

California Freedom

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

Winning Elections

Tom Tryon's Re-Election Fundraiser

by Barbara "Joy" Waymire

Tom Tryon, longtime member of the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors, held a campaign fundraiser at his Angels Camp ranch on August 16th, 2008. Over 200 people attended, including current and past county officials, and other candidates for local offices.

The caterer's BBQ dinner consisted of fresh green salad, dinner rolls, baked beans, fresh fruit, BBQ tri-tip, and chocolate cake. The meal was excellent.

Calaveras County has long had the most Libertarians in office on a local level. This year we registered the most new Libertarian voters in California.



Photo: Al Segalla

Tom Tryon's BBQ feast

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Opposing Empire

LP Demands U.S. Exit Afghanistan

by Thomas M. Sipos

While convening in Washington D.C. during the weekend of Sept 6 - 7, 2008, the Libertarian National Committee passed the following antiwar resolution:

WHEREAS the government of the United States should return to its historical libertarian tradition of avoiding entangling alliances, foreign quarrels, and military adventures; and

WHEREAS the stability and security of Afghanistan lie outside the jurisdiction of the government of the United States; and

WHEREAS the Libertarian Party recognizes that the only legitimate role of the military is to defend America against direct attack or the imminent threat of attack;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Libertarian National Committee calls on the government of the United States to withdraw the armed forces of the United States from Afghanistan, without undue delay.

Ironically, only a few weeks before the LNC passed this resolution calling for a troop pullout from Afghanistan, LP VP candidate Wayne Allyn Root called for a troop surge in Afghanistan.

Aaron Passman, interviewing Root for the *Jewish Exponent* (August 14, 2008), reported: "I felt Iraq was always the wrong war, and if there is such a thing as a right war, Afghanistan was [it]," said Root. He said that he had supported the surge in Iraq, and that the government



should 'do the same thing in Afghanistan, and make plans to get out quickly.' "

Although Root now says that he'd "always" felt that Iraq was the wrong war, less than two years ago, he'd reportedly supported the Iraq War. (One year ago, he'd opposed the Iraq War, but supported an Iran War.) For the complete *Jewish Exponent* interview, see: <http://www.jewishexponent.com/article/16812/>.

Whatever Root's new position, the LNC's resolution makes it official: the LP opposes a "troop surge" in Afghanistan.

November Elections

LPC Ballot Prop Recommendations

by Richard E. Venable

A mind-boggling 12 propositions appear on the California general election ballot on November 4, 2008. The LPC Executive Committee recommends the following votes:

A NO vote for:

Prop. 1: Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century. Originally scheduled for the November 2004 ballot. Then for November 2006. Most recently, Assembly Bill 713, Chapter 44, Statutes of 2006, provides for the submission of this Act on the November 2008 ballot.

Prop. 2: Treatment of Farm Animals. Requires that enclosure or tether-confining specified farm animals (such as veal calves, egg-laying hens, and pregnant pigs) be allowed for the majority of every day to fully extend their limbs or wings, lie down, stand up, and turn around.

Prop. 3: Children's Hospital Bond Act. Grant Program. Authorizes \$980 million in bonds, to be repaid from state's General Fund, to fund the construction, expansion, remodeling, renovation, furnishing, and equipping of children's hospitals.

Prop. 6: Criminal Penalties and Laws. Public Safety Funding. Requires new state spending on various programs to combat crime and gangs, and to operate prison and parole systems. Increases penalties for several crimes, including violating gang injunctions, using or possessing to sell methamphetamine, or carrying loaded or concealed firearms by certain felons. Eliminates bail for illegal immigrants charged with violent or gang-related felonies.

Prop. 7: Renewable Energy. Requires all utilities, including

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government-owned utilities, to generate 20% of their power from renewable energy by 2010, a standard currently applicable only to private electrical corporations. Fast-tracks approval for new renewable energy plants. Creates a "Solar and Clean Energy Transmission Account" to purchase property or rights of way for renewable energy.

Prop. 8: Limit on Marriage. Amends the California Constitution to provide that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized.

Prop. 10: Bonds. Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. Authorizes \$5 billion in bonds paid from state's General Fund, allocated approximately as follows: 58% in cash payments to purchasers of certain high fuel economy and alternative fuel vehicles; the remainder in incentives for research, de-

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From the Editor On Obama and Snubgate

by Thomas M. Sipos

If past behavior can predict future behavior, then many Libertarians will be “going home” to the GOP on Election Day. They often do. Two reasons: (1) Especially if Obama and McCain are polling close, many Libertarians won’t want to “waste their votes” in an election where “every vote counts.” (2) Many Libertarians misperceive Sarah Palin as a libertarian.

(1) Palin governs a state that subsists largely on federal handouts, federal military bases, and taxes on oil companies—which Palin happily raised (www.motherjones.com/kevin-drum/2008/08/sarah_palin_and_taxes.html). It’s easy to avoid taxing Alaska’s “rugged individuals” when state coffers are stuffed with federal and oil company money -- paid for by taxpayers and gasoline consumers in the other 49 states. However, such pseudo-libertarian economics won’t help Palin balance a *federal* budget.

(2) Palin is a social conservative, with everything that implies.

(3) Palin has called the Iraq



War “a task from God.” She’s open to wars on Iran and Russia, to “defend” Georgia.

Palin is a tax-raising, social conservative, interventionist. How is that libertarian? Oh, that’s right. She likes guns. Well, so does Vladimir Putin. So what?

Obama is a lesser evil than Palin.

Understand, I will *not* vote for McCain or Obama. Both men (and Biden and Palin) are socialist imperialists. But Obama remains the lesser evil. Why?

A libertarian is not someone who wants liberty merely for himself. Hitler and Stalin wanted liberty for themselves. Rather, a libertarian is one who respects the liberty even of those he hates. And while Obama, like

McCain and Palin, will engage in needless wars, he will be more hesitant to launch them. More likely to see foreigners as actual human beings.

It’s nice that Palin likes guns. Yet I fear she’s too confident of God’s support were she or McCain to target this nation’s guns on innocent foreign civilians.

While I’d much prefer a libertarian, I think an Obama presidency will be more moderate than libertarians fear and progressives desire.

Obama reminds me of *The Great American Beauty Contest*, a trashy 1973 TV movie. A feminist infiltrates this beauty pageant so that, should she win, she can denounce the pageant’s sexism before millions of TV viewers.

She does win. She approaches the microphone. Her co-conspirators in the audience anxiously await her scathing “acceptance” speech. Then she breaks into tears. “I had no idea...” she blubbers. “I had no idea how much I wanted this! Thank you!”

Her co-conspirators are apoplectic, screaming “No! No! No!” All drowned out by the cheering studio audience.

This feminist was emotionally overwhelmed by being crowned a beauty queen. She forgot her leftist ideology, and basked in the pageant’s glory.

I believe the same will happen

to Obama. He never expected to win. Hillary Clinton “owned” the nomination. Obama ran to build his name recognition, and maybe prepare for 2016. Yet against all odds, he won.

Obama is no libertarian. Just another pork barrel, political hack in the Sarah Palin mold.

But whereas McCain and Clinton see power as their entitlement, Obama will find himself president to his surprise and astonishment. He will feel as overwhelmed by the White House as that TV movie feminist by her crown. He will feel history weighing on his shoulders, the eyes of the world upon him, his every decision judged as that of “the first black president.”

Under these circumstances, any radical ideas or “black resentment” that Obama may have had will melt away, just like that TV feminist’s ideology melted away. Obama will rise to circumstance, and strive to be a fair-minded “unity” president, listening to “both sides” of the political aisle, and to all Americans.

Unfortunately, since most Americans want socialism, and the establishment wants war, that is what Obama will deliver. My point isn’t that Obama will be a hero or saint. But rather, that he won’t have horns.

So there’s no need for Libertarians to “go home” to the GOP.

Anyway, I’m pretty certain McCain will win. You see, I’m a pessimist.

• Snubgate

If you don’t read IndependentPoliticalReport.com and LastFreeVoice.wordpress.com and ThirdPartyWatch.com, you’re out of the loop.

On September 10th, Ron Paul held a press conference attended by presidential candidates Ralph Nader (independent), Cynthia McKinney (Green), and Chuck Baldwin (Constitution). The LP’s Bob Barr was invited, but declined to attend.

Essentially, Paul endorsed “any third party” for president. His Campaign for Liberty also issued a statement of principles, which bears the names of Nader, McKinney, and Baldwin. It’s an inspiring document: www.campaignforliberty.com/blog/?p=484.

Barr’s failure to appear has been dubbed Snubgate. Some say it’s cost him many Paul voters. Barr responded that he wants to get votes for “Bob Barr running on the LP,” and not for “any third party.”

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From the LP Women’s Caucus Vote LP for Future Success

by Barbara “Joy” Waymire

The Libertarian Party was established in 1971, yet we are still struggling to put our candidates into a responsible seat in government. We must realize that this will not happen in our current path of direction. We must focus on the Big Picture to accomplish this, not just what is at hand.

LP members all stand for small government and freedom of choice. But because of our party’s current candidates, many LP members have put their efforts elsewhere, only because they do not agree with the choices made. I may not agree with the choices myself, but I will still vote Libertarian all the way.

We must make a strong showing in the polls as a party, before we can ever

install one of our candidates. We already know that our candidates will not take the top office this election, so why divide the party because of personal opinion?

Now is the time to stand united. To get high percentages in the polls, and show the people that we will not give up—for Freedom is our born right in life!

Everything happens for a reason. And so in this. The reason? To grow our percentage in the polls, and if we cannot win, then to swing the election. To demonstrate the LP is a serious political force.

You or I may not like the outcome. But this how it must be if we are to grow the LP to future success.

I urge all LP members to set their personal feelings



aside, for the future of the party, as it continues its struggles for Freedom.

We can succeed in this. But only if we stand as a united front for Truth, Justice, and Freedom!

The LP Women’s Caucus has a website: lp.org/mailman/listinfo/lpwomen_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.



Letters to the Editor

Libertarians are Right-Wing

[Regarding] "Both. And Neither," in the June 2008 *California Freedom*, [Thomas M. Sipos wrote]:

"In 1977, a high school buddy and I entered the West 38th Street headquarters of the Free Libertarian Party. Knowing nothing about the LP, I tried to understand it by first locating it on the political spectrum. I asked these guys: 'Are you left-wing or right-wing?' 'Weeeeell...', one of the men pondered. 'We're both. And neither.' In over thirty years, I've yet to hear a better reply to that hoary question."

Now, why would a 15 or 16 year old student ask, "Are you left-wing or right-wing?" unless you thought the answer would provide probative information?

Had you asked the same question in the 1960s, the answer would have been very different. Something happened between 1960 and 1977 that clouded the meaning of right-wing.

Left-wing has somehow maintained its pre-1960 meaning of advocating more government. The one exception: lumping everyone opposed to war as left-wing.

In my world, words mean things. Exactly how 100% government got the name "left" is somewhat clouded. My assumption is it's because Marx saw the First Estate (the clergy) and Second Estate (the landed nobility), the power elite of the day, as his enemy. The landed nobility were "the exploiters of labor," and religion was "the opiate of the proletariat." Because they sat on the right side of Louie XVI in the French National Assembly, Marx called his movement a "movement of the left."

Lenin and Trotsky continued to

refer to Communism as a movement of the left.

The usage over the years confirms that totalitarianism—Communism, socialism, and dictatorships—are called the "left."

If more government is left, then 100% government is extreme left. So let 100% government on the left be the starting point on a political spectrum, and then 0% government, or anarchy, would be the opposite, or ending point, or the right end of that political spectrum.

This is not conjecture or my opinion. This single plane spectrum, with 100% government on the left and 0% government on the right, is the *only* measuring device that takes in every person, and every governmental system or lack of system, on the planet.

This would mean there is no such thing as a left libertarian, as some antiwar libertarians refer to themselves.

Look at the names by which libertarians identify themselves. Most will accept the name Minarchist. Words mean things. "Mini" means small. Miniskirt, miniature, minimal, minimize, miniscule, minor, minority, and minus. Arch means "rule." Monarchy (rule by one), oligarchy (rule by a few), democracy (rule by the majority), theocracy (rule by God).

Therefore, Minarchist means (not just my opinion), and at the same time describes, libertarians who believe in the least amount of government possible.

Some libertarians call themselves Anarcho-Capitalist. Assuming they gave some thought to picking a name, this group believes the government should have *no say* in the capitalist or free market system. (The French word for that is "laissez-faire"; loosely translated, it means "let the people do it.")

Some libertarians believe in Anarchy. Their goal is no government at all. Anarchy is made up of two words: "arch" (meaning "rule") and "a" which means "no." Amoral (no morals), apathy (no feelings), absent (no attendance), aseptic (no germs), asocial (no social skills), acquit (no guilt), and amnesia (no memory). Anarchy means "no rule or no government." This makes Anarchy, or 0% government, the opposite end of our spectrum on the right.

That constitutes a single plane spectrum of totalitarianism (100% government) to anarchy (0% government), and centrist the middle.

The left/right spectrum is *not just my opinion*, or the results of

my exposure to limited information. The left/right spectrum of 100% government on the left, and 0% government on the right, takes in every government, and every thinking person, on the planet.

There is much more that leads to the same conclusion. If you want more, e-mail chuckest@aol.com.

— Charles R. McGlawn
Fullerton, CA

Editor replies: The above political spectrum may be accurate, but also useless. Most people want *some* government, but differ radically as to what government. Joe may want complete social freedom, but a generous welfare state. Fred may want economic laissez-faire, but theocracy over family life. Sam may want anarchy for 99% of people, but death camps for 1%.

All three men might theoretically occupy an identical spot on the above spectrum; 43.5% government, or whatever. Yet a voter would be mistaken to think that their positions on the issues were identical, simply because they all rated 43.5 in a voter guide based on the above spectrum.

Apart from totalitarians and anarchists, "right-wing" or "left-wing" tell us nothing very useful about most people. I see little probative value in rehabilitating these terms.

Restore Self-Sufficiency

This being an election year, we are hearing every candidate promising change in our government. But they are overlooking one important aspect to bring about change. That is the mind set of the people.

We, as a people, need to take responsibility for our actions that have given the government so much control in our lives.

After WWII and the Great Depression, our economy bloomed. It was finally cheaper to buy ready-made clothes than to make them ourselves. Things were so good, we did not look to what our actions would create for the future. We had more time to do fun things than to make an outfit to wear. We became a spoiled nation.

Before there was medical insurance, we went to the doctor only when it was absolutely necessary. When medical insurance plans came to be, our mind-thought changed. We began seeking the doctor more and more.

Why?

Because we had insurance.

We did not have to pay as we go, so why not go for every little thing? We abused the system. The more we abused it, the more the government had to step in with rules and regulations.

Slowly, we have given the government more control. We became like sheep being led to slaughter, and did not see it coming. Now that we do, we scream that it is all the government's fault. *Wake up people!*

We have forgotten how to be self-sufficient. We now expect the government to fix everything instead of doing for ourselves.

We need to remember two things: (1) There is no such thing as a free ride, and (2) You can never hire anyone cheaper than yourself.

— Barbara "Joy" Waymire
Calaveras County, CA

9/11 Is Over

As the anniversary of 9/11 arrives and then leaves, people reflect on the lessons of 9/11. What specifically are those lessons?

"There are people out there who wish to do us harm" is an oft used answer, and an accurate one. "That we should defend ourselves from them" is the same. "That there are consequences to our policies in the Middle East that result in people wanting to do us harm" is not a common answer to the question, although it should be.

Some of the lessons of 9/11 were learned. Others were mislearned, which caused people to exacerbate the policies that first led to the attack. Objecting to those policies has people saying, "Have you learned nothing from 9/11? Do you want the terrorists to win?"

That is *not* the lesson of 9/11.

The lessons of 9/11 are important. So are the lessons of 9/12.

What are the lessons of 9/12? That life goes on. The earth continued spinning on its axis as it continued to orbit the sun. People continued to wake up in the morning, go to work, come home in the evening, and then go back to bed. Life goes on.

Another lesson of 9/12 is that because life goes on, we have time to calm down and make rational decisions based upon traumatic events that happened in the past. For some, it takes longer to get over trauma than for others. But in all cases, passions subside and thought can take over.

Taking the time to recover, so that we can think clearly instead of simply reacting emotionally, we can come up with ways to make ourselves safer from terrorists.

Learning the lessons of "blow-back" would be a great place to

start.

It is not "blaming the US" or "wanting the terrorists to win" (both emotional responses) to change any actions of ours that might have caused or contributed to 9/11.

Few people have learned the lessons of 9/12. The War on Terror and the Department of Homeland Security are a testament to some people never leaving that day. For them, life did not go on. They are stuck in one moment. They never learned that it is possible to move on and think clearly about what happened.

It is time for everyone to learn the lessons of 9/12. It is time to get rid of the DHS and end the War on Terror. Because it is no longer 9/11/2001.

It hasn't been 9/11/2001 in a very long time.

— Jason Gonella
Antelope Valley, CA

Lukewarm Voter

I opposed the Barr/Root nomination, but am not too concerned about it, so I did not "campaign" against them.

We can all see the problems this candidacy is causing for the LP faithful. But I see two odd, unanticipated advantages from their abortive campaign.

1. There's always been a "win at all costs" wing of the LP. Their flawed premise is that the primary role of a political party—even an ideological third party—is to win elections and come to power. Now we get to see what the result is when you select wimp Libertarian candidates to achieve that goal.

As we'll discover in November, we'll do poorly—well, at least no better than usual. As the election approaches and the "wasted vote" issue comes into play, Barr's current 6% poll preference will melt away like May snow. The LP presidential vote total will be under a half percent, as always.

Hence it will be shown, once and for all, that running an "electable" Libertarian candidate who is not a Libertarian serves no purpose except to alienate the party faithful. No money from non-Libertarians came into the Barr campaign, and the LP core didn't contribute hardly anything either.

I'll vote for Barr in November. As I see it, I'm not voting for Barr—I'm voting for the LP. But I won't give him money.

The only other sensible vote is to not vote in that race at all (which does *not* mean you refrain from voting on other matters—our

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**YOUR Letters
Welcome!**

**But we can't publish
what we don't receive.**

**Please submit your
letters to:**

editor@ca.lp.org

Resisting the State Anarchist Outside the GOP

by Angela Keaton

While stationed for Antiwar.com at an alternative event to the GOP convention, I stayed at the Hotel Saloon, Minneapolis's only gay motel. I highly recommend it. And both the Saloon Bar and Pi, the lesbian bar.

I didn't make it to the Gay 90s, a few blocks down, but some Ron Paul supporters received some acceptable adult gay entertainment there.

The butch who owns Pi said it is acceptable to support Ron Paul, just as long as you call him Ron Paul, and not Dr. Paul, "cuz that's creepy."

The police and secret service were in full force. They were complaining about the presence of "anarchists" in their fair city.

Pumped up on Starbucks, and much to the amusement of former Outright ExCom member Mike Nelson, I foolishly challenged two police officers and two secret service agents. I asked if they had ever met an anarchist. Then I added, "You just did. Here's my card."



The American Liberty Coalition PAC sponsored Ron Paul quote billboards to greet GOP conventioners

The LP had a presence there. But unlike some of the published pictures, it was mostly staffed by two volunteers: Rich Paul and a man whose name I did not get.

The Barr workers and LP staff were nowhere to be found, save when I bumped into too-attractive-to-be-a-libertarian Austin Petersen.

The LP booth was unremarkable, bordering on un-

professional. That the LP paid twice what Antiwar.com paid, for such a sloppy display, is why it was right for me to discontinue raising money for the LNC. People noticed the lack of quality, and it reflected poorly. Image does matter.

The bags were nice, though.

An Antiwar.com donor was also staying at the Hotel Saloon for the Ron Paul event. He's a Catholic lay leader, and rebukes religious people who would vote for a mass murderer just to avoid gay marriage. Something that those who attended the "other" event should reflect upon.

"An army of principles can penetrate where an army of soldiers cannot."

~Thomas Paine

Prop Recommendations

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velopment, and production of renewable energy technology, alternative fuel vehicle technology, purchase of renewable energy technology, education about these technologies, and grants to colleges to train students in these technologies.

Prop. 11: Redistricting. Creates 14-member redistricting commission responsible for drawing new district lines for State Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts. Requires State Auditor to randomly select commission members from voter applicant pool to create a commission with five members from each of the two largest political parties, and four members unaffiliated with either political party.

Prop. 12: Veterans' Bond Act of 2008. Provides for a bond issue of \$900 million to provide farm and home aid for California veterans.

The ExCom took NO POSITION on the following:

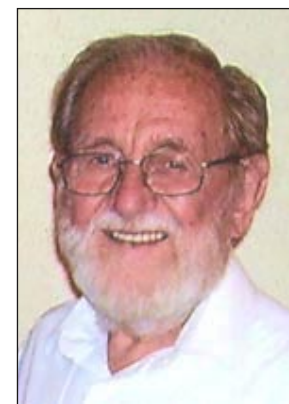
Prop. 4: Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Amends California Constitution to prohibit abortion for unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent, legal guardian or, if parental abuse reported, an adult family member.

Prop. 5: Nonviolent Offenders. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation. Requires State to expand and increase funding and oversight for individualized treatment and rehabilitation programs for nonviolent drug offenders and parolees.

Prop. 9: Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole. Requires notification to victim and opportunity for input during phases of criminal justice process, including bail,

pleas, sentencing and parole. Establishes victim safety as consideration in determining bail or release on parole.

For more information on these propositions, visit the California Secretary of State website: www.ss.ca.gov, and click on Elections, County and Local Measures.



This is excerpted from an article that appeared in the Sept/Oct 2008 issue of *Los Angeles Libertarian*, the newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County, which **Richard E. Venable** edits and publishes. His email: LPCNews@aol.com.

Tom Tryon

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The Calaveras County LP must be doing something right!

Libertarians can effect change by following Tom's example. He never quit until he achieved his goal of being on the County Board of Supervisors, a title he won't give up without a fight. His beliefs and convictions are strong. The people support him for what he has accomplished as a County Supervisor.

Here's to Tom Tryon! May he continue to be re-elected with each new election year.



Angela Keaton is an At-Large Representative of the LNC, and a former Executive Director of the LPC. Her email: angela@liberatedspace.com.

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.

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LP Is a Unique Educational Tool

by Walter Block

Why have a Libertarian Party at all? To promote liberty, of course. But how? Through education!

When the LP was started in 1971, the electorate knew nothing of libertarianism. The term was commonly confused with libertinism, librarianism, Liberianism, Liberace, and libertoonianism (whatever that is). Indeed, while matters are much improved, there is still much of that going around.

Evidence: Hannity and Colmes are no libertarians; but, they are supposed to be at least knowledgeable about politics. Yet they show little indication of this in their interview of Barr.

But if education is the goal, why create a political party? Why not just start a school?

Two major reasons:

First, the overwhelming majority of people are not interested in political issues for most of the year. Instead, they are concerned with earning a living, taking care of their children, and with their golf, tennis or garden clubs, with pizza, beer and bowling, with professional sports, movies, television, *American Idol* and, of course, sex. It is only once every four (or two) years that they pay attention to politics. The LP was designed to address this educational opportunity.

The LP has acquitted itself pretty well in this regard. Although at the top of the ticket we have garnered only somewhat less than 1% of the vote, we have attracted more publicity than otherwise would have accrued to us via lower-level successes (such as wins for small town mayors and city councils), and by being the balance of power in close elections between the two major parties in congressional and governorship races. We are still confused with libertinism, but not, I think, with libraries, Liberace, Liberia or libertoonianism.

As for more narrowly construed education, there are already think tanks such as the Mises Institute, and others, that publish libertarian writings and focus on encouraging young scholars to obtain their PhD degrees, so as to venture into the often unwelcoming (to libertarians) academic world.

The second case for an LP is that it is practically costless in

terms of manpower. What else could be done with the many highly-educated and motivated libertarians who are unable or unwilling to join a think tank, or become a university professor or journalist?

Think of all the doctors, engineers, lawyers, architects, computer programmers, and, yes, plumbers, carpenters, waiters, artists, and cab drivers who can only promote libertarianism as amateurs. That is, they are not paid, as part of their profession, to engage in the promotion of our ideology. What are they to do?

Yes, they can donate money to libertarian think tanks, and to those few universities that promote liberty. But in addition to finances, these people also have energy that, without an LP, would have no outlet. I suppose they could write letters to the editor, and place flyers on windshield wipers, but an LP is surely a better vehicle to utilize their talents than that.



Dr. Block is a professor of economics at Loyola University New Orleans, and a senior fellow of the Ludwig von Mises Institute. He is the author of *Defending the Undefendable*. His email: wblock@loyno.edu.

Obama & Snubgate

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Nader is less fussy. He joined Paul on CNN to discuss their statement of principles: www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3HwQtLFLbo. Nader also welcomed Paul supporters, saying that he too is against big government: www.votener.org/blog/2008/09/10/statement-to-ron-paul-supporters.

Libertarian bloggers are divided. The "Barr camp" says that *because the liberty vote is so small*, we can't afford to split it among several parties, and the LP is liberty's natural home. The "Paul camp" says that *because the liberty vote is so small*, we can't win alone, but must reach out to other groups on shared issues, win their trust, and then educate them to move in our direction.

On the LNC, Mary Ruwart introduced a resolution for the LP to apologize to Paul for the snub. Aaron Starr issued a counter-resolution for the LP to chastise Paul for splitting the liberty vote and invite him to endorse Barr: www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2008/09/proposed-inc-motion-expresses-disappointment-with-ron-paul-invites-endorsement-of-barrroot. Neither resolution is expected to pass.

Ironically, it's the more radical "Paul camp" that wants a "big tent."

Many Snubgate links may be found here: www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2008/09/snubgate-a-recap-of-ipsrs-coverage-concerning-bob-barrs-no-show-and-the-subsequent-fall-out and here: carlmoorereport.blogspot.com/2008/09/bob-barrs-snubgate-see-links.html.

On September 22, Ron Paul issued a statement: "The Libertarian Party Candidate admonished me for 'remaining

neutral' in the presidential race and not stating whom I will vote for in November.... I've thought about the unsolicited advice from the Libertarian Party candidate, and he has convinced me to reject my neutral stance in the November election. I'm supporting Chuck Baldwin, the Constitution Party candidate." See: www.campaignforliberty.com/blog/?p=582.

Instead of graciously sharing the stage with other third parties, Barr has driven this election year's largest freedom movement away from the LP. We'll learn in November how many votes this "strategy" has cost the LP.

Libertarian In Need

Norma Jean Almodovar, the LPC's 1986 candidate for Lt. Governor and author of *Cop to Call Girl*, is facing serious challenges. Since leaving prison, where she was incarcerated for a victimless "crime," she's had difficulty finding work due to her prison record and libertarian activism.

Her husband is in frail and failing health. Medical bills are piling up.

Norma Jean is a talented artist and skilled in Quark and Adobe software. Art commissions, job offers, or private donations are gratefully appreciated, and may be directed through: www.iswface.org. This is her nonprofit corp., so donations are tax deductible.

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.

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Opposing Empire

A Libertarian Foreign Policy

by Dan Fernandes

Popular radio talk show host and self-described “Republitarian,” Larry Elder, recently complained in an interview with *New Individualist* magazine that the Libertarian Party supports a non-interventionist foreign policy. He described this as “isolationist” and “just absurd.”

It is surprising to me that many otherwise good libertarians feel this way.

Oh sure, in matters of domestic policy, most libertarians correctly see their government as corrupt and incompetent. Yet when it comes to foreign policy, some see that very same government as a force for truth, justice, and the American way. As the world’s only remaining superpower, it is our duty to operate a benevolent empire encompassing the entire world—or so they say.

Most empires collapse from over-extension, and ours will be no exception. But aside from the selfish motive of not relishing the chaos and poverty that such a collapse will eventually impose on our future generations, plus the constant threat of terrorist blowback, does our benevolent empire currently do more good than harm in the world?

Before answering that question, consider that our government has only one tool for doing anything in foreign countries, and that tool is *force*. We can use that force to kill people, destroy their property, or subject them to poverty and disease through economic sanctions. That’s what interventionism is.

We currently have the military might to take down anyone, with few losses to ourselves. But do we have the moral wisdom to use force for more good than harm?

I was proud and happy when the United States won the Cold War and ended the threat of world Communist domination. With Communism no longer a threat, I expected a reduction in our military, and a reduction in our foreign activities.

Instead, it seems we have been emboldened by our lone superpower status, with interventions in Iraq, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Iraq again. All since 1989.

Who is to blame for these

military interventions? I think much of the blame lies with us, the American people. We seem to have adopted an attitude of moral superiority, supporting military action against foreigners we see as morally inferior to ourselves.

I view this attitude of moral superiority as unjustified and dangerous. It reminds me of Imperial Japan in the 1930s, with unrivaled military power, sending troops off to conquer all of Asia and commit unspeakable atrocities, while the morally superior Japanese people were told (and believed) that it was all for the benefit of the inferior conquered peoples.

Most evil is done in the name of doing good. The amount of evil done is in direct proportion to the amount of power available.

The United States now has more military power than any nation in history, plus a false sense of moral superiority. These are the ingredients for disaster. If we don’t turn away from empire soon, we will deserve our status as the world’s most hated nation.

For a good perspective on recent U.S. military interventions, I recommend *The Empire Has No Clothes*, by Ivan Eland of the Independent Institute. And I invite your comments.



Dan Fernandes is Region 67 Representative for the Los Angeles County LP. Contact info at: DanFernandes.com.

“The right to revolt has sources deep in our history.”

~William O. Douglas

When Government “Helps”

Growing Threat of Wildfire Government

by Lawrence K. Samuels

Volunteer fire departments, paid firefighters, and local residents once worked hand-in-hand to put out wildfires. It was an amenable relationship, sharing hardships, goals, and camaraderie. But the 2008 California wildfires demonstrated that this alliance is no longer a cornerstone of American communities.

During the Big Sur fires in July, residents who did not evacuate reported that they felt they were behind “enemy lines.” When 79-year-old Don McQueen traveled down the road to his campground business to provide hot water showers for fire crews, he was detained by sheriff deputies and scolded.

Although McQueen was released, he soon discovered that fire officials had changed the rule book. To him it seemed like the various federal and state firefighting agencies no longer wanted to work with the community to put out fires. Instead, they wanted Big Sur residents to leave the area and stop defending their property.

Worse still, the firefighter crews were “strictly forbidden to assist locals.”

Despite experience fighting fires since the 1940s, McQueen was told to get off his ranch. When he refused, an official reportedly said, “We’re carefully allowing these homes to burn down. You can build a new house at no cost with your insurance money.” McQueen could hardly believe what he’d heard.

According to local residents, many fire crews were grounded and told to let the fire burn itself out. One ashamed firefighter told them, “I was taught to put out fire, not let them burn.” Professionals watched as the locals on the front line fought the blaze. Finally, one crew become so upset that it covertly parked its engine near McQueen’s property, rolled out a 4,000-foot fire hose and helped him to maintain his fire break.

On Apple Pie Ridge in Big Sur, another family worked feverishly to protect its 55-acre ranch and home. The Curtis family had successfully fought several fires going back to the 1970s. Some family members and friends had worked in the past as seasonal firefighters.

When the fire crept within 12 feet of the family’s property, they set a backfire, which is legal “for the purpose of saving life or valuable property” under California Public Resources Code 4426.

But within a short time, a different type of firestorm flared.

A Cal Fire official, and several sheriff deputies, drew guns on Ross Curtis and a friend. They were arrested, handcuffed, and charged with lighting a backfire. Outraged authorities said the Curtis family, friends, and tenants had disobeyed warnings not to use backfires. But the Curtis family was also told earlier that firefighters were ordered away from his property; that the area was written off as “inaccessible and undefendable.”

Ironically, some of Curtis’s fire protection gear was confiscated as one deputy warned them to stop impersonating a firefighter. There was even talk that the two might be charged with arson. Despite the arrest, no homes burned down on Apple Pie Ridge. In other areas, where people had evacuated, many lost their homes.

Cal Fire Battalion Chief Paul Van Gerwen maintains that the Curtis family was protecting their property in an “unlawful

way,” saying that they had no permission from the government. Other officials said that only professionals should fight fires.

Jerry Teeter, the Monterey County sheriff’s commander, commented that they tried not to arrest anyone as long as they did not drift off to another property or interfere with firefighters. In other words, residents were under “house arrest.”

Of course, this was ludicrous. Since many of the government firefighters were either benched or ordered not to assist residents, only local citizens were left to protect structures. And they needed to move around, to help each other fight the moving flames and resupply residents and businesses.

Ideally, government officials should work closely with the locals to mitigate crises. But under Big Sur’s “Unified Command,” local agencies had little authority.

Australia has a more libertarian approach, where rural residents are expected to defend their home from any danger. But in America, it appears that our government is opposed to the freedom that would allow citizens to respond to emergencies themselves, or to take

continued on next page...

Monterey Outreach



Every Tuesday, 3 to 7 p.m., the LPC and Libertarians for Peace sponsors a table at the Monterey Farmers Market. Staff volunteers include Sherman Ball (pictured), Prof. David R. Henderson, Savva Vassiliev, and Lawrence K. Samuels. They distribute two types of Bob Barr bumperstickers, some of Barr’s flyers, and buttons.

Wildfire Government

continued from previous page

an active role in being responsible and self-reliant.

Unfortunately, good government only works in theory. Citizen participation and vigilance is required to keep political systems from getting out of control and becoming over-centralized.

One wonders which power is more devastating in the long run: wildfires, or the government's determination to make citizens dependent?



Lawrence K. Samuels is a Monterey Realtor, and editor and contributing author to *Facets of Liberty: A Libertarian Primer* and the forthcoming *In Defense of Chaos: the Chaology of Politics, Economics and Human Action*. He is a member of the LPC's ExCom. He may be contacted through his website: www.Freedom1776.com.

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~Voltaire

Letters to Editor

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other LP candidates and the many Props on the ballot).

2. The failed Barr campaign should galvanize the solid Libertarians into getting more involved in the 2012 LP presidential selection process. Conversely, it should discourage the "compromise and win" wing of the party—throwing a bucket of cold reality in their face.

The Barr candidacy is a wakeup call that if we want solid Libertarians to win the nomination, we need to get more active in the nomination effort. That will be good for the party.

— **Richard Rider**
San Diego, CA

Backroom Deal

I was at the Denver convention. Emily Goldberg and I were the primary vendors of the "crossed Barr" buttons.

What happened, in classic political style, was that Barr "purchased" Root's support and his voters by offering him the VP slot, and agreeing to support Root in 2012. Root is going to be running around for the next four years promoting himself as "Mister Libertarian Presidential Anointee."

I opposed Root as much as I opposed Barr, but I did not see the eventual joint-campaign those guys agreed on. That is how Barr got his majority vote of the delegates.

Root has come out as "the winner" because he now has a five year opportunity. Bob Barr only has a two month opportunity, unless he thinks his failure will be useful in the future.

— **Joe Cobb**
Glendale, AZ

Old News

Here we are less than two months away from an election and this website's last bit of news was in JULY? No August update? No September update?

Shall we take our shovels and begin filling in the grave now? I was planning on doing that *after* the election—not before.

— **Stan McClain**
Pasadena, CA

Editor replies: I've been completing issues of CF before the 1st of every month (e.g., the August CF was finished before August 1st). I have no authority when issues go online.

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

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

Mondo

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new. She praised Packard for inventing a new and personal style of filmmaking, likening him to Luis Buñuel. Yet Packard's aesthetic is nearer that of Soviet directors in the 1920s. Due to a shortage of raw film stock, these directors used and reused footage from previous films, inadvertently developing a new and aggressively creative form of film editing, which French film critics later called "montage."

Despite the kudos, Packard is tired of doing so many "mish-mash" films, and wants to direct an entirely original story. So far, lack of funds have prevented it. He earns his living as a freelance film and video editor.

Universal Citywalk banned Packard from their premises because of his "guerrilla filmmaking" on their property. Yet that may have only fueled his growing reputation as an "underground artist."

SpaceDisco One was completed in May 2007. It screened at the New York Film Festival on October 6, 2007. It was also an official selec-



Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

tion for the Hollywood Film Festival, the Lausanne Fest in Switzerland, the Lincoln Film Center in NY, Berkeley Fest, Tulsa Overground, the Dark Room in San Francisco, Il Corral in L.A., the Union Gallery in London, and many other festivals throughout 2007.

It will be distributed on DVD by OtherCinema, along with *Lost in Thinking* and other Packard shorts, in 2008.

Packard's previous epic, the hilariously grotesque *Reflections of Evil*, is available through Amazon.com.

Packard may be contacted though DamonPackard.com and MySpace.com/choogo. Excerpts from his films are available on YouTube.com.

Details about the Karl Hess Club at: www.KarlHessClub.org.

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Hollywood Underground

Mondo Bizarro Filmmaker Damon Packard

by Thomas M. Sipos

Damon Packard's independent films may justly be described as mondo, gonzo, cult, underground, bizarre, surreal, or avant-garde. His oeuvre consists of some two dozen films, mostly shorts, plus two 45-minute mini-features (*SpaceDisco One* and *The Untitled Star Wars Mockumentary*) and one feature (the 2-hour *Reflections of Evil*).

On September 15, 2008, Los Angeles's libertarian Karl Hess Club screened two of Packard's short films and *SpaceDisco One*. Afterwards, Packard discussed his work with KHC members.

It's difficult to explain *SpaceDisco One*'s "story." The film borrows characters and themes, and actual clips, from *Logan's Run*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *1984*, and Fox News. The clips are intercut with original footage of Winston Smith and O'Brien and Logan's daughter, shot "guerrilla style"

(i.e., without a permit) at Universal Citywalk, to create a gonzo vision of future and past.

SpaceDisco One's themes are anti-corporatist and anti-statist. Oceania's propaganda broadcast (lifted from the second film version of *1984*) is played against Fox News images celebrating the War On Terror. *SpaceDisco One* also incorporates reality TV show "gotcha" footage of people arrested on camera. Packard's film demonstrates that war and police busts have become entertainment for dummed-down Americans.

SpaceDisco One contrasts these dark, post-9/11 images with late 1970s film and TV show clips, music, and pop cultural references. Packard regards the disco era as a "more innocent" time, full of creativity and freedom. In his film, characters derived from TV's *Buck Rogers* and *Logan's Run* meet Winston Smith, and everyone tries to determine what went

wrong in 1984. How did Big Brother replace roller discos?

Copyright law, established to encourage creativity by remunerating artists, is instead increasingly used to suppress criticism (see: ChillingEffects.org). One can thus interpret *SpaceDisco One*'s wide usage of Hollywood film clips and music, intercut with *1984* references, to be an indictment of the erosion of Fair Use and its resultant curbing of Free Speech.

However, Packard says that he take excerpts from other films (in the music industry it's called "sampling") mostly because he can't afford to shoot his own footage. He added that the big studios don't much care about people at his low and obscure level. Problems only arise when a film seeks or attains commercial distribution.

One KHC attendee compared *SpaceDisco One* to "a collage," mixing previously existing elements into something

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Filmmaker Damon Packard says he doesn't photograph well • Page 8

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