

# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN



818 South Forest Avenue  
Ann Arbor Michigan 48104



**TO:**

Janet Perkes  
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## ANN ARBOR LIBERTARIAN LEAGUE

1975

under the heroic leadership of J.L.H. would like to thank the following people for their ingenuity, bravery, and steadfast loyalty to the cause of freedom during the battles again the M.A.C.\* axis of the intellectual center of the mid-west, waged during year 5 A.F.L.P.\*\*

- Bob Garber - killer of Student Governments
- Rob Tannen - artist
- Gerry Wolke - missionary
- Alan Harris - musical poster hanger
- Alan Short - dreamy economist
- Mark Connard - quacking landlord
- Jim Greenshields - man of letters
- Brenda Manning - methodologist
- Michael Freese - man of pictures
- Messerieurs Vancurler & Smith - \$
- Virginia Cropsy - merry-maker

\*Mystic-Altruist-Collectivist  
\*\*After the Foundation of the Libertarian Party



# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

VOLUME III NUMBER 11

JANUARY 13, 1976



G.T. Wolke

SHRUG? I COULDN'T HOLD IT UP ANYMORE!

## editorial

*THE MORAL IMPERATIVE*

In three recent issues of *Business Week* magazine I read a serialized discussion of the impact of the growing surge of egalitarian attitudes in American society upon the future of business prospects. The articles dealt with the subject in the best Harvard business school manner of pragmatic, cost-benefit analysis: how much equality can the nation afford? What will be the effect of transfer payments on capital formation? Is there a more effective way of bringing about more equality? The articles went on in much this tone-matter-of-fact, calmly analytical. I nearly tore my hair out in moral indignation!

I have visions of an ante-bellum economist dispassionately sorting out the comparative benefits of wage vs. slave labor with some plantation owners: "But suh! No mathematical model can PROVE that productivity rises with free wage labor. What must be examined is the comparative cost and upkeep per slave vs. the total wages paid to the freeman over the same period of time." Of course, as must be obvious, what is missing here is the moral element. Is it right to enslave other people to obtain what you consider to be the good? Such a question once propelled great nations into war, including our own civil war. Today, it is a question that no longer seems to interest anyone, yet slavery is a real live potential issue because we have all become slaves today to one government or class or another. In between all the practical cost-benefit analyses, technical expertise, and "hard questions" there is the watergate mentality of end-justifies-the-means, opportunistic populists who will promise anything to get elected, anti-big government demagogues like Reagan who triple their state budget, raise taxes, and then complain about the growing bureaucracy, and daily disclosures of CIA, FBI, or IRS corruption and dishonesty. While politicians proclaim detente there are still nuclear missiles aimed like a gun at our heads this very minute. Government as a moral force is a joke and the people know it. Still, people crave some moral guidance however silly the source. President Ford's only claim to praise is his alleged "forthrightness and honesty". (I still wonder what he promised to be appointed president.) TV shows like the Waltons dispense quaint homilies of another age into millions of homes each week. Even the Church is making a comeback of sorts among the young. There is, as *Business Week* might put it, an unmet demand for morality in politics.

Who can fill this demand better than the party of principle? What is Libertarianism if not essentially a moral position? Isn't this what determines our position on nearly every subject that each individual is the sovereign of his own life to live as he pleases and that no one may initiate the use of force to obtain values which is life itself? This is the fundamental moral requisite of any society that calls itself civilized. It is also the defining principle of a libertarian. For anyone who wonders exactly how we differ from, say, conservatives, this is it in a nutshell. All the other points of agreement or disagreement on any issue are to us really secondary. Our issues don't describe us, our morality does.

The primary task of the Libertarian Party ought to be the persuasive dissemination of these moral principles. In the first place, many issues are difficult to attack on any other grounds. It is much more simple pragmatically to ban billboards from highways with the claim

that they despoil the landscape than to argue about possible invasions of property rights. Yet, a moral question is such mostly because there are basic principles at stake which cover a wider application than such trivial issues as billboards. Such moral questions are often quite subtle. Liberal pragmatists believe that poor upbringing in slum neighborhoods results in criminals yet they would not yet forcibly remove children from their families to raise in State nurseries to correct the problem. I say yet because one pragmatic solution leads to others. If one is really consciously designing society there is no limit to the measures one might take to reach the goal including the genocide of people one thinks of as undesirable. Billboards are trivial, genocide is not, but without moral questions of property, rights, and values a society can, and has, banned advertizing and people of a certain race.

Given the hunger that people exhibit for morality and the basic simplicity of our convictions it is easy to believe that people will clamber aboard our bandwagon, yet experience has shown how reluctant people are to effect even positive changes in their lives. Partially this is because many people have gained by using the State as gunman and cannot look past some immediate loss to their ultimate gain as a nonvictim. It is only a deep abiding conviction in equality of rights among men that can cause this change. The Libertarian Party can, and must, work for these kinds of moral attitudes. To do this we must always stress before anything else our moral position on any given issue including why we take such a stand. Pragmatic considerations should receive secondary emphasis. There is some danger that in today's world we will be considered crusaders, idealists, or religious zealots, so we must stress the rationality of our ideas: the moral and the practical are one, after all. It will take a little while for the public to understand what we're all about but I think that the idea of a party dedicated to moral principles will have tremendous novelty and appeal in this age of cynicism, boredom and despair. Basically, we have no choice. The major parties are masters of chicanery and issue exploitation. When people begin to realize that the lack of principle inherent in the power politics of the status quo has lead the world to the brink of destruction we will be present as the only alternative. A friend of mine whom I had introduced to Libertarianism once asked me: "can a society of noncoercion work in a complex world?" To this I answered "look around you and tell me what the society of coercion has given you." As Robert Nozick has said, "the Libertarian philosophy is irrefutable," and that is our ultimate strength. **BY GERRY WOLKE**

**PETITION WORKERS WANTED**

The National LP, and certain Michigan fat cat libertarians have given the LPM's ballot petition new blood, green blood. Again, anyone who may be able to work full time on the petition drive please contact me immediately and we can work out financial arrangements. **JIM HUDLER**

## FROM THE CHAIR

I have ranted and raved in the past about our conservative image, well get ready, because I intend to rant and rave again. A statement was recently made on the WXYZ David Newman radio show that should make every LPM member have anaphylaxis. On that program late last month someone asked Mr. Newman about the Libertarian Party.

Mr. Newman replied to that effect that we were a new conservative party on the Michigan political scene. In the name of Rothbard, Hospers, and Fran Youngstein, when are we going to give the public the impression that we are not a Puritanical, censoring, militaristic conservative group!

Now is the time and one method by which we can accomplish this transformation is to make an open appeal to the gay community. I offer this method because it can be accomplished without compromising our principles and because it can help our membership, ballot drive and treasury.

I say we can make an appeal to the gay community without compromising principle because I think a sizable portion of the gay community has libertarian leanings. In the December 17, 1975 issue of The Advocate, one of the most widely read and intellectual of the gay periodicals, the publisher Mr. D. B. Goodstein stated, "The sad thing is that the Republicans seem to think there can be economic freedom without political freedom, while the Democrats think the opposite. For gay people, I believe time is running out. If we don't take responsibility for obtaining our civil rights we will be the first scape goats in any repression, whether it comes from the Left or the Right. Thus, although I believe freedom is indivisible, I believe we must fight for our political freedom above all else. Our best chance is with the Democrats in 1976"

I say, let's tell Mr. Goodstein that the better of two evils is still evil, and that we intend to give gays and everyone else both economic and civil freedom.

Another persuasive fact concerning the libertarian leanings of the gay community is the origin of the California LP's candidate for San Francisco Supervisor, Lloyd Taylor, 11000 plus votes. According to Caliber, the California LP's newsletter, "a large proportion of Taylor's vote probably came from San Francisco's active gay community." Mr. Taylor was able to obtain the endorsement of the Sentinel, San Francisco's largest circulation Gay Lib newspaper. Ads were also run in the The Advocate. The time has come for the LPM to become known to the Michigan gay community as the only party that will stay out of their pockets and out of their beds. We should publicize in gay periodicals and print up leaflets stating our position on Gay Liberation. To do any less is to perpetuate our decadent conservative image. BY JIM HUDLER

## '76 PLATFORM DEFENDED

The recent criticism of the 1976 Libertarian Party Platform has been powerfully summarized by Florida Party Chairman Jim Toole in his article "Reflections on a Convention." (The Florida Libertarian, Nov. 1975). That article, in which Mr. Toole expressed fear that the new platform might signal the end of the LP's claim of legitimacy as a viable political alternative, drew approving remarks from no less a luminary of the libertarian movement than John Hospers. Both Mr. Toole's caustic criticism and Dr. Hospers's agreement are to me quite baffling.

The charge that the platform has been transformed into an anarcho-capitalist "manifesto" is totally unjustified. The platform merely avoids taking a stand on the anarchy-limited government issue. This silence allows persons on both sides of the issue to work together for their common ends without compromising their principles. It also precludes endorsement of the institutions of a limited government.

Mr. Toole also takes aim at the platform plank on the Middle East. He believes that it espouses moral neutrality and evinces a lack of concern for justice because it does not explicitly endorse the continued survival of Israel. This position is astonishing coming from a member of a party which champions the morally autonomous individual. A party stand on any moral issue other than the non-initiation of force is a transgression on the moral independence of any party members who disagree with that stand. Since the platform explicitly calls for an end to governmental restrictions on private aid to foreign countries, it actually promotes individual "concern for justice in the affairs of other people."

Mr. Toole's comments on the property rights plank seem to imply that the notion of hereditary guilt was endorsed. In fact, the plank merely says that restitution should be made to property owners who have had property taken away from them by coercion. This is a proper recognition of the fact that payment of a thief for goods he has taken does not give one a legitimate claim to those goods.

The article concludes with a discussion of the attitudes of the delegates at the national convention. Mr. Toole says that the delegates "ignored the fact that a hierarchy of evils exists in today's world" and were "ready to lump the U.S. into the same category with the USSR and China."

It seems to me that the delegates' presence at a political event aimed at reforming the United States government shows that they recognize quite clearly the difference between the three countries. Would Mr. Toole have us commend the government for the fact that it has not yet established concentration camps for political dissenters?

In conclusion, no Libertarian need hope with Mr. Toole that the sound, consistent principles of the 1972 platform will be once again advocated by the Party. They already have been-- in the '76 Platform. by ALAN SHORT

# Libertarian 'party'

(an account of the New Year's Party) CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For those who weren't there,  
You missed an affair.

Libertarians,  
Satantarians.

Here a homophile,  
A heterophile,  
There an autophile,  
Everywhere a phile.

Sexual relations,  
Council on Foreign Relations,  
and jubilant elations,  
at political liberations.

Harris conducting Strauss,  
Listener quiet as mouse.

Movies to Freeze by,  
Breath death to die by.

An Italian joke,  
To make you choke,  
Randy please get my coat.

Then suddenly entered,  
A swan most unfettered.

Plots to make all Pine,  
except one, who simply resigned.

Baumpy eyes circled,  
A Short-Chair giggled.

You missed an affair,  
You who were not there.  
JAMES L. HUDLER

\$\$\$\$\$\$

Jan. 16-A.A.L.L.\* Taped lecture

by Robert LeFevre on  
Collective Ownership

23-A.A.L.L. "Rock-Plus-  
Maninoff = 0," by Alan  
Harris, (musical anal-  
ysis of S. Rachmanin-  
off).

28-Metro-Detroit L.P.M.  
meeting at the Bonanza  
Steak House on 11 Mile  
and Greenfield in South-  
field at 6:30 p.m.

20-Washtenaw County L.P.M.  
meeting at the Best  
Steak House on State St.  
and Liberty St. in Ann  
Arbor, 6:30 p.m.

30-"Women's Liberation: A  
Libertarian Movement,"  
by Kay Augustin at 8  
p.m. in the Michigan  
Union on the U. of M.  
campus. Sponsored by  
A.A.L.L.

Feb. 8-Patrons of Reason meeting  
at 2 p.m. in the home of  
Ron Trosty, 4562 Ottawa  
Dr., Okemos, MI. Just  
east of Lansing. Call  
349-2428.

\*Ann Arbor Libertarian League,  
1015 East University, A<sup>2</sup>,  
8 p.m.

## PARTYING DOWN

To the Editor:

Party image is a subject that has been batted about both in the pages of this newspaper and at county and state meetings. So far the discussions have only led to greater animosity between the different groups and factions in the Party. Has all this hot air done anything for the Party? Not really!

This organization was founded as the Libertarian Party, a political Party for those of a Libertarian persuasion. Being a political party implies that we are, or intend to be, in the political arena where one would expect a party to be. As a party we can have an educational arm to enlighten the public on Libertarianism in all of its forms; but also as a Party we can reach out to the voters. For example, as a party we could take advantage of Justice Kavenaugh's remarks recently about decriminalizing the "vices." But no, we seem to be too busy arguing about whether or not we should work on the petition drive.

Above, I stated that we are a Party for those of the Libertarian persuasion. It may come as a surprise to some that Objectivism and Libertarianism are similar but not the same thing, and that one can be a Libertarian and be either a deist or an atheist. Too, Libertarianism does not require one to be either minarchist or anarchist. Carried to its logical conclusion, Libertarianism is anarchistic, but a limited government society is not incompatible with our basic convictions. All that is really necessary is that a person subscribe to the principle of noncoercion. (or the Michigan Libertarian--Ed.) After we have convinced people of the virtues of Libertarianism and after most of the government has been eliminated, then and only then can we afford to argue about keeping what's left.

The Libertarian Party in accordance with the Statement of Principles has no room for bigotry- racism, sexism or whatever. What is our image if we read aloud almost unintelligible letters from some allegedly pro-Party admirer, especially if it appears that the reading is for the "humor" of listening to English words grafted onto a slavish sentence structure? What is our image when our meetings are punctuated with snide remarks about anarchists and anarchy? What is our image when non-libertarian persons or organizations are called "those commies," or like epithet? Or what about those whose job, time, or personal reasons prevent them from taking part in some Party function being dismissed as traitors to the Party?

This crap has got to stop! Perhaps some people will not like to see this in print in the Party paper. To them I say, "Where else?" We have more important things to discuss at State Board Meetings. Our future is serious business, therefore we must conduct ourselves in a business-like manner. If this is impossible, then let us dissolve the Party until such time as enough mature people can get together and resurrect it! by JIM GREENSHIELDS



## LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

Back during the mid-1960's, both liberals and conservatives were intrigued by Milton Friedman's negative income tax proposal. Friedman's plan would abolish the "welfare" administrative bureaucracy with all its waste and inefficiency. To receive aid, the poor would merely complete modified income tax forms and mail them to the IRS as most wage earners are now required to do. The IRS, in turn, would send checks to the poor, both working and nonworking, to cover their expenses according to a formula approved by Congress. The normal IRS audit procedures would expose welfare "chislers." The program's appeal was its simplicity, economy, and restoration of "dignity" to poor persons "victimized" by "fate."

The negative income tax has been resurrected several times for serious consideration as a method to augment (rather than replace) the existing welfare empire. Richard Nixon, when President, included the partial implementation of the negative income tax among the goals of his administration.

What prompted this article is the following lines on the 1976 tax relief bill in the December 29, 1975 issue of U S News and World Report: "Congress extended the so-called earned-income credit granted for 1975 to low-wage people with children... Individuals whose earned-income credit reduces their tax liability on 1976 incomes below zero will receive a check from the U.S. Treasury for the difference in 1977." In other words, the negative income tax was slipped into law among the fine print of a tax reform bill without any fanfare.

The effect of the negative income tax as originally outlined by Friedman would be to make the welfare distribution system more efficient, not a commendable achievement from the libertarian point of view. Robbery victims are hardly consoled by the fact that the gang's use of the latest techniques decrease it overhead. The way the negative income tax concept was adapted to add another group of participants to the redistribution con game is even worse. Now families earning up to \$8000 annually are automatically on the government "take" and will be new advocates of forever increasing the size of the dole.

By Kay Augustin

New Sale From Alpine Enterprises! Box 766, Dearborn 48121

1. Conceived In Liberty by Murray Rothbard (Vol I) \$11.25
2. Conceived In Liberty by Murray Rothbard (Vol II) \$11.25
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6. The Pseudo-Science of B.F. Skinner by Tibor Machan \$7.46

Prices shown are 25% off list prices except for #4 which is at full price. Available at Metro-Detroit Meetings or through the mail. (add 25¢ postage per book)

## Reason Mailing Results

Thus far the LPM has netted over \$200 and twenty-one new members from a mailing made to the Reason magazine subscribers. Last month, Kay Augustin, Pete McAlpine, and James L. Hudler drafted a fund-raising letter to the Reason subscribers. Sent along with the letter was a pamphlet and a blank petition. Among the new members are big and small businessmen and professionals.

## Karl Bray jailed

Noted Libertarian tax rebel Karl Bray has been jailed in Utah. He has been convicted of possession of IRS seizure stickers and willful failure to file a tax return. Karl is appealing the latter conviction, the Supreme Court having refused to review the former.

Mr. Bray would appreciate receiving reading matter such as letters or books. Those who wish to correspond may write to Karl Bray, c/o Salt Lake City County Jail, 450 South, 300 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. Books must be sent directly from a publisher or book dealer. It should be borne in mind that Big Brother will probably examine all mail received by Karl.

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# S. C. C. MINUTES

The December meeting of the State Central Committee was concerned primarily with the newsletter. At this session, Gerald Wolke was appointed editor of the Michigan Libertarian, thus bringing to an end a long search. A Statement of Purpose was also drawn up at this meeting to clarify the aims of this paper. It reads as follows: "The purpose of the Michigan Libertarian shall be to promote and report on activities and goals of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, and to report on political events, activities, and current issues of interest to Libertarian Party members."

Some further discussion concerned a plank on jury duty which was passed at the 1975 State Convention, yet was not recorded as part of the new platform. The State Central Committee decided that this omission should be recognized and corrected.

In addition, the committee decided to purchase some of the MacBride/Bergland campaign buttons, to be sold by the state party, and also to purchase copies of the new leaflet entitled "A New Dawn in Presidential Politics." This leaflet, in addition to supplying information about the Libertarian Party, includes information on our presidential and our vice-presidential candidates.

BY JOAN WEAVER

### JURY DUTY PLANK

We also propose the elimination of compulsory jury service and the subpoenaing of witnesses, since such service constitutes involuntary servitude.

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## Michigan Libertarian

The Michigan Libertarian is published monthly as the official newsletter of the Michigan Libertarian Party. Subscription rates are \$3.00 annually for 12 issues.

All letters to the editor will be considered for publication unless otherwise requested by the author.

The calendar of events is a service to subscribers. Entries will be published upon receipt.

The Michigan Libertarian welcomes all contributions of interest to Libertarians:

- Description of newsworthy events: just the facts, please; just the facts!
- Political cartoons: black and white on 3" x 3" white board.
- County bylines: what's happening in your county.
- Special features: poetry, commentary, etc.

Space is limited. To improve chances for publication make all contributions as short as possible.

DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS THE THIRD WEEK OF EACH MONTH.

### STAFF

GERRY WOLKE-editor  
KAY AUGUSTIN  
JAMIE HUDLER  
PETE McALPINE  
ALAN K. SHORT

### Libertarian Party

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James L. Hudler - Chairperson  
Kay Augustin - Vice Chairperson  
Barbara Rowe - Secretary  
Alan Short - Treasurer

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#### Members at Large

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