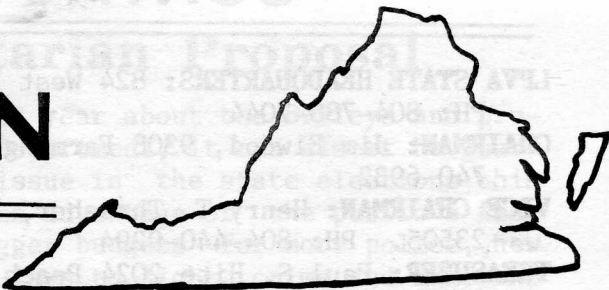


VIRGINIA LIBERTARIAN



FEBRUARY 1985 Vol. 3 No. 2

Another year is upon us, and I think it will be the year that the LP comes of age. If you agree, send money. If you disagree, you can still help us out: join a pro-state party, thereby infecting them with a negative attitude, instead of us.

For this organisation to succeed, we need people who believe it can and will help us recruit active new members. Read on:

I am offering (until further notice) at my own expense a \$5 prize for the first five current LPVA members who each sell three new Virginia Libertarian subscriptions by March 1. If you don't want the \$5, then I will give it to the LPVA treasury in your name as a partially tax-deductible contribution, for which we will send you a receipt for the IRS. Gift subscriptions qualify, but renewals do not.

***** BULLETIN *****

Libertarian draft registration resister **Paul Jacob** was arrested in December after eluding the FBI for two years. Send your contribution now to his legal defense fund: c/o the Arkansas LP, P.O. Box 15724, Little Rock, Arkansas 72231. Paul, once Arkansas LP chairman, and 600,000 other young men like him have devastated the "legitimacy" of warmed-over slavery by refusing to register.

—> ATTENTION : SIL president Don Ernsberger will be in Richmond to speak on January 24 (Thursday). See CALENDARva and definitely plan to attend!<—

Make your plans now to attend the 1985 LPVA Convention on March 23 and 24. Carpooling/ride information is available: Jim Elwood, 804-740-6932. If you can drive others who want to go, please call today!

— editor

In This Issue:

From the Chair.....	3	TIDBITSva.....	10
CALENDARva.....	6	TIDBITSusa.....	12
SCC Report.....	7	TIDBITSworld.....	13
DISTRICTSva.....	7	The Hite Report.....	13

CONTACTSva

LPVA STATE HEADQUARTERS: 824 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23220-9990
PH: 804-788-7044

CHAIRMAN: Jim Elwood, 9308 Farmington Dr., Richmond, VA 23229. 804-740-6932

VICE CHAIRMAN: Henry T. Thrasher, 7416 Major Ave., Norfolk, VA 23505. PH: 804-440-9294

TREASURER: Paul S. Hite 2024 Peach Orchard Dr. #32, Falls Church, VA 22041. PH: 703-734-0712

SECRETARY: Cynthia Messina, 5597 Seminary Rd.#2412-S, Falls Church, VA 22041. PH: 703-820-7696

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE: David Saum, 5597 Seminary Rd. # 2412-S, Falls Church, VA 22041. PH: 703-820-7696

EDITOR: Marc Montoni, 7333 Hermitage Rd., Richmond, VA 23228-4308
PH: 804-266-0809

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

ARLINGTON: Marjie Rothenhoefer, PO Box 6403, Arlington, VA 22206.
PH: 703-931-3777

EIGHTH DISTRICT: Richard Gardiner, 7404 Estaban Pl., Springfield, VA 22151. PH: 703-569-6782

TENTH DISTRICT: Dan Rothenhoefer, P.O. Box 6403, Arlington, VA 22206. PH: 703-931-3777

TIDEWATER-NORFOLK-VIRGINIA BEACH

NEWPORT NEWS: Mark Leigh, 323-A Center Av, Nwpt News, Va 23601.

TIDEWATER: Al Anders, 1010 W. 36th St., Norfolk, VA 24504. PH: 804-625-5068

SECOND DISTRICT: Buddy L. Mountjoy, 4453 Ocean View Ave., VA. Beach, VA. 23455. PH: 804-464-5399

FOURTH DISTRICT: Mike Ridgeway, 2712-A Bainbridge Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23324. PH: 804-545-4608

LYNCHBURG: Thomas Carwile, Route 4 Box 126, Lynchburg, VA 24503. PH: 804-384-3392

ROANOKE: Alan R. Hock, 2612 Avenham, Roanoke, VA 24014.

FIRST DISTRICT: Stew L. Engel, Owens, VA 22532. PH: 703-663-2279

THIRD DISTRICT: Ed Alexander, 2931 Perlock Rd., Richmond, VA 23237.
PH: 804-275-2603

FIFTH DISTRICT: (vacant)

SIXTH DISTRICT: Frewen Wilson, Route 1 Box 423, Madison Heights, VA 24572.

SEVENTH DISTRICT: John Kiley, Millwood, VA 22646 PH: 703-837-2238

NINTH DISTRICT: Michael Large, PO Box 517, Pound, VA 24279. PH: 606-439-2366

CAMPUS LIBERTARIAN DIRECTORY: University of Virginia:

Libertarian Student Association, Dan Garrett, Pres., P.O. Box 521, Newcomb Hall, Charlottesville, VA 22901. PH: 804-971-2962

A Modest Libertarian Proposal

After all those headlines last year about the Brileys and problems in the Virginia Corrections Department, it can almost be guaranteed that crime will be the hot issue in the state elections this year. Politicians have always taken advantage of the public's fear of crime to drum up support for bigger budgets for more police, new prisons, more bureaucracy and more laws to fight crime and make the streets safe. The fact that the current system is a dismal failure keeps getting obscured by the emotional climate in which the issue of crime is always discussed.

People who support increased government action against crime do so out of self interest: they don't want to become a victim and lose property or life. The job of Libertarians is to show these people what is wrong with the current system and to instill in them a "fear" of politicians who will victimize their pocketbooks in the name of "law and order". We can encourage people to take a few common sense measures that will be far more protective than battalions of police. Libertarians can also propose changes in laws, courts, and the prison system that will re-orient priorities and improve their operation.

Below is a brief outline of what I think is a suitable libertarian crime package.

1) RESTITUTION

The current system forces the victim of crime to pay twice: 1) by the initial crime loss, and 2) by paying high taxes to warehouse the criminal in prison. The criminal does little or nothing productive in prison, and when released, he has been hardened and is more likely to return to crime. Experimental restitution programs, on the other hand, have been successful in that the criminal has had to work to repay the victim, and this tends to have a rehabilitative effect on the criminal because he has realized what an effort it takes to earn an honest living and how much he has damaged the victim by stealing or injuring him. A program of this sort can be managed by probation officers, which keeps the minor criminal out of jail, which relieves taxpayers of about \$18,000 of expenses per year for each prisoner.

2) PRIVATIZATION

A couple of Republicans are introducing a bill in the General Assembly that will authorize a feasibility study for a privately-run prison in Virginia. No doubt it would be far more efficient than a state-run prison, but I feel that it would be better to introduce it with a few other changes: A private prison is still wasteful if it held many of the wrong people, as state pens do today.

Privatization would be effective in the operation of a restitution program. Private companies could contract with employers to hire minor criminals, and would handle the repayment of victims by garnishing the paychecks. Such an operation would be similar to temporary employment agencies that are thriving today.

The other area of opportunity for the short run is for increased use of private arbitrators to settle civil cases. This would unclog the present court system and allow for more efficient handling of criminal cases.

3) DEATH PENALTY

Libertarians come down on both sides of this issue. I happen to favor the death penalty for first-degree murder, because it seems to me that monetary restitution can hardly compensate for the destruction of a life, and life imprisonment brings up once again the problem of the victim paying twice, first by the loss of a loved one and then by paying to maintain the murderer behind bars for so many years.

4) VICTIMLESS CRIME LAWS

This subject makes libertarian's blood boil. However, before we shout about the individual's right to his own body, let us remember that drug abuse is a real problem, as are gambling and prostitution, and parents have valid reasons to keep their children away from these things. No other crime issue has been distorted more by blind emotion or exploited more by power-seeking politicians than this one. We can turn the politicians on their heads on this issue, but first we have to put ourselves in the voter's shoes and assuage his fears before we can even hope to see common sense changes in the legal system.

We need to hammer away at the fact that the current system system attacks only the supply of illicit drugs and activities and does nothing to deal with the demand for them. With no demand for the product there would be no market to attack and no costs to society. The police assault on the drug trade actually increases crime by forcing up the prices. Heavy users pay the artificially inflated prices by stealing; murders occur in the process of armed robberies and in gang wars for control of the lucrative drug trade. We need to get it through to concerned parents that kids have better access to drugs today than ever before because of the intensifying war against the suppliers. We need to get it across to voters to beware of politicians who vow to get tough on drugs, etc., because taxes will go up and the incidence of crime will go up again so the politicians can posture against it again next election. While we are at it, let's point out that the state hypocritically sanctions or sells the dangerous drugs nicotine and alcohol.

The ultimate resolution of these social problems lies in recognition of individual freedom coupled with individual responsibility.

When one recognizes the inherent value of his own life, he will be more likely to reject unhealthy activities. As an example, many Americans are eating healthier foods and exercising more of their own free will. Tobacco consumption is down substantially, and even alcohol is starting to show a drop. These are the result of education and individual awareness, not some police-state action by the government.

This indicates that we need to abolish all victimless crime laws immediately. The sooner the government stops legislating morality, the sooner that individuals, private voluntary groups and treatment programs will be able to solve these problems. Libertarians, let's show the people that we agree with them, and that our practical ideas are the only ones that will actually alleviate crime!

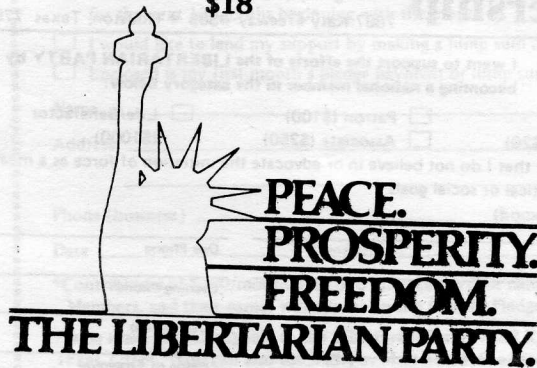
--- Jim Elwood

WANTED: Libertarian issues researchers to clip newspapers and review/critique legislative proposals and government reports. Provide such information to LP candidates and the state newsletter.

November-December Contributors:

What you see below are contributions from LPVA members for the last couple of months. This is not a complete listing, because most contributions have gone to the treasurer, therefore I didn't see them. But in the future, anyone who sends a contribution through LPVA state headquarters will get his name published in this, our "thank-you" column.

Mr. and Mrs. Roycroft	\$50	Tom Carwile	\$10
James Turbett	\$50	Richard E. Gardiner	\$10
Warren C. and Shirley Moore	\$20	Gilbert Wells	\$10
Ken Miller	\$18		



CALENDARva

January

24-Thursday-7:30 pm. @ 824 W. Broad St., Richmond.

WHAT: Don Ernsberger, the President of the Society for Individual Liberty, will speak at LPVA Headquarters. Refreshments will be available, but feel free to bring your own. SIL is an educational organization that produces a variety of pamphlets and booklets and that runs an intensive course in libertarian studies.

FEBRUARY

17-Sunday-1:00 pm. Location TBA- In Tidewater.

WHAT: State Central Committee meeting. Al Anders will be bringing books to sell to this one, so bring your station wagon. Area members are encouraged to attend.


16-Saturday-5:00 pm. 824 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA.

WHAT: 3rd District Organisational/Business Meeting.

MARCH

23 and 24-Saturday and Sunday-all day-Location TBA (Charlottesville is presently the favored location).

WHAT: 1985 Libertarian Party of Virginia State Convention. We will be selecting new officers for the Virginia LP, so please try to come. We will have 8-10 speakers and several workshops on how to run state and local campaigns. So far, I have contacted seven prominent Libertarians who have agreed to come and speak: Peter Breggin, David Bergland, John Harllee, Earl Ravenal (not definite), and several others. Contributions to help defray expenses of the Convention should be made payable to **LPVA**. Send to Paul Hite (address in Contacts list). Specify that you want the contribution to go to the **Convention Fund**.

	Membership	Libertarian Party	CHARGE
	7887 Katy Freeway #385 • Houston, Texas 77024		
	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW	I want to support the efforts of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY by	Please charge my contribution to:
	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL	becoming a national member in the category below:	MASTERCARD VISA
	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$100)	Amount \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$20)	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$250)	Card No. _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Life/Benefactor (\$1000)	Expiration Date _____
	"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."		Signature _____
	Signature _____	Day Phone _____	Name on Card _____
	Name _____	Evening Phone _____	
	Address _____	*Occupation _____	
		*Name of Employer _____	
		*Optional, federal law requires us to ask.	

State Central Meets

State Central Committee Meets

A regular meeting of LPVA's State Central Committee was held at David Saum's apartment in Arlington at 1:30 pm., Sunday, January 13. Members present: Jim Elwood, Henry Thrasher, David Saum, Cynthia Messina, Paul Hite, Marc Montoni, Al Anders, Ed Alexander, John Kiley, and Richard Gardiner.

Briefly: Jim Elwood outlined a set of goals for the state LP for 1985. Paul Hite reports approximately \$100 in contributions from newsletter subscribers in January, (as opposed to about that amount for all of 1984, by the way...) and expenditures for the month of about \$100 for a balance of \$500 (Please keep in mind that these figures are from my memory, which is not too good). Marc Montoni (moi) outlined a set of goals, ambitions, and pipe dreams for the newsletter with emphasis on building membership radically. Al Anders is the new Chair for Congressional District 2 (or was it 4?). Richard Gardiner gave a detailed report of his activities with FFCE and our lawsuits. He will be working with Marc Montoni on filing a new suit on the write in question fairly soon, so we can get it out of our way now, while we have time.

— editor

DISTRICTSva

THIRD DISTRICT: Marc Montoni is going to try restarting the Richmond LP, and has announced the first meeting to be in February (See CALENDARva.) This will be an organizational/business meeting, so please try to attend.

Tell them LPVA sent you!

CHARGE

Please charge my contribution to:
MASTERCARD VISA

Amount \$ _____
Card No. _____
Expiration Date _____
Signature _____
Name on Card _____

The Liberty Pledge

I want to make a monthly pledge of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100* \$ _____
for the next 12 months beginning with the month of _____

I would like to lend my support by making a lump sum contribution of \$ _____ *

Enclosed is my first month's pledge payment or lump sum contribution.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone (business) _____ (home) _____
Date _____ Signature _____

*Contributors of \$100/month or \$1,000 lump-sum will be named Finance Committee Contributing Members, and their names will appear on the Liberty Pledge letterhead.

Please make checks payable to the Libertarian Party, 7887 Katy Freeway, #385, Houston, Texas 77024. You can also use VISA or Mastercard. See accompanying form.

Virginia Newspaper Raises Shock Therapy Questions Again
by Tom Carwile

On May 2, 1984, the Daily Press in Newport News used excerpts from telephone interviews with Dr. Peter Breggin and Thomas Carwile in the news article "ECT: Electric Shock Therapy Regaining Popularity", by reporter Laurie Krauth. Several "shock" doctors were interviewed.

Dr. Breggin is a Washington, D.C. psychiatrist, author, and libertarian speaker. He has been a mental patient's rights advocate for two decades.

Carwile was a 1971 shock patient, and was the founder and leader of the Insane Liberation Front in Richmond 1972-1975. In 1972 ILF demonstrations and leaflets directly led the long-sleeping ACLU move to stop the majority of sterilizations of the retarded in the summer of '72. ILF efforts also spearheaded other reforms in 1975.

The biggest news revealed in the Daily Press article is that for an unknown number of years the Commonwealth has lied about stopping electric shocks in State hospitals: "...the University of Virginia hospital treats about 24 ECT patients a year, according to Robert Wangelin, the ECT director at UVa." Since 1977 the Commonwealth has repeatedly issued press releases claiming that shocks are no longer used in State hospitals. These releases got wide play in Va. media. The Daily Press article is the first public indication of the lie.

LIBERTARIAN LETTER PROJECT

One of the most cost-effective methods of communicating our ideas to the public is through letters-to-the-editor. We are asking Libertarians to write letters to their local newspapers mentioning "libertarianism," the "Libertarian Party," or "David Bergland." We urge you to participate. We will provide you with a periodic newsletter, advice and tips, sample letters, progress reports, etc. All we ask in exchange is that you send at least one (but preferably several) letter(s) to your local newspaper(s), and send us a clipping of any published letter. Please join the effort!

YES, I'll write at least one libertarian letter-to-the-editor. Send me more information.

NAME: _____ DAY PHONE: () _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ EVENING PHONE: () _____

Mail to: Libertarian Letters, 4250 Yukon Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93063

Tell them LPVA sent you!

LIBERTARIAN GROUP OF THE MONTH

Are you a feminist and tired of hearing other feminists proposing all manner of statist solutions to the problems caused by sexism? Do you feel out of place working with feminist organisations that typically won't even listen to the free market approach to gender liberation?

Join the Association of Libertarian Feminists—a diverse group including women and men, gays and straights, anarchists and limited-government advocates and communalists who have a common belief that "government is women's enemy."

The organisation sells numerous discussion papers, brochures and books related to libertarian feminism, and has a bimonthly newsletter, ALF News. Send \$10 to: ALF, 61 Garfield St., Cambridge, MA. 02138, or call 617-864-6497 for more info.

Movin' On? Let us know that new address early so you won't miss any issues of Virginia Libertarian!

Name _____
Old Address _____ New Address _____
ZIP _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____-_____-_____

Our educational system is a mess, but you sit around and spout that public schools should be abolished, that the taxes that support them should be eliminated, and that we should leave public school teachers to the wolves of the private market. Sounds to me that you're asking for disaster—who is going to teach our children? You don't seem to realize that we must educate all of our children before they all turn into criminals! How can you possibly say that "the private market will take up the slack"? And how can you let these religious fanatics educate their own children at home, without someone watching over them to make sure they don't raise them to be murderers. If someone out there can explain adequately how chaos won't result if you get your way, I'm listening.

---Anonymous

Heaven forbid, you want to legalize DRUGS? What are you, a servant of the devil? Don't you realize that if we let the pushers and addicts have free reign in our streets, everyone will be shooting each other in drug-crazed frenzy? Our children will come home with needle tracks all over their arms, I won't be able to walk down the street without getting mugged by an addict or accosted by a pusher! And you want to legalize it? God save us!

---Anonymous

TIDBITS VA

Remember last issue when I described experiments in private prisons in other states? Well, two Virginia House members, Delegates Kenneth Calvert of Danville and W.R. O'Brien of Virginia Beach plan to introduce a bill that will create a commission to study the feasibility of allowing private prisons to operate in the commonwealth.

Officials have suggested that a new 400-bed prison will be needed in Virginia by 1990, and Calvert thinks that will be a good time to try the free enterprise approach to prisons.

Our sympathy goes out to insurance salesman Gregory J. Wheal, of Midlothian, Va, who faces up to a year in prison and up to \$1000 in fines for failing to file his federal tax forms for three years.

No censorship in these United States? Bull! The state Board of Education has decided that certain parts of Shakespeare's works are too vividly sexual to allow the innocents in Virginia's high schools to read. Board member Margaret Marston of Arlington brought the subject out at the committee meeting on December 6th. A few days later, the Board reported that it will ask textbook publishers to tell them when cuts are made in any original works. [Wow. That's a nice way of chickening out of ordering the publishers not to cut out anything at all.]

And Shakespeare isn't the only one either. Thomas Jefferson's work is also fair game for the censor's scissors: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain...rights..." --- Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776, as reproduced on page 78 of "American Adventures" for Virginia's seventh graders. For unknown reasons, the word "unalienable" was deleted.

Thanks, but no thanks. IRS will soon be opening its Eastern division tax form distribution center in Henrico County, near Richmond. The Gestapo Company will be closing 8 distribution centers and 50 warehouses and will instead process the 15 million annual requests for its ever-popular tax forms through the three new regional warehouses: Henrico, Bloomington, IL., and Sacramento, CA. The new warehouse will be near the state fairgrounds.

Speaking of brother IRS, I got my beloved tax forms today (Dec. 28). To pay or to pay, that is the question.

While we are on the subject of federal agencies bestowing their graces on Virginia, the US Department of Energy recently informed the Commonwealth that we may be the proud, dead owners of a high-level nuclear disposal site by 2003. [This dangerous waste problem undoubtedly will come back to haunt future generations; I wish peop-

le would see that centralized power monopolies are the root problem. Decentralized power would lessen the attractiveness of the gold-plated nuclear power plant, for the \$-per-watt produced is higher than production by safer means.]

My congratulations go out to John Denovich of Ohio, who was recently acquitted of a drug charge by a Lancaster County jury. He was arrested on May 6 when police raided the Kendall Hall estate in Irvington and seized 275 bales of marijuana worth an estimated \$6 million. [Insufficient evidence was the reason for the acquittal; rest assured that he would have been imprisoned otherwise. But what in hell was the crime?]

The College of William and Mary will be hosting a series of annual forums on international peace to promote and initiate peaceful solutions to world problems. Addresses and lectures will be presented by "outstanding authorities" on a variety of topics that affect relations among nations. Contact the College for info.

A proposed amendment to the state constitution would allow voters to petition for referendum questions on statewide ballots. Steven Gordy of Fairfax is the proponent of this bill, HJR #97. Write letters to your reps and Gordy today to tell them of your support for the bill.

A group has organized to lobby against another amendment, SJR #28, that would constitutionally limit the growth of state spending to the growth of the state's economy. In other words, if the economy grows 4%, then state spending may only grow 4% and so on.

This bill is an obvious step in the direction of controlling government spending, so once again, get out your writer's elbow and tell your representatives in state government (and those backing the bill: Del. Ralph Axelle of Henrico and Sen. Eliot Schewel of Lynchburg. Both Democrats!) that you support passage of the bill.

Hate mail, however, should go to these powerful opponents of the bill: Virginia Education Association, Virginia Municipal League, and the Virginia Association of Counties. There are others but these are the worst of the rabble.

Many Virginia dentists, along with the Virginia Board of Dentistry, are resisting a "new" idea: open market competition. The state Department of Health Regulatory Boards, the Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, and the Virginia Dental Hygienists Association have formed a loose coalition to break the legal monopoly hold that dentists have placed on the market since 1938. Right on! As rules

stand now, corporations may not practice dentistry, and trade names are prohibited. Also, people who can't afford or can't get to a dentist are prohibited from seeking help from dental hygienists, for only licensed dentists are currently allowed to practice.

A dentist opposing the "deregulation", a Dr. Mirmelstein, said that he remembers when trade names were allowed and dental companies operated: No one was really responsible for medical care, and patients would return with problems, only to discover that the dentist who treated them was no longer there.

[I kind of thought fantasy was for books only. So what does the good Doctor say when their present independent dentist disappears? At least it's easier to locate a whole company!]

Let's all have a moment of sympathy for the poor little Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control: they're depressed because Washington DC officials finally carried out their threats to curb the activities of Virginia's ABC agents, who have been staking out liquor stores in the city to nab those nasty weekend criminals who (heaven forbid!) have the gall to try to transport more than 1 gallon back into the commonwealth. The Washington City Council passed 90-day legislation on Dec. 4, and has indicated that the move will become permanent. ABC chairman Robert Grey contends in a suit filed in U.S. District Court in Washington that the new law is unconstitutional and an unreasonable use of police power (the NERVE!!). Hopefully, Virginia will have as much luck in court as did Maryland, which lost its court battle a few days ago on the same law.

TIDBITS USA

Sweet chastity! The fed government has spent \$39.3 million dollars to promote chastity and "morality" among the nation's swinging teenagers. Among the more hilarious and sad aspects of the program: \$2 million is being spent, this year, to research how adoption, parental and other influences cause teenage sex. Besides the fact that most teenagers engage in the illicit activity because they enjoy it (WHAT!), there are half a dozen studies already done on the subject. Why do we need this? The feds don't even know yet whether the program is doing what it was designed to do, for the ardent pro-lifer managing it, Marjory Mecklenburg, refuses to hire the research team Congress asked her to hire to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

Daggett, Calif.: The world's first privately owned and operated solar power plant will go on-line in the middle of January. The Solar Electrical Generating System, called SEGS-1, generated a healthy 1.7 megawatts of power in some pre-Christmas tests. That is enough to power 10,000 homes.

[Thus, some investors have just proven once again that massive federal and state outlays to promote renewable energy are unnecessary: as the price of fossil fuel rises gradually, it eventually makes solar more attractive--and voila!]

TIDBITS WORLD

Nazi Germany, Revisited: Mahmud Hossain, an Afghan who fled to Pakistan on Oct. 12 of this year, tells us the story of communist humanitarian aid: "About two months ago, Mujahedeen [guerrilla resistance fighters] near our village ambushed a Russian tank column. They hit three of them and destroyed one. So to get even, the Russians came [into the village] with machine guns and started shooting everyone they saw. There was blood all over."

Are You Sure You're in the Right Religion, John? Pope John Paul II puts Western consumerism in the same family as the prison camps of Empire Moscow: "There are many conditionings against freedom. One of these, a horrible conditioning which Solzhenitsyn presents us, is that of the prison camps, where there is no freedom but imposed slavery.

"But beyond this kind of...conditioning, there are others which come with apparent freedom, with the freedom of a world that wants to be independent.

"This freedom is also slavery. In the civilization of the rich countries, where there is not only a practice but a mentality of consumerism, each person can become a slave of this system of life."

[Newspeak?]

ELECTORAL COLLEGE MEETS

by Paul Hite

One of the final episodes in a Presidential race is the actual meeting of the College of Electors. This facet is seldom covered in any great detail by the press, and as a result most Libertarians know little or nothing about the specifics of the procedure. In order to find out how the College works, I did some research into Virginia's election laws and attended the meeting of the College.

This year the College met on December 17, 1984 ("the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December") in the Old Senate Chamber of the State Capitol Building. The room was rather small. The 12 electors had a large table at the front of the room. There were chairs for only 46 spectators, and there was little standing room. To my surprise, this was plenty of room. This was not an event that draws a crowd.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by the Secretary of the Board of Elections, Susan Fitz-Hugh. She called the roll and noted that one Elector was absent. She then read a message from

Governor Robb which basically thanked the Electors for their efforts and expressed regret that the Gov'nor couldn't attend the meeting.

The Electors were sworn in by the Hon. Robert Merhige, Jr., Judge of the US District Court. After the oaths had been administered, Ms. Fitz-Hugh chose one of the Electors as "Temporary Presiding Officer", and turned control of the meeting over to him.

An agenda was quickly adopted by the Electors, and the vacancy created by the missing Elector was filled. I was ready to offer my services, but unfortunately the Electors had brought spare Republicans with them. After the judge swore in the replacement, they chose the President and the Secretary of the College of Electors. The Temporary Presiding Officer turned control of the meeting over to the newly elected President, and at last, the College was ready to get down to business.

The first ballot was for President of the United States. Ms. Fitz-Hugh distributed ballots with "Ronald Reagan" already printed on them! She commented that blank ballots were available if desired. One Elector joked that "if anybody uses a blank ballot, they might want to arrange for an escort back home!" He probably remembers 1972, when Roger MacBride voted for Libertarian John Hospers instead of Republican Nixon. No such luck this time---they all voted Reagan. After the vote, the Secretary of the College of Electors read each vote and the names of the Elector that cast it. This is not a secret vote.

The next (and last) ballot was for Vice President of the United States. As expected, they all voted for George Bush.

The Electors signed six copies of documents which certify the result of the ballots. The remarkably efficient Secretary of the College of Electors already had the minutes of the meeting typed. The minutes were approved, the expense vouchers were signed, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

In case you're interested, the six sets of documents are distributed as follows:

- 1 set to George Bush, President of the Senate
- 2 sets to Laurie Naismith, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia
- 1 set to Robert Merhige Jr., Judge of the US District Court
- 2 sets to Ray Kline, Acting Administrator of General Services

And there is one more fact that Libertarians might be interested to know: In exchange for his 45 minutes of service, each Elector will receive \$50.00 plus expenses.

--- PAUL HITE

**IMPORTANT
PHONE NUMBERS**

713-492-6608 — LP News
advertising or news
number

713-686-1776 — Business
number, National Liber-
tarian Party

1-800-682-1776 — LP new
member information
number (outside
Texas)

Ballot Access Researcher: Phil Friday, Box 145, Urbanna, VA 23175

Libertarian Party Archives: University of Virginia Library

Volunteers needed to fill the following positions: 1) 1985 Convention Coordinator, 2) 5th District chairman, 3) newsletter editor (beginning mid-1985), 4) publicity chairman. LPVA HQ for info.

VIRGINIA LIBERTARIAN is the official newspaper of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. Opinions and articles printed herein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated. Please send all ads (note: please include payment with all ads. Fee schedule below.), articles, and newsletter mailing fees (\$10 per year) to: **LPVA Headquarters, 824 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220.***** Please make all checks payable to: **Libertarian Party of Virginia *****

DEADLINE for all submissions (ads, articles, news, etc.) is the 1st of every month.

AD RATES: Classifieds and personal ads .15/word; 1/8 page-\$4; 1/4 page-\$7; 1/2 page-\$13; full page-\$25. 10% discount for camera-ready or multi-issue ads. We will be glad to arrange for any of your typesetting needs.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF VIRGINIA CARD PLAN

I hereby authorize Bank to charge my account each month and pay to the Libertarian Party of Virginia the amount shown below.

Amount per month or week (circle one) \$ _____

Date of each month or day of each week payments should be charged:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Signature _____

Date signed _____

Visa or Mastercard (circle one) Account# _____

Expiration Date: _____

Thank You for your support of LPVA. Send this form to: LPVA, 824 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220.

YES! I want to support the efforts of the Virginia Libertarian Party! Enclosed is my contribution. Remember: one-half of your contribution up to \$100, (\$200 if you're married), qualifies as a credit for you to deduct from the total tax you owe. Would you rather send us \$100 (\$200 if married) and get \$50 (\$100) of your money back from IRS or let them keep it?. Please check the appropriate box(es):

Pledge: \$5 \$10 \$15 (other) \$ _____ per month for 12 24 months, beginning on _____, 1985.

\$10 Basic \$25 Sponsor \$50 Sustaining
 \$100 Supporting \$250 Donor \$500 Patron
 \$1000 Life (other) \$ _____

Please use my contribution for (check all that apply):

- Expanding newsletter circulation Fundraising efforts
- Education/Outreach materials Recruiting new members
- Whatever is most needed

I would like to help out by (check all that apply):

- Becoming a candidate for public office Petitioning
- Organising a local group Distributing Literature
- Helping out other libertarian candidates
- Sending letters-to-the-editor to my local newspapers

Name _____ Phone(____) _____
Address _____ Your Age _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

"I, _____ (signature) hereby certify that I do not practice nor advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or economic change."

Mail to: **LPVA, 824 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23220-9990**

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF VIRGINIA
824 West Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23220-9990

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Richmond, Va
Permit #213

17AU4
STEW ENGEL
OWENS, VA 22532

Address Correction Requested