

California Freedom

August 2007

The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

Los Angeles LP Convention Draws Crowd, Shows Unity

by **Richard E. Venable**
Editor, *Los Angeles Libertarian*

The meeting room at Shakers Restaurant in Glendale was packed for the 3rd annual mini-convention of the Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County (LPLAC), held on Saturday afternoon, June 30. Libertarians from as far away as San Bernardino and San Diego counties, and state officers (LPC Chair **Kevin Takenaga**, Treasurer **Don Cowles**, and Southern Vice Chair **Zander Collier III**) attended the L.A. event.

Following a fundraising pitch for LPLAC, state officers promoted the Coffee Club, a program to pledge "the cost of a cup of coffee a day" to the LPC. At least five people in attendance were already Coffee Club members.

The agenda included the election of new officers and a proposed by-law amendment. Out-going LPLAC Chair **Mike Binkley**, who did not seek re-election due to moving to Orange County, nominated **Murray Levy**. Levy promised that as Chair he'd focus on local elections. Without opposition (although "None of the Above" is always a choice in libertarian elections), Levy was elected unanimously.

Bruce Dovner, **David Bowers**, and **David Wire** were elected as Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. None faced an opponent. Nor did the candidates for the three Judicial Committee vacancies: **Sarah Foster**, **David Larkin**, and **Ted Brown**. This



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

• Newly elected LPLAC Chair **Murray Levy** (left) and out-going Chair **Mike Binkley** (center) share a pensive moment.



• **Mike Binkley**, **Ted Brown**, and **Zander Collier III** prepare for intellectual combat during the LPLAC mini-convention.

lack of opposition, despite the many members attending the convention, any of whom might have run, demonstrates the unity that LPLAC has enjoyed over recent years.

Jason Gonella's proposed amendment to the county by-laws (establishing a procedure to change the boundaries for the eight Regions within L.A. County) likewise passed.

Ted Brown then moderated a debate between **Mike Binkley** and **Zander Collier** on the LPC's New Direction.

Collier observed that Libertarian candidates in partisan races drew a smaller vote percentage than those in local, non-partisan races. He advised focusing party resources on the latter. **Binkley** described his "2007 Plan for L.A. Activism," which he'd drafted after being elected Chair in 2006. It called for LPLAC sponsorship of regional projects (to ensure that projects were libertarian, ethical, and legal), and for expanding opportunities for members to participate in a role of their own choosing. LPLAC's forums—supper clubs, business meetings, website, and newsletter—would be available for project managers to make appeals for recruits, funds, etc.

Binkley has already implemented part of his Plan: a revamp of the *LPLAC.Org* website, funding of handouts for naturalization ceremonies, and promotion of projects in the *Los Angeles Libertarian*.

• See **LPLAC** page 4

Hundreds Rally for Ron Paul

by **Lawrence K. Samuels**
LPC Executive Committee

The 1988 Libertarian Party presidential candidate, Congressman **Ron Paul** (R-Tx), addressed an enthusiastic crowd of almost 1,000 in Mountain View, California, on Bastille Day, July 14. Following brief speeches by Antiwar.com editorial director **Justin Raimondo**, former IRS agent **Joe Bannister**, Iraq War veteran **Jose Wheeler**, among others,

"We need privacy for the people, not secrecy for the government"

Paul took the stage at Google's Charleston Park amphitheater.

Dressed in khakis and a yellow shirt, Paul opened with a denunciation of the War in Iraq, ar-



guing that "We need to resume the foreign policy of our Founders—minding our own business!" He then promised

to repeal the PATRIOT Act and Military Commissions Act, abolish the Federal Reserve and the income tax, restore *Habeas Corpus*, and stop warrantless spying on citizens. "We need privacy for the people, and not secrecy for the government," said Paul.

When someone asked what would replace the income tax, Paul emphatically replied, "Nothing! Without an empire and welfare state, we don't need these unAmerican exactions."

A darling of the blogosphere, the ten-term congressman often referred to himself as a "Constitutionalist," pointing out that "The purpose of the

Constitution is to restrain the government, not to restrain the people."

Many Libertarian Party leaders attended this event, including LPC Chair **Kevin Takenaga**. Afterwards, almost twenty LP leaders and members continued

their discussion at Kapp's pizzeria in Mountain View. ●

LAWRENCE K. SAMUELS is an At-Large Member of the LPC's Executive Committee and is the Co-Chair of Libertarians for Peace of Monterey County. His email is LawSamz@hotmail.com.

Photo: L. K. Samuels



• **Ron Paul** addressing supporters in Mountain View, July 14

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Liberty Begins at the County Level



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

by Kevin Takenaga

Over the past few months, since becoming your Chair, I've been traveling up and down the state, meeting with officials and members of local County Parties. Within three months I've visited Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties in the south, and San Mateo, San Francisco, Marin, Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Butte

counties in the north. These visits allow me to get a firsthand briefing on the activities occurring in each county, and I want to report on a few highlights:

- The LPOC (Orange County) is manning a booth at the annual Orange County Fair, meeting with voters and promoting the Party at this multi-week event.

- The LPSF is teaming with the Outright Libertarians to produce a radio campaign that will target GLBT voters in San Francisco.

- In Santa Clara County, the LPSCC is working with a local coalition to fight a potential raid of public funds for a professional

football stadium; corporate welfare at its worse.

- Newly elected LPLAC (Los Angeles) Chair, **Murray Levy**, is developing a plan to elect TWO city council members in the coming year.

- And finally, in San Diego, the SDLP has gathered enough signatures to put a recall on the ballot of a regressive harsh sales tax in National City, and will work in the coming months to ensure its passage.



If your county is working on a project to spread the fires of freedom, please let us know. Our two Vice Chairs, **Zander Collier** (Southern) and **Richard Newell** (Northern) are charged with coordinating county activities in their respective halves of the state, and should be kept abreast to further assist you. And in addition to myself and our two Vice Chairs, the At-Large Representatives are also planning visits around the state.

The heart and soul of the State Party are the County Central Committees, and their acts, large and small, done every day are the ones that deliver and reinforce our message of freedom to our fellow citizens. They need your help. ●

Should We Respect "Lines Drawn on Maps by Statists"?



FROM THE EDITOR

by Thomas M. Sipos

At the June 30 Los Angeles County LP convention, a gentleman suggested the LP support Rudy Giuliani for president. No one seconded his proposal. Nevertheless, his suggestion demonstrates that "war is the health of the state"; even libertarians eagerly surrender their freedoms when fearing a foreign enemy.

The gentleman also asked why there were no "pro-war" articles in *California Freedom*. (He actually said "pro-war," not "pro-defense.") He may be glad to see that in this issue **Brian Holtz** defends the war, writing: "The crucial question is whether the duty of a liberty-loving polity to defend human liberty vanishes completely at lines drawn on maps by statists. Some very principled libertarians say it does, but it's hard to see how that position is liberty-maximizing."

Holtz's word choice is intriguing. He doesn't say that borders are moral, albeit not moral absolutes. Rather, he characterizes borders as "lines drawn on maps by statists." He surely knows that in libertarian circles to characterize anything as "statist" is to impugn its validity.

Holtz thus appeals to libertarian purism to justify the Iraq War. But does he support, or even appreciate, his principle's logical conclusion? If borders are illegitimate, then tens of millions more Mexicans have an absolute right of entry into the US. So too the

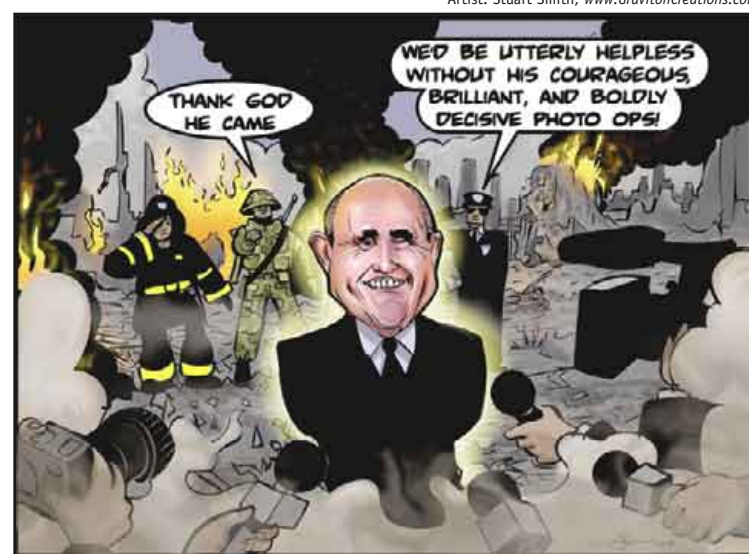


Muslims entering Europe. And the Palestinians seeking "right of return" to Israel.

Anarchists may laud Holtz for his principled disregard of "lines drawn on maps by statists," but would he welcome their praise? Most "pro-defense" libertarians support borders, so it's curious to see Holtz base an argument on their invalidity.

Of course, by imposing a collectivist "duty of a liberty-loving polity to defend human liberty," Holtz simultaneously contradicts his purism. What is a polity, if not a statist creation? (See how the American Heritage Dictionary defines *polity*.)

I'm sure we'll hear more from Holtz in the coming months. In the meantime, he does broach some difficult philosophical areas, however unintentionally. Nations



Artist: Stuart Smith, www.GravitonCreations.com

are collectives, antithetical to a purist individualism. Every nation's border contains some people who feel oppressed within it. It's unlibertarian to demand that people "love it or leave it." Yet by what right does one nation compel its citizens to "liberate" citizens of another nation—some of whom don't want to be liber-

ated, either because they like their collective, or because the price in lives and limbs is too high? (Yes, we have a volunteer force, but if someone enlisted to defend the nation, there was no contractual consent to be used for liberation.) And by what right

• See **Editor** page 5

The Awkward Discussion: Fund Raising for County Executive Committees (Part 2)



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Angela Keaton

County Executive Committees are the boot camp of libertarian politics. Leadership is developed, and priorities are set, on the local level. Here and here alone is where the most successful activists learn to ask the

one simple question that allows the fight for freedom to continue. Ask. Ask for money.

In last month's column, "Fund Raising Is Fun Raising," I covered the free-wheeling, basic techniques used by youth, leftists, artists, and bohemians. This month, I outline a plan of action for county affiliates.

First, leadership is the setting of an example. At the beginning

of their terms, executive committee members should publicly commit to giving or raising a set amount of money. Such a commitment can take many forms: a monthly pledge, making personal solicitation calls, or calling a specific amount of lapsed members per quarter.

If a county affiliate has not

• See **Keaton** page 4

Letters to the Editor



A Party by Any Other Name

I've tried to voice my fears for many years, but no one listens! This party of freedom lovers will never amount to a real threat to the established political movement until two things are done:

First, change our name! People think of Libertarians as "libertine rogues" who are pushing for free drugs, free sex, and anarchy. How about Constitution Party or Liberty Bell Party?

Second, push for UNITY with other small third parties. We need a much larger group of voters!

— Richard Zacher
Oceanside, CA

Editor's reply: A new name is an old idea, albeit never more than a passing suggestion—on listservs, blogs, letters to the editor, and gripes at supper clubs. The idea crops up, and is promptly forgotten. Too much effort, no sustained interest, and no agreed upon new name. Liberty Party is the only name I've heard suggested more than once. And there is already a Constitution Party.

Regarding third party unity, that might have greater potential if California were to allow fusion candidates, as in New York. There candidates can run on multiple parties and combine their votes. Some third parties thus influence major parties. For example, Republicans will often endorse a candidate who already has the Conservative Party's endorsement, since a candidate running on both parties will more likely beat the Democrat. Parties also trade endorsements. I've seen judicial candidates running simultaneously on the Conservative and Liberal Party lines.

How might fusion candidacies work in California? Imagine the LPC endorses Tom McClintock before the Republican primary. Given a choice between Schwarzenegger running as a Republican, or McClintock running as a Republican-Libertarian, Republican voters might consider the latter a stronger ticket and thus support McClintock in their primary. And come the general election, rather than a wasted vote, voting for McClintock on the Libertarian line would suddenly "count."

Or a peace activist could run as a Libertarian-Green-American Independent-Peace & Freedom-Natural Law candidate, thus unifying the antiwar constituency against the pro-war Republican and Democratic candidates.

I don't know if fusion candidacies would help the LPC. New York's LP is so tiny, it's been unable to wield the kind of influence enjoyed by the much larger Conservative Party. And until Sacramento changes the law,

it's all hypothetical.

In the meantime, how else might California's third parties work together?

Ron Paul Prepares LP for '08

People suffering from *anorexia nervosa* have a severely distorted vision: When they observe their emaciated bodies, they see fat. America's bipartisan political establishment suffers from an equally pathological hallucination. When all principal major party candidates—Clinton, Edwards, Giuliani, McCain, Obama, and Romney—look at the colossal U.S. military (America's defense budget equals that of all other countries combined), they see armed forces inadequate to carry out their schemes abroad. All of these candidates promise an even bigger military. (Senator Clinton has declared it "past time to increase the end-strength of the Army and Marines.")

The logic of their foreign policy nostrums is the funhouse mirror image of the logic of their domestic bromides: They answer failure with more of the same policy causing the failure.

Polls indicate a growing awareness of the intellectual and moral corruption of both major parties. A recent Gallup poll shows that more Americans see themselves as Independents (38%) than as either Democrat (34%) or Republican (27%).

An island of rationality in the sea of insanity on the 2008 campaign is Ron Paul, the LP's candidate for President in 1988.

Paul is the only GOP candidate, participating in the televised debates, who voted against the Iraqi invasion when it mattered most—*before* the invasion. When he reported blowback from federal government meddling in other countries, Paul caused a stir on the internet and among political pundits with 3-digit IQs. Jon Stewart (a libertarian), Tucker Carlson (a conservative-libertarian), Bill Maher (a liberal-libertarian), Lou Dobbs (a populist) and Steven Colbert (a fake populist) gave Rep. Paul sympathetic interviews on their cable programs. Pro-war, big-government toadies in the press, like Howard Kurtz, however, suggested that Paul be excluded from future debates—in favor of three GOP candidates who had professed disbelief in evolution.

Even if Paul fails to capture the GOP nomination, he could

serve as a stalking horse for the LP nominee. And the LP enjoys at least one candidate who seems well positioned to exploit this opportunity. Steve Kubby, the California LP's candidate for governor in 1998, possesses a solid understanding of LP principles. He can intelligently, passionately and humanely articulate libertarian views. He has also demonstrated strong personal and organizational skills in leading the successful passage of Proposition 215, California's medical marijuana measure.

What are the LP's chances for a breakthrough in 2008? The bipartisan political establishment has done its part by sinking deeper into insanity; many Americans see that. Libertarian-Republican Ron Paul has introduced rationality into what passes for political debate. And the LP enjoys at least one candidate who can exploit this new opportunity.

What are our chances? Never better.

— Mike Binkley
Laguna Woods, CA

Editor's reply: Assuming Paul doesn't surprise everyone by seeking the LP nomination at convention time, and assuming we can convince her to run, retired Air Force Lt. Colonel (and longtime Virginia LP member) Karen Kwiatkowski (Google her name) is a favorite of many libertarians. This former Pentagon officer saw firsthand the politicization of intelligence leading up to the Iraq War. Since retiring in 2003, she's been extensively interviewed by major media and respected opinion journals. She'd bring credibility and media attention to any presidential run.

As for Kubby, either he or George Phillies is preferable to Wayne Allyn Root, who, in a debate with Kubby on Angela Keaton's online radio show, called for a U.S. attack on Iran (that's *Iran*, not Iraq) if other means to halt Iran's nuclear program fail. The full debate may be heard at: http://www.blogtalkradio.com/hostpage.aspx?show_id=26918

To Err Is Human

Barbara and David P. Mikkelsen, authors of *Urban Legends Reference Pages*, fact checked the circulating Internet message regarding the fates of the Declaration's signers and found numerous errors as posted at: <http://www.snopes.com/history/american/pricepaid.asp>. We all can be more vigilant in checking facts in messages received before distributing them further.

Numerous errors in "Iraq and

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the Roots of Peace," by L.K. Samuels, which appeared on page seven of the June issue of *California Freedom* are exposed in "End the Jihadist War on America!" posted at: <http://ArtTuma.com>. Readers can find this article by clicking on the link by that name under the menu heading: "Dear voter."

— Art Tuma
Sacramento, CA

Antiwar Promotes the Left

I enjoyed the June issue of *California Freedom*. Many great articles. The one exception are the antiwar articles which seemed out of balance and suggest that the California Libertarian Party is against the war, or worse, sympathetic to the enemy.

The antiwar movement is controlled by the Left, which is seeking to bring down America as a free and independent country. It is not just Bush they are after.

Honest debate about the war is good. Especially about the PATRIOT Act and the form of government we are creating in Iraq. Broadcasting enemy propaganda as libertarian advocacy is not helpful. History indicates the result of the Vietnam War was not to defeat Communism in Asia, but to grow the Left at home. If that was the plan, it worked very well.

Free states are not created by antiwar movements, but they are useful in creating civil turmoil and rebellion to overthrow existing societies.

— Al Segalla
Copperopolis, CA

Editor's reply: My parents escaped from Communism—twice. First from

Hungary in 1956. They returned to visit in 1968 after "all was forgiven," whereupon Soviet tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia. My parents rushed out of Hungary again, fearing a border shutdown. My sister and I were in the back seat of the car.

I later visited Communist Hungary and Romania several times. I saw Communism firsthand, inspiring my anti-Communist novel, *Vampire Nation*.

In high school, before I was a Libertarian, I was a volunteer for New York's Conservative Party and a member of William F. Buckley's Young Americans for Freedom. In law school I was the campus rep for the Federalist Society.

Rest assured, I am savvy about Communism and the Left. I would not be antiwar if it helped Communism. It does not. Peace promotes liberty. War is the health of the state.

In 2004 I attended New York's massive anti-GOP protest. I saw several Communists distributing pamphlets praising North Korea. Perhaps they imagined they "controlled" the demonstrators. In reality these pathetic losers are barely able to control their own sorry lives, much less "the broad masses."

Although American history has been inconsistent, American libertarianism has a long tradition of advocating peaceful neutrality, from George Washington's farewell address to Murray Rothbard's writings. It would be a shame for libertarians to renounce their own heritage, merely because some Marxists agree with us now and again.

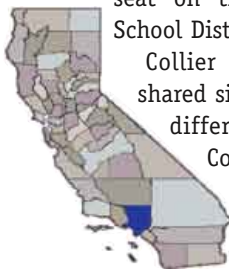
Most Americans oppose the Iraq War. They are not "controlled" by the Left. Nor will they be manipulated into "civil turmoil and rebellion" which will "bring down America as a free and independent country."

I appreciate that you support the war, but you can't expect libertarians who believe this war is based on lies, is destructive to liberty and human life, and is contrary to libertarian principles, to be swayed by what Communists think. (Who's to say *they* can't be *our* useful idiots!)

LPLAC

continued from page 1

Collier agreed that Libertarians must run for partisan office, especially at the state level, because enough votes there enables the LPC to retain ballot status. But those races are more expensive to win, so it's advisable to focus resources at the grass roots. Collier cited the case of **Norm "Firecracker" Westwell**, an Orange County activist who regularly attended Huntington Beach city council meetings, addressing local issues. Westwell ran unsuccessfully for city council and Congress, but later won a seat on the Ocean View School District.



Collier and Binkley shared similar goals, but different methods. Collier emphasized non-partisan races, with members promoting libertarian principles upon attaining office. Binkley urged members to tackle local issues under the Libertarian banner.

After the debate, state Chair Kevin Takenaga addressed the crowd, saying that Los Angeles is very important to the LPC, both as the largest county and as the location of the state party office. He praised Executive Director **Angela Keaton** for her great work in improving the office, and for working more hours than she is being paid. He urged members to volunteer at the office whenever possible.

Out-going LPLAC Vice Chair **Thomas M. Sipos** discussed his plans for *California Freedom*. He hoped to make the newspaper more interesting to readers, and invited members to submit articles on their local activism. He observed that before his tenure, controversy had been avoided, but he sought to show all sides of hot-button issues.

Also attending the convention were **Jay Jones, Audrey Carlin, Gwyneth Bear, Edward Bowers, David Larkin, Bob Weber, Sarah Foster, Eric Fine, Thomas E. Verkuilen, José Aguilar, Arde Atheian, Jose Casteñeda, Matthew Barnes, Martin McMahon (with Crystal), Jesse Thomas, Bruce Bell, Gail Lightfoot, and Richard E. Venable**. A few others were present, their names unavailable. ●

RICHARD E. VENABLE publishes the Los Angeles Libertarian, and has edited LPC News and Libertarian Alternative. He's enjoyed a long career in public and Navy journalism, and in public relations. His email: LPCNews@aol.com.

News You Can Use Campaign Literature: Your Silent Salesman

by John Briscoe
Trustee, Ocean View SD

Campaign literature is the "silent salesman" whenever the candidate is absent (most of the time!). It must sell your candidacy both (1) on your own merits, and (2) in comparison to your opponents' campaign literature.

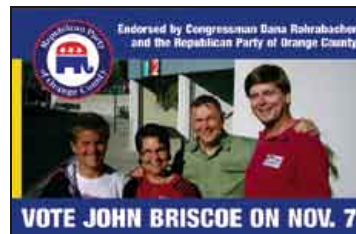
Select a good graphic artist. All your print material should have the same "look and feel." It must deliver name recognition and message content, without clutter.

Areas to consider:

Photos. Have a professional take several dozen pictures using high-resolution electronic cameras, under several lighting and background conditions. Formal business attire is advisable. White or light blue shirt or blouse, dark coat, and tie (pearls or a simple necklace for women).

Typeface. Select easily readable fonts. If the candidate's name has unusual letters, like *q* or *x*, special care must be taken to assure readability. The same typeface should be used on all print material, including yard signs, wall signs, and literature. This links your message across different media. Your typeface should differ from opposing candidates' standard use of Arial or Times Roman, thus distinguishing your candidacy.

Endorsement(s). Local opinion leaders' endorsements are a big advantage, and your literature should highlight key endorsements. It must scream: "If you like the endorser, you'll love the endorsee!" Include a photo of the candidate with the endorser if possible. A *family photo* of the endorser and candidate achieves two goals: it proves the endorser supports the candidate, and it shows the candidate's family in a wholesome way.



Issues. Ascertain which issues matter to the voting community. Select no more than three or four as your campaign's main talking points. They should be "mom, apple pie, and girl-next-door" issues that most voters would agree with. They must be personally relevant to the candidate so they can be addressed from the heart. And they should be unique to the candidate.

Literature Color. It should be eye-catching. If the background is white, then red and blue should predominate. If the text is black and white, then bright color paper should be used to draw attention. The extra cost of "bright" paper colors is worth the investment to make campaign literature stand out.

Types of Literature

Handouts. Doorknob hanging, car windshield posting, direct voter hand out, and mobile home

newspaper box posting. Handouts can be black and gray shades on bright color paper. Both sides can be printed, and can be half-sheet size (8.5 x 11 / 2 = 8.5 wide x 5.5 high). Handouts are your most widely distributed literature, and will require the most pieces and should cost the least per piece (approximately 4 cents per piece).

Direct Mail. Must be sophisticated and eye-catching—you're competing with dozens of campaign pieces arriving simultaneously. Prominent endorsements will entice voters to at least read your literature. If a local race is of interest for some particular reason, then the jurisdiction name

• See **Literature** page 8

Raise Your Cup!



The California Libertarian Party is proud to welcome two new Coffee Club members:

Brian Foster sweetened the pot by paying his membership up-front.

Brian Miller is the Chair of Outright California. Please visit our supporters at OutRightUSA.org.



Keaton

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had a prior fund raising program, their first program should allow for flexibility. Vital non-profits have diverse boards, consisting of people with different means and skills.

Second, metrics are wishes fulfilled. After solid commitments are made, an officer, ideally the treasurer, should track each member's progress in obtaining her goal. Goals and deadlines encourage achievement, as well as aid the chair and treasurer in planning budgets.

But mere dates and numbers will not equate to bigger treasuries. People do things because they are called, asked, and treated as living, breathing agents of change, not cogs of the Freedom Factory. Here is where top party officials shine with followup calls, pep talks, and advice to EC members new to fund raising. Please use the personal touch. Email should only be used to summarize phone conversations and meetings.

Third, as stated in my prior column, specific projects generate internal publicity and excitement. Executive committees should create scripts and menus

to aid fund raisers in personalizing phone calls and visits to potential donors.

Again, be flexible when approaching donors. Not all projects will appeal to all donors. Fund raisers must ask the right questions, listen carefully and take notes, and inform officers about individual donor interests. Alienating donors who are interested in electing local officials or in internal education, because your pet projects are Instant Runoff Voting or Smokes



For Tots, is a poor approach.

Finally, do not forget your regular donors. Thank your current monthly donors. Thank those who renew early and often, and appreciate your fellow EC members.

It's not collectivism to take pride in a strong, relevant, county affiliate. ●

ANGELA KEATON and her miscreant friends rotated office positions in both the University of Florida College Libertarians and the Libertarian Party of Alachua County. "We raised money, among other things..."

I Want to Join the California Coffee Club!

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LPC-2007-02-28



■ Because Ideas Matter

A Nation of Assimilated Immigrants



by **Thomas M. Sipos**
Editor, *California Freedom*

Immigration is a contentious issue because it perturbs many people's self-image and sense of acceptance. *Do I belong here? Am I as American as you?* Those are the unspoken undercurrents fueling the fear and anger over this issue. Yet immigration also raises legitimate concerns about the allocation of limited social services (education, health care), taxes, unemployment, wage depression, crime, and the environment. How to address those issues without sounding like a racist hiding behind those issues?

Some politicians and pundits hide behind the mantra: "Legal immigration yes, illegal immigration no," a neat way of both supporting and opposing immigration, while avoiding the real question: "Who *should* be legal?" How many do we admit, how quickly, by what standards, what consequences for those here illegally and what of their children?

If legality were the real issue, we could solve the problem overnight by legalizing everyone.

I'm going to avoid those questions too, because I have no easy answers. (At least I'm honest about it.) Instead, I propose we focus on a proven solution to all our past immigration problems: Assimilation.

To say America is a nation of immigrants is like saying the sky is blue. It's both true and irrelevant. Every nation is a nation of immigrants; people have been migrating across the globe

ever since we left Africa. Nor did the thirteen largely English colonies mean to establish a nation of immigrants. Many did not welcome America's first large Catholic influx in the 1840s, and Emma Lazarus's poem ("Give me your tired...") did not grace Lady Liberty until 1903.

More importantly, to say we are a nation of immigrants is an incomplete truth. A fuller truth is that we are a nation of immigrants who *assimilated*—who learned English, did not rely (through most of our history) on government safety nets, and sought to "become Americans" (a once-popular phrase).

Assimilation is not homogeneity. Marines and hippies, Jimmy Swaggart and Jim Morrison, are equally American. Assimilation is not conformity to Norman Rockwell, but an erosion of tribal empathy for one's ethnicity and former homeland as one feels increasing attachment for the host culture and its people. Assimilation is the reciprocal price the immigrant pays for the benefit of acceptance. (Reciprocal, because contrary to the stereotype of discrimination always being a white or American thing, immigrants from all nations import their own share of prejudices.) Assimilation is the opposite of both rightist nativism and leftist identity politics; the former rejects the newcomer, the latter rejects the host.

America's strength has never been its diversity, but its ability to overcome diversity through assimilation. "*E Pluribus Unum*" (Out of Many, One) refers to the thirteen colonies, but could as

easily describe our melting pot.

It is no insult to other cultures to say that America has its own. We say we are a multicultural nation because we worry that it may offend to say otherwise, but also because it appears true from our surface diversity (skin color, food, clothes, music). Yet American diversity is a mile wide and an inch deep. Beneath the surface most Americans share a sense of nationhood and fundamental values (even if Reds and Blues accuse each other of betraying those values). That sounds vague because, like obscenity, American culture is easy to recognize but difficult to define. Yet its truth becomes apparent to any American traveling abroad, many of whom say they've never felt so American as when visiting their ancestral homelands.

Surface diversity is enriching, but deep diversity can be dangerously divisive. Despite their more homogeneous surfaces, diversity runs so deep in Northern Ireland, Rwanda, the Mideast, and the tellingly "former" Yugoslavia that people have murdered one another to assure the dominance of their religious or ethnic group.

America too has suffered deep diversity, Jim Crow being only one recent example. Yet like the Borg, American culture continues to assimilate everything so it belongs to everyone. Chinese take-out and Italian pizza are not evidence of our multiculturalism, but things we've all come to know and share in. We speak a common language, we increasingly vote and marry outside our ethnicities, and we have at least a passing familiarity with most elements in our common culture. For example, I've seen few *Star Trek* episodes beyond the original series, and none featuring the Borg. Yet American culture is so pervasive, I know enough of the Borg to use them in an analogy.

Another reason Americans

our stand on issues that matter to them.

I'd suggest that promoting assimilation is a libertarian solution to our "immigration crisis" (see my article inside). The world would do well to follow our example on this issue. As for the "war on terror," that the White House isn't securing our borders *proves* that they don't consider terrorism a serious threat, even as they're scaring people into the state's arms with Code Orange.

In which case, what are we doing in Iraq? ●

confuse themselves for a multicultural nation is that identity politics conflate race and culture. Shown a multiethnic group photo, many will thoughtlessly exclaim, "Oh, how multicultural!" But unless culture is genetically transmitted, an ethnically Chinese girl raised in Germany is culturally German, just as an Italian boy raised in China is culturally Chinese. Likewise, families raised in America are culturally American. Yet by confusing race and culture, Americans are dissuaded from promoting their own culture, lest they appear exclusionary by celebrating something that they've been told immigrants are genetically incapable of sharing in. (No one puts it like that, but those are the implied undercurrents of identity politics.)

This false notion of immutable identity fuels much mutual antagonism. Identity politics leftists encourage immigrants to be fearful and defensive over expressions of an American culture that the left portrays as inherently hostile. Closed-borders rightists aggravate those fears, even as they themselves fear a hostile influx bringing poverty and revanchist

fantasies. Assimilation disempowers both sides, depriving the left of a constituency, and the right of a problem. It does so by making immigrants more economically productive, while instilling in them a sense of national belonging that fosters cooperation and respect for American laws and customs. Thus does assimilation alleviate immigration's economic and social problems.

America owes nothing but offers much to those wishing entry, and makes no onerous requests; far less is required to assimilate into the U.S. than into most any other nation. Learning English is the big first step leading to all others, and most immigrants already wish to take it. Government programs that discourage English (multilingual education, ballots, and documents) should be replaced with efforts to teach English. People concerned with immigration might consider voluntarist ways to assist the assimilation process.

Between the extremes of identity politics and nativism lies the moderate assimilationist center. It's rooted in the American experience and it works. ●

Editor

continued from page 2

does a nation exclude immigrants in order to preserve *some* of its

citizens' economic advantage, or racial or religious majority?

These thorny issues are not limited to the "white West." The conflicting principles of individualism and national sovereignty, and their impact on trade and jobs, immigration and demographics, war and human rights, are fueling tensions worldwide.

It's easy for us to disregard the "collateral damage" wreaked by our liberations when we're in no risk of being similarly liberated by foreigners. But principles are universal, by their nature. As libertarians, whatever principles we profess, we must apply equally to all nations, including our own.

Some libertarians say the LPC should avoid these issues, as we are a state party. Yet immigration and war impact Californians locally. Local voters want to know



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■ Because Ideas Matter

Antiwar Stance Does Not Grow the LP

by **Brian Holtz**

LPC Executive Committee

It's not easy for the LP to do large-scale empirical research on political strategy. Exit polls ignore us, and bureaucrats don't normally re-run election procedures to answer empirical questions. So if you wanted to use election results to measure antiwar as a way to grow the LP, you'd need back-to-back elections in which 1) the first election established a large baseline for the available third party vote in peacetime, and 2) the second was a wartime election between two major party candidates who both favored continuing the war, and who faced the same third party candidate who had established the previous baseline.

This occurred in 2000 and 2004. In 2000 Ralph Nader got 2.9 million votes from voters who were presumably antiwar and willing to vote third party; another 450,000 went to Pat Buchanan. In 2004 Nader and Green rival Cobb together reclaimed at most 580,000 of those 3.35 million, but Badnarik



improved on the 2000 LP presidential vote by only 13,000. Thus when about 2.6 million antiwar third party voters rejected Nader/Reform/Constitution to choose among 1) the "pro-war" major parties, 2) the antiwar LP, and 3) NOTA, the LP attracted only about 1% of them—whereas 100% of them would still have amounted to only 2% of all voters. This is empirical evidence that war is not the best issue for growing the LP.

Understanding the origins and psychology of our party's antiwar position helps explain why the LP emphasizes it over others (like privatizing education and healthcare) that have no Green/Democrat/GOP competition and that address growing national crises that will remain long after Bush and his entanglement in an Iraqi civil war are a distant memory. A large component of the explanation is the sincere belief that governments throughout the world—America's included—have historically demonstrated insuf-

ficient ability to reliably choose military interventions that increase liberty instead of decrease it.

But there is a fundamental ideological reason why LP radicals consider war to be the most important issue. The military defense of liberty is the canonical textbook example of what economists call a "public good"—a good that markets will underproduce due to the Free Rider Problem and thus needs tax financing. Zero-coercion absolutists deny the existence of this textbook market failure, and so have a deep need to deny that any net good can ever be done by a tax-financed military.

As **Lawrence Samuels** wrote in the June issue of *California Freedom*: "To accept the legitimacy of the state is to embrace the necessity for war." On Antiwar.com, Samuels opined that "technically, any taxpayer paying federal taxes can be considered an accessory to murder if they support involuntary taxation." In response to Samuels's quote of the Randolph Bourne aphorism that "war is the health of the state", Saddam and his sons might posthumously reply that aversion to war is the health of the tyrant.

Antiwar absolutists also argue that wars are a ratchet mechanism for the size of government, but a graph of the ratio of government spending to GDP shows otherwise. The peacetime doubling in the early Great Depression was sus-

The military defense of liberty is a "public good" that markets will underproduce due to the Free Rider Problem and thus needs tax financing.

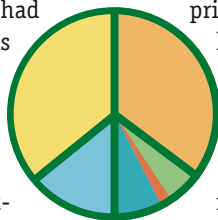
tained, but the WW II spike was not. Subsequent wars disappear in the noise of the peacetime growth of the nanny state.

Samuels wrote that "Iraq has never had a democratic government," but Kurdish Iraq was a ten-year existence proof that the U.S. military could replace Saddam's tyranny with stability, prosperity, and self-determination. America achieved its objectives of 1) eliminating any WMD

capability or international terrorist infrastructure, and 2) deposing Saddam in favor of a democratic framework designed to protect fundamental human rights. By early 2004, multiple polls showed that a majority of Iraqis believed "things were better now than they were before the war" and that "Saddam Hussein's ouster made it worth any hardships." These Iraqis (and war critics in America) failed to predict that sectarian strife was to develop into a Sunni-Shia civil war and negate much of the value of achieving objective #2.

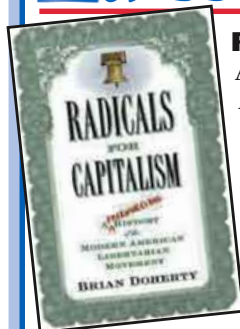
Reasonable liberty-lovers can disagree over whether a conjunction of self-defense and humanitarian arguments could justify the U.S. overthrow of Saddam. (For details, see <http://blog.360.yahoo.com/knownhumans?p=428>) The crucial question is whether the duty of a liberty-loving polity to defend human liberty vanishes completely at lines drawn on maps by statist. Some very principled libertarians say it does, but it's hard to see how that position is liberty-maximizing. ●

Brian Holtz is an At-Large member of the LPC's Executive Committee. His email: brian@holtz.org.



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SOMEBODY'S GOTTA SAY IT

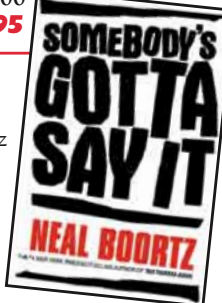
by Neal Boortz

Controversial Atlanta talk show host Neal Boortz has made a living speaking his mind, and that's just what he does in his new book, pulling no punches.

Boortz has been mentioned as a possible Libertarian Party presidential candidate over the years, and he has said he might run "just for the hell of it" when he retires from radio. In this collection of Boortz's pet peeves and political positions, he addresses flag burning, evolution vs. creationism, Terri Schiavo, the pledge of allegiance, prayer in schools, arts funding, "giving back," the war on drugs, government schools, and much more.

Boortz has an opinion on just about everything. Some you'll disagree with, but much of it is just what you've been hoping someone would say. CU9155 (hardcover) 304p. \$25.95

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Monterey Libertarians Celebrate Independence Day

by **Lawrence K. Samuels**
LPC Executive Committee

Monterey Libertarians For Peace (not an official LP organ) joined in coalition with Monterey CodePink and other peace activists to participate in the July 4th Independence Day parade in the city of Monterey.

Libertarian parade participants gathered at 9:15 a.m. The parade itself lasted an hour, from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by a lawn party with bands and music.

As part of the festivities, baskets of candy were distributed to children. Strict state-sponsored rules prohibited the dangerous throwing of candy to the spectators—as if any rational person

• Libertarians and Code Pink unite for peace

Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

needed to be told this!

Most political parties participated in the parade. The Democratic Party created ten large posters, one for each of the Amendments in the Bill of Rights. Surprisingly, the person holding the Second Amendment stated that he *did* believe in the right of citizens to bear arms! ●

Monterey LP Mini-Con

to be held in the City of Monterey, Oct. 13, 2007

Speakers include:

LPC Chair **Kevin Takenaga**, Prof. **David R. Henderson**, and local radio talk-show host (and LP member) **Mark Carbonaro**.

All libertarians invited to attend

For details please contact Lawrence K. Samuels: lawsamz@gmail.com.

■ Book Review

Neo-Conned Into War

Neo-Conned!: Just War Principles: A Condemnation of War in Iraq
Neo-Conned! Again: Hypocrisy, Lawlessness, and the Rape of Iraq,
1,304 pp, Ihs Press, 2005)

by **Thomas E. Woods, Jr.**

Fellow, Ludwig von Mises Institute

I have never recommended a book as strongly as *Neoconned* and *Neoconned Again*, two collections of essays that make every possible argument against the war in Iraq. Light in the Darkness Publications has assembled one of the most impressive lineups of scholars and commentators I've ever seen on any subject.

There's a lengthy interview with the late Jude Wanniski, the supply-side theorist who influenced Ronald Reagan. In recent years Wanniski had become skeptical not only of government's domestic interventions, but also its foreign interventions. Wanniski here demonstrates that nearly every major claim made about Iraq and Saddam by the U.S. government since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has been misleading or false, and that the mainstream media accepted these distortions without a peep. While Saddam did brutally suppress uprisings, if you think it's an open-and-shut case that he "gassed his own people," not to mention countless other episodes routinely cited to work us into a war frenzy, you must read Wanniski.

Wanniski recounts the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure since 1990, including the targeting of water treatment facilities (followed by sanctions that blocked the entry of equipment needed to repair them) and other installations vital to civilian life. This was necessary, say the shills, because Saddam was a bad person. Sanctions leading to half a million children dead—"worth it," according to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, *who did not question that figure*—were routinely defended.

Wanniski addresses the "if Saddam hadn't built so many palaces he could have fed his people" argument. A prosperous, secular country that was liberal by regional standards, boasting one of the finest health care systems in the Middle East, was reduced to an economic basket case plagued by disease, malnourishment, and sick and deformed children.

Volume 1 focuses on Catholic just-war theory (as applied to Iraq), which has long been appropriated and developed by non-Catholics and are widely regarded

as useful tools for moral reflection. Contributors demonstrate how dramatically short the Iraq War falls behind just-war principles. Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani (who opposed the new rite Mass, so he can't be accused of "liberalism") pens "Modern War Is to Be Absolutely Forbidden." Professor Peter Chojnowski, another traditional Catholic, contributes a surprisingly radical essay on the right of conscientious objection.

Volume 2 features a broader range of ideological perspectives. An introduction by former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter precedes dozens of essays by such authors as Noam Chomsky, Claes Ryn, Kirkpatrick

These essays will leave you dumbfounded that anyone ever fell for the war

Sale, Alexander Cockburn, Gordon Prather, Mark and Louise Zwick, Justin Raimondo, Robert Fisk, and Lt. Col. Karen Kwiatkowski.

It's amazing to discover how many serious, intelligent observers kept watch on the Bush administration before criticism of the war became fashionable, and to see their case against it presented with such devastating precision. These essays will leave you dumbfounded that anyone ever fell for the war, or got away with denouncing skeptics as "unpatriotic," or that so many people believe conservatism involves no higher value than giving intellectual cover to a series of ever-changing, ad hoc rationalizations for war.

Neoconservative foreign policy was sold to Americans through lies and bumper-sticker slogans repeated by shills living up to every caricature of conservatism ever devised, and by a White House that exploited ordinary people's patriotism so as to prosecute a war whose aims remain obscure to this day.

Many ordinary Americans have come to see that they've been fooled. Sadly, many others, whether they



realize it or not, see the world as a giant baseball game. The U.S. government is their team, and they'll rush out of the dugout to protest obviously sound calls. When in foreign policy their team unleashes a barrage of propaganda they would have laughed at had it come from the old Soviet Union or today's Syria, they cannot defend it enthusiastically enough. Go, team!

As Ron Paul's experience in the presidential debates demonstrates, even to look for motivations behind 9/11 is to invite accusations of "blaming America" for the attacks, as if a detective seeking a killer's motive is blaming the victim for his fate. It is impossible to render serious foreign policy judgments when public discourse is dominated by anti-intellectual hysterics masquerading as patriotism.

The editors of *Neoconned* have done this country and the cause of truth a valuable service. It is not possible to do these books justice in a single column. They are of the utmost importance. ●

PROFESSOR THOMAS E. WOODS, JR. has a B.A. in history from Harvard and a Ph.D. from Columbia. He is senior fellow in American history at the Ludwig von Mises Institute. His books include *The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History*. His website: ThomasEWoods.com.

■ Free Book

Fight Crime, Terrorism, with an Armed Citizenry

"Mr. Schulman's book is the most cogent explanation of the gun issue I have yet read. He presents the assault on the Second Amendment in frighteningly clear terms. Even the extremists who would ban firearms will learn from his lucid prose."

—Charleton Heston

by **J. Neil Schulman**

Filmmaker

April 16th, the day of the Virginia Tech massacre, is my birthday.

Every year for the rest of my life, I am going to be reminded on my birthday that my attempt to alert the American people to the lethal dangers of victim dis-

thrilling. The real Nazi machinery was a plodding, destructive grind run by heartless bureaucrats. Erich Fromm once observed of Heinrich Himmler that he listed in his journal how many times he bathed during vacations as well as every card and letter he received from the age of 15. The dull pedants behind the war's

madness contrasts with this flashy film, yet the entertaining action draws in the audience.

Maybe in an age of graphic excess these tactics are needed to get viewers' attention. I can forgive *Black Book* its melodrama if it leads people to ponder

fascism's evils. The film may even foster logical questions, such as: Shouldn't we mourn the 60,000+ Iraqi lives lost in the Iraq War as well as the 3,500+ American lives? And would we really be better off if child molesters, Guantanamo Bay prisoners, Muslims, immigrants, (fill in hated group) were segregated, tagged, tracked, deported, and (fill in latest Patriot Act provision)? *Black Book* shows how similar thinking led to Nazism, and it will rile your inner libertarian to defend the civil liberties even of those who are unpopular. ●

LAURA BROWN is a teacher and writer living in San Gabriel. She is a veteran candidate for State Assembly.



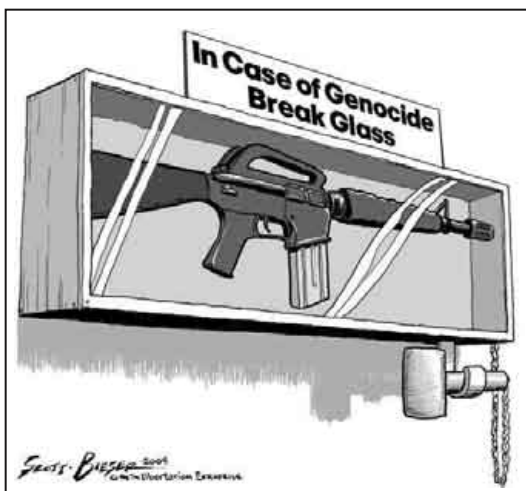
Photo: HollywoodInvestigator.com

armament did not succeed in preventing this act of criminal terrorism.

My 1994 book, *Stopping Power: Why 70 Million Americans Own Guns*, makes the point—through analysis of history, criminology, statistics, and dramatic examples—that "Gun control increases violent crime by disarming helpless victims and shifting the balance of power to the illegally armed criminal or terrorist."

Obviously not enough people have gotten that message or there would not be in place a federal "Gun-Free-School-Zone" law pro-

• See **Free Book** page 8



Artist: Scott Bieser, www.ScottBieser.com

Literature

continued from page 8

should be prominent. It costs about the same to mail a letter size piece (8.5" x 11") as a large ledger size piece (17" x 11") that has more space for photos and issues. The cost to design (9 cents), print (25 cents), and mail (29 cents) per piece (63 cents total) is expensive until you consider that they're sent to high-propensity voter households that would typically vote for the candidate

if they knew enough. Direct mail delivers immediate impact.

Distribution Options

Identify locations where voters gather and quick distribution can be achieved, including:

Schools. You can distribute several hundred pieces directly to parents each day. Most school districts have early and late start times, allowing buses to efficiently deliver students. Make a list of schools, map them, know their start times. Distribute literature to cars as they leave public

sidewalks, as allowed by law.

Parking Lots. Shopping malls, fitness centers, and grocery stores attract many cars, their windshield wiper blades rich targets for your literature. City laws often prohibit *commercial* literature, but political literature is protected free speech and cannot be stopped by the police.

City Council & Meeting Events. Identify events with heavy attendance and station volunteers to pass literature to voters as they arrive, giving them something to read while waiting for the event to begin.

Doorknob Hangers. Hole-punched literature can be hung by a rubber band on voters' household doorknobs. This is effective but time consuming. Volunteers can extend the reach, and hired companies can place literature for 6 to 9 cents per piece (printing extra). But only 60% of eligible voters are registered, and in an off-year election only 30% to 50% of *even those* will vote. Door-to-door 100% coverage requires much effort, with limited returns. This is why direct mail is instead used so often. ●

JOHN BRISCOE, a Libertarian from Orange County, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Ocean View School District in 2006. Contact info at: www.Vote4Briscoe.com



- Successful Libertarian John Briscoe's campaign literature (example at left) featured issues appealing to a broad range of voters in his district



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NEW & REFURBISHED BUILDINGS
Taxpayers spend millions every year to upgrade our schools, yet Ocean View School District has been plagued by cost overruns! We must demand the adoption of a new accountability standard for all business functions. We must take a stand against more bonds and more tax increases.

SAFE SCHOOLS
Recently, a district employee implicated in molestation was transferred to another district where he molested again. District personnel failed to report behavior as required under state law. We must allow our children to attend classes without fear.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
We must conduct a district-wide audit to improve systems for Ocean View's budgeting. We must address increasing legal bills, reduce class sizes, increase books and supplies, upgrade our school bus fleet, and *stop administrative pay raises* until it's done!

Free Book

continued from page 7

hibiting the carrying of concealed handguns by those citizens of the State of Virginia—faculty, administrators, and graduate students—who hold or could have applied for a Virginia license to carry.

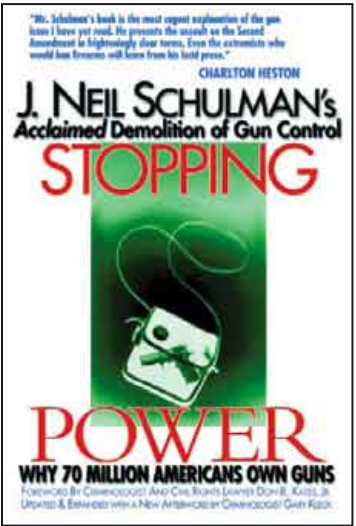
This cannot be permitted to continue. This ends today.

We are at war with criminals and terrorists, and the victims must be allowed the means to defend the innocent and decent among us from the guilty and indecent among us.

As of April 16—as a Hobbit-like birthday present—I am making downloads of the PDF edition of *Stopping Power* free.

To download and read the book for free, go to www.pulpless.com/gunlock/stop0584.pdf ●

J. NEIL SCHULMAN won the Libertarian Futurist Society's Prometheus Award for his 1984 sci-fi novel, *The Rainbow Cadenza*. He can be reached through Pulpless.com.



Holding a Libertarian Event?

Contact us with your information!

Editor@CA.LP.Org

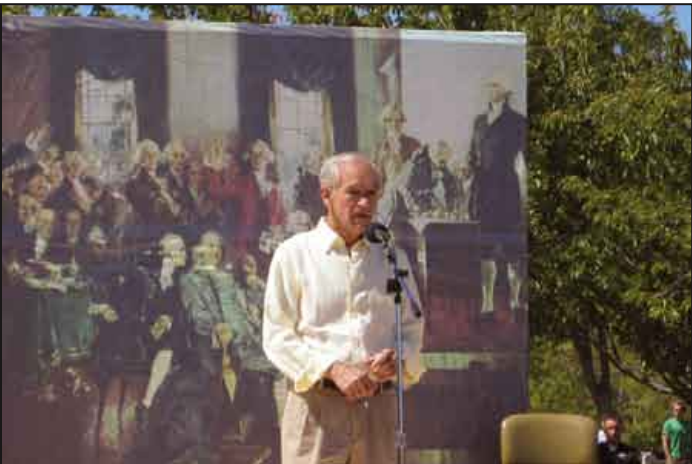
“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.”
– George Orwell

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Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels



- Libertarian-leaning Presidential candidate Ron Paul speaks before a tableau of America's Founders on July 14 in Northern California.

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