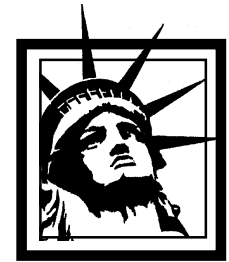


LPC Monthly



The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

July 2000

OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH UPDATE: LPC Uses Government Audit to Target Special District Offices

The LPC continues to move forward with its ambitious candidate recruitment project, Operation Breakthrough, even as the start of the candidate filing period quickly approaches. Among the developments, the LPC: has found a voter registration data firm and will be contracting with that firm to do a mailing to registered Libertarians; has identified

been mailed to the highest propensity registered Libertarians who also live in one of the districts that will be voting in November.

To complete the mailing, Ros spent several days contacting the 26 counties being targeted and requesting lists of all nonpartisan offices to be voted on in November. From that data, Ros was able to compile a master list of 1,392 offices, including: 246 cities, 11 county offices, 540 school districts, and 595 special districts.

There are 2,218 independent special districts in California and often they are the least competitive races. For example, in Sacramento County, far fewer candidates filed for each special district than for city council seats.

About \$4,000 has been raised to fund Operation Breakthrough, but more is needed. "Mailing to 10,000 registered Libertarians will cost about \$5,000. Follow-up phone efforts will cost about as much as the mailing. Finally, since special district candidates have the opportunity to provide a printed candidate statement in the ballot pamphlet, the LPC may want to help defray the costs of some of those candidate statements, which average about \$200 each," Ros said. "So we have a long way to go before Operation Breakthrough is fully funded." ■

Special districts provide perfect opportunities for Libertarians to get in on the ground floor of government and make a real impact!

nearly 1,400 nonpartisan offices that will be voted on in November; has raised over \$4,000 to fund the project; and is using a government audit to back up the project's fundamental strategy.


"Because of the compressed time frame to identify and recruit 100 nonpartisan candidates, we've had to step up our efforts," said LPC executive director Juan Ros. "But everything is on track.

Ros and Aaron Starr realized that by targeting just 26 counties, they can reach approximately 90% of the high-propensity registered Libertarians in California. Ros is working on a candidate recruitment letter to

"The keys to the success of this project are the special district offices," Ros explained. "Those are the races that are most winnable, are the easiest to qualify for the ballot, and are the least competitive. Our first choice for candidates is to run for a special district seat."

"Libertarians can help cut waste and bureaucracy within a special district and help save local taxpayers money. A number of Libertarians are currently serving in special districts, including Dennis Schlumpf (Tahoe City Public Utility District), Richard Akin (El Dorado Irrigation District), and Lois Engel (Ophir Hill Fire District). Lou Villadsen (on page 2) tells how she was elected to a special district which she then helped to dismantle!

Libertarians mourn the tragic loss of Peter McWilliams.
Please see page 4.
Web sites on page 7



New Office for the LPC

The LPC has moved into the Titus Building in Panorama City. Director Juan Ros and newly-hired Administrative Assistant Alex Goldburt have set up a simple but efficient office. Now the LPC has room so that volunteers can donate time to help spread the Libertarian message! See page 6 for more information.



**REMINDER:
QUACKENBUSH RECALL**
Petition now available at
<http://www.peoplesveto.org/>
and <http://www.sandiwebb.com/recall>

Contents

- ▲ Calendar 4
- ▲ Candidates 9
- ▲ Chair's Report 3
- ▲ Letters to the Editor 2
- ▲ LPC Contacts 10, 11
- ▲ Politics As Usual 8
- ▲ Thank You to Donors/Pledgers 7
- ▲ Web Sites 7

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2600 Virginia Ave. NW

Suite #100

Washington DC 20037

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Note: Operation Breakthrough, the LPC's current candidate recruitment project, is targeting special districts (see front page).

A (SMALL) LIBERTARIAN SUCCESS STORY

It's been almost 15 years, now, but I think I'm still the only Libertarian Party office holder ever to have been elected to a special district — and then dissolve it. Credit must be given to Bob Poole, president of Reason Foundation, who provided uncounted hours of consulting services, every step of the way. (Reason Foundation staff still provides help to Libertarian officeholders, but I have the advantage of being married to Bob.)

In 1983, we were living in the Mission Canyon area of Santa Barbara, a high-risk area for fires, and the County had persuaded the 1000+ households to create a special district that would pay for an "extra" fire station, operated by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. Residents of the District paid about \$200 per year extra for this "service."

It turned out that all three seats on the District board were open, and only three people qualified for the ballot, so we were automatically appointed. Amazingly, the other two board members were *Reason* magazine readers, which made my job much easier: I wasn't the lone nutcase talking about contracting out or privatization. Over the past 15 years, those ideas have become much more respectable, so Libertarians today can expect to be taken seriously. We've come a long way.

Once the special district assessment was coming to an end, the proposed renewal would automatically be on the ballot. Imagine the Fire Department's surprise when we Board members sent out a mailing, telling the voters that the District was an unnecessary luxury, not worth what we were paying, and providing the facts to back up our assertion.

Facts, in this case, spoke more loudly than the emotional plea by the Fire Department, and the assessment was voted down by a large margin. Without the assessment, the District had no purpose, and the dissolution was simply a matter of paperwork. The whole thing took about 2-1/2 years, from start to finish.

Writing this has gotten me fired up to try again sometime. I learned a lot about how things really work in government, and (even better) I will forever be a Libertarian success story. *Lou Villadsen*

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE!

I support Governor Gray Davis' proposed elimination of income taxes for public school teachers. After that exception is passed, others will demand the same privilege:

First the private school teachers who earn less income while accomplishing more;
then the doctors and nurses who heal the children;
then the bus drivers who transport them;
then the cross-walk guards who protect them to and from school;
then the school cafeteria personnel who feed them;
then the school maintenance who care for their schools;
then the police who force them to attend public school;
then the parents who nurture them;
then the food store employees who provide them with sustenance;
then the building contractors who provide them with a home;
etcetera until there is no income tax in California.

Bill Holmes

HI FREEDOM LOVERS,

The Libertarian Party of California's statement of purpose (from the bylaws) reads as follows: "The Party exists to uphold, promote, and disseminate the philosophy and principles of libertarianism. To that end, it will proclaim and implement the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party by engaging in political and informational activities in California."

Obviously, electing candidates is only one of **many** ways to fulfill this mission, and our bylaws make that clear by mentioning candidates only in points F and G following the statement of purpose.

Why am I mentioning this? Because from time to time I see a post which seems to presume that electing candidates is the sole or most important purpose of the Libertarian Party. As a Libertarian candidate, I feel it behooves me to remind others that this is not what our governing document says. Nor should it be!

Liberty by any honest means necessary,

Starchild, Libertarian Candidate for State Assembly, District 13



NOTABLE QUOTABLE

"Guns are the poor man's bodyguard."

Columnist John R. Lott, Jr., Los Angeles Times. In his column noting Rosie O'Donnell's hypocrisy of calling for a ban on guns while supporting her bodyguard's carrying of one.

OPINION

From the Chair:

We, as a Party, set two main internal goals this year:

1. Increase our dues-paying membership to 7,000
2. Increase our monthly pledge base to \$6,000 per month



MARK HINKLE

Goal 1: At the end of May 2000 we had 6352 LPC members. This number is slightly more than May of last year but still far below our goal of 7000 members.

Goal 2: Both of our fund raising letters this year have turned a profit, and nice ones at that. But, there's no time for a rest, so Juan Ros is putting together another one to keep us funded through the normal slow summer months. Historically, that's not the case during presidential election years. I'm pleased that each new fund-raising letter has been bringing in new monthly pledgers. The new monthly pledge total is now \$4862., up \$256 from last month

when our pledges totaled \$4606. Our new pledgers are listed on page 7.

LPC has endorsed the goal of running 200 candidates in 2000: As part of the Libertarian National Committee's goal of 2,000 candidates in the year 2000, the LPC Executive Committee has set a goal of 200 candidates in the year 2000. We already know about 125 candidates. By the time you read this, Operation Breakthrough will be in full swing. Please give us your full support either by being a candidate or helping us find, recruit, and support candidates in winnable races. If Operation Breakthrough works well, we'll be able to do it again and again. Because nothing sells like success. And that's what we're aiming to do! Your support gave us the resources to make that happen. Thanks!


So, please join our monthly credit card pledge program and help us elect Libertarians to office this year. Think of it as an investment in your future freedom. Let's make that day of freedom sooner, rather than later. Shall we?

Your participation and contributions fuel our successes

Yours in liberty, Mark W. A. Hinkle


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July 2000

QUICK CHANGE

LPC members
can update information at
<http://www.ca.lp.org/lpc-member-services.html>

Renew membership, address change,
contribute, plus, plus.

Libertarian Party Online Discussion

Campaigns, Strategy, Platform
<http://www.dehnbase.org/lpc/>

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"Supporting Open Communication
Among LPC Activists since 1994"

Advertise in this Newsletter!

Reach over 7,000 Libertarians with your product or your message!

\$75 for 1/8 page (3.75"x2.25")

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\$250 for 1/2 page (7.5"x5")

\$500 for a full page (7.5"x10")

(Sizes as above or equivalent).

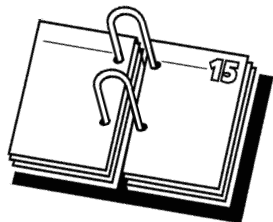
Inserts are \$500 plus printing cost

We reserve the right to refuse ads.

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4244 Mt. Hukee
SD CA 92117

CALENDAR

June 30 to July 4, Anaheim
Libertarian Party National Convention will be held in Anaheim. California has 256 delegates. Web site: www.lp.org/conv/2000/



Sunday, July 2, Anderson

Barbecue at Anderson River Park. Sponsored by LPC Region 45 for persons unable to attend the National Convention. Contact Dwight Bailey at (530) 275-8258 or WiseGuyTwo@aol.com or 13623 Creek Trail, Redding CA 96003.

Monday, July 3,

Decriminalization Day: dedicated to the legalization of medical marijuana.

Tuesday, July 4,

Meeting of the **LPC Executive Committee.**

July 15 & 16, Del Mar

Gun Show at Fairgrounds.

Saturday, July 22, San Diego

Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade, starts at noon on University Avenue at Normal Street.

July 23 - 28, London Ontario Canada

International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) will celebrate their 20th Anniversary World Libertarian Conference at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada. For more information: E-mail: info@libertyconferences.com Web site: www.libertyconferences.com Toll-free 800-226-2405.

July 29 – August 4, San Diego

The Cato Institute one-week seminar at the Rancho Bernardo Inn, (202) 218-4633 or Imajor@cato.org.

August 26 – 27, Fresno

Conference of Regional Parties to be held in Fresno. Minimum cost to attendees. Hosted by Rodney Austin, Northern Vice Chair.

September 15, 16, 17, Las Vegas

The Great Western Gun Show, which is advertised as the world's largest firearms, blade and militaria show, will be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Nevada. The show was denied use of the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds this year. Web site: www.greatwesternshow.com. E-mail: info@greatwesternshow.com.

October 7 & 8, San Diego

Gun Show at Del Mar Fairgrounds.



NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

The current budget allows the following schedule for printing this newsletter: July, August (online only), September, October (online only), November, December (online only).

All issues are online at <http://www.ca.lp.org/lpcm/>

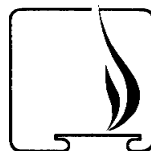
August, October and December issues will be available online only.

Peter McWilliams: A True Hero, Even in Death, Killed by the Courts

Below are a few excerpts from the many letters received about the death of Peter McWilliams, age 50. He was the best-selling author of *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do*, *How to Survive the Loss of a Love*, and *The Personal Computer Book* among others. Several web sites celebrating his life, work, and books are listed on page 7.



Martyred marijuana activist Peter McWilliams sported a "Marijuana Medic on Duty" T-shirt.



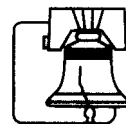
Peter died June 14 at his home in Los Angeles. The preliminary cause of death was listed as asphyxiation. It appears that he was alone, vomited and was unable, in his weakened state, to clear his airway. He fought a long battle over medical marijuana and hopefully now, he is at peace – no longer suffering from physical pain and government-induced emotional trauma. Good bye, Peter. We won't give up the fight.

Dennis Triglia, AMMA/San Diego Director

McWilliams was an outspoken advocate of medical marijuana. He was diagnosed with AIDS and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and used medical marijuana to combat the nausea caused by his medical treatments. His loss opens a gaping hole in the fabric of liberty, but his memory will live on not only in the hearts of grateful Libertarians but also in the lives of the countless patients who will take up the crusade for health freedom."

Juan Ros, Executive Director, LPC

Peter McWilliams...was murdered by the War on Drugs. Peter McWilliams would not be dead today if not for the heartless, lethal War on Drugs. *Steve Dasbach, LP National Director*



Solving the income tax — Dave Barry style

How to simplify tax law: Every April 15, lock all members of Congress in prison cells with tax forms and the tax code. Keep them there, "without food or water, until they had completed their tax returns and successfully undergone a full IRS audit." Naturally, Mr. Barry says, "this system would probably result in a severe shortage of Congresspersons...But there might also be some drawbacks."

AROUND THE STATE



HOLLIST FIELDS QUESTIONS

Dave Hollist, candidate for the Libertarian Presidential nomination, spent the day on a football field just a few miles from his home surrounded by the graduating class of Chaffey High School, his wife's alma mater. Hollist was invited to "Seniors Meet the Parties."

Hollist answered questions and handed out his flyers to new voters. Julie John, Public Relations Director for the LP of San Bernardino County and David Kocot, State Assembly Candidate also helped to distribute voter registration forms and answer questions.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET

Tax cuts? Californian families will pay \$2,100 more in taxes to support this government gluttony, but they're supposed to be grateful for an average \$200 one-time rebate and a \$100 tax cut. As Jonathan Coupel of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Organization said, the legislature found a wallet with \$100, and returns it to the owner with \$15. *Assemblyman Tom McClintock*

FREEDOM EQUALS

Freedom in a political context, means freedom from government coercion, it does not mean freedom from the landlord, freedom from the employers, or freedom from the laws of nature which do not provide men with automatic prosperity. It means freedom from the coercive power of the state - and nothing else.

Ayn Rand (1905-1982)

UNUSUAL BUT USEFUL WORD

Kakistocracy (kak-i-STOK-ruh-see), noun meaning Government by the least qualified or most unprincipled citizens. From the Greek "Kakistos": worst, superlative of Kakos, bad and "Cracy": Government, rule.

A Word A Day, wsmith@wordsmith.org

LIBERTARIAN ACTIVISTS ARE HONORED WITH LIGHT OF LIBERTY AWARDS

Congratulations to the California activists who made the Advocates for Self-government's "Light of Liberty" award. The 1999 awards were given by the Advocates for Self-Government to Libertarians who accomplished ANY ONE of these three vital outreach activities:

1. Three or more letters published in newspapers or magazines that used the words "libertarian" or "libertarianism" in a positive light.
2. Three or more prepared libertarian speeches delivered to a predominately non-libertarian audience.
3. Participation in three or more Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) booths. OPH is an Advocates outreach tool that is widely used by Libertarians in booths.

Qualified in all three activities

Vince Carlton

Qualified in two activities

Richard Boddie

Ron Drioane

J.R. Graham

David Graham

Mark Hilgenberg

Paul Marsden

Doug Scribner

Scott A. Wilson

Qualified in one activity

Brian Lee Cross

Harry Friend

Sharon Friend

Ryan Gifford

Jack Hickey

Mike Hodges

Greg Howell

Steve Kubby

Jeffrey Laing

Gordon McGilvray

Rick Newhouse

David Nolan

Geoff Olsen

Ric Pinkerton

Rick Root

Eric Schanke

Kelly Russell Simpson

Paul Studier

William Todd

Stephen Zinn

Jonathan Zwickel

One Californian, Vince Carlton, was a "Triathlon" winner by qualifying in all three categories. Only five people in the whole country earned this honor. Way to go Vince!

For more information about the Advocates for Self-Government: <http://www.self-gov.org/>

Mark Hilgenberg, Secretary, San Fernando LP



Memorial Day Picnic was held at Mission Bay in San Diego. Early-birds help set-up camp. About 50 to 60 Libertarians shared the festivities.

AROUND THE STATE

LPC has New Administrative Assistant and New Office!

ROS SETS UP NEW OFFICE, FOCUSES ON MEDIA, CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT



JUAN ROS

LPC Executive Director Juan Ros moved into the new LPC office, hired an assistant, and focused on candidate recruitment and media in a hectic month filled with a flurry of activity.

“This is a new start for the LPC,” Ros said. “We have a great new work location, a great new staff member, are embarking on a new strategy for success through Operation Breakthrough – so we’ll be well prepared for the attention we expect to generate during the November election!”

Ros spent time last month setting up the LPC’s Los Angeles-area office, including purchasing furniture and equipment. “The office is small but very functional. I want it to be inviting, a place of which Libertarians can feel proud. Having a permanent base of operations is a wonderful accomplishment for the LPC.”

After two years of working as the LPC’s lone paid staff, Ros hired Alex Goldburt to serve as the LPC’s part-time Administrative Assistant. “This is another step forward for the LPC. Adding additional staff will make our party more efficient and better able to serve the needs of our members. I will also be freed of much of the administrative work I had been doing, and focus more on my key responsibilities: media outreach, regional development, campaigns and elections, and fund-raising,” Ros said.

Ros spent many hours contacting county registrars as part of the LPC’s candidate recruitment project, Operation Breakthrough. He was also successful in identifying two more Libertarian Party contacts in inactive counties: Ronald Thompson in Del Norte County and Harold White in Glenn County. “Ronald and Harold deserve the thanks of all California Libertarians,” Ros commented. “We now have a LP presence in two more counties and can work on building up those counties into successful, active regions.”

With Del Norte and Glenn on board, that leaves only three counties with no LP contact: Colusa, Kings, and Lassen. “Our hope is that

voter interest this year will lead to membership growth in those counties and that contacts can quickly be identified,” Ros said.

After weeks of little media activity due to competing projects, Ros accelerated his media outreach in June, resulting in several media appearances and a published editorial. He issued four news releases within a space of ten days, on issues ranging from a tax subsidy for low-budget films to the death of Peter McWilliams. An editorial he wrote on the Microsoft antitrust case appeared in *The Los Angeles Daily News* on May 12. The film subsidy story resulted in a print interview published in *The Los Angeles Daily News* and a taped interview replayed during the newscasts on KABC-AM, also in Los Angeles.

A news release on a state bill that would tax Internet commerce was featured in a newscast on San Francisco’s Hot Talk KSFO-AM, mentioning state chair Mark Hinkle by name.

A third release criticizing a bill that would mandate that young children endure intrusive questioning by school bureaucrats sparked interest from San Luis Obispo’s KSBY-TV and from syndicated talk radio host Dave Alan, whose show is heard on 25 stations nationally.

“There are so many good issues for the LPC to attack! It is important for the LPC to take the lead on a lot of these issues and demonstrate that we will fight for everyone’s liberty on all issues, all the time,” Ros said.

Ros was interviewed for a show on Campaign 2000 by San Francisco’s KQED-FM. He also appeared on KATD-AM out of Concord, introducing listeners to the LP and its positions on the issues.

“The more talk radio I do, the more I realize that a great many hosts are either declaring themselves to be Libertarian or are extremely sympathetic to the party and agree with us on many issues,” Ros noted. “That’s an encouraging trend!”

Ros will spend most of the coming month identifying and recruiting candidates for local office. “It’s the most important thing we as a political party can do – run candidates. I have a feeling this November is really going to be a watershed election for us!”



LPC Welcomes Alexandra “Alex” Goldburt, New LPC Administrative Assistant in New LPC Office!

The LPC welcomes Alexandra Goldburt as our Administrative Assistant. Her responsibilities will include bookkeeping and data entry, processing the LPC’s Monthly Pledge Program, membership services, answering the telephone, filing, and assisting Ros. “There is nothing I desire more than an opportunity to work for the Libertarian Party. I have a life-long passion for the cause of liberty, and am happy to devote my talents to the advancement of it,” Goldburt said.

Goldburt emigrated to the U.S. from Russia in 1988. She registered Libertarian in 1995 when she became eligible to vote. Goldburt holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics/Accounting. Prior to joining the LPC staff, Goldburt worked as a bookkeeper/office manager and receptionist/staff accountant.

Alex can be reached Monday through Wednesday at the LPC’s NEW office in Panorama City, (818) 782-8400.

AROUND THE STATE

WORTHY WEB SITES!

QUACKENBUSH RECALL

Petition now available. Be sure to print, sign and circulate.

<http://www.peoplesveto.org/>

<http://www.sandiwebb.com/recall>

PETER MCWILLIAMS

<http://www.petertrial.com>

<http://www.mcwilliams.com>

GET GOVERNMENT OUT OF HI-TECH

<http://www.techleadership.org>

LP NATIONAL CONVENTION

Delegates info:

<http://www.lp.org/conv/2000/>

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL

New site is looking great:

<http://www.lp.org>

GUN OWNERS HOME PAGE

<http://www.KeepAndBearArms.com>

CLICHÉS OF POLITICS

<http://www.cliches.org/>

STEVE KUBBY TRIAL AND INFO

<http://www.kubby.com/AMMA.html>

ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

<http://www.self-gov.org/>

Contributors to this column include Mark Hilgenberg, Steve Kubby, Adam Mendelsohn, Kristi Stone, and Sandi Webb.



To join our Monthly Pledge Program or contribute to Operation Breakthrough, or make a contribution, please contact Juan Ros at (818) 782-8400, or e-mail: director@ca.lp.org.

Monthly Pledge Watch: Pledges Increase by \$256

Beginning this month, LPC Monthly will publish the names of Libertarians who join our state Monthly Pledge Program. Their continuing support allows the LPC to launch new projects, fund existing operations, and help spread the Libertarian Party's message of individual liberty and limited government.

Thank you to the following new state Monthly Pledgers, or current Pledgers who increased their monthly contribution:

Jason Baron
Bruce Dovner
Glen Galinda
Philip Goldman
Andrew Key
John Klener
Dan Litwin
James McKendrick
Thomas Parks
Jeanette Richards
Ruby Tietze
William Tomasek
O. Robert Welch

Want to pledge every month to the LPC? Monthly Pledges charged to a debit or credit card will automatically renew your national LP membership (\$10 per month minimum).

Operation Breakthrough Moves Ahead

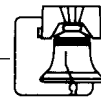
The Libertarian Party of California thanks the following individuals who generously contributed to our Operation Breakthrough (more information on front page) candidate recruitment project:

Darrell D. Gentry
Jeffrey A. Meacham
John W. Montgomery
Kelley L. Ross
Joe & Karen Styres
Calvin Wallis

Your support is gratefully appreciated!

Other Contributions

An anonymous contribution was donated to honor the memory of Peter McWilliams.



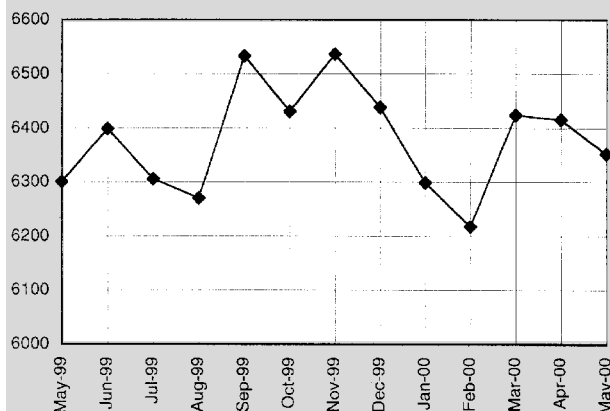
INTERNS/VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

- Want to help the Libertarian Party of California?
- Need to complete an internship for high school or college credit?
- Can you spare a few hours a week to help the Libertarian Party spread its message?

If so, and you live in the Los Angeles area, you may be able to volunteer or intern with the LPC!

If you are interested, contact LPC Executive Director Juan Ros to schedule an interview at (818) 782-8400, e-mail: director@ca.lp.org.

Growth Watch Goal: 7,000 Membership May 31, 2000: 6352



Month	Membership
May-00	6352
Apr-00	6415
Mar-00	6424
Feb-00	6217
Jan-00	6298
Dec-99	6438
Nov-99	6536
Oct-99	6430
Sep-99	6532
Aug-99	6270
Jul-99	6305
Jun-99	6399
May-99	6300



AROUND THE GLOBE

POLITICS AS USUAL

IRS Flunks Privacy

The Internal Revenue Service violated its own code and the federal Privacy Act by improperly disclosing tax data on 1,391 taxpayers to an accountant. The IRS sent information including their names, Social Security numbers, tax liabilities and taxable income to a CPA who had requested information about 50 of his clients. IRS district director James Walsh in Phoenix sent out letters of apology offering administrative awards of \$1,000 per violation. About 100 people have accepted the award.

Associated Press Online, April 18, 2000

Notable Quotable

The state thrives on crises, which is why it is constantly creating them with wars, punitive taxes, price controls, and myriad other interventions.

Thomas J. Dilorenzo, The Free Market newsletter, January 2000

Unholy Row in Greece

Greek writer Mimis Androulakis has been dubbed the "biggest blasphemer in Christendom." His fictionalizing of the possible sexual longings of Jesus Christ has aroused such passions that a local court in northern Greece has banned the book as the only means of preventing "outbreaks of violence." The book *M to the Power of N*, is now in its 13th edition, with more than 35,000 copies sold.

The San Diego Union-Tribune, March 18, 2000.

Catnap Guide to the U.N.

Former French Ambassador Alain Dejammet has done a service to all his colleagues by writing a 14-page, tongue-in-cheek guide to the best places at U.N. headquarters to escape the boredom and catch a catnap. "Sleeping at the United Nations" is a pocket-sized guide in French with a kitty on the cover. Twelve lounges, consultation rooms and sitting areas around the U.N. complex are ranked on a scale of 1 to 20 for their comfort, light, calmness and frequency of use. The U.N. Meditation Room got the worst score. The squeaking sneakers of tourists allow for little meditation, he wrote.

Associated Press, April 22, 2000

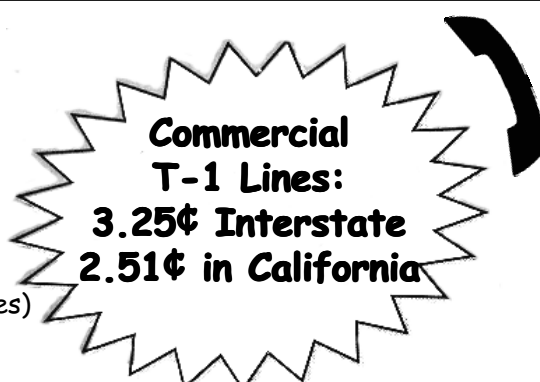
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Census Supervisor is Identity Thief

He once was imprisoned for stealing people's identities. Yet for about three months, Charles Brown processed the payroll for the staff in the Chula Vista office of the Census Bureau, having access to Social Security numbers, dates of birth and other private information. Then he was promoted to supervise about 15 enumerators who went door-to-door to gather information from South Bay residents who hadn't mailed in their census forms. Brown is on parole stemming from a 1998 conviction for using relatives' names and Social Security numbers. He was exposed by a TV station.

The San Diego Union-Tribune, May 17, 2000

Home-Schooled Students Sweep Spelling Bee

Youngsters schooled at home swept the top three spots in the national spelling bee with first place going to a 12-year-old Missouri boy. In a remarkable scholastic feat, spelling bee winner George Abraham Thampy fell one answer short of also winning a National Geographic contest a week earlier. He said that a thirst for knowledge, rather than a quest for the \$10,000 top prize motivated him to enter the spelling bee.

The San Diego Union-Tribune, June 2, 2000

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