

November 1991

#### REDDING LIBERTARIANS KILL UTILITY TAX

Redding, a city of 64,000 people in Shasta County, has become a hotbed of Libertarian activity. Shasta is a sparsely populated rural county with 221 registered Libertarians and 21 dues-paying LP members. The catalyst for action was a 5% utility tax enacted by the city council on gas, water, electric and cable TV bills. There was no specific purpose given for collecting the tax, which would have added \$4,000,000 more to the

city's general fund.

Local Libertarians, led by Jim DeLang and Al Swain, decided to fight the tax in coalition with the local group Taxpayers Action Network (TAN). The coalition circulated a petition addressed to the city council to repeal the tax, and the response was over-whelming. Responding to the theme "Axe the Tax," 17,000 Redding citizens (over 26% of the population) signed the petition, including 1,243 one day at one shopping mall! Small businesses, which would have been hit hardest by the tax, kept petitions on the counter for customers to sign. Elderly people and others on fixed incomes were strong supporters of the petition

News media coverage for the petition drive and for the LP has been excellent. There have been front page stories in the Record-Searchlight newspaper, with positive letters to the editor following. There has also been

extensive coverage on radio and TV as well.

Sensing public disapproval, the council provided that the tax would finance libraries, some of which closed three years ago in a budget crunch. However, this would only take \$400,000, and the people asked, "What about the other \$3.6 million?" The council also offered to exempt people with incomes below \$22,000 per year, and an upper limit cap was proposed for larger companies. None of this stopped the petitioners and their demands for repeal of the entire tax.

The moment of truth was the October 15 council meeting. After being presented with the beginnings of a massive tax revolt, council members voted to "rescind" the tax, but not to repeal it. This means that the tax remains, but was reduced to zero. The council will likely take another look at the tax next spring. Considering there is a council election in April, odds of raising this tax anytime soon are slim. Chalk up a \$4,000,000 victory for the Shasta Libertarians!

#### LORD TO VISIT CALIFORNIA

Libertarian vice-presidential nominee Dr. Nancy Lord will be visiting California November 18-24. She will be in San Diego (11/18), Los Angeles (11/19), San Bernardino (11/20), Fresno (11/21), Stanford (11/22), Napa (11/23) and Sacramento (11/24). Contact the county chairs for details (see page 7).

#### **GENIS TO SEEK SENATE SEAT**



Libertarian June Genis of San Mateo County has announced her candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Alan Cranston. Richard "Dick" Boddie of Huntington Beach previously announced he would seek Senator John Seymour's seat. Both Senate seats will be up for

election at the same time in 1992 for the first time in California history.

Genis holds a B. S. in bioengineering from the State University of New York in Buffalo. She has been a systems programmer at Stanford University for 20 years. An LP member since 1974, her political activism includes founding ACCESS, a grassroots group that successfully fought to repeal pay hikes for San Mateo County supervisors in 1989 and a 1990 race as the LP candidate in the 11th Congressional District, for which she received the Sons of Liberty Award.

For more information on the campaign, contact Genis for Senate, 111 La Honda Rd., Woodside, CA 94062, phone (415) 851-5224 or FAX (415) 851-5730.

#### **CAMPAIGN '92 UPDATE**

Since the Legislature and Gov. Wilson failed to agree on the reapportionment of congressional and state legislative districts, the State Supreme Court will be handling this delicate task. The justices have appointed three retired judges to draw the district lines, with results due back on November 29. Candidates start taking out petitions January 2, so this doesn't give us much time to decide what to run for. It's important to identify candidates now and assign them to the correct districts later.

Besides the 24 Libertarians listed last month, eighteen more freedom lovers have announced their interest in running in 1992: June Genis of Woodside, Eric Harlow of Mountain View, David Schnepper of Los Gatos, William Reed of Perris, Janet Summerfield of Highland, Tom Cosgrove of Phelan, Howard Dilbeck of Atascadero, Devin Cutler of Canoga Park, John Vernon of Van Nuys, Bernard Zimring of Van Nuys, Robin Westmiller of Glendale, Bob Weber of Culver City, Chuck Hammill of Los Angeles, Andy Rotter of Los Angeles, Mike Everling of Los Angeles, Dale Olvera of Los Angeles, Gary Mansour of Long Beach, and Gail Lightfoot of San Dimas.

For more information on running, contact Campaign '92 director Ted Brown at (818) 568-8404 or your county chair (see page 7).



The past month has seen the greatest growth of the LPC since we were founded. Membership is 2,902 and still rising. Our monthly pledge program is up 30% since

January. Even voter registration is rising. We can't get current numbers for the whole state, but in San Diego we're up 20% for the year. In terms of raw numbers, we're adding half as many registrants each months as the Republicans!

A lot of the credit for our growth goes to the local regions. San Mateo County has informed me that they wish to triple their membership. They've gone from 25 members in January to 67 today. Marin County has doubled, as have Sacramento, Santa Barbara, and Shasta/Tehama.

Libertarian Party chapters formed last month in Napa and Kern Counties. Our star Libertarian in Bakersfield, **Mike Hodges** (who joined after watching the convention on C-SPAN), organized a Libertarian booth at the Kern County Fair and registered over 100 new Libertarian voters.

This growth will not only continue, but will accelerate. On October12 the executive committee authorized more membership mailings to proven lists. We will have an updated list of registered Libertarians early next month and will mail to the most recent 15,000 of them.

As for my comments last month about changing or deleting the pledge required for membership, I am definitely in the minority. The leading comment from pledge supporters is that the pledge separates us from the other parties. The argument against the pledge is that it's confusing. However, the national LP has a pledge I believe is better: "I understand that members oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Libertarian Party of California's state executive committee met on October 12 in Van Nuys. All fifteen members were present.

As of 9/30/91, the LPC had 2,902 dues-paying members, a 50% increase in six months. 352 people called the 800 number in September for more information on the party.

SHOE By Jeff MacNelly

Anticipating the upcoming state convention (to be held in Newport Beach February 14-17), Kim Goldsworthy was elected chairman of the platform committee. Jerry Douglas, John Vernon, Gail Lightfoot, Neal Donner and Jerry Collette were elected as the by-laws and rules committee.

The 1993 state convention was awarded to the Santa Clara County LP and will be held near San Jose. For more information, contact **Jon Petersen** at (408) 778-1802.

The committee voted to do the following:

- authorize attorney Manny Klausner to write a tax limitation initiative for the November 1992 ballot. This measure would require both a 50% "yes" vote of those voting AND a 40% "yes" vote of all registered voters to raise any tax, would put the recent Wilson tax increases on the ballot, and require a sunset clause on all taxes.
- mail membership solicitations to the 15,000 most recently registered Libertarians. A previous mailing this summer to 10,000 registered Libertarians gained us 371 new members.
- mail membership solicitations to 6,000 subscribers of Reason magazine in California. A previous mailing in 1988 gained numerous new members.
- endorse the "Death with Dignity" initiative, sponsored by Californians against Human Suffering, and allow the group to put petitions in CL News at no extra charge.
- authorize secretary Ed Moss to develop a membership packet, which will include a membership card.
- establish a political action committee (PAC) for LP candidates for partisan offices, to consist of operations committee members.
- send a letter to Ron Paul, urging him not to run for president in 1992.
- split Shasta and Tehama Counties into two party organizations.
- split Napa County from the North Coast region, leaving the North Coast with just Lake and Mendocino Counties.
- create the Richard Cobden Award and give it to Assemblyman Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks) at the banquet later that night.

The committee will hold its next meeting on Saturday, December 7, the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. The 1992 budget will be the primary topic of discussion.





Assemblyman Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks) receives the Richard Cobden Award for his budget cutting efforts. (I-r): Simi Valley Councilwoman Sandi Webb, McClintock, Ventura County Chair Aaron Starr.

#### IRS REQUIREMENT OF THE MONTH

Libertarian **D. M. Fowle** of Redondo Beach sent us a fundraising letter he received from the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (1301 Connecticut Ave. N. W., Washington, DC 20036). At the end, in not so fine print: "The IRS requires that we include the following disclaimer: 'The qualifications of an incumbent should not be judged on the basis of a few selected votes. Other factors should be considered, such as performance in subcommittees and constituent service'." Wonder if the IRS made this up on their own, or if Congress had some input?

## BALLOT INITIATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Parents for Educational Choice is working to place an educational choice measure on the November 1992 ballot. It would prohibit further state regulation of private schools and provide a grant to parents of school age children.

Parents would be able to use this grant at any school, government or non-government. The grant would be a percentage (60-90%) of the amount the state normally spends for a child's education. The goal is to get parents involved in schools, educate children, and reduce the dropout rate.

It will also save taxpayers millions and probably billions of dollars. Each student who transfers to a non-government school would save taxpayer dollars. It's one approach to California's budget woes that doesn't mean raising taxes or cutting benefits. The initiative actually provides for better education, saves money and reduces the need for new school construction.

California taxpayers provide \$4,880 annually per child in the government school system. Los Angeles' parochial schools, on the other hand, provide what most people feel is a better education for only \$1,700 per pupil. While the Catholic Archdiocese employs one administrator per 4,000 pupils, the Los Angeles Unified School District employs one per 229.

If you are interested in this effort to give parents and kids a choice in education, contact Parents for Educational Choice, 277 S. Rancho Santa Fe, suite C, San Marcos, CA 92069.

#### **UPDATE: FIJA ARREST**

We previously reported that **Ron Tisbert**, 1990 Libertarian candidate in the 34th Assembly District (24% of the vote), had been charged March 18 with "soliciting" while registering voters and circulating the FIJA and hemp initiatives at the Lancaster Courthouse.

On September 11 Tisbert was found guilty. The penalty is a \$600 fine or eight days of community service. Before the court's lunch break, he was being prosecuted for soliciting money, but after testimony by an administration clerk and deputy (whom Tisbert subpoenaed), the court changed its tactics and began prosecuting Tisbert for registering voters, handing out Libertarian information, and collecting initiative signatures.

There are many exceptions to the "soliciting on county property" law, such as volunteer groups for animal shelters, employee insurance activities, and collecting money for the handicapped or to benefit people in county hospitals. Tisbert believes that educating the public about fully informed juries, hemp legalization, and the Libertarian Party should also be allowed.

Tisbert acted as his own attorney, and is now planning an appeal on First Amendment grounds. He asks for any assistance Libertarians can offer. His address is 1332 E. Ave. R-3, Palmdale, CA 93550, phone (805) 947-4024.

#### **WILSON RECALL UNDERWAY**

The Recall Pete Wilson drive was started by state employees angered by the governor's raid on \$1.5 billion in their retirement fund. Gay rights groups outraged by Wilson's veto of AB 101 have now joined the coalition, as have many groups with more libertarian interests: ABATE, the bikers group fighting the new mandatory helmet law; people incensed over the state sales tax and DMV fee increases; and gun owner groups upset about the infringement of their Second Amendment rights.

A million signatures are needed by January 15 in order to get this on the ballot. Warning: before supporting the recall, be aware that its success would put Democratic Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy into the governor's mansion. For more information, or to obtain recall petitions, contact **Randall Grindle**, North Coast LP, P. O. Box 684, Lower Lake, CA 95457, phone (707) 994-4817.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

California Libertarian News is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained within do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated. Please send articles, local news, photos, letters, and advertising copy to the editor: Ted Brown, 125 N. Allen Ave. #107, Pasadena, CA 91106 (818) 568–8404

#### Keep the Pledge!

#### **Editor:**

Let me start out by saying I really enjoyed the October *CL News* and think it's an excellent publication. However, I must take exception to Chairman Pat Wright's suggestion to delete the LP pledge (*I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.).* 

I think it would be a disaster if the party at any level removed the pledge. The pledge is what distinguishes the LP from every other party. You KNOW a person is not a libertarian if he advocates the initiation of force—for any reason.

I have enjoyed pointing out to national media that, unlike the Demopublicans who promise all kinds of good things and then act differently when in office, the pledge ensures that elected Libertarians will keep their promises. A Libertarian cannot vote for more taxes or more controls over citizens and still call himself a Libertarian. The pledge allows the party to control its elected members, something the other parties can't do. That is why the Demopublicans have members like Lyndon LaRouche and David Duke.

Naturally there will always be questions about what constitutes the "initiation" of force. These can be decided on a case by case basis. But understanding the concept is one of the most important issues our party can promote, and we thus ought to spend more time explaining the pledge to new members since it is the moral principle upon which our party was founded.

Most people find it hard to understand the principle behind the pledge. Coming from the liberal side of the political spectrum, I spent most of my life voting for every bond issue proposed. After all, weren't those bonds for good things—schools, parks, libraries—things that almost everyone wanted? It took me a long time to realize that when I voted for bonds, I was voting to force my neighbor to pay for things I wanted and perhaps he didn't want.

Once I realized that, I never again voted to force my values on others. I realized I had to look for other ways to gain the values I desired. But I spent a lot of time asking, "Who will build the roads; who will pick up accident victims; who will ensure clean water?" before I finally figured out the answers myself.

It's not easy to accept the responsibility for creating the lifestyle you want, for discovering ways to obtain your desires without coercion through invention, cooperation and persuasion. But recognizing that no one has the right to demand that others furnish one with the things that make one happy and secure is the only way people can live together peacefully and productively. The pledge doesn't require that no one ever initiate force (there may be cases where this is justified, such as pushing someone out of the way of an oncoming car). But the pledge does require that one never *advocate* the initiation of force. This controls our candidates and ensures a party of principle.

We must keep the pledge. In the libertarian world of the future, everyone will understand why the repudiation of aggression is the base upon which a civilized society rests.

> Tonie Nathan Eugene, OR

(Tonie Nathan was the Libertarian Party's 1972 vice presidential candidate and the first woman ever to receive an electoral vote.)

## Ideology vs. Victory Editor:

Is "Our job ... preaching ideology" (letters, October issue)? A political party's job is to use effective tactics to implement its program in the real world. The success of that job must be measured in votes gained, members recruited, and anti-liberty laws and taxes repealed. It's OK if "stealth libertarian" tactics get us 38% of the vote, as David McCann's did; or win us a city council seat, as Sandi Webb did. Because once in office, our candidates can put our ideology into effect, as Libertarian County Supervisor Tom Tryon and others have done.

Robert Gehl says that our ideas are "often dangerous." We can't sell ideas by frightening people. You sell ideas by showing their practical benefits to the consumer. Where our platform is perceived by the government school-indoctrinated public as controversial, the use of a smooth sales technique, such as opinion quiz cards, is required to sell it. Failure to do so only turns off the voters and gives our adversaries ammunition to use against us.

That's what happened when the Sacramento Bee's liberal editors pounced on "altercations ... over Libertarian principles" to smear us as extremist in a September 14 editorial. Barry Goldwater got trounced the same way in 1964. But by 1980, Ronald Reagan had shown conservatives how to win as a "Great Communicator."

# Beginner's Introduction to Libertarianism

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Ed Clark

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Genessee Valley SIL Box 10224 Rochester, NY 14610 Libertarians must learn that skill and persuade voters that unlike most Republicans, we will actually deliver the benefits to them of cutting their taxes and getting government off their backs.

> Randall Grindle Lower Lake, CA

## Candidate Rubber Stamps Editor:

I would like to offer my help to the Libertarian Party and those who choose to do battle with the statists in the political arena.

My company manufactures rubber stamps, which I will donate to any authorized candidate running under the Libertarian Party banner. National, state and local LP offices and committees are included in my offer. They can be used for return addresses, special messages, liberty quotes, bank deposit information, or other uses. I have a gross (144) of the Kwik Stamps to donate, after which I may substitute another sort of stamp. I currently have these in black only. The retail value is in the \$15-\$25 range.

I also have a smaller number of self-inking metal frame die-plate daters to donate. They can be customized with a one line message on top and bottom of the date set. Many colors are available. We may also be able to help with name badges and small signs and name plates. These will need to be discussed on a case by case basis.

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#### LIBERTARIAN NOTES

- After two years of dormancy, Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns (LGLC) has been reactivated. Their headquarters has moved from San Francisco to Ann Arbor, Michigan. **James Hudler** is the national coordinator. LGLC's objectives are to provide a network for gay libertarians, to improve awareness of gay issues within the libertarian movement, and to provide libertarian outreach to gays and lesbians throughout the world. To join, and receive the LGLC newsletter, send \$15 to LGLC, P. O. Box 447, Chelsea, MI 48118.
- Former state chair **Gail Lightfoot** is publishing an "LPC Diehard Newsletter" for hardcore party activists and advisors. Once "Diehard" is established, our state and county newsletters can continue to focus on generating excitement for activities, while "Diehard" gives activists the Action Plan. This should make party activities more organized, more successful, and more fun. To subscribe, send \$10 to Freedom Church, P. O. Box 3207, San Dimas, CA 91773.
- Nyle Keller, a registered Libertarian and son-inlaw of longtime LP activist Dr. Bruce Daniel, is running November 5 for a seat on the Loomis Union School District Board in Placer County. He served on the board previously until a defeat two years ago. For more information, call (916) 652-3262.

### AMERICA VS. EUROPE: SURPRISING OPINION RIFTS

13,000 Europeans were interviewed this spring on their social and political attitudes by the Times Mirror Center for the People and the Press. Comparisons with Americans were based on similar surveys conducted here between 1986 and 1990.

Large numbers of people everywhere believe government "is usually inefficient and wasteful." 77% of Poles and 74% of Italians agreed with this, with Americans close behind at 67%.

Despite general support for democracy, large minorities—and majorities in some places—would ban some political parties. 62% of Germans would do so, as would 57% of Hungarians and 55% of Italians. Shockingly, 32% of Americans would support such a ban.

Solid majorities everywhere say they feel "very patriotic." The U. S. leads this category by far at 88%, followed by Poles and Bulgarians at 75% each. However, only in the U. S., Great Britain and Bulgaria were a majority of the people willing to fight for their nation "right or wrong." Only 28% of Germans and Czechs would do so.

Only 23% of Americans believe that "the state has responsibility to care for poor people who can't take care of themselves" Europeans are much more socialistic—81% of Bulgarians, 71% of Spaniards, and 62% of Britons and French agreed with the statement.

Finally, a sad commentary: A majority in every country except Britain—including 50% of Americans—would ban books with "dangerous ideas" from school libraries. The worst censors were Germans (72%), Hungarians (71%) and French (62%).

## MARROU TARGETS NEW HAMPSHIRE BEFORE PRIMARY

LP presidential nominee Andre Marrou is planning to make a big push in the February 18 New Hampshire primary. By a quirk in the New Hampshire election law, Libertarians are the only party with an open primary. Last year Miriam Luce, LP candidate for governor in New Hampshire, received 5% of the vote, giving the LP ballot status. Only Democrats may vote in the Democratic primary, and only Republicans may vote in the Republican primary, but any voter may vote in the Libertarian primary.

Marrou plans to take advantage of this situation by seeking crossover votes. He will be helped by **Calvin Warburton**, a New Hampshire legislator who recently left the Republicans and joined the Libertarians. It's possible that two other GOP legislators will convert to the LP as well. With 2,000 members of the news media in town covering the New Hampshire primary, we would have great coverage if Marrou ended up outpolling one of the Democratic contenders.

Marrou plans to spend \$80,000 to \$130,000 on TV ads in New Hampshire to make that happen. He will spend 28 days campaigning there, and his running mate Nancy Lord will spend seven to ten days there between now and February. To help this effort, send your contribution to Marrou for President, 4750 E. Sahara, Las Vegas, NV 89104.

### **RON PAUL FOR PRESIDENT, AGAIN?**

#### by Randall Grindle

An exploratory committee has been formed to discuss whether Ron Paul, former Republican congressman and 1988 Libertarian Party presidential candidate, should enter the New Hampshire presidential primary as a Republican challenger to George Bush. Paul's move is being promoted by the Republican Liberty Caucus, of which California Assemblyman Tom McClintock is the honorary state chairman.

For Libertarians this poses a dilemma: on the one hand, while the press can ignore LP candidate Andre Marrou, it would be difficult for them to ignore the challenge of a libertarian Republican to Bush. This would give the libertarian movement a lot of media exposure. On the other hand, Marrou is trying to break through for the LP in the New Hampshire primary, using the defection of state legislator Calvin Warburton and possibly two others from the GOP as a way to capture the media spotlight. The concern is that the Paul candidacy could divert the media away from the Marrou-Lord ticket. Stay tuned for details!

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## LPC ENDORSES "RIGHT TO DIE" INITIATIVE

The LPC Executive Committee voted October 12 to endorse the "Right to Die" initiative, sponsored by Californians Against Human Suffering, whose petition is included in this newsletter. The main sponsor is Pasadena attorney Robert Risley, who states that the Death with Dignity Act will permit terminal patients the right to request and receive a physician's aid to die. The physicians would then be exempt from criminal liability for providing such assistance.

Under the proposal, terminally ill patients must 1) sign a directive in the presence of two disinterested witnesses indicating a desire to end their life with the aid of a physician; 2) obtain a terminal diagnosis from two independent physicians who determine the patient will die of natural causes in six months or less; and 3) have a face-to-face conversation with their physicians to let them know at the time they decide they want to die. Such a death would not be considered suicide. There is no requirement for physicians to carry out the act, or for any hospital to permit it.

Signatures should be turned in by February 1. For more information on the initiative or to make a contribution, contact Californians Against Human Suffering, 5750 Wilshire Blvd., suite 561, Los Angeles, CA 90036, phone (213) 937-6295.

#### LP TARGETS NEW CITIZENS

21,000 new citizens were sworn in at the Los Angeles Convention Center on October 9, 10 & 11. They came from 127 countries, the top five of which being the Philippines, VietNam, Mexico, Iran and Taiwan. The New Citizens Projects is a Libertarian outreach effort designed to introduce the new citizens to California's five ballot qualified parties. An information flyer was designed for this purpose, and 13,000 of them were distributed. Since the new citizens will be registering for the first time, and since most people never change their party affiliation once registered, this should be a particularly effective means of getting Libertarian Party registrations.

For more information, contact **Ernst Ghermann**, New Citizens Project Coordinator, 20224 Gresham St., Winnetka, CA 91306, phone (818) 882-0253.

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ★ Orange County Libertarians **Dennis Kotoff** and **Tucker Watkins** are hosting a free "Tax Reduction" workshop exclusively for Libertarians, on Saturday, November 23, at 9:00 a.m. at IDS Financial Services, 2 Park Plaza, suite 1100, Irvine, CA. Topics will include tax-free and tax-deferred investments, tax shifting, tax credits, matching passive income with passive losses to create "tax free income," investing with no taxes, using your business to maximize your legal deductions, and avoiding estate/settlement taxes. Due to limited seating, please call Dennis or Tucker at (714) 863-9400 to reserve your seat.
- ★ The LPC's by-laws committee will hold a meeting November 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of **John Vernon**, 6469 Gloria Ave., in Van Nuys. All LPC members are welcome to attend. For directions, call (818) 780-9943. Any suggestions by mail should be sent to **Jerry Collette**, 15303 Ventura Blvd., 9th floor, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.
- ★ Celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights and the 218th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, Sunday, December 15. The Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County will present the "Champion of Freedom" award to **Dr. John Hospers**, 1972 LP presidential candidate and author of the LP's statement of principles. This brunch event will be held at Parker's Lighthouse Restaurant, 435 Shoreline Dr., in Long Beach. Brunch is 11 a.m., program at 12 noon. Cost for brunch and program is \$20 (by 12/8), \$24 (by 12/13) and \$28 at the door. Program only is \$7 (by 12/8), \$10 (by 12/13), and \$12 at the door. Send checks to LPLAC, P. O. Box 547, Reseda, CA 91337. For more information, call **Richard Boddie** at (714) 968-3973.
- ★ Libertarians in Napa and Solano Counties will hold an organizing meeting in November in Napa. The date and location haven't been set yet. For details, contact **Randall Grindle** at (707) 994-4817 or **Bill Crain** at (707) 224-5535.

#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### The good ...

- By a vote of 6 to1, the California Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Proposition 140, the term limitation initiative passed by voters last November. This will mean we can say hasta la vista to Willie Brown, David Roberti and their statist buddies in 1996!
- Nearly three-quarters of the investigators for the state Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) face layoffs under Gov. Pete Wilson's budget plan. The proposal would save \$5 million in salaries. One ABC investigator warned that California, in effect, "will become the only state in the nation with an unregulated alcoholic beverage industry."

#### ... and the bad:

- U. S. Coast Guard officials boarded a private boat in Northern California and cited the owner for harassing humpback whales in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The federal violation notice served on Dennis Huber of Eureka concluded a joint investigation by special agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Coast Guard. Huber was assessed a \$10,000 fine for using his boat to scatter a pod of humpback whales and then pursue them, officials allege.
- While the state of California is suffering through a severe fiscal crisis, the Legislature approved spending that includes \$50,000 to learn more about the sexual maturity of female sturgeon. UC Davis researchers say the study will keep California ahead of the Soviet Union, Japan and Europe in a fledgling industry that raises white sturgeon for restaurant meals and extracting caviar. Even Assembly Speaker Willie Brown called the grant a "ludicrous" expenditure of tax money. The sturgeon study was one of 60 grants totalling \$13.3 million awarded over the last two years by the Office of Competitive Technology. Budget woes caused the shredding of a \$300,000 study on how to genetically improve lettuce, but another \$300,000 study of how to make red abalone grow faster will still go ahead.

### California Libertarian News

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