsey and Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano**
U of M Dearborn campus
between Ford and Evergreen Rds. Room 144 CAB
6:00 p.m.
Sponsored by the Philosophy Club and Young Democrats
- 02/19 **MDL Supper Club**
6:00 cocktails, 6:30 dinner
8:00 speaker — Jim McAbee
"Individual Rights and the Constitution," a discussion.
Red Lobster
25901 Hoover Rd.
Warren

Open menu, reserve thru
Emily Salvette by 2/15
(313) 332 7834

03/04 **LCC Meeting, @ Bill Johnson's, 1:00 p.m.**



- 04/18 **Macomb County convention**
The Macomb County LP will hold its county convention for the purpose of nominating all Michigan LP candidates for offices districted solely within Macomb County.
Buddy's Pizza, 13 & Van Dyke, Warren
Contact Virginia Cropsey 977-6628
- 04/21 **LPM Convention, Southfield Ramada Inn.**
Vince Miller will keynote, representing the 10th anniversary celebration of the founding of Libertarian International.
Elections of LPM candidates, officers for 1990
Refer to article, page 5, for more information

Party Biz

(Condensed by editor from minutes and notes of Secretary
Lynn Bellair)

LCC Meeting, December 3, 1989

Called to order, 1:20, 12 members in attendance, quorum

Secretary's minutes and treasurer's report accepted

Discussion by LCC reps and officers of numerous county activities: Wayne (E. Warmbier, Hampton—high school outreach), Ionia (Keith Fox—distribute "Liberty Today"), Macomb (Edwards, Cropsey—letters to editor, Prop A and B, drug debate, college talks), Monroe (Morris—eminent domain fight), Livingston (Johnson—Advocates group-start, eminent domain, zoning issues), Oakland (Salvette—O'Brien WDET spots, Boetke talk, Dan Day candidates training work, UofD seminar), Ingham (Dobberstein—Ionia Fair booth plan, letters, attend city ccl mtgs).

Discussion Fully-Informed Jury Amendment.

Cropsey report on convention, Reed confirmed, Dasbach coming. Discussion.

Charles Hahn report on bylaws committee, getting recommendations from esp. T. Jones; ideas for enlarging central comm by 3 at large mbrs, judicial comm, proxy voting for nonattendees discussed. Bellair likes structure now. Cropsey likes 1 rep/20 mbrs, some at large, more mbr input wants.

Discuss Whitelock questionnaire. Possible mailing to dropouts discussed.

Hahn: can LPM take charge cards; Hampton: bank need biz-place; Hahn: reqt may be waived, will check.

Discuss Burcham candidacy.

Bellair: new stationery need; Hampton: will order

Whitelock: possible fundraiser pro discussed

Cropsey: raise 50K mebbe Jacobs run gov

Whitelock: LiberTV funds good thing, contact them should; Hampton: will call.

Move to adjourn, Bellair, Morris 2d, approved (4:00)

Treasurer's Report

Starting net worth (09/08/89)	\$3489.03		
Current net worth	\$3142.78		
Assets		Liabilities	
DFCU checking	\$2607.64	National LP	\$96.00
DFCU savings	\$110.08		
DFCU campaign checking	\$205.00	Loss in net worth	\$346.25
DFCU campaign savings	\$41.06		
T-shirts	\$200.00		
PR Newswire	\$75.00		
Total assets	\$3238.78		
Incoming Revenue		Expenditures	
Libertarian Week	\$2334.00	Libertarian Week	\$1564.00
Michigan dues	\$98.00	National dues	\$96.00
Pledges	\$712.50	Answering service	\$219.00
Contributions	\$175.00	800 number	\$94.00
Total	\$3219.50	Newsletter	\$511.48
		Literature	
		Tapes	\$180.00
		Flyers	\$348.00
		National	\$300.00
		PR News	\$150.00
		Misc.	\$103.27
		Total	\$3565.75
		Net shortfall	\$346.25

In the words of Frederick Douglas, "Power concedes nothing without a demand."

We can put numbers on the present level of coercion: tax dollars taken, lives diminished or lost from failed policies and laws, minds attenuated by government schools. But what for? A blind man can see we are staring into the abyss of tyranny. Democrats and Republicans hold the power of which Douglas speaks, and they are the ones leading and pushing us into that abyss. It is *they* of whom we must *demand* our freedom. They've crossed the line.

Even if one does not admit that the principal parties are beyond redemption, an honest person who chooses to participate in the political process votes for someone who most closely adheres to his views. Libertarians believe in the nonaggression principle and the supremacy of individual rights. Republicans and Democrats, not to mention "shoot and loot" minor political parties, explicitly believe exactly the opposite, i.e. in the initiation of force against others and supremacy of the collective over the individual. This is no secret. Therefore, for an objectivist to continue to vote Republicratic, especially when Libertarians are available, represents a whopper of a contradiction, if not a blank-out.

The Libertarian Party is a contextual thrust toward individual liberty, one of many. Although a coalition, the philosophy of a majority of its adherents is objectivism. The party appeals to people through the existing legal political process, a tool of persuasion (while persuasive tools are still available) rather than insurrection. It is currently safe and sane. It makes its appeal from the purity of its platform, a platform that—except for a reasoned, principled opposition to foreign interventionism—Ayn Rand could have written. Objectivists should at least read that platform. Reason dictates nothing less.

What about the people in the LP? They are by and large people who are *doing* something peaceful to achieve individual freedom, or at least make an uncompromising statement to the political establishment to the effect, "Up with this I shall no longer put!" or, more forcefully, "Listen you SOB's, this is the last chance you get, give me liberty or I'll take it.") They are normal people, working people, living/loving people; they and their organization *objectively* merit, at minimum, a spot on the "valued friends" list of anyone who claims to like reason and individualism.

Those who hold that life is valuable, hold, by implication, that man ought not to be prevented from carrying on life-sustaining activities. Clearly the conception of "natural rights" originates in recognition of the truth that if life is justifiable, there must be a justification of acts essential to its preservation.
— Herbert Spencer

Citizens' Tax Limitation Amendment kicked off

The so-called "Patterson-Anderson" initiative petition drive has been launched. Co-chairs of the effort are former Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson and Patrick Anderson, assistant VP of economics at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., Farmington Hills. The amendment essentially limits property tax "take" and gives several hundred million state government dollars to K-12 schools.

This initiative may be controversial among Libertarians. According to a Free Press letter from William McMaster of Taxpayers United, the Patterson/Anderson plan "would remove significant protection taxpayers currently have [under Headlee] and open the door for unlimited property tax increases in the future." Taxpayers United claims Patterson/Anderson is a tax increase. Many libertarians also feel that increased funding of government schools by the state is exactly the wrong direction to go. Views pro and con are solicited by the *ML*

CAMPAIGN CORNER — by Dan Day

Changes in Michigan's campaign laws

As election time 1990 approaches, it is important to note some changes made by Michigan Senate Bill 448 to the campaign laws:

- Primary and fourth class school district candidates are exempted from the Campaign Finance Act (Public Act 388 of 1976). This means that if you are seeking a school board position in a primary or fourth class school district, then instead of filing a Statement of Organization or Campaign Statement with the county clerk, you only have to register with your local school board.
- Candidate committees registered by a losing candidate or office holder vacating office are automatically dissolved if all the following criteria are met:
 - The candidate committee has a reporting waiver.
 - The candidate committee did not receive or spend more than \$1000.00 for the election.
 - The candidate committee has no assets or debts, including late filing fees.

Announcement

Anyone seeking nomination by the Libertarian Party of Michigan at its convention in April (ref. page 5) is encouraged to announce his or her candidacy, for publication in the *Michigan Libertarian*. Please include office sought, background, plans, and any other information you feel is appropriate. Info: Dan Day (313) 853-5168 (or BW 681-1303)

by Tim O'Brien

Will you take a check?

California. The Van Nuys police are a little embarrassed. It seems they had arrested a Dennis Alston on check forgery charges. Bail was set at \$1500, which Mr. Alston promptly posted using, you guessed it, a forged cashier's check.

Van Nuy's finest apparently failed to notice that the check was dated four days before the defendant's arrest and bore the same serial number as the forged checks for which he was originally charged with the felony.

Police managed to catch up with the brassy forger the same day and rearrested him. And this time he'll have to post his bail with cash. Perhaps, Mr. Alston should consider a career in counterfeiting.

Color Mommy gone

Michigan. In St. Johns a woman whose 11-year-old daughter tipped off police to drugs in her home was convicted in early January of possessing cocaine. The daughter and 12-year-old son of Sandra Bearden, 30, testified for the prosecution during her trial. Bearden insisted she knew nothing of the drugs, that the cocaine belonged to her boyfriend who had already been convicted of possession. When the children were asked how they felt about sending mama to the slammer for disobeying the government, they said they would be hashing this out at their next meeting of Young Nazis for a Drug-Free Society. (OK, so I made up the last sentence, what's unreal about it?) – BW

The War on Drugs is a war on you and the Bill of Rights of the US Constitution

Introducing Save Our Constitution (SOC), a grass-roots democracy empowerment and political action and lobbying organization working to preserve our Bill of Rights freedoms.

The war on drugs is a program for domestic repression.

It seeks to crush nonconformist behavior—political, social, and cultural—using the power of the state. Please join us in fighting those who are using drug hysteria to turn America into a concentration camp.

Contact: Save Our Constitution, 116 Floral, Mt. Clemens 48043

Victimizing the victim

Florida. In a classic example of the consequences of making the state the complainant in criminal cases and reducing the victim to witness status, a judge in Ft. Lauderdale jailed a rape victim for six weeks because she would not answer several summons.

Circuit Judge Mark Speser wanted the woman to testify at the trial of one Steven Lord who allegedly kidnapped and raped her last November. When the reluctant victim expressed fear for her safety, attorneys for both prosecution and defense asked the judge to order her to cooperate. He did and she didn't.

In an interview with the Miami Herald after her release, the double victim said she was "very angry—more at the system than at my attacker." We can't imagine why!

You look maaahhvelous!

Florida (Again). In what has to be one of the all-time great examples of adding insult to injury, a jury here found accused rapist Steven Lord not guilty of attacking a woman whose testimony was coerced from her by the state through six days in jail. After the trial, several jurors said they returned the "not guilty" verdict because the woman's clothing (T-shirt and lace miniskirt) had prompted the attack.

So, the criminal gets off and the victim does time. Well, at least she learned some valuable lessons:

- Provocative dress justifies rape.
- When judges issue orders in criminal cases, even victims better take heed.
- Don't expect any semblance of justice from the American legal system.

To the editor:

The *Michigan Libertarian* should regularly carry detailed accounts of our Libertarian Central Committee meetings. As it is the "average" member has no idea of what the body that purports to represent him is doing.

Tom Jones
Detroit

Fair enough, Tom. We'll start with this issue with more detailed coverage, but stop short of literal transcription of the secretary's minutes, which (no offense to Lynn) I feel ML readers would find less interesting than watching paint dry. -ED

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**90/02R0N0 0
William Sholey
22335 Francis
Dearborn, MI 48124

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN
11700 Merriman Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO. 346

Yes, I want to join the Libertarian Party as a:

- \$10 Michigan member only
- \$20 Combined Michigan and national member
- \$100 Contributing member
- \$1000 Benefactor
- \$10 Subscription to *Michigan Libertarian* only

Note:

All memberships include the state newsletter, *Michigan Libertarian*.
National membership includes a subscription to *Libertarian Party News*.

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation
of physical force as a means of achieving political or social goals:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State and Zip: _____

Send to:
Libertarian Party of Michigan
11700 Merriman Road
Livonia, MI 48150