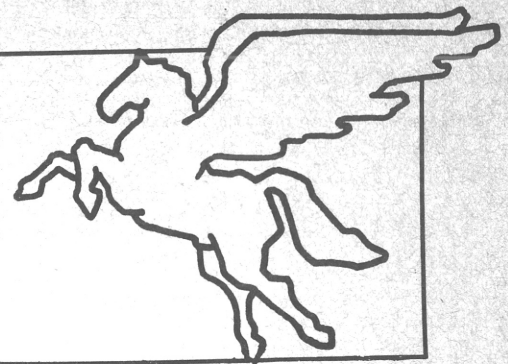


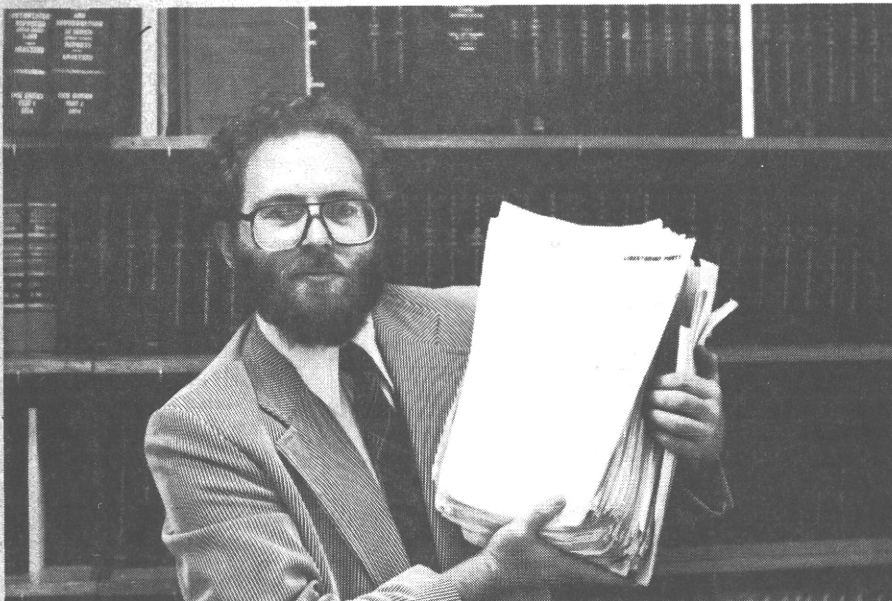
FREE TEXAS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF TEXAS



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 7 SUMMER 1978

SIGNATURES SUBMITTED TO SEC'Y OF STATE



LPT GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE ALAN VOGEL WITH BALLOT PETITIONS

The ballot drive is over! On Monday, July 10th, after a press conference on the steps of the Capitol building, Alan Vogel, LP Gubernatorial candidate, Michael Grossberg, LP State Chair, and Robert Bakhaus, 1978 ballot drive coordinator, presented 768 petition sheets to the Secretary of State.

The LP won't know for several weeks if we are on the ballot. Many petition sheets arrived at the last minute from around the state, but the number submitted will probably fall short by a few thousand signatures of the total we need to be assured of ballot status in 1978.

Alan Vogel, in a surprise move, has announced that he will carry on his campaign, as a write-in candidate if necessary, to bring the Libertarian Party message to as many Texans as possible in this election year.

As the result of our efforts this year, we have come so close to the 16,500 signatures needed that we can say with confidence that we'll be on the ballot in the crucial presidential election year of 1980. We've learned alot this time, about organization, ballot requirements, techniques of obtaining signatures efficiently, and the kind of preparation necessary to assure

us over 30,000 signatures and permanent ballot status two years from now.

But that's not all. During this year's ballot drive, LP members personally contacted over 50,000 Texans. We distributed over 10,000 pieces of libertarian literature. Thousands of potential libertarians noticed our displays in gun stores, head shops, gay bars, coin stores, record stores, and health food shops. Many Texans told us they would vote for LP candidates, and dozens of Texans signed up or called us up to become new Libertarian Party of Texas members.

In addition, the LP has obtained media coverage from newspapers and TV stations from around the state in the last three months, from Dallas to Houston, Austin to El Paso, Fort Worth to San Antonio.

Even if we don't get on the ballot this time, we have accomplished a lot. There's no way we could have done it without the help of a great many libertarians, too numerous to mention

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IN MEMORIAM: KARL BRAY

Karl Bray died May 7, 1978, of cancer. He was among the foremost tax rebels of our era, and he ran as a Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. Congress from Utah in 1974. He was Banquet Speaker at the 1977 LPT convention in Houston, where he emphasized the encouraging steps being taken in America today toward a more libertarian society.

The following article by Bill Howell describes his contributions to libertarianism.

Karl Bray has finally died, succumbing to a harrowing illness after a long struggle. His absence will be a severe loss to the libertarian cause.

Karl was a tireless foe of tyranny. His particular chosen enemy was the IRS. He constantly exposed and denounced the horrors of that agency's operations. For this he was harrassed in a manner just short of Hitler or Stalin. He was imprisoned on trumped-up charges after conviction by methods describable only as those of a kangaroo court. Nevertheless, he continued the fight.

Karl's second greatest contribution to libertarianism was to serve as the calming voice of reason at two national conventions. At Dallas in 1974, the party was about to tear itself asunder over the

tax planks of the platform. Karl was the only person respected enough by the opposing sides to hammer out a workable compromise. In New York in 1975 it looked like there might be massive walkouts over the veto of Jim Trotter as VP candidate because of his alleged tax rebellion. Karl Bray spoke to the convention and restored peace. Again, no one else had the universal prestige to do so.

It would not be overstating the case to say that on both occasions Karl personally saved the Libertarian Party.

Karl Bray lived in the same authoritarian society as the rest of us, but because of his struggle for a free society, he lived as a free man.

NATIONAL LP TO MEET IN BOSTON

The Libertarian Party's National Convention will be held in Boston on September 1, 2, 3, and 4. Major speakers for the event include Thomas Szasz, Robert Nozick, Carl Hess, and Robert Bleiberg (editor of Barron's).

Twelve intensive workshops will be presented, covering the most essential aspects of successful political action. Included are sessions on political skills, financing a political campaign, the use of direct mailings, graphics, and the media, and many other topics.

For information on the convention or on rides from Texas to Boston, contact Mike Grossberg, telephone (512) 451-1145.

AUSTIN HOST TO EXEC COM

The State Executive Committee met in Austin on July 23 to review the ballot drive and plan for the upcoming elections.

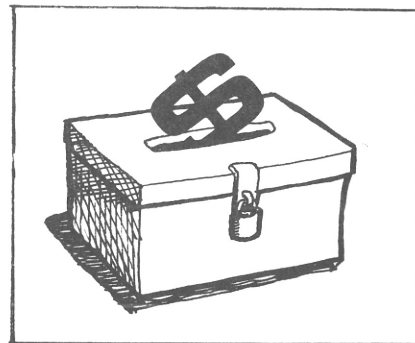
Bill Schauer of Austin was elected Treasurer to replace Mike Stephens, and Jeff Daiell of Houston was named as the new editor of FREE TEXAS.

BALLOT DRIVE 1980

This year we've gotten our first glimpse of what ballot status for the Libertarian Party of Texas will mean: increased media coverage, public support, and growth of the LP into a serious political alternative. We know now what it takes--in money, in time, in planning, in skills--to get on the ballot. And we know now that we can do it. If we start early enough, and if we have enough support from Texas libertarians.

So we're starting right now. We're setting up a separate bank

account for BALLOT DRIVE 1980. We're asking every libertarian to donate from \$5 to \$50, so that the LPT will succeed in 1980, and bring freedom in our time. We need to repay the \$750 we borrowed from the National LP for this ballot drive, and we need to begin raising the several thousand dollars we'll have to have in 1980 to guarantee ballot status. Checks can be made out to the LPT and mailed to LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF TEXAS, P.O. Box 12618, Dallas, Texas 75225, in the enclosed postpaid envelope.



LPT STATE CONVENTION HELD IN FT. WORTH

The Libertarian Party of Texas 1978 State Convention was held in Fort Worth June 11 & 12. Delegates from many cities and towns across Texas attended, as well as several non-delegates.

The meetings were held at the Fort Worth Hilton Inn, across from the Water Gardens, and Tarrant County organizers were commended for the work they did to bring about a successful and solvent convention in the midst of the beautiful surroundings.

STATE OFFICERS

New state officers were elected, and are as follows:

CHAIR: Mike Grossberg, Austin
 VICE CHAIR: Joe Barnett, Arlington
 SECRETARY: Becky Hutzelman, Houston
 TREASURER: Mike Stephens, Dallas (temporary)

Regional representatives to the State Executive Committee include:

Region 1: Grey Pierson, Arlington, Susan Hervey, Dallas, and alternate: C.B. Mauldin, Fort Worth.

Region 2: Monte Krel, El Paso, Laurel Freeman, Austin, and alternate: Scott Bieser, Austin.

Region 3: Robert Bakhaus, Pasadena, Bill Fraser, Houston, and alternate: David Hutzelman, Houston.

Members of the State Board of Review include: Mike Stephens, David Helber, and Bill Howell, from Dallas, Harry Robinson, from Arlington, and Don Stockwell, from Houston.

SPEAKERS

The speakers at the convention were Chris Hocker, LP



Chris Hocker fields questions at Political Action Workshop

* * *

National Director, and David Bergland, LP National Chair.

Hocker and Bergland held a political action workshop on Saturday afternoon, emphasizing the importance of the ballot drive and detailing the techniques used in other states.

Bergland spoke Saturday night as the Banquet Speaker. He described his current race in California, and spoke with enthusiasm on Proposition 13, and the libertarian involvement in the referendum.

RULES CHANGES

The convention amended the state rules so that state officers and members of the State Executive Committee and Board of Review now serve two-year terms. The state general meeting in odd-numbered years has been abolished.

If the national party continues to hold its conventions in odd-numbered years, then the

Texas delegates to the National Convention will be elected by an open meeting of the State Executive Committee, with notice of this meeting being given well in advance to all party members and with anyone wishing to be a delegate allowed to speak in his or her favor at the meeting.

PLATFORM CHANGES

The most notable change in the state platform was the addition of a plank on Texas Independence. Because of the controversial nature of this plank, and the publicity it has received, it is printed in its entirety at the end of this article.

In other changes, the convention strengthened the "none of the above" plank by calling for a new election with none of the losing candidates eligible if "None of the Above" should win a plurality.

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Delegates enjoy the spectacular Water Gardens

Candidate takes his quest for support to Willie's Picnic

GAUD, IT WAS awful. Willie was warming up the Cotton Bowl as though it needed to be warmed up. At 2 p.m., the place looked like a nest of red ants. Skin turned crimson in the blazing sun. Braus fried in near 100 degree heat. Whiffs of dope, kegs of beer, banks of amplifiers, everything melted into a styrene glob: a hot, sticky, glistening, sensuous glob of crazed flesh and headbands and halters and cut-off jeans and T-shirts bearing the political philosophy of the '70s: Long live love, peace, and...

JIM HENDERSON



form public education, free market economics, pare taxes and deter the state's plunge into Orwellian ubiquity. WILLIE HAD finished Whiskey River and was into a melody of his best barroom poetry. The walls of the Cotton Bowl trembled and stizzled. A guy with no shirt, a cowboy hat and a can of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer stopped by Vogel's petition table. There was a country song once about red necks, white socks and Blue Ribbon beer. Red necks are not notorious Libertarians, at least they weren't a couple of years ago. Who knows now? "I want to wish you good luck," the guy slurred, extend-

ing his hand to an innocent bystander. "That's the candidate," bystander said, pointing to Vogel. "How could I have forgotten," the guy said, pumping Vogel's hand. It would seem risky for Vogel to come here, all the way from Houston, to look for signatures at a Willie Nelson bash, where the strangest of political hybrid turns out en masse. The long-haired, red-necked, dope-smoking, Blue Ribbon beer drinking, law 'n order, police paranoid, peace-loving, gun-totin' country-rock freak. "Conservative Democrats all across the state could get along well with this crowd," said Harry Robinson of Arlington, who's trying to get on the ballot as the Libertarian candidate for Congress in the 24th District. "Bob Krueger should be here." Krueger wasn't, though. Neither was John Hill nor Bill Clements nor John Tower nor any other established politicians. Just Allan Vogel, 35 years old, Houston Port worker, ex-candidate for mayor of Houston. But Vogel could, in good conscience, do what they could not. He could advocate getting the state out of the business of regulating the possession of marijuana as well as handguns. THE NAME never comes to mind easily, but he was a senator in Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, an honorable man who, before yielding to the ignoble forces of Potomac life, told Mr. Smith that lost causes were the only ones worth fighting for.

The Libertarians gathered around three folding tables outside the Cotton Bowl had been there for two days. In the middle of more than 100,000 of their kinds of people, but had collected fewer than 3,000 signatures. Like Jimmy Stewart filibustering himself into exhaustion, Vogel knows he is not being taken seriously everywhere he goes. A legislative committee nodded politely but covertly scoffed at his testimony on property taxes. Housewives smile as they pass his petition booths in shopping centers. Political writers ignore him. Politicians simply tolerate him. It should have been different at a rock concert back-to-back with Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson and Waylon Jennings, outlaws all. But it wasn't. "Two policemen signed our petition," Vogel said. "A lot of people sign their names but when it comes to putting their addresses down, they back out. They're afraid someone is going to come kicking down their doors." Jeff Diehl, also of Houston, may have, better than most, figured the crowd for what it really was: '70s vintage, either apolitical or politically schizophrenic, shredded beyond recognition. "This crowd," he said, "is no more open-minded than the average 100 people you could pull off the street." Nobody promised they would be. Lost causes are where you find them. Vogel probably could have done as well in a Houston shopping center.

Libertarians mount bid for ballot Second Front

By Z. JOE THORNTON Star Telegram Political Writer The 5-year-old Libertarian Party will start a major drive Sunday to get the signatures of 20,000 persons throughout the state so some of its members can be listed on the general election ballots. The party, which places its emphasis on civil liberties and a free market system, was on the ballots in 32 states, though not Texas, in the 1976 elections. It's going to field candidates for governor and for several local races, said Ms. C.B. Mauldin, who heads the Tarrant County organization. Other candidates from this area who are seeking places on the ballot are Joe Paul Barnett of Arlington, who wants to run for State Representative District 32-D, and Harry Robinson, also of Arlington, who will try to seek the District 24 seat in Congress. Should the party be successful in getting on the ballot, Barnett would be running against incumbent State Rep. Bob McFarland and his Democratic challenger, Jim Owens. Robinson would be running against the winners of the hot contest between incumbent Dale Milford and Martin Frost and the much cooler contest between Leo Bernan and Ben Franklin Bruce. Alan Vogel, 34, an employee of the International Longshoremen's Union at the port of Houston, is the party's gubernatorial hopeful. To help kick off the petition drive, there will be a dinner at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Ramada Inn in Arlington.

"No government has the right to tell a person how to run his business or his personal life," he said. BY JUNE 9 1978 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Libertarians seeking firm spot on ballot Under the Texas election code, the Libertarians cannot be placed on a ballot unless a petition drive with sufficient signatures is presented to the Secretary of State's office. An additional code regulation requires signatures turned in to be those of registered voters who did not cast ballots in either of the May primaries. Finding 18,000 such persons before July 10 will be a major task, Vogel said.

Require the state legislature to place the issue of the independence of the Republic of Texas before voters in a binding referendum. Texas Libertarians maintain the rights of Texans have been violated by federal laws and regulations that are unfair. Texas' economic health makes it capable of autonomy; the group says.

New revolution for liberty

By Andrew McGown It is not often noticed that debate concerning government may proceed on two fundamentally different levels. The most common level is that of the discourse of political science. The other level is that of the meta-discourse of political science, known as political philosophy. Political philosophy encompasses political science and questions the assumptions that underlie that latter discourse. Political scientists ask, "Which government is best?" Political philosophers ask, however, "Is society better for having government?" Political philosophy is therefore an essentially revolutionary discourse. In academia, political philosophy is almost always ignored in favor of moderate political science curricula. In repressive regimes, political science itself might not have academic sanction, as rulers desire to cloak secrecy about State operations. Academia, being a highly visible and vulnerable institution, is inevitably conservative and molds its teachings to the sanctioned political climate. Political philosophy, then, almost never flourishes in academia. It may be argued that political philosophy is taught in academia; that the necessity of government is demonstrated, usually through the teachings of classical works. The Republic, by Plato, Social Contract, by Rousseau; The Federalist Papers, by Hamilton, Madison and Jay; these works are perhaps the most common

justifications for authoritarian government. But is not such one-sided justification propaganda, rather than teaching? Why are the merits of these works not debated alongside libertarian classics? The State, by Oppenheimer and Our Enemy, the State, by Nozick should both compare quite favorably to the statist classics. Most are aware of Machiavelli's prescriptions, in The Prince, for imposing political power. How many are aware of The Politics of Obedience: The Discourse On Voluntary Servitude, where la Boetie details corresponding methods for eradicating it? Anarchists, and those who wish to limit drastically the power of government, know that their arguments are useless if they do not refute rationalizations for the existing omnipotent state. They must view both sides in their arguments — they deal with political philosophy. State apologists merely present preludes to their political science courses, if indeed they bother to do that. Fortunately, this situation is changing. The star of political philosophy has been rising in this country ever since the end of World War II. The Objectivist movement of Ayn Rand and the courageous teachings of isolated "Austrian Theory" economists, such as Mises and Hayek, were responsible for most of its earlier progress. In this decade, political philosophy has burgeoned incredibly as a discourse, encouraged by individualists such as those associated with the Libertarian Party and the National Taxpayers Union. Until recently, the academic es-

tablishment has mostly been content to consider this phenomenon unworthy of discussion, but this attitude towards the revolution of political philosophy is becoming rapidly untenable. Even academia has begun to consider libertarianism respectable since the National Book Award for philosophy was given to Robert Nozick's Anarchy, State, and Utopia. Massive grassroots actions, such as the recent passage of Proposition 13 in California, shows that the revolution is already reaching the power struggle stage. Is the attempt to realize liberty against the institution of tyranny really a "power struggle"? If so, it differs markedly from other contests of will bearing the same label. Proletarian against Bourgeoisie, fascist versus socialist — these political battles settle only the question of who will accede to the status of exploiter. Libertarians seek to end exploitation, rather than transfer it to their control. Those who cling to the doctrine of state benevolence should ponder these questions: How may taxation be distinguished from theft? How is conscription different from slavery? How is war different from mass murder? Consider these questions carefully. They will probably not be raised in your political science courses. Demand to know why they are not raised. Consideration of political philosophy, and desire for a just society, should cause you also to support the current revolution for liberty. McGown is a member of the Young Libertarian Alliance.

taxes will be forced to sell the idea to the public that an increase actually is needed, he said. The legislature probably will seek to pass laws that would "pierce" such transfer loopholes as long-term leases, Bergland said. CALIFORNIANS DO NOT fear the deterioration in education, fire and police protection or any of the other services government officials have said will result with Proposition 13's passage, Bergland said. Citizens are capable of providing these services without government aid or interference, Bergland said. That belief is what prompted Californians to approve the Jarvis proposal, he said. "The government's too big, they're overpaid and inefficient. This is what the people said," Bergland said. "People are capable of assessing their own situation and determining what they need." Volunteer and privately owned fire and police protection will take the place of government-supported services, Bergland said. If a community or group does not want to pay for them or does not deem the protection necessary, it is their freedom and responsibility to make that decision, he said. GOVERNMENT officials are baffled totally by this thinking, Bergland said. "They honestly believe... we would all shrivel up if there wasn't some government man to come pick up our trash," he said. Bergland is a California Senate candidate and he urged party delegates to join him in emphasizing Proposition 13 and the Libertarian stand on taxes in November general elections. "All over the country taxpayers are jumping for joy over the Jarvis Amendment," Bergland said. "There probably isn't a better opportunity to make strides for the Libertarian Party."

NOTICE

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Unless you have recently sent in money for a FREE TEXAS subscription or renewed your membership in the State LP, YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO FREE TEXAS EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE.

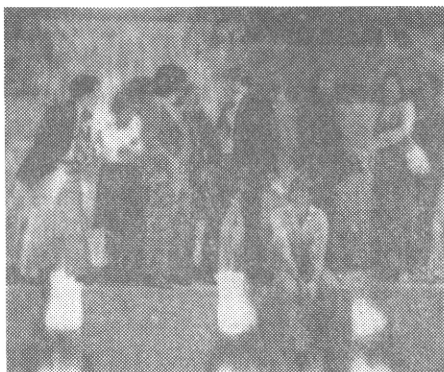
To continue receiving FREE TEXAS, mail your renewal to the Libertarian Party of Texas, P.O. Box 12618, Dallas, Texas 75225. Better yet, renew your party membership using the membership blank below, and send as much as you can!

DISCOUNT MEMBERSHIPS IN NATIONAL LP

A 20% discount on all memberships in the National LP is now available if purchased through the LPT. The size of the Texas delegation to the next National Convention will be determined by the number of memberships held by Texans.

To order your membership, mail your check for the type of membership desired to LPT, P.O. Box 12618, Dallas, Texas 75225.

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Region 1 Caucus at Ft. Worth Water Gardens
Progresses from Anarchy to Chaos

SIGNATURES, cont.

here. But special thanks must be given to the 20 libertarians from across the state who spent one grueling weekend sweltering in 100° heat on the July 4th weekend in the midst of over 35,000 "long-haired, red-necked, dope-smoking, Blue Ribbon Beer drinking, law'n' order, police paranoid, peace-loving, gun-totin' country-rock freaks"--which is how one news reporter described the libertarian effort during the Texas Music Festival at the Dallas Cotton Bowl.

Those 20 brave souls collected over 4,000 signatures in just two days! And it won't be in vain. For they proved that it could be done. That a libertarian giving one weekend of his or her time to the cause can make a real difference. Their effort will be an inspiration to us all in 1980 . . . when we do it again!

Mike Grossberg

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A subscription is included in the price of a membership. Life and Life Sustaining memberships may be paid on a quarterly or monthly basis. Dues are not required for membership but non-paying members do not receive the newsletter or notices of conventions and events.

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- Life member - \$100
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- Send more information - \$1 Contributing member - \$10
- Subscription only - \$5 Supporting member - \$20

CONVENTION, cont.

The platform now supports adopting initiative, referendum, and recall procedures in Texas. A new section provides that as long as any occupational licensing shall exist, we oppose it being used to discriminate against any person on the basis of race, creed, sex, sexual preference, age, financial condition, or political belief.

The platform opposes government construction of coal slurry pipelines. A new section also calls for the elimination of sexual preference as grounds for denying either child custody or the right of adoption.

LIBERTARIAN OF THE YEAR

The 1978 Libertarian of the Year award, presented at the discretion of the State Chair, was given to DCLP member Ann Hammond, in recognition of her race for the Garland City Council.



ANN HAMMOND

Libertarian Party of Texas Platform Plank on TEXAS INDEPENDENCE

Because of Federal violation of the rights of Texans, the subjection of Texans to rules foreign to their condition and their interests, the Federal plunder of Texas natural resources, and the unquestioned right of the people of Texas to self-determination, we call for the legislature of Texas to place the issue of the independence of the Republic of Texas before the people in the form of a binding referendum.

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