

California Freedom

January 2009 ————— The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

November 20th Fundraiser

Imperialism Equals Bankruptcy

by Lynne Mosier

My dad, former Alaska Senator and LP presidential candidate Mike Gravel, wasn't able to attend his scheduled appearance at the LPC's November 20th fundraiser. He'd just returned from Sweden, where he'd lectured on direct democracy, and he caught a bad cold on the return flight. So I substituted for him.

Former LP presidential candidate Ed Clark also spoke at the fundraiser.

During my talk, I focused on an issue that both Obama and the media are avoiding: *Imperialism equals Bankruptcy*.

When will our leaders look to the Pentagon for budget cuts? When will the media do their job to challenge the dialog

around the federal budget?

I agree with my father. If the People had a right to vote on the budget, they would not vote for more bombers, more nukes, and more overkill. They would decrease the overall budget to lessen the tax burden, then reorganize the remaining budget around education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

I mentioned Ben Cohen's (of Ben & Jerry's) Oreo demonstration, which you can see on YouTube. Ben describes the federal budget in terms of stacks of Oreos. His analogy is easy and understandable. Let the People decide how they want to spend their money.

I also discussed Prop 8. Under my father's plan, Prop 8 would never have appeared on the ballot, because his National

Initiative plan requires legal vetting before anything reaches the ballot. The People would never be asked to vote on something that is unconstitutional or against the Bill of Rights.

Currently, California's initiative and referendum politics are designed by representatives with a vested interest in the ballot propositions being sloppily worded, sometimes illegal, and a pure money game.

The People would be the first to vote money out of politics. Unfortunately, our representatives have a different agenda.

Lynne Mosier is former Senator Mike Gravel's daughter, and a libertarian activist in her own right, with a focus on peace issues. Her email: lynne@gravel2008.us.



Lynne Mosier at the LPC's November 20th fundraiser

LNC Meeting Report

Adulation and Acrimony in San Diego

by Michael Seebeck

Over the weekend of December 6 - 7, 2008, the Libertarian National Committee convened in San Diego to pass the 2009 LP budget, review the Barr/Root campaign, appoint half the Platform Committee, announce the 2010 National Convention, and consider disciplinary action against LNC At-large member Angela Keaton.

About 30 party activists attended.

The meeting was broadcast live over the internet—an LNC first—by this author. The wireless connection was spotty (hence, incomplete), but clips are at <http://justin.tv/tannim123>. I also "twittered" the meeting, available at www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2008/12/michael-seebeck-broadcasting-from-lnc-in-san-diego. Draft minutes

are at www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2008/12/draft-minutes-from-december-lnc-meeting.

LPC Chair Kevin Takenaga opened the meeting on Saturday, Dec. 6, by welcoming all to California. Then Dr. Jim Lark proposed a resolution honoring the late Marshall Fritz.

Former LP VP candidate Wayne Allyn Root reported on his campaign, the disconnect between his and Barr's campaigns, his unreimbursed expenses, and lessons learned for the future. Root reiterated his intention to run for the 2012 LP presidential nomination.

Riverside County LP Western Vice Chair Gene Trospier taped Root's speech, which is at www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2008/12/gene-trospier-video-of-wayne-

[allyn-root-addressing-libertarian-national-committee](http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2008/12/gene-trospier-video-of-wayne-allyn-root-addressing-libertarian-national-committee).

LP founder David Nolan introduced a resolution expressing the LNC's disappointment with the Barr campaign performance, and listing some of the campaign's failures. The resolution failed. (It is in the above draft minutes.)

Takenaga then summarized the LPC's recent activities. He recognized candidates elected to office, activists' opposition to Prop 8, and the LPC's recruiting of *Orange County Register* columnist Steven Greenhut.

Then came the hearing into further disciplinary action against LNC At-large member Angela Keaton.

LNC Region 4 Representative Stewart Flood presented evidence that Keaton had allegedly engaged in various forms of misconduct. [See



Michael Seebeck is the LPC's Legislative Analyst. His email: michael@seebeck.us.

Flood's charges at: www.independentpoliticalreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/resolution-of-discipline-for-angela-keaton_11.pdf and his evidence at www.independentpoliticalreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/resolution_evidence_1.pdf.]

Keaton spoke in her own defense. She raised issues, forced an open airing of all allegations, and read a prepared statement.

After some debate, LP Vice Chair Michael Jingoian offered a substitute motion to establish a "dispute resolution committee" to address the situation. His motion passed.

Keaton resigned from the LNC after the meeting, citing health issues, and questioning the competency of most of the officers.

Nolan introduced a reso-

continued on page 6...

INSIDE

Ron Paul's CA Vote Totals **2**

Judge Jim Gray Fundraiser **3**

Crony Capitalism **4**

Cherry Picking Your Race **4**

Feds Block Anti-Cancer Drug **7**

California Freedom

Vol. 7 • Issue 1 • January 2009

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

PUBLISHER
 Libertarian Party of California
 14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
 Panorama City, CA 91402-4935
 Web site: www.CA.LP.org
 Telephone: (818) 782-8400
 Facsimile: (818) 782-8488

EDITOR
 Thomas M. Sipos
 E-Mail: Editor@CA.LP.org

STATE CHAIRMAN
 Kevin Takenaga
 E-Mail: Chair@CA.LP.org

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT
 Brad Reynolds
 E-Mail: BradleyYes@aol.com

WEB SITE
 E-Mail: WebTeam@CA.LP.org

ADVERTISING SALES
 E-Mail: Advertising@CaliforniaFreedom.org
 Telephone: (818) 782-8400

CONTRIBUTORS
 Lynne Mosier, Michael Seebeck,
 Don Patterson, Ron Getty,
 James P. Gray, Mark Ames,
 Brian Miller, Kevin Takenaga,
 Lawrence K. Samuels,
 Steve Kubby

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
 Libertarian Party of California
 14547 Titus St., Suite 214
 Panorama City, CA 91402
 (877) 884-1776

SEND NEWS, LETTERS, ESSAYS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR ADVERTISING TO:
 Editor, California Freedom
 14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
 Panorama City, CA 91402-4935
 Telephone: (818) 782-8400
 Facsimile: (818) 782-8488
 E-Mail: Editor@CA.LP.org

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

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

COPYRIGHT NOTICE
 Articles, photos, and artwork copyright 2008 by their author(s) and/or Libertarian Party of California. All rights reserved.

From the Editor

On Angela Keaton and Ron Paul

by Thomas M. Sipos

Some of our best libertarians—our most principled and productive libertarians—are outside the party. For instance, Ron Paul. And joining him now, Angela Keaton.

• Angela Keaton

Angela Keaton resigned her At-large seat on the LNC shortly after their December meeting, during which she was subjected to a silly and unimportant disciplinary hearing, orchestrated by LNC Region 4 Representative Stewart Flood. Michael Seebeck reports on the meeting on page 1 of this issue, along with links.

Most of the charges against Angela were of her publicly criticizing the LP and its leaders, with her usual irreverent wit. She'd also joined a Boston Tea Party Facebook account, thus lending support to a competing political party. (Whereas Bob Barr only contributed millions of PAC dollars to GOP candidates running against LP candidates, while he sat on the LNC. Small potatoes compared to a Facebook account.)

Yes, Angela speaks freely and doesn't care if she offends. She can be abrasive and blunt and impolitic. She does not easily tolerate fools. She asks tough questions of LP leaders, and demands strict adherence to principles. A no-nonsense nun, ever ready to smack mushy-headed libertarians with her ruler. Or with a funny zinger.

I wasn't at the LNC meeting, but like others, I followed it live on IndependentPoliticalReport.com. IPR eyewitnesses reported that, as Flood presented his "evidence," attending activists began to laugh. So did some LNC members. Flood grew ever more irate, which increased the laughter, which further incensed Flood.

Judging by the laughs, the funniest exhibit in Flood's case against Angela [see: www.independentpoliticalreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/resolution_evidence_1.pdf] was a photoshopped image of her and LP Treasurer Aaron Starr, posted on Angela's Anarchist Bitch blog, captioned: "Luka Skywalker meets her father, Darth Herr Vader."

In describing the event, Thomas Knapp said: "Stewart



Flood's presentation of 'charges' and 'evidence' against Ms. Keaton came off as the clown show it was. Accounts from on the spot describe open laughter from the audience and a public near-nervous-breakdown on the



Some of the "evidence" in the case against Angela Keaton

part of Flood himself. Keaton acquitted herself quite well, speaking in her own defense... She denied the LNC's authority to dictate what opinions she would express or how she would express them." [See: <http://knappster.blogspot.com/2008/12/d1-situation-report.html>.]

Flood's resolution moved to suspend Angela's LNC membership, to be rescinded upon her submitting a letter, for publication in the LP News, apologizing for a laundry list of alleged misdeeds. [See: www.independentpoliticalreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/resolution-of-discipline-for-angela-keaton_11.pdf.]

Rather than suspend or clear Angela, the LNC sent the matter to committee for further investigation. To which Angela replied: "I will under no circumstances submit to any committee investigation."

Angela resigned a day or so later. She cited health reasons. Eric Garris, her boss at Antiwar.com, issued a letter saying that Angela's LNC work was interfering with her duties at Antiwar.com, and she must choose one or the other. [See: www.lewrockwell.com/blog/lewrw/archives/024323.html.]

I've heard rumors that Garris was merely offering Angela a gracious excuse to exit. One longtime Los Angeles LP officer opined to me, "I think Angela just got tired of all the petty b*llsh*t on the LNC, and said 'to hell with it.' And I don't blame her."

Angela Keaton will now devote her full time to Antiwar.

Freedom, Libertarian, American Independent, and Green Parties, respectively. The latter four were officially certified write-in candidates.

Most Californians were unaware that Ron Paul was a certified write-in candidate and that votes for him would be counted. Even so, Paul pulled over 17,000 votes—without appearing on the ballot, without a current campaign, without the public even knowing that he was a viable option.

Imagine how many votes Paul would have won had the public known that write-in votes for him would count?

And how many additional votes had Paul been on the ballot?

Even many Libertarians were unaware of Paul's official write-in status. Some told me after the election: "I'd have voted for Paul, had I known my vote would count."

Chuck Baldwin was the Constitution Party's write-in candidate. The American Independent Party (which had been the CP's California affiliate) split over the war issue. Baldwin supported the CP/AIP's traditional noninterventionist position. Alan Keyes was the choice of the pro-war faction. A California court ruled that the Keyes faction was the legitimate AIP representative, so Keyes's name appeared on the ballot.

James Harris ran on the Socialist Workers Party. Frank Moore ran on the Just Makes Sense Party. Moore has been described as a "performance

continued on next page...

• Ron Paul

On December 13, 2008, the California Secretary of State issued the official results for the 2008 presidential race, write-in votes included. They are:

Barack Obama	.....	8,274,473
John McCain	.....	5,011,781
Ralph Nader	.....	108,381
Bob Barr	.....	67,582
Alan Keyes	.....	40,673
Cynthia McKinney	.....	38,774
Ron Paul	.....	17,006
Chuck Baldwin	.....	3,145
James Harris	.....	49
Frank Moore	.....	36

The top six names appeared on the California ballot as candidates for the Democratic, Republican, Peace and

Your \$\$\$ Buys Liberty

LPC activists are fighting statist repression and speaking truth to power—but LPC dues don't cover all expenses. We need YOUR \$\$\$ to kick statist butt!

Join our Coffee Club!

Advertise in

Donate!



Letters to the Editor

Ossetians Are the Good Guys

Philip Giraldi was correct, in his article of your November issue, on his blaming the U.S. for being on the wrong side of this conflict. Georgia is the creation of Russia. The country would never have existed were it not for Russia.

Russia had shed a lot of blood defending this country against its Persian and Ottoman overlords since the late 1700s. In trying to shore up this tiny Christian enclave encircled by Islamic neighbors, Russia had given Georgia a lot of lands that weren't hers. Stalin annexed further lands from its neighboring republics.

Regrettably, given dominance of five non-Georgian ethnic groups and enclaves, the Georgians' attitude has been to forcibly convert them. This had led to a lot of reluctance and resistance. In one instance last year, Russia had intervened to stop the Kosovo style massacre of the Ossetians.

We ought to be on the side of Ossetians if we don't want to contradict our own policies and principles that we had only recently exercised in Kosovo

— *Aarde V. Atheian*
Los Angeles, CA

LPC Violated Principles on Prop 8

In December '07, I said it would be Obama that would get the nomination over Hillary, and he would be elected to office. Many wanted to bet me I was wrong. I did not bet, but held my ground. Stated that this is the way time must play out. No one believed me.

But the most disheartening was what occurred within the LP. Even though all knew our candidate would not be elected, we had an opportunity to raise our percentages in the polls and prove to the people that we were a viable third party. But the members could not see beyond their noses. Caught in the here and now, instead of taking the steps needed to one day succeed as a party.

Regardless of how I felt about the LP's candidate, I voted for the future of the party, not my per-

sonal feelings. How many of us can say that in truth?

The main principles of the LP are for Freedom of Choice and Smaller Government, less interference in our personal lives. But from what I have witnessed this past year, we have fallen short. True Freedom and Liberty gives everyone personal choice and equal rights. But instead of writing planks that support these principles, we support planks that provide *more* government interference; the opposite of our principles.

The best example of this was Prop 8.

If Prop 8 had been to take Government out of marriage, where it does not belong in the first place, we would have drawn the people together for the cause; freedom from government-controlled marriage laws.

Instead, look at the divisions created among the people. One side pitted against the other.

We cannot build the party if our planks do not uphold our founding principles, or create divisions among its members.

The Republican and Democratic parties are 180 degrees from where they began, and we are headed in the same direction. We need to change the direction of the LP *now*, before it is too late. We must stand true to our founding principles, or we will struggle and achieve very little for all our efforts since the party began.

Fail or succeed. The choice is up to you.

— *Barbara "Joy" Waymire*
Calaveras County, CA

**YOUR Letters
Welcome!**

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

**Please submit your
letters to:**

editor@ca.lp.org

Meet Judge Jim Gray

Celebrate with your Libertarian colleagues as Judge Jim Gray transitions from the Orange County bench to libertarian activism, at a fundraiser in his honor, to be held on Saturday, January 24th, 2009, 5 pm to 10 pm, in Fullerton, California.

Judge Gray is likely Orange County's best known and most respected Libertarian public figure. But do you know about the rest of his distinguished past? See and hear what surprising talent and accomplishments he'll bring to his new role as a libertarian influence in Orange County!

Your donation admits you to an evening of delicious food and drink, and entertaining insight into Jim Gray's career and his ideas for promoting liberty by moving the Libertarian Party to mainstream status. This event is also an opportunity to donate to California's Libertarian Party, and engage in spirited conversation with your political colleagues.

Proceeds to benefit the Libertarian Party of California. Call Beau Cain at 818-782-8400 or e-mail office@ca.lp.org to reserve your admission.

\$50 Single admission donation
\$90 Couple admission donation
\$45 Coffee Club admission donation
\$25 Student admission donation (with current valid student ID at the door)



continued from previous page

artist," so his campaign might have been an extension of that, rather than a serious political endeavor. His running mate was cable access TV "sex therapist," Dr. Susan Block.

Curiously, both Harris and Moore received under 55 write-in votes. One must obtain signatures from 55 pledged electors to be a certified write-in candidate in California, so it seems that even their *electors* didn't want to "waste their votes" on Harris and Moore.

On December 14, the Constitution Party's Bill Lussenheide reported on IndependentPoliticalReport.com: "There were three counties in California that did NOT count the write in votes for either Chuck Baldwin or Ron Paul. [And presumably, not for Harris and Moore.] Their totals should not be considered complete.

[They are] Del Norte County, Mono County and San Benito County."

So it seems that Paul received more votes than recorded in the state's "official" report. Which is somehow poetically appropriate, considering the candidate and the state.

As Joseph Stalin reputedly said: "It's not who votes that counts. It's who counts the votes."

* LP Conventions

I congratulate the LNC on one good decision. The 2010 LP national convention will be held in St. Louis. Good choice. A cheap locale for most libertarians, conveniently situated in the middle of the continental U.S., and not in some pricey state like Hawaii, or on an expensive cruise ship. Room

rates are \$109 a night.

The LPC state convention will be held this April, in Visalia, California. That's near Fresno. See the ad in this issue.

• Late Issue

This issue arrived late because it advertises an upcoming Judge Jim Gray fundraiser (see above), and state law forbade this notice (and thus, the paper) from being printed until after Judge Gray was safely retired, on January 5th.

**"Strike against war,
for without you no battles
can be fought!"**

~ Helen Keller

2008 Election

Cherry Picking Your Race

by Don Patterson

As we look ahead to the next election cycle, it's worth reviewing the recent California results. Although this has not been our best year in history, if you feel the Libertarian Party is not growing, or that our cause is hopeless, consider the results in the California congressional and state legislative races.

The Reform Party, Constitution Party, and American Independent Party ran no congressional or state legislative candidates. Independents and other third parties ran candidates in the following number of districts:

Independent:

Congress 5
State Senate 1
Assembly 1

Peace and Freedom:

Congress 5
State Senate 1
Assembly 2

Green Party:

Congress 6
State Senate 0
Assembly 1

Libertarian:

Congress 20
State Senate 5
Assembly 15

If that doesn't convince you and others that we are the strongest, most active third party consider this:

The LPC's Christopher Agrella received 26,429 votes in the 38th congressional dis-

trict (Norwalk, Pomona, etc.). How did he do it?

A strategy and hard work. Agrella ran against a single opponent. No Republican ran. We must be encouraged when 26,429 voters put their X in a Libertarian box. Those voters will remember the LP, and will be looking to learn more about us and to perhaps join us.

Other opportunities presented themselves last election. More will present themselves in the future.

Let's look for single party races and jump in. You don't even have to live in the district. The registrars post paper pullings on the web as candidates begin their campaigns. We can see where the single candidate races will be.

In the 2008 election, there were eight single candidate congressional districts, seven such assembly races, and one such state senate race.

Let's take advantage of these opportunities in 2010.



Don Patterson is the Southern District Chair for the Orange County LP. His email: donpat8@yahoo.com.

Advice for YOUR Activism Government Belongs to Us

by Judge Jim Gray

In October 2007, I wrote a column about the California Highway Patrol's 11-99 Foundation. When a person donated a minimum of \$5,000, he or she was given a license plate frame and a membership

card that (coincidentally) could be placed next to that person's driver's license.

The implication was that the donor would receive favorable treatment from the CHP out on the state's highways. And

Corporate Welfare Fiasco

Crony Capitalism At Its Worst

by Ron Getty

Where does your tax money go? Actually, massed printed-up monopoly play money.

The financial firm bailout figures below add up to some \$366 billion. Crony capitalism — Alexander Hamilton must be real proud. The figures exclude Freddie and Fannie. Once again showing private enterprise, which is big business and big government working hand in hand, against free market enterprise, along with the Fed.

Next up, the Big Three. Although letting them all file simultaneous bankruptcy would be best. Then they could restructure under court orders and cut up all them featherbedding union agreements, and all those fat retirement/health packages, and all that executive compensation for driving a business into the ground.

Consider that \$5,000 of the cost of a new car is for retirement benefits, then add all the various state and federal taxes for another 25% of the cost of a new car. So a \$30,000 car is \$5,000 benefits and \$6,000 taxes, or a third of its cost out of your wallet to cover fluff.

Bailout figures courtesy of Steve Dekorte, San Francisco LP.

AIG..... \$190 billion
Citigroup..... \$25 billion
JP Morgan..... \$25 billion
Wells Fargo..... \$25 billion
B of A..... \$15 billion
Goldman Sachs..... \$10 billion
Merrill Lynch..... \$10 billion
Morgan Stanly..... \$10 billion
PNC..... \$7.7 billion

U.S. Bancorp..... \$6.6 billion
Capital One..... \$3.55 billion
Regions..... \$3.5 billion
SunTrust..... \$3.5 billion
Fifth Third Bancorp...\$3.4 billion
BB&T..... \$3.1 billion
New York Mellon..... \$3 billion
Keycorp..... \$2.5 billion
Comerica..... \$2.25 billion
State St..... \$2 billion
Marshal & Ilsley..... \$1.7 billion
Northern Trust..... \$1.5 billion
Huntington Bancshares.....
.....\$1.4 billion
Zions..... \$1.4 billion

Synovus..... \$973 million
Popular Inc..... \$950 million
First Horizon..... \$866 million
Associated Banc.....
.....\$530 million
Webster Financial.....
.....\$400 million
City National..... \$395 million
TCF..... \$361 million
SouthFinancial.....\$347 million.
Valley Nationa..... \$330 million
East West Bancorp.....
.....\$316 million
Citizens Republic Bancorp
.....\$300 million
UCBH..... \$298 million
Cathay..... \$258 million
Trustmark..... \$215 million
Umpqua..... \$214 million
Washington Federal.....
.....\$200 million
Pacific Capital..... \$188 million
First Niagra..... \$186 million
FirstMerit..... \$140 million
Banner..... \$124 million
Signature..... \$120 million
Iberiabank..... \$115 million
Taylor Capital..... \$105 million

Midwest Banc..... \$85 million
First National Bancorp.....
.....\$80 million
Columbia Banking.....

.....\$76 million
Superior..... \$69 million
Nara Bancorp..... \$67 million
Southern Bancorp.. \$60 million
Capital Bank.... \$42 million
Southern Community.....
..... \$42 million
Simmons..... \$40 million
Heritage Commerce.....
.....\$40 million
Cascade..... \$39 million
Porter Bancorp..... \$39 million
Peoples Bancorp.....
.....\$39 million
Encore Bancshares.....
.....\$34 million
Severn Bancorp.... \$30 million
Bancorp Rhode Island.....
.....\$30 million
HF Financial..... \$25 million
Heritage Financial...\$24 million
First PacTrust..... \$19 million
Commerce Holdings.....
.....\$17 million
First 1st Financial....\$16 million
Broadway Financial...\$9 million

And as a final "cherry on top," the AP recently reported that \$1.6 billion in bonuses was recently paid to executives of the bailed-out banks. [See: www.wtvm.com/Global/story.asp?S=9561326] Taxpayers money, of course. How nice they got to use it so wisely.

Ron Getty is a San Francisco LP activist. His email: tradergroupe@yahoo.com.

**"What is the militia?
It is the whole people,
except for a few public
officials."**

~ George Mason, 1788

I cited in the column some occasions on which that favorable treatment had actually been given.

I sent a copy of the column to then-CHP Commissioner Mike Brown, along with a handwritten letter, requesting him to investigate the situation, and possibly discontinue this practice. My reason was that our system of justice in traffic court and everywhere else should be free from even the appearance of favoritism.

I received no response to my letter.

A few months later, in another column, I reported that I had not received a response from Brown. I sent him a second letter. Which again was

met only by silence.

About four months thereafter, the CHP had a new commissioner named Joe Farrow. I sent him a letter, along with an explanation of my request and a copy of the previous columns. Within three weeks, I received a telephone call from his secretary inviting me to have lunch with the new commissioner.

At that lunch, Farrow told me he had taken action in two ways:

First, he issued a strong statement to his troops that they were not to be influenced by 11-99 Foundation membership in exercising their sound discretion about whether to issue traffic citations or any-

thing else.

Second, he'd met with the officials of the 11-99 Foundation, and was successful in obtaining their promise to cease the distribution of the license plate frames and identification cards by this coming January. He'd also instigated a movement to recall the license plate frames and ID cards that have already been issued.

This is government at its best. That was the laudatory message I gave to Farrow. Government had been responsive, responsible, professional, and had acted with integrity.

Why am I writing about this experience? Because it demonstrates that we can and do

continued on next page...

Foreign Interventionist Failure

End of Empire

by Mark Ames

On the sunny afternoon of August 14, a Russian army colonel named Igor Konashenko is standing triumphantly at a street corner at the northern edge of Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia, his forearm bandaged from a minor battle injury. The spot marks the farthest point of the Georgian army's advance before it was summarily crushed by the Russians a few days earlier.

"Twelve Georgian battalions invaded Tskhinvali, backed by columns of tanks, armored personal carriers, jets, and helicopters," he says, happily waving at the wreckage, craters, and bombed-out buildings around us. "You see how well they fought, with all their great American training—they abandoned their tanks in the heat of the battle and fled."

Konashenko pulls a green compass out of his shirt pocket

and opens it. It's a U.S. military model. "This is a little trophy—a gift from one of my soldiers," he says. "Everything that the Georgians left behind, I mean everything, was American. All the guns, grenades, uniforms, boots, food rations—they just left it all. Our boys stuffed themselves on the food," he adds slyly. "It was tasty."

The booty, according to Konashenko, also included 65 intact tanks outfitted with the latest NATO and American (as well as Israeli) technology.

Technically, we are standing within the borders of Georgia, which over the last five years has gone from being an ally to the U.S., to a neocon proxy regime. But there are no Georgians to be seen in this breakaway region—not unless you count the bloated corpses still lying in the dirt roads.

Most of the 70,000 or so people who live in South

Ossetia never liked the idea of being part of Georgia. During the violent land scramble that occurred after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the South Ossetians found themselves cut off from their ethnic kin in North Ossetia, which remained part of Russia.

The Russians, who've had a small peacekeeping force here since 1992, managed to keep the brewing conflicts on ice for the last 15 years. But in the meantime, the positions of everyone involved hardened. The Georgians weren't happy about the idea of losing a big chunk of territory. The Ossetians, an ethnic Persian tribe, were more adamant than ever about joining Russia, their traditional ally and protector.

The tense, but relatively stable, situation blew up late in the evening of August 7, when on the order of president Mikheil Saakashvili, Georgia's army swept into South Ossetia, leveling much of Tskhinvali and surrounding villages, and sending some 30,000 refugees fleeing north into Russia.

Within hours, Russia's de

facto czar, Vladimir Putin, counterattacked—some say he'd set a trap—and by the end of that long weekend, the Georgians were in panicked retreat. The Russian army then pushed straight through South Ossetia and deep into Georgia proper, halting less than an hour's drive from Saakashvili's luxurious palace.

All around me is evidence of a rout. A Georgian T-72 tank turret is wedged into the side of a local university building, projecting from the concrete like a cookie pressed into ice cream. Fifty yards away you can see the remains of the vehicle that the orphaned turret originally was part of: just a few charred parts around a hole in the street, and a section of tread lying flat on the sidewalk.

Russian tanks now patrol the city unopposed, each one as loud as an Einstrzende Neubauten concert, clouding the air with leaded exhaust as they rumble past us.

But listening to Colonel Konashenko, it becomes clear to me that I'm looking at more than just the smoldering remains of battle in an obscure regional war: This spot is ground zero for an epic historical shift. The dead tanks are American-upgraded, as are the spent 40mm grenade shells that one spetsnaz soldier shows me. The bloated bodies on the ground are American-trained Georgian soldiers who have been stripped of their American-issue uniforms.

And yet, there is no American cavalry on the way.

For years now, everyone from Pat Buchanan, to hybrid-powered hippies, have been warning that America would suddenly find itself on a historical downslope from having

been too reckless, too profligate, and too arrogant as an unopposed superpower. Even decent patriotic folk were starting to worry that America was suffering from a classic case of Celebrity Personality Disorder, becoming a nation of Tom Cruise party-dicks dancing in our socks over every corner and every culture in the world, lip-synching about freedom as we plunged headfirst into as much risky business as we could mismanage.

And now, bleeding money from endless wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we're a sick giant hooked on ever-pricier doses of oil, paid for with a currency few people want anymore. In the history books of the future, I would wager that this very spot in Tskhinvali will be remembered as both the geographic highwater mark of the American empire, and the place where it all started to fall apart.

Mark Ames is the author of *Going Postal: Rage, Murder, and Rebellion: From Reagan's Workplaces to Clinton's Columbine and Beyond*. He is editor of the *Moscow English alternative weekly*, *The eXile*, available at: <http://exile.ru>. His email: editor@exile.ru.

Judge Gray
continued from page 4

have an influence in our government—at all levels. If we are persistent, there is little that we cannot accomplish, at least in the long run.

With government, like many situations in life, familiarity does not breed contempt; it breeds access. Another way of saying this is that government is a "contact sport." All of us should make advocacy a regular part of our everyday lives. Our form of government depends on it.

Many elected officials have told me that when they receive individually written letters, they attach great significance and weight to them. They have a formula that for every personalized letter they receive, they feel that at least 35 other people in their district probably have the same views. So don't be bashful about writing those letters.

Of course, your letters will have more chance of influencing elected officials if you can actually vote for those officials. A letter you send to your own member of Congress will more likely have an influence than a letter to a member outside of your district.

continued on page 6...

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 |
| Beau Cain | Bruce Dovner | Kevin Takenaga |
| Audrey Carlan | Terry Floyd | Charles Tolman |
| T. J. Campbell | John Inks | Robert Weber, Jr. |
| Ed Clark | Carolyn Marbry | |
| Alicia Clark | Chuck Moulton | |
| Zander Collier, III | Alan Pyeatt | |

Here's My Pledge to the California Coffee Club!

Yes! I'll donate the price of a cup of coffee every working day and pay for it with a monthly pledge.

- One cup a day = \$ 42 monthly
 Two cups a day = \$ 84 monthly
 Three cups a day = \$ 126 monthly
 Five cups a day = \$ 210 monthly

Political contributions are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of each donor who contributes more than \$200 per calendar year.



ENCLOSED: Check or money order Voided check for Auto Bank Draft
 OR: Credit card number and expiration date

ACCOUNT # WE ACCEPT AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER MASTERCARD VISA EXPIRATION DATE

NAME ON CREDIT CARD HOME PHONE

SIGNATURE FOR CREDIT CARD WORK PHONE

DONOR'S NAME E-MAIL ADDRESS

COMPANY OCCUPATION

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Make checks payable and mail to **THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA**
 14547 Titus Street, Suite 214 - Panorama City, California 91402-4935
 Toll-free 877-884-1776 Local 818-782-8400 www.ca.lp.org 08Q1

Please Join our Coffee Club

Plan now to attend the

2009 Libertarian Party of California

Convention!

**Friday through Sunday,
April 24th through 26th 2009**

Holiday Inn Convention Center – Visalia*

Details at www.ca.lp.org/events.shtml
 Contact Beau at 818-782-8400 or office@ca.lp.org for info and registration!

*That's right – Visalia, California!

When Regulations Kill

Feds Block Anti-Cancer Drug

by **Steve Kubby**

Yesterday, I received word about a very special lady, who is also my cousin. She is fighting for her life. Her name is Lisa, and she is losing her battle with breast cancer.

What saddens me most is that there is an epidemic of breast cancer—although we already possess an effective, nontoxic, and powerful anti-cancer drug that could save her. Right now, we have the technology and peer-reviewed science to save millions of lives with a harmless extract from the cannabis plant called Cannabidiol, aka CBD.

Cannabidiol is safe and non-psychoactive. Lives could be saved now, using CBD in cannabinoid lozenges, produced by a company I founded—except that CBD has been determined by Congress to be a Schedule 1 Drug.

CBD alone is not intoxicating, but it appears to relieve convulsion, inflammation, anxiety, and nausea, and to inhibit cancer cell growth. Recent studies have shown cannabidiol to be as effective as atypical antipsychotics in treating schizophrenia.

In November 2007, it was reported that CBD reduces growth of aggressive human breast cancer cells in vitro and reduces their invasiveness. It thus represents the first non-toxic exogenous agent that can lead to down-regulation of tumor aggressiveness. It is also a neuroprotective antioxidant that provides powerful protection from paralysis in spinal injuries.

CBD works by blocking the activity of a gene called Id-1, which is believed to be responsible for the aggressive spread of cancer cells, away from the original tumor site -- a process called metastasis. Past work has shown CBD can block aggressive human brain cancers. The latest work found CBD appeared to have a similar effect on breast cancer cells in the lab.

The U.S. government not only knows about CBD, it even holds a patent on the use of cannabinoid medicines. So why does our government continue to make CBD a Schedule 1 Drug, and thereby sentence my cousin Lisa to death?

It's a tragic situation. And in light of the emerging new

science supporting CBD, it is criminal for the U.S. government to continue its destructive and misinformed war on the medical use of cannabis.



Steve Kubby helped draft and pass California Prop 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 via his website: www.Kubby.com

Let Economy Telcom handle your Telecommunications needs

- Land line top quality long distance for under 3 cents a minute.
- 800 numbers at same rates, including 800 numbers for cell phones.
- Astonishing international calling rates.
- Business local phone service, and high speed Internet access.
- Cell phone international calling at 90% off cell phone rates.
- Finest quality, fixed monthly cost conference calling.

Under 3¢ a minute

We are independent brokers, representing over 30 companies.

Call us for a quote: 1-800-914-8466.

Or e-mail owner Richard Rider: RRider@san.rr.com

Youth Outreach

Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

The 2008 elections are over, but LPC activists remain hard at work, educating tomorrow's voters with libertarian ideas and principles.

Seven LPC volunteers attended the recent Junior State of America Convention, held at the Santa Clara Marriott on November 22, 2008. Mark Hinkle and Jim Eyer, pictured above.

“There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the US, and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Philipino’s and Entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others.”

~ Harry Anslinger, Commissioner of Narcotics, 1937

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

SEGALLA & ASSOCIATES

3224 Skunk Ranch Road • Murphys, CA 95247
(209) 728-2887 • alsegalla@jps.net
www.bambiland.com

Libertarian History

LP's Antiwar Roots

by Brian Miller

The Vietnam War was an important—arguably the most important—formative stimulus behind the creation of the LP.

In his seminal analysis of the Vietnam protest movement, *The Vietnam War on Campus*, Marc Gilbert writes: “Only a united front, the students realized, would truly threaten the Establishment. As the 1960s crumbled around them and the forecast for change in the 1970s looked bleak, these students decided that only a completely new way of thinking and acting would force such institutions as the government, the university, and more amorphous ‘social order’ to respond to their demands.... For some, this dream came true in the creation of the Libertarian Party in 1972.”

Not into academic citations? How about the mainstream press, in one of its few balanced examinations of the Libertarian Party? Mike Smith, reporting for the AP [as reprinted in the

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 8, 2002], writes: “The disenchantment of a few over the Vietnam War and President Richard Nixon’s wage and price controls has grown into what they say is the nation’s best-organized and most successful third party. ‘Other parties come and go,’ said David Nolan, considered the party’s founding father. ‘The reason we have staying power is that we are consistent.’”

(If only Mr. Nolan’s statement was true today, just six years later.)

Still not convinced? Suspicious of academia and the press?

Why not ask the Libertarian Party of Colorado, which proclaims on its website: “David Nolan and several other friends got together in the summer of 1971 after being disgusted with then president, Richard Nixon announced to the public the implementation of wage and price controls, which basically removed the gold standard

and allowed the government to impose inflation easier. Along with the ‘illegal’ Vietnam War, loss of fiscal conservative direction of the Republican Party and the socialist directions of the Democrat Party, the group started the think tank to come up with a better political solution for real limited government and individual freedom.” [See: lpcolorado.org/about-us.aspx]

Or ask the Libertarian Party of Michigan, whose website notes the groups that came together to form that state’s party affiliate, including: “Goldwater supporters. Karl Hess’s rhetoric inspired many citizens in a country torn over the Vietnam War. Defining liberty and its defense becomes more than academic when you have a draft card in one hand and a rifle in the other. Later, many supporters became active in Young Americans for Freedom and College Republicans.” [See: michiganlp.org/Shared%20Documents/25thann.htm]

I could go on and on. I’m not

going to. Worse, I shouldn’t have to.

Some people in the LP’s Neocontarian faction are prone to mendacity. But even allowing for “forgetfulness,” losing the anti-foreign-interventionist heritage of the LP is just another way that the party’s heritage is being stolen.

The reason the LP’s Neocontarian faction is successful is because too many Libertarians are quiet and timid, accept the Neocontarian’s faulty premises, and spend more time coming after their friends than after their adversaries.

Wasting time “proving” truisms like the LP’s origins in anger over the Vietnam War only keeps Libertarians on the defensive against the indefensible.



Brian Miller is national Secretary for Outright Libertarians. His email: hightechfella@yahoo.com.



Libertarian Party of California
14547 Titus St., Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
INDUSTRY, CA
PERMIT NO. 4386



Photo: Kevin Takenaga

Ed Clark at the LPC's November 20th fundraiser • Page 1

INSIDE

- Ron Paul's CA Vote Totals **2**
- Judge Jim Gray Fundraiser **3**
- Crony Capitalism **4**
- Cherry Picking Your Race **4**
- Feds Block Anti-Cancer Drug **7**