

Clippings

As of late, Rochester area libertarians have become prolific writers, placing dozens of Letters to the Editor this year alone. Here is a sample of their efforts.

20 FORTUNE OCTOBER 3, 1983

The Draft

If writer Daniel Seligman is too myopic to see an "issue of conscience" in draft registration, he could overlook a moose in his salad (Keeping Up, September 5). Conscription is a greater moral issue than slavery, because it not only is slavery, but slavery where one can be forced to risk death and to kill other human beings. Seligman's conservatism is squarely against collectivism—unless it imposes his views and pet programs on others.

W. ALAN BURRIS
Pittsford, New York

Teaching the 'unteachable'

Karen Grella is worried that the educational coupon system proposed by Walter Garms would favor rich children over poor ones (The Mail, August 18). An excellent example of how privately funded education is superior to tax-supported public education in educating disadvantaged children was documented on "60 Minutes" recently.

Marva Collins set up a private school in her Chicago home for poor inner city black children that the public schools had labeled "unteachable" and had given up on. The parents were desperate enough for an education for their children that they scraped up enough to pay Marva, in addition to having to pay taxes to support the public schools that had given up on their children. She soon had them reading classics and doing advanced arithmetic!

What Libertarians want (and apparently so does Professor Garms) is the incentive-creating situation where parents are given a choice on how to spend their educational dollars, and thereby encourage effective teachers and courses. The winners can only be the children.

John C. Sproul, 397 Raines Park

Choice denied

To the Editor:

As noted on the front page of your September 7 issue, the 12th of September will arrive before the 12th of Never, and with it "our" state government's latest trampling on our freedom of choice in the marketplace.

I refer, of course, to the mandatory deposit now required on beer and soft drink bottles. This travesty has an impact on our pocketbooks, and it has an impact on our liberty.

The economic impact is that the bottle law raises the cost of doing business, which merchants have no choice but to pass on to the consumer. Storage space for used containers, and the personnel to sort them, are not free, hence prices will rise. Indeed, some merchants (e.g., a Webster sub shop I visited last week) will restrict the beverages they carry, because, to quote the sub-maker: "my customers just won't pay another nickel," so they're not going to stock soda, eliminating my convenient purchase of a drink to go with a sub.

The impact on liberty is that you and I have had one more choice eliminated. That choice, of course, is our own personal decision about whether we want to buy and discard a throwaway bottle (which some choose because of the convenience of not having to lug the empties back to the store) or whether we want to buy bottles having a deposit (which some choose because they prefer saving the money by paying only for the contents). In a free society, we ought to have that choice.

That choice has been denied us by the Democrats and the Republicans.

It wouldn't have been by Libertarians.

Dave D. Hoesly, Chair
Genesee Region Chapter
Free Libertarian Party

We shouldn't bail out debtor countries

DURING the last year we have witnessed a worldwide banking crisis over Third World debt. This year such debt will grow to over \$650 billion. U.S. banks are particularly affected by this problem, especially their investments in Latin America. President Reagan is fighting hard to win congressional approval for a bill donating \$8.4 billion to the International Monetary Fund, which in turn bails out the debtor countries. This is already in addition to \$14.6 billion "contributed" by American taxpayers to the IMF earlier.

Commercial banking interests, both here and abroad, are pressing for American money to rescue them from the consequences of their imprudent lending practices. Foreign governments are pressing for American money to rescue them from imprudent borrowing and spending. Special interests among American exporters want taxpayers' money so that Third World nations can continue to import goods freely from them.

We should start giving special consideration to a very special "interest group" — the American taxpayer. Let us say no to the "bail-out" bill, and stop sending good money after bad!

DARRELL J. KAY, Rochester

Big Brother

THE Constitution requires only that a count of citizens be made every 10 years to determine the distribution of representatives in Congress (Article 1, Section 2). Yet the census has been turned into a significant invasion of privacy, with questions on educational level, number of bathrooms, etc., with responses required under penalty of law.

It was bad enough when this information was then sold, providing market research information subsidized at taxpayer expense. According to a story (Aug. 29), the IRS now plans to use it to determine lifestyles, and thus likely candidates for tax audits! George Orwell would have loved this story.

JOHN C. SPROUL, Rochester

Libertarian News In Brief

National Office Relocates. As of October 15th, the Libertarian Party is no longer centered in the nation's capital. The LP national office can now be reached at: 7887 Katy Freeway #385, Houston, TX 77024.

Rothbard to Teach Course. Economist, historian and movement leader Murray N. Rothbard will give a ten week course on "Economic Thought from the Greeks Through the 18th Century" at the Center for Libertarian Studies in Manhattan next spring. The course begins Friday, February 10, 1984. For more information call the center at (212) 533-6600.

Bergland in New York. LP Presidential candidate David Bergland and running mate Jim Lewis attended a fund'raiser held by the New York City Club on December 10th. The event included dinner and speeches by the two candidates.

From the Regions...

On Saturday, November 5th several activists from the Capital District Free Libertarian Party went to Exit 24 of the New York Thruway and handed motorists flyers opposing the so-called "Rebuild New York" bond issue. We were stationed just outside the toll booths. The event had been advertized through press releases sent to local media. Several radio reporters attended the protest and it was announced on a local television station. Channel 13 television covered the demonstration live and interviewed spokesman Don Davis. Thruway security officers tried to intimidate us by threatening to call in State Troopers, but allowed the demonstration to continue without incident. In all, some 2000 flyers were distributed at the thruway and at a nearby shopping center. Participants in the protest included: Dawn and Don Davis, Art Gopalan, Bill McMillen, Wally Miller, Margaret Piasecki and Chuck Steber.

- Don Davis

The New York City Club will hold a Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 28th at 225 Lafayette Street #911 beginning at 6:00 PM. And on Sunday, January 15th, the chapter will stage its annual convention. ...Student activism lives on at New York University, where the Libertarian Student Association has put out three more issues of Libertarian Broadside under the leadership of editor George Selgin. The group also held an event in late October which attracted some 25 interested students. ...The Westchester chapter held its annual convention on December 6th. Details of this event will appear in the next issue.

The Southern Tier chapter of the F L P fielded five candidates in the recent elections. In the contest for Tioga County legislature, Jim Wood and Kurt Franzenburg ran a strong race against the entrenched Republican establishment. The election featured six candidates competing for four seats. Wood ended with 1169 votes and Franzenburg with 1056 votes. Jim Wood also ran for the same post in 1981. His vote total this year represents a 24% increase over 81's results.

In the City of Binghamton, candidates ran for three of nine city council seats. First district candidate Dean Grimes Jr. received 2% of the votes in a four man race. In the third district Linda Jowett pulled 3% of the votes against Democratic and Republican opposition. The sixth district featured Libertarian John Fields in a two man race against the incumbent Democrat. Fields received 11% of the vote.

The city council races were issue oriented, grassroots, door to door campaigns. Over 5000 Libertarian brochures were delivered directly into the voters hands. The results speak for themselves. In the sixth district for example, the Northrup campaign received a total of 4 votes. The Fields grassroots campaign delivered 132 votes. All of the candidates mounted very successful door to door petition drives-Fields collected over 370 signatures which represents approximately 20% of the registered voters in that district.

The results of the campaign are very encouraging. In most newsstories all the candidates were mentioned and identified as Libertarians. Invitations by the print media, to editorial endorsement boards, were issued up front, without the reminders and pleading which last years candidates were subject to. Most importantly each candidate expanded the total vote in each election district over previous efforts.

This grassroots method of campaigning is begining to show positive results. It is increasing the number of members, furthering organizational development, gaining media's continued attention, and expanding both percentage and raw vote total in elections. Hard work pays off in measurable dividends!

The third annual candidates roast was held on November 19, by the Southern Tier Chapter of the F L P. The event, held once again at Cance's Restaurant in Endicott, roasted the following candidates:

- Tom Hazard- Mayor- Cortland
- Bob Clark- Town of Solon Supervisor
- Jim Wood/ Kurt Franzenburg- Tioga County Legislater
- Dean Grimes Jr.- 1st dist. Binghamton City Council
- Linda Jowett- 3rd dist.
- Jay Fields- 6th dist.

The roasters included Dottie Lou Brokaw, Bob Horan, Ed Jowett, and Jim McKeown. Over 40 attended the roasting and everyone had a good time. Sorry everyone else missed it.

- John Fields

Libertarians pick presidential

By Michael Geczi

New York Bureau of The News

NEW YORK — It wasn't the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. But it was politics as usual as the fledgling Libertarian Party conducted its national convention last week, which culminated in the selection Saturday of California lawyer David Bergland as its presidential candidate.

Amid campaign posters, familiar standards bearing state delegation names and the customary parliamentary arguments, the third-largest political party in the nation spent most of the day in a four-ballot marathon that initially involved six candidates.

Neither Bergland, a quiet law professor from Costa Mesa, nor Earl Ravenal, a Georgetown University professor, was able to win a majority on the first three ballots from the 540 delegates of the 7,000-member Libertarian Party.

But late in the afternoon, Ravenal pulled out just as a fourth-ballot

ELECTIONS '84

Bergland victory was being challenged. The vote was 270 for Bergland, 242 for Ravenal, 24 for "minor candidates and 'none of the above'" and four abstentions.

"Our goal over the next 14 months is to take the message of liberty throughout the country," Bergland, 48, said in his acceptance speech. "Although Ronald Reagan claims to be an advocate of the free market, he is not and never has been a libertarian."

Bergland was the 1976 vice presidential candidate of the laissez-faire, anti-government party and the national chairman of the party from 1977 to 1981.

The nomination process was complicated by the fact that Gene Burns, a Florida radio talk-show host and Libertarian front-runner, dropped out of the race, saying he didn't have enough funds to conduct a serious campaign.

After Burns dropped out, most

of the delegate support swung to Bergland. But Ravenal's aggressive campaigning for the nomination turned the race into a close one.

One of the six presidential candidates was James Ervin Norwood of Waco, who brought boxes of leaflets to the convention.

The delegates quickly got to know him — and Piggi, the nickname he used on his messages. When Norwood spoke in front of the delegates, he was greeted with "oinks" in many accents.

The delegates also got to know his statements, which included:

■ "I am a retired Air Force colonel and spent parts of my career working directly with several American presidents. As a trouble-shooter, I often had to take charge in particular critical situations and actually make the decisions of the presidency."

■ "You will soon choose your candidate for the presidency. If you choose the wrong candidate, we will lose the United States and

BERGLAND

L I B E R T A R I A N

PRESIDENT

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

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Occupation

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City, State, Zip

Phone (business)

(home)

Date

Signature

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1773 Bahama Pl., Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

nominee in close contest



David Bergland

Western civilization."

In the first ballot Saturday, Norwood received two votes. In the second ballot, he got none.

Texas, with 400 to 500 dues-paying Libertarians, sent 20 delegates

to the convention.

But when Dr. Matt Monroe, a Houston cardiologist and chairman of the Texas Libertarian region, entered the general session Thursday morning, he found just three seats available under the Texas sign.

So Monroe picked up the Texas sign and promptly marched up to the area allotted for California and tried to corral some seats.

"There's Libertarianism at its finest," one onlooker said. "No one can tell you where your boundaries are. You can just scope out what you want."

Honey Lanham, a Dallas native who lives in Houston and works in Washington as the party's national director, believes Libertarian support in Texas will grow. "Texas will be very fertile ground for us. We should do well anywhere there is a strong sense of individualism."

In fact, the delegates voted to move the party's national headquarters from Washington to Houston.

Ms. Lanham is one of the three Libertarian officeholders in Texas. She and two others Libertarians — Jeff Calvert and Bill Fraser — are members of the seven-person Harris County School Board.

They, along with 120 other Libertarians, ran for office in the state in 1982. The group received a total of 400,000 votes.

The Libertarians, despite their minuscule size, have made progress since their first presidential election in 1972, when law professor John Hospers appeared on two state ballots and garnered 5,000 votes.

Libertarian presidential candidate Ed Clark appeared on the 1980 ballots in all 50 states.

In 1982, 15 Libertarians were elected to office in nine states. Now, 30 hold office.

In addition, Dick Randolph garnered 15 percent of the vote in 1982 as a gubernatorial candidate in Alaska.

Scholarships Available. For libertarians interested in pursuing an academic career financial assistance is available from two libertarian institutions. The Institute for Humane Studies is offering its Claude R. Lambe Fellowships to students interested in studying libertarian and classical liberal topics, and who wish to pursue an intellectual career. Information is available from IHS, Box 1149, Menlo Park, CA 94025. For doctoral and post-doctoral students, there are the Ludwig von Mises Fellowships offered by the Center for Libertarian Studies. The center's address is 200 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003.

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Editorial Notes

After five years and more than five hundred thousand dollars, Students for a Libertarian Society (SLS) is dead. The death of SLS brings to an end the second great wave of libertarian student activism.

The modern libertarian movement was born on campus. Sparked by the Goldwater campaign and radicalized by the Anti-War Movement, the first wave of campus libertarians included such notables as Gary Greenberg, Roy Childs, Walter Block, Don Ernsberger and Dave Walter as well as hundreds of less celebrated but equally dedicated activists. In the seventies, these student libertarians graduated and went on to form the nuclei of the party, SIL and other libertarian organizations.

The founders of SLS had hoped to graduate a new class of libertarian activists, bringing with them new ideas and fresh enthusiasm to our maturing movement. But, somewhere along the line, the plans of SLS's creators went awry. To be sure, SLS did produce some important new thinkers and activists (names like Jeff Friedman, Paul Jacob, Scott Olmsted, Chris Gunderson and Jorge Amador come to mind). However, many of these potential leaders have ended up on the fringes of the movement, if not out of it altogether. More importantly, SLS failed to bring in the legions of new activists the movement so desperately needs.

The demise of SLS is more than just a tragedy. It is an experience that carries with it many lessons libertarians had better learn if we hope to remain a part of the American landscape. Here are a few of those lessons:

Lesson #1 - Dissension Can Be Deadly. SLS died because its major contributor, Charles Koch, cut off his support. Koch took this measure because SLS was not getting results with the money he was putting in. This failure to produce was largely the result of organizational infighting. SLS leaders were so preoccupied with internal issues that they had virtually no time left over for outreach.

Lesson #2 - Don't Give Kids A \$500,000 Budget. Even before infighting crippled SLS, the group was wasting money by the wheel barrow full. This occurred because, we, the leaders of SLS had enough trouble managing our weekly allowances, let alone half a million dollars. It would have been far better to have broken the money down into little chunks for allocation to individual campus groups.

Lesson #3 - You Can't Start a Grass Roots Movement at the National Office Level. This was the inherent contradiction of SLS. The leftist magazine Mother Jones called the group, "generals in search of an army." Because of this state of affairs, SLS's leaders were completely out of touch with campus realities. Thus, in the face of a growing tide of campus conservatism, SLS marketed libertarianism as a form of free market leftism.

It is important for all libertarians to study the collapse of SLS. Perhaps the lessons we learn will enable us to save our movement's other institutions from a similar fate.

- Marc D. Joffe

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