

California Freedom

October 2007

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

When You Call C-SPAN, Washington Listens

by Mike Binkley

Every morning C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, a call-in cable TV show (4-7 a.m. PST), lets you challenge Washington's political elite in front of hundreds of thousands of viewers. It's a great way to subvert the groupthink of D.C. politicians, bureaucrats, and reporters — on a show they all watch!

Over the past twelve years, I've made over 80 calls to *Washington Journal*, challenging Democratic and Republican elites, and supporting Libertarians.

In 2000, I confronted former drug czar William Bennett regarding "the government's war on the people and their Constitution, better known as the War on Drugs." I asked: "Isn't the government's War on Drugs a foolish replay of alcohol prohibition, causing the same social pathologies? High crime levels; powerful, violent gangs; and ugly, brutal culture? Or, Dr. Bennett, do you think that it's a coincidence that we are suffering the same pathologies?"

Bennett responded with a *non sequitur*, ignoring my question while speculating hysterically about the consequences of legalization.

On January 4, 2006, I emailed a question to *Washington*



Journal guest John Walters, our current drug czar. (C-SPAN hosts may read your email when addressed to specific guests.) I asked: "However foolish alcohol prohibition was, at least its backers secured Constitutional authority for their scheme. They passed the 18th amendment. Why was no Constitutional amendment required for drug prohibition?"

Walters ignored my question and answered his own. He recapitulated the history of the Supreme Court's repeal of the 10th Amendment. He failed to explain why a Constitutional amendment was required for alcohol prohibition but not for drug prohibition.

On May 3, 2006, I explained to *Washington Journal* guest Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iranian Ambassador to the U.N., how America's Civil Rights movement achieved the revolutionary, historic goal of ending racial bigotry by demonstrating ex-

traordinary humanity (nonviolence) in the face of inhumanity (vicious dogs, fire hoses, police clubs, etc.). I said: "Compare and contrast the morality and effectiveness of Dr. King's tactics versus the tactics of the suicide bombers of Hamas and Hezbollah."

Zarif replied that Dr. King's methods were inapplicable to the problems of Palestinians. Ironically, King's critics within the Civil Rights movement said the same about nonviolence in the 1960s.

On October 23, 2006, identifying myself as a Libertarian, I told former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) that "I have the clear, strong impression that Democrats and Republicans agree that the government should control our lives, but they disagree about who should control the government."

I asked Daschle to disabuse me, in the context of Iraq.

I continued: "In Iraq, [our bipartisan political establishment]

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• LPC Executive Committee meeting, September 15, 2007, in Millbrae, California

LPC Endorses Oct. 27 Peace Protests

by Lawrence K. Samuels

On September 15, convening at the Clarion Hotel in Millbrae, California, the Libertarian Party of California Executive Committee passed the following Peace Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED: In an effort to become more publicly involved in the movement to end the war in Iraq, the Libertarian Party of California lends its official support and cooperation to facilitate the statewide peace protest scheduled for Oct. 27, 2007.

However, the ExCom does not want the LPC to be a coalition member of ANSWER, which is spearheading the nationwide rallies.

I suggested that LP members participate in local peace rallies across the state. Several antiwar articles are available for printing and distribution at www.Freedom1776.com and at the LPC Peace Caucus website: www.LP-CalPeace.org •

LAWRENCE K. SAMUELS is a Member of the LPC's Executive Committee and is the Co-Chair of Libertarians for Peace of Monterey County.

■ Hollywood Libertarian

Playwright Ben Pleasants Shuns Government Money



by Thomas M. Sipos

Unlike many playwrights, **Ben Pleasants** won't accept state arts grants. Unlike many plays, those written by Pleasants defy "progressive" dogma. Pleasants believes those two elements go together. In one of his plays, a character tells the audience: "We didn't get any grants for this play."

• **Ben Pleasants with Pumpkin**



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

"...You can do this stuff when you don't get money from the government. You can do anything!"

"I am an anarchist," said Pleasants. "I am completely anti-state. I raise my own money with no strings attached. Producers call me frequently about doing my plays. I just meet them face to face. Face to face is better than email. Email plays so nicely into the state. Before long, they'll rewrite it for us. I'm sure they do that in China."

Pleasant's biographical play *Contentious Minds: The Mary McCarthy/Lillian Hellman Affair* was produced in 2002 at Hollywood's Lillian Theatre. It starred Jennifer Gundy (*Star Trek: Voyager, South of Sunset*) and Melissa Jones (*Spin City, Primetime Glick*). Hellman had been a screenwriter (*Watch on the Rhine*) who defended Stalin through to her death in 1984. The play reveals her as a denier of Stalin's Communist Holocaust.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All news stories, editorials, and announcements are due six weeks prior to the month of publication:

- December 2007: Due 10/20/07
- January 2008: Due 11/20/07
- February 2008: Due 12/20/07

Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising. All contributions subject to our editorial guidelines.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

by Kevin Takenaga

In a previous column, I related how *carpe diem* should rule your day, and gave concrete ways of exploiting every opportunity to make a difference. This month, I'll demonstrate how even one person who gets involved in the political process can make a huge difference.

We get caught up in the fact that the "system is against us." We assume we can't win unless we change the system's rules. But success stories within our organization prove otherwise.

Take **Norm Westwell** in Orange County. Norm has attended city council and school board meetings. He ran for local and state office using innovative and cost productive techniques. He organized his neighborhoods and worked with coalitions. He even rollerbladed around his city

One vs. 100

to reach more people in less time. Alone, he's been more active than (gasp!) some county parties have been.

Another example is **Casey Alpanalp** in Butte County. Casey once stopped a tax increase with one phone call. He responded to a community newsletter which stated that a local taxing authority would go ahead with a tax increase if no one objected. Well, Casey called, objected, and they didn't put the tax on the ballot. If the pen is indeed mightier than the sword, then the phone is the ultimate technological advancement in the struggle for freedom.

Finally, former Northern Vice Chair in the 1980s, and longtime member, **Dennis Schlumpf** has served as an elected official on the Tahoe City Public Utility District. Back in 1984, he helped elect our first Libertarian Board

of Supervisor in Placer County.

If you ever watched the game show *1 vs. 100*, you'll have seen that the forces arrayed against an opponent are not always monolithic. Answer a question correctly, and the contestant "takes out" some of the mob. Answer another question, and a few more are dismissed. If you are knowledgeable, prepared, smart, and use your "helps" properly, you can win.

The "mob" can be beaten. It takes effort, preparation, and stamina. Sometimes it just takes a single phone call.

Give it a try. Let me refresh your memory.

Meet with your local County Party. Help organize a campaign for a local candidate.



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

LPC Chair Kevin Takenaga requires assistance in coordinating his extensive travels throughout our vast state, as he visits county affiliates, donors, and elected officials.

Volunteer must be reliable, have access to email, phone, and fax, and able to commit a minimum of 2 hours a week.

To apply, please contact the Chair at: Chair@CA.LP.org.

Donate money. Attend a city council, board of supervisors, or school board meeting. Write a letter to the editor. Reach out to your community. Run for office yourself.

Don't wait until tomorrow for what can be done today.

I think you'll be amazed by the results. I'm already amazed by what has been achieved by so few. ●

It's Not Just About "Getting Votes"



FROM THE EDITOR

by Thomas M. Sipos

Although I've been following the LP for thirty years, it's only in the last ten that I've heard the refrain: "The LP is a political party. It's not a social club or a debating society. It's about *getting votes*."

Those who say this usually begin by sniping at the LP's lack of electoral success. Then they invite everyone to be part of their solution to fix things—or get out of the way!

Unfortunately, there's no agreed upon solution. Two self-styled experts have chided me over the years for not knowing how to "get votes" even as they feud with each other. One in particular wins fewer votes every time he runs, yet this hasn't stopped him from extolling his vote-getting expertise on blogs and listservs.

However, *I'd rather advance liberty than "get votes."* And to do so, the LP must also promote *education* and stay true to *principle*.

If we can attain liberty by winning elections, fine. But why not also advance liberty by other means, if possible? Some would reply, "Because the LP is not a think tank, a social

club, or a debating society." I disagree. The LP is a *tool*, to be utilized however best fits our needs.

Yes, we're a political party. A *third* party. A different animal from a major party. Different strengths and weaknesses. A cat who fights among lions because "being feline is about winning the 'lion's share' of the carcass" will lose. But this doesn't mean that a cat can't "get food" by other means.

A third party's primary strength is its freedom to speak truth to power. Liberated of any chance of winning most elections, our candidates have the luxury of saying things that people need to hear. It's nice to have libertarian think tanks and artists doing so as well, but political campaigns can educate people in ways that think tanks cannot. We should not ignore using elections as teaching tools.

The Libertarian Perspective, a series of weekly op-eds that the LPC syndicates to the media, is a mostly educational effort. Can anyone say that we should stop this effective program because "we're a political party, not a think tank"? (Kudos to **Aaron Starr** and **Richard Newell** for establishing *The Libertarian Perspective* and to **Dan Minkoff** for continuing it.)

The various socialist parties did much educating in the 19th

and early 20th centuries. They lost many elections, but won many hearts. In time, both major parties promoted socialism due to popular demand. Likewise, the Prohibition Party won few Congressional seats, but helped change people's thinking so that the 18th Amendment became reality. And the Reform Party won enough votes in the 1990s to compel the major parties to address deficit spending (however briefly).

That's how it's worked in America. Third parties rarely attain power, because once their ideas gain popularity, the major parties steal their agendas. And a major party that offers X appeals more to voters than a third party offering X, because a major party has the power to effectuate X.

It may be our destiny to advance liberty by pressuring the major parties into passing our agenda. Fine with me. I don't care what letter a politico has before his name so long as he advances liberty.

Like it or not, we're street fighters, not backroom insiders. We are the vanguard of liberty. The Anti-Bolsheviks. We must fight (peacefully) for a libertarian revolution on all fronts, not just on the ballot. In letters to the editor, radio and TV call-

ins, speaking engagements, and protest marches. To paraphrase Tom Joad: "Wherever there's a rally against victimless crime laws, we'll be there."

If I'm wrong, no problem. The activism of LP *Educationists* and *Electionists* (those who emphasize vote-getting) do not obstruct one another. Both groups want to advance liberty. Both need votes to do so (either to elect Libertarians, or to pressure Demopublicans into passing our agenda). And both require an educated public to win those votes.

Each of you is free to decide whether to emphasize campaign work or educational efforts. We need both.

What we don't need are people who would sacrifice principle in order to "get votes." We must not drop unpopular stances, or shun unpopular victims of the state, for fear of "losing votes." I'd rather we lose elections than lose our integrity. I've no sympathy for those who, because they "want to see some liberty in *my own* lifetime," would sacrifice an unpopular person's liberty for their own.

It's easy and tempting to play to the mob. But as a party of reason, we've set higher standards for ourselves. This requires educating and elevating voters to our level, rather than descending to the level of Demopublicans. ●



Letters to the Editor



Don't Sell Out Our Principles

Regarding Tim Crowley's pro-Libertarian Reform Caucus letter in the September issue, I am glad that you rebutted it with an excellently written Editor's Reply.

The Libertarian Reform Caucus is an anti-Libertarian cancer striving to destroy our party principles in hopes of achieving election wins by appealing to a wider populous. Even if they were successful in doubling our vote totals, it would raise a typical 5% to just 10%. I don't see how 10% of the vote will win elections. What this strategy would actually garner us is a loss of the little respect that we now have, demonstrating that Libertarians are willing to exchange principles for votes, and are no better than the parties now in elected office.

Someday the Libertarian Party will be a major force in American politics. It won't happen in my lifetime, and maybe not in the next generation. But it will happen—when America matures enough to chose liberty. But to get there, Libertarians will have to stick to our principles and not give up, and pass this ethic on to our children.

For now, we can achieve more success by endeavors to influence government rather than trying to take it over.

At the 2006 Portland convention, I witnessed the cancerous LRC eating through our LP platform in the last hour of the last day, leaving the faithful members stunned and confused

in disbelief, with little time to fight back. At the 2008 Denver convention, I expect to help the loyal of us repair the damage wrecked in Portland.

— Jerry L. Dixon
Santee, CA

Not Antiwar Enough

The War is the elephant in the room that we in the Libertarian Party are ignoring. Or, perhaps I should say, the Wars. Wars and occupations of the US government (not "us", the American people, but the US government).

Why is our leadership so silent about US government imperialism? The LP is developing a dangerous reputation as a pro-war party because of its perceived weak stands against US military interventionism, empire-building, "nation-building" (which is nothing more than code for people-destroying), and shameless mercantilism.

A short list of hotspots: Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Korea.

The LP's stand on interventionism is classically, radically libertarian: DON'T. But through weak leadership, we are allowing ourselves to be painted as weak on the wars, or even pro-war (this is especially the case with Afghanistan). This weakens the LP by driving off libertarians. It weakens the entire antiwar movement, the movement of resistance to US government aggression at home and abroad (we all know that war is the health of the state). It deprives libertarians of the

chance to work shoulder-to-shoulder with antiwar activists on the left — our best chance to demonstrate what freedom really means to those still in the dark.

War and US government imperialism is perhaps the defining issue of this decade, and perhaps of this generation. We have allowed ourselves to linger at the antiwar station while a large coalition of socialists boards the train without us. Why? Are we pro-war? I cannot believe it. I know the mass of Libertarians are, indeed, libertarian -- opposed to foreign adventurism and interventionism of all sorts -- economic and military, although of course the latter almost always follows the former in the course of things. What can rank-and-file Party members and activists do about this elephant in our room? We need to pressure our leadership -- our elected officers, our elected LNC representatives, and our local and state parties —to take bold and decisive action to get the LP aboard the antiwar train. We need to: 1. Get our local LPs to pass antiwar resolutions, 2. Get our state LPs to pass antiwar resolutions, 3. Get the LNC to pass *strong* antiwar resolutions—not simply on Iraq, but *on Iran and Afghanistan*, 4. Encourage—no, *demand*—the LP leadership formulate policy positions at the LNC level —*not* through staff-written press releases or LP website blog entries, 5. Demand of the LNC that the LP join antiwar coalitions and *take a leadership role*, 6. Demand that the LP have an *official presence* at antiwar rallies.

LP activists should take action immediately (actually, several years ago) to preserve the LP as a radical anti-empire political party, and start the LP down the path of assuming a true leadership role in the antiwar movement. This pressure needs to come from within the Party.

The unfortunate stand on Afghanistan, and lack of strong stands against the Iraq war, have driven off many antiwar libertarians. I hope they return and join us in turning the Party around. But we cannot afford to lose more antiwar activists because that will weaken the Party, perhaps irreversibly.

Let us—the anti-interventionists—be the nucleus of change within the LP, as we work toward making the LP the nucleus of change in our country.

— Susan Hogarth
Raleigh, NC

Drug War Strengthens Taliban

America's bipartisan political establishment lives in a government dream world, a magical world of mystery. Rarely does it surface news of government failure, like the increasing risk of defeat at the hands of the Taliban and al Qaeda. Rarer still does it enter the world of rationality by asking (never mind credibly answering) the question: *Why is the mightiest military in history losing Afghanistan to these pathological lunatics?*

By transforming cheap Afghan poppies into something more valuable than gold, America's

drug warriors have effectively put hundreds of millions of dollars of illicit drug profits into the hands of the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan. Our drug warriors have virtually ensured the terrorists' success in Afghanistan and have given them with the means to buy nuclear bombs.

Is this feckless effort to protect adult boneheads from themselves really worth failure in Afghanistan and the increased risk of nuclear bombs going off in American cities?

— Mike Binkley
Laguna Woods, CA

Registering for Ron Paul

I've been a registered Libertarian my entire adult life. I have not voted for anybody who is not a Libertarian for nearly 40 years, and any and all issues I vote for are viewed from a standpoint of freedom and liberty. The upcoming elections will be no different, with one exception.

I voted for Ron Paul when he ran for President in 1988 and will momentarily (and let me emphasize the *momentarily* part) register as a Republican so I can vote for him in the Republican primaries. Given Paul's consistent libertarian (and Libertarian) history, I thought there might be those who would do the same, and I might provide a link to my website, dedicated to Paul and his presidential campaign: www.PaulForRonPaul.com

— Paul Henson,
San Diego, CA

Bylaws Require CCC Elections

Is it true that the LPC Chair has not "authorized" CCC [County Central Committee] elections for 2008? Does the Secretary of State's office send the political parties a letter asking them if they "authorize" such elections, or are the LPC Executive Committee and Chair taking it upon themselves to tell the Secretary of State that the LPC does not want to hold CCC elections?

If the LPC does not "authorize" CCC elections, it is in violation of the LPC Bylaws provision for elected CCC members. Without CCC elections, there

• See **Letters** page 6

I Want to Join the California Coffee Club!

Yes! I want to buy the Libertarian Party of California coffee every working day, and pay for it on a monthly basis.

- One cup — \$42 per month
- Two cups — \$84 per month
- Three cups — \$126 per month
- Five cups — \$210 per month



The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. Your pledge can include membership in the Libertarian Party of California. To publicly affirm what we believe – and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles – we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP ONLY DATE

Notice: Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Voided check enclosed to authorize automatic monthly payments, Or: Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

ACCT # _____	EXPRES _____
SIGNATURE FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT _____	HOME PHONE _____
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NAME ON CREDIT CARD (IF DIFFERENT) _____	EMAIL ADDRESS _____
OCCUPATION _____	EMPLOYER _____
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C-SPAN

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endorses the Marxist policy that the means of oil production must remain in the hands of the Iraqi government, leaving unresolved whether control is left with the central or the provincial governments. The result is predictable. An ugly spoils fight over Iraq's vast oil income, about three quarters of Iraq's GDP. Disaster awaits. Iraqi civil war, which will probably quickly spread to regional war. There's a better way. Put the means of oil production, i.e., one share of stock in the Iraqi oil industry, into the hands of individual Iraqi citizens. Then fully privatize the Iraqi oil industry. Deflate this dangerous political football. Do you endorse the Marxist policy of the Iraqi government's control of the means of oil production?"

Smiling, Daschle replied that my proposal was interesting but unworkable.

On May 7, 2007, I questioned ABC news correspondent Brian Ross on his "D.C. madam" story, which reported that the Bush Administration had increased prosecution of escort services.

I said: "I'm a Libertarian, and

so I believe that the pursuit of happiness is a God-given, unalienable right. Note, America's Founders did not say the wise pursuit of happiness, and they certainly did not say the government-approved pursuit of happiness. How in the world did the bipartisan political establishment get to be smarter than America's Founders?"

Ross seemed intrigued with the radical character of the Declaration of Independence. He sat silently until

the host said: "Mr. Ross?"

Ross responded that all engagements were consensual. Left unanswered: *Who's the victim?*

On June 25, 2007, I questioned Richard Douglas, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense responsible for coordinating counter-narcotics policy in Afghanistan, on the folly of the Administration's anti-narcotics effort in Afghanistan.

I often call in to inform Washington's political establishment that drug prohibition provides hundreds of millions of dollars of drug profits to the Taliban and al Qaeda, resulting in increased probability of nuclear bombs going off in American cities — like Washington, DC.

On August 5, 2007, I ques-

tioned *National Review's* White House correspondent Byron York about Republicans (such as himself) accusing Ron Paul of "blaming America."

I said: "By claiming Ron Paul is blaming America, Republicans like Rudy Giuliani seem to be unable to distinguish between the American people and the American government. Obviously, Dr. Paul was not blaming America. He was blaming the government's ham-fisted policy. Stupidity, of course, is not the only explanation. They could just be thoughtless toadies for the Bush Administration. Or they could be consciously trying to impugn the patriotism of Dr. Paul and other war critics. What, in your view, is a better explanation? Which explanation fits the facts best?"

York had (in an article he'd written after the GOP South Carolina debate) criticized Paul for "blaming America." In his response to me, however, York revised history, saying he was criticizing Paul for "blaming the American government." ●

In 2004, MIKE BINKLEY was one of 25 winners in a C-SPAN essay contest: www.c-span.org/c-span25/stories.asp?code=bink. He's a longtime LP activist, most recently serving two years as Chair of the Los Angeles County LP. He now resides in Orange County.



Because Ideas Matter

Leave Government Growth to the Professionals

by Mark Selzer

Much to my consternation, a Libertarian will occasionally stray from the pack and, in one area or another, advocate government involvement or growth.

This is odd. If you think government fails in most undertakings, why would you suddenly imagine that it will work in some other area? But despite reason, these few, stubborn people stick to the Libertarian Party like glue. Sometimes, embarrassingly so.

What should we say to them? What should be our policy?

My policy is to advise them: Let's leave government growth to the professionals.

Which professionals? Republicans and Democrats. Truly, they are professionals at growing government. They make their living growing government. They



Photo: Elizabeth C. Birely

compete to see who can grow government the most.

Each administration — Republican or Democrat — grows government to worse proportions than the last. Each party holds primary election contests to find the best salesmen for government. George W. Bush was chosen as the best government growth salesman for the Republicans. The Democrats came up with Al Gore, then John Kerry. These men were chosen for their wealth of experience at growing government, and for their salesmanship in selling government to the American people.

This same process repeats at state and local levels. These super salesmen could sell a police station to an anarchist. Or the Iraq war, or more im-

migration enforcement, to a Libertarian.

These experts do not need a tiny minority, of a tiny political party, to help them sell government to the masses. In your amateur campaign as a Libertarian, you will not be able to help G.W. Bush or Hillary Clinton sell the war (yes, she was pro-war before she ran for President), or sell more immigration enforcement, or environmental protection, or whatever problem you think government will mysteriously

These salesmen could sell a police station to an anarchist.

be capable of solving when it has not been effective anywhere else. They do not need, and probably do not want, your help. They have more govern-

News You Can Use Tips For Effective C-SPAN Calls

by Mike Binkley

Be Yourself, But Polite. Ralph Waldo Emerson observed: "I can't hear what you say, for who you are is shouting at me." Be congenial and respectful— even to abusive guests. Project likeability and viewers will identify with you. And you will more likely persuade them.

Do Your Homework. Visit C-SPAN's website, www.c-span.org. Click the *Washington Journal* link to learn the names and affiliations of future guests. Then research and tailor your question or comment for them.

Script Your Question. Write your comment or question, then revise for clarity. Thus, your words will be concise, clear, and well-informed.

Respect C-SPAN's Rules. Their most important one: Don't call more often than once every 30 days.

Humor Can Be Effective. Here are three examples:

- In late 2003, the day after the LP elected Geoffrey Neale as its National Chair, I spoke with him on *Washington Journal*. After congratulating him, I suggested that Libertarians be more generous to the major parties. I noted that we Libertarians enjoy a symbol, Lady Liberty, that fits our political philosophy.

"I feel sorry for the poor Democrats and Republicans," I said. "Now a days, no one can remember what the elephant and donkey stand for. So I suggest that they adopt a new symbol—one that comports well with their philosophy and their attendant demand for half of the people's income. I suggest the carnivorous worm, the leech."

Neale laughed at that.

- Several months later, I called *Washington Journal's* guest, LP Presidential hopeful Gary Nolan, to apologize for my previous call.

"My odious comparison of major party politicians with leeches disturbed me," I said. "I must set the record straight. ...I am profoundly apologetic to leeches everywhere. No leech takes half. I have unfairly smeared them. I just hope I can live with myself."

- A few years ago, I called then Rep. Ben Cardin (D-MD) on *Washington Journal*. I explained that many conservatives regard him a socialist, but that I could refute that charge, to the satisfaction of every conservative.

The congressman seemed interested.

I continued: "First, Congressman, concede that your political philosophy was driven by the principle that government must 'take from each according to his means and give to each, according to his need', a key principle of the *Communist Manifesto*. But then point out—and this is where you've got them!—that all of your redistribution schemes occur within *national* boundaries. So, you're not a socialist. You're a *national* socialist!"

The congressman laughed, enjoying his only spontaneous moment that morning. He quickly recovered, and returned to canned talking points. ●

ment growth talent in the smallest hair on their little toe than you possess in your entire body.

Just as Jimi Hendrix had a talent for playing guitar, these professionals have a talent for growing government and selling it to the herd. Bush and Clinton can play people's emotions like the finest musicians to convince them that more government is good, that it's needed for our survival and the survival of our civilization. They have elevated it to a fine art.

We Libertarians must keep

our talents focused on stopping these professionals, on every issue. The LP must convey its clear message of less government, and more individual rights, on every issue. Those who agree with us on only one issue can work with us on that issue, yet remain sure of and have confidence in our direction. This will discourage internal conflict and swell our ranks. ●

MARK SELZER is a former LPC Southern Vice Chair, and a current Alternate on the LPC Executive Committee. His email is MarkSelzer@sbglobal.net

■ News You Can Use

Campaign Fund Raising Fundamentals



by John Briscoe

A candidate must have money to run a successful campaign. But the process of fund raising itself achieves two things: (1) It cements support from contributors; people feel a greater incentive to vote for someone they've invested money in, and (2) A candidate works harder if his or her friends and family are watching their investment.

Ask Everyone. Solicit all your friends, family, and business acquaintances for their political and financial support. Mail a personal letter to every possible person announcing your candidacy, election date, key campaign issues, and a request for financial support in any amount.

Make It Easy. Include a postage-paid envelope and suggest a contribution amount. Obtain a postage-paid number from the US Postal Service. It will cost more per donation received, but save wasted postage into the future.

Email Donors. Constantly update your supporters with press articles and attached campaign literature. Always ask for additional financial support.

Solicit Large Donors. Ask

local PACs, in writing, to support your campaign. Ask to appear before governing boards for personal introductions, to explain your positions, and to ask for money.



Identify individual donors who support candidates, and contact them by mail and in person.

Appoint a Campaign Finance Director. Find a trusted individual to manage your campaign plan. Meet often to adjust plans, and to make sure work gets done.

Donor Management

Generic letters do not inspire people to contribute. Personal letters addressed to individuals are required. Keep all potential contributors in a database (e.g., Excel, Access, etc.) for easy, personalized letter generation.

Maintain a record of letters mailed and income received to gauge effectiveness. Even if people do not give, they are flattered the candidate asked them personally, and will more likely support you with friends and neighbors.

Always write a letter of thanks to anyone who contributed in whatever amount.

Large donors should be thanked in person, by phone, and with a hand-written note.

Legal Compliance

Federal IRS Tax ID# — Obtain a campaign federal EIN (Employee Identification Number) using form SS-4 from the Department of the Treasury, available online.

State of California Campaign Entity ID# — Obtain a campaign Recipient Committee identification number from the California Secretary of State. Call (916)653-6224 several weeks in advance, or go online to www.ss.ca.gov.

County Registrar of Voters — Obtain a date-stamped Statement of Candidacy (including a swearing-in at the counter). Complete the forms that announce a campaign committee formation to solicit donations. Fill out the countless separate forms. Submit them as required by law (and explained in voluminous County documents).

The Registrar must be visited in person. It's best to visit early, to avoid the last-minute rush on the date of last filing. Come prepared with a candidate statement already written and word-counted. Many candidates write it on-the-spot, resulting

in lower quality work.

Campaign Checking Account — Open a checking account with a local bank to receive donations and pay bills. Checks should be made out to your official campaign name, and not to the candidate individually.

USPS Postage-Paid # — Obtain a postage-paid contract with the local US Post Office for use on campaign envelopes.

Budgeting

The candidate and advisors, including the campaign finance chairperson, must devise a realistic budget plan. How will money be raised? To fund what activities? The budget plan must include:

1. Direct Mail Brochures
2. Door-to-Door Brochures
3. Print Advertising
4. Handouts & Flyers
5. Yard Signs & Banners
6. Fund Raising Solicitations
7. Candidate Statement at the County Registrar of Voters
8. All Other (candidate dinners and luncheons, etc.)

Activities must be prioritized based on voter impact.

Least effective activities must be funded last. If the fund raising falls short of budgetary objectives, either the candidate must pay for the shortfall, or the campaign must forgo some activities. As activities are dropped, the likelihood of winning declines. ●

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

Holiday Slowdown

Because of the approaching holiday season, California Freedom's next issue might be a combined Nov/Dec issue. Now is also a very good time to submit your LPC state convention-related letters and articles.

If tyranny and oppression come to this land it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy.

— James Madison

■ Building the Party

Seeking Libertarian Candidates for 2008

by Ted Brown

You hear about Presidential candidates for 2008 every day, but other offices are also up for election. We need Libertarian candidates for U.S. Congress, State Senate, and State Assembly. (California has no statewide offices up for election next year.)

There are 53 Congressional races, 20 State Senate races (odd-numbered seats), and 80 State Assembly races. We need Libertarian candidates in as many races as possible. Candidates should be knowledgeable about Libertarian positions on major issues, and able to discuss their views with voters, local political groups, and the news media.



To qualify as a Libertarian candidate, you must be registered to vote as a Libertarian and not in any other party since March 7, 2007. If you are registered "Decline to State" or not registered at all, you can sign up as a Libertarian until December 7, 2007, and still be eligible. Candidates for State Senate and Assembly must live in the district they are running in. Congressional candidates may live anywhere in the state, though from a practical point of view, the candidate should live in or near his or her district.

The first day to take out papers from your local Registrar of Voters office is December 28, 2007. To get on the ballot and avoid paying the filing fee (1%

of the salary for the office), you need the signatures of 10% of the registered Libertarians in the district, or 150 signatures, whichever is fewer.

If you are interested in running, please contact me as soon as possible. We can determine which districts you live in, and give you more details about what is required. At the minimum, we ask that candidate be willing to answer questionnaires from special interest groups, speak to the news media when called, and attend any local candidate forums or events. Anything beyond that is up to you.

I can be reached at (626) 286-6124, or by e-mail at tedbrown1776@hotmail.com.

TED BROWN has been the LPC's candidate recruitment chair since 1987. He has run for office 13 times on the Libertarian ticket.



Shopping for a home?

Tap into the Libertarian Network of Realtors and help boost income to the LPC!

Longtime Libertarian and Chair of Calaveras County Libertarians, Al Segalla, with his 25 years of experience as a Realtor, has created a way for you to work with Libertarian Realtors while benefiting the LPC. It's a Libertarian Realty Network! As directed by you, their Libertarian customer, Network Realtors will donate 20% of their Network commissions to the LPC or any other Libertarian cause you endorse.

Tap in! Visit www.BambiLand.com/NetWork.html

With so many Libertarians in California, this could yield several hundred Network transactions each year.



Albert J. Segalla, Realtor
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■ Book Review

Big Brother Is Everywhere

Who's Watching You?: The Chilling Truth About the State, Surveillance, and Personal Freedom

by Mick Farren and John Gibb, 232pp, Conspiracy Books, 2007

Review by Rich Deakin

Ever get the feeling that somebody's watching you? Well, you've good reason to! Mick Farren's latest book, co-written with John Gibb, ventures deep into the world of high-tech surveillance and intelligence, from which it would seem no area of our lives are untouched by intrusion.

Ranging from gambling casinos, which the authors liken to "the full surveillance police state in which, everyone and everything is constantly watched" in microcosm; through RFID cards that are used increasingly on public transport systems, in the workplace, and super-

Privacy is a fundamental human right, and should be defended even if we aren't trying to hide something.

market goods; the ever pervasive CCTV cameras that dog our every footstep, in most built-up urban areas at least; and to the internet at home or work.

All these methods are used to track our every movement, our exact location, what shops

we go to, what websites we visit, or what we purchase or subscribe to online—even the seemingly benign, loyalty "store card" builds up a profile of you on the assumption of what's on your supermarket till receipt, right down to our preference in food and booze!

But however innocuous the idea of loyalty cards may seem, think again—these are only the tip of the iceberg. Scratch beneath the surface and you'll find a beast known as Echelon—the United States's National Security Agency's monitoring system, with its HQ based at Menwith Hill, England.

Aided and abetted by human attendants, Echelon can monitor every phone call, fax, email, and telex message sent anywhere in the world.

Using a computer complex that includes "advanced voice recognition and optical character recognition programs, key words that match those already programmed in the high risk 'dictionary'... prompt the computer to flag any message for recording and transcribing for future analysis." Farren also says, "In a world that survives on communications, this system is a close to god-like entity that



sees all, hears all, and within its set objectives, essentially knows all."

Frightening stuff, really. But if that's too mind-boggling for you to comprehend, how about the more tangible, closer to home, examples of MySpace and Google?

In addition to providing the potential for identity theft, Farren and Gibb highlight MySpace's perceived shortcomings by explaining how the system provides a back door for all manner of Trojan horse viruses, spyware, and adware. Plus, in a climate where concern over online predators is high, parents may resort to snooping devices, and other MySpace tracking software, to spy on their offspring, just as anyone else can use such methods to see who's visiting their page. When this technology is extended to spy on the perceived wrongs of a spouse, lover, or offspring, the authors argue that this, "leads to establishing a generally unhealthy atmosphere of unwarranted cyber-snooping and domestic paranoia."

On a more amusing note, one can't help but chuckle when the authors relate how some employers have had the foresight to check prospective employees' backgrounds via MySpace—"young college graduates ruefully complain that they have been turned down for jobs because they had unthinkingly posted accounts of their raunchy *Animal House*-like antics, and even details of their sexual conquests, which were easily revealed by a MySpace search."

For all its pitfalls, some of MySpace's shortcomings could easily be avoided by omitting to include any information likely to cause embarrassment at a later date, and by updating firewalls and anti-virus protection on a regular basis.

As for Google, it's unlikely

Letters

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can be no elected CCC members. Since the Bylaws say there are elected CCC members, the ExCom and Chair are in violation of the LPC Bylaws.

Is this what we can expect from the Party of Principle?

In 2006, the first time such a "no authorization" was given to the Secretary of State, some counties knew not to hold elections and others did not. Special dispensation to be delegates at the LPC convention was given to those few elected CCC mem-

bers that existed because of this oversight. Will this happen again, or will every LP voter in CA be denied the Election Code provision of being elected to their CCC in the primary election, as well as delegate status at the LPC convention?

We don't buy the argument that it saves the state time and money or ink on the ballot. Even the DemReps in our county make sure only the designated number of candidates seek CCC seats so they have no printed ballot.

— Gail Lightfoot,
Richard Venable, Gary Kirkland,
Paul Polson, Ed Moss

that any amount of preventive measures are likely to stop its inexorable quest in not just providing, but also collecting, information on just about everything—including our personal details and every movement we make on the web. The chapter "When Google Will Know Everything" is thought-provoking enough to make one reappraise Google's motives in the wider scheme of things, and it has to be read to comprehend all the implications of Google's ever expanding operations.

These are a few examples from twenty chapters that Farren and Gibb use to highlight the nature of modern surveillance and how it may be used against us. You might ask if this is the work of a couple of scare-mongering conspiracy

theorists, providing more fuel for paranoiacs. I don't think it is. Once you've read the book, you'll see that Farren and Gibb cogently argue their case, and answer that old dicta: "If you're not doing anything wrong, what do you have to hide?"

Privacy is a fundamental human right, and should be defended even if we aren't trying to hide something. Why should "they" need to know everything about you? Maybe it's because they can—and that's what makes it all the more worrying. ●

RICH DEAKIN is the author of *Keep It Together! Cosmic Boogie with the Deviants and Pink Fairies, a biography of two countercultural English rock bands renowned for their anti-establishment, libertarian tendencies in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He may be contacted through his website: www.thanatosoft.freeserve.co.uk*

You're Invited!

The LPC Bylaws Committee will meet at the LAX Sheraton Hotel on Dec 10, at 7:00 p.m.

This is east of LAX on Century Blvd., the site of the 2004 state convention.

LPC members may attend and propose changes to the Bylaws or Convention Rules—either during the meeting or (preferably) beforehand—to any committee member.

Proposals that are approved by the Committee require a majority vote of convention delegates; non-approved proposals requires a two-thirds supermajority.

LPC Bylaws Committee members are Michael Seebeck, Michael McMahon, M Carling, Don Cowles, and Dan Wiener.

Meeting Notice

YOUR Advice Wanted

Don't like the national LP's Bylaws or Convention Rules?

M Carling invites members to submit their proposed changes to the National Bylaws Committee at bylaws@lp.org.

Proposed changes under consideration will appear in the national *LP News* and at <http://lpbylaws.blogspot.com> so members can offer comments.

Three Californians currently serve on the 10-member Bylaws Committee: M Carling, Aaron Starr, and Frank Manske (Counter clockwise from top)





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Monterey Libertarians for Peace Mourn 9/11

by Lawrence K. Samuels

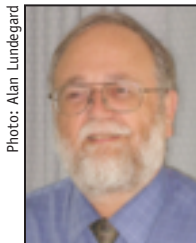


Photo: Alan Lundegard

Dozens of small white crosses and American flags blanketed a grassy hill at Monterey's Window-On-The-Bay on Tuesday, September 11, as libertarians and other peace activists gathered to mourn the loss of life six years ago at the World Trade Center.

Organized by local members of Libertarians for Peace, the Libertarian Party, and CodePink in Monterey, the memorial received tremendous TV news coverage. When reporters asked

about the connection between a peace rally and a 9/11 memorial, one libertarian replied, "If President Bush can use the 9/11 tragedy to inflict war against people who never attacked us, we can at least use the disaster to promote peace." Another activist urged Americans to "stop kicking the dog" in reaction to the 9/11 catastrophe. One peace activist said that we should both re-

member and forgive, because revengeful hate will "take you down the dark side."

The event started around 1 p.m. and ended in the evening with a candlelight vigil, at which time many passing cars honked their horns in approval. Demonstrators held up pro-peace signs and traditional peace signs, as they waved to motorists. ●



LAWRENCE K. SAMUELS is a Member of the LPC's Executive Committee and is the Co-Chair of Libertarians for Peace of Monterey County. Write him at LawSamz@hotmail.com.

Pleasants

continued from page 1

It also depicts the irony of Hellman being celebrated today as a victim of HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee), when instead she was one of its initial supporters.

"I'm attracted to the subject because no one else will say anything," said Pleasants. "Governments would never support a play like this because it brings up issues like the Samuel Dickstein matter. He was the US Representative from New York City who created HUAC to go after German-American Bundists. HUAC was supported

Civil War. Stalinists were fighting a "civil war within a civil war," an event that would inspire George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and 1984.

"Both plays deal with the coverup in America of Stalin's crimes, by writers like Hellman and John Howard Lawson," said Pleasants. "[They] attacked writers like Dos Passos and Koestler when they attempted to bring forward the murders of their friends, and the torture and execution of others writers in the USSR, like Babel, Bulgakov, and Gorky. What interests me today is why this is not known."

Although both plays' heroes (Dos Passos and McCarthy) are Trotskyites, Pleasants said, "I have no sympathy for either side. I see no difference between Stalin and Trotsky. They were both murderers. If Trotsky had won, he would have taken out Stalin in the same manner."

That HUAC remains a sensitive topic in Hollywood is demonstrated by the uproar over the special Oscar awarded to Elia Kazan (a HUAC friendly witness) in 1999. Yet *Contentious Minds* pulled no punches in telling its Hollywood audience that, in terms of evil, Stalin's genocide dwarfs the brief prison terms suffered by the Hollywood Ten.

Pleasants was unfazed by Hollywood's reaction. "Variety reviewed *Contentious Minds*, defended Hellman, and questioned the veracity of what I wrote. NPR's Iris Mann came on opening night to sniff it out, and decided to do nothing. The *L.A. Times's* Don Shirley told my PR people that they would not review it. I was glad. When they reviewed my Hemingway

play, they put Dos and Hem on the side of the rebels — which would mean they were fighting for Franco! But, it goes with the territory, as Chomsky says."

Ben Pleasants dedicated *Contentious Minds* "to Robert Conquest, who, single-mindedly, mapped the vast terrain of Stalin's terror network, making it possible for former Soviet citizens to find out, not only the final resting places of their murdered families, but also the names of their murderers!"

Pleasants believes that his hatred of Communism and Nazism is consistent with his opposition to the war in Iraq and an upcoming war on Iran. "All anarchists are antiwar. They

were shot early both in Soviet Russia and in Nazi Germany. I suspect that will happen in the US too, before long. As our great friend, Samuel Edward Konkin III, said over and over, quoting Randolph Bourne, 'War is the health of the state.' "



Pleasants' other plays include *Lenin in Love*. He is currently working on a trilogy of plays about H. L. Mencken. "They're

coming along about as fast as the replacement to the World Trade Center. Mencken is an ideal subject for rediscovery now. He was a true libertarian. Opposed to censorship, open to

fresh ideas, at war with bureaucrats in the state, the church and the public weal."

Apart from his plays, Pleasants has written for the *L.A. Times*, *Herald-Examiner*, *L.A. Free Press*, *L.A. Vanguard*, *L.A. Reader*, and *Los Angeles Magazine*. He was a friend to the late poet, Charles Bukowski, who'd nicknamed Pleasants "the Beverly Hills anarchist." Pleasants's recent book, *Visceral Bukowski: Inside the Sniper Landscape of L.A. Writers*, was published by Sun Dog Press without government money.

"Art supported by government rots the artist's soul," said Pleasants. "It's nothing more than the plutocrats' message." ●


Photo: Marcy Mendelson



• **Melissa Jones and Jennifer Gundy in Pleasants' play, *Contentious Minds***

strongly by the Left, passed in Congress by 340-42 votes, and had the support of the CPUSA."

Pleasants tackles similar historical themes in *The Hemingway/Dos Passos Wars*, in which Ernest Hemingway urges leftist writer John Dos Passos not to expose Stalin's murders of his Trotskyite, anarchist, and democratic allies in the Spanish



LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA CONVENTION 2008

February 22 through 24th
Marina Village Conference Center
San Diego, California


The Libertarian Party of California will hold their 2008 convention in San Diego at the Marina Village Conference Center. There will be an evening banquet following the Saturday business conference.

This year will be a presidential year, so we expect to have the national candidates speaking, as well as very entertaining performances. This will not just be a business meeting, but also a very exciting and memorable experience!

Please see the Marina at www.marinavillage.net and take the virtual tour.

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Package information, schedule details and much more coming soon. Get ready!



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Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

• Mourning 9/11 victims in Monterey
See story, page 7.

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