

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1993

KEVORKIAN NAMED LPM'S FREEDOM FIGHTER

Famed "Suicide Doctor" Jack Kevorkian has been named "Freedom Fighter of 1993" by the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Dr. Kevorkian is scheduled to receive the award at the annual Libertarian Week Banquet on October 2, at the Clarion HOtel in Farmington Hills.

The Freedom Fighter Award was created at the Executive Committee meeting on August 8 and will be presented annually in years in which there is a worthy recipient to that person judged to have done the most to defend liberty and advance rational humanitarianism.

Dr. Kevorkian has been present at the suicide of 18 terminally ill or hopelessly pain-ridden patients and is believed to have assisted them. He is under indictment for the last two such events under the hastily-passed medieval and unconstitutional law in Michigan.

The Libertarian Party is the only political party to recognize and support the effort of Dr. Kevorkian to bring a humanitarian approach to the problems of those suffering unremitting pain or debilitating terminal illness. He has attempted to get the medical profession to address this issue and to set forth ethical guidelines for medically assisted suicide or "Medicide". It is the Party's position that the right to suicide is a confirmation of the right to life, is protected by the Ninth Amendment and implies that persons attempting suicide have the right to seek assistance.

The Banquet includes dinner and a wine reception. Dr. Mary Ruwart will make the presentation. All members have been sent an invitation and reservation form.

SCARBOROUGHS CONVICTED IN FEDERAL COURT

LPM activists Karen and Scott Scarborough were convicted of conspiracy to obstruct justice and perjury in federal court on August 26, 1993, in what can be described as a most bizarre proceeding.

The charges stemmed from the Royal Oak Post Office incident on April 16, 1990, in which an incendiary device was placed in a mail bin. (See "Politics and Protests" in the February- March issue.) Two former inactive members of the LPM, Peter Hendrickson and Doreen Wright, were charged in the case and Hendrickson is serving time after a plea bargain. He testified against the Scarboroughs, apparently in an attempt to gain a reduction of his sentence.

The only evidence against the Scarboroughs was the testimony of Hendrickson and manufactred tape recordings. The tapes were made from samples of recordings that were made of the Scarboroughs covertly in their home over a period of hours by Wright and Hendrickson. The prosecution spliced words and phrases together that had been spoken throughout the day and produced a brief recording that was only a few minutes long. This auditory collage was submitted to the jury as evidence. The jury could not come to a conclusion from the tapes which were of poor quality, so Judge Nancy Edmunds allowed them to read the transcript which the prosecution claimed was an accurate reproduction of the tapes, but which Edmunds had barred as evidence and which the defense had no oppartunity to refute.

Judge Edmunds unwittingly showed sinister conspiracy laws can be when she told the jury that no communication between conspir-

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FROM THE CHAIR

In the June-July issue, I wrote (Nazism Comes to America) about the Waco tragedy and condemned the actions of the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. I also stated that there were too many Paramilitary organizations in the government and that they too often abuse their power. In this case, a minor religious sect was targeted without good reason.

The current issue of Reason Magazine examines another such case in an article by Alan W. Bock entitled "Ambush at Ruby Ridge If you do not get Reason, please do so. This was the incident in which the BATF set up Randy Weaver for entrapment on a weapons charge despite Weaver's reluctance to participate and then had him indicted. He was given an erroneous notification to appear and was charged when he did not appear as, of course, he could not. After a 16 month surveillance, the BATF and the US Marshals Service killed Weaver's son and dog and an FBI sniper killed his wife, then the feds tampered with the evidence. Weaver and his friend Kevin Harris were found innocent by the jury except for the failure to appear charge against Weaver, a white separatist of peaceful behavior.

In Michigan, we have the Royal Oak Post Office case in which the Postal Inspectors (who did nothing about Tom McIlvain) confined its investigation and prosecution to members of a minority political party, the LPM.

The United States Government has not backed away from its policy of harassing, persecuting and even killing individuals and groups it does not like, ESPECIALLY if they are peaceful, nor have they apologized or made compensation to the victims. It is vicious, irrational, cowardly and deadly. AND it now wants to take away our weapons of personal self-defense. What would the Minutemen of 1775 thought of that!

Our freedom of speech, belief, religion Continued on page 6

NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

The Libertarian Party held its National Convention in Salt Lake City August 30-September 5, 1993. The event was attended by some 460 delegates and numerous guests, including 16 delegates from Michigan.

Steve Dasbach was elected National Chair, succeeding Mary Gingell, who chose not to run for reelection for personal reasons. Steve had 188 votes to 84 for Natalie Lloyd and 57 for None of the Above. Steve Givot received one vote.

Karen Allard was elected Vice Chair by acclamation, succeeding Dasbach.

John Famularo was elected Secretary with 150 votes to Gary Johnson's 138 and NOTA 8.

Hugh Butler was the winner in the Treasury race over Steve Givot, 194-109, with NOTA getting 6 and a write-in vote for Lloyd.

Joe Hauptmann of Indiana won the Region 3 spot on the National Committee with a 24-15 margin over Steve Linnaberry of Ohio, NOTA getting one vote. Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia make up the Region. Our Bill Hall vacated it.

Five At-large positions on the NATCOM were filled: Tamara Clark, 202; Ron Crickenberger, 160, Sharon Ayres, 154; Don Ernsberger, 144 and Gary Johnson, 117. Others with votes were Paul Smith, Joe Dehn, Jimmy Blake, Rick Sincere, Geoff Neale, Burleigh Etzel, Ludwig Vogel and NOTA

It was expected that a furious battle would occur over the Atlanta group's move to eliminate the non-aggression Pledge and the Platform, but a compromise precluded the latter and platform debate was mild, with only the abortion plank generating a lot of parliamentary maneuvering.

The By-laws debate was extensive and included a major change which was a result of the compromise over the platform. The Platform was retained, but each candidate for the Presidential nomination must submit an ab-

breviated campaign platform at least 48 hours before the vote. IT cannot conflict with the regular platform and should have transition programs for implementing the latter

The debate over the Pledge never developed. Touted as a means of achieving national membership growth, its advocates reversed their field and attempted to abolish national membership! The effort was easily defeated.

The Convention adopted a resolution which addressed the Scarborough persecution in Michigan. The resolution "Condemns and deplores these criminal actions of a government rn amok; Urges all freedom-loving Americans to assist and support Karen and Scott Scarborough in their efforts to obtain a fair and impartial hearing of the charges against them in accordance with the rule of law."

Many seminars, workshops and speeches were given during the Convention, including breakfasts with L. Neil Smith, Thomas Szasz and Joan Kennedy Taylor, comedy and lots of fun.

The Convention was quite amicable considering the depth of feeling on both sides over the Pledge and Platform issues. In contrast to the internal battles of the early 1980's the Convention was conducted and concluded in an atmosphere of statesmanship and good feeling.

Keith Edwards

LPM PICNIC A SUCCESS

A hot, sunny August 8 was the setting for the annual LPM Picnic at Waterford Oaks County Park, attended by about 30 Libertarians. Chef Scott Scarborough presided over the grill, while others enjoyed volley ball, horseshoes and cold drinks. A raffle was conducted by our official raffler, Barb Goushaw who donated the grand prize, a VCR Rabbit. Other prizes were breakfast for two at Ray Campbell's Green Onion, 4 hours of game time at Gary Bradley's High Tech Adventures, dinner for two at Palace Restaurant,

Here are more letters to the newspapers representing Libertarian positions on the issues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America is not a free country

In the July 5 letter "Too many rights," the letter writer stated, "We do have too many rights." This is typical of the naivete of so many Americans who suffer under the delusion that this is still a "free" country.

If letter writer would send me a list of just 10 "rights" that he thinks he has, I'll cite a government rule, regulation, tax or ordinance that either severely restricts or prohibits him from indulging in them.

In the past 75 years, under Republicans and Democrats, government has completely voided the Bill of Rights and has replaced it with "privileges" for a select few.

Richard Whitelock

S en. Debbie Stabenow's article "It is time to deliver a quality school system" (July 27) prompts me to ask: "Why have we waited so long?"

With the abolition of property taxes to pay for state-run schools, the state Legislature has finally done something that the Libertarian Party has advocated for more than 20 years. During that time, however, public education has been mired in the pits of mediocrity and we'll never know how much further ahead we would be if the Republicans and Democrats had adopted the Libertarian agenda even 10 or 15 years ago.

Big differences remain. Major party politicians will now be dreaming up new and higher tax schemes to make up for the \$5-6 billion loss in revenue, while the Libertarian Party proposes no new or increased taxes—just reduce the cost of state government accordingly.

It'll be interesting to see just how much political courage our legislators in Lansing really have. Will they resort to another series of tax shifts or will they tighten their belts and allow a real tax cut to stand?

8/5/93 Richard Whitelock IONIA, MICH. N ow that the Legislature has cut the property tax, removing it as a source of education funding, it has created the opportunity to do two things it has avoided for years.

First, cut the enormous pork-barrel spending by adopting the cuts in subsidies proposed by former Rep. Margaret O'Connor. Her 1990-91 Pork Barrel Report ran 191 pages and included such items as \$3.3 million for "Grants to Cities with Racetracks," \$413,110 for the Grape and Wine Council and \$3.288 million for Chrysler Motors/Rochester Hills (socialism for big business). The politicos decided these were more important than education.

Second, now is the time to relieve the pressure on government schools by encouraging the growth of private education by giving income tax deductions to parents of private school children. An Illinois study concluded that private school education is one-third less expensive than public education. Parental choice would create competition that would stimulate the development of quality schooling.

Tax increases, given the above steps, are unnecessary and not acceptable to voters.

Keith P. Edwards

STATE CHAIR, LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR SHORES

DETROIT NEWS 8-3-93

Canada's health care

hile much has been said about Canada's health care disaster, John S.P. Robson probably said it best in his July 12 op-ed column, "Why would a Canadian spurn 'world class' care?"

If actions speak louder than words, then Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa's actions in rejecting "world class care" and coming to the United States for cancer treatment speak loudly indeed.

Unfortunately, the socialized medicine proponents have so deafened themselves to reason, it's unthinkable that they would reconsider even if this newsworthy exposure had been on every North American newspaper's front page.

7-19-93 Jeff Hampton
DETROIT NEWS NORTHVILLE

Know your branches

The response given in your July 27 "News for Young Readers" column was wrong.

Government's balance of powers divides authority among three branches. The legislative branch enacts laws. The executive branch headed by the president enforces laws. The judicial branch judges cases and the constitutionality of laws.

Contrary to your answer, the president has no constitutional authority to "help make laws." This is a usurpation of power, a contravening of both the design and intent of the founders, and the reason we now have a runaway imperial presidency.

Nancy Geragosian Allen Park DETROIT FREE PRESS 8/5/93

ne can't help but be struck by the irony of your July 24 front page.
One article detailed the efforts of federal officials to shut down gambling operations at a Mt. Clemens golf club ("Wolverine was home to greed and gambling").

An adjacent story described the success and prosperity that casinos have brought to several Michigan Indian reservations ("Indians call casinos a godsend").

Is it any wonder that our country is in trouble, when government expends scarce resources persecuting businesses that have proved both popular and productive?

Tim O'Brien Madison Heights DETROIT FREE PRESS 8/5/93

How about having the same people who pay for children's food, clothing, shelter, health care and everything else also pay for their education? Why should everyone be forced to subsidize parents in this one area?

DE7. NEW 5 Tim O'Brien 8/5/93 MADISON HEIGHTS

R obert Kuttner's bland assertion that the Clinton budget plan "reduces most categories of social spending" is nothing less than a blatant lie, and he knows it. ("Clinton budget squeezes growth," Aug. 9.)
Perhaps The News can get him to explain why, with huge cuts in military spending and "reductions" in most categories of social spending, the federal government will be spending so much more money next year?

Only when politicians can't lie with impunity will they start telling the truth.

8/16/93 DET. NEWS Brett P. Bellmore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep our right to bear arms

ccording to the Aug. 1 article A "Our society is failing to protect its children," a report by the American Bar Association (ABA) advocates "stricter gun control laws" to protect the rights of children. Special interests often exploit the image of children to promote the growth of government power. Responsible citizens know, however, that children grow up to be adults. Thus the rights of children are inseparable from the fundamental rights of individuals.

Safety rules and restrictions on gun ownership by violent felons don't trample the natural rights of law-abiding citizens. Every other form of gun control is, however, a violation of the constitutional right to keep and bear arms, and the right of a citizen to be secure in her person. Even current gun registration makes future confiscation easier. A person's security often depends on her ability to defend herself. Without this ability, thugs gain a de facto right to prey upon her without resistance.

It's unfortunate that the ABA is using such subterfuge to undermine the Bill of Rights it is sworn to uphold. At a time when lawyers are concerned about public contempt for them, it would behoove the ABA to defend constitutional rights rather than erode them.

Scott Avery Boman 8117/93

DETROIT

Opposed to gun control

othing in the president's crime bill is "particularly objectionable"? ("How Good a Crime Bill?" Aug. 13.) For the life of me, I cannot understand how The News can be so casually accepting of gun control. Gun control is not merely objectionable. It is starkly unconstitutional! The evidence is abundant, it is clear and it is overwhelmingly one-sided. If the enemies of the Constitution can win this battle, despite having all morality, reason and evidence against them, they won't even break into a sweat when they trample the rest of the Bill of Rights, including The News' precious First Amendment.

8/22/93 DET. NEWS **Brett P. Bellmore**

CAPAC

Let Demjanjuk return

ust who does the state of Israel think it is, anyway? They're not content with robbing John Demjanjuk of seven years of his life on the flimsiest of allegations of being "Ivan the Terrible." Now, after reluctantly clearing him in the face of crumbling evidence, they're considering trying him on other charges in violation of the U.S. extradition agreement.

Well, I say it's time we tell Israel, as well as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, to go fly a kite. Let's insist that Demianiuk be returned home, as the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had the courage to rule.

8/11/43 DET. NEWS

Kenneth G. Morris NEW BALTIMORE

LiberTech: data you can use

Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution. On diskette, \$5.00 Michigan House, Senate, Judiciary and Administration. On diskette, \$5.00

I will be at the convention in Grand Rapids on May 1. Deep discounts given for purchases made with silver.

Michael E. Marotta

(517) 223-7752

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What about the visceral conservatives?

nthony Woodlief was right on the money in his Aug. 1 essay about what he calls "visceral liberals" ("Debating visceral liberals is a futile effort"). Woodlief rightly complains about liberal intellectuals who ignore history and evidence in their support of laws, because they feel that the "illusory end always justifies a little-un-derstood means." But liberals are not alone in passing laws based strictly on emotions. What about the visceral conservatives?

It's primarily conservatives who continue to push for drug prohibition, despite the fact that history shows that prohibition has never worked and merely exacerbates the problems it seeks to eradicate. It is also primarily conservatives who continue to support this country's inane sodomy laws that are an invasion of privacy, impossible to enforce and designed to target an unpopular minority group.

Neither liberals nor conservatives have a monopoly on passing laws based on emotion instead of reason. Both would do well to consider taking a more libertarian approach.

8-10-93 **Nancy Geragosian** DET, NEWS ALLEN PARK

ccording to the article "Is Rx A for health care in Canada?," a 1990 study by Canada Health Monitor found that 92 percent of Canadians are satisfied with their health care system.

If this figure is correct, then the key question is why is it necessary for the government to force people to participate? Certainly with so many people satisfied with the product they shouldn't have any qualms whatsoever about voluntarily continuing to fund the system at the same rate they are already paying in taxes - right?

So why doesn't the government simply allow the dissatisfied Canadians to opt out of this system. Could it be that only the use of governmental force keeps socialism alive?

DET. NEWS 9-3-93

Jack Elder ROCHESTER SCARBOROUGHS Continued from page 1

ators is needed for there to be a conspiracy. Large parts of Hendrickson's testimony were refuted by the government's own forensic experts. In addition, Hendrickson denied any participation in a conspiracy to present false testimony to the grand jury. The defense moved at that point for a directed acquittal on the conspiracy count, which Judge Edmunds refused because the jury could "reasonably infer" that the Scarboroughs were conspiring between themselves without Hendrickson's participation. "Hendrickson blurted out on the stand that he failed a polygraph test" said Edmunds in discussing whether to allow the jury to read the transcript, but that admission was stricken from the record.

Karen is a former Vice Chair, treasurer and Secretary of the Libertarian Party of Michigan and Scott is a former member of the Executive Committee. During the trial, the prosecution admitted that the LPM was targeted for our anti-tax views even though other groups of activists were present at the time of the incident in Royal Oak. During the subsequent investigation, about a dozen Libertarians were questioned, treated as suspects rather than witnesses, followed, harassed, had their garbage searched and telephones tapped. At one time the federales asked for the Party's membership list (to no avail) which they would never done had the protesters been Republicans or Democrats. Some of our people were subpoenaed at work in order to embarrass them instead of serving them at home from which they had been followed.

The evil of the United States Government is assuming proportions beyond what even Libertarians had suspected.

(Scott Boman and Keith Edwards contributed to the writing of this article.)

Trickery and treachery are the children of incapacity.

Maxims of LaRochefoucauld

PICNIC Continued from page 3

in Dearborn, a case of Snapple Iced Tea donated by the Scarboroughs and dinner for two at Gillie's Restaurant. Proceeds, which amounted to \$232.00, were designated for the Ballot Access Drive.

The Picnic was preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Karen Scarborough

FROM THE CHAIR Continued from page 2

and political action are under direct attack.

"Why stand we here idle!" Our friends "are already in the field" defending themselves against a kangaroo federal court and face financial disaster in appealing the verdict which may well be reversed. "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?"

It is time for libertarians to put forth some support for those victims of Washingtonian Gestapoism. It is too late to help the Branch Davidians and Randy Weaver's ordeal is nearly over. Closer to home however, Karen and Scott Scarborough need your financial support to fight the vicious attack by the US Government. In Karen's case, because of her health problems, this could be literally a matter of "Life or Death".

To contribute to their defense and the battle for liberty, please make a check to attorney Ralph Musilli with the notation "Scarborough Defense Fund" at the bottom and send it to:

Ralph Musilli 24000 Greater Mack St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Any amount will be appreciated.

Keith Edwards, Chair

CALENDAR

First Tuesday of each month: Wayne County LP meets at the Red Lobster, 6850 N. Telegraph in Dearborn. Cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 6:30, Program at 8:00. Call JoAnn Karpinski at 313-925-6917

Second Tuesday of each month: LP of Mid-Michigan meets at Sneeker's Restaurant in Lansing at 6:00. Call Jon Addiss at 517-394-0122.

Third Wednesday of each month: Oakland Co. Libertarians meet at the Red Lobster, 101 W.Ten Mile Rd., Madison Heights.

Every Thursday: Washtenaw Libertarians meet at Dominic's Restaurant in Ann Arbor. Some lecture events held at U M Union. Call James Hudler at 313-475-9792.

Macomb Libertarians now meeting. Call Stacy Van Oast at 313-784-8783

October 2, 1993 Libertarian Week Banquet at 6:30 Clarion Hotel in Farmington Hills. Reservations by Sept. 25. \$35.00.

Today through November: Ballot Access Petition Drive. Turn in signatures as each page is complete. For more forms call your coordinator or Barbara Vozenilek at 517-592-2687.

Every day: Look for a prospective Libertarian. There are a lot of them out there. Everyone's bitching about Clinton.

Once a month: Write a letter to the editor of your local paper. It's one of the most frequently read parts of the paper.

Deadline for the next newsletter is October 15. Sorry we did not use several contributions this time, but there were some hot items that took precedence.

Each age of life is new to us; no matter how old we are we are still troubled by inexperience.

Maxims of La Rochefoucauld

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

The Michigan Libertarian is published bimonthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Scheduled publication is January, March, May, July, September and November.

Articles and letters to the editor should be submitted by the 15th of the previous month. Text should be typewritten and double-spaced. Unsigned material is not used. Submissions may be edited.

Advertising is available at \$5.00 per column inch or fraction thereof for camera ready copy.

Editor: Keith Edwards
22131 Marter Rd.
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

POLICY ON OFFICIAL MEETINGS

All meetings of the Executive Committee and the Libertarian Advisory Council will start at the scheduled time.

Under the By-Laws, the Council is the legislative body of the LPM between annual Conventions. It requires an attendance of 30% of the membership for a quorum. This includes proxies. If there is no quorum at the scheduled starting time, the meeting will not be held. Instead, a meeting of the Executive Committee will begin right away so that business can be conducted.

All LPM members can vote at the Council meetings, but only the members of the Executive Committee can vote at Committee meetings. It is important that members show up on time for Council meetings.

At the Annual Convention, all members who register and attend may vote. There are no proxies. First-time members of the LPM must have been a member at least 30 days prior to the Convention in order to vote.

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