

California Freedom

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

Fighting City Hall

Riverside Libertarians Fight Eminent Domain Abuse

by Gene Berkman

Local governments across California are using subsidies, tax incentives, and (their main tool) eminent domain to promote “planned economic growth.” Often benignly called “community redevelopment,” this is really corporate welfare for real estate developers and their clients.

Eminent domain is a *forced sale* of private property to a government (federal, state, or local) at a price determined by that government. After “buying” property through eminent domain (at below market rates), many local governments then resell the property to private developers (at the same below market rates) for the creation of shopping centers and housing tracts.

Riverside is a suburban-type city 55 miles east of Los Angeles, in the Inland Empire. For the last four decades, the Inland Empire has been the fastest growing region in the United States. The city itself has grown from about 100,000 residents in 1960 to more than 300,000 currently.

Many people are moving from Los Angeles and Orange Counties to take advantage of Riverside’s reasonable home prices. In response, Riverside’s mayor and city council have begun a “Riverside Renaissance” program to redevelop the city through new commercial and residential developments. A number of long-established businesses have been seized through eminent domain and then given to developers, particularly in downtown Riverside. An Asian grocery was shut down. A shopping center with mostly Hispanic-owned businesses is slated for takeover.

Councilman Dom Betro, representing the downtown area, was the most fervent champion of redevelopment on the city council. He regularly introduced motions for eminent domain seizures, justifying them by saying that Riverside “needs” an entertainment complex or more upscale stores. Betro justified eminent domain seizures of private houses by

stating that property values are going up, and the homeowners were not doing enough to improve their property.

In 2007, the Riverside County Libertarian Party backed an opponent to Betro in the city elections. Mike Gardner, a political novice, had spoken against the closure of the Asian grocery, and against the eminent domain abuses that characterize the “Riverside Renaissance” program. The RCLP sent two mailings to over 100 registered Libertarians in the downtown First Ward, advocating a vote for Gardner in order to defeat Betro.

Other local groups opposed to redevelopment also backed Gardner. Betro received huge contributions from developers who benefit from redevelopment, and massively outspent his opponents.

On election day, Gardner beat Betro by *only six votes* out of over 4,500 cast in the ward. *Libertarians provided the margin of victory.*

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Fighting Within City Hall

Promoting Liberty Through Local Boards

by Don Patterson

Libertarians can make a difference in their communities by serving on local boards. I try to promote progress (and protect worthy projects from environmentalist Luddites’ unfounded fears) on the city of Laguna Niguel’s Environmental Review Board. I also worked to save taxpayers money on the Investment, Banking and Audit Committee.

The Environmental Review Board makes recommendations on proposed construction projects, and holds public hearings. Its three members each serve two-year terms.

A recent public hearing concerned a new high-rise medical building planned for the site of a former motorcycle dealership. I was the only board member who’d walked the affected neighborhood and talked to the residents.

Some neighbors worried about increased traffic. Others objected to view blockage. I offered solutions rather than objections. I persuaded attendees at the hearing that the stylish new building would be prettier than their old view. And the convenience of a modern medical facility close by was an advantage over driving a

longer distance for exams and treatments.

The Investment, Banking and Audit Committee meets quarterly to review the city’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), recommending revisions to the city council. They also review Laguna’s investment portfolio and practices to insure conformance with the city’s Investment Policy. The Committee has five community members, each serving two-year terms, and two city council members.

As a former member, I argued that Laguna Niguel should invest in Ginnie Mae instead of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae securities. Ginnie Maes are guaranteed by the U.S. government, whereas the others are corporate securities. I also argued that the city, having new infrastructure, did not need their \$80,000,000 cash on hand. I suggested lowering building permit fees and sales taxes. But the city manager said the state would not permit lowering the sales tax, and the city continues to seek ways to spend money.

Don Patterson serves as secretary of the Libertarian Party of Orange County. He’s a Congressional candidate in the 48th District. His email: donpat8@yahoo.com.

Libertarian History

The Movement That Birthed the Party

by Thomas M. Sipos with Samuel E. Konkin III

As the Libertarian Party’s origins fade into history, I hear conflicting claims as to its founding purpose. I’ve heard the LP was founded by “pro-defense” libertarians and then hijacked by Rothbardian anarchists. I’ve heard that it was founded by a coalition of left-anarchists and antiwar ex-YAFers, then hijacked by Republican Lite beltway suits. I’ve heard that it was founded as an *Illuminatus Trilogy* type joke, which its founders were surprised to see anyone take seriously. I’ve heard that it was

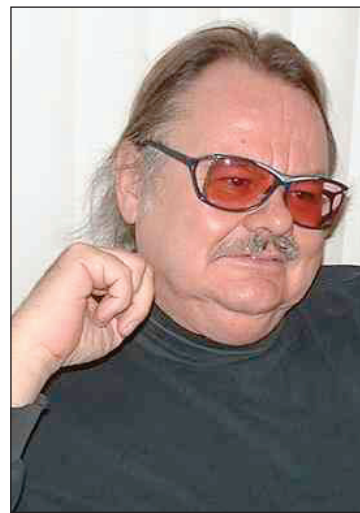
founded to promote “education through performance art” rather for serious political campaigns, intending stunts similar to that of the Youth International Party’s (aka the Yippies) running a pig, Pigasus, for president in 1968.

I wasn’t there in 1971, so I can’t offer any definitive answers as to the LP’s origins, but merely a piece to the greater puzzle: the testimony of Samuel Edward Konkin III. His should not be considered the last word on LP history, but his words should be considered.

Sam was one of the oddest of libertarianism’s many oddballs. An anarchist, he came from Canada and lived below The Man’s radar for decades. No driver’s license, no bank accounts, no credit cards, no tax filings. But Sam was also among the poorest of povertarians, so it’s likely the IRS was glad not to have to sift through the paperwork documenting Sam’s pennies.

Sam had peculiar beliefs. He used capital-L Libertarianism to refer to his beloved movement, and small-l for the party

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Samuel E. Konkin III

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Photo: J. Kent Hastings

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2008 Starts With a Bang



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

by Kevin Takenaga



Now that we're well into the New Year, I'd like to lay out what's ahead. The officers and I had a retreat this month to plan out 2008 -- which will be action-packed.

New County Party Officers

Many county parties are choosing new officers for 2008, and they'll be working hard to organize the Party and support our candidates this year.

LPC Convention 2008

The LPC holds its annual convention of delegates in San Diego, February 22-24. If you

haven't yet registered, you can now register and pay on the LPC website -- www.ca.lp.org -- so you won't miss one of the largest LPC events of the year.

We will choose our delegates to the upcoming national convention in Denver, hear from our presidential candi-

dates, enjoy a visit from a VIP or two, and network with party members from throughout the state. We'll also conduct party business and hear from wonderful speakers.

Candidate Recruitment

Over these past few months, 2008 Candidate Coordinator Ted Brown has been recruiting partisan candidates from across the state to run for state legislature and U.S. Congress. These candidates may ask you to sign their petitions to appear on the ballot, which will help waive their filing fees. They must start submitting their signatures by February 22, with a drop dead date of March 7th.

You can help our candidates tremendously by signing and

returning their petitions. You might also help them by finding other registered Libertarians to sign their petitions.

We hope to hold a rally for our candidates in Sacramento in the coming months. Plans are afoot. Stay tuned to this space as details develop.

LP National Convention and Primary

The LP's national convention will be at the end of May, Memorial Day weekend, to be exact. The final numbers arrived early this year -- and the California LP makes up over 14% of the national LP. So it's important for you to head to Denver in May to represent our state party as we select our presidential candidate.

A few days later, in June, we'll have our state primary election. Then we'll move on to the presidential election in November.

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FROM THE EDITOR

But Do They Want Freedom for You?

by Thomas M. Sipos



In the late 1970s, New York radio host Bob Grant griped, "The American people have a peasant mentality. What they really want is fascism. They just don't want to call it fascism."

Conversely, some libertarians (sounding more like motivational speakers than political philosophers) brag that we have the most popular "product" in politics -- liberty! They cite the many people who score "libertarian" on the Nolan chart, then blame our dismal vote totals on "poor marketing"; all we need are candidates with the expertise to "sell liberty" in the "marketplace of votes."

I worry that Grant has the more accurate worldview. The Nolan chart overestimates our numbers. The chart is effective at marketing, but not at market research. It entices people into investigating the LP, but most of its questions (so far as I've seen) practice push-polling. Most Nolan chart questions are phrased so respondents will

more likely fall into the libertarian quadrant by asking people about *their own* freedoms.

Well, most people think they should be free to do whatever. That's not a problem. Rather, threats to liberty have historically come from people who (1) want their liberty *subsidized*, or (2) don't trust *others* with liberty.

If asked, *Should you or the government choose your doctor?*, most people would score libertarian. But if they are instead asked, *Should government health care funding increase so that you can afford the doctor of your choice?*, many of those "Nolan chart libertarians" would now score "liberal." Likewise, while most people think *they* can choose wisely about owning a gun, taking drugs, paying for sex, sending their child to school, etc., fewer trust their neighbors with those decisions.

Libertarians often speak of government as if it were an

alien being with a life of its own, apart from the people. Yet people (great and small) get political power, economic favors, salaries, "private" contracts, entitlement checks, etc. from the State. Socialism-imperialism is sustained by people who believe (often correctly) that they're better off with the State than they'd be under freedom.

How many people want liberty for themselves, much less for *you*? Consider two examples:

In 1994, Newt Gingrich led a Republican takeover of the House of Representatives, winning votes with his libertarian-sounding Contract With America. And he delivered! Gingrich made a sincere attempt to push his "libertarian lite" agenda into law, resulting in the 1995 government shutdown when President Clinton refused to sign the GOP Congress's slightly smaller budget.

Remember what happened next?

Only a tiny portion of government shut down, yet people panicked! Polls indicated that most Americans blamed Gingrich for the shutdown (as if it were a bad thing), and that they thought his "libertarian lite" budget was "extremist." And so, politically crippled by an uneducated, statist electorate, Gingrich gave up on liberty.

In 2003, Arnold Schwarzenegger promised smaller government when running for governor of California. And he

delivered! Twice! First, by taking his "libertarian lite" reforms to the state legislature. After the legislature rejected them, he took his reforms directly to the people via four 2005 ballot propositions.

And *the people* rejected them!

I'm not saying that Gingrich or Schwarzenegger are libertarians. But both men made authentic (if slight) attempts at advancing liberty -- and *the people* threw liberty back into their faces. Whereupon both men gave up and fully embraced statism. (Why not? These men represent political parties, so it's natural that they focus on "getting votes.")

It seems Grant was right. Americans love the rhetoric of liberty, yet they get nervous when the chains loosen. No wonder they keep re-electing politicians who talk freedom and deliver slavery.

Many people want their "liberty" paid for by the State. Or they want "liberty for *me* but not for *thee*." The State needn't hide its outrages; the people are complicit. Radio shock jocks play "Don't taze me bro!" for laughs. Water boarding has ardent fans. So does NSA wire-tapping. ("Hey, if someone's got nothing to hide...") Years ago, *Liberty* reported about a young man imprisoned on a marijuana charge, who contracted AIDS from prison rape and died. Yet comedians joke about prison rape because audiences think it's hilarious.

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Book Review

Enjoying Your Freedom? Thank a Protester!

by Katherine Heerbrandt

(*Cost of Freedom: An Anthology of Peace & Activism*, edited by Michael Annis, Michael Palecek, Whitney Trettien, 166 pp., Howling Dog Press, 2007)

Ever vigilant, standing against tyranny and corrupt leaders motivated by economics rather than democratic ideals, voices of dissent have changed the course of history in this country and continue, in the face of public condemnation, to ferret truth from lies, to unmask false patriots and affronts to civil liberties with courage and perseverance.

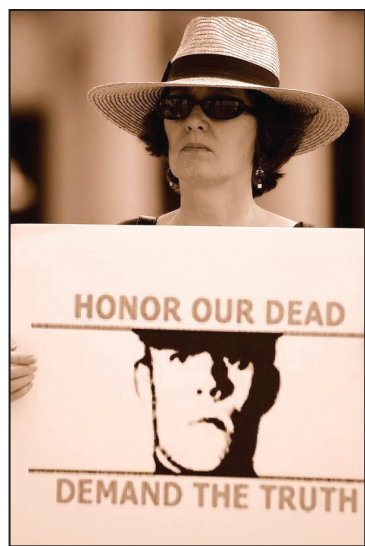


Photo: Chantelle Wolf, *Cost of Freedom*

That's the in-your-face, tell-it-like-it-is message throughout the personal narratives, poetry and artwork from 75 activists in *Cost of Freedom*, published earlier this year by Howling Dog Press.

As one of three co-editors, Frederick's Whitney Trettien,

a Harry Truman scholar and graduate student at M.I.T., is justifiably proud of the effort expended compiling, editing and weaving together first-person accounts that tell the story of a national grassroots peace effort, a movement that's raged like a wildfire during the Bush administration.

"As several people have told me, it's not really a book -- it's a movement," Trettien says. "We're trying to capture the experiences of the American protester, from the grandmother who only recently attended her first rally to the aging hippie activist, and everyone in between."

The anthology presents a scope of work and voices you'd be hard pressed to find in any mainstream media.

It's not what you'd call "politically correct." It doesn't bludgeon truth into soft-sell, easily digestible sound bites for consumption by the masses, but serves it up raw and quivering on a plate with the fervor of a true believer.

The anthology is the brain child of novelist Michael Palecek, an outgrowth of his disgust with the rhetoric surrounding the war in Iraq. He names the enemy and the enemy is George W. Bush.

"Dare we say it? Yes. We dare. We say it. We shout it.

With a fist for punctuation," Palecek wrote in the introduction.

He identifies the true freedom fighters as those who have "had the courage to light a candle in the fiercest wind."

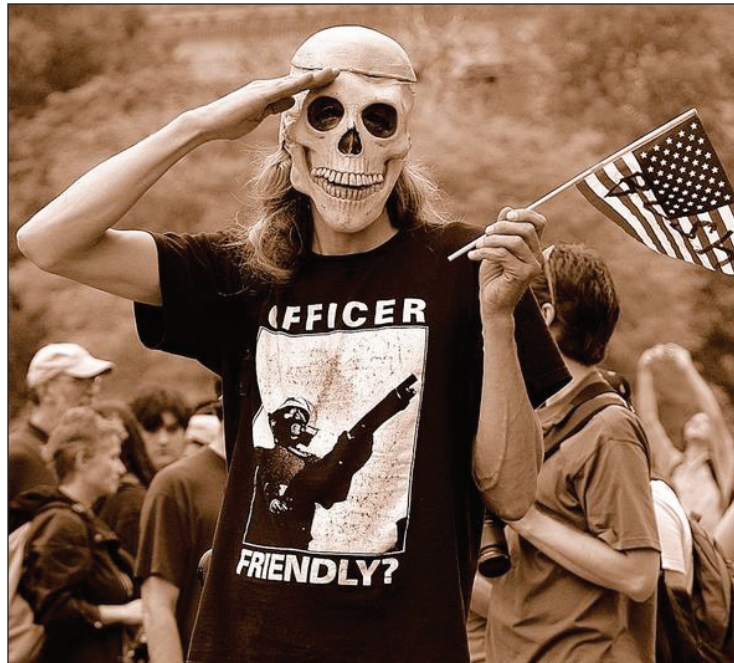


Photo: Chantelle Wolf, *Cost of Freedom*

Helping light the way are co-editors Trettien, whom Palecek calls "a genius," and poet and founder of Howling Dog Press, Michael Annis.

Prophetic words from Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Paine, Ghandi, Mark Twain and other voices from history add context and depth to the con-

temporary narratives.

It's not something to read in one sitting. It's heady, provocative and inspiring stuff.

Trettien, a lauded academic and founder of Frederick County's Green Party, is follow-

ing in the footsteps of Noam Chomsky when he wrote in 1967 that it is the responsibility of the nation's intellectuals to expose and analyze "the lies of government" and the hidden intentions behind the actions.

An M.I.T. professor for over half a century, Chomsky has received death threats for his

outspoken and often unpopular views. In his endorsement of *Cost of Freedom*, Chomsky says the book "should inspire many more to join these efforts to create a powerful force of concerned citizens that cannot be ignored, and that will help shape a much more hopeful and decent future."

The essays make a staggering case against the current administration on one level. On another, they celebrate the power of dissent in a pluralistic society.

Underscoring each and every contribution is editor Palecek's not-so-subtle message, a message he expounds on in a July 2007 blog: "The price of democracy is eternal vigilance. Somebody said that. We have not been vigilant, we have been watching TV."

Perhaps the book is, as Trettien says, a movement, a call to the American people to wake up, turn off the TV and do something.

For information, or to order the book, visit costoffreedom-book.blogspot.com.

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Full Disclosure: *California Freedom* editor Thomas M. Sipos is a contributing writer to *Cost of Freedom*. He received a contributor's copy as payment, but no monetary pay or royalties, as a portion of the proceeds from the sales of the book is set aside to supplement funds for the work of national peace and antiwar organizations.

Raise your Cup to New Coffee Club Members!

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

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Bob Barr | Brian Foster |
| Suzanne Bell | Kent Fowler |
| Philip Berg | Brian Miller |
| Ted Brown | Chuck Moulton |
| Beau Cain | Rich Newell |
| Audrey Carlan | Alan Pyeatt |
| Alicia Clark | Jeffrey Sommer |
| Edward Clark | Aaron Starr |
| Zander Collier | Paul Studier |
| Don Cowles | Kevin Takenaga |
| Michael Denny | Chuck Tolman |
| Bruce Dovner | Bob Weber |
| Terry Floyd | |

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



Political contributions are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of each donor who contributes more than \$200 per calendar year.----->

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Coffee
Club**

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Film Review

Charlie Wilson's War

Review by Laura G. Brown

Charlie Wilson's War has definite appeal for libertarians because it shows the underdog Afghan freedom fighters prevailing over the powerful, invading Soviet army. It brings to mind the ill-equipped colonial Americans rousting the British. Of course, the Americans had a little help from their friends, the French, and the beleaguered Afghans had—Charlie Wilson.

The movie portends to show how Wilson, along with a cobbled-together group of allies in Washington, almost single-handedly funnels arms and money to the mujahadeen. The film stars Tom Hanks as “good ol’ boy” Congressman Charlie Wilson, who represented Texas’s 2nd District as a Democrat in the 1980s. Julia Roberts plays his love interest Joanne Herring, a religious anti-Communist and wealthy socialite who urges him to support the Afghan rebels when the Soviets invade.

The movie is fast-paced at 96 minutes and takes us back and forth from the Afghan fighters to congressional committee rooms and scenes of Wilson partying with babes in hot tubs. According to *New York Times* critic A.O. Scott, this movie’s entertaining direction manages to bring the pleasure principle to the Cold War, a conflict that “brought the world to the

brink of annihilation and provided a persistent source of tension, anxiety, and dread for hundreds of millions of people around the world.”

Early scenes of helpless, unarmed people running from Soviet helicopter gunfire generate sympathy. At the beginning of the conflict, we’re told by Charlie’s colleague, CIA agent Gust Avrakatos (Philip Seymour Hoffman), that the U.S. policy was not to aid the rebels, but to lie low and let the Soviets get drawn into a costly trap. As Wikipedia quotes Zbigniew Brzezinski (Carter’s national security advisor): “We now have the opportunity of giving to the Soviet Union its Vietnam War.”

Charlie makes an eye-opening trip to Pakistan to see the plight of Afghan refugees, listens to zealous pillow talk from Herring, and calls in his chits on the Hill to get the aid flowing. The relative ease with which a maverick congressman secretly funds a war is food for thought. While we might agree the mujahadeen should have been helped, what about the Nicaraguan Contras? A better America might be one in which the “Charlies” are reined in by the Constitution.

It’s hard not to cheer as we see blasé Soviet helicopter pilots woken up with a hot sting—yes, U.S.-provided

Stinger missiles. These compact, shoulder-launched weapons formed an iconic picture of the war: Ragtag peasants shooting down modern helicopters from the sky. These scenes hint at a disquieting comparison, though. With just a little imagining, you could see the helicopters as American, and the people fighting them as Iraqis. If the movie tells us anything, it’s how deeply people are attached to their homeland, and how passionately they will fight to dispel invaders.

There are broad hints at the end of the movie that if we fund the enemy of our enemy, he might one day turn out to be our enemy, too, and that throwing arms and dollars in a volatile area might have unforeseen consequences—particularly when one of the mujahadeen was named Osama bin Laden.



Laura G. Brown is a teacher and writer living in San Gabriel. She is a veteran candidate for State Assembly.



and “turning on” conservatives so they would “tune in” to Libertarianism.

Our Movement grew exponentially through 1972 and even 1973, going from a few thousand students to over 100,000, and recognition in such publications as *TV Guide* (where Edith Efron, a sympathizer, equated us with conservatives and liberals in an article about equal time provisions).

One of the terms I personally coined, “minarchist,” partly to amuse Murray Rothbard, appeared in *Newsweek*.

Also in 1971, two Libertarians

York Times, standing in front of a red fist above the words “Laissez Faire!” That was Stan Lehr and Lou Rossetto. Some of you know the latter from his entrepreneurial days as the original publisher of *Wired* magazine.

We then organized an East Coast Libertarian Conference at Columbia with the help of Gary Greenberg (remember my posting, “One of Ours at Ground Zero?”). During that conference, Jeffrey St. John attempted to defend minarchy from Roy A. Childs. St. John’s trouncing pretty much ended minarchy as a serious intellectual position within the Libertarian Movement.

Only then did David Nolan (who had been active in the earliest formation of the YAF Libertarian Caucus in 1967 but missed the explosive events “under the arch” in St. Louis in 1969, and had not been radicalized) announce the formation of the Libertarian Party.

New Libertarian (my magazine, begun 1970, currently up to 188 issues, and usually #3 in circulation after *Reason* and *Liberty-Libertarian Review* [sic]), then called *New Libertarian Notes*, published a debate between David and me in the November 1972 issue which came out just before the presidential election.

The Libertarian Party idea

Birthing the Party continued from page 1

he hated. He said the party had stolen the word from the movement that preceded it. He referred to party members as “partyarchs,” saying that true libertarians would not join a state-recognized party, nor vote in state elections.

Sam hated the LP, but respected many of our members. That respect was mutual.

On September 20, 2001, in an online discussion, Sam outlined the origins of the LP to the best of his memory (and, I trust, his integrity). He died on February 23, 2004, at age 56. He would not have minded my reprinting his words here; he did not believe in intellectual property rights.

Here now is the testimony of the late Samuel E. Konkin III:

In July 1969, the Students for a Democratic Society split in Chicago four ways, and the anarchists were purged. Over Labor Day, Young Americans for Freedom split. The Anarchist

Caucus and then-separate Libertarian Caucus were purged the following month.

In October (Columbus Day weekend) the two groups met at the Hotel Diplomat in New York City at the first Libertarian Conference hosted by Murray Rothbard and Karl Hess.

The following February, Los Angeles (USC) hosted the Left-Right Festival of Liberation, with such luminaries as SDS ex-president Carl Oglesby (who recently ran for Congress as LP), Robert LeFevre, Karl Hess (again), and many others not as well remembered. Five hundred people showed up. The conference was covered in the *LA Free Press* and many establishment papers, got extensive reporting on KPFK (which had a Libertarian radio show) and KUSC (which had two Libertarian shows, Lowell Ponte’s and Ron Kimberling’s)

I attended all of the above except the first-mentioned (since I was a YAF “libertarian” minar-

chist until September 1969); I worked side by side with Dana Rohrabacher on the last-mentioned. He may be an Orange



Samuel E. Konkin III in anarchist black, raised fist, at his Karl Hess Club, 2002. Brad Linaweaver, third from left.

County congressman now, but back then he was the Johnny Grass-seed of the movement, traveling to YAF chapters, singing his Libertarian folk songs,

I had recruited from Columbia University (with the help of David Friedman), got a full-color, full-page cover in the magazine section of *The New*

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Birtherd the Party*continued from page 5*

was met with universal scorn by movement activists, either on principle (LeFevrians, Revolutionary Rothbardians) or as hopelessly premature (Right Rothbardians, more conservative types). And Hospers-Nathan did get a pathetic vote total. Remember, few people calling themselves Libertarians in 1972 would vote, and those were arguing over who would stop the war without socializing the economy the worst: McGovern or Schmitz (the Bircher candidate of the American Party).

Surprisingly, both Rothbard and Ayn Rand came out for Nixon!

What kept partyarchs (a term meaning "sellout anarchist who claims to oppose the State but embraces a State's Party" -- so technically, minarchists cannot be partyarchs) in the running was the defection of Roger MacBride, a Nixon elector, breaking his pledge (i.e., *breaking a contract* -- appropriate for the start of a State or a Party) and voting for Hospers-Nathan. Thus was the LP put on the political map, and MacBride was rewarded with the next nomination (1976).

The LP was taken over by "anarchists" (i.e., partyarchs, which is why I coined the term) starting with New York's Youngstein for Mayor Campaign in 1973.

Most anti-political Libertarians avoided contact with party supporters after 1974. Ironically, Harry Browne, who had made his fortune denouncing any form of political action, or even overt social action, in 1973, denounced me for going to LP meetings and inviting LPers over to debate us.

Then Ed Crane brought Charles Koch's billions into the LP (bought the national party) and the LP's highest vote total (for president) was achieved for Ed Clark in 1980 in an orgy of wasted spending. The LP has yet to recover to that level.

The LP's total membership has never been more than 5% of the total number of people calling themselves Libertarian.

"To read too many books is harmful."

Mao Tse-tung

Feel free to check any facts presented here. Back in 1974, much of this was published in a special issue of *New Libertarian* called "Anarchist Graffiti: Where Were You in 1969?" and the rest in 180 or so other issues of *NL*. You can also find some of it in back issues of *Reason*, *Libertarian Review*, *The Abolitionist*, and *Outlook*.

Some back issues of *NL* are available; I sell them at the Karl Hess Club every third Monday of the month. KHC traces its history back to 1971 when Dana Rohrabacher and Seymour Leon started the first Libertarian Supper Club of Los Angeles.

The Society for Individual Liberty, which ultimately absorbed most of the old YAF Libertarian Caucuses, had a magazine (*Rational Individualist*) and a newsletter (*SIL News*); if you can find the issues, you'll get a lot of first-hand views of the events at the time. SIL merged with the Libertarian International in 1990 to form the International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) which still hosts the majority of Libertarian Conferences around the world.

—Freely as ever, SEK3, Original Libertarian, who earned his Capital L in the streets and the convention halls of the Battle of St. Louis.

Samuel E. Konkin III was a founder of the *Agorist Institute*, the *Movement of the Libertarian Left*, *New Libertarian magazine*, and the *Karl Hess Club*. Details on his life may be found at: www.karlhessclub.org/sek.htm.

From the Editor*continued from page 2*

"Liberty for *me* but not for *thee*." Not principled, but certainly pragmatic.

That's why the term "liberty maximizing" (used in some LP circles) discomforts me. It sounds ominously utilitarian. The greatest liberty for the greatest number. What's wrong with that? Well, it can lead to unprincipled, anti-individualist policies. If you eliminate all taxes on 99% of the people by increasing taxes on the remaining 1%, you've a "net gain" in liberty — very "liberty maximizing" (too bad for the unfortunate 1%). Likewise, if you "liberate" ten million people by napalming 100,000, some may judge that to be "the greatest liberty for the greatest number"

Eminent Domain*continued from page 1*

Riverside Libertarians have no illusions about Gardner. We supported him in order to defeat Betro, and show the importance of opposing eminent domain. But we cannot rely on politicians to defend our property rights.

The RCLP has endorsed the Property Rights Protection Act which will be on the June primary ballot. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association is the sponsor of this ballot initiative. We urge Libertarians throughout California to support and campaign for a Yes vote on Property Rights.

The RCLP has also produced an issue paper, *Community Redevelopment: Corporate Welfare in Your Hometown*. Libertarian groups or activists may receive copies by contacting this author at renbook@earthlink.net or (951) 369-8843.

Gene Berkman owns *Renaissance Books in Riverside*. He is Chair of the *Riverside County Libertarian Party*.



Sandra Kallander

Sandra Kallander is a libertarian activist in Culver City. Her email: IMissLiberty@Kallander.info.

— tough cookies if your daughter was among those burnt to a crisp.

Our problem is not marketing a popular "product"; it's that many people don't even know what liberty *is*. That liberty does not entitle one to subsidies. That liberty is not democracy; just because a majority voted for it, and it's legal, does not make it moral. That liberty demands you respect the rights of *others* -- even of foreigners and "bad people."

I am baffled by Libertarians who attack Schwarzenegger for expanding government, yet who want to ignore political education in favor of "getting votes." If an uneducated electorate thought Gingrich and

Schwarzenegger's tepid agendas were "too extreme," then how much *more so* must the LP compromise to compete for votes?

Of course, we can run candidates on those pro-liberty issues that are already popular with most voters (such as ending the war — thank God most Americans do not see the war as "liberty maximizing"). But if we are to "get votes" without selling out, we must *change the culture* through educational election campaigns, and the arts, and any other means available. Otherwise, even if we are elected to office, *the people* will block our reforms.

Top 10 Reasons Women Should Attend a Libertarian Party Convention

by Sandra Kallander

10: Your social abilities will shine, even if they're only average.

9: You can watch men posture and display and battle for dominance, probably without getting blood on your clothes.

8: Your influence on events will be amplified.

7: If you run for party office, you will probably win.

6: Your skills at manipulating bigger, more powerful entities are useful to the party.

5: If your ideas are laughed at, it probably isn't because you're female.

4: A brilliant comeback will not be universally resented, and will gain you more allies than enemies.

3: You may have opportunities to display your child-rearing skills.

2: Unlike many other gatherings, most attendees are wealthier than they appear. They must be.

And finally, the Number One reason Women Should Attend a Libertarian Party Convention...

1: "Pulling back the curtain" and seeing what goes on behind the scenes will change the way you see politics and elected officials forever.

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From the Office

New Year Brings New Members

by Beau Cain

Our Panorama City office provides tactical support for the Executive Committee's strategic decisions. To that end, the office produced three membership renewal mailings during the last quarter of 2007, finalized our new online services, and enjoyed some surprising new interest as the old year wound to a close.



Beau Cain is Secretary of the LPC and acting Office Manager. His email: secretary@ca.lp.org

Membership Renewal Mailings

In October, volunteers mailed 1,208 letters to members whose memberships lapsed or would lapse in 2007, encouraging them to renew. We earned a surprising and gratifying response of nearly 17% (almost 200 renewals), and our lively crew of volunteers can pat themselves on the back for efforts that generated about \$15 of income per letter mailed.

November's mailing went to a less reliable demographic: 1,711 members whose memberships expired in 2006. Predictably, it has so far produced a smaller return (95 renewals), but that mailing has also resulted in a more reliable mailing list for future contacts.

The third mailing was a post card sent on January 3rd (not really in the last quarter of 2007, but a necessary consequence of the two previous

mailings). The post cards went to almost 2,200 members whose memberships lapsed in 2006 and 2007, notifying them that their membership would be deactivated if they don't renew by the end of January.

These three mailings established a reliable baseline of LPC membership and income, laying the groundwork for mobilizing volunteer efforts for political campaigns in 2008.

New Online Services

The office made other significant advances during the last quarter of 2007. We've deployed "Click and Pledge" as one of our online payment methods. You can now join, renew your membership, register for the convention, contribute to the vitally important Campaign Support Committee's efforts, and donate unrestricted gifts -- all on one secure page!

To show how rapidly this feature has benefited our operation, we took in over \$2,000 in the first three days of its availability. Before this service was even announced, eight people renewed their LPC membership, and eight more registered for the convention, in just three days. Not only that, but three members contributed to the Campaign Support Committee fund as of January 9th.

What's ahead? You'll find the registration form for the LPC convention on our website! Because it offers so many different ways to participate, it wasn't cost effective to include that with our new Weblink online point-of-sale pages. Instead, the 8-page convention program shows the many ways you can enjoy our February 22-24 convention in San Diego, and includes the 2-page registration form, available as a printable PDF on the LPC website: www.ca.lp.org.

Surprising New Interest

After the California Secretary of State published their Official Voter Guide during the last week of 2007, our office received over forty phone calls and emails from people who either wanted to join the LPC, register as a Libertarian voter, or learn more about our stand on important issues. To everyone who phoned or emailed, I

sent a package of information about libertarian principles and the LPC's stances on issues, copies of recent newsletters, a voter registration form, an LPC member enrollment form, and a personal letter thanking them for their interest and encouraging them to become involved with their local county Party.

We begin 2008 with a surprising surge of interest in the LPC, and the Party's office is ready to keep that momentum going!

From the Chair

continued from page 2

More Libertarians in Offices

I've been informed that we have two appointed city commissioners serving in Orange County. Debi Grand serves on the Stanton Parks and Recreation Commission. Don Patterson, the longtime Secretary of the Orange County LP, serves on the Laguna Niguel Environmental Review Commission. [See his article, page 1.] He's also a candidate for Congress.

I want to showcase these two people as shining examples of Libertarians in action -- and I hope to see and hear about other California Libertarians applying libertarian principles in their local governments.

It's an exciting time to be a Libertarian. I hope you'll take part in whatever capacity you can. History is made by ordinary people, like you and me, living in extraordinary times. Let's make it one for the record books.

"War is the health of the State.

It automatically sets in motion throughout society those irresistible forces for uniformity, for passionate cooperation with the Government in coercing into obedience the minority groups and individuals which lack the larger herd sense. ...

The machinery of government sets and enforces the drastic penalties; the minorities are either intimidated into silence, or brought slowly around by a subtle process of persuasion which may seem to them really to be converting them."

—Randolph Bourne

The Libertarian Perspective's op-ed columns are sent via e-mail weekly to over 2,000 news media professionals in California.

If you know of any reporters, editors, publishers, or other parties who might be interested in receiving The Libertarian Perspective and Libertarian Party of California press releases, please have them subscribe to our media list by entering this URL in a web browser and following the instructions provided: TinyURL.com/df3uy.

Libertarian Party members are also welcome to join the list and receive our media e-mail missives!

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Albert J. Segalla, Realtor
Chair, LP of Calaveras County



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“Outright Libertarians” Endorses Phillies for President

by Rob Power

Outright Libertarians have an embarrassment of riches this year. Three LP candidates scored perfectly on our scorecard. Our Executive Committee debated as to whether we ought to make any endorsement prior to the LP nominating convention in Denver.

But in the final analysis, there was only one Libertarian with a perfect score on our scorecard who was actively campaigning (for himself, not for some major-party candidate), who had a truly national campaign, who was receiving media attention (including magazines and television), and who has continued to receive FEC-reportable campaign contributions that are better than any of his opponents for our

endorsement.

For these reasons, the Executive Committee of Outright Libertarians voted on January 16th to endorse George Phillies for the 2008 LP presidential nomination.

From his interview in *The Advocate*, to his one-liner response to a marriage equality question at a debate in socially conservative Fresno, California —“We’ve already solved that problem in Massachusetts”— we can tell that Dr. Phillies would never try to rationalize anti-LGBT bigotry as a way to “grow” the Libertarian Party. He recognizes that liberty is impossible so long as the boot of big government remains on the neck of any disfavored minority group.



George Phillies

Outright Libertarians proudly supports George Phillies and calls on all of our members and allies to attend the Libertarian National Convention in Denver this May and cast their nominating vote for Dr. Phillies.

Rob Power is Chair of the San Francisco LP, and National Chair of Outright Libertarians, “an association of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other self-identified ‘queer’ (LGBTQ) LP activists and supporters.” His email: chair@outrightusa.org.



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“That rifle on the wall of the labourer’s cottage or working class flat is the symbol of democracy. It is our job to see that it stays there.”

—George Orwell

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Photo: Chante Wolf, Cost of Freedom

The Constitutional “right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances” *must* be exercised if Americans hope to remain free. Page 4.

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