

California Freedom

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

2008 Election Results

LPC Does Well Down-Ticket

by Ted Brown

The protest vote was alive and well on Election Day — obviously not in the presidential race, but certainly in the down-ticket races for Congress, State Senate and State Assembly. The LPC posted some of its best vote totals in years, including an almost record breaking percentage for Pam Brown in Assembly District 40.

The average vote percentage for Congress was 4.53%, for State Senate 5.94%, and for State Assembly 6.74%.

Below are the LPC candidates' vote percentages by Congressional District. All races had both a Democratic and Republican opponent, and no other third party opponent, unless stated otherwise. P&F stands for Peace & Freedom Party:

- 3. **Art Tuma:** 2.2% (also a P&F candidate)
- 6. **Joel Smolen:** 4.2%
- 7. **Cam McConnell:** 2.5% (also a P&F candidate)
- 8. **Phil Berg:** 2.2% (also independent Cindy Sheehan)
- 9. **Jim Eyer:** 4.2%
- 12. **Kevin Peterson:** 2.1% (also Green and P&F candidates)
- 14. **Brian Holtz:** 4.2% (also a Green candidate)
- 16. **Steve Wells:** 4.5%
- 26. **Ted Brown:** 6.8%
- 27. **Tim Denton:** 6.6%
- 29. **Alan Pyeatt:** 4.3%
- 35. **Herb Peters:** 4.2%
- 38. **Chris Agrella:** 18.1% (no Republican candidate)
- 46. **Ernst Gasteiger:** 1.4% (also a Green candidate)
- 48. **Don Patterson:** 3.6%
- 49. **Lars Grossmith:** 4.0%
- 50. **Wayne Dunlap:** 4.3%
- 51. **Dan Litwin:** 2.9%

- 52. **Michael Benoit:** 4.4%
- 53. **Ed Teyssier:** 3.8%

Below are the LPC candidates' vote percentages by State Senate District. All races had both a Democratic and Republican opponent, and no other third party opponent.

- 13. **John Webster:** 6.4%
- 21. **Steve Myers:** 7.8%
- 23. **Colin Goldman:** 5.4%
- 29. **Jill Stone:** 6.7%
- 39. **Jesse Thomas:** 3.4%

Below are the LPC candidates' vote percentages by State Assembly District. All races had both a Democratic and Republican opponent, and no other third party opponent.

In the 10th AD (Sacramento suburbs south to Lodi and Stockton), Janice Bonser represented the balance of

power. She received over 10,000 votes. Only 1,000 voters separated the Democratic and Republican candidates. (As uncounted votes are re-

ported, the race is narrowing even more.)

- 6. **Tim Hannan:** 6.4%
- 10. **Janice Bonser:** 6.5%
- 19. **Brian Perry:** 3.9%
- 27. **Mark Hinkle:** 8.7%
- 40. **Pamela Brown:** 14.7%
- 44. **Thomas Logan:** 5.8%
- 51. **Marty Swinney:** 4.4%
- 54. **John Kling:** 5.8%
- 59. **Maureen Keedy:** 8.1%
- 61. **Michael Mendez:** 6.5%
- 73. **Andrew Favor:** 5.9%
- 74. **Paul King:** 8.7%
- 75. **John Murphy:** 6.0%
- 76. **Dan Baehr:** 4.3%

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Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

Ted Brown addresses the 2008 national Libertarian Party convention in Denver

2008 Election Analysis

Media Celebrity Doesn't Guarantee Votes

by Steve Kubby

The Barr/Root campaign is now history. Although I campaigned vigorously in opposition to both men, I supported them once they got their respective nominations. Not only did I attend their victory celebration and congratulate them publicly, I was the only one of a crowded field of 12 presidential candidates to do so.

Like many Libertarians, I set aside personal differences and did what I could to support our ticket. I even endorsed former drug warrior Bob Barr in my 4 page interview in *High Times*, a controversial act that brought me only grief.

I think Barr and Root did a pretty good job. They worked hard, covered a lot of ground,

and stood tall on important issues like ending the Drug War, terminating the Patriot Act, and opposing the Bailouts.

But I have not come to praise Barr/Root, but to bury them.

More explicitly, I've come to bury the bogus ideas about media and celebrity that propelled Barr/Root into a ticket that over-promised and under-delivered.

This ticket promised \$30 million in campaign contributions and a popular vote of 5%. Instead, they raised just over \$1 million and failed to break 0.5% of the vote, landing them a 4th place finish for LP presidential campaigns.

Barr and Root received a record amount of media cover-

age, and they are celebrities in their own right. But it didn't work out the way we were told it would.

So much for media and celebrity.

The Barr/Root campaign was an honest test of media and celebrity. The results are clear. Media and celebrity are not the answers. Our ideas and our ability to communicate those ideas are what sets us apart and earns us serious attention.

The hunger for new ideas has never been greater, and our ideas, about limited government, ending personal

income taxes, and upholding personal freedom, are more

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Steve Kubby

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From the Editor

Finishing Fourth

by Thomas M. Sipos

Barr/Root finished 4th among 2008's national tickets. As of November 20, 2008, Barr/Root have 512,643 votes, behind Nader/Gonzalez's 701,139.

Barr/Root also rank 4th among LP national tickets to date, percentagewise. A few days after the election, Alexander S. Peak at the Last Free Voice blog crunched some numbers. He reports the following vote percentages: Ed Clark in 1980 (1.06397%); Harry Browne in 1996 (0.50468%); Ron Paul in 1988 (0.47137%); Bob Barr in 2008 (0.40145%).

Barr improved on Harry Browne in 2000 (0.36472%) and Michael Badnarik in 2004 (0.32491%), but Barr failed to bring the LP back up to 1996, 1988, or 1980 levels.

Root, who's already running for 2012, stresses in a press release that Barr/Root got the second highest number of votes among LP national tickets. Browne pulled the third highest number of votes: 485,798 in 1996.

But that was 12 years ago, when the U.S. population was smaller. Do those 12 years really matter?

The Census Bureau estimates the U.S. population in July 1996 at 265,189,794. The July 2008 estimate is 303,824,640.

That's 38,634,846 more Americans. The LP should get more votes just by standing still and doing nothing. Thus, the better measure of success is not vote *numbers*, but vote *percentages*.

Some provisional, absentee, and write-in votes remain to be counted. The 2008 vote totals may change slightly. The percentages less so.

• No Perfect Storms

Root adds that Barr/Root "achieved that success [their vote total] under perhaps the most difficult circumstances ever—a media PERFECT STORM of interest, hype and adulation for Obama."

Yet at the Denver convention, Barr, Root, national LP leaders, all were saying that 2008 was the perfect storm for the LP to get millions of votes. They promised big, despite the



Obama phenomenon already being well established.

Were Barr, Root, and LP leaders so politically clueless? Or were they intentionally over-promising to encourage support and donations?

Root now says: "I was aiming for the one million vote threshold."

This is rewriting history. While campaigning for the nomination, Root repeatedly guaranteed two million votes, minimum.

I've observed the LP for thirty years. Every national election is supposed to be the perfect storm. Truth is, every election is the same. There are economic woes. Foreign turmoils. Demopublicans who hate their party, but hate the other party more. Competing third parties. Unpopular incumbents. Biased media. New media. Young people seeking change.

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

I wish LP officials and candidates stopped over-promising. I recall some national LP junk mail in the 1990s, promising a Libertarian *majority* Congress by 2010. Short term, slick salesmanship may squeeze out a few extra donor dollars. Long term, it breeds disappointment, cynicism, and members walking out when utopia fails to materialize.

• Ron Paul

Ron Paul was an officially certified write-in presidential candidate in California.

LPC activist and former state chair Gail Lightfoot recruited 55 libertarians to file as electors for Paul with the California Secretary of State. Gail was Paul's certified VP candidate in California.

This means that write-in votes for Paul will be counted.

Paul was on the Montana ballot, on the Constitution Party line. "Pollster" at

ThirdPartyWatch.com offered some telling insight: "In Montana, with 74% of precincts reporting, McCain is leading with 49.6% to Obama's 47.2. Ron Paul, *who didn't run an official campaign at all, and tried to get his name removed from the ballot*, is sitting on 2.1% of the vote. Barr has 0.3%."

With 100% of Montana reporting, the vote totals were McCain (241,816), Obama (229,725), Paul (10,499), Nader (3,649), Barr (1,341).

• Herding Cats

On November 4th, I attended a libertarian election night gathering in Culver City. Nine libertarians came. Some were registered Libertarians, but not dues-paying LP members. Some visa versa. Some were "philosophical libertarians" with no party ties.

I polled everyone on how they voted. The results:

Bob Barr 1
Alan Keyes 1
Barack Obama 1
Ron Paul 2
Did Not Vote 4

The Barr voter is a registered Democrat. The Obama voter is a registered Republican. Both Paul voters are registered Libertarians.

I don't know how that Keyes voter is registered. He's a dues-paying national LP member, though he's not in the state party.

Among the four non-voters: One never votes, out of principle. Another didn't vote because her registration was screwed up. (She didn't ask for a provisional ballot; I gathered that she would have voted for McCain.) The other two sounded apologetic for not voting, as if they knew they should, but couldn't find time. They didn't tell me who they *would* have voted for.

I was one of the Paul voters. California has yet to count write-in ballots.

• Pro-War Obama

Obama has picked Congressman Rahm Emanuel for Chief of Staff. Congresswoman Jane Harman is being considered to head the CIA. Both are pro-war Democrats. Google them.

Emanuel also sponged off Freddie Mac. Says Wikipedia: "Emanuel was named to the Board of Directors for the Federal Home Loan Mortgage

Corporation ("Freddie Mac") by then President Bill Clinton in 2000. His position paid him \$31,060 in 2000 and \$231,655 in 2001. During the time Emanuel spent on the board, Freddie Mac was plagued with scandals involving campaign contributions and accounting irregularities."

A few idiots, including some "libertarians," had accused Obama of being a Marxist, Muslim terrorist. I'd always told such idiots that, no, Obama was just another pro-war, corporate socialist, in the McCain/Palin/Clinton mold.

Already, Obama has proven me correct.

• 2012 Presidential Race

Angela Keaton is running for the 2012 LP presidential nomination. Michelle Shinghal is her running mate. Their campaign has a Facebook account: www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=16557278021.

Tom Knapp is running for the 2012 LP and Boston Tea Party presidential tickets. His web-site: www.knapp2012.com.

Wayne Allyn Root, Barbara "Joy" Waymire, and Robert Milnes have announced intentions run for the LP's 2012 presidential ticket. Milnes also ran in 2008, but few people were even aware that he existed. His campaign was limited to blog postings. He has yet to update his 2008 site for 2012: www.robertmilnes.net.

I've heard that Mike Jingoian plans another run, though that's unconfirmed.

Blog rumors have it that Bob Barr may run again, but he has yet to say so.

Ron Paul is also rumored to be mulling another presidential run. But on which party?

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Letters to the Editor

Local Candidates Needed

My ballot had exactly zero Libertarian candidates for any partisan office other than president. Zero.

That's no way to build a Libertarian Party in California.

If the LP is going to be viable, it must build from the bottom up, not from the top down. Kevin Takenaga believes in that approach. So do I.

In two years, there will be another election. I'll be watching for Libertarian candidates (especially in this part of California) to actively seek partisan office.

We may not know if a school board or city council candidate is Libertarian, but we certainly do if they are running for assembly, congress, etc.

— **Steve Cottrell**
Nevada City, CA

Post-Election Blues

I wish I did not have to get up this morning or any other morning. I may change my lifestyle to one of pure disinterest in anything but myself and my own immediate needs.

I had no idea this election would be such a downer. I did not watch the returns. I cannot think that another winner would have helped. Either way, we all lose freedom.

Unless this becomes a wake-up call to the public, we face very hard times.

It will be hard for me to keep spitting in the wind after this election. Style over substance. But

even the substance was so lack-luster, you can hardly blame the voter for going for style. Too bad they did not have a real choice.

Let's hope [Ron Paul's] Campaign for Liberty serves as a rallying point for the future. If and when they report the Ron Paul vote, that may lead us to some new activists for Liberty. One can only hope.

For now, I will try to educate the public access audience as to the real reason for the economic meltdown.

— **Gail Lightfoot**
San Luis Obispo, CA

Barack Obama was perhaps the most gifted political speaker of our century. Born master of its art form, perfected it better than a Kennedy or a Roosevelt. I am in total awe. I never saw him depressed, have a bad moment, or flinch.

Alas, this country has bled too much during the past half a century from a coalition of special interests that have a vested interest in converting ours to a Communist state. Our nation needed not a socialist, but a free-marketer president.

Our own coalition of lawyers, judges, legislators, bureaucrats and bureaucracies, governmental labor unions from prison guards to welfare workers, nanny-state feminists, and every type and color of parasitic purveyors who enjoy feeding at the public trough, will keep bleeding us until there is no more tax money left to pounce on.

I never was impressed by any of the candidates. Not by John McCain, Ron Paul, or Bob Barr. The only candidate who had the energy and passion to effectuate a change towards a free market economy was Mitt Romney. I hated his willingness to censor erotica, but every candidate on the Right had to throw a bone to the socially oppressive religionists that brought them their numbers.

I never was for the First World War, never for the Second World War or the Cold War, and I was never for the war in Vietnam. I thought it was the only totally morally wrong war that we ever engaged in.

I never met a German, a Japanese, a Soviet man, or a Vietnamese who hated us, despite of all the invective and destruction we poured on them, but I have met millions of Arabs or Muslims who have lived their lives from birth to death hating

us. Those people are frustrated. For the first time in their history, they can't get their way by conquering their quarries. Israel has withstood their withering attacks and America has stood by. That means only one thing. Both America and Israel must die.

This stalemate in our war on terrorism worries me. Not because we could not prevail, but because our population has not been adequately prepared to meet this war. We have our Libertarian peaceniks who lambasted our Barbara Joy Waymire. We have the Democratic Party who never lost a minute savaging George Bush for his war in Iraq. We have the rest of our population who never learned that security and freedom can never be kept once we lose our freedom of conscience.

Iraq was a tremendous opportunity to keep those seething cauldrons of hate at arm's length, but oh no, it took a thousand casualties a year to keep fighting them. We can't afford that, not when it takes us a hundred thousand a year to keep fighting our own vicious FemiNazi war against our own male population right here at home.

— **Aarde V. Atheian**
Los Angeles, CA

Post-Election Plans

Now that the election is over, and Obama has beaten McCain, the question for libertarians is "now what?"

There are several things that a lover of liberty must do, now that the socialist and reluctant warmonger beat the warmonger and reluctant socialist.

First, pressure the Democrats to remember that one reason Obama won their support was because he was allegedly the peace candidate. Granted that compared to McCain in the general election, or Clinton in the Democratic primary, Obama appears to be a peace candidate, but compared to actual peace candidates like Ron Paul or Dennis Kucinich, Obama's very much a hawk.

Pressure the Democrats to work to disengage militarily. During the next year, they are going to discover that they like war, because the President leading the war effort is of their party instead of the other party. The appointment of Rahm Emmanuel to Chief of Staff is disturbing, because it shows the process is already underway.

Second, libertarians should prepare for when Obama (and

a compliant Congress) tries to introduce universal health care, or some other version of socialist medicine. It may be necessary to work with underdog Republicans on this.

A necessary step for Democrats to take, if they want to implement this, will be to change the cloture rules so that Republicans cannot filibuster the proposal.

Loudly and publicly proclaim that any tinkering with the cloture rules is a power grab -- and vociferously denounce it.

Third, prepare to oppose calls for national service. Obama wants national service [required] to graduate from high school. His Chief of Staff has plans for forcing everyone to do community service -- and it is even less voluntary than Obama's allegedly voluntary plan.

Fourth, many Obama supporters believed he was going to act in contrast to his record on issues other than the war (e.g., the USA Patriot Act and FISA Amendment, the Wall Street crisis and NAFTA, and others where (perhaps by accident) Obama was right, and his supporters still believed he held the opposite view).

Every time Obama acts in a manner consistent with his record, but inconsistent with how his supporters thought he would act, is another moment to say "See, I told you so."

It will not likely work, as his supporters will discover that Obama's position was what they supported all along. Just like Oceania was always at war with Eastasia.

Fifth, Republicans are trying to figure out where they went wrong. Tell them they had a candidate who could have beaten Obama, and they wouldn't even count his votes at the convention. Remind local Republican organizations of that.

Send them the message: "Don't blame me. I voted for Ron Paul."

Sixth, we should not stop trying to open up the electoral process, a task that is never finished.

Seventh, Democrats will blame the depression on Bush's hypothetical laissez-faire attitude. This must be countered at every turn. Do not allow anyone to describe the financial meltdown as the result of deregulation, as Hoover leaves office and Roosevelt enters.

Finally, never forget to ask the Reform Caucus: "Where are the additional votes that Barr was supposed to deliver?"

— **Jason Gonella**
Antelope Valley, CA

Thank You, Candidates!

It is the candidate who wears the face of the LP. It is the candidate who is the mouthpiece of our message. It is the candidate who is the interface between the party and the people.

It is no easy task to be a Libertarian candidate. Every Libertarian who failed to run for office owes you a great debt of gratitude and thanks.

It is only elected candidates who can effect government, and libertarians cannot be elected unless candidates run.

It is no easy task to create campaign money from nowhere. It is not easy when the press does not recognize your efforts.

But you do it anyway. *Thank you!*

It is *you* who are going to effect change in Amerika. Thank you for your stubborn persistence. Despite everything, our numbers appear to have increased.

Let us now take a break and lick our wounds. We should collectively look inward and truthfully ask ourselves: What did we do wrong? What did we do right? What lessons have we learned?

We should spend a period reflecting on this. Then devise our plan as to what we will do differently in two years to realize better results, grow our base, and increase our numbers.

As for our LP candidates, once again, *thank you, thank you, thank you!!!*

— **Norm Westwell**
Huntington Beach, CA

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The October *California Freedom* was not sent due to printer problems. It is online at: www.ca.lp.org/cf/CF-200810.pdf. Paid subscriptions will be extended one issue.

YOUR Letters Welcome!

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

Please submit your letters to:

editor@ca.lp.org

Election Results

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77. **Rich Belitz:** 5.4%

I am disappointed that we did not have more candidates this year. We only had 40, our lowest since we obtained ballot status in 1980. Our record was 113 in 2000. This would have been a good year for voters to have an alternative choice.

It's not too soon to plan for 2010. We need candidates for all the statewide offices, U. S. Senator, Board of Equalization, all Congressional seats, the 20 even numbered Senate districts, and all 80 State Assembly districts.

Let me know if you are interested.

Ted Brown is the LPC's candidate recruitment chair. His email: tedbrown1776@hotmail.com.

Taxes

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connectivity make it increasingly easy for people to pull up stakes and become tax exiles in Nevada or Arizona and maintain business ties in California. High income tax rates create what Freer calls "the Tiger Woods effect," re-

Whistleblowing

continued from page 6...

dering why they hadn't heard about the NSA spy operation at the beginning."

This book includes an account of journalistic evasion that is a grim counterpoint to Gun's story of conscience and courage that might inspire more of our own.

Norman Solomon is the author of *War Made Easy*. This article is adapted from his foreword to *The Spy Who Tried to Stop a War: Katharine Gun and the Secret Plot to Sanction the Iraq Invasion*, by Marcia and Thomas Mitchell. Reprinted courtesy of Truthout.org: www.truthout.org/092508S.

ferring to the pro golfer and former California resident who now lives in Florida, which has no state income tax.

Gird your loins. The battle is joined.

Richard Rider is a former LPC candidate for governor of California. He is Chair of San Diego Tax Fighters, and a paid columnist for the North County Times. To get his free weekly "Rider Rants," email him at RRider@san.rr.com.

Economic Interventionist Mess Our Government-Created Financial Crisis

by **Don Cowles**

After the dot-com bubble burst, banks were in bad shape because they made poor loans to busted companies and to countries like Argentina.

A whiff of deflation was in the air. To re-inflate banks, Greenspan slashed rates from 6½% to 1%, leaving it there for over a year, before a slow rise to higher rates.

This fueled a global liquidity boom that lasted over five years.

Commercial and investment banks (including Fannie and Freddie) used this tidal wave of credit to create mortgages of all stripes (no doc, stated income, Alt-A, etc.) and recruited anyone who could fog a mirror to be a willing recipient of "home ownership" and affordable housing, subsidized

by Congress.

Home ownership provided a way to refinance every year, and buy a new Escalade by drawing on the money from the home's increase in value.

Banks also invented Credit Default Swaps (weapons of financial destruction) as insurance against the excellent odds of default by these goofy loans.

The housing boom ended in late 2005, but the wild party in commercial real estate, commodities, and various carry trades continued for two more years—until the pool of greater fools willing or able to borrow finally ran out.

Since late 2007, the world has been in a massive deleveraging mode.

Congress passed the \$700 billion bailout package. (Messages from their constituents were about 100 to 1 against.) Of course, the administration trotted out the usual scare tactics, even suggesting that martial law might be necessary.

The bailout is a complete waste of \$700 billion. Actually,

it's worse than a waste. It worsens the economy. It does so by further depleting the pool of real funding, thus slowing a possible future recovery.

Our great leaders turned to the very guys who created this mess. These Keynesian idiots who are more worried about the consumer being able to borrow to consume, than with promoting savings (which they prevent by taxes and inflation) that are a nation's true wealth.

Bernanke, Paulson, et al, think that the Treasury buying toxic garbage will spur institutions to start lending. It won't. Banks will know they are holding garbage, and the market can smell that garbage even if the rules allow banks to pretend that garbage is a rose.

Greenspan did not defeat deflation in 2003 as is widely believed. Instead, he fueled the biggest credit boom in history, sowing seeds of the biggest deflationary bust since the great depression.

Don Cowles is the LPC's Treasurer. His email: doncowles2@sbcglobal.net.

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.

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Suzanne Bell | Curt Cornell | Lawrence Samuels |
| Ted Brown, Jr. | Don Cowles | Paul Studier |
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| T. J. Campbell | John Inks | Robert Weber, Jr. |
| Ed Clark | Carolyn Marbry | |
| Alicia Clark | Chuck Moulton | |
| Zander Collier, III | Alan Pyeatt | |

Steve Kubby

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mainstream than ever.

If we dilute our message and rely upon celebrity, it gets us nothing but empty rhetoric. On the other hand, if we transmit a pure signal and only a handful get it, but they totally and earnestly get it, then that is revolutionary.

The time is late and our Republic is being crushed

under the weight of an illegal, unconstitutional government that doesn't hesitate to use force and fraud to support its bloated, stinking corpse. The time is past for empty rhetoric. Revolution is in the air. So let the revolution begin, and let it blossom as a libertarian revolution of new ideas about liberty.

Let us now bow our heads in prayer for the salvation of the souls of the departed myths, about media and celebrity. Now let us resolve to never again place our trust in style, and to remain faithful to the substance of our message, instead.

Steve Kubby was a candidate for the LP presidential nomination in 2008. He helped draft and pass California Proposition 215, which legalized medical marijuana in 1996. He is the author of *The Politics of Consciousness and Why Marijuana Should Be Legal*. He can be contacted through his website: www.Kubby.com.

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Fallen Freedom Fighter

Marshall William Fritz, RIP

by Alan Schaeffer

Marshall William Fritz died peacefully Tuesday, November 4, 2008 of pancreatic cancer. He was an intelligent, witty man who founded three non-profit organizations. A Catholic mass was held in his honor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in Clovis, CA on November 7th. A graveside service was held at the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange, CA on November 8th.

Marshall was born in Inglewood, CA on March 10, 1943. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Joan; his son, Eugene Fritz of Calwa; his three daughters and their husbands: Susan and Christopher Bethea of Clovis, Lucie and Tony Ruiz of Fresno, Ann and Kyle McKenna of Pittsburgh, PA; twelve grandchildren and his brother, Russell Fritz of Baja, Mexico.

In 1994, Marshall founded the Alliance for the Separation of School & State and was Chairman of the Board until his death. He was a leading spokesman in how ending state, federal, and local government involvement in schooling can improve education for all children, strengthen the family, and lead to a turnaround of our collapsing society.

Prior to founding the Alliance, Marshall was president of the unaccredited Pioneer Christian Academy. His ideas for high quality education were so advanced that his school received endorsements of educators from William Glasser, to Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman, to New York State Teacher-of-the-Year John Taylor Gatto.

Prior to his work in K-12 education, Marshall founded the Advocates for Self-Government, an educational organization that teaches Americans how to express their love for liberty positively.

Marshall began his career with IBM in computer sales, education, and design. He was active in the Christian Businessmen's Committee, Serra Club (not Sierra), Toastmasters, and Overeaters Anonymous. He coached and refereed youth soccer, and worked as a volunteer in a homeless shelter.

Marshall has been published



Photo: Jonathan Zwickel

in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Educational Leadership*, *Current Thoughts and Trends*, and *Family Voice*. He is the publisher of *The Education Liberator*, *The School Liberator*, and lead author of the "Proclamation for the Separation of School and State," which states: "I proclaim publicly that I favor ending government involvement in education."

Over 29,000 individuals worldwide have endorsed the Proclamation. Prominent signatories include educators such as John Taylor Gatto, Mary Pride, and Thomas Szasz; business people like Tom Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza; religious leaders from D. James Kennedy and Tim LaHaye, to Rabbi Daniel Lapin and the late Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.; and politicians from Congressman Ron Paul to former U.S. Secretary of Interior and Energy Don Hodel.

The idea to liberate schools from government is entering the mainstream, specialty, and electronic press, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Daily News*, *Detroit News*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Financial Times of London*, *Human Events*, *Conservative Chronicles*, *Practical Homeschooling*, *Christianity Today*, *WorldNetDaily.com*, *FoxNews.com*, and has received editorial endorsement from the *Orange County Register* and *World* magazine.

In May 2008, the Advocates for Self-Government had a special tribute for Marshall in Atlanta, Georgia.

In June 2008, the Alliance for Separation for School & State sponsored special tributes in Fresno and Hollywood to honor Marshall while he was still in good health and could enjoy the day.

If you would like to read

Victory in Mountain View



John Inks ran for City Council two years ago in Mountain View, and lost by only about 200 votes.

This time, John Inks won a seat on the City Council, since 4 seats were available. They still have to count the late absentee ballots and the provisional ballots, but it is almost impossible for those ballots to change this result.

This was a non-partisan election. The population of Mountain View is 74,000.

John has been a member of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County for many years. I congratulate John Inks on a job well done.

—Scott Lieberman

Protecting YOUR Money

Taxes Are the Health of the State

by Richard Rider

Libertarian activists include two contingents: those who concentrate on fiscal issues, and those who concentrate on personal freedoms. What is often unappreciated is that battling taxes reduces the nanny state's control of our personal activities.

Libertarians are quick to quote Randolph Bourne's maxim that "war is the health of the state." But we must also emphasize that taxes are the health of the state.

The best way to rein in levathan is to cut its sustenance.

Consider California. In 1994, the D.C.-based Tax Foundation ranked us as the 28th worst taxed state. Fourteen years later, we've risen to #4. With the latest proposed taxes, we might yet rank #1.

Other western states are cheering us on. They want our productive people and businesses to abandon our op-

pressive state.

It's already occurring.

Consider our *net* domestic migration (the movement of people between the other 49 states and California). For the last five years, we've annually lost a net 250,000 people to other states. These are ambitious people seeking better opportunities and lower taxes, or retirees (especially government employees) taking their nest eggs elsewhere to get better value for their money.

For me personally, one sad consequence of confiscatory taxes is that my eldest son Steve has reluctantly left his family and favorite state to live in Texas, which has no income tax. At age 29, he's single and makes a healthy six figure income as a corporate software consultant. He saves over \$30,000 a year by living in Texas instead of California.

Our state's economy and my family are both the worse for it.

There is good news among the bad. Some Big Government advocates are waking up to their policies' harmful effects. Even the normally pro-tax *Los Angeles Times* admits: "A state sales tax jump could backfire" (see: www.tinyurl.com/

59425a).

In 2007, California's statewide 7.25% sales tax was the highest in the nation. If Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed three-year, 1.5% increase goes into effect (resulting in over 10% in some localities, including Los Angeles County), it would solidify our lead over our closest competition—Mississippi, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Tennessee, which all had 7% statewide rates according to the Tax Foundation.

California retailers could lose sales to neighboring states and the Internet. California employees could lose jobs. California's anti-business policies are the major reason the state has the third highest unemployment -- approaching 8%.

The Tax Foundation ranks California as the worst state in terms of income tax burden. The state's top basic tax rate of 9.3%, which kicked in this year at \$44,815 of income, is one of the highest in the U.S. The 10% rate imposed on incomes over \$1 million is the highest charged by any state. California also fully taxes capital gains as ordinary income.

Telecommuting and online

continued on page 4...

some of Marshall's articles, we compiled a list for our website: www.schoolandstate.org. If you would like to see tributes to Marshall or post your own, please go to Marshall's "Bucket List" website.

DVD Review

Dummed Down Democracy

Review by **Laura G. Brown**

(*Idiocracy*, Written and directed by Mike Judge. 2006. 87 minutes)

Narrator: "The years passed. Mankind became stupider at a frightening rate. Some had high hopes that genetic engineering would correct this trend in evolution, but, sadly, the greatest minds and resources were focused on conquering hair loss and prolonging erections."

To Libertarians distressed by the Democratic Party's sweep of the 2008 elections: You can get some welcome comic relief in this hilarious DVD. What would the world be like if really, really dumb people took over? *Idiocracy's* writer/director, Mike Judge, (*Beavis and Butthead*) has some gaspingly funny insights.

Luke Wilson and Maya Rudolph star as test subjects accidentally sent 500 years into the future. They find neither a nuclear winter nor a gleaming scientific utopia. Instead, the future is full of idiots whose speech is a hybrid of valley girl, slang, and grunts. The most popular TV show is *Ow, My Balls* and seems to be a logical extension of reality shows like *Jackass*.

Free market types have long argued that if the market economy is quelled, no one will pick up the trash or make a milk carton that holds milk. Hayek lovers will relish *Idiocracy's* depiction of a reverse Galt's Gulch, where garbage heaps cause avalanches, crops fail because they're watered with Gatorade, and Carl's Jr., as a semi-public entity, provides the nation's food.

Here's an exchange between a woman and a Carl's Jr. computer after it spits out an empty box of EXTRA BIG ASS FRIES:

Woman: My kids are starvin'!

She kicks the computer, and it sprays a chloroform-like substance in her face, knocking her out.

Carl's Jr. computer: This should help you calm down. Please come back when you can afford to make a purchase. Your kids are starving. Carl's Jr. believes that no child should go hungry. You are an unfit mother. Your children will be placed in the custody of Carl's Jr.

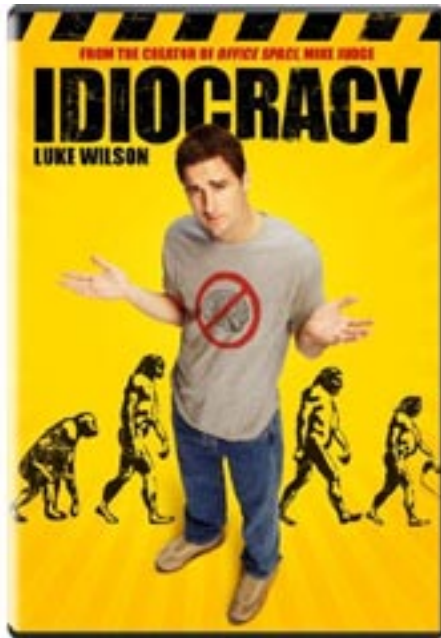
Mike Judge bitingly attacks America's fast-food, consumer culture, and chains like Costco

and Starbucks. The buzz among reviewers (e.g., "Paucity of Publicity" by NPR's Nihar Patel) is that 20th Century Fox, daunted by Judge's skewering of their corporate friends, gave *Idiocracy* a very limited release. (Seven cities, not including New York. No press kits. No trailer.) Patel wonders if Judge's scenes of Fox News anchored by pro wrestlers had anything to do with this.

Some opening sequences hint at racism. A white yuppie couple avoids having kids year after year, while their hillbilly counterparts keep turning out babies. Judge uses two white couples for his example, but it's clear that "less intelligent" people who procreate are leading the country to the brink of ruin.

C'mon, Judge, it's not who's having the babies; it's what the babies are exposed to that creates the biggest problems.

Idiocracy deserves to be discovered, because underneath its sometimes crude humor and silly plot devices, it has astute ideas. What happens when citizens can't solve society's problems because they are distracted, fed pabulum by the news media, stuffed with junk food, and disempow-



ered?



Laura G. Brown is a teacher and writer living in San Gabriel. She is a veteran candidate for State Assembly. Her email: lauragbrown@sbcglobal.net.

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Honoring Dave Larkin

Close to twenty libertarians honored Dave Larkin at a memorial service, held at the Van Nuys Sherman Oaks War Memorial Park, on November 2, 2008.

Dave had passed away sometime between October 3rd and 8th, at his home, apparently of natural causes.

Friends shared fond memories of Dave's generosity and goodwill. One friend read a glowing Navy report describing Dave's heroic conduct under fire during the Vietnam War. Dave remained proud of his Navy service even after becoming a libertarian peacenik in recent years.

Dave was an active libertarian, serving as Los Angeles County LP chair for two years, among other positions. Of Los Angeles's many libertarian supper clubs, the Pub Club, which meets on the third Friday of every month in Sherman Oaks, was Dave's favorite.

In honor of Dave's memory, the Pub Club will be rechristened the Dave Larkin Pub Club.



Photo: Thomas M. Sijpos

Shopping for a home?

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

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

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

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

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



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Books

Whistleblowing on the Iraq War

by Norman Solomon

(*The Spy Who Tried to Stop a War: Katharine Gun and the Secret Plot to Sanction the Iraq Invasion*, by Marcia and Thomas Mitchell, 210 pp, Polipoint Press, 2008.)

Katharine Gun worked at the British intelligence agency when she discovered an NSA memo that she used in an attempt to stop the invasion of Iraq.

Of course, Gun was free to have a conscience, as long as it didn't interfere with her work. To the authorities, practically speaking, a conscience was apt to be less tangible than a pixel on a computer screen. But suddenly—one routine morning, while she was scrolling through email at her desk—conscience struck. It changed Katharine Gun's life. It changed history.

Despite her English nationality, Gun's story is profoundly American—all the more so because it has remained largely hidden from the American public. When Gun chose, at great personal risk, to reveal an illicit spying operation at

the United Nations in which the U.S. government was the senior partner, she brought out of the transatlantic shadows a special relationship that could not stand the light of day.

By then, in early 2003, the president of the United States—with dogged assists from the British prime minister following close behind—had long since become transparently determined to launch an invasion of Iraq. Gun's moral concerns were not unusual; she shared, with countless other Brits and Americans, strong opposition to the impending launch of war.

Yet, thanks to a twist of fate, she abruptly found herself in a rare position to throw a roadblock in the way of the political march to war. Far more extraordinary, though, was her decision to put herself in serious jeopardy on behalf of re-

vealing salient truths to the world.

We might envy such an opportunity, and admire such courage on behalf of principle. But there are good, or at least understandable, reasons so few whistleblowers emerge from institutions that need conformity and silence to lay flagstones on the path to war. Reasons of personal safety, financial security, legal jeopardy, social cohesion, and default positions of obedience.

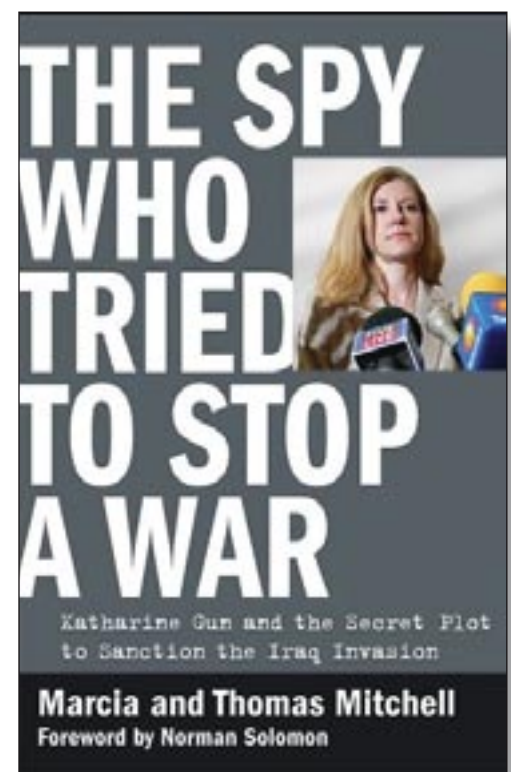
The emailed memorandum from the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) that jarred Katharine Gun that fateful morning was dated less than two months before the invasion of Iraq that would result in thousands of deaths among occupying troops and hundreds of thousands among Iraqi people.

The import of the memo

shook the government of Tony Blair and caused uproars on several continents. But for the media in the U.S., it was a minor story. For *The New York Times*, it was no story at all.

At last, a new book tells this story.

The Spy Who Tried to Stop a War packs a powerful wallop. To understand in personal, political, and historic terms what Katharine Gun did, how the British and American governments responded, and what the U.S. news media did and did not report, is to gain a clear-eyed picture of a military-industrial-media complex that plunged ahead with the inva-



sion shortly after Gun's brave action of conscience.

That complex continues to promote what Martin Luther King Jr. called "the madness of militarism."

Katharine Gun activated her conscience when clear evidence came into her hands that war—not diplomacy seeking to prevent it—headed the priorities list of top leaders at both

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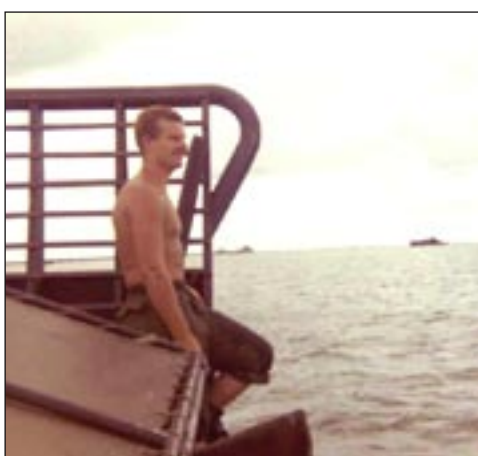


Photo: Dave Larkin

Naval reservist Dave Larkin floats the Mekong Delta in 1967 • Page 7

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