

# California Activist '83

Bulletin of the Libertarian Party of California

Volume 2, # 5

401 E. Taylor Street, San Jose, CA 95112

August - September, 1983

## WRITERS HARNESS COMPUTER

Dick Rider  
San Diego

It dawned on my when I was preparing another boffo letter to the local newspaper on my home computer. Why not send the letter to more than one newspaper? After all, most of the work is in the composition. With my word processor I could send an "original" to each paper with very little extra effort.

Shortly thereafter, I casually mentioned my innocuous idea to our Executive Director, Marshall Fritz. BIG mistake! The next thing I knew he had talked with Immediate Past Chair Bill Evers, and between them they hit me with half a dozen brilliant improvements on my concept and talked me into chairing a statewide computer leverage effort.

Basically this project is to leverage our better libertarian writers with word processors to multiply their productivity, and to help those who choose to grow into OP/ED writers.

### I. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The idea here is simple. An individual writes an explicitly libertarian letter to the editor. This letter is mailed to a libertarian word processing person (initially me). Here the letter is typed and sent to a number newspapers.

Each letter is automatically addressed to the appropriate editor; both it and the envelope will have all the format characteristics of individually typed letters.

### II. LIBERTARIAN COLUMNIST

Our intermediate goal is to start submitting "Op-Ed" pieces similar to those of Cato Institute, Institute for Humane Studies and the Reason Foundation. Ours would differ in that we would emphasize California issues and be pointedly libertarian.

#### THE TEAM MEMBERS

I have been quite pleased with the excited response to an earlier call for volunteers. Bob Poole now sends us his op/ed piece. Alan Hemphill has offered us over 150 of his published columns. Here are the charter members of the team:

#### WRITERS

Roger Brown	San Diego
Howard Creighton	Marin
Bruce Daniel, DDS	Placer
Don Ellis	Los Angeles
Sally Foster	Los Angeles
Martha Gustafson	Fresno
Mark Hinkle	Santa Clara
Phyllus Kaskus	Los Angeles
Jim McClarin	Sacramento
John Vernon	Los Angeles
Frank Zoekler	San Diego

#### SUPPORT

Dick Rider	Chair
Ed Clark	Advisor
Bill Evers	Advisor
Bob Poole	Advisor

One feature of the project is that writers will be able to reach a libertarian advisor should they want to review a letter before it is mailed to the word processing leverage center.

### MEASURING SUCCESS

The first part of measuring success is to define it. Here are our initial goals:

Aug 1	Instruction kit mailed to the ltr-to-ed team
Sept 1	First statewide letter to a dozen papers
Oct 1	On bi-weekly schedule of statewide letters
Nov 1	First OP/ED piece mailed

A longer range goal is to prepare a regular editorial column and have it published consistently.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you want to join us as a writer, send your name and some samples of past successes. Also, soon we will need a 2nd word processing facility, so tell me about qualifications if that is a job you would like.



Dick Rider  
Private Ledger, Inc.  
3161 Fryden Ct.  
San Diego, CA 92117  
619-272-8240



## DEALING WITH THE TOUGH QUESTIONS

Steven Alexander  
Santa Clara

It's Candidate's Night, October 30, 1984, at the League of Women Voters. Three candidates are on stage; the Republican is bathed in sweat, the Democrat is weeping softly, and the Libertarian is smiling and confident. Half the audience is filling LPC membership forms. Then, THE QUESTION.

"You Libertarians, don't you want to legalize heroin, so even our children will get hooked on it?" Thinking quickly, the Libertarian whips out a Magnum .44, takes aim, and BAM! BAM! BAM! shoots himself in the foot.

### KNOCK OUT QUESTIONS

These are K.O. (knock-out) questions. We all get them as we try to sell our ideas in conversations and in campaigns. If we want people to vote Libertarian we must understand the questions, why people ask them, and how we should answer them.

K.O. questions usually deal with some issue on which many Americans agree, and we disagree. We may be right, but it takes long, hard explaining to prove it.

The issue is often emotional, and our listeners view our position as dangerous, absurd, or both. If we handle these questions poorly we set ourselves up for a knock-out.

The voter will quickly dismiss us, no matter how much sense we make on anything else. In the political arena, we first must pass the threshold of "reasonableness". Only then will we be allowed in the contest with other ideas, parties, and candidates.

We must qualify for the race before we can try to win it.

Major party candidates don't get these questions. Our candidates do because the asker knows that our answers will be unusual. After all, Republicans will boost free enterprise, Democrats will extoll civil rights, but who else will stand up for selling national parks?

Major party candidates are reasonable because they have brand name recognition. Libertarians start out with our reasonableness in question because we are new, different, and we have a reputation for strange beliefs.

The result? An above average voter will perform his civic duty to investigate us. He or she will gauge us against the test of reasonableness, and if we are found lacking, we are dismissed from further consideration.

How do you deflect the knock-out question? Simple: be reasonable as well as Libertarian. It's easy. There are three approaches:

1. By showing concern for the kind of society in which we wish to live;
2. By redefining the problem that troubles our questioner;
3. By showing that statism is unreasonable, and liberty is reasonable.

### 1. SHOW CONCERN

Our issue positions seem reasonable to us. Our task must be to make them reasonable to the uninitiated. To answer the heroin question with reasonable reasons we could say:

"Libertarians see that illegal drugs are like forbidden fruit, and are attractive to some people largely for this reason. This can be especially strong among young people. As children grow up they want to prove that they are independent, that they are adults, that they are cool, that they are not afraid to defy authority. Our government sends them this message, 'If you want to prove these things, try the big H.' To back this up, our government makes sure that heroin can only be bought from the toughest, meanest, most unscrupulous criminals. Valium, on the other hand, is legal. It's sold by your friendly pharmacist, and you don't see him pushing tranquilizers in schoolyards."

Notice the important omission in this speech. The Libertarian did not say "Legalize freedom, and let the chips fall where they may." The libertarian showed an interest in what is good for people, and said that illegal heroin was not good for people. At worst, our listener will decide we are wrong but reasonable; at best, that we are reasonable and right.

### 2. REDEFINE THE PROBLEM

Another approach to K.O. questions is to expand our answer to address the big picture rather than an embarrassing detail. Why talk about pushers in the playground when we can attack the Drug Enforcement Agency?

"Libertarians are very concerned with the drug problem in today's society. Heroin abuse is a nasty habit that will be with us always. Government's attempt to stamp it out has been like Prohibition --- a lot of criminals have gotten rich, the drug has developed a glamorous reputation, drug use has spread, and drug users have gone to jail. We don't think these are desirable solutions to the drug problem. We believe that legalization will bankrupt the Mafia, return heroin to near obscurity, and cut the muggings and burglaries that go on to finance the addictions."





## LOTTERY MAKES \$480

Jim McClarin  
Sacramento

If we do not argue that the world will be better with liberty because of liberty, we should not expect support. If we want support, liberty cannot be just intangibly, theoretically, morally good. It must be good for the people. And it is, so why not say so?

### 3. PUT SHOE ON OTHER FOOT

The third approach is to put the shoe on the other foot. Statism is not reasonable. Let us point that out. Many attacks on libertarianism have the bizarre premise that everything is fine now, and we are going to ruin everything. People ask how murder would be prevented in a society where each person is a self ruler. I ask how murder is prevented under the state apparatus?

Again using the heroin example, try: "A fanatic is someone who redoubles his efforts when he has forgotten his purpose. Our government is obsessed with drug use. Their efforts to stamp it out have made it grow. The smugglers and pushers are getting rich because drugs are illegal. Usage has spread from slum to suburb, from adult to college to high school to grade school, from outcasts to majority. It is crazy. The government wants to boost its efforts. Libertarians say, 'Let's not make the problem worse. Repeal the Prohibition.'"

### FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY

We libertarians need not shoot ourselves in the foot. We have answers that are reasonable and humane. We need not compromise our integrity either. It is not a sell-out to empathize with the fears and concerns of our listeners. When the next knock-out question comes your way, "float like a butterfly, don't sting like a bee".

Steve Alexander is a software development manager. He studied philosophy under Nozick at Harvard.

Sacramento Libertarians have grossed \$480.00 in 3 winner take half Supper Club lotteries. This buys dinner for the speaker and puts \$ in the treasury. Here's how to do it:

Buy a roll of numbered double raffle tickets for about \$3.35 and take them to the next supper. As the first arrivals begin to wet their throats on cocktails, approach them nonchalantly and ask if they'd like to "Get in on our illegal lottery - winner take half - one ticket for \$5.00, three tickets for \$10.00 and eight tickets for \$20.00."

Don't hard-sell or cause anyone to feel embarrassed if they don't buy. Most will buy at least one ticket, however. Here are three helpful hints:

1. Speakers get a free ticket
2. Drawing should be final event of evening
3. Winners can't donate winnings to treasury. It kills the greed incentive.

Jim McClarin is the Immediate Past Chair of the Sacramento Libertarian Central Committee.

"Manners are of more importance than laws. Upon them, in a great measure, the laws depend. The law touches us but here and there, and now and then. Manners are what vex or soothe, corrupt or purify, exalt or debase, barbarize or refine us, by a constant, steady, uniform, insensible operation, like that of the air we breathe in. They give their whole form and color to our lives. According to their quality, they aid morals, they supply them, or they totally destroy them."

Edmund Burke

(Submitted by Taylor Rhodes, L.A. 62 - West Los Angeles; Taylor says "Time spent reading Burke is never wasted.")

## SHERATON-UNIVERSAL IN 1984

Bob Lehman  
L.A. 64 (Central Los Angeles)

The 1984 LPC Convention Committee has contracted with the Sheraton-Universal Hotel in Universal City to host the 1984 LPC Convention, "A Tribute to Our Libertarian Heritage", February 17 - 20.

100 guest rooms, many with panoramic views of the San Fernando Valley, have been blocked for the three nights of the convention at incredibly low rates of \$58, single or double.

Nestled in the Hollywood Hills, the Sheraton-Universal is within walking distance of several Hollywood landmarks, including the world famous Universal Studios Tour, the Universal Amphitheatre, Womphoppers Wagon Works Restaurant, and the new Getty Plaza.

### WHEN DID YOU FIRST DO IT?

When did you first use the word "libertarian" about yourself? What led you to use it? How long did it take from when you first heard the word?

Which people were instrumental in your development, through discussions or writings? Were there any difficult issues in becoming a libertarian? How did you get over those hurdles, by reading, discussing, or some other way?

In what ways have you benefited by being a libertarian? In what ways have you benefited by being a member of the Libertarian Party?

If you have an interesting story to tell, write it down. Send it to me. Please note if it is OK to publicly quote you in a brochure or advertisement. I have two reasons for asking: 1) it will help those of us who are designing new outreach techniques; 2) we will be publishing a "WHY JOIN THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY" brochure very soon, and we need 7 good "testimonials".

Marshall William Fritz  
5533 E Swift Ave  
Fresno, CA 93727  
209 - 292-6700



WANTED:  
SPEECHES & QUOTATIONS

Chuck Olson  
Santa Clara

I am compiling a source book of good libertarian speeches and quotations. Maybe you can help me by sending the transcript of a speech or some of your favorite quotations.

The speeches will be of varying lengths and will deal with specific topics as well as libertarianism in general. As far as possible, the book will offer several different length speeches for each topic.

You will be acknowledged if you contribute a speech that appears in the book.

Useful quotations are also wanted. The quotations need not be libertarian; in fact, some of the most useful quotations are those made by famous politicians. Quotations should be referenced with name of person quoted, the year, and the name of the book (or magazine) in which the quotation appeared.

Please send all to address below, or simply bring them to the booth of the LP National HQ at the National Convention in New York.

Chuck Olson  
416 Leland Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Chuck Olson has been an active member of LP since 79; he was a candidate for Assembly in '80, and US Congress in '82.

BE A CLIPPER

Elsewhere in this issue of C.A. is an article about our new leveraged letter to the editor project chaired by Dick Rider. A hurdle he faces is how to measure the success of their efforts. Of course he will count the number of letters sent, but the real measure is how many are printed.

You can help by joining the CLIPPER CLUB. As a clipper, you read and clip any article or letter in a specific newspaper that mentions "libertarian". You can volunteer for "all", "even", or "odd" days for the newspaper of your choice.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Mary Gingell

I'm looking for people to volunteer for two different activities to the make the California delegation's participation in the upcoming national convention as smooth and productive as possible.

First of all, anyone with a love for detail and an orderly mind, I need your help in keeping track of our delegation on the floor, especially during roll-call votes. In order to substitute alternates properly for delegates not on the floor and to ensure that California exercises its full voting strength and does so correctly, we need volunteers to oversee the delegate tracking system. Call me at 415-494-0140, or check in with me on the convention floor, if you can help with this vital but mammoth project.

For the more journalistically-minded convention-goer, we'd like you to volunteer to write up a brief summary of any good convention seminars or workshops you attend that you feel might be worth inclusion in the October California Activist. The simplest way to do this is just to write up your comments while you're in New York, and hand it to me there. If your convention schedule is too busy for that, just send your article to Marshall Fritz after you complete it. Let me know what seminars you'd like to write up, or check with me ahead of time if you're wondering whether a popular session is already being documented by another Californian. Be sure to include names of the speaker(s) and your name so we can give you proper credit.

See you all in NYC!

CALIFORNIA ACTIVIST '83 is a publication dedicated primarily to presenting the "nuts and bolts" of political action for members of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of California. Potential contributors to this newsletter are invited to call Mary Gingell or Marshall Fritz to discuss their proposed article.

# 1

SAN DIEGO CONCEDES FRESNO # 1

The new member contest closed with San Diego managing 7, edged by Fresno who secured 12 new members during the 2 month contest period. Be watching as San Diego Chair Perry Willis and Fresno Chair Virgil Strait both wear FRESNO IS # 1 buttons at the August Excomm.

The National Taxpayer's Union reports the liability for the national debt, based on 80 million real taxpayers, is about \$151,000 each. Submitted by Jim Wilson, Chair, Santa Clara.

"The libertarians sure have a lot of ideas. One of them must be good."  
Joe Cude

Joe Cude is a Realtor in Clovis, California; Joe is not of the libertarian persuasion.

SADNESS

If you have come to enjoy reading CALIFORNIA ACTIVIST, you will be sad in September because this is a combined August/September issue, and your next C.A. will be the October issue.



NEW YORK CONVENTION  
COMING SOON

(Reprinted from LIBERCAL, August, 1983)

It's almost time again for the Libertarian Party's biennial national convention. This year it will be held from August 29 to September 5 at the Sheraton Center Hotel, 7th Ave. and 52nd St., in New York City.

This is the first "long" convention to be planned, wherein there are three days of panels, seminars, and speeches before the business portion begins. This will give committed delegates a chance to participate in these activities as well.

Among the luminaries who will speak at the convention are Ed Clark, Alicia Clark, Tonie Nathan, David Bergland, Robert Poole, David Friedman, Jeff Hummel, David Nolan, Murray Rothbard, Bill Hunscher, Dr. Thomas Szasz, Dr. Peter Breggin, Irwin Schiff, and Ed Crane.

The business meeting will begin Thursday, September 1 with a keynote address by Dick Randolph, followed by debate on proposed changes to the LP's by-laws. That day there will be a debate between Paul Grant of Colorado and Vernon Etzel of Delaware --the candidates for national chair, followed by a party and show at the Brooklyn Bridge.

On Friday, delegates will debate proposed changes to the LP's platform. Controversies are expected on such issues as nuclear disarmament, repudiating the national debt, childrens' rights, and Social Security. Later there will be a debate between Gene Burns of Florida and James Norwood of Texas --the candidates for the presidential nomination, followed by a cocktail party saluting Reason and Inquiry magazines.

On Saturday morning delegates will select the candidates for president and vice-president, who will be honored at the gala banquet that evening. On Sunday, delegates will select the party officers and National Committee members for 1983-85.

Plan now to attend these exciting and stimulating events. Convention packets are available from \$195 to \$295, with individual tickets also available. If you haven't gotten a convention brochure, write to Prescon '83, P. O. Box 429, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013, or call (212) 226-6483.

Hotel rates at the Sheraton Center are \$69/single or \$82/double. For reservations, call (800) 223-6550. The California delegation has reserved a block of rooms at the nearby Taft Hotel. Rates are \$35/single or \$40/double. For reservations, call (800) 223-9844.

**YES!!!** I understand that we must have a strong monthly pledge program to maintain a growing state organization and spread the message of freedom throughout California. I'll do my part by pledging the following amount each month:

\$100     \$39(1% Club)     \$20.20(20/20 Club)     \$10.39(1039 Club)  
 \$5.55(Good Nickel Club)     Other

I'm enclosing a check for my first month's pledge. I'll be expecting monthly reminders.

Please bill my credit card each month:

VISA                       Master Card

\_\_\_\_\_ Card Number                      \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: home--(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ office--(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Libertarian Party of California, 401 East Taylor St., San Jose, CA 95112

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA

## Central Committee Membership Application

401 East Taylor Street, San Jose, CA 95112

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address  h  w \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone  h  w \_\_\_\_\_ Residence County \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be a member in  my residence county or  
 \_\_\_\_\_ County.

I am not registered to vote.

I am registered Decline to State.

I am registered to vote in the \_\_\_\_\_ Party.

Please send a voter registration card.

*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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type	California Dues and Newsletter	Combined Membership California/National
Student/Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
Regular/Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00
Sustaining	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00
Life/Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1500.00

A subscription to the newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California and the local county is included in all memberships.

Membership dues only—no newsletter—minus \$10.00. \_\_\_\_\_

Nonmember newsletter subscription—\$15.00. \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation to help support the LPC. \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

### LPC OFFICERS & STAFF

Mary Gingell, Chair  
933 Colorado, Palo Alto 94303  
415-494-0140

Eric Garris, Northern Vice Chair  
1800 Market St, S.F. 94102  
415-864-0952

Melinda Pillsbury-Foster  
Southern Vice Chair  
7019 ChimIneas, Reseda 91335  
213-342-9716

Carolyn Treynor, Secretary  
629 19th St, Man. Beach 90266  
213-546-2846

Sam Treynor, Treasurer  
629 19th St, Manhattan Bch 90266  
213-546-2846

Karen Huffman, Office Coordinator  
401 E. Taylor, San Jose 95112  
408-CRY-FREE

Marshall Fritz, Executive Dir.  
5533 E. Swift, Fresno 93727  
209-292-6700

### Libertarian Headquarters

401 East Taylor Street  
San Jose, California 95112

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"There is one difference between a tax collector and a taxidermist --- the taxidermist leaves the hide.

MORTIMER CAPLIN  
Former Director of the IRS

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
San Jose, CA  
Permit No 4040