

MICHIGAN

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Liberal Inconsistencies

by Stephen Gordon

According to recent arguments, liberals and progressives must think the freedom of speech portion of the First Amendment only applies to organizations, but not individuals. Likewise, the Third Amendment only protects cities from troops being quartered in homes; the individual homeowners are not protected.

Miranda rights are no longer to be read to the individual arrested, but to entire racial or socio-economic classes. Basically, if liberal arguments are to be consistent, the first eight amendments to the Constitution deal with collective rights, not individual ones.

Paul Helmke of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence makes my case :

Judges who avoid decades-old precedent, dismiss express constitutional language as being irrelevant and ignore "outright, general public sentiment and the long-standing values of the community" have been criticized by and called "black-robed usurpers" by Bob Barr over the years.

But Barr likes the U.S. Court of Appeals decision in *Parker v. District of Columbia*, which for the first time in American history declared a gun law unconstitutional based on the Second Amendment, even though that ruling does the following:

1) Ignores binding Supreme Court precedent. In the 1939 case of *Miller v. United States*, the U.S.

Supreme Court indicated that there was no Second Amendment right independent of "some reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well regulated militia." The Second Amendment "must be interpreted and applied" in such a way as to support the "obvious purpose to assure the continuation and render possible the effectiveness of such forces," the court held.

The judges writing for the majority in the *Parker* ruling don't even mention the *Miller* case until halfway into their decision, and then ignore its holding. As the dissenting judge in *Parker* made clear, *Miller* "succinctly - but unambiguously - set down its understanding of the Second Amendment" and this court did not follow. If this Appellate Court can treat precedent of nearly 70 years so cavalierly, what other changes might we see in the coming years?

2) Discounts the express language of the Second Amendment. While the Second Amendment has only 27 words (and three commas), many try to ignore its opening clauses: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State." To the District of Columbia circuit judges, this "prefatory" language defines a "salutary civic purpose" only, but does not mean anything in the way of limiting "an individual right to keep and bear arms."

In contrast to the liberal position, on the subject: "The Second Amendment clearly outlines the right

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Liberals from page 1

for individuals to keep and bear arms. This ruling by Judge Silberman is certainly a breath of fresh air for all Americans concerned about their constitutional rights."

I'm not surprised that this line of reasoning came from the Brady Center; they are obviously opposed to the right of self defense.

This really highlights a significant difference between Republicans, Democrats and Libertarians. Republicans tend to like certain elements of the Bill of Rights, but ignore or are openly hostile to others. Democrats have their favorite

amendments, but are hostile to others. Libertarians support each and every individual liberty protected by the Bill of Rights.

*Stephen Gordon is the Communications
Director for the Libertarian Party*

Speakers' Bureau Update


by Jim Allison

At the beginning of my term as Membership Director, I made it a point to focus on the long-dead speakers' bureau program. I set out with a modest goal to book ten speaking engagements before the end of the year, which I

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NEW PILGRIM CHRONICLES

BY BRIAN WRIGHT
(“THE FREEDOM RIDER”)



“A passionate manifesto ... this book asks the hard questions, and delivers no-holds-barred answers. With engaging candor, earthy language and his trademark irreverence, Brian shares roadside reflections as he settles into the Free State of New Hampshire. *Great ride!*” — *Therese Hercher, Michigan State University*

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2007 State Convention

The 2007 State Convention will be held May 5, 2007. Registration for the convention will be free. Hospitality Packets are \$5.00 (Coffee, Agenda, Registration Docs, Munchies) each. A banquet will follow in the evening (keynote speaker not yet confirmed).

The convention has also planned a social event on Friday at the West Michigan Whitecaps Minor League Baseball game. Played at the Fifth Third Ball Park, Grand Rapids. 6:30 pm game time and tickets are \$8.50 each.

Overnight accommodations are available, contact the Grand Rapids Airport Hilton in Kentwood at (616)

957-0100. They are offering a \$79.00 per night –single or double occupancy rate. Specify you are with the Libertarian Party to obtain this rate. Reservation Deadline is April 16.

Check the state website for an online form to sign-up and register.

More Information

Eric Larson - LPWM Chair
Phone: 888-Free-Now
Email: ellarson0@comcast.net

www.lpwm.org/stateconvention
www.whitecaps-baseball.com
www.grandrapids.hilton.com

Bush Announces an Iraq & Afghanistan Exit Strategy

by Andrew Wrenbeck

Reports have leaked that the Bush Administration has designed an exit strategy for the quagmire in Iraq. Bringing an end to the war long after the ending of major combat was declared aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln in 2003. Iraq has also celebrated it's first free democratic elections and can now be considered a "Fledgling Democracy."

President Bush will unveil the coalition forces' strategy for exiting Iraq in a few weeks in conjunction with the Department of Defense.

The administration has formulated a plan for a rapid and nearly full withdrawal of U.S. and coalition troops from Iraq and many troops from Afghanistan.

The withdrawal will be rapid and nearly the full US military will be involved, as they will leave through Iran.

Since the military has deposed and assisted in executing Iran's enemy Saddam Hussein, should be welcomed with open arms by the small country and it's citizens.

Since we have obviously accomplished every one of our goals in Iraq, it's time to bring our men and women home via Iran. This will make Americans equally loved by Iraqi and Iranian people. There is an added bonus that the withdrawal is estimated to have hundreds of billions of dollars over the next three to five years. Bush's plan has met with widespread support.

Rush Limbaugh, on his national radio program claims that this move has proven that "President Bush had a strategy all along and anyone who claimed this was an 'endless war' was wrong.. wrong.. wrong.. How can one possibly find flaw with our fearless leader now, who himself is a war-time pilot from the Veitnam era."

The map at page bottom shows

the path the troops will take through Iran, to the Tehran International airport. Some will head South to board ships and come home via sea.

Out of convenience, most of the troops in Afghanistan will head home at the same time. Since finding Osama Bin Laden has become low priority, there is no reason to keep those troops away from their families either.

President Bush said "Afghanistan and Iraq are big victories over evilness, and bad people in general it is good news that our troops will get a nice break from the day to day grind of warring as they

march home through the beautiful oil-rich Iran." He is also pleased with "the high level of strategy that went into the plan."

The President also claimed that the allied victory was certain from the start because "terrorists are stupid and stupid people are easy to beat at war."



Attention Residents of Hillsdale, Jackson & Lenawee Counties

I will be putting an effort toward restarting the South-Central affiliate of the LPM. This area of current and massive future population growth has been ignored over the last few years, and I want to restart an active and powerful Libertarian core to attract new members while keeping current members interested.

This can not be done without some sacrifice and effort. **I can not do it alone.** If you want more freedom in an area that is known for it's loud and proud libertarians, join me. We can do it, and we can build a party the entire state will envy. We can get Libertarians elected, and we can bring our issues to the front of the debates.

My current goal is to hold our first meeting in early June to get the ball rolling.

Contact Andrew Wrenbeck at
libertarian2@mac.com

Macomb County Elects New Officers

The Libertarians of Macomb County met on March 14th to elect new officers. Their top activist and former vice-chairman, Dan Flamand, has replaced Jim Allison as chairman. Jim Allison was selected to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Marnie Edwards will remain Treasurer, going for her 12th year in that role. Keith Edwards was elected to serve as Secretary, replacing Wendy Morisi. Wendy was elected to an At-Large Director position. Nicole Michalak was re-elected as an At-Large Director, and new activist Tom Workon replaced Joe Zemans as an At-Large Director.

FBI is Abusing Patriot Act

Now there's a shocker!

by Andrew Wrenbeck

An internal Justice Department report has accused the Federal Bureau

of
Investigations
of
underreporting
its use of the
Patriot Act.
(surprise
surprise!).

Apparently,
the FBI is
under
reporting the
amount of
times it has
forced
businesses to
turn over
customer

information in terrorism cases, according to sources familiar with the report and its findings.

The report also says the FBI failed to send follow-up subpoenas to telecommunications firms that were told to expect them, according to several government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to the AP's reporters.

The FBI underreported the number of national security letters it issued by

about 20% between 2003 and 2005, the officials said. In 2005 alone, the FBI delivered nearly 10,000 letters relating to over 3,500 U.S. citizens and legal residents.

The Patriot Act, pushed through Congress by the Bush administration after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, allows the FBI to issue national security letters without a judge's approval in terrorism and espionage cases. The letters require communications companies, Internet service providers, banks, credit unions, credit bureaus and other businesses to produce highly personal records about their customers or subscribers.

It is unclear as to whether the omissions would be considered a criminal offense, even though it is obvious that they are as such. The FBI claims that it concluded that the problems appeared to be unintentional and that FBI agents would probably face administrative

sanctions instead of an indictment. Would you face criminal charges if you committed the same "errors?"

The audit is required by Congress with objections from Bush administration. It contains classified information about how the government pursues terrorists, spies and

apparently regular law abiding citizens in the United States.

This story originally went out from the AP on March 8 (at 11:30am). How much have you heard about it from your main news source? Is the real crime the FBI's underreporting of the Patriot Act abuses, or is it the Fourth branch of the government's underreporting of the FBI's mistakes?

More info: news.myway.com



More 2006 Election Analysis

by Leonard Schwartz

The number of candidates on the ballot is the best indicator of a small party's grass roots support.

In Michigan the Libertarian Party again had more candidates than the Green Party and the Constitution Party (called the US Taxpayers Party in MI) combined.

Libertarian - 62

Green - 30

Constitution - 28

Likewise nationally the Libertarian Party again had more candidates for federal and state legislatures than the Green Party and the Constitution Party combined.

US Senator

Libertarian - 18

Green - 14

Constitution - 7

US Representative

Libertarian - 114

Green - 45

Constitution - 28

State Legislator

Libertarian - 272

Green - 111

Constitution - 75

Governor

Libertarian - 19

Green - 20

Constitution - 11

In the seven US senator races with Libertarian and Green candidates, the Libertarian got more votes in five. In the six races with Libertarian and Constitution candidates, the Libertarian got more votes in two. Michigan's Leonard Schwartz was the only Libertarian candidate for US senator who got more votes than both the Green and the Constitution candidates.

In the nine governor races with Libertarian and Green candidates, the Libertarian got more votes in three. In the six races with Libertarian and Constitution candidates, the Libertarian got more votes in two. Gregory Creswell was the only Libertarian candidate for

governor who got more votes than both the Green and the Constitution candidates.

Speakers from Page 3

thought would be challenging but reachable.

As of the writing of this article, we have had eighteen speaking engagements! I could not have reached my goal without the volunteers that have come forward to make this program a success. Jeff Hampton has spoken at nine classes so far: three at Clarence Senior High School in Livonia, and six at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Bill Bradley, who volunteered to cover the southwest section of the state, spoke at four classes at Brandywine High School. Bill Gelineau spoke to one class at Grand Valley University. I spoke to four classes at Utica High School. It turns out that I seriously underestimated how effective our libertarian speakers would be!

We are not done yet by any means.

I firmly believe that this program needs to be pushed further and further. My mailing list of high schools is very small. The more schools that I contact, the more students our talented speakers can reach. I currently have mailing lists for Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. If you live in a county that is not listed above, you can be a great service to this program by sending me the names and addresses of the high schools in your area. This information is usually located in the front portion of your phone books. If you can transcribe them and send them to me in an Excel file, that would be wonderful. I will also accept photocopies of the pages, or the torn out pages themselves, mailed to me.

I would love to have the name and address of every school in Michigan to keep our speakers very busy next year.

You can email me at: marthos@yahoo.com or mail the pages to 13329 Common, Warren MI 48088.

C l a s s i f i e d s

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