

# California Freedom

September 2007

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

## Libertarian Mayor Promotes Citizen Self-Rule

by Casey Alpanalp

What's it like having a Libertarian as your town's mayor? Nevada City knows! At the July 11 Nevada City city council meeting, the only item on the single-page agenda was "the passing of the gavel" from outgoing mayor **Steve Cottrell** (a registered Libertarian since 1992) to his successor. Afterwards, council members and staff visited the bar next door to hoist a few pints.

Nevada City (pop: 3,001) lies on Highway 20 in the Northern California foothills. The town is widely known for its giant Christmas bazaar, mid-summer July parties encompassing all of downtown, and huge gold finds of yore. It's less well known as a Libertarian hotbed. "In the '80s Nevada City was 10% Libertarians," said Cottrell. "Ed

### "In the '80s Nevada City was 10% Libertarians"

— Steve Cottrell

Clark came out here to formally announce his candidacy for President of the United States, back in the day."

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## Cottrell was openly proud that grassroots management has proven superior to stacked-up bureaucracy

In his outgoing speech, Cottrell enumerated his appointments of ordinary citizens to positions of responsibility, and was openly proud that grassroots management has proven superior to stacked-up bureaucracy. As mayor he'd set his goals and achieved them. He'd hoped to involve citizens in their own government; the standing-room only council chambers attested to his success. He also wanted to prove that, given the chance, people can self-regulate their own time at the microphone. "I'm happy to say I haven't used this gavel except to call or adjourn a meeting," he announced with a smile.

Cottrell has been estranged from the local and state party structures for some years now, but not for malice or spite. In his view, the party simply faded away while he was serving on the school board 20 some years ago. He was first elected to the city council 15 years ago and has been continuously reelected since. He was doing while the party was theorizing. But he's not opposed to attending a party summit, or otherwise participating in events to build the Libertarian Party.

The party returned to Steve, and he's receptive. He'll start receiving *California Freedom* now that he's been noticed as an elected official (granting him party membership), as well as Butte County's little rag. That's a start, and as we grow, we'll surely lift pints together in the near future as Nor-Cal events are being planned. ●

CASEY ALPANALP is Vice Chair of the Butte County LP.

## Building the Party

# Monterey Conference Asks: Is Freedom Dead in America?

by Lawrence K. Samuels

Have the Constitution and Bill of Rights been gutted? Has the government revoked safeguards against illegal imprisonment (writ of *habeas corpus* and due process), warrantless spying, denial of council, torture to extract confessions, and secret prisons? Is freedom dead in America?

That question will be debated at a mini-conference in the city of Monterey on Saturday, October 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. Events will convene at the Monterey Travelodge Hotel, 2030 N. Fremont Blvd., in the conference room at the Buzzards Restaurant.



Photo: Alan Lundegard

A BBQ dinner will follow in Carmel Valley at 6 p.m. The mini-con will feature **Prof. David R. Henderson**, author of *The Joy of Freedom* and a former senior economist with President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers; **Mark Carbonaro**, LP member and radio talk show host for



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• Henderson



• Garris

KION 1460 AM in Salinas; and **Eric Garris**, webmaster for both Antiwar.com and LewRockwell.com.

Sponsors include the California Libertarian Party, the Libertarian Party of Monterey County, Libertarians for Peace (Monterey County), the Sam Adams Forum, and FreedomWatch.

Admission is \$15. Checks payable to Libertarians for Peace at P.O. Box 22231, Carmel, CA 93922. For details, please contact me at: [Lawsamz@hotmail.com](mailto:Lawsamz@hotmail.com) or 831-238-5058 (cell). ●

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](mailto:LawSamz@hotmail.com).

## Hollywood Libertarian

# Screenwriter Brad Linaweaver Plugs Libertarianism

by Thomas M. Sipos

Popular entertainment informs people's world-views, and thus, how they vote. Statist culture produces statist voters. Fortunately, Brad Linaweaver always finds room

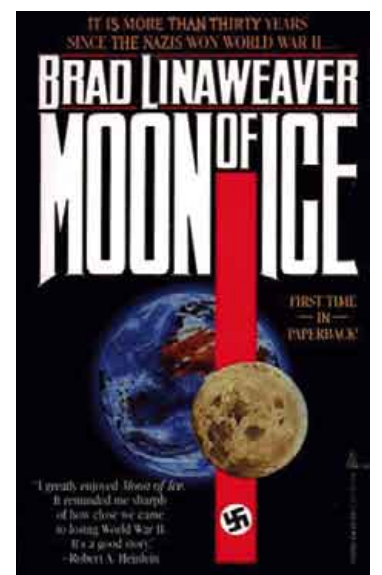
to plug liberty in his sci-fi and horror tales, influencing teenagers who don't read political blogs or opinion journals.

"I've been getting libertarian messages into everything for a quarter of a century," said Linaweaver. "Dafydd ab Hugh and I did four novels for Pocket



• Brad Linaweaver of Los Angeles

Photo by Thomas M. Sipos



• In his award-winning novel the Nazis' rule perniciously after winning World War II

Books in the 1990s based on the *Doom* video game. We worked in a lot of libertarian messages. When the Marines are on their way to Mars in one of the books, they're passing around a copy of *Bureaucracy* by Ludwig von

• See **Linaweaver** page 6



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#### SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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- October 2007: Due 8/20/07
- November 2007: Due 9/20/07
- December 2007: Due 10/20/07

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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# New Changes for Fall and Beyond



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

by Kevin Takenaga

As we end summer, I have mixed news to report. Executive Director **Angela Keaton** and Office Manager **Ali Martin** have both resigned to pursue other opportunities.

Within our Party, nationwide, paid staff achieve the impossible with few resources. Angela and Ali worked under difficult

conditions and with high expectations. We must support our future staff hires with increased donations and volunteer assistance. When we demand great work, we must compensate accordingly.

We're now assessing our office staffing needs. Treasurer Don Cowles and Secretary Beau Cain are reviewing our resources, and how they meet our plans for

the upcoming year to support county parties and participate in the 2008 elections.

We can cut costs without sacrificing service. Better technology should assist our far-flung members in serving the Party without meeting in a physical office. I'll know more after our September Executive Committee meeting.

In the meantime, ExCom has set the dates for our 2008 LPC convention: February 22-24, in San Diego. ExCom Rep **Jesse Thomas** heads up the

Convention Committee. He plans great events for the Presidential election year.

I hope you had a great summer. It's time to push forward toward 2008. ●

### Libertarian Party of California Convention 2008

Feb. 22-24  
San Diego

Convention  
Committee  
Chair  
**Jesse Thomas**



# I'd Rather Be Informative Than "Positive"



## FROM THE EDITOR

by Thomas M. Sipos

On July 16, I addressed the topic "Should Libertarians Build Alliances With the Left?" at Los Angeles's Karl Hess Club. Prior to my talk, I was informed that some libertarians had objected to my speaking there. While the KHC's facilitator wouldn't outright tell me the names of those who would ban me, he conceded that I'd guessed right. And on my first attempt!

It wasn't hard. One of them was a "pro-defense" libertarian who's done much public chest-beating over the need for libertarians to be tolerant, so I wasn't surprised by his behind-the-scenes intolerance. Of course, I've met both pro- and antiwar libertarians who would ban the other side. They share the same rationale: that *California Freedom* is a sales tool for the LPC, so it must present the LPC in a "positive" light.

But isn't *California Freedom* also a newspaper?

Really, which is it? An organ of public relations or of journalism? Is its purpose to promote the party or to inform the members?

Ideally, it does both. However, PR and journalism have opposing objectives. PR puts a positive spin on events, the truth be damned. Journalism informs people of unpleasant truths, the consequences be damned.

Some libertarians want us to avoid unpleasant news, as it may discourage or "drive off" members in the short term. Yet fake PR is more harmful in the long run, because it breeds cynicism and distrust once the

happy facade is impossible to maintain. To judge from some libertarian articles over the years, one might think that all artists, musicians, young people, immigrants, entrepreneurs, tech workers, hell, *everyone* on the planet, is *already* a libertarian; they just don't know it yet. Let's ignore that many people within those groups also demand statist entitlements and protections. Please don't mention that. It isn't "positive."

I recall LP fundraising pieces in the 1990s predicting a Libertarian *majority* House and Senate by 2010. I wonder how many new members had their hopes raised by such "positive" stories, which were at best self-delusional, at worse deceitful. I wonder how many newcomers later quit the LP, disheartened and disgusted and cynical.

Journalism can irritate people, yet in the longterm it's a better sales tool than PR spin. People trust journalists over advertisers, which is why the latter try to mimic the former through infomercials and advertorials. Likewise, LP members will more likely stick around if they believe they're getting "the real scoop" from LP news sources.

In this issue of *California Freedom* we broach the divisive issue of platform reform (see "Letters to the Editor"). A member once told me that *CF* shouldn't cover political or procedural debates; those should be left for the conventions. Unfortunately, the clock always expires before we can vote on, much less debate, every convention proposal. Clearly, members

must *prepare* for the conventions by discussing and debating issues in advance. And if *CF* isn't the proper forum to debate those issues, what is?

Reporting on divisive issues may not be "positive," but I didn't invent these party rifts; they're already there. It's just that some members are unaware of them, and thus might arrive at the conventions unprepared—or not show up at all.

## LP members will more likely stick around if they believe they're getting "the real scoop" from CF

(Of course, keeping opponents in the dark may be a goal of the better-organized factions.)

**Tim Crowley's** letter, and my reply, won't adequately explain the issues that divided the national LP convention in Portland in '06, and will likely repeat in

Denver in '08, but they'll give you a heads up. Use them as a starting point, then conduct your own investigations. Inform yourself. Decide for yourself.

Two brief, final notes. Former *CF* editor **Elizabeth C. Brierly** now works as Media Coordinator for The Independent Institute, from which she submits "U.S. Role in Islamist Terrorism." Thanks Elizabeth, and congrats on the new job!

And much thanks to **Angela Keaton** for her past service as Executive Director. I'm sorry she's left the building. She's a principled woman, with a sharp mind and a pen to match. "A young Ayn Rand," as they say in Hollywood. Although Angela's no longer obligated to produce a monthly column, I hope she'll submit pieces in the future. Please keep up with her at [www.AngelaKeaton.com](http://www.AngelaKeaton.com).

I hope you'll find this issue of *California Freedom* positive and informative. But if I had to pick one, I choose the latter. ●

*In a time of universal deceit,  
telling the truth  
is a revolutionary act.*

— George Orwell



## Like what you see?

Purchase back issues of *California Freedom* in bulk quantity to sell or distribute at your outreach event!

Please contact:  
[Editor@CA.LP.org](mailto:Editor@CA.LP.org)





# Letters to the Editor



## It's About Time

The new *California Freedom* looks awesome! I'm glad they are finally giving the war issue the top attention it deserves. Too bad we were not doing this back in 2001 and 2002 and ever since.

My congratulations to the new editors!

— Paul Frankel,  
aka "Paulie Cannoli"  
no permanent address

## I Can Breathe Again!

*California Freedom* has been a breath of fresh air lately. I used to read both the state and national newsletters pretty much cover to cover as soon as they came. But since Bill Winters stopped editing *LP News*, and especially [*California Freedom*] under Bruce, they just weren't holding my interest. But the latest *California Freedom* actually had debate and discussion of *ideas* again. It's about time!

I thought your piece on migration (people usually say "immigration," but "migration" is a more neutral term that doesn't assume the perspective of people watching others coming in) was terrific. Even though I'm strongly for open borders and don't agree with "English only" sentiments, you made a good case in favor of assimilation.

— Starchild  
San Francisco, CA

## No More Pro-War

You and I are of like minds, I hope, of keeping pro-war junk out of the newspaper. The Holtz article ["Antiwar Stance Does Not Grow the LP," August 2007] should say "opinion" on it. Please indicate in the future that this is the opinion of this one person. It says instead "LP Executive Committee," implying this is the opinion of the ExCom.

Also, publishing an obviously erroneous point of view is not great. Our membership is up because of Ron Paul's antiwar campaign.

I would support you in any future decisions to leave pro-war stuff out of the paper because it really hurts our membership.

— Mark Selzer  
Los Angeles, CA

Editor's reply: Since the vast majority of Californians are antiwar on Iraq, I agree that unambiguously

opposing the war would grow the LPC. More importantly, it would be right on principle.

However, when I wear my journalist's hat, I feel obligated to present minority views. The "Because Ideas Matter" heading implies that Holtz's article is political discourse rather than hard news. The reference to "ExCom" merely informs readers as to Holtz's identity; I don't think anyone inferred that he was speaking for ExCom.

## Platform Reform or Principles Trashed?

The Libertarian Reform Caucus is a coalition of over 1,000 freedom lovers who desire an effective libertarian party—one capable of winning elections now and turning the tide from statism to more liberty. The current LP cannot meet this standard. Its platform has been far too radical to allow significant electoral victory.

The changes at Portland were a first step toward addressing these issues, but the platform is still in dire need of reform. Planks based on the LRC's Statement of Purpose will help all Libertarians and LP candidates improve the political climate in our country:

1. The platform should propose a realistic vision for the next few years, as opposed to an idealistic vision of a libertarian future. The public expects a party platform to show what a party's candidates intend to do during the next term of office. If the party wants a long term vision statement or a Statement of Principles, it should be in a separate document labeled as such.

2. The platform should unite libertarians instead of dividing them. Where libertarians disagree, the platform should be silent. The party platform should be a tool for all libertarians.

3. The platform should be based on the realization that there are other important values in addition to the non-initiation of force. Freedom is extremely valuable, but it is not the only value.

4. The platform should be viewed as a marketing document, not a litmus test. It should be written to attract libertarians and libertarian-leaning to vote Libertarian and to join the LP. Suggested platform planks can be voted on at [www.ReformTheLP.org](http://www.ReformTheLP.org).

— Tim Crowley  
Pittsburgh, PA

Editor's reply: I am troubled by the LRC's readiness to trade principles for an illusory promise of political power. They talk of a "big tent" and ignoring "divisive" issues. I suspect that means: make "Republican lite" folk feel welcome by expelling the radicals, purists, and "weirdoes."

In Crowley's own words: "My main focus is to make the LP a little less of a validation tool for weirdoes." (See: [www.reformthelp.org/home/about/officers.php](http://www.reformthelp.org/home/about/officers.php) and click "Tim Crowley".)

LRC activists at Portland appeared well-organized and well-financed. (By whom, one wonders). They said the LP platform deterred voters and candidates. They said the LP would attract stronger candidates if they were free to formulate their own positions on issues (just like Demopublicans!).

The LRC's Carl Milsted Jr. writes: "I've been called 'unprincipled' repeatedly. So be it. It's time to put an end to 'The Party of Principle.' It's about freedom! ...America needs a real libertarian party—one which gets freedom-lovers elected to partisan offices."

But we already have that. Every elected official is a "freedom-lover." "Freedom" is George Bush's favorite word. The Nazis and Bolsheviks and Big Brother all advocated "freedom"—as defined by them. "Freedom is Slavery."

A detailed LP platform tells the world, and our candidates, what we mean by freedom. It prevents us from drifting into Demopublicanism. We can still nominate candidates who drift from our platform, but the platform is the compass that keeps us (roughly) on course.

The LRC advocates a "big tent." I suspect they plan to expand it by expelling, or at least shunting aside, radicals, purists, and weirdos who presumably "scare off" normal folk. LRC supporter Eric Dondero admits as much: "The Radicals have controlled things for too long. Both the RLC [Republican Liberty Caucus] and the LRC need to take the reigns of the entire libertarian political movement, and tell the Rads to sit down in the back of the bus, and shut the hell up. If they want to come along for the ride, fine. If not, they need to exit out the Exit Door; preferably at a high speed during peak traffic. (sic, see: <http://www.smallgov.org/?p=331> ).

Every LRC activist I've met wants the LP to ignore the Iraq War, because the issue is "divisive" and dissuades "pro-security" people from joining. (More are needed to push the "Rads" out the Exit Door). I told one LRC activist in Portland that the LP should educate voters into supporting us, rather than us diluting our principles to attract them. The activist said I belonged in a think tank rather than in a political party, which was "about getting votes." He was friendly, but I'm sure he preferred I exit his "big tent."

Apart from the war, the LRC regards "sexual rights" as controversial

## Meeting Notice

### You're Invited to ExCom!

All members may attend and observe the next LPC Executive Committee meeting.

**Saturday, September 15, 2007.  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Clarion Hotel San Francisco Airport**  
401 E. Millbrae Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030

Hotel website: [www.ClarionSFO.com](http://www.ClarionSFO.com)

For details and last-minute changes, check our web site at: [www.CA.LP.org](http://www.CA.LP.org)



and divisive, hence, another issue the LP should avoid. See the discussion between Crowley and Outright Libertarians Rob Power and Brian Miller at: <http://outrightlibertarians.blogspot.com/2007/05/lrc-says-equal-rights-is-narrow-and.html>.

Power correctly writes: "The LP can soldier on without electoral success as long as we provide a political home for the politically homeless. But as soon as we have a platform indistinguishable from the major parties, we'll lose our core support and go the way of other parties who abandoned their ideological base, like the Reform Party. But I have a strong suspicion that this is the exact intent of at least some of the LRC's supporters who are really just Republicans seeking to eliminate the Libertarian threat as they did to the Reform Party via Pat Buchanan."

From where does the LRC get its money?

I also agree with Miller, who writes: "The LRC's definition of 'pragmatism' is truly bizarre. They demand that every issue where any Libertarian disagrees (including new Libertarians who are former Republicans and carry GOP 'baggage') be dropped from our platform. I have to wonder—what's the allure of the Libertarian Party to a 'libertarian' who thinks that government discrimination against gays, Middle Easterners, immigrants, etc. is A-OK? ...

"Coming to the Libertarian Party and demanding that we stop fighting for the rights of ALL people because it makes him uncomfortable is just infantile and selfish. Not to mention uncompromising. There's plenty of room for legitimate disagreement within the LP...What there isn't room for is the undermining or selling out of the rights of a group of people in exchange for some ephemeral political power. We'd rather continue our pattern of steady electoral growth (see our great results in 2006) rather than win 'instant' power by co-opting a Republicrat agenda."

Yet the LRC has reason to brag. It gutted much of the LP's platform in the "Portland purge" (as some call it). The LRC website explains why: "(1) It required a mere majority to eliminate an old plank. It requires a 2/3 vote to replace it. [Most planks were dropped or kept by a 49 to 51% margin, give or take a fraction of a percentage point—Editor.], (2) Many non-reformers also believed that a platform rewrite was in order. The reformatting in Atlanta (2004) resulted in a platform that read badly. (3) The purists were caught off

guard. (4) Portland was expensive to get to. Many povertarian radicals stayed home."

Very true. Radicals, purists, and "weirdoes" were blindsided in Portland. They should be better prepared, and arrive in greater numbers, in Denver come 2008.

## Proportional Voting in the LPC

Thanks for all of your work. It's a pleasure to read such interesting articles, and an inspiration to send a letter to the editor.

I guess ya'll are aware I ran for LPC Chairman. I've been promoting parliamentary elections based on pure proportional representation for 12 years (started online August 5th, 1995).

I have several suggestions to expand the LPC's membership, and the numbers of people working together. This requires that roadblocks be taken down.

The current LPC system is not free (\$100 to attend and vote in the convention this year), and not parliamentary. Two huge roadblocks.

What I want to change within the LPC are two things:

(1) All voters should have the liberty to self-categorize as they wish without penalty. (For example, I'm a registered Libertarian, but I proclaim to be with the Free Parliamentary Party. Another person may be a Republican, but prefer to vote Libertarian.), and

(2) All elections should be based on pure proportional representation.

For an example, see how the U.S. parliamentary system works: [www.usparliament.org](http://www.usparliament.org)

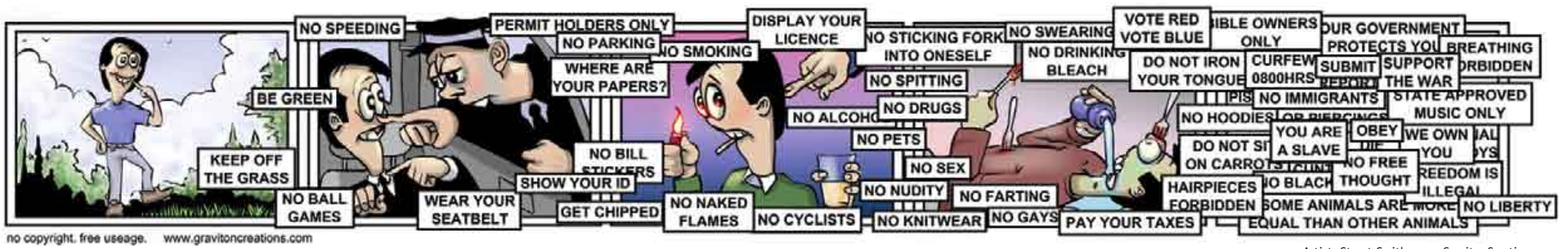
—James Ogle  
Butte County, CA

**Holding a  
Libertarian  
Event?**

Today's Events

Tell us about  
your plans or how it went  
[Editor@CA.LP.Org](mailto:Editor@CA.LP.Org)





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Artist: Stuart Smith, www.GravitonCreations.com

# Child Fights Lemonade Stand Ban Medical Marijuana Victory in Orange County

■ Your Activism Needed

by Brian Holtz

**M**y six-year-old, Zoe Holtz, has inherited her parents' libertarian instincts. After beta-testing her commerce skills with pretend lemonade and cookie stands in our living room, Zoe was shocked to learn that in her new hometown of Los Altos Hills (pop: 8000), lemonade stands are forbidden. So she accompanied me to a City Council meeting in April, resolved to ask city leaders why she can't sell lemonade. But although she'd rehearsed her case, arguing that "something shouldn't be against the rules just because it annoys some people, or else everything would be against the rules" she lost her nerve at the podium. So I asked her questions for her.

The Council members didn't seem to know that lemonade stands were banned. The Mayor inadvertently hinted at the dangers of such regulations when he joked that Zoe's lemonade stand would be okay as long as he got free lemonade. When some staffers confirmed that the town code prohibits vending, Council members virtually tripped over each other in assuring Zoe that the authorities would look aside if her stand were safely off the road and open only during daylight hours.

According to the Council minutes:

*Zoe Holtz, resident, with the assistance of her father, asked the Council if it was "ok" for her to have a lemonade stand in her neighborhood. City Attorney Steve Mattas explained that with the exception of the sale of agricultural products produced on resident's property; sale of merchandise/goods was prohibited by the Town's Codes. Mattas offered that there were concerns about traffic and safety. He noted that historically, the Town did not enforce the code with respect to lemonade stands. Council consensus was to support her request with the stipulation that it be done in a safe manner.*



Photo: Brian Holtz

• **Aspiring young business-woman Zoe Holtz**

But the City Attorney is incorrect about town history. An article in the *Los Altos Town Crier* (April 7, 2004) reported that a deputy sheriff had shut one child's lemonade stand, despite a lack of complaints.

The following Saturday, Zoe opened a lemonade stand on

by Aaron Smith

**O**n July 16, Orange County's all-Republican Board of Supervisors voted to begin implementation of the statewide medical marijuana ID card program. Thanks to all the patients in Orange County who contacted the Board, four of the five supervisors now support protecting medical cannabis pa-

tients from arrest. Even in the face of fierce opposition from law enforcement, the Board of Supervisors listened to *you* and made the right decision!

the quiet street before her house, staffing it with her sister Shannon and best friend Cassie. (Zoe's said that she wants "employees.") Most of their sales were to parents and neighbors, so it's clear that Zoe has a bit to learn about location and pricing.

But she has time—and now, a little more freedom to use it. ●

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

Please e-mail or call the board members who supported the program, and let them know how much you appreciate their support of medical marijuana patients. They are: **Chris Norby** (Fourth District, 714-834-3440, [chris.norby@ocgov.com](mailto:chris.norby@ocgov.com)), **John M.W. Moorlach** (Second District, 714-834-3220, [john.moorlach@ocgov.com](mailto:john.moorlach@ocgov.com)), **Bill Campbell** (Third District, 714-834-3330, [bill.campbell@ocgov.com](mailto:bill.campbell@ocgov.com)), and **Patricia C. Bates** (Fifth District, 714-834-3550, [patbates@hoa.ocgov.com](mailto:patbates@hoa.ocgov.com)).

The First District's Janet Nguyen was the lone supervisor to oppose the program. If you live in Santa Ana, Westminster, Garden Grove, or Midway City, please contact her office to *politely* express your

disappointment over her lack of compassion and reason. She can be reached at 714-834-3110 or [janet.nguyen@ocgov.com](mailto:janet.nguyen@ocgov.com). ID cards should be available to patients and their caregivers by December of this year. Annual application fee for the card will be \$150 (\$75 for MediCal recipients). Patients are not required to obtain the ID cards, but many choose to do so because it reduces the risk of wrongful arrest, prosecution, and seizure of property. ●

**Please contact the board members who supported the program, and let them know how much you appreciate their support**

*AARON SMITH is Statewide Coordinator for Safe Access Now. Details at: [SafeAccessNow.com](http://SafeAccessNow.com).*

## I Want to Join the Libertarian Party!

Please sign me up at the following membership level:

- \$2,000 Life Member
- \$50 Basic Member – one year
- \$25 Basic Member (introductory rate\*)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other Amount (\$50 minimum)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Pledge (\$10/month minimum)
- \$1,000 Benefactor
- \$500 Patron
- \$250 Sponsor
- \$100 Sustaining

\* Special offer, available if you have never been an LPC member.

Check or money order enclosed. Monthly pledgers please include a voided check to authorize automatic monthly payments,

Or: Please bill my  Visa  MasterCard  AmExpress  Discover

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature for Credit Card Payment \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member/Donor Name (printed or typed) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 (Apt #) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (required field) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (required field) \_\_\_\_\_

I want to become a proud, dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party of California. I'll receive a year of *California Freedom*, a membership card, and opportunities to vote at meetings of my County Party and to be a delegate to the State Party convention.

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■ News You Can Use

# Campaigning in Mobile Home Parks



by John Briscoe

**M**any mobile home parks have polling places on-site in the clubhouse! But to campaign successfully among mobile home residents, you must first *know and respect* this voter base.

1. Your voters live in *mobile home parks*—not trailer parks.
2. Your voters live in *coaches*—not trailers.
3. Your voters usually *own their coaches*, and *rent their spaces* from the mobile home park.
4. Your voters have paid from \$85,000 to \$450,000 for their homes. They are proud of their home ownership. Many mobile home residents still sting from Bill Clinton's "Trailer Trash" comment.

### Know Your Neighborhood

Most cities have zoned mobile home parks for senior and low-income housing. It's important to research each mobile home park in your District, including:

1. Name of the park.
2. Street address and zip code.
3. Map of the streets (use a *Thomas Guide*, Google, or Mapquest).
4. Total coach spaces in the park.
5. Office manager's name and business address (if different from the physical park address).
6. The manager's on-duty office hours.

### Types of Parks

Voters in *senior parks* (where all residents are over the age of 55) are high-propensity voters. They to be more conservative and vote absentee. You must reach these voters before absentee ballots are mailed.

Voters in *family parks* (housing residents of all ages) have



a lower voter participation rate, tend to be more liberal, and vote at the ballot booth.

In a *condominium park* each coach space is owned together with the coach itself, as one parcel. Many are senior parks, but even if they're not, their voting patterns are similar to senior parks.

### Limits to Mobile Park Communication

Most mobile home parks are not condominium parks; instead they are privately owned by a landlord. The landlord charges a monthly rent for each coach space, ranging from \$350 to \$900 per month.

Mobile home parks are private property, hence subject to limits on commercial and political speech. Most of them post No Solicitation signs. Candidates

**Explain that you're exercising protected political free speech in the grandest of traditions.**

assume this means commercial vendors, but many landlords, managers, and residents see it as excluding protected political free speech too.

Political candidates must keep a low profile when distributing material in a mobile home park, or risk being asked to leave.

Never place campaign literature in a mailbox. Only the U.S. Postal Service is allowed to place

anything inside the mailbox.

In addition to USPS mailboxes, some coach spaces have a plastic tube for newspapers and internal mail from the landlord. Campaign flyers may be placed inside these tubes.

However, many parks have a central post office box location for USPS mail receipt, and no individual newspaper tubes. In these instances, campaign material may be hung by rubber band on coach doors. Always use the back door, by the parking area, to assure the owner sees material. Front doors are often unused for several days at a time.

It's possible to just lay material on the step, but these can blow away and do not force the voter to touch your material.

### Avoid Being Ejected

Distribute your campaign literature to coaches on Saturday and Sunday, or whenever the park management is absent. Avoid confrontations with residents. Don't engage voters. Maintain a quick and steady work pace. Be quiet. Walk silently along the parking side garage, to leave your material on the rear porch door.

Be prepared to defend your distribution. Have a brief, polite, friendly response to any challenges:

**Resident:** "What do you think you're doing? Don't you know there's no soliciting in here?"

**Candidate:** "Thank you for asking. Do you vote? I'm practicing old-fashioned 'get out the vote' campaigning. I'd like your vote. Would you take my flyer, and please vote for me? Thank you!"

This may or may not work, but it's worth a try. Explain that you're exercising protected political free speech in the grandest of traditions. Be prepared to visit the on-site manager for the same conversation. And be prepared to leave.

### Yard Signs

After distributing your literature to all coaches, meet and engage owners near the entrance(s). Ask them to display your yard signs, so as to create an appearance of overwhelming support within the park.

### Using the USPS

All mobile home park residents can be reached by USPS snailmail first class postage. If

you don't know your voters' names, but know the park address, you can normally reach voters by addressing your mail to Occupant, as follows:

Occupant  
Park Name ~ Space 123  
4567 Main Street  
Anywhere, CA 98765

### Parks that Self-Distribute

Some parks will distribute your material for you to each coach owner. Call the park's office manager before your visit, to learn their policy.

Visit these self-distributing parks at least three times with your literature. If residents don't read it the first time, they may do so the second or third time.

### Mobile Home Newspaper Ads

Many mobile home parks publish their own newsletters. Consider advertising in them. ●

*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.*

## 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

## 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/](http://www.BambiLand.com/)

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

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



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Artist: Stuart Smith, www.GravitationCreations.com





## ■ Fallen Freedom Fighter

# Aaron Russo, Rest in Peace

by Starchild

**A**aron Russo, libertarian activist and film producer (*The Rose, America: Freedom to Fascism*), succumbed to cancer on August 24, 2007.

One of my fondest LP memories is sitting and rapping with Aaron and former national LP chair Geoff Neale on the floor of a convention hotel room in L.A. I'd taken out all the chairs, covered the lights and furniture with clothes and bedsheets, and strewn pillows across the floor to create a bit of countercultural ambiance. I was dressed in "play attire" (the purple butterfly/faerie outfit) while they were in "business attire"—and they both rolled with it like troopers!

Aaron was a big, brash, street-fighter kind of guy. But as Rachel Mills asked in a flier promoting him for the LP's 2004 presidential nomination, "Who would you rather have fighting for your freedom, Mr. Rogers or Tony Soprano?"

The last time I saw Aaron was

## Aaron Russo: In His Own Words

From an interview by Elizabeth C. Brierly

*"I was very successful as a movie producer, you know—Emmys, Academy Award nominations, Golden Globes—everything a man could want. And I gave it all up to get involved in politics, because I wanted to make a change in the country. From my point of view, it was an opportunity to go do that, and then when I lost—even when I lost the governor's race in Nevada (I came in second)—I was wondering, 'Why am I doing this? Why am I on this path?'"*

\* \* \*

*"This movie [America: Freedom to Fascism] is about the system, what's happening. People are seeking truth, and I think this movie is [going to give] it to them. This may be the best work I've ever done; it's certainly the most important. I'm more proud of this than of anything I've done in my life. This has a chance to make a difference in the world."*

\* \* \*

*"I believe in God--though I don't believe in religion--and I realized in many ways, it might be because of this IRS movie. I have a chance to demonstrate my movie skills, which I developed first, and my political knowledge, which came second, and then to combine them into making movies about things that are important. Maybe that's why I had to go through the process I went through. That's what I've come out of it with, and I'm happy with that."*

at the San Francisco premiere of *America: Freedom to Fascism* at the delightfully seedy Victoria

Theater. His passion and commitment to our cause will be greatly missed. ●



• Aaron Russo, Starchild, and Joe Bannister at San Francisco premiere of Russo's eye-opening documentary film

## Linaweaver

continued from page 1

Mises. I don't know how many 14- or 15-year-old boys reading *Doom* noticed that we were promoting Mises, but we were."

Linaweaver's libertarian messages are more explicit in his original novels. In the Prometheus Award-winning *Moon of Ice*, the Nazis' kooky paganism takes full bloom after Hitler wins World War II. And in *Anarquia*, co-written with J. Kent Hastings, Falangists and Communists are both defeated by Anarchists in the Spanish Civil War.

Linaweaver enjoys story credits on several films, such as *Jacko*, *The Brain Leeches*, *The Low Budget Time Machine*, and *Her Morbid Desires* (part of *The Boneyard Collection*). "My involvement with movies has been mostly low-budget, exploitation stuff where ideology is not that relevant. When you're writing science fiction for a New York publisher, you actually achieve something when you slip in a libertarian idea. But with independent, exploitation, low-budget Hollywood, there's already an anti-authoritarian attitude. That culture is by nature fairly libertarian. There's less need to be a propagandist."

As a straight political pun-

dit, Linaweaver has written for *National Review* and been praised by no less than Ronald Reagan. "I've been friends with William F. Buckley for many years," said Linaweaver. "He's endorsed two of my books. Regarding Reagan, in late 1976 he did a radio broadcast about one of the first articles I ever sold to a na-

## "I've been getting libertarian messages into everything for a quarter of a century"

tional market. A piece called 'The Wish' that appeared in *New Guard*, the magazine of Young Americans for Freedom. Reagan was saying, 'Brad Linaweaver, how right he is!'"

That particular broadcast is reprinted in *Stories in His Own Hand: The Everyday Wisdom of Ronald Reagan*. It's also available on CD in Reagan's own voice.

Linaweaver is glad he didn't learn of Reagan's praise until decades after the fact. "I never would have had my career in Hollywood. I might not have written for *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, *Cult Movies*, or *Filmfax*,

nor worked on *Attack of the 60 Foot Centerfold*. I might not have done the *Sliders* novels, or worked with Richard Hatch on *Battlestar Galactica* novels. I might have been a boring political hack in Washington, trying to capitalize on the Reagan endorsement to be a political speechwriter. I'd be a worse libertarian than I am today."

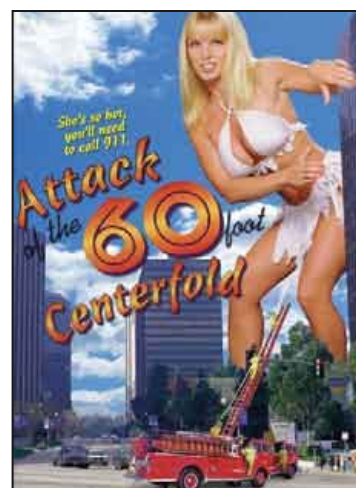
What kind of libertarian is Linaweaver? As he explains it, "I was never an anarchist. I'm an Old Right conservative who became a libertarian in the early 1970s when I realized the conservatism I believed in was dying under Richard Nixon. I've always been a limited government minarchist trying to return to what the Founding Fathers had in mind. I became a fellow traveler of Reagan when he became president because Reagan had one goal that was in line with both my Old Right conservatism and my minarchist libertarianism. That goal was the end of the Soviet Union. And Reagan succeeded. That is a great achievement. Every libertarian, including anarchists, should celebrate Reagan's victory over the Soviet Union."

"But after Reagan, the Republican Party went to hell in a handbasket. The idea that I would have anything in com-

mon with the 'conservatism' of George W. Bush is obscene. Richard Nixon is John Galt out of *Atlas Shrugged* compared to Bush—and that's even with Nixon doing wage and price controls. The Republican Party has fallen so low, there's not much lower it can go.

"I'm embarrassed that I temporarily supported the Bush war in Iraq. I was misled. I had no idea I was supporting a utopian experiment. I've spent my whole life opposing utopian experiments. Now we have the American military trying to achieve some kind of utopian democracy in Iraq. That drives me crazy. I've always been fundamentally an isolationist. I

• Linaweaver's work in low-budget Hollywood flicks has kept his career from being all serious, political commentary





■ Book Review

# Subverting the Stifling Suburbs

*Blindspot*  
by Kevin Pyle  
Henry Holt and Co., 2007

Review by Hueso Taveras

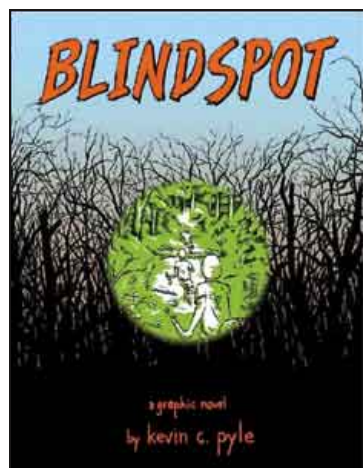
Author Kevin Pyle is familiar with the theme of war and its effects on Americans. He explored this in his previous works in *World War 3 Illustrated* and in one of his own graphic novels, *Eye of God*. In *Blindspot*, he focuses on the vivid war fantasies of an American suburban boy.

Dean shared many adventures with his three friends Glenn, Todd and John. The boys' favorite game was soldiers, and their theater of operations lay in the backwoods just outside

**Blindspot should be required reading for anyone who's ever dreamed of being a war hero.**

Dean's home. They lay under railroad tracks as trains whizzed above their heads and played capture-the-flag with an old woman's underwear. Floundering in grammar school and facing parental restrictions on his TV watching, Dean retreats further from stifling suburban life and into his military fantasies, seeing every confrontation with authorities as another combat operation. The pressures of reality mount as the boys' play leads them to destroy a homeless man's handmade shack, and to a stash of porn magazines.

Looking for more, Dean gets caught raiding a neighbor's garage and faces harsh repercussions



sions in school. After seeing graphic depictions of war in a library book, egged into a fight with a boy he barely knows, and drifting from his friends, Dean faces his increasingly consuming fantasies in the face of a harsh world.

The author uses simple line drawings and single-color washes, a popular technique in indie comics. Pyle uses the power of color to elicit feeling and create atmosphere in his scenes. Dean's suburban world is rendered in monochromatic washes of light teal and sky blue. The four boys travel through their theater of operations in camouflage green, the color of Dean's introspection and happy moments. When confronting enemies, the story shifts to four-color combat scenes right out of 1950s *Sgt. Rock* comics.

Although the theme is simple, Pyle's book is anything but. Dean is an intelligently written character trapped in his war fantasies. Pyle does an excellent job of avoiding clichés, condescending dialogue, and stereotypes, and creates an inviting and evocative story.

Due to the proliferation of the superhero genre, comics are synonymous with juvenile entertainment. *Blindspot* uses



Artist: Kevin Pyle

■ Because Ideas Matter

# U.S. Role in Islamist Terrorism

by Ivan Eland

When U.S. government officials and foreign policy pundits discuss terrorism, they usually focus on the characteristics, personnel, history, tactics, targets, objectives and effects of terrorist organizations. They rarely talk about motives.

To fully understand Islamic terrorism, one needs to understand what triggers this extraordinary rage. And throughout history one factor stands out above all else: the occupation of Muslim land by non-Muslim forces.

From the time of the Crusades, the pattern has been consistent. The Soviet Union learned



this difficult lesson following its invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in the late 1970s. The Russians learned it again when they occupied Chechnya in the 1990s. Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza after the 1967 Six Day War and its military interventions in Lebanon triggered similar reactions, as did the U.S. military presence in Lebanon in the early 1980s. Indeed, it's fair to say that Israel's very existence—a non-Islamic state in land claimed by the Muslims—is part of the same pattern, as is the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

There is much the United States could do to defuse the

this fact to explore the dichotomy of fantasy and reality, a theme that should resonate with our fantasy-driven society. This book comes out at a great time, to coincide with copious ads for the Navy, Marines, and U.S. Army littering the latest adventures of our favorite web slinger, mighty mutants, and dark knights. *Blindspot* is a worthwhile addition to any collection, and should be required reading for anyone who's ever dreamed of being a war hero. ●

HUESO TAVERAS is a self-taught writer based in New York City. He loves comics.

*As the state is a soulless machine, it can never be weaned from violence to which it owes its very existence.*

— Mohandas K. Gandhi

problem, and a good place to start would be by removing land-based U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf.

Even Osama bin Laden claims he attacks the United States primarily because of its military presence in the region. Other reasons, he claims, are secondary.

Remember, bin Laden first went to war not against the United States, but against the Soviets in Afghanistan. When he returned to his Saudi Arabia homeland after fighting the Soviets, he found a large—and to him unacceptable—U.S. military presence in the desert kingdom, which remained after evicting Saddam Hussein from Kuwait. It was then that the United States became a target.

During the Cold War, one could make a plausible argument for some U.S. involvement overseas to counter the expansionist Soviet superpower. When the Soviet Union collapsed, that rationale disappeared.

Even if the United States believes the global oil market will fail to deliver Persian Gulf oil to U.S. shores without U.S. military forces protecting it (a dubious proposition), the U.S. military could protect our oil lifeline from offshore, without troops stationed in Muslim countries.

The United States has done so before. In 1991, when the George H.W. Bush administration believed U.S. oil supplies were endangered by Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, U.S.-based land and air forces were sent to the Gulf to push Saddam out

of Kuwait. After the job was done, those forces should have been brought home. Instead, the United States established a large military footprint in the region, which, in retrospect, was exactly the wrong move.

Now it's time to get rid of that unneeded land presence, not to increase the ante by talking about permanent U.S. bases in Iraq.

Just look at the troubles the United States has caused in Afghanistan. There, the continued U.S. occupation—which has changed its main focus from killing or capturing bin Laden to nation-building, counterinsurgency, and drug interdiction—is fueling a resurgence of the Taliban movement.

Only by minimizing the permanent U.S. military presence in Arab and Islamic lands can we hope to stem anti-U.S. terrorism. The United States should withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, inform the Afghans that U.S. forces will return if any Afghan government harbors al Qaeda, and use Special Forces to hunt down al Qaeda's leadership. This process needs to be repeated in Iraq and the Persian Gulf.

The lesson learned is that empire does not enhance security—it undermines it. U.S. power on Islamic soil is especially problematical. ●

IVAN ELAND is a Senior Fellow at the Independent Institute, and author of the books *The Empire Has No Clothes: U.S. Foreign Policy Exposed* and *Putting "Defense" Back into U.S. Defense Policy*.

Photo courtesy of the Independent Institute

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■ Building the Party

# Nomination Committees Assist Candidates & Excite New Members

by Norm "Firecracker" Westwell

Most people who register Libertarian never hear from our party. We ignore this vast resource—over 80,000 registered Libertarians in California!—while every election cycle our candidates struggle to attain ballot status. However, the untapped resource may solve our longstanding problem—through the formation of countywide Nomination Committees

I've already formed one in Orange County. Its task is two-fold:

First, inaccurate and outdated voter registration information continues to hinder our candidates. To solve this problem, at least once per year every county LP's Nomination Committee will email all registered Libertarians in order to verify their voter registration addresses.



Second, our candidates are also impeded by having to pay hefty filing fees (over \$1000) to qualify for the ballot. However, all fees are waived for any candidate who provides 150 valid nomination petitions (i.e., signatures). Details may be found at <http://geocities.com/lpocnomcom>.

To overcome this financial hurdle, a county LP will email its Committee members (those with a Libertarian candidate in their district) before an election, informing them that the LP candidate's nomination papers and instructions will soon arrive by mail. Committee members need only sign the papers, put them in an envelope, and mail them back.

This voluntary electronic system will save the Libertarian Party of Orange County thou-

sands of dollars and hundreds of man-hours of administration time. Most of all, it helps Libertarian candidates get onto the ballot with the least amount of financial and paperwork hassles.

Ideally, each Assembly district would have a minimum of 150 members to fulfill the filing requirements. That sounds like a lot of people, until you remember that we have over 80,000 registered Libertarians in California. Nomination Committees are a great way to introduce them to party activism—without asking them for money.

I suggest asking all newly-registered Libertarians to join this low-impact/zero-cost, prestigious Committee when

they are first registered. The regional website should also have a link. ●

In 2006 NORM "FIRECRACKER" WESTWELL was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Ocean View School District. His email: [normw@modernpublic.com](mailto:normw@modernpublic.com).



**WANTED:**  
VOLUNTEERS  
for the 2008  
Election Season

Fill out the inquiry form on the State Party web site [www.CA.LP.org/volunteer.shtml](http://www.CA.LP.org/volunteer.shtml)

In the "Other" field on the form, make sure to put down "Election 2008"



## 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](mailto:bylaws@lp.org).

Proposed changes under consideration will appear in the national LP News so members can offer comments.

Three Californians currently serve on the ten-member Bylaws Committee:

**M Carling,**  
**Aaron Starr,** and  
**Frank Manske**  
(Counter clockwise from top)



Photos: E.C. Brierly

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Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

### The man who made Mad as Hell won't have to take it anymore

Aaron Russo, who produced movies, television specials and records, and ran for President in 2004, died of cancer last month. He left behind a lasting legacy: a dumbfounding documentary about greedy government called *America: From Freedom to Fascism*. At left he shows off his Emmy award for Bette Midler's "Ol' Red Hair is Back." For more see page 6.

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