

# California Freedom

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

## June 3rd Election

### Prop 98: **YES** Prop: 99 **NO**

by Gene Berkman

On June 3, 2008, California will hold primary elections for candidates to Congress and state legislature—and two initiatives, both claiming to limit government's eminent domain power. Which is best?

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association sponsored Proposition 98—the California Property Owner & Farmland Protection Act—which, if passed, would prohibit government from using eminent domain to benefit private developers or businesses. Prop 98 ensures that eminent domain be used only for legitimate public purposes, by requiring that:

1. If a public agency takes property under false pretenses, or abandons its development plans, the property must be offered for resale to the original owner at the original “just com-

ensation” price, and the property tax would be assessed at the value of the property when originally condemned.

2. If farmers or business owners are evicted by eminent domain, they would receive compensation for temporary business losses, relocation expenses, business reestablishment costs, and other reasonable expenses

Prop 98 establishes real protections for private property. It protects homes, businesses, and farm land from seizures undertaken to benefit developers and politically-connected special interests. Californians for Property Rights Protection has details at: [YesOnPropertyRights.com](http://YesOnPropertyRights.com).

Proposition 99—the Homeowners and Private Property Protection Act—also claims to protect property rights. It bans using eminent domain to take

an owner-occupied residence for conveyance to a private person. This is Prop 99's only protection—and only if you've lived in that house as your primary residence for at least a year.

Prop 99 provides no protection for business property or second homes or rental housing. No protection if you have a second house and let your adult children live in it.

Worst of all, if Prop 99 receives more votes, it will cancel Prop 98.

Prop 99 is a phony substitute for eminent domain reform, backed by the League of Cities and the California Redevelopment Association.

The Libertarian Party of California urges you to vote on June 3rd—YES on Prop 98—NO on Prop 99.

*Gene Berkman's bio on page 4...*

## Libertarian Candidates Sacramento Freedom Festival

by Jane Heider

On April 11, as curious third and fourth graders trooped in and out of California's state capitol building, Libertarian candidates and activists rallied to present their alternative to Sacramento politics as usual.

Jesse Thomas, who's running for state senator in San Diego, explained to listeners that Americans are addicted to government, and that this “sanction by the victim” has resulted in deception and abuse of power. He emphasized that Libertarians care about the same things as most people; we just want to accomplish them in a different way.

The Honorable Steve Cottrell, city councilman of Nevada City, said that party growth will come from the local level—by running candidates for city councils, school



LPC Chair Kevin Takenaga speaks at the Sacramento Freedom Festival

boards, etc.

Brian Holtz of Los Altos promised that, if elected to Congress, he'd offer market-based, innovative solutions for the problems that face his district. He promised “an America without a nanny state.”

Mike Mendez, the LPC's candidate for state assembly in a district east of Los Angeles, believes that the message “Government is big, too big!” will resonate with his diverse

*continued on page 7...*

## Libertarian Artist

### Norma Jean Almodovar Sculpts Liberty

by Angela Keaton

I interviewed Norma Jean Almodovar, the LPC's 1986 candidate for Lt. Governor, whose artwork appears at festivals throughout the U.S. Her books include *From Cop to Call Girl*, and the forthcoming *Cops, Politicos, Preachers and Hos—A History of Commercial Sex Scandals in America*.

AK: What's your artistic training and history?

NJA: Self-taught. My mother's mother was a minor artist in her day. Her paintings hung in relatives' homes. I vaguely remember seeing them in public buildings as well. All my 13 siblings and I were encouraged to develop our artistic talents.

I didn't develop sculpting skills until I had the “opportunity” to spend 18 months in a California institution. Because I knew my way around a canvas,

I was assigned to the art studio at the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco. For the first time in my life, I had access to a kiln and sculpting materials. When in the art studio, whether working on my own creations or teaching other inmates, I “escaped” my captors. I could create art.

I don't recommend going to prison to develop one's abilities. But if the government is going to extract time from your life for questioning their right to control you, then turn it into something positive.

AK: You and your husband, an actor, were influenced by Ayn Rand. Given the centrality of art to Rand's work, what moral principles guide your work? How can art promote the freedom movement?

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Norma Jean Almodovar at home

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Photo: Norma Jean Almodovar

## California Freedom

Vol. 6 • Issue 3 • March 2008

### California Freedom

is the official monthly newspaper of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions, articles, and advertisements published herein do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

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### SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

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

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## From the Editor

# Picking a President in Denver

by Thomas M. Sipos



Since Wayne Allyn Root won the LPC's February straw poll, three new candidates have entered the race: former GOP Congressman Bob Barr (still in the "exploratory committee" stage), former Democratic Senator Mike Gravel, and Mary Ruwart.

The LP now has over a dozen presidential candidates. (How many love us for us, and how many for our ballot status—the best of any U.S. third party?)

LP delegates will pick our candidate this May at the national convention in Denver. They'll also choose new LP officers, LNC members, and bylaws and platform changes.

You don't need to be a delegate to enjoy the convention (which includes parties and speakers and sight-seeing). But you must be a delegate or alternate to vote.

If you're not already a delegate, you should have no

trouble becoming an alternate at the convention—provided there are enough open slots, and you're not widely hated, and you meet the qualifications. LPC Secretary Beau Cain can tell you if there are open slots and about those qualifications: [secretary@ca.lp.org](mailto:secretary@ca.lp.org).

The convention is May 19 - 26. If you're on a budget, you needn't attend all days. The main business is May 23 - 26. Our presidential candidate is chosen on May 25. Packages start as low as \$99 (with full voting rights). Hotel room convention rates are \$99 a night. Details: [DenverLPCon.com](http://DenverLPCon.com).

Now I'll mount my editorial soapbox to assess some of our presidential candidates. My priorities (or biases, if you prefer) are peace and civil liberties.

**Bob Barr.** Former CIA officer (1971-78). Former GOP Congressman from Georgia (1995-03). Joined the LP in 2006 and sits on the LNC. On

the NRA's board of directors (2001-07). In Congress he was a drug warrior, authored the Defense of Marriage Act, and voted for the Patriot Act (with sunset provisions).

He's improved on civil liberties, working with the ACLU since 2002. He now lobbies for medical marijuana (but supports U.S. intervention in Columbia and Ecuador to fight the war on "hard drugs"). Wants to repeal the 16th Amendment (income tax) and replace it with a national sales tax. Opposes the Iraq War and torture (but remains open to war with Iran).

Barr's political evolution has been measured and gradual, suggesting that he's sincere. But he still has a way to go. His site: [BobBarr2008.com](http://BobBarr2008.com).

**Mike Gravel.** Former Democratic Senator from Alaska (1969-81), he only joined the LP last month but has a long antiwar record. He worked to end the draft during the Vietnam War and helped publicize the Pentagon Papers.

Supports same-sex marriage, a "progressive" national sales tax to replace the IRS, and "single payer" national health care. Opposes the war on drugs.

Gravel's no purist, but he doesn't pretend to be. He admits his disagreements with us, rather than quickly "evolving" for our benefit. This suggests his agreements with us are

sincere.

As a recent Democratic presidential candidate, Gravel debated Clinton and Obama on an equal footing. "Likely voters" watch these early debates, so this key group already perceives Gravel as a serious candidate. His site: [Gravel2008.us](http://Gravel2008.us).

Barr and Gravel are the candidates most likely to be taken seriously by mainstream media journalists. If "getting votes" or media respect is your priority, then Barr/Gravel or Gravel/Barr may be your ticket.

**Steve Kubby.** A purist with real-world political accomplishments. His activism helped pass California's Prop 215 in 1996 (medical marijuana legalization). His books include *The Politics of Consciousness* and *Why Marijuana Should Be Legal*.

Kubby's a cancer survivor who's served prison time for medical marijuana use. I think this makes him a sympathetic candidate, and a poster child/teaching tool for the evils of victimless crime laws. He's vocal on many issues (e.g., ending the Iraq War and calling for Cheney's impeachment).

I admire Kubby for putting principle ahead of ego. He endorsed Ron Paul and offered to step aside for him. This contrasts well with LP candidates claiming to be the next Ron Paul—but only to sell

*continued on next page...*

## From the LP Women's Caucus

# Changing One Mind at a Time

by Barbara "Joy" Waymire



Because of our roles as future mothers, mothers, and grandmothers, we women are increasingly concerned about the growing debt the federal government will leave our grandchildren. Yet our daily duties also consume most of our time, making it difficult for us to actively fight big government.

But we can do something on a daily basis that won't interfere with our daily obligations.

Over the past years and political battles, people have stopped voting their hearts. It's become a game of voting for the lesser of two evils. When asked why, people reply that voting other than Republican or Democratic won't make a difference, so why vote Libertarian?

But if everyone who felt this way had instead voted their hearts—voting for the person and not the political party—can you envision the result?

We can only change people's mind-thought on a one-to-one basis. Since February, I've changed the mind-thoughts of 18 people. A small number for now, but if we all do this from now until the 2012 elections, imagine the change! If each of the over 200,000 registered libertarians nationwide changed the mind-thoughts of just three citizens per week, by 2012 that

would be 800 people changed per libertarian.

When multiplied by all 200,000 registered libertarians, this means we would have changed 16 million thoughts! And this doesn't count the people we've changed going out to change others!

What a domino effect we can create across this nation!

Yes, it's a slow process changing one person at a time, but working together we can accomplish the impossible.

Of course, if you've more time to give, you can work toward this goal in many ways. Volunteer for Libertarian women currently holding office; stay informed by attending LP meetings; assist Libertarian candidates, and so on.

Across this Great Nation, 32 Libertarian women hold office—six in California alone.

Why not you?

Ron Paul began the current Freedom Movement sweeping our nation, opening the doors of opportunity. Act now, before that door slams shut. Strike while the iron is hot. We must all join together to take advantage of this opportunity for change -- or we may as well hang up our hats.

I'll end by sharing my favorite quote, from Charles Caleb Colton: *Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and accomplishes the impossible.*

*The newly formed LP Women's Caucus has a website (still under construction): [lp.org/mailman/listinfo/lp-women\\_lp.org](http://lp.org/mailman/listinfo/lp-women_lp.org). Barbara "Joy" Waymire is Secretary of the Gold County LP and a member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers. Her email: [joys\\_lpcnews@yahoo.com](mailto:joys_lpcnews@yahoo.com).*

# Letters to the Editor



## What I Learned at the Protest

For anyone seeking to become a better public speaker, I recommend watching video footage of yourself speaking. This particular clip—<http://voicesofthegulag.blogspot.com/2008/03/starchild-libertarian-and-human-rights.html>—reminds me that I have a bad habit of saying “you know” too much, and to sway back and forth. I also speak off the cuff, which sometimes results in disjointed or rambling points that don’t string together nicely.

Nevertheless, I think I got across the importance of solidarity among the politically oppressed, and I’m glad that someone from the LP was at this groundbreaking protest against the detention in a “hospital” of 700 men labeled as “sex offenders” who’ve already served out their sentences, yet continue to be held against their will in Coalinga.

— Starchild  
San Francisco, CA

## Anyone for Civil Rights?

The government executes a search warrant for an entire community in Texas, takes into custody over 500 women and children, the only probable cause being a phone call from one person—who a week later has yet to be found.

All the groups who claim to support civil rights and liberty are conspicuous by their silence. Have they, once again, been vanquished by the government’s tried and true excuse? That this was for the children!

— L. Lawrence Baird  
Moreno Valley, CA

## Monkeys for President

The presidential election reminds me of the Japanese legend of Three Monkeys. “See, hear and speak no evil” is represented by three monkey statues. The first is covering its eyes, the second, its ears, and the third, its mouth.

The meaning is not clear. Some think the ancient Buddhist symbols mean that if we disassociate ourselves from evil, we will become better people. Others think the statues represent those who will tolerate evil.

In our presidential candidates, if we substitute the word “Constitution” for “evil,” we may have a clear picture of what is happening to our free and independent America. Most of our political leaders, like the monkeys, seem to not know that the Constitution does not permit most of what the Federal government is doing. There is no authorization for Federal government involvement in local schools, health care or thousands of other things it is doing.

To have a better tomorrow, and preserve our free and in-

dependent America, we must elect leaders who will honor their oath to support and defend our Constitution.

— Albert J. Segalla  
Copperopolis, CA

*continued from previous page*

their own candidacy. His site: [Kubby2008.com](http://Kubby2008.com).

**George Phillies.** Longtime LP activist and physics professor. Former Army Reservist (1971-77). Loudly opposes the Iraq War and isn’t afraid to say “neocon.” Strong on civil liberties. Endorsed by Outright Libertarians.

Phillies criticized the LNC for inviting Paul to run for the LP nomination. I agree with the LNC. Paul was the best libertarian candidate in any party. But I respect Phillies for bucking the tide. He’s rare among LP candidates in not going after Paul’s spotlight. Phillies’s decision on Paul was as principled as Kubby’s. His site: [Phillies2008.org](http://Phillies2008.org).

**Wayne Allyn Root.** Las Vegas infomercial and gambling show host, author of *Millionaire Republican*. Before running, he endorsed McCain/Lieberman for 2008. Unlike Barr’s gradual growth, Root’s shift from “pro-war” to “non-interventionist” is suspiciously quick and convenient.

Nor is it complete. His website says “*Drastically reduced foreign aid—stop funding countries that aren’t our friends—utilize the carrot vs. stick.*”

So he still wants to fund “our friends.” (Why don’t our friends ever fund us?) Root still doesn’t get it. “Carrot vs. stick” is *intervention*. Demopublicans have used carrots and sticks

for over a century. They only disagree on who’s currently a friend, who’s an enemy.

Root is a popular guest on conservative talk radio. The same crowd who sold us the war are now selling Root. His site: [RootForAmerica.com](http://RootForAmerica.com).

**Mary Ruwart.** This long-time LP activist is a favorite with radicals and purists. Her best-selling *Healing Our World in an Age of Aggression* was praised by Ron Paul.

That’s right. Other candidates praise Paul. Ruwart has received praise from Paul.

I heard Ruwart speak at the 2004 LP convention. I initially found her therapeutic, New Agey phrases to be off-putting. But many libertarians I respect and admire support Ruwart, so I can be swayed. Hard and pure principles are said to underlie her soft words. Her site: [VoteMary2008.com](http://VoteMary2008.com).

**Christine Smith.** This LP newbie from Colorado won

February’s California primary with 25.1% of the vote. Some speculate it was because hers was the only female name among 12 candidates on the ballot. Her victory hasn’t translated into any widely visible support.

I find Smith’s emails and blog postings to be often silly or embarrassing. Such as her Christmas missive, with photos of herself frolicking in the snow. Or those “come hither” modeling photos on her MySpace page.

Like Root, Smith evolved quickly since entering the race. She now has a purer-than-thou attitude. Her site: [ChristineSmithForPresident.com](http://ChristineSmithForPresident.com).

Other candidates at: [DenverLPCon.com/candidates.html](http://DenverLPCon.com/candidates.html).

Informative presidential handicapping at: [ThirdPartyWatch.com](http://ThirdPartyWatch.com).

## Los Angeles Events

### • Election Night Party

Philippe’s Restaurant,  
1001 N Alameda Street, Los Angeles.  
Across the street (and a few blocks north) of  
Union Station.  
**June 3rd. 6 - 9 pm**

### • County Convention

The Los Angeles County LP will have its County  
Convention at Shaker’s Family Restaurant,  
801 N. Central Avenue, Glendale.  
Lunch is \$20, open menu.  
Shaker’s phone: 818-246-4994.  
**June 7th. 1 - 4 pm**

# I'm Joining the Libertarian Party of California!

**Yes!** Start my membership in the Libertarian Party of California *this month*.  
**Dues plus my dated signature below** grant me *twelve months* of membership.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 *   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 *                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 *  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 *                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 55 * Subscribing Membership                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 Basic Membership Dues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ Monthly Pledge (\$10 * monthly minimum for credit cards) |  |

\* Includes a concurrent 1-year subscription to *California Freedom*

**The Libertarian Party is the party of principle.**

To publicly affirm our belief and ensure that our party never strays from our principles, we ask members to proudly sign and date this statement:

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

*Dated signature required for membership in good standing*      ↑ Date ↑  
Notice: Political contributions are not tax deductible.

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## Teaching Liberty to Youth

# Antelope Valley LP Creates Scholarship Fund

by Jason Gonella

The Antelope Valley LP is considering the funding of a scholarship as a longterm investment to move this country in a libertarian direction. Scholarship recipients must meet three criteria: 1. Studying to be a high school history teacher; 2. Paying LP dues; 3. Regularly attending the nearest LP meetings.

We hope to collect contributions to provide (initially) \$1,000 per year for students who meet these three criteria.

I spoke with the Director of Development & Student Affairs at California State University at Northridge (CSUN) and learned that they disburse two types of scholarships. One type is paid by the benefactor to the school, and through it to the student. The other is paid directly from benefactor to student.

If a scholarship goes through the school, it cannot discriminate against race, gender, etc. If we do it as our own program, then we can use whatever rules we want.

The advantage of going through the school is that contributions to the scholarship are then tax deductible. If we do it on our own, the deductibility is questionable.

The Director will investigate whether the AVL's plan complies with CSUN's rules. If so, and if our scholarship fund grows, then maybe we can expand it to other majors

and possibly create an endowment.

Even if our scholarship doesn't go through the school, it will be listed in the school's book of external scholarships, which means students can contact us directly.



**Jason Gonella** is Chair of the Antelope Valley LP, one of the Los Angeles LP's eight internal regions. Those wishing to contribute to, or apply for, the scholarship fund may contact Gonella at: [AynRKey@aol.com](mailto:AynRKey@aol.com).

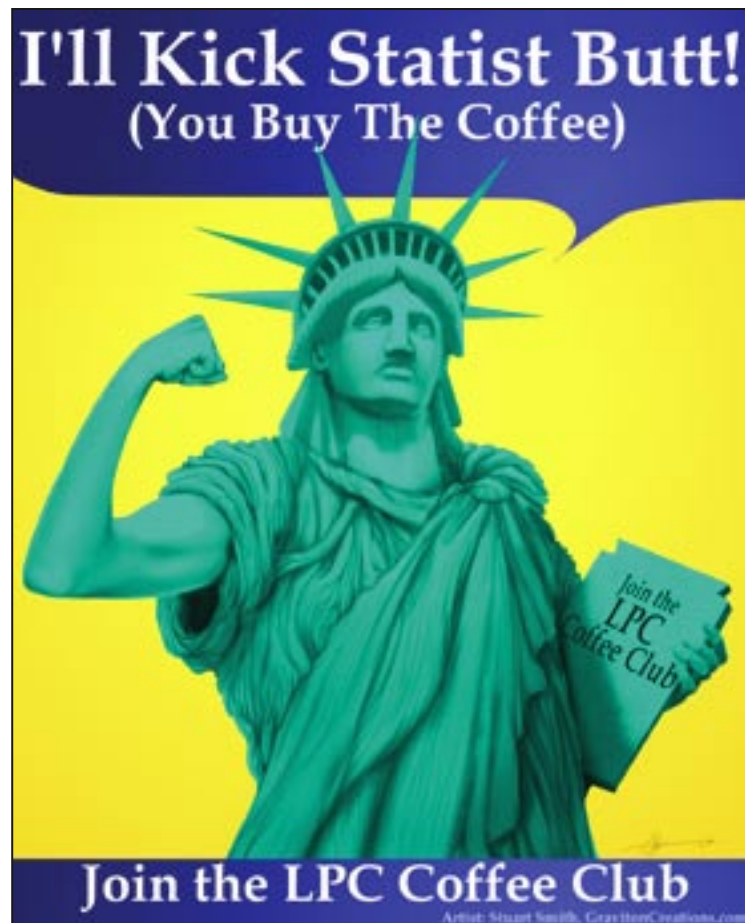
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This image available for purchase at [www.cafepress.com/libertykicks](http://www.cafepress.com/libertykicks)

## Supporting the Troops

# Libertarians Protest 4,000th U.S. Troop Killed in Iraq

by Lawrence K. Samuels

Monterey Libertarians for Peace, Monterey CodePink, and the Peace Coalition of Monterey were among the estimated thirty participants in an antiwar protest on March 24 at Windows-on-the-bay, in Monterey, CA.

The protest was organized in response to the death of the 4,000th U.S. soldier in the ongoing Iraq War. Large signs displayed on the grass mourned the mounting casualties, while Hanan Shawar, coordinator for Monterey CodePink, wore "bloodied" bandages to emphasize the horrors of war.

Protesters urged support for the troops rather than the war. They hoped to prevent the U.S. government from further betraying the idealism and bravery of U.S. service men and women by sacrificing their lives in a needless and unconstitutional war.

Passing motorists honked their approval of the protesters' antiwar message.

Shawar has for the past several years been a key partner with Monterey Libertarians for Peace in organizing antiwar efforts.

*"Cowardice asks the question: is it safe?  
Expediency asks the question: is it politic?  
Vanity asks the question: is it popular?  
But conscience asks the question: is it right?  
And there comes a time when one must take a position  
that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular- but one  
must take it simply because it is right."  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## Raise your Cup to Coffee Club Members!

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

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Kelly Barnes   | Brian Foster    |
| Bob Barr       | Daniel Imperato |
| Suzanne Bell   | John Inks       |
| Philip Berg    | Brian Miller    |
| Ted Brown      | Chuck Moulton   |
| Beau Cain      | Rich Newell     |
| T.J. Campbell  | Rob Power       |
| Ed Clark       | Alan Pyeatt     |
| Alicia Clark   | Jeffrey Sommer  |
| Zander Collier | Aaron Starr     |
| Curtis Cornell | Paul Studier    |
| Don Cowles     | Kevin Takenaga  |
| Michael Denny  | Chuck Tolman    |
| Bruce Dovner   | Bob Weber       |
| Terry Floyd    |                 |

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Buys Liberty

LPC activists are fighting statist repression and speaking truth to power—but LPC dues don't cover all expenses.

We need YOUR \$\$\$ to kick statist butt!

Join our Coffee Club!

Advertise in

California Freedom  
Donate!



Hanan Shawar of Monterey CodePink

## DVD Reviews

## Seeing the Humanity in Muslims

by Thomas M. Sipos

Individualism is a libertarian core principle; this idea that every person be judged by their own deeds. Another person may share your race, religion, ethnicity, sex, or sexual orientation—even so, that person's actions says nothing about you.

Unfortunately, since 9/11, many Americans have succumbed to collectivist thinking. I've heard even libertarians justify unconstitutional wars and civil rights violations on the theory that "everything changed" after "they" attacked "us."

"Who is this *they*?" challenged libertarian Samuel E. Konkin III as early as 2002.

"They" are not just Al Qaeda (which would make sense) or the broader yet harder to define term, "the terrorists," nor even Afghanistan, Iraq, or Iran. When America's post-9/11 collectivists say "they," they often mean *all* Muslims. Over a billion individuals condemned to automatic suspicion. Guilty until proven innocent.

Thankfully, the "liberal" film industry provides some correctives to this distorted worldview.



**Man Push Cart** (2005) is a traditional American immigrant story. It could easily have been set in 1905 with an Italian or Jewish protagonist. Instead, the film is about Ahmad (Ahmad Razvi), a Pakistani Muslim who operates a food cart on Manhattan's busy streets, selling coffee and bagels and such.

Ahmad's societal position is below that of convenience store clerk. His taxi driver friend envies a mutual friend who's lucky enough to work at Dunkin' Donuts.

It was not always so. Ahmad

was a rock star in Pakistan, but after coming to the U.S. his wife died and he lost custody of his son to hostile in-laws. Ill fate still plagues him. Yet despite his troubles, he toils on, doing gruntwork with the clockwork diligence for which immigrants are known. He bears his pain, and casual slights from his "betters," with silent stoicism. His simple pride in cleaning a cart, pining to *own* one some day, is especially poignant.

*Man Push Cart* hints at the collectivist bigotry American Muslims suffer post-9/11. Failing to save an abandoned kitten he'd found, Ahmad respectfully buries it rather than toss it into the garbage, as the law requires. A disapproving Muslim neighbor warns him, "We must be careful. Things are getting harder for us." And in a bar (yes, Ahmad drinks beer), another Muslim displays his friend's scars, sustained from a knife attack by thugs calling him "a terrorist."

Like many indie films, *Man Push Cart* is minimalist, authentic, almost existential, emphasizing character over plot, and eschewing Hollywood happy endings. It was an Official Selection at the Sundance and Venice film festivals, part of New York's Museum of Modern Art film series, and a Winner at the Seattle and London film festivals.

More overtly political is **Road to Guantanamo** (2006), a British docu-drama about the "Tipton Three."

Shortly before the U.S. war on Afghanistan, four Muslim Brits from Tipton, England, flew to Pakistan for a wedding. In Pakistan, they heard mullahs urging Muslims to help the Afghans. So they went to Afghanistan to (they later said) offer humanitarian help and check out the war.

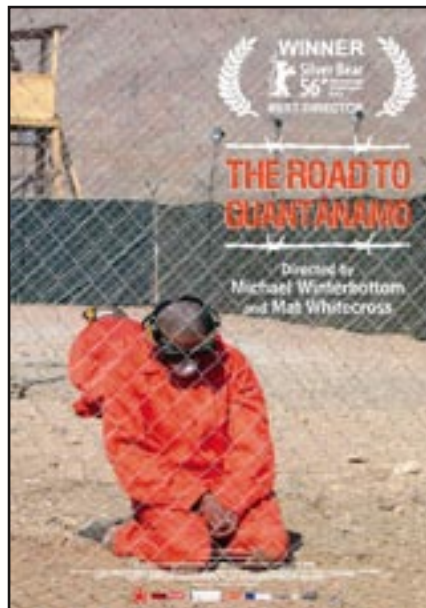
The term "young and stupid" comes to mind. (Women may not get it, but many guys go through a *Beavis and Butthead* stage in their youth.)

In Afghanistan they suffered aerial bombings, hunger, and illness, and soon wished they hadn't come. They were separated and the four be-

came three. Captured by the Northern Alliance, they were given to the U.S. as part of a haul of "Al Qaeda terrorists and Taliban fighters."

U.S. intelligence regarded the presence of three Brits in war-torn Afghanistan to be curious and unexpected, and doubted their tale of wayward tourism. Thus began these Brits' ordeal of imprisonment, interrogation, and (depending on your definition) torture, including a stint in Guantanamo Bay, before being repatriated to Britain in 2004.

*Road to Guantanamo* is a remarkable film, using both real participants and actors to recreate the Tipton Three's version of events. Especially striking is its dramatization of what it's like for Third World peasants to be on the receiving end of a Great Power's bombs. The film reminds us that "collateral damage" is another term for innocent human beings.



Filming from the Muslims' point of view will discomfort some viewers, unsettled at being made to identify with Guantanamo Bay's inmates. Yet lest anyone think that co-director Michael Winterbottom "hates America"—grow up. Winterbottom also directed *A Mighty Heart*, about Islamic terrorists' murder of Jewish-American journalist Daniel Pearl. Winterbottom sympathizes with all victims.

The Tipton Three were cleared partially because British police offered alibis. One of the three was doing community service in England at a time the CIA insisted he was in Central Asia listening to Bin Ladin.

Even so, some still suspect



that the Tipton Three were up to no good in Afghanistan. Yet libertarians should appreciate that these Muslims advanced civil liberties in the U.S. Shafiq Rasul (one of the three) sued the federal government and won in *Rasul v. Bush*, wherein the Supreme Court ruled that Guantanamo Bay inmates *can* challenge the Constitutionality of their detention in U.S. courts.

**Sorry, Haters** (2006) provides another take on the "guilty until proven innocent" theme. Many indie films claim to be brave and innovative. *Sorry, Haters* delivers.

In this suspense drama, Ashade (Abdellatif Kechiche) is a Muslim taxi driver in New York. His brother was arrested by Homeland Security on a tenuous coincidence, and deported to Syria, where the CIA can legally torture him. Ashade's fellow cabbies at the mosque chip in for a lawyer. "He was our brother too," says one Muslim cabbie.

Phoebe (Robin Wright Penn—yes, Sean's wife) is an angry white woman. Without giving everything away, she misses 9/11. Not because she hates America, but because that tragedy allowed her to shine. People turned to her for support. As this deeply disturbed woman explains, "For the first time in my life I didn't feel powerless—because *everyone* felt powerless." Or more bluntly, "I just wanted that day back."

One night Phoebe enters Ashade's cab. She sees the Muslim driver and sees only a

stereotype. And so she worms her way into his life, hoping to find a terrorist who can give her "that day back."

*Sorry, Haters* depicts the nightmare of profiling for those who have a "guilty until proven innocent" face. Phoebe's anonymous tip to Homeland Security—an anonymous *lie*—is enough to destroy one Muslim family. How do you prove you *didn't* intend to do something?

Libertarians who are cavalier about Muslim profiling should recall that, post-Oklahoma City, NRA and "anti-government" bumper stickers were part of the FBI's terrorist profile. Likewise, the state's increasing use of anonymous tips (in child abuse as well as terrorism cases) provides a safe and easy way for neighbors and co-workers to destroy hated but innocent people. This film warns against giving the state too much power to "protect us." The Soviets loved anonymous tips.

*Sorry, Haters* also examines the sick and lonely among us who thrive on tragedy. Wars and disasters ruin many, yet for some it brings purpose and glory. Most German troops detested the trenches of the Great War, yet one friendless failure, Adolf Hitler, found meaning and acceptance in that war.

The DVD's special features include a roundtable discussion led by actor Tim Robbins (who's not in the film). Robbins asks, "Are we lusting after tragedy in this world? Do we find self-importance in it?" British film professor Paul Thompson compares "nostalgia for 9/11" with "nostalgia for the Blitz"—a nostalgia for that communal equality created by shared suffering.

*Sorry, Haters* warns us that those who need enemies will find them -- or create them. Some people create enemies for political or financial gain. Others create enemies to fill an emotional void.

*Sorry, Haters* was an Official Selection at the American Film Institute and Toronto film festivals. The film's title is that of the reality TV show for which Phoebe works, but it's also a message to bigots: "Sorry, haters, you won't like this film."

**Norma Jean Almodovar**  
continued from page 1...

NJA: My husband was an architect who studied with Frank Lloyd Wright. He was fortunate to have met Rand and be part of the Objectivist Movement. From the time I met him, he encouraged me to develop my talent.

Art—writing, music, everything creative—can touch the hearts and minds of others. While I've always created for my own enjoyment first, I've used art to express my belief in freedom, and as satirical commentary on the so-called justice system.

During the OJ Simpson trial, I sculpted a chess set with the players from the trial. My point was that the justice system is nothing but a game played by attorneys, and whomever has the cleverest strategy wins, re-

gardless of truth or facts. Liberal screenwriters have embedded films and TV shows with socialist philosophy for decades. Freedom lovers must finance more freedom-themed films -- which *can* be romantic, stirring, and funny as they illuminate -- because the screen seems to have the greatest influence on the public.

Unfortunately, other art forms require media attention for success, and the media doesn't focus on artists who aren't "one of them" in spirit. How to overcome this media bias, I haven't a clue. I've only gotten significant media attention for my sex work. I've been ignored as an artist. The media can't fathom that a prostitute could be a "legitimate" artist or writer.

AK: The Libertarian Party's image is of men working in

See how the media and music industry treated Ashley Dupre, who was the downfall of NY Governor Spitzer. When they learned she was pursuing a career as a singer and composer, her talent was questioned. A scornful (female) record company executive disdainfully said that anyone who signed Dupre to a recording contract shouldn't be in the music industry.

Whether or not Dupre has talent should be decided by consumers.

Art can reach where reason cannot, touching those not rationally-inclined. We must overcome the resistance of intellectually focused libertarians whose sole pleasure seems to be debating *Robert's Rules of Order*. We must stress our touchy-feely artistic sides, to

good time along with information about the artists, including their belief in freedom.

I don't suggest an art festival just for libertarians; that's preaching to the choir. Film festivals such as Sundance don't proclaim their belief in more government, more taxes, more laws—the selected films do that.

AK: In addition to being a wife, artist, and libertarian, you're a prominent sex worker rights advocate. What role has art has played in your fight?

NJA: Many of my colleagues used their sex work to fund their artistic pursuits. Not many people enjoy living as "starving artists." The wages of sex care providers beats earning minimum wage while waiting for one's art to be discovered.

In 1997, I co-chaired and co-sponsored the International Conference on Prostitution (ICOP), featuring an exhibit of sex workers' art from around the world. Originally, this exhibit was intended—by the CSUN academics—only for conference attendees. But I realized that many people would never otherwise have the chance to meet a sex worker in a non-threatening environment. So I insisted on opening the exhibit to the public.

Our exhibit was in the "Onion" Church—a Unitarian Universalist Church. The response was overwhelming. All sorts of people came.

Sex workers must change focus on how to reach people. I've been the executive director of the political organization COYOTE LA for many years. Our focus was to rationally demonstrate why the laws were wrong and needed changing. Unfortunately, prostitution is an emotional issue.

People weren't hearing us.

In 1997 a colleague and I founded ISWFACE (International Sex Worker Foundation for Art, Culture and Education), a nonprofit 501 (c)3 organization that lets us raise money and offer tax deductions. Our sex worker artwork dispels the myths, stereotypes, and lies about us in a non-threatening environment. In 1998 we held our first major fundraiser, "Ladies of the Evening...at the Improv," with musically and co-medically inclined "hos."

ISWFACE also provides information to media, students, researchers, and others as the "Education" part of our mission. To change the laws, people must see prostitutes as human beings, with talents and skills, and understand the waste of time and money to imprison us for selling what we can legally give away.

Unfortunately, our chief benefactor died in 2003, and we've since been financially struggling. We pay no salaries, but money is needed for our website, phones, exhibits, and my college lectures to future voters. My message isn't just that prostitution should be decriminalized; it's that we own our bodies and the government should leave consenting adults alone, period

For information on **Norma Jean Almodovar** or her artwork call (818) 892-2029 or visit [www.normajeansgifts.com](http://www.normajeansgifts.com). **Angela Keaton** is an At-Large Representative of the LNC, and a former Executive Director of the LPC. She is trying to organize libertarian artists and entertainers. Her email: [angela@liberatedspace.com](mailto:angela@liberatedspace.com).



Norma Jean Almodovar's O.J. chess set sculpture

Photo: Norma Jean Almodovar

gardless of truth or facts.

Heidi Fleiss's trial was ongoing at the same time. I attended it every day. Fleiss was convicted. OJ was acquitted. Fleiss went to prison, not for harming anyone, but for employing the principles of capitalism.

computers and engineering. Yet many libertarians are artists. How can we change our image?

NJA: Sex workers suffer the same problem. We're thought incapable of doing anything other than spreading our legs.

enlighten emotionally-inclined people about liberty.

We need art festivals, concerts, poetry readings showcasing the work of talented libertarians. We needn't say the participants are libertarians up front. We should offer a

## Here's My Pledge to the California Coffee Club!

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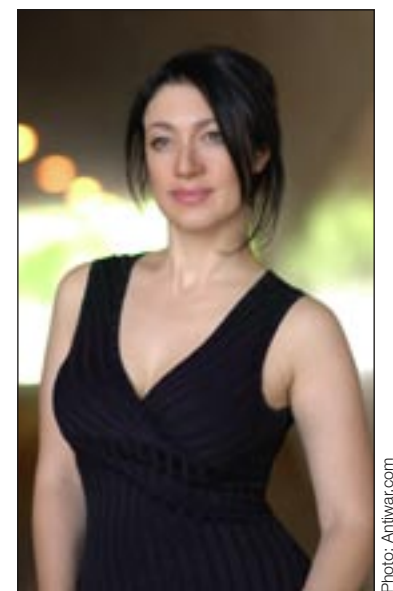


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**Coffee Club Members on page 4**

**Sacramento Festival**  
continued from page 1...

future constituents.

Christopher Agrella (Mike's neighbor) is running for Congress in the same area, challenging an otherwise unopposed incumbent—one with many strikes against her. "Who could resist?" Agrella asked this author.

Friday afternoon's main attraction was Wayne Allyn Root, the presidential candidate for the LP nomination who won the straw poll at the LPC February convention [*California Freedom*, March 2008]. Root called himself "Ron Paul on steroids." His enthusiasm was exceeded only by his excitement in citing examples of government intrusion and ineptness. He closed by quoting Barry Goldwater: the "duty of public officials is to divest themselves of the power they have been given."

On Saturday, half-a-dozen educational booths offered libertarian ideas to passersby. Curt "Aoke" Cornell filled the park with music, as appropriate to the crowd's changing mood: reggae, folk, hip-hop -- even a few minutes of classical when a wedding party stopped for photos.

Barbara Joy Waymire spear-headed this candidate's rally and freedom festival with infectious energy, having a great time herself. With the music, sunshine, and good company, that wasn't difficult. Those who missed the event should make a point of attending next time!

**Jane Heider** has been an LPC member, off-and-on, since about 1972. She resides in Carmel, CA. Her email: [janeheider@hotmail.com](mailto:janeheider@hotmail.com).



Clockwise from top left: Jesse Thomas, Steve Cottrell, Kevin Takenaga, Wayne Allyn Root, Cottrell, Takenaga, Root, Richard Newell, Lady Liberty, outreach tables, Jane Heider.

*"The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself."*  
~Friedrich Nietzsche

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Photos: Lawrence K. Samuels and Donna Orlando

## Libertarian Candidate

# How One Democrat Found Liberty

by Phil Berg

Like most Jewish kids in Baltimore, I was raised by liberal Democrats. Our urban home was near an old growth forest, preserved by covenant and hilliness. Its oak trees are said to be older than Baltimore. I grew to love Nature.

In 1959, a close family friend was laid off at Bethlehem Steel. My father lost his job in 1962. I resolved to learn why there was so much economic woe in the world.

Some books moved me powerfully. *The Grapes of Wrath* increased my desire to understand economics. *Silent Spring* sparked my concern for the environment. I read Adolph Eichman's biography at a tender age, sparking a lifelong quest to understand why civilized countries descend into hell.

In September 1976, while swimming in the Hopkins Alumni Pool in East Baltimore, I glanced across the fence—and saw the ghetto. I saw people sweltering in rundown row-

houses. I wondered why, a decade into LBJ's Great Society, with Baltimore getting a lion's share of every federal program, so many people seemed worse off. Factories were closing. Misery was spreading. I'd graduated cum Laude in economics but still didn't understand why there was so much poverty.

In 1984, while working for the feds as an industrial hygienist, I met a man in a D.C. bar. A graduate student in philosophy at George Mason, he introduced me to the works of such Austrian school economists as Hayak, Mises, and Rothbard. I came to learn that poverty is not a necessary part of the human condition. Things can be better.

It took a while for me, a liberal Democrat, to change my political identity. Giving up the dream that a loving and caring government will improve our lives was difficult. We identify with our dreams; they help us cope with life's realities and feel good about ourselves.

But I've adopted a new dream that liberty will bring us peace, economic prosperity, and justice. Maybe it's just a dream, but I believe that true liberty has a better chance of creating a decent and peaceful world, freer of want, hunger, disease, ignorance, violence, and war.

The Libertarian Party's pledge is to never espouse or commit the initiation of violence. Its entire philosophy emerges from this simple idea—an idea that can lead to a more peaceful and cooperative world, locally and globally.

You needn't surrender your dreams for liberty. Even if you still dream of good and effective government, you could still vote Libertarian at the federal level so that money and power flow to the fifty states. At least the fifty states don't make war.

**Phil Berg** is the LPC's candidate for the 8th Congressional District in San Francisco. His website: [www.choosepeacenow.us](http://www.choosepeacenow.us).



Photo: Mike Gittelsohn

**Phil Berg, the LP's candidate for San Francisco's 8th Congressional District**

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## California Freedom



Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

Libertarians share a meal following the Sacramento Freedom Festival, pages 1 and 7

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