

California Freedom

March 2004

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

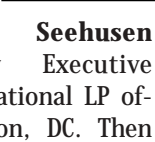
■ LPC Convention 2004: The Road to Success Time for a Pit Stop

by **Mark Hinkle**
LPC 2004 Convention Manager

Dear members of the Libertarian Party of California,

It's convention time again! Each year, the Party faithful get together to conduct business, hear speeches, and dine together. Libertarians up and down the state and from across the nation attend the LPC convention. Each year we hold the claim to the largest convention of all of the state parties.

Why is that? Well, we're the largest LP state organization, having over three times the membership of any other state LP organization. So, what does that mean to you? Being the biggest means we can afford to bring you great out-of-state speakers. Speakers such as **Congressman Ron Paul** (R-Texas), our 1988 Presidential candidate. Speakers such as **Joe Seehusen** (above)—new Executive Director of the national LP office in Washington, DC. Then



there's the current LP Chair **Geoff Neale**, now of Texas, but also a former member of the California LP. Better yet, his lovely wife, **Nancy Neale**, will be joining him. She's the convention manager for the national LP's convention in Atlanta over Memorial Day weekend.

And because we're big, all of the major LP presidential candidates (**Gary Nolan**, **Michael Badnarik**, and **Aaron Russo**) will be attending our convention. We have U.S. Senate candidate and current Orange County Superior Court **Judge James Gray** (far right), who'll be talking about the failed "war on drugs" and what we can do to end that disaster and reduce drug abuse simultaneously.

From San Diego, we're bringing in tax fighter extraordinaire **Richard Rider** (right). You've heard his name strike fear in the hearts of Sacramento politicians—now meet the man in person. Furthermore, we're flying movie & TV actor **Dean Cameron** up from Los Angeles to give us the inside scoop on Hollywood (any Libertarians there?).

We can learn a lesson or two

about success from the founder of **PayPal**, **Peter Thiel** (left). Speaking of which, you can order your convention package via PayPal via our web site at www.CA.LP.org/conv/2004.

Because the LPC 2004 convention is being held in Silicon Valley (at the San Jose DoubleTree Hotel on March 12-14), we are also able to draw upon local talented and entertaining speakers. We have **David Henderson**, author of *The Joy of Freedom* and an associate professor of economics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. He'll be speaking on "You Can Beat City Hall: How Libertarians Beat a Tax Increase Against 100 to 1 Odds." We're talking real world success stories, not nebulous theory.

From Benicia, we bring you **Vince Miller**, President of International Society of Individual Liberty (ISIL). Vince will report on libertarian inroads from around the world. ISIL's convention this year will be held in New Zealand, but you can hear him much closer

• See **Convention** page 8



• **LPC ladies relax in a hospitality suite at 2003's convention. From left: Kate O'Brien, elected in 2002 to Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District, Gail Lightfoot, 2004 U.S. Senate candidate, and Elizabeth Brierly, 2002 candidate for State Board of Equalization, District 1.**



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• **Judge James P. Gray (left) was guest speaker at Daniel Klein's Civil Society Institute at Santa Clara University on Jan. 15. Both men will speak at the LPC Convention.**

■ Coalition Building "Free State Project" Forges Ahead

In July, 2003, we introduced you to the Free State Project (FSP), which offers "a new strategy for liberty in our lifetime." The project endeavors to recruit 20,000 liberty-loving people to move to one state. So they seek neighborly, productive, tolerant folks from all walks of life, of all ages, creeds, and colors who agree to the political philosophy that government exists at most to protect people's rights, and should neither provide for people nor punish them for activities that interfere with no one else.

In October, members of the rapidly growing project made a crucial decision. Voting via mail-in ballot after months of feisty debate, Free Staters chose New Hampshire as their future home over runner-up Wyoming (by a margin of 55%

to 45%) and several others. California was not in the running. Thus it will be in New Hampshire, it is hoped, that they will work to enhance and extend its existing culture of liberty.

The membership election took place through the innovative Condorcet's Method, which allowed voters to rank all states; the state which received a higher ranking than other states from a majority of voters was selected. The vote was counted and certified by EEMBC Certification Laboratory, who also published a white paper on the results.



• **Jason Sorens**

• See **Free State** page 6

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Reconvene, Reconnoiter, Recruit



FROM THE CHAIR

This month the LPC will reconvene at our annual convention. It's shaping up to be one of the best in years, with top-notch speakers including such luminaries as Congressman Ron Paul, Judge James P. Gray, Calaveras County Supervisor Tom Tryon, Electronic Frontier Foundation co-founder John Gilmore, Paypal co-founder Peter Thiel, actor Dean Cameron, Libertarian Party National Director, Joe Seehusen, and National Chair, Geoff Neale. And you simply mustn't miss the debate between the top contenders for the Libertarian Party's nomination for President of the United States.

A couple months ago, I mentioned the test mailings we were planning to send to registered Libertarians in order to entice new members aboard.

The test results have been disappointing, so there a lot of work is still needed to crack this puzzle as to how to increase our size.

In my January column I wrote of our new project to recruit elected officials already in office to the Libertarian Party. Among the thousands of elected officials in California, a small number share our libertarian beliefs. I want to offer these elected officials—many of whom I believe are angry or disillusioned with the Democrat or Republican Parties—a chance to become leading officials in our party and to have our full support.

I'm talking about people such as Judge James P. Gray. Judge Gray is the author of *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do about It—A Judicial Indictment of the War on Drugs*.

After a number of conversations with other members and me, Judge Gray realized that his political home is the Libertarian Party. In early 2003 he joined the party. Then he successfully recruited a colleague, Judge John Adams, to

join the party also. Now, Judge Gray is running for our party's nomination in the U.S. Senate race against Barbara Boxer.

We need many more people like Judge Gray in our party. I believe that Judge Gray—a prominent and well-respected jurist—is just the man we need to recruit these like-thinking elected officials.

If you haven't already, soon you'll be receiving my letter requesting your support on this very important project.

With your support, we plan to have Judge Gray send personal, colleague-to-colleague letters to a select group of these elected officials, explaining to them why he became a Libertarian, and offering them the opportunity to join the party as well.

Later, we will have those elected officials who do join us pen letters of their own.

With this approach we could have scores of elected Libertarian officials whom we



can tap to run for higher office to spread our message of liberty.

I believe that many of California's elected officials are just plain sick and tired of the antics of their party—and ripe for the picking!

I'm sure that many "limited government" Republicans are appalled by the massive government spending allowed by members of their party here in California.

And I'm sure that many Democrats are disillusioned with their party's lack of support for freedom of speech and choice.

I'm also sure there are many libertarian-thinking elected officials who would simply like a larger role in their party—a larger role which the Libertarian Party can offer them!

If you believe it's time to expand our number of elected officials, you will definitely want to support this project.

Toward liberty!

Aaron Starr, Chairman

What a New-Fangled WWWeb We Weave



FROM THE EDITOR

Worldwide Web technology has helped spur the spread of the libertarian philosophy. Political polls conducted on the Internet have yielded terrific results for Libertarian candidates, suggesting a positive correlation between Internet users and libertarians.

A multitude of web sites are of interest to California Libertarians; here I share a few of them with you. Take a look at these, and send us names of other relevant web sites you've found; perhaps we'll highlight a "libertarian-related web site of the month." Don't fret if they're not libertarian in phi-

losophy—it's important to keep tabs on the opposition too!

The League of Women Voters has run **Smart Voter** (www.SmartVoter.org), a non-partisan site, since the November 1996 election. Designed to help voters understand their choices better, Smart Voter offers background on candidates in participating counties and information on ballot measures. The first Web site to offer personalized election information based on a voter's address, Smart Voter has received international awards.

Smart Voter allows visitors to suggest links to sites of organizations supporting or opposing ballot measures. What a great way to promote the Libertarian view of an issue—use it!

The **Advocates for Self-Government** (www.TheAdvocates.org) is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to helping individuals encounter, evaluate, and embrace the ideas of lib-

erty. They report that their site is world-famous as home of the original Internet political quiz (the World's Smallest Political Quiz). This is the perfect place to refer friends or colleagues hinting at dissatisfaction with the platform of their party of registration.

AntiWar.com is devoted to the cause of non-interventionism and is read by libertarians, pacifists, leftists, "greens," and independents alike, and others who

oppose imperialism. The site's initial project was to fight for non-intervention in the Balkans under Clinton, and it continued with the case against the campaigns in Haiti and Kosovo and the bombings of Sudan and Afghanistan. Their politics are libertarian and their opposition to war is rooted in Randolph Bourne's concept that "War is the health



of the State." With every war, America has made a "great leap" into statism. Eric Garris, a representative of AntiWar.com, will be speaking at the LPC convention this month.

The **International Society for Individual Liberty** (www.ISIL.org) is a network of individuals and associations in over 80 countries dedicated to building a free and peaceful world through the ideals of free markets, social tolerance and individual responsibility. Their site has features such as "Tools for Action" and "Intellectual Resources," with a raft of pamphlets explaining the libertarian position on issues from pornography to foreign aid.

Happy surfing!

Toward greater liberty!

Elizabeth C. Brierly, Editor



Welcome Aboard!

The LPC is pleased to welcome the following 29 Californians who joined the Party in January. They include John Kapler, a retired iron worker, Charles White, a graphic artist, Eric Black, manager of a coffee shop, Elizabeth Harris, a research scientist, plumber Douglas Edminster, Andrew Gable, an application engineer, Tony Munroe, a service technician, and Phillip Starn, a realtor. We hope to meet all of you at our annual state convention this month!

- David AndersonLa Canada
- Eric BlackArcata
- Bradley BobbsCalabasas
- Kevin CraigVentura
- Douglas EdminsterSan Diego
- Andrew GableSanta Ana
- Ernst GasteigerSan Pedro
- Howard GeogheganHuntington
- Shirley GoodingLong Beach
- Elizabeth HarrisWest Hills
- David JeffriesSan Francisco
- Cynthia JohnsonLos Angeles
- John KaplerOceanside
- Harold KraemerSan Jose
- Wayne LesterMorgan Hill
- Mallory MontgomerySan Diego
- John MorrisLompoc
- Tony MunroeChico
- Robert NorthCapitola
- Leon OrtegaGardena
- Margaret PetersonFillmore
- Bill RohwerTemecula
- Anthony RomeroOceano
- Tim SchollosserFolsom
- Ross SmithSanta Monica
- Larry SpargurSan Bernardino
- Phillip StarnHughson
- Steve WalkerTujunga
- Charles WhiteWoodland Hills

Letter to the Editor



“Men are most apt to believe what they least understand.”

—Montaigne

Budget Accountability Rubbish!

What is really being said is: Legislators—take the path of least resistance and balance the budget with higher taxes or you will be penalized! The 2/3 requirement for such will no longer be an excuse not to! No on Proposition 56.

—H.R. Bowles
Huntington Beach

“The corollary to Montaigne’s statement is also true, that the better one understands government, the less he is inclined to believe anything that is says.”

—Robert J. Ringer

■ Campaign 2004

Top 10 Things to Remember about Dealing with the Media

by **Lee Raudonis**
Communications Consultant

10. The media are not your friends.

Although you may consider one or more members of the media to be personal friends, they have a job to do that may require them to print or broadcast something about you or your campaign that you don't like. Professional journalists must not let friendships prevent them from reporting what they believe to be the truth. Never make the mistake of believing that your “good friends” in the media would never print or broadcast a negative story about you.

9. The media are not your enemies.

How often we hear politicians attack the media as their enemies whenever a story they don't like appears in the news. More times than not, however, members of the media are simply reporting what they believe to be true and newsworthy. Blaming the media will get you nowhere (see #1).

8. Treat members of the media as you want them to treat you—and use common sense.

Treat members of the media as professionals who have a job to do. Be friendly with them and help them do their job by being cooperative whenever you can and by providing factual information to support your positions on issues. Learn about their schedules and try to make it as easy as possible for them to meet their deadlines.

7. The media are under no obligation to utilize the news releases that you send them.

You may believe that something you did or an issue you raised is the most newsworthy thing that has happened in the last decade, but that doesn't mean that members of the media will agree with you. Be realistic about what you send to the media. Ask yourself how your “news” compares to other stories you see in the paper or hear on the radio. Is it really that newsworthy?

6. You may not recognize your press release when it becomes a news story.

Remember that a news release is not the same as a paid advertisement. The media does not have to accept your story as gospel and is under no obligation to use it verbatim. In fact, it should be expected that the media will ask your opponent(s) for comments about your news release and the final story could actually have a negative flavor. Be careful what you ask for; you may get it!

5. Positive media stories usually appear once.

While not a carved-in-stone kind of rule, it seems that positive news stories about a political candidate have a one-day life expectancy. Rarely is a positive story run more than once.

4. Negative media stories appear over and over again.

Just ask Howard Dean. How many times did the story about his shouting performance after the Iowa caucus run in newspapers and on television and radio?

3. The media love controversy.

Issuing a press release complimenting your opponent's new proposal is unlikely to gain media attention. Attacking the proposal as the worst thing since the plague has a better chance of becoming “news.”

2. There needs to be news in a news release.

As a rule, the media do not report on successful airline landings or take-offs, only on crashes. Sending out press releases about mundane campaign matters probably won't generate a lot of media attention. Taking strong positions on issues, particularly controversial issues, will generate coverage. Remember, however, that the coverage will be received by those who disagree with the candidate's position, as well as those who agree with it.

1. The media buy paper by the ton and ink by the barrel.

Never, never, never try to wage a war against members of the media. You will lose. They have an endless supply of paper, ink, and airtime. You don't. And, be smart in how you respond to any negative story. Sometimes it is better to let it go, rather than giving those who missed the story the first time another chance to see it. ●

Lee Raudonis is a communications consultant who has worked for officials at the local, state, and federal levels of government, including several members of Congress. Lee also has written a mystery novel set in Washington D.C., The Susan B. Anthony Shootings, available from Amazon.com.

Opinions: Everybody's Got 'Em!

Have your voice heard right here at *California Freedom*. Send us your letters to the editor, op-ed articles, reports on local LP events, photos, or even report on the latest book you've read about politics or economics.

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■ Second Amendment Watch

Blacklist the Criminals, Not the NRA

by **Mark Lamendola**

Founder, MindConnection.com

Recently, I had the privilege of being appalled by a pro-crime group called "nrblacklist." This group conveniently defies the overwhelming evidence that mandating an unarmed citizenry causes crime to skyrocket. The group's purpose is to undermine the National Rifle Association and push a pro-crime agenda. By actively seeking to disarm American citizens and leave us defenseless against criminals, this group is attacking our basic rights as life forms.

Yet, to hear their side of it—the "don't confuse me with the facts" side—they are doing us all a big favor and making the world safer. It's sad that statisticians keep arguing these already settled arguments. The only conclusion a rational person can draw is that these people are either brain-dead or criminally insane. It is no longer debatable whether "gun control" is

dramatically pro-crime. It is simply a fact, and we see this fact tragically played out in such places as south Chicago, the U.K., and Australia. At the same time, Florida has seen a dramatic drop in crime since instituting its right-to-carry laws. As have many other states.

Therefore, if you advocate "gun control," you advocate such crimes as rape, murder, and armed robbery. People who help make rape, murder, and robbery dramatically more likely are serving as accessories to these crimes. Laws are on the books which prohibit us from advocating crime.

Consider for a moment the hijackings of September 11, 2001. The first attempted airline hijacking, in 1957, ended when the pilot shot the hijacker. All the passengers—except the hijacker—and the

crew arrived safely at their destination. In 2001, four jets with unarmed crews—well, you know the story. You would think that would have caused all of the anti-gunners to change their minds. I'm amazed they weren't sued. Stores selling ammunition were swamped that day, so we know massive numbers of Americans are not

If you advocate "gun control," you advocate such crimes as rape, murder, and armed robbery.

completely daft. Yet, the statisticians among us put a very low price on human life and continue to call for disarming pilots. For a while, we had armed guards on the ground, though it is in the air that planes get hijacked. Go figure.

Given the facts, it's hard to make a case that anti-gunners and the legislators that pass anti-gun laws are not accessories to some pretty horrific crimes. Their vision of the perfect world is one in which mothers of small children are completely helpless when confronted by a group of thugs. Their vision of the perfect world should frighten everyone.

The very fact these pro-rape, pro-violence, pro-crime people are not locked up—under those existing laws prohibiting us from advocating crime—should also be frightening. Where is the justice? The problem is our justice system is selective in its definition of "criminal." That's why 4,300 computers "walked" out of IRS offices in 2001, and not one IRS employee went to jail—but the newspapers are full of arrests and convictions for lesser crimes committed by ordinary citizens. It's why a California state employee goes to prison for doing his job of dispensing medicinal marijuana to people in great pain simply because the federal government makes a conflicting set of rules. It's why Bill Clinton can evade

taxes by claiming \$4 a pair for used underwear he donated to charity—as if anyone wants someone else's used underwear. Especially his.

So, we won't change our justice system—it's simply too easy to buy justice (or a lack of it) with money or influence. So, I propose another idea that will give everybody what they want.

Let's establish crime-legislated areas (*i.e.*, "gun control" zones) for the pro-crime folks. I think Cuba is already such a zone. Hitler's Germany was such a zone. We can move the pro-crimes to these places at government expense. The cost-savings to taxpayers will come from an end to the expensive lobbying, frivolous anti-gun lawsuits, and public school brainwashing campaigns. We spend the money once, and we set these folks up in their own pro-crime cities. Then they can enjoy being stabbed, murdered, robbed, raped, and terrorized without inflicting their S&M "utopia" on the rest of us.

We could cordon off entire cities as "crime-enhancement zones," where criminals would

Let's establish "gun control" zones for the pro-crime folks.

be free to do whatever they want to those who choose to live "gun-free." There would be no need for police, because the idea of living in a "gun control" place is apparently that you enjoy being a victim of these crimes and/or watching someone else be a victim. So, there would be even more cost-savings. And, of course, with the freedom to plunder the disarmed, criminals would flee from the anti-crime areas. We would probably see proposals from the ACLU to bus criminals into the gun-owning areas on some kind of anti-discrimination quota basis. Maybe Al Sharpton would even arrange a boycott, where criminals would refuse to shop at the local Wal-Marts in gun-enabled cities unless they can ply their trades in some fashion without being shot.

Insurance companies would no longer need to burden the self-defense-enabled with subsidizing the rates of the pro-crime people, because they could change rates based on location. You live in a pro-crime zone, you no longer spread the cost to responsible citizens. We'd be able to separate out the costs by demographics, and insurance rates would more closely reflect risk.

Though there would be a quandary. What about pro-crime people like Rosie O'Donnell? She believes everyone else should be easy prey for criminals, but she shouldn't—so she has armed guards. What about the Clintons, who have a very strong pro-crime bias for everyone else, but personally enjoy life-long protection by the Secret Service? Perhaps we should make these people put up or shut up. They might not be so quick to advocate their nonsense, if they knew they would have to live under the same rules. Come to think of it, that would change a lot of things. For example, our legislators would actually fix or abolish the Social Security system if they had to pay into it and did not get their separate pensions on top of their salaries that are five times that of the average American.

Whenever the question of pro-crime legislation comes up in a discussion, the pro-crimer is adamant that empowering criminals somehow benefits everyone. Of course, they don't say it in those words. They believe that folks who ignore all other laws will magically follow anti-gun laws and we'll all be safer. So, I usually ask the following question. "Suppose there are four people armed with knives, and they are about to attack you. In fact, one has already cut your leg and it's bleeding pretty badly. I come around the corner with a gun in my hand. What would you want me to do?" The logic here is inescapable, and I have yet to hear, "Don't use it to save my life." Freedom is a great thing.

Guest contributor Mark Lamendola is well-known on Capitol Hill for his calls for responsible government. He has more than 3,500 articles in print or on line. You can read many of them at www.MindConnection.com, where he invites you to "get your blackbelt in brainpower."



• **Mark Lamendola**

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■ Taxpayer Update

Supreme Court Upholds Jarvis Bond Victory

Sacramento — The California Supreme Court [on Dec. 10, 2003] upheld a lower court ruling in favor of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA), which had challenged the state's attempt to issue \$2 billion in bonds without voter approval.

The constitution entrusts to the voters... whether the state should incur debt.

As part of its budget-balancing strategy for this year, the state wanted to borrow money at up to 15% interest by issuing bonds to make [2003's] annual payment to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS). This would free up money in special funds that is earmarked for CalPERS, allowing the state to transfer that money to the general fund to be spent on other things. The state had filed suit against all taxpayers seeking validation from the court for the \$2 billion bond issuance. Had no one responded, the state would have been home free. Only the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association appeared in court on behalf of the state's taxpayers.

.....
"This is a significant victory for taxpayers."

Tim Bittle, HJTA Director of Legal Affairs, argued the bond issuance would be unconstitutional without voter approval and Superior Court Judge Thomas Cecil agreed. The state appealed to the Supreme Court, which upheld the lower court's ruling.

"This is a significant victory for taxpayers," said Jon Coupal, president of HJTA. "It clarifies

that the state constitution entrusts to the voters, not the Legislature, the responsibility of deciding whether the state should incur debt."

The Supreme Court's decision puts pressure on the Legislature to cooperate with Governor Schwarzenegger's plan to place before the voters the question of whether the state should borrow money to balance its budget. ●

Released by Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. HJTA is California's largest taxpayer organization, with offices in Los Angeles and Sacramento. HJTA's web site address is www.HJTA.org, and there you may subscribe to HJTA's e-newsletter.



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• Jon Coupal, HJTA President, addresses 2003 LPC convention in Ontario.

■ Media Relations

Throwing Down the Gauntlet

by **Edward Bowers**
 Media Relations Chair, LPC

Got an opinion? Of course you do — you're a libertarian! The media relations committee wants to tap into your inherent skill at sharing your opinion.

This is a call for OpEd articles and letters which we will help you direct to the appropriate media outlets and newspapers.

The topic we have been targeting is small businesses and the effects of government, taxes, regulations, zoning, and the like on them. If your hot button is another topic, don't

let that stop you—send in your articles and let's see your name in print! ●



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Edward Bowers, Media Relations chair, is also serving as the chair of the Los Angeles/San Fernando Valley region. He is an avid writer and director of libertarian public service announcement videos, and enjoys softball and dancing. He does not work for Blockbuster. He can be reached at EBowers@Mac.com.

For the latest activities, discussion groups, meetings parties and demonstrations of the Libertarian Party of California and to link to your local region's site, check out www.CA.LP.org.



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14 Bull ____t Tactics Used Against Libertarians

One of the many engaging libertarian speakers you'll hear at the LPC's annual convention this month is Santa Clara University's Daniel Klein, Associate Professor of Economics, and Director of the Civil Society Institute there. Klein's article, helping us to recognize fallacious aspersions cast on libertarians' principles and reasoning, was published in *Liberty Magazine* in December, 2001. Attend the convention and you just may have the chance to ask Professor Klein to identify appropriate defenses against these tactics!

by Prof. Daniel Klein

Director, Civil Society Institute at Santa Clara University

1. Pointing out that there are gray areas between voluntary and coercive action, and pretending that the existence of gray areas destroys the distinction and, hence, the very idea of liberty. Libertarianism is "illusory."

2. Maintaining that, because major libertarian reform is at present politically impossible, it is nonsensical to explore and evaluate the desirability of such reform. Libertarianism is "unrealistic."

3. Supposing that the case for libertarian reforms collapses if reform that maximizes liberty is not desirable, or not de-

sirable 100 percent of the time, and then attacking the legalization of bazookas. Libertarianism is "simplistic," "rigid," "impractical," "sophomoric," "rationalistic," etc.

4. Pretending that the libertarian vision or agenda includes something about your personal morals or lifestyles, and then condemning the lifestyles supposedly advocated. (This one belongs to the conservatives.)

5. Implying that if one is against government activism to achieve X, he is against the achieving of X. Hence libertarians are uncaring, apathetic, callous, selfish, etc.

6. Identifying libertarianism as "right wing" and then shifting to the other meaning of "right wing." Hence, libertarians are nationalistic, racist,

intolerant, etc.

7. Equating the libertarian's views with the ideas or policies of Republican politicians, and then bashing Republicans.

8. Assuming that libertarians, as supporters of "the free market," think that all social problems should be addressed using pricing mechanisms, and pretending that the use of pricing is the essence of the libertarian cause. Thus, libertarians want to "make everything for sale," "put a price on human life," "commodify human existence," etc.

9. Suggesting that libertarians, again as supporters of "the free market," don't recognize or don't value solidarity, community, shared experience, and shared sentiment. Libertarianism is "individualistic," "atomistic"; it wishes to reduce society to "the cash-nexus."

10. Implying that, as advocates of "capitalism," what libertarians really care about is the profitability of Exxon, General Motors, McDonald's, etc.

11. Labeling one who openly supports or argues for libertarian reforms as an "ideologue," one engaged in "advocacy," rather than in serious research and "positive science." (This one is big in academia, especially among establishment Democrats.)

12. Pretending that libertarian arguments depend on "perfect

markets," "perfect information," "perfect competition," etc., and then pointing out that such perfection isn't the case.

13. Pretending that libertarian arguments assume that "people are rational," and then showing that people aren't always "rational" (whatever that is taken to mean).

14. Assuming that to be a libertarian is about supporting the Libertarian Party, and then pointing out that the LP is bound to be marginal or damaging to its own cause, or both.



General

Daniel Klein holds degrees from both George Mason University and New York University, where he studied the classical liberal traditions of economics. Klein is the coauthor of *Curb Rights: A Foundation for Free Enterprise in Urban Transit*, and will be a guest speaker at the 2004 LPC annual convention. You can read more of his work at lsb.scu.edu/~DKlein/, by clicking on the "Writings Online" button.

Free State continued from page 1

"New Hampshire is clearly the consensus choice of Free Staters," commented FSP President and Yale political science professor Jason Sorens. "New Hampshire won a plurality of first-preference votes from every region of the country except the West."

"It's not difficult to see the reasons for New Hampshire's victory," adds Vice-President Elizabeth McKinstry, who is originally from New England. "The state boasts the lowest state and local tax burden in the continental U.S., the leanest state government in the country in terms of government spending and employment, a citizen legislature, a healthy job market, and perhaps most important, local support for our movement."

Over 100 New Hampshire residents have signed up for the Free State Project already, willing to move elsewhere but hoping to bring the movement to their home state. Governor Craig Benson even pledged to support the aims of the FSP, and several members of the legislature have signed up as members.

According to FSP Director of Member Services and Florida attorney Tim Condon, Free Staters should also be a boon for the economy of New Hampshire. "According to a member survey conducted concomitantly with the vote, 50%

of our members have at least a Bachelor's degree, with 18% having done postgraduate work. Seventy-five percent are under age 50, with 38% between the ages of 18 and 34. Those earning \$60,000 or more per year constitute 44% of all members. The clear picture that emerges is one of a largely young, well educated, upwardly mobile group."

Several hurdles still face the movement, which has nearly 5,500 members pledged to migrate to New Hampshire, almost 10% of whom are from California. These challenges include recruiting another 14,500 members and continuing to build support for their cause within New Hampshire. If current recruitment trends continue, the group expects to reach 20,000 commitments by 2005, after which point members have five years in which to move.

But as Condon notes, "The member survey shows that 53% of members plan to move within three years, not waiting for the 20,000-member benchmark. Early movers should help recruitment by building a record of success."

An incipient campaign by FSP called "shadow advertising" is aiming at areas that recently have witnessed egregious oversteps of government power. They ran an ad in a South Carolina paper after police there held children at gunpoint

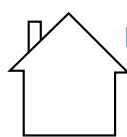
for hours while unsuccessfully searching for drugs. They're looking for new instances of government violations of civil liberties and civil rights, significant tax increases, or regulatory abuses for future ads. California tends to be a good place for government outrages, so we may well see some FSP ads here soon!

To introduce its members and prospects to New Hampshire, FSP will be holding its first annual conference in Lancaster, NH in June. It's dubbed the "Porcupine Freedom Fest and Night on the Barricades," and it will welcome NH realty agents to show Free Staters their properties.

Of course, the LPC doesn't want to lose any members to New Hampshire, but if bad turns to worse here in the People's Republic of California, know that the LPC has no residency requirements—we'd be happy to maintain your membership in our Party! ●

For more information on the Free State Project, contact:

Elizabeth McKinstry,
Vice-President
Phone: (734) 904-5712
Email:
EMcKinstry@FreeStateProject.org
Jason Sorens, President
Phone: (203) 432-5824
Email:
JSorens@FreeStateProject.org
Web site:
www.FreeStateProject.org



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

Albert J. Segalla, Realtor
Chair, Gold Country Libertarians

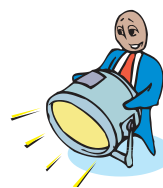


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■ Who's Who on your LPC Executive Committee

Thanking Our Lucky Starrs



Met the hard-working activists setting the direction for your state Party. They welcome your inputs and, of course, your expertise where your skills and experience match their goals or those of their committees!

Aaron Starr, Chairman

For the past year, the Libertarian Party of California has been the lucky beneficiary of a large gift from a major donor. Chairman Aaron Starr's loss of his job in May, 2002 was our gain.

At this month's convention, Starr passes the halfway mark of his two-year term as chair of LPC. For the past year, while concurrently conducting an intense job hunt and working at consulting assignments, he donated his time, not only in his leadership role as Chair, but acting as an unpaid Executive Director. Starr's prudence in having saved up for a rainy day enabled the party to save a great deal of money by not replacing our last Executive Director, David Molony.

"In a way, my savings transferred slowly to the LPC; that's why we're in great shape financially," says Starr. "I don't regret it; I think it was a valuable use of my time, even though my preference would have been to be employed!" In

December of 2003, Starr's job search culminated in his accepting the position of controller at Haas Automation, the largest machine tool manufacturer in the U.S.

Starr was born "somewhere in Los Angeles" and moved with his family to Simi Valley when he was nine months old, and he has never left. At 15, he noticed in a newspaper an advertisement for *Restoring the American Dream*, by Robert J. Ringer, and bought it. That book triggered his interest in libertarianism.

He became seriously involved with the Party in 1988, when he ran for State Senate. Later he served as Chair of LP of Ventura County for five years. He served as Treasurer of LPC during John Vernon's administration and has since served quite a few years on the state Executive Committee.

Starr has managed several winning Libertarian campaigns for local office—four, to be exact. Sandi Webb and Bonnie Flickinger each won two elections to their City Councils, Webb in Simi Valley, and Flickinger in Moreno Valley,

"My hot button issue has always been taxation."

where she has served rotations as Mayor. Starr shares his home and life with Kate O'Brien, also a Libertarian activist and now a public officeholder herself, having won her race for Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District in November 2002 after

a tight race involving a ballot recount.

"My hot-button issue has always been taxation, Starr says. "Deprive the government of the money and the amount of harm they can do will be reduced." Appropriately enough, his degree from CSU Northridge is in

of Starr's pet project, Operation Breakthrough, designed to run candidates for local, nonpartisan public offices. Starr adds, "Before this, victories were far and few between."

Starr's new goal is to find a cost effective way of increasing the number of members. He has



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• **Libertarian Party of California "power couple" Kate O'Brien and Aaron Starr relax after the 2003 state convention.**

Business Administration with a double-option in Accounting and Finance. He later earned a CPA. Foreshadowing the energy he has brought to the LPC, Starr ploughed through his 154 semester-units (normally a 5-year undertaking) in 3-1/2 years. "If I had it to do all over again, I would have taken my time and enjoyed the college experience. I tend to be driven and pretty intense, but I'm learning to relax a little more."

Thankfully Starr hasn't been relaxed about his goal-setting for the LPC. As Chair, Starr aimed to have a record number of Libertarians elected to office. "We elected eight people to office in 2001, and a record 29 in 2002, eclipsing our previous record of 15 in 2000." The vast majority of victories in those three years were a direct result

been actively leading efforts to test different membership recruit efforts, one with an auto-dialer, others with direct mail appeals, and also with door-to-door campaigns. "We're getting very good at figuring out what doesn't work," Starr quips. Starr's next brainchild will be the elected official conversion project he described in his column in January's *California Freedom*. "Hopefully members will have received the letter describing this project before they've received this newspaper."

Starr is also eager for more regions to employ the tax limitation initiative he worked on rather diligently. "We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the geniuses at Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association for their role in enacting Proposition

218, the 'Right To Vote On Taxes Act.' In many cities, for just a few hundred signatures, libertarians can get a tax reduction onto the ballot. I'll be talking more about this at the convention, but members can check out the project on the LPC's web site. Some of the numbers need updating because, well, we had an unexpected statewide election in the meantime."

Starr would like to meet as many members as possible while he's presiding over the convention. "I'd like to heartily encourage people to attend since we'll have some really good speakers. And my sense is that the Bylaws will be changed, for the better, to seat all members as delegates. Most state LP's allow all their members to attend their conventions and to vote as delegates—and those states have far better turn-out. If we want to grow, we need to be more inclusive with the people who already agree with us," reasons Starr.

How will Starr's status as an employed person affect the LPC? "More of my volunteer work is happening late at night! The Party is in that in-between stage where we're too big to be all volunteer, but too small to be all professional. We need to figure out how to grow to that next level." •

Start a tax limitation project in your city!

California Tax Freeze
www.CA.LP.org/lpc-tax-freeze.html

■ Fund Raising

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It's not too late for your campaign to stock up on the Ladies of Liberty 2004 calendar, the hottest fund raising tool in the Party.

Sixteen glamorous libertarian ladies from all over the U.S., display their retro style charms in this calendar, designed by North Carolinian lady of liberty Rachel Mills to raise funds for libertarian causes.

Pictured below is Rana, Miss September. Running through March of 2005, the calendar



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Candidates: contact calendar brainchild Rachel Mills at Rachel@RachelMills.com for your campaign's bulk orders.

For individual retail orders, contact California's own Lady of Liberty March 2005, Elizabeth C. Brierly, at ElizabethB@Netgate.net. •

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Convention

continued from page 1

to home. We've got **Lynette Shaw**. Renowned throughout the medicinal marijuana community, she'll update us on her successes in helping terminally ill people and the challenges that lie ahead battling the Federal government. From San Francisco, legendary Internet Icon and co-founder of EFF (Electronic Frontier Foundation), **John Gilmore** (right) will talk about his battles with John Ashcroft.



Professor **Daniel Klein** from Santa Clara University, who's the Director of the Civil Society Institute at SCU will share his very interesting take on the roots of totalitarian societies. Don't miss it! We will also have **Eric Garris**, webmaster of AntiWar.com (and a lifetime LP member) giving a talk on Internet activism and how to make it a success.

And for those "how to" folks who want to be more effective advocates for freedom, we've got **Michael Edelman, Ph.D.** in Clinical Psychology, giving a

seminar on "Overcoming Emotional Blocks to Success." From Los Angeles, we have LP member and Director of Marketing at Teradata (a division of Unisys) **Dave Schrader** to give a seminar on "Marketing Libertarianism." We could all learn something here about conveying our message of liberty.

So, there you have the scheduled speakers. Be sure to check our web site (www.CA.LP.org/conv/2004) for speaker additions and schedule changes.

Remember: this convention is where we will select delegates to the national LP convention. That's why the Presidential candidates will be here: they want your vote! Come on out and make them earn it!

We'll also be electing members of the LPC's Executive Committee for the coming year. Plus, we've got Platform, Bylaws, and Program business. If you've longed to see logical and rational libertarians go emotionally nuts, come watch the platform debates.

So, you're invited to the newly renovated San Jose Doubletree Hotel near the San Jose Airport (free shuttle to/from). There's free parking. The room rates are a low \$89 per night (single/double) (plus tax—darn!) so we hope you'll join us for a fun and eventful

LPC Convention 2004 at a Glance

Friday March 12

Platform & Program Committee meetings all day
 General Registration 4 P.M.
 Presidential Candidate Debate 8 P.M.

Saturday March 13

Breakfast 7 A.M.
 Registration, vendor booths from 7 A.M.– 7 P.M.
 LPC business, speeches, elections during the day
 Lunch 12 P.M.
 Banquet 7 P.M.

Sunday March 14

Breakfast 7 A.M.
 LPC business, speakers, elections, and vendor booths during the day
 Brunch 12 P.M.
 Presidential candidate speeches and straw poll in mid-afternoon
 Official LPC business adjourns at 5 P.M.
 Speakers 5-7 P.M.
 Banquet 7 P.M.

For the detailed, up-to-date convention agenda, visit www.CA.LP.org/conv/2004/index.php.



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly



• LP Founder David Nolan makes a point as other delegates queue up for their turn at the mic, LPC 2003 convention, Ontario, California.

convention. For hotel reservations, please call the DoubleTree at (408) 453-4000 and ask for the special "LIB" rate. For you Mapquest junkies, the address of the hotel is 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, CA 95110.

See you at the convention!



Mark Hinkle

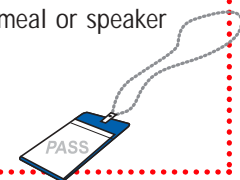
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 Tel.: (408) 778-5454

E-mail: convention@CA.LP.org

Please Note:

If you'd like to partake of meals at the convention, please register in advance by purchasing a package below or by reserving individual meals on line.

Delegates and attendees must purchase daily floor passes if they do not wish to buy a meal or speaker package.



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- \$10 Boulevard** – Attend speech only at meal functions; per event.
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Prices valid through Feb. 29, 2004.

For the convention agenda, visit www.CA.LP.org/conv/2004/index.php.

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