

# California Freedom

September 2008 — The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

## Winning Elections

### LPC Holds School Board Seat

by Norm "Firecracker" Westwell

Although it's not yet November, I've already won my re-election campaign to the Ocean View School District. It's over. Thank you to everyone who assisted me.

It was an easy race. Two seats were open, and only the two incumbents filed. Thus, there will be no election for this race. I scored a walk-on win, because no one believed they could beat me. That's what happens when Libertarian elected officials win the trust of the voters.

This victory saves me the vigor of campaigning over the next three months, and saves my school district (taxpay-

ers) about \$87,000 in election costs.

The \$2,000 spent on my candidate's statement will be refunded after the November election.

The teachers union endorsed and supported my campaign. It surely helped that they did not field any opponents. I think the unions have come to realize that I support their right to organize as much as I support free markets.

I will soon begin my campaign for a seat on the Huntington Beach City Council. Four seats will be open in 2010. Three incumbents will be termed out. Thus, 2010 will be a great opportunity for me

to win a city council seat.

Former Libertarian John Briscoe, who also sits on the Ocean View School District's Board of Trustees, has successfully filed a candidate's statement to run this November for the Huntington Beach High School District. If he wins his race, our district will fill his current position by appointment.

I'm seeking qualified candidates (ideally, a Libertarian) to fill Briscoe's current seat. Just in case.

Do you know anyone?

**Norm "Firecracker" Westwell** sits on the Board of Trustees of the Ocean View School District. His email: [normw@modernpublic.com](mailto:normw@modernpublic.com).



## Fighting Taxes

### Seaside Activists Seek Utility Tax Repeal

by Lawrence K. Samuels

The Seaside Taxpayers Association submitted 450 signatures on July 15, 2008, to qualify a ballot measure to repeal the city's 6% utility tax. Eugene Lee, a former high school teacher at Seaside High and chairman of the Seaside Taxpayers Association, said it was time to

end this so-called temporary tax that should have expired in the 1990s.

Former Seaside mayor Lance McClair said, "The 6% utility tax was supposed to be temporary." McClair is surprised that Seaside's utility tax is still being collected.

*continued on page 5...*



LP member Eugene Lee, chairman of the Seaside Taxpayers Association, submits 450+ signatures to the Seaside City Clerk, July 15, 2008

## November Elections

### Prop 8 NO

by Rob Power

On August 2, the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of California voted unanimously to endorse No on Proposition 8, which would amend the California Constitution to eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry.

The "No on Prop 8" Campaign Committee's ballot argument includes the following phrases:

- "equality, freedom and fairness, for all"
- "would deny lesbian and gay couples the same dignity and respect"
- "just not fair"
- "only marriage provides the certainty and the security that people know they can count on in their times of greatest need"

Libertarians, while sympathetic to "equality, fairness, dignity, respect, security in times of need," etc., typically do not consider it the role of government to provide these things to individuals. So, why should



libertarians oppose Prop 8?

Because Prop 8 is un-libertarian.

Libertarians oppose the use of government for social engineering. Taxing everyone, including gays and lesbians, but then only giving the benefits of those taxes to straight people, is nothing short of a redistribution of wealth from a disfavored group to a favored group.

Some people mistakenly believe that same-sex couples can easily replicate the benefits of marriage via private contracts. But no private contractual equivalent of marriage exists. Same-sex couples who attempt to go the private contract route must spend thousands of dollars on legal and filing fees, to get only 90% of the way to where opposite-sex married couples are after paying just \$50 for a marriage license.

This is the "redistribution of

wealth and social engineering" aspect of government marriage. This alone should convince any libertarian to vote No on Prop 8.

But there's also the "equal protection" aspect to consider, because some things are more important than the immediate net size of government, even to Libertarians.

Regrettably, just a week after ExCom voted to oppose Prop 8, Adam Summers of the Reason Foundation wrote in his Libertarian Perspective op-ed:

*continued on page 4...*

## INSIDE

Forgotten Genocide	3
Free Trade Coffee	4
Prop 99 a Sham	5
DVD Reviews	6
Root Embraces Gays	7



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## From the Editor Repudiating Racism

by Thomas M. Sipos

On July 29, I discussed the Libertarian Party at Los Angeles Trade Tech, a college in downtown L.A. Representatives from the Green Party and Peace and Freedom Party also gave talks.

As in June at Glendale Community College, I addressed issues of interest to youth, such as our opposition to drugs laws, war, and imperialism. I also said that hate crime laws are counter-productive, and that most Americans voluntarily, even passionately, fight bigotry. I distributed my Libertarian Perspective op-ed on the issue: <http://ca.lp.org/lp20061128.shtml>.

Whenever a group opposes hate crime laws, the suspicion arises that that group has a secret, bigoted agenda. To prove otherwise, I cited the case of Sonny Landham.

Landham was the Kentucky LP's candidate for U.S. Senate. Then on July 21, Joseph Gerth of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* quoted Landham as saying: "We should go and bomb those camel-dung shovelers back into the sand.... I said 'camel-dung shovelers.' Make sure you put that in the newspaper."



They did. Here it is: [www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080721/COLUMNISTS21/807210407](http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080721/COLUMNISTS21/807210407).

Soon thereafter, Landham twice appeared on the *Weekly Filibuster* internet radio show. IndependentPoliticalReport.com said Landham expressed "support for genocide against Arabs and Muslims... called for an end to all immigration from Arab and Muslim nations, nationalization of businesses which employ 'illegal' immigrants, and nationalization of rental property of landlords who rent to them.... a call for economic nationalism and protectionism, particularly of the steel industry. Landham said that the federal government should reorganize the economy as a partnership between unions

and corporations while erecting barriers against the international flow of goods and labor and using total war—including weapons of mass destruction—to acquire resources it considers 'vital' on behalf of its corporate-trade union-military-industrial axis."

Full transcripts of Landham's radio interviews are here: [www.independent-politicalreport.com/2008/07/sonny-landham-kentucky-libertarian-for-us-senate-defends-camel-dung-shovelers-comments-on-youth-radio-show/](http://www.independent-politicalreport.com/2008/07/sonny-landham-kentucky-libertarian-for-us-senate-defends-camel-dung-shovelers-comments-on-youth-radio-show/) and here: [www.independent-politicalreport.com/2008/07/sonny-landham-calls-for-genocide-of-all-arabs/](http://www.independent-politicalreport.com/2008/07/sonny-landham-calls-for-genocide-of-all-arabs/).

Poor vetting by the LPK. The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) reported that as early as two years ago, Landham told *Intelligence Report*: "Abdul, Fuzzy Wuzzy, and rest of the camel jockeys are our enemies.... We should bomb every man, woman and child in the Muslim countries. They're hiding weapons and breeding terrorists. We need to commence genocide in the region. Islam is not a religion."

See the SPLC report (which describes Landham as a former LPK candidate): [www.splcenter.org/blog/2008/08/06/arab-bashing/](http://www.splcenter.org/blog/2008/08/06/arab-bashing/).

I spoke at L.A. Trade Tech shortly after the LPK (after a week of hand-wringing) repudi-

ated Landham. I was glad to tell these students that, while the LP supports even the rights of bigots, such people are unwelcome in the LP. No statist laws required to fight hate.

Alas, days after my talk, the LPK un-repudiated Landham. Trey Pollard of *PolitickerKY.com* reported that: "The vote to re-nominate Landham as a Libertarian came about because [LPK chairman Ken] Moellman said it was not the party's goal to kick Landham off the ballot entirely when removing their nomination. 'There are other factors involved here. It's more for the third party and independent movement in general,' said Moellman during an appearance last week on the *Weekly Filibuster* radio program. 'While that is not directly related to the LP, we have some concerns in that regard.'"

I'm glad I didn't have to explain Moellman's "reasoning" to the students.

Fortunately, the LPK re-repudiated Landham a few days later. To follow the whole circus, here's a good place to start: [www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2008/08/lpky-repudiates-landham-again/](http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2008/08/lpky-repudiates-landham-again/).

Pollard's report here: [www.politickerky.com/treypollard/1219/landham-rejected-second-time-libertarian-vote](http://www.politickerky.com/treypollard/1219/landham-rejected-second-time-libertarian-vote).

Some observations:

*continued on page 5...*

## From the LP Women's Caucus Saving Our Natural Resources

by Barbara "Joy" Waymire

As we have advanced in the technological age, with each invented gadget making our everyday tasks easier, we did not look at what this would create in the future. The high demand for electricity, natural gas, oil, paper products, and so on, increases as we use more and more.

We have raped the Earth to provide for our wants, not just our basic needs.

We continually hear of quests for alternative energy sources. But the sad truth is, no matter what is found, it will never be enough to supply our demand. We have created a vicious circle of find-use, find-use.

It is time to decide what is truly beneficial and necessary to sustain life, over those things that just drain our resources.

Consider the explosion in



paper-related products; used once, then tossed out. Before Kleenex, everyone used handkerchiefs. Reusable by washing. Before feminine products, old cloths were folded, and washed, and reused.

Before toilet paper there were many forms of cleansing oneself, water being the most popular, leading to bidets. In the tundra, they used moss in the spring and summer, snow in the winter months. The use of toilet paper has only been around for about 128 years. Today the world produces 2.7 rolls per second, every day of

the year.

That is billions of rolls each year. What a waste of our natural resources.

For about \$25, an adapter can be added to your commode, acting like a bidet. Always feel fresh and clean, eliminating the need for constant hand washing and hand creams. No more over-the-counter remedies for itching, etc. or trips to the doctor. Like a mini-shower every time. A perfect use of washcloths: personal drying towels.

Sit down and add up what you spend buying toilet paper each year. Is it really worth it for what it has done to our resources?

We are in hard economic times, with foreclosures, tight money, etc. It is time to return to ways that do not abuse our resources. Yes, it may not be as convenient, not using paper towels, swiffer pads, etc. But the savings to your pocket

book and our resources will make an impact.

The LP Women's Caucus has a website: [lp.org/mailman/listinfo/lpwomen\\_lp.org](http://lp.org/mailman/listinfo/lpwomen_lp.org). Barbara "Joy" Waymire is Secretary of the Gold County LP and a member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers. Her email: [joys\\_jpcnews@yahoo.com](mailto:joys_jpcnews@yahoo.com).

# Your \$\$\$ Buys Liberty

LPC activists are fighting statist repression and speaking truth to power—but LPC dues don't cover all expenses. We need YOUR \$\$\$ to kick statist butt!

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## Letters to the Editor

### Americans Are One

American or not?

To answer this, we must remember what our Founding Fathers meant with this terminology. To be an American meant you came from a land that was made up of all heritages, united as one nation, one people, one language. They knew that a nation divided among itself would never stand.

Over time, this has changed drastically. We have become a nation divided among itself. No longer is there one language for communication between all the people. No longer do the people of this great nation call themselves Americans. The people now call themselves Black Americans, Red Americans, Yellow Americans, etc.

There is no such thing! You are either American or not. Period!

If we do not correct this, this great nation will fall and then what will you do? It is time to stand together as Americans. One nation, one people, united for freedom, before it is too late. Stop the division of the people between our borders. We can be the great nation our Founding Fathers envisioned, but only if we work together.

— Barbara “Joy” Waymire  
Calaveras County, CA

### YOUR Letters Welcome!

But we can't publish what we don't receive.

Please submit your letters to:

[editor@ca.lp.org](mailto:editor@ca.lp.org)

*“The beauty of the second amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it.”*

~ Thomas Jefferson

# The Forgotten Genocide

by Eric Margolis

Coinciding with Ukraine president Viktor Yushchenko's visit to Ottawa last May, the Canadian government announced plans to recognize the mostly forgotten 1932-1933 genocide in Ukraine.

For eight decades, the greatest mass murder in modern history has been shamefully covered up or ignored. I have been repeatedly shocked to receive letters from young Americans and Canadians of Ukrainian descent saying they had known nothing about the 1930s genocide, or “Holodomor.”

From 1932-33, Stalin, and henchmen Lazar Kaganovitch and Vyacheslav Molotov, conducted a merciless campaign to crush resistance by Ukrainian farmers to Communism and collectivization. They isolated Ukraine, then cut off all food supplies and seeds. Six to nine million Ukrainians died from the ensuing man-made famine and mass shootings of “anti-State elements” by secret police execution squads. Cannibalism became common.

Large numbers of Ukrainians were also murdered during the Great Terror of 1936-38 in which an estimated 2 million Soviet citizens were shot, and the same number died in Stalin's concentration camps.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Soviet penal system reached its zenith: 5.4 million people were prisoners in the gulag. Some 300,000 more Ukrainians were sent to concentration camps under the supervision of Commissar Nikita Khrushchev, and 21,259 were killed in Soviet “pacification” campaigns against independence fighters. Other Ukrainian nationalist leaders were assassinated in Western Europe by special Soviet hit teams.

During the same period, Moscow unleashed terror on the tiny Baltic states. From March to May 1949, 95,000 Lithuanians, 27,000 of them children, were sent to concentration camps. In total, 120,000 Lithuanians, 50,000 Latvians and 30,000 Estonians went to the gulag where the death rate was 51% per annum.

While the Western world rightly commemorates genocide inflicted on Armenians, Europe's Jews, Cambodians, Rwandans, and Bosnians, it shamefully shut its eyes to the Ukrainian Holodomor because

it was conducted by a key wartime ally whom President Franklin Roosevelt hailed as “Uncle Joe.”

Nor has the West ever acknowledged genocide against other peoples of the Soviet Union. In the Caucasus, Stalin sent most of the Chechen and Ingush peoples to the gulag, where 500,000 died. Yet when the children of the survivors fought for independence from Russia, the West branded them “Islamic terrorists.”

Up to three million Muslims of the Soviet Union died at Stalin's hands, including 1.5 million Kazakhs and Crimean Tatars. Yet no holocaust memorials exist for them.

Nearly 100,000 Moldovans were murdered in a purge conducted by then Commissar Leonid Brezhnev, who would later lead the Soviet Union and be feted by Western leaders. Add to this butcher's bill Volga Germans, Greeks, Cossacks, Armenians and Poles.

If we keep demanding that Germany and Japan atone for their wartime crimes, is it not time for our governments to finally recognize and atone their alliance with the biggest mass murderer in history, Josef Stalin, a man whose crimes exceeded those of Adolf Hitler by a factor of at least three or four times? Particularly so in the U.S., where World War II has become something of a state religion and is endlessly invoked by conservatives and neocons to justify foreign military adventures.

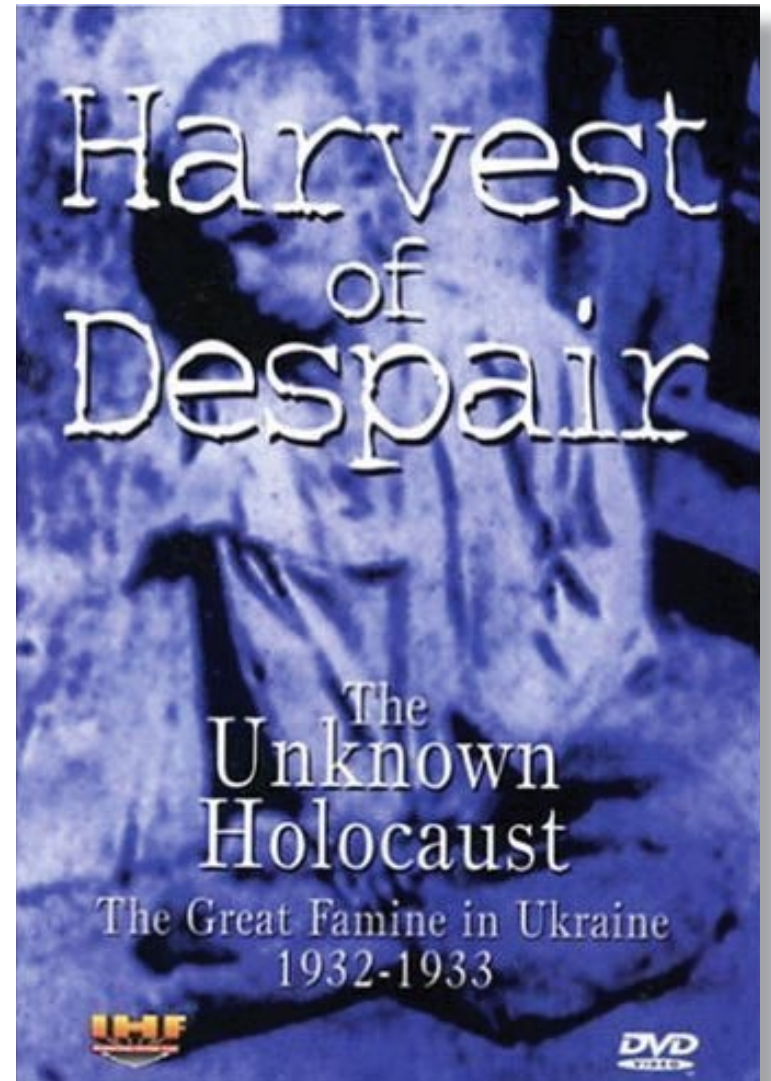
Neither Roosevelt nor Churchill cared to admit they had allied themselves with a greater criminal than Hitler to wage their “Crusade for Freedom,” nor that the price of this compact with the devil was giving Eastern Europe to the Soviets. In the end, the Allies destroyed a lesser threat, Germany, and in doing so, created a greater one, the nuclear-armed Soviet Union.

Roosevelt's and Churchill's alliance with Stalin, whom they knew to be a mass murderer and tyrant, in my view denies the Allies any claim to have been waging a “just” or “good war.” When the lingering clouds of wartime propaganda finally dissipate, future historians will likely look back on the western Allies as not much morally superior to Germany or the USSR, though certainly less murderous.

Communists and leftists everywhere joined in covering up Stalin's crimes. For example, to the end of his life, Jean Paul Sartre kept insisting Stalin's gulag was a fiction created by western propaganda. The official Communist Party line was that the deaths of millions of Ukrainians was simply an unfortunate natural disaster that also affected other parts of the

Not a single Soviet official was ever indicted for the crimes committed by the state from the 1920s to 1953, though many Cheskesti were liquidated during Stalin's purges.

Canada's recognition of this historic crime is important for two reasons. First, Canada is one of the world's most respected nations. Its acknowledgment of the Holodomor will be heard around the globe. Second, nostalgia for Stalin is on the rise in today's Russia. His memory and politics are being rehabilitated. Russians



To learn more see *Harvest of Despair* on DVD

USSR.

In North America, intense attention to the Jewish Holocaust tended to push all other national historic tragedies into the background or completely eclipse them. The fact that during the 1930s, many senior officers of Stalin's Cheka, or secret police, were Jewish, including Kaganovitch, led to ferocious reprisals against Ukraine's Jews in the following decade. As a result, Ukrainians were branded “anti-Semites”; their suffering received scant sympathy.

Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky demanded a Nuremberg trial for all the Soviet crimes, but unfortunately this will never happen. Most of the criminals are dead. The Soviet Eichmann, Lazar Kaganovitch, died peacefully in Moscow in 1991; Molotov died in 1986.

must to be reminded of his crimes and reign of terror.

In “les abus de la mémoire,” the Bulgarian-born French philosopher Tzvetan Todorov, who studied the Jewish Holocaust, wrote: “Life cannot withstand death, but memory is gaining in its struggle against nothingness.”

**Eric Margolis** was born in New York to a Jewish father and Muslim mother. He holds degrees from Georgetown University, NYU, the International School of Geneva, and the University of Geneva. During the Vietnam War, he served as a U.S. Army infantryman. He is the author of *War at the Top of the World: The Struggle for Afghanistan and Asia*. His email: [margolis@foreigncorrespondent.com](mailto:margolis@foreigncorrespondent.com).



# Outreach for Fun & Profit

## Free Trade Coffee

by Donna Orlando

Jesse Thomas and I both spend much time in San Diego's coffee houses, conversing with patrons about politics and offering the libertarian perspective. We also enjoy attending Meetup events, which often occur in—you guessed it!—coffee houses and cafés.

What could be better than to own our own coffee house? Thus was Café Libertalia born.

Previously, the location housed The Internet Place, an internet café in the city of San Diego's Hillcrest section. Hillcrest is a highly-concentrated "village" type of area, with residences, small businesses, and a variety of retail establishments.

After Jesse and I renamed the store Café Libertalia, we expanded the business. In addition to coffee, we now offer light food, baked goods, gelato, and sorbetto. We also converted the storage space in the back of the store into a

meeting/event/classroom area, which is used by a diversity of groups.

On any given month, we host groups such as 9/11 Truth, Kabbalah, "Think and Grow Rich," the Humanist Fellowship, the Humanist Association, SoCal Business Exchange, Democracy for America, Tai Chi classes, local theatre company rehearsals, and others. Our proudest moment was hosting the LPC Executive Committee quarterly meeting on August 2, 2008.

In addition to hosting outside groups, we organize our own programs, such as Sunday night movie screenings and acoustic guitar-vocalist performances. Soon we'll be adding a series of Mises Institute lectures on DVD.

Our café sports an obvious libertarian atmosphere. Movie choices lean toward those with a libertarian message. The literature provided for customers'



Jesse Thomas and Donna Orlando outside their libertarian oasis

reading pleasure has a libertarian bent. As the café gets more established—it *is* growing in the right direction—we plan to organize more libertarian-oriented events.

Many people assume the name "Libertalia" was inspired by the café's libertarian philosophy. Instead, the name derives from "Libertalia" (aka "Libertatia"), reputed to have been a free colony forged by pirates, under Captain James Misson's leadership, in North Madagascar in the late 1600s. These pirates were anti-stat-

ist, waging war against states and lawmakers, attacking their ships, sparing prisoners and freeing slaves.

We hope all this is reflected in the spirit of the café.

Customers say they enjoy their time spent at Café Libertalia. They seem to "get" our intention to create an "everyday oasis" where people can be who they are, do what they like, and feel comfortable and at-home, without being judged. We think that, in itself, is a valuable advertisement for libertarian values.

**Donna Orlando and Jesse Thomas** both belong to the LPC's ExCom. Donna Orlando's email: donna@cafelibertalia.com.

### Prop 8 NO

continued from page 1...

"gay rights activists are wrong to petition the government for 'equal' marital status. This demand merely perpetuates the politicization of what should be a private issue. Gay rights activists would better serve their interests by arguing that the government should not be in the marriage business in the first place." See: <http://ca.lp.org>

org/lp20080813.shtml.

To understand why Summers is wrong, consider this thought experiment: The year is not 2008, but 1948. The issue is not whether to grow government by allowing gays and lesbians into government marriage, but instead whether to grow government by allowing black children into government schools.

Now change Summers's statement to read: "black civil rights activists are wrong to petition the government for 'equal' government schools. This demand merely perpetuates the politicization of what should be a private issue. Black civil rights activists would better serve their interests by arguing that the government should not be in the education business in the first place."

Despite being opposed to government schools, most libertarians would be horrified to see such a pro-segregation argument coming from the Reason Foundation. Yet they are less surprised when a nearly identical argument is made regarding gays and lesbians.

Clearly, some libertarians still have a blind spot on gay civil rights issues.

Nonetheless, California libertarians can oppose social engineering—and simultaneously improve libertarians' image in the gay and lesbian community—by visiting NoOnProp8.com and signing the "Vow to Vote No" petition.

There will also be a "libertarian night" at the "No on Prop 8" Campaign phone banks. Libertarian volunteers can phone registered Libertarians to oppose Prop 8, while also showing gay and lesbian voters that they can count on Libertarians to defend their equal protection under the law.

That's how you build a "big tent" political party.

Please volunteer for the campaign, and vote No on Prop 8 this November.



**Rob Power** is the Chair of the San Francisco LP, National Chair of Outright Libertarians, and a member of the LPC ExCom. His email: rpower@ca.lp.org.

## Raise your Cup to Coffee Club Members!

We want to thank the following members who have stepped right up and joined the LPC Coffee Club since its kick-off. A Coffee Club member donates a minimum of \$42 per month or \$500 or more each year.

- |                |                     |                  |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Kelly Barnes   | Zander Collier, III | Chuck Moulton    |
| Bob Barr       | Curt Cornell        | Rich Newell      |
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## Here's My Pledge to the California Coffee Club!

**Yes!** I'll donate the price of a cup of coffee every working day and pay for it with a monthly pledge.

- One cup a day = \$ 42 monthly
- Two cups a day = \$ 84 monthly
- Three cups a day = \$ 126 monthly
- Five cups a day = \$ 210 monthly

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**Please Join our Coffee Club**



**Seaside Utility Tax**  
*continued from page 1...*

“Unfortunately,” said Lee, “governments do whatever it takes to perpetuate the flow of taxpayer dollars, even at the expense of good fiscal judgment and truthfulness.” He added that Seaside has a serious problem with an “over-generous retirement program.” Almost 40 Seaside public employees make over \$100,000 a year, a 144% increase since 2006. “Paying more and more in taxes is like trying to fill a bucket punctured with holes,” Lee said.

Seaside recently received a huge infusion of money. Measure R, the 1% sales tax increase that was passed earlier this year, is estimated to provide a new revenue stream of approximately \$6 million this fiscal year. The repeal of the utility tax will return a little over \$2 million to Seaside citizens.

Furthermore, the Seaside Taxpayers Association claims that at least half of the 6% utility tax is illegal. The city of Seaside never put the utility tax up for a vote by the people, as required under the Jarvis-Gann Amendment.

Most cities do not tax utilities, because it appears that the state of California never gave cities this authority. Only a court case can settle this dispute.

More details at: [www.SeasideTaxpayers.org](http://www.SeasideTaxpayers.org).



**Lawrence K. Samuels** is Vice Chair of the Seaside Taxpayers Association, Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Monterey County, and a member of the LPC ExCom. His email: [lawsamz@hotmail.com](mailto:lawsamz@hotmail.com).

# Protecting YOUR Property

## Prop 99 Proven a Sham

by Lawrence K. Samuels

Last July, the city of Baldwin Park’s Project Area Committee announced that it would begin the formal process of seizing approximately 100 homes by eminent domain to benefit a politically connected developer.

During the June election, proponents of Prop 99 dismissed charges by critics that the measure included several loopholes that would allow governments to continue seizing private property from unwilling sellers to give to a private developer.

“The Prop 99 campaign told us that their ballot measure protected our homes from eminent domain abuse,” said Cruz Baca Sembello, a Baldwin Park homeowner. “So how come I am losing my home to a developer’s bulldozer?”

The California Alliance to Protect Private Property Rights has identified two cities that are actively seeking to undermine Prop 99’s purported intent:

(1) The city of Baldwin Park plans to seize over 300 businesses and 200 homes by eminent domain. Some of the local property owners were featured in TV commercials opposing Prop 99 and supporting Prop 98, a competing measure sup-

ported by advocates of private property rights.

(2) The city of Vista, located in north San Diego County, has refused to guarantee local homeowners that their homes are exempt from an ambitious redevelopment project that involves the use of eminent domain.

The Institute for Justice (IJ) was among several organizations that were critical of Prop 99 for including loopholes and exemptions that will allow modest homes and productive businesses to be seized by eminent domain. IJ’s analysis had concluded that Prop 99 would allow public agencies to circumvent purported home protections by rezoning residential neighborhoods to business/commercial property designations.

The California Alliance to Protect Private Property Rights is dedicated to halting eminent domain abuse and was a proponent of Prop 98, a *real* eminent domain reform ballot measure, which appeared on the June 2008 ballot opposite Prop 99. For details visit: [CalPropertyRights.com](http://CalPropertyRights.com). Or contact: Marko Mlikotin, River City Communications, (916) 444-8781.

*“One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws, but conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.”*

~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**From the Editor**  
*continued from page 2...*

• When I spoke at L.A. Trade Tech, there were maybe two white kids in the class. The rest were Asian, Latino, Indian, black, etc. The future face of America. (One student asked about the LP’s immigration policy; I said most of us favor open borders.) If we are to convince these future Americans that the LP is not a party of middle-aged white men, who oppose hate crime laws for the wrong reasons, we must *demonstrate* our goodwill through behavior.

Which begs the question: *How far is “the party of principle” willing to compromise to “get votes”?*

• Landham is a former Hollywood actor. (*Predator, 48 Hours*) Celebrity has long been cited as a “magic bullet” solution to “getting votes.” If Landham’s faded D-list status was a reason for the LPK’s slipshod vetting, it demonstrates the mess that can arise when a starstruck party is obsessed with “getting votes.”

• Lance Brown organized an online petition to pressure the LPK to drop Landham:



Photo: Thomas M. Sigros

**Multiethnic American students at L.A. Trade Tech, with teacher Denise Munro Robb**

• One blogger defended the LPK’s foot-dragging, citing potential ballot access problems for other LPK candidates if they repudiated Landham. A Los Angeles LP officer retorted: *“The Kentucky LP made this shit sandwich--now they must eat it.”*

• Would the LPK have so hesitated had Landham called for genocide against blacks or Jews? What about Mexicans or gays?

• Some “libertarian” bloggers defended Landham, saying he was “a great candidate” because he was more popular in Kentucky than “the entire LP.” Maybe. Muslim-bashing may indeed be popular in Kentucky.

<http://lancebrown.org/libertarians-against-landham-petition>. Some bloggers complained that out-of-state Libertarians should not interfere in LPK matters. True, up to a point. But the *entire* LP’s reputation suffered from a *non-existent* association with Lyndon LaRouche. Thus, it’s appropriate for any Libertarian to speak out when they feel that their party or philosophy is misrepresented.

• One blogger complained that pressuring the LPK to oust Landham was a party “purge.” But again: *How far will “the party of principle” stretch its “big tent” in order to “get votes”?*

*continued on page 7...*

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*“For most men life is a search for the proper manila envelope in which to get themselves filed.”*

~ Clifton Fadiman



## DVD Review

## Selfish Goals, Altruist Gains

Review by Eric Leaver

*There Will Be Blood.*

Cast: Daniel Day-Lewis, Barry Del Sherman.

Director: Paul Thomas Anderson.

Daniel Plainview is evil, murderous, deceiving, hateful, and abusive. Such is the protagonist of Paul Thomas Anderson's 2007 film, *There Will Be Blood*, loosely based on Upton Sinclair's 1927 novel *Oil!* The film is also a remarkable demonstration of how laissez-faire capitalism works to benefit consumers, despite efforts to the contrary by so-called robber barons.

Plainview is a man driven to succeed financially. He wears a firearm to his one-man mine in the middle of nowhere. His first stop after an almost fatal workplace injury is not to the physician, but to sell the ore he's dragged to town along with his own broken body.

His initial success leads to his supervising a team of oil drillers, one of whom dies in another accident (if nothing else, the film illustrates the hazards of mining), leaving Plainview to ineptly care for the worker's orphan, H.W. Far from being motivated by altruism, Plainview has H.W. earn his keep as a silent and valuable prop in his land negotiations.

The faux father/son team's work culminates in a cunning plan to "make real money" through their oil-drilling busi-

ness. As shrewd and ruthless as Plainview is, he labors under the thumb of "big oil," which controls the means to effectively transport any oil, including Plainview's. Plainview thus hatches a plan to bypass the railroad monopoly, and build a pipeline to the sea.

Superficially, the film appears to be an indictment of laissez-faire capitalism, with Plainview being the poster child for what's wrong with that economic system. He takes advantage of the poor, drains their natural resources, makes a handsome profit, and outmaneuvers opposition with questionable tactics. A self-proclaimed misanthrope, Plainview's satisfaction comes from denying success and gain to others.

But Plainview is hardly evil because of laissez-faire. He's evil because he's evil. And much of his wrongdoings (e.g., murder, assault, renegeing on contracts) violate common law, not the nuances of anti-trust and corporate regulations.

The extent to which laissez-faire allows Plainview to channel his misanthropic energies,

so as to deliver oil to consumers, must be recognized as being good. In the "anti-competitive" oil market of early 20th century America, Plainview is ultra-competitive. He is so concerned with besting Standard Oil, he invests enormous capital and assumes extraordinary risk. His irrational behavior in the face of a lucrative buyout offer emphasizes that the pipeline isn't so much about lining his pockets, as denying the same to Standard Oil.

To what end? Who benefits?

Consumers benefit. People like Plainview curtail corporate power under laissez-faire. Plainview symbolizes those entrepreneurs who would bring inexpensive goods and vast choices to the masses, even when those actions defy financial logic. Plainview is that deranged; that irrational. We should thank him for it.

*There Will Be Blood* was nominated for eight Oscars, winning Best Actor for Daniel Day-Lewis's depiction of Plainview, and Best Cinematography for Robert Elswit.



## DVD Reviews

## Resisting the Warfare State

by Thomas M. Sipos

If World War Two is romanticized as the Good War, for many Americans, Vietnam is its opposite. The romanticized Bad War.

Why would anyone romanticize a Bad War? It may be more accurate to say that it is the period's antiwar movement that is romanticized. And why is that?

It's hard to say. Not because there weren't reasons to oppose the war, but because the reasons were many and varied; intellectual and emotional, personal and cultural. The antiwar movement overlapped with politics, youthful rebellion, free love, psychedelic art, drugs, and great music. How many protesters were motivated by American self-interest, by Marxist sympathies, by fear of getting drafted, or by a desire to impress chicks and get laid?



Unable to secure permission to shoot at Columbia, the filmmakers "fictionalized" the book and relocated its events to politically friendlier San Francisco.

Bruce Davison plays a student on the college rowing team who, almost inadvertently, joins a student takeover of his college campus, motivated by the



Whatever the movement's motivations or darker side, it's understandable that today's antiwar activists look back with nostalgia at a moment in history when it seemed the common people had resisted the state's war machine—and the state blinked and backed down.

Two thought-provoking and entertaining films about Vietnam era antiwar protests are *The Strawberry Statement* (1970) and *1969* (1988), the former from that era, the latter a look back.

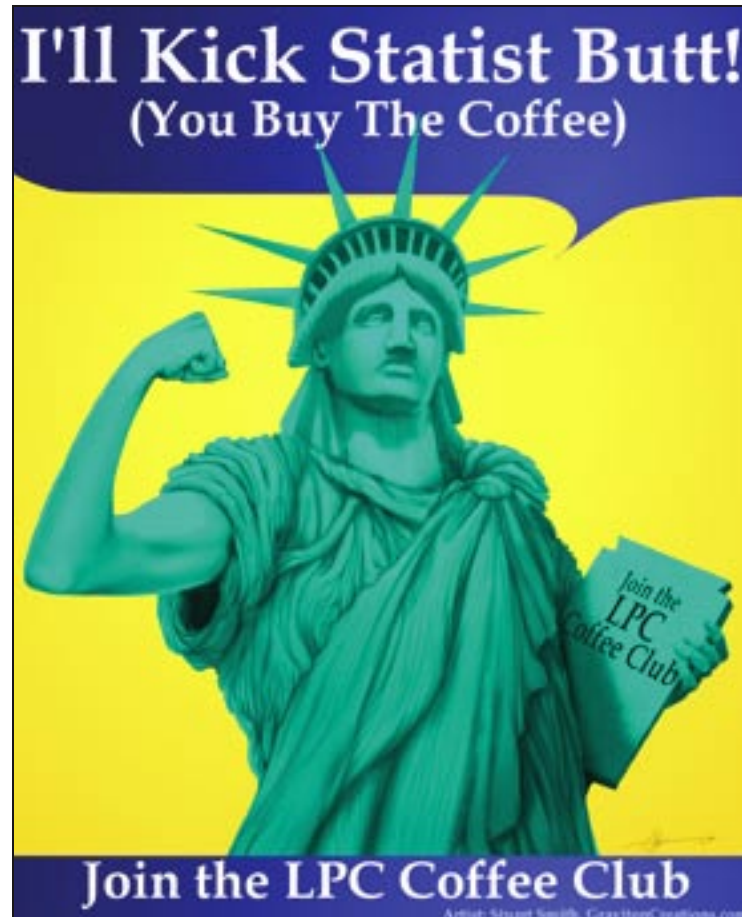
*The Strawberry Statement* is based on James Kunen's book of the same title, which relates his experiences at Columbia University (and elsewhere) during a student campus takeover.

excitement and the women. Kim Darby is the idealistic protester who eventually wins his heart.

*1969* also appears to be (very loosely) inspired by true events. Robert Downey Jr. and Kiefer Sutherland portray two college kids who try to avoid the draft by attending school. Their misadventures hit all the 1960s clichés: hitchhiking, pot smoking, OD'ing on LSD, breaking bread with naked hippies, and joining an antiwar college riot.

Events darken when Sutherland's brother dies fighting in Vietnam. Sutherland and

*continued on next page...*



This image available for purchase at [www.cafepress.com/libertykicks](http://www.cafepress.com/libertykicks)



Dr. Eric Leaver is a biologist in Davis, CA. His email: [eric2008@leaver.org](mailto:eric2008@leaver.org).



**War Films**

*continued from previous page*

Downey break into the Selective Service office to destroy their draft records, but are caught. Sutherland's father (Bruce Dern) disowns him. Downey is jailed. Sutherland heads for Canada with Downey's sister (Winona Ryder), with his mom's (Mariette Hartley) blessing.

1969 is a shamelessly sentimental film about middle-class American families who grow to oppose the war in a quietly patriotic and Christian way. They are not radicals. They attend Easter service, and join their minister at film's end in peaceful protest, with the police chief's sympathetic support.

Some of 1969 feels artificial, as if the film is forcing characters to behave according to cliché. The sudden fights on campus and in the Selective Service office feel faked. Other emotions feel authentic. Hartley excels at portraying a mother's frustrated grief and unfocused rage at losing her son to war. Dern skillfully portrays a father's quieter, suppressed grief. Sutherland and Ryder's growing romance is well-paced and poignant.

*The Strawberry Statement* is more cerebral and radical, unsentimental, noteworthy for its innovative camerawork and editing. It won the Jury Prize at the 1970 Cannes Film Festival. It ends not in peaceful protest, but in bloody violence.

Both films honestly acknowledge the darker side of the antiwar movement, which attracted people for the wrong reasons. Protest junkies and violence freaks. After the campus riot in 1969, in which Ryder is bloodied by a cop, Downey says, "That was fun!" And in *The Strawberry Statement*, a preppie, who'd beaten up Davison for being "a commie," later switches sides and joins the protest because "It was wild!" Davison also grows bitter and disillusioned when blacks mug him; "The people we're trying to help!" In white liberal fashion, he expects "the oppressed" to shower him with flowers.

Neither Left nor Right has

ever been consistently pro- or antiwar. It depends on who the U.S. is fighting, who it's defending. This point is acknowledged in 1969 when Sutherland says at his brother's funeral: "My father has medals in his desk to prove that he fought in a good war. And I'm proud of my father. I do not believe that this is a good war." Thus does Sutherland distinguish Vietnam from World War Two.



Whatever one thinks of past wars, those opposed to the Iraq War can view these films both for nostalgia and lessons to be learned: what past protesters got right, what they did wrong.

*The Strawberry Statement* is unavailable on DVD. Used VHS copies may be found on Ebay and Amazon.com. Kunen's book, and 1969 DVDs, are readily available.

**Repudiating Racism**

*continued from page 5...*

• Ironically, the Landham fiasco demonstrates the correctness of libertarian individualism, as opposed to the old Leftist paradigm of "white oppressor vs. black oppressed." Far from your typical skinhead, Landham claims Jewish and Native American ancestry. (Specifically, Cherokee and Seminole.) Nor were his targets black. He is a mixed heritage person of color, targeting other people of color.

I mentioned this at L.A. Trade Tech, telling the students that the U.S. is not a black and white country. Quotas, hate crime laws, and racial obsessions cannot be politically managed in a diverse society. Individual liberty is the only rational paradigm.

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**Making Good With Gays**

When Wayne Allyn Root first announced his run for the presidency less than two years ago, his position was that marriage was between a man and a woman. Later, like Bob Barr, Root claimed to have evolved toward a more libertarian position on gay rights. At the Denver convention, he promised Outright Libertarians (OL) that he would back his philosophical evolution with visible support.

Last June, now the LP's VP nominee, Root made good on his promise, marching with OL in the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Parade and Celebration, held on June 28 and 29.

OL national chair Rob Power said that OL fielded "about a dozen" marchers, and that overall parade and festival attendance was at 1.2 million according to Wikipedia.



Photo: Rob Power

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## Book Review

# Liberalism's False Liberation

Review by Angela Keaton

(*Their Lives: The Women Targeted by the Clinton Machine*, Candice E. Jackson, 304 pp, World Ahead Publishing, 2005)

Candice Jackson believes that at the heart of Bill Clinton's misogyny is liberalism. In *Their Lives*, Jackson profiles several women who were tangled in the Clinton sex scandals while explaining the ideological underpinnings of Clinton's behavior, and why so many were willing to rationalize his unacceptable treatment of women.

This is an intriguing analysis and Jackson is the right woman to provide such a perspective. She is not afraid to quote approvingly from a standard gender feminist work, while she remains an uncompromising libertarian. Name another women's studies or anti-Clinton book which cites Ludwig von Mises.

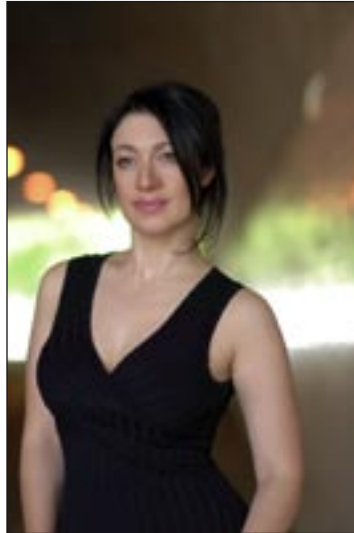
Yet Jackson need not limit the inherent sexism of the Baby Boomers to liberalism's fascist underbelly (e.g., "The cause of liberal misogyny is liberalism's acceptance and perpetua-

tion of dominance and control rather than partnership and co-operation."—p. 252). As much as I enjoy this theory, it could be broadened to include the attitudes of all men who came of age during the sexual revolution.

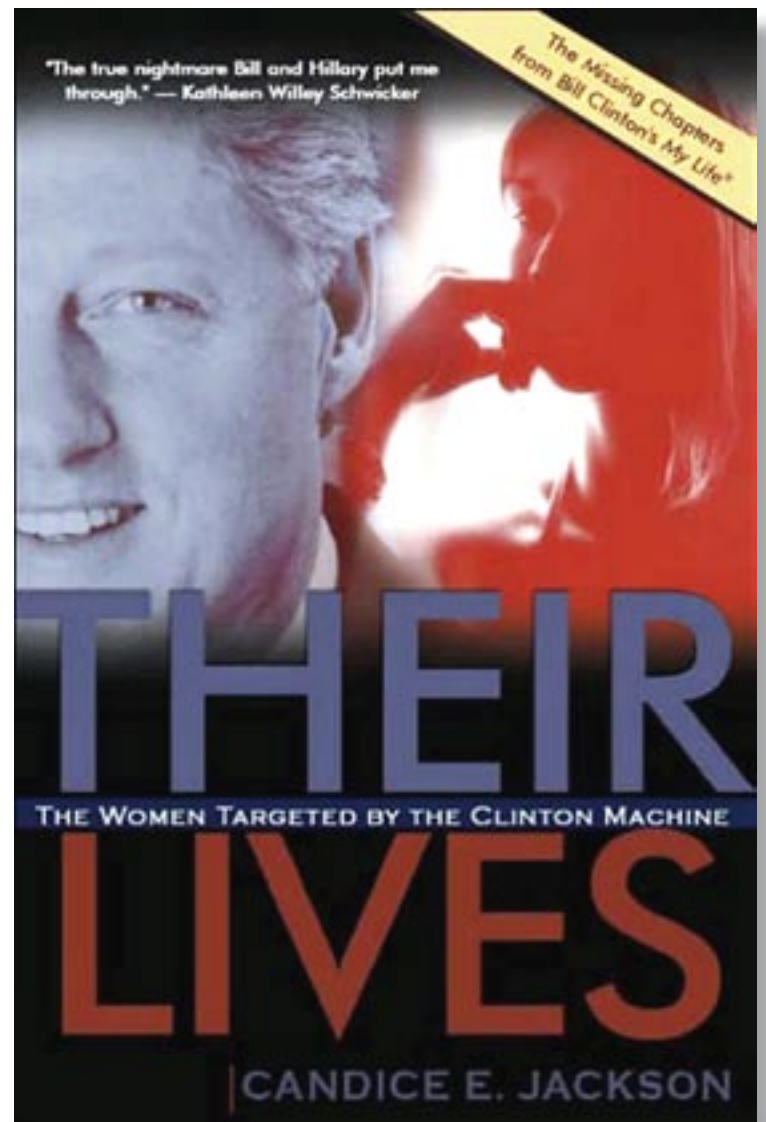
The changes in mores gave men a sense of entitlement, in contradiction to all of human history, that they can have all the sex they want for free. While there may be ample room for criticism of feminism, it is not a coincidence that Robert Anton Wilson, George Carlin, and others with a libertarian bent were anti-feminist. (Carlin, with his finger in the wind, has substituted anti-abortion activists as the punch line for one of his most misogynist jokes.)

Libertarians like to say that W is the worst president since Clinton. I'm indifferent, as it is a given that both are murderers. It never hurts, however, to be reminded that the monster

who took time out to bomb an aspirin factory during his impeachment hearing, sicced the IRS on ex-girlfriends, and possibly raped a campaign volunteer, really is a "big creep."



Angela Keaton is an At-Large Representative of the LNC, and a former Executive Director of the LPC. Her email: [angela@liberated-space.com](mailto:angela@liberated-space.com).



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Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

Donna Orlando serves up caffeine and liberty  
• Page 4

## INSIDE

- Forgotten Genocide **3**
- Free Trade Coffee **4**
- Prop 99 a Sham **5**
- DVD Reviews **6**
- Root Embraces Gays **7**