

■ Building the Party

Nomination Committees Assist Candidates & Excite New Members

by Norm "Firecracker" Westwell

Most people who register Libertarian never hear from our party. We ignore this vast resource—over 80,000 registered Libertarians in California!—while every election cycle our candidates struggle to attain ballot status. However, the untapped resource may solve our longstanding problem—through the formation of countywide Nomination Committees.

I've already formed one in Orange County. Its task is two-fold:

First, inaccurate and outdated voter registration information continues to hinder our candidates. To solve this problem, at least once per year every county LP's Nomination Committee will email all registered Libertarians in order to verify their voter registration addresses.



Second, our candidates are also impeded by having to pay hefty filing fees (over \$1000) to qualify for the ballot. However, all fees are waived for any candidate who provides 150 valid nomination petitions (i.e., signatures). Details may be found at <http://geocities.com/lpocnomcom>.

To overcome this financial hurdle, a county LP will email its Committee members (those with a Libertarian candidate in their district) before an election, informing them that the LP candidate's nomination papers and instructions will soon arrive by mail. Committee members need only sign the papers, put them in an envelope, and mail them back.

This voluntary electronic system will save the Libertarian Party of Orange County thou-

sands of dollars and hundreds of man-hours of administration time. Most of all, it helps Libertarian candidates get onto the ballot with the least amount of financial and paperwork hassles.

Ideally, each Assembly district would have a minimum of 150 members to fulfill the filing requirements. That sounds like a lot of people, until you remember that we have over 80,000 registered Libertarians in California. Nomination Committees are a great way to introduce them to party activism—without asking them for money.

I suggest asking all newly-registered Libertarians to join this low-impact/zero-cost, prestigious Committee when

they are first registered. The regional website should also have a link. ●

In 2006 Norm "FIRECRACKER" WESTWELL was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Ocean View School District. His email: normw@modernpublic.com.

WANTED:
VOLUNTEERS
for the 2008
Election Season

Fill out the inquiry form on the State Party web site
www.CA.LP.org/volunteer.shtml

In the "Other" field on the form, make sure to put down "Election 2008"



YOUR Advice Wanted

Don't like the national LP's Bylaws or Convention Rules?

M Carling invites members to submit their proposed changes to the National Bylaws Committee at bylaws@lp.org.

Proposed changes under consideration will appear in the national LP News so members can offer comments.

Three Californians currently serve on the ten-member Bylaws Committee:

M Carling,
Aaron Starr, and
Frank Manske
(Counter clockwise from top)

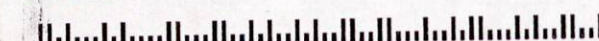
Photos: E.C. Brierty



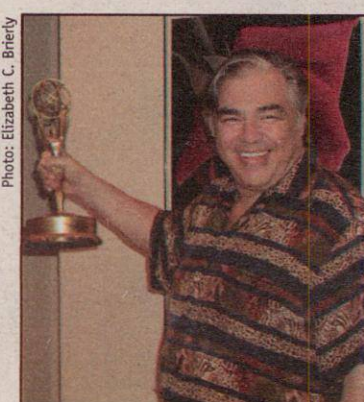
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ATHENS, GA
PERMIT NO. 515

*****AUTO**SCH 3-DIGIT 950

2 281
Jeffrey D. Smith
666 S 13TH ST
SAN JOSE CA 95112-2364



California Freedom



The man who made Mad as Hell won't have to take it anymore

Aaron Russo, who produced movies, television specials and records, and ran for President in 2004, died of cancer last month. He left behind a lasting legacy: a dumbfounding documentary about greedy government called *America: From Freedom to Fascism*. At left he shows off his Emmy award for Bette Midler's "Ol' Red Hair is Back." For more see page 6.

INSIDE

Changes at Executive Offices	2
Medical marijuana win in Orange County	4
Campaigning in mobile home parks	5
In memoriam: Aaron Russo	6
Book review: <i>Blindspot</i> graphic novel	7

California Freedom

September 2007

The official publication of the Libertarian Party of California

Libertarian Mayor Promotes Citizen Self-Rule

by Casey Alpanalp

What's it like having a Libertarian as your town's mayor? Nevada City knows! At the July 11 Nevada City city council meeting, the only item on the single-page agenda was "the passing of the gavel" from outgoing mayor Steve Cottrell (a registered Libertarian since 1992) to his successor. Afterwards, council members and staff visited the bar next door to hoist a few pints.

Nevada City (pop: 3,001) lies on Highway 20 in the Northern California foothills. The town is widely known for its giant Christmas bazaar, mid-summer July parties encompassing all of downtown, and huge gold finds of yore. It's less well known as a Libertarian hotbed. "In the '80s Nevada City was 10% Libertarians," said Cottrell. "Ed

Cottrell was openly proud that grassroots management has proven superior to stacked-up bureaucracy

In his outgoing speech, Cottrell enumerated his appointments of ordinary citizens to positions of responsibility, and was openly proud that grassroots management has proven superior to stacked-up bureaucracy. As mayor he'd set his goals and achieved them. He'd hoped to involve citizens in their own government; the standing-room only council chambers attested to his success. He also wanted to prove that, given the chance, people can self-regulate their own time at the microphone. "I'm happy to say I haven't used this gavel except to call or adjourn a meeting," he announced with a smile.

"In the '80s Nevada City was 10% Libertarians"

— Steve Cottrell

Clark came out here to formally announce his candidacy for President of the United States, back in the day."

INSIDE

Changes at Executive Offices	2
Medical marijuana win in Orange County	4
Campaigning in mobile home parks	5
In memoriam: Aaron Russo	6
Local nomination committees	8

Cottrell has been estranged from the local and state party structures for some years now, but not for malice or spite. In his view, the party simply faded away while he was serving on the school board 20 some years ago. He was first elected to the city council 15 years ago and has been continuously reelected since. He was doing while the party was theorizing. But he's not opposed to attending a party summit, or otherwise participating in events to build the Libertarian Party.

The party returned to Steve, and he's receptive. He'll start receiving *California Freedom* now that he's been noticed as an elected official (granting him party membership), as well as Butte County's little rag. That's a start, and as we grow, we'll surely lift pints together in the near future as Nor-Cal events are being planned. ●

CASEY ALPANALP is Vice Chair of the Butte County LP.

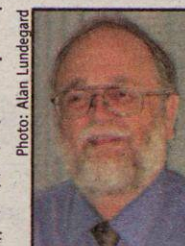
■ Building the Party

Monterey Conference Asks: Is Freedom Dead in America?

by Lawrence K. Samuels

Have the Constitution and Bill of Rights been gutted? Has the government revoked safeguards against illegal imprisonment (writ of habeas corpus and due process), warrantless spying, denial of council, torture to extract confessions, and secret prisons? Is freedom dead in America?

That question will be debated at a mini-conference in the city of Monterey on Saturday, October 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. Events will convene at the Monterey Travelodge Hotel, 2030 N. Fremont Blvd., in the conference room at the Buzzards Restaurant.



A BBQ dinner will follow in Carmel Valley at 6 p.m. The mini-con will feature Prof. David R. Henderson, author of *The Joy of Freedom* and a former senior economist with President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers; Mark Carbonaro, LP member and radio talk show host for



• Henderson • Garriss

KION 1460 AM in Salinas; and Eric Garriss, webmaster for both Antiwar.com and LewRockwell.com.

Sponsors include the California Libertarian Party, the Libertarian Party of Monterey County, Libertarians for Peace (Monterey County), the Sam Adams Forum, and FreedomWatch.

Admission is \$15. Checks payable to Libertarians for Peace at P.O. Box 22231, Carmel, CA 93922. For details, please contact me at: LawSamz@hotmail.com or 831-238-5058 (cell). ●

LAWRENCE K. SAMUELS is a Member of the LPC's Executive Committee and is the Co-Chair of Libertarians for Peace of Monterey County. Write him at LawSamz@hotmail.com.

■ Hollywood Libertarian

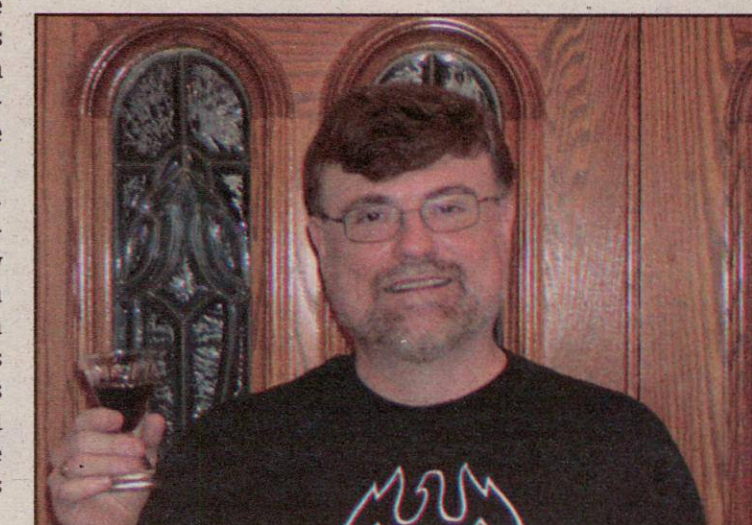
Screenwriter Brad Linaweaver Plugs Libertarianism

by Thomas M. Sipos

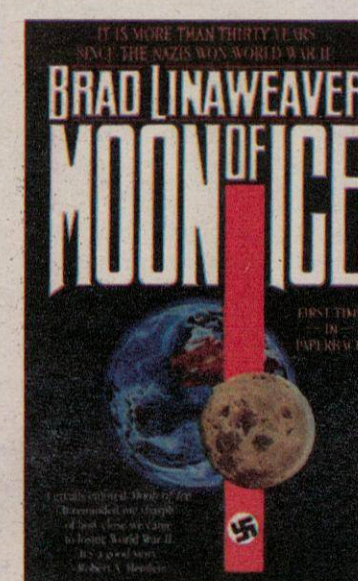
Popular entertainment informs people's world-views, and thus, how they vote. Statist culture produces statist voters. Fortunately, Brad Linaweaver always finds room

to plug liberty in his sci-fi and horror tales, influencing teenagers who don't read political blogs or opinion journals.

"I've been getting libertarian messages into everything for a quarter of a century," said Linaweaver. "Dafydd ab Hugh and I did four novels for Pocket



• Brad Linaweaver of Los Angeles



• In his award-winning novel the Nazis' rule perniciously after winning World War II

Books in the 1990s based on the *Doom* video game. We worked in a lot of libertarian messages. When the Marines are on their way to Mars in one of the books, they're passing around a copy of *Bureaucracy* by Ludwig von

• See Linaweaver page 6

California Freedom

Vol. 5 • Issue 7 • September 2007

California Freedom

is the official monthly newspaper of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions, articles, and advertisements published herein do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

PUBLISHER

Libertarian Party of California
14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402-4935
Web site: www.CA.LP.org
Telephone: (818) 782-8400
Facsimile: (818) 782-8488

EDITOR

Thomas M. Sipos
E-Mail: Editor@CA.LP.org

STATE CHAIRMAN

Kevin Takenaga
E-Mail: Chair@CA.LP.org

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT

M. L. Brown
E-Mail: Muffet@Earthlink.net

WEB SITE

Robert Obreczarek
E-Mail: WebTeam@CA.LP.org

ADVERTISING SALES

E-Mail:
Advertising@CaliforniaFreedom.org
Telephone: (818) 782-8400

CONTRIBUTORS

Casey Aplanalp Brad Linaweaver
Elizabeth C. Brierly L.K. Samuels
John Briscoe Aaron Smith
M. Carling Starchild
Ivan Eland Hueso Taveras
Brian Holtz Norm Westwell

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

Libertarian Party of California
14547 Titus St., Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402
(877) 884-1776

SEND NEWS, LETTERS, ESSAYS,

PHOTOGRAPHS OR ADVERTISING TO:

Editor, California Freedom
14547 Titus Street, Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402-4935
Telephone: (818) 782-8400
Facsimile: (818) 782-8488
E-Mail: Editor@CA.LP.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All news stories, editorials, and announcements are due six weeks prior to the month of publication:

- October 2007: Due 8/20/07
- November 2007: Due 9/20/07
- December 2007: Due 10/20/07

Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising. All contributions subject to our editorial guidelines.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Articles, photos, and artwork copyright 2007 by their author(s) and/or Libertarian Party of California. All rights reserved.

New Changes for Fall and Beyond



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

by Kevin Takenaga

As we end summer, I have mixed news to report. Executive Director **Angela Keaton** and Office Manager **Ali Martin** have both resigned to pursue other opportunities.

Within our Party, nationwide, paid staff achieve the impossible with few resources. Angela and Ali worked under difficult

conditions and with high expectations. We must support our future staff hires with increased donations and volunteer assistance. When we demand great work, we must compensate accordingly.

We're now assessing our office staffing needs. Treasurer Don Cowles and Secretary Beau Cain are reviewing our resources, and how they meet our plans for



the upcoming year to support county parties and participate in the 2008 elections.

We can cut costs without sacrificing service. Better technology should assist our far-flung members in serving the Party without meeting in a physical office. I'll know more after our September Executive Committee meeting.

In the meantime, ExCom has set the dates for our 2008 LPC convention: February 22-24, in San Diego. ExCom Rep **Jesse Thomas** heads up the

Convention Committee. He plans great events for the Presidential election year.

I hope you had a great summer. It's time to push forward toward 2008. ●

Libertarian Party of California
Convention 2008
Feb. 22-24
San Diego

Convention
Committee
Chair
Jesse Thomas



I'd Rather Be Informative Than "Positive"

by Thomas M. Sipos

On July 16, I addressed the topic "Should Libertarians Build Alliances With the Left?" at Los Angeles's Karl Hess Club. Prior to my talk, I was informed that some libertarians had objected to my speaking there. While the KHC's facilitator wouldn't outright tell me the names of those who would ban me, he conceded that I'd guessed right. And on my first attempt!

It wasn't hard. One of them was a "pro-defense" libertarian who's done much public chest-beating over the need for libertarians to be tolerant, so I wasn't surprised by his behind-the-scenes intolerance. Of course, I've met both pro- and antiwar libertarians who would ban the other side. They share the same rationale: that *California Freedom* is a sales tool for the LPC, so it must present the LPC in a "positive" light.

But isn't *California Freedom* also a newspaper?

Really, which is it? An organ of public relations or of journalism? Is its purpose to promote the party or to inform the members?

Ideally, it does both. However, PR and journalism have opposing objectives. PR puts a positive spin on events, the truth be damned. Journalism informs people of unpleasant truths, the consequences be damned.

Some libertarians want us to avoid unpleasant news, as it may discourage or "drive off" members in the short term. Yet fake PR is more harmful in the long run, because it breeds cynicism and distrust once the

happy facade is impossible to maintain. To judge from some libertarian articles over the years, one might think that all artists, musicians, young people, immigrants, entrepreneurs, tech workers, hell, *everyone* on the planet, is *already* a libertarian; they just don't know it yet. Let's ignore that many people within those groups also demand statist entitlements and protections. Please don't mention that. It isn't "positive."

I recall LP fundraising pieces in the 1990s predicting a Libertarian majority House and Senate by 2010. I wonder how many new members had their hopes raised by such "positive" stories, which were at best self-delusional, at worse deceitful. I wonder how many newcomers later quit the LP, disheartened and disgusted and cynical.

Journalism can irritate people, yet in the longterm it's a better sales tool than PR spin. People trust journalists over advertisers, which is why the latter try to mimic the former through infomercials and advertisements. Likewise, LP members will more likely stick around if they believe they're getting "the real scoop" from LP news sources.

In this issue of *California Freedom* we broach the divisive issue of platform reform (see "Letters to the Editor"). A member once told me that *CF* shouldn't cover political or procedural debates; those should be left for the conventions. Unfortunately, the clock always expires before we can vote on, much less debate, every convention proposal. Clearly, members



FROM THE EDITOR

must prepare for the conventions by discussing and debating issues in advance. And if *CF* isn't the proper forum to debate those issues, what is?

Reporting on divisive issues may not be "positive," but I didn't invent these party rifts; they're already there. It's just that some members are unaware of them, and thus might arrive at the conventions unprepared—or not show up at all.

LP members will more likely stick around if they believe they're getting "the real scoop" from CF

(Of course, keeping opponents in the dark may be a goal of the better-organized factions.)

Tim Crowley's letter, and my reply, won't adequately explain the issues that divided the national LP convention in Portland in '06, and will likely repeat in

Denver in '08, but they'll give you a heads up. Use them as a starting point, then conduct your own investigations. Inform yourself. Decide for yourself.

Two brief, final notes. Former *CF* editor **Elizabeth C. Brierly** now works as Media Coordinator for The Independent Institute, from which she submits "U.S. Role in Islamist Terrorism." Thanks Elizabeth, and congrats on the new job!

And much thanks to **Angela Keaton** for her past service as Executive Director. I'm sorry she's left the building. She's a principled woman, with a sharp mind and a pen to match. "A young Ayn Rand," as they say in Hollywood. Although Angela's no longer obligated to produce a monthly column, I hope she'll submit pieces in the future. Please keep up with her at www.AngelaKeaton.com.

I hope you'll find this issue of *California Freedom* positive and informative. But if I had to pick one, I choose the latter. ●

*In a time of universal deceit,
telling the truth
is a revolutionary act.*

— George Orwell



Like what you see?

Purchase back issues of *California Freedom* in bulk quantity to sell or distribute at your outreach event!

Please contact:
Editor@CA.LP.org



Book Review

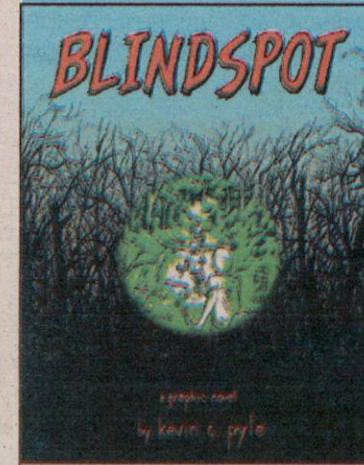
Subverting the Stifling Suburbs

Blindspot
by Kevin Pyle
Henry Holt and Co., 2007

Review by Hueso Taveras

Author Kevin Pyle is familiar with the theme of war and its effects on Americans. He explored this in his previous works in *World War 3 Illustrated* and in one of his own graphic novels, *Eye of God*. In *Blindspot*, he focuses on the vivid war fantasies of an American suburban boy.

Dean shared many adventures with his three friends Glenn, Todd and John. The boys' favorite game was soldiers, and their theater of operations lay in the backwoods just outside



sions in school. After seeing graphic depictions of war in a library book, egged into a fight with a boy he barely knows, and drifting from his friends, Dean faces his increasingly consuming fantasies in the face of a harsh world.

The author uses simple line drawings and single-color washes, a popular technique in indie comics. Pyle uses the power of color to elicit feeling and create atmosphere in his scenes. Dean's suburban world is rendered in monochromatic washes of light teal and sky blue. The four boys travel through their theater of operations in camouflage green, the color of Dean's introspection and happy moments. When confronting enemies, the story shifts to four-color combat scenes right out of 1950s Sgt. Rock comics.

Although the theme is simple, Pyle's book is anything but. Dean is an intelligently written character trapped in his war fantasies. Pyle does an excellent job of avoiding clichés, condescending dialogue, and stereotypes, and creates an inviting and evocative story.

Due to the proliferation of the superhero genre, comics are synonymous with juvenile entertainment. *Blindspot* uses



Because Ideas Matter

U.S. Role in Islamist Terrorism

by Ivan Eland

When U.S. government officials and foreign policy pundits discuss terrorism, they usually focus on the characteristics, personnel, history, tactics, targets, objectives and effects of terrorist organizations. They rarely talk about motives.

To fully understand Islamic terrorism, one needs to understand what triggers this extraordinary rage. And throughout history one factor stands out above all else: the occupation of Muslim land by non-Muslim forces.

From the time of the Crusades, the pattern has been consistent. The Soviet Union learned this difficult lesson following its invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in the late 1970s. The



Russians learned it again when they occupied Chechnya in the 1990s. Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza after the 1967 Six Day War and its military interventions in Lebanon triggered similar reactions, as did the U.S. military presence in Lebanon in the early 1980s. Indeed, it's fair to say that Israel's very existence—a non-Islamic state in land claimed by the Muslims—is part of the same pattern, as is the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

There is much the United States could do to defuse the

this fact to explore the dichotomy of fantasy and reality, a theme that should resonate with our fantasy-driven society. This book comes out at a great time, to coincide with copious ads for the Navy, Marines, and U.S. Army littering the latest adventures of our favorite web slinger, mighty mutants, and dark knights. *Blindspot* is a worthwhile addition to any collection, and should be required reading for anyone who's ever dreamed of being a war hero. ●

HUESO TAVERAS is a self-taught writer based in New York City. He loves comics.

*As the state
is a soulless machine,
it can never be weaned
from violence to which it
owes its very existence.*

— Mohandas K. Gandhi

problem, and a good place to start would be by removing land-based U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf.

Even Osama bin Laden claims he attacks the United States primarily because of its military presence in the region. Other reasons, he claims, are secondary.

Remember, bin Laden first went to war not against the United States, but against the Soviets in Afghanistan. When he returned to his Saudi Arabia homeland after fighting the Soviets, he found a large—and to him unacceptable—U.S. military presence in the desert kingdom, which remained after evicting Saddam Hussein from Kuwait. It was then that the United States became a target.

During the Cold War, one could make a plausible argument for some U.S. involvement overseas to counter the expansionist Soviet superpower. When the Soviet Union collapsed, that rationale disappeared.

Even if the United States believes the global oil market will fail to deliver Persian Gulf oil to U.S. shores without U.S. military forces protecting it (a dubious proposition), the U.S. military could protect our oil lifeline from offshore, without troops stationed in Muslim countries.

The United States has done so before. In 1991, when the George H.W. Bush administration believed U.S. oil supplies were endangered by Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, U.S.-based land and air forces were sent to the Gulf to push Saddam out

of Kuwait. After the job was done, those forces should have been brought home. Instead, the United States established a large military footprint in the region, which, in retrospect, was exactly the wrong move.

Now it's time to get rid of that unneeded land presence, not to increase the ante by talking about permanent U.S. bases in Iraq.

Just look at the troubles the United States has caused in Afghanistan. There, the continued U.S. occupation—which has changed its main focus from killing or capturing bin Laden to nation-building, counterinsurgency, and drug interdiction—is fueling a resurgence of the Taliban movement.

Only by minimizing the permanent U.S. military presence in Arab and Islamic lands can we hope to stem anti-U.S. terrorism. The United States should withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, inform the Afghans that U.S. forces will return if any Afghan government harbors al Qaeda, and use Special Forces to hunt down al Qaeda's leadership. This process needs to be repeated in Iraq and the Persian Gulf.

The lesson learned is that empire does not enhance security—it undermines it. U.S. power on Islamic soil is especially problematical. ●

IVAN ELAND is a Senior Fellow at the Independent Institute, and author of the books *The Empire Has No Clothes: U.S. Foreign Policy Exposed* and *Putting "Defense" Back into U.S. Defense Policy*.

Photo courtesy of the Independent Institute

Interstate Long Distance Calls 2.9 cents a minute!

California Long Distance 3.5 cents a minute!

- NO fees or monthly minimums. No "gotcha's"!
- Billed in six-second increments
- Superb rates for international calls

The UK, France, Germany, Italy, Israel	4.9 cents a minute
China, Japan, Russia and Australia	3.9 cents a minute
Canada	7.9 cents a minute
Hawaii	15 cents a minute
India	15 cents a minute
- Fiber optic line service—the best quality. NOT Internet telephony!



Call Richard Rider
at Economy Telcom (800) 914-8466



• Aaron Russo, Starchild, and Joe Bannister at San Francisco premiere of Russo's eye-opening documentary film

Linaweaver

continued from page 1

Mises. I don't know how many 14- or 15-year-old boys reading *Doom* noticed that we were promoting Mises, but we were."

Linaweaver's libertarian messages are more explicit in his original novels. In the Prometheus Award-winning *Moon of Ice*, the Nazis' kooky paganism takes full bloom after Hitler wins World War II. And in *Anarquia*, co-written with J. Kent Hastings, Falangists and Communists are both defeated by Anarchists in the Spanish Civil War.

Linaweaver enjoys story credits on several films, such as *Jacko*, *The Brain Leeches*, *The Low Budget Time Machine*, and *Her Morbid Desires* (part of *The Boneyard Collection*). "My involvement with movies has been mostly low-budget, exploitation stuff where ideology is not that relevant. When you're writing science fiction for a New York publisher, you actually achieve something when you slip in a libertarian idea. But with independent, exploitation, low-budget Hollywood, there's already an anti-authoritarian attitude. That culture is by nature fairly libertarian. There's less need to be a propagandist."

As a straight political pun-

dit, Linaweaver has written for *National Review* and been praised by no less than Ronald Reagan. "I've been friends with William F. Buckley for many years," said Linaweaver. "He's endorsed two of my books. Regarding Reagan, in late 1976 he did a radio broadcast about one of the first articles I ever sold to a na-

"I've been getting libertarian messages into everything for a quarter of a century"

tional market. A piece called 'The Wish' that appeared in *New Guard*, the magazine of Young Americans for Freedom. Reagan was saying, 'Brad Linaweaver, how right he is!'"

That particular broadcast is reprinted in *Stories in His Own Hand: The Everyday Wisdom of Ronald Reagan*. It's also available on CD in Reagan's own voice.

Linaweaver is glad he didn't learn of Reagan's praise until decades after the fact. "I never would have had my career in Hollywood. I might not have written for *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, *Cult Movies*, or *Filmfax*,

■ Fallen Freedom Fighter

Aaron Russo, Rest in Peace

by Starchild

Aaron Russo, libertarian activist and film producer (*The Rose, America: Freedom to Fascism*), succumbed to cancer on August 24, 2007.

One of my fondest LP memories is sitting and rapping with Aaron and former national LP chair Geoff Neale on the floor of a convention hotel room in L.A. I'd taken out all the chairs, covered the lights and furniture with clothes and bedsheets, and strewn pillows across the floor to create a bit of countercultural ambience. I was dressed in "play attire" (the purple butterfly/faerie outfit) while they were in "business attire"—and they both rolled with it like troopers!

Aaron was a big, brash, street-fighter kind of guy. But as Rachel Mills asked in a flier promoting him for the LP's 2004 presidential nomination, "Who would you rather have fighting for your freedom, Mr. Rogers or Tony Soprano?"

The last time I saw Aaron was

Aaron Russo: In His Own Words

From an interview by Elizabeth C. Brierly

"I was very successful as a movie producer, you know—Emmys, Academy Award nominations, Golden Globes—everything a man could want. And I gave it all up to get involved in politics, because I wanted to make a change in the country. From my point of view, it was an opportunity to go do that, and then when I lost—even when I lost the governor's race in Nevada (I came in second)—I was wondering, 'Why am I doing this? Why am I on this path?'"

"This movie [*America: Freedom to Fascism*] is about the system, what's happening. People are seeking truth, and I think this movie is [going to give] it to them. This may be the best work I've ever done; it's certainly the most important. I'm more proud of this than of anything I've done in my life. This has a chance to make a difference in the world."

"I believe in God—though I don't believe in religion—and I realized in many ways, it might be because of this IRS movie. I have a chance to demonstrate my movie skills, which I developed first, and my political knowledge, which came second, and then to combine them into making movies about things that are important. Maybe that's why I had to go through the process I went through. That's what I've come out of it with, and I'm happy with that."

at the San Francisco premiere of *America: Freedom to Fascism* at the delightfully seedy Victoria

Theater. His passion and commitment to our cause will be greatly missed. ●

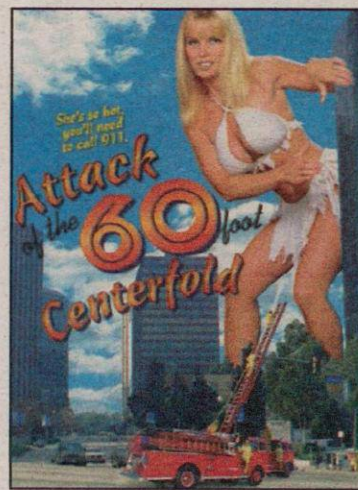
mon with the 'conservatism' of George W. Bush is obscene. Richard Nixon is John Galt out of *Atlas Shrugged* compared to Bush—and that's even with Nixon doing wage and price controls. The Republican Party has fallen so low, there's not much lower it can go.

"I'm embarrassed that I temporarily supported the Bush war in Iraq. I was misled. I had no idea I was supporting a utopian experiment. I've spent my whole life opposing utopian experiments. Now we have the American military trying to achieve some kind of utopian democracy in Iraq. That drives me crazy. I've always been fundamentally an isolationist. I

want a small government. You cannot have a small government and run the planet. It is impossible."

In his 2006 essay collection, *Post-Nationalism: George Bush as President of the World*, Linaweaver elaborates on his foreign policy views. "A handful of neoconservatives have killed off everything I still cared about in the Republican Party. I predict the Democrats will be in total control after the '08 election. There'll be a Democrat president in the White House, whereupon I will expand *Post-Nationalism* into a larger book. My working title is *Elephant's Graveyard: How Neoconservatives Destroyed the Republican Party*." ●

• Linaweaver's work in low-budget Hollywood flicks has kept his career from being all serious, political commentary



Letters to the Editor

It's About Time

The new *California Freedom* looks awesome! I'm glad they are finally giving the war issue the top attention it deserves. Too bad we were not doing this back in 2001 and 2002 and ever since. My congratulations to the new editors!

— Paul Frankel,
aka "Paulie Cannoli"
no permanent address

I Can Breathe Again!

California Freedom has been a breath of fresh air lately. I used to read both the state and national newsletters pretty much cover to cover as soon as they came. But since Bill Winters stopped editing *LP News*, and especially [*California Freedom*] under Bruce, they just weren't holding my interest. But the latest *California Freedom* actually had debate and discussion of ideas again. It's about time!

I thought your piece on migration (people usually say "immigration," but "migration" is a more neutral term that doesn't assume the perspective of people watching others coming in) was terrific. Even though I'm strongly for open borders and don't agree with "English only" sentiments, you made a good case in favor of assimilation.

— Starchild
San Francisco, CA

No More Pro-War

You and I are of like minds, I hope, of keeping pro-war junk out of the newspaper. The Holtz article ["Antiwar Stance Does Not Grow the LP," August 2007] should say "opinion" on it. Please indicate in the future that this is the opinion of this one person. It says instead "LP Executive Committee," implying this is the opinion of the ExCom.

Also, publishing an obviously erroneous point of view is not great. Our membership is up because of Ron Paul's antiwar campaign.

I would support you in any future decisions to leave pro-war stuff out of the paper because it really hurts our membership.

— Mark Selzer
Los Angeles, CA

Editor's reply: Since the vast majority of Californians are antiwar Iraq, I agree that unambiguously

opposing the war would grow the LPC. More importantly, it would be right on principle.

However, when I wear my journalist's hat, I feel obligated to present minority views. The "Because Ideas Matter" heading implies that Holtz's article is political discourse rather than hard news. The reference to "ExCom" merely informs readers as to Holtz's identity; I don't think anyone inferred that he was speaking for ExCom.

Platform Reform or Principles Trashed?

The Libertarian Reform Caucus is a coalition of over 1,000 freedom lovers who desire an effective libertarian party—one capable of winning elections now and turning the tide from statism to more liberty. The current LP cannot meet this standard. Its platform has been far too radical to allow significant electoral victory.

The changes at Portland were a first step toward addressing these issues, but the platform is still in dire need of reform. Planks based on the LRC's Statement of Purpose will help all Libertarians and LP candidates improve the political climate in our country:

1. The platform should propose a realistic vision for the next few years, as opposed to an idealistic vision of a libertarian future. The public expects a party platform to show what a party's candidates intend to do during the next term of office. If the party wants a long term vision statement or a Statement of Principles, it should be in a separate document labeled as such.

2. The platform should unite libertarians instead of dividing them. Where libertarians disagree, the platform should be silent. The party platform should be a tool for all libertarians.

3. The platform should be based on the realization that there are other important values in addition to the non-initiation of force. Freedom is extremely valuable, but it is not the only value.

4. The platform should be viewed as a marketing document, not a litmus test. It should be written to attract libertarians and libertarian-leaning to vote Libertarian and to join the LP. Suggested platform planks can be voted on at www.ReformTheLP.org.

— Tim Crowley
Pittsburgh, PA

Editor's reply: I am troubled by the LRC's readiness to trade principles for an illusory promise of political power. They talk of a "big tent" and ignoring "divisive" issues. I suspect that means: make "Republican lite" folk feel welcome by expelling the radicals, purists, and "weirdoes."

In Crowley's own words: "My main focus is to make the LP a little less of a validation tool for weirdoes." (See: www.reformthelp.org/home/about/officers.php and click "Tim Crowley.")

LRC activists at Portland appeared well-organized and well-financed. (By whom, one wonders). They said the LP platform deterred voters and candidates. They said the LP would attract stronger candidates if they were free to formulate their own positions on issues (just like Demopublicans!).

The LRC's Carl Milsted Jr. writes: "I've been called 'unprincipled' repeatedly. So be it. It's time to put an end to 'The Party of Principle'. It's about freedom! ...America needs a real libertarian party—one which gets freedom-lovers elected to partisan offices."

But we already have that. Every elected official is a "freedom-lover." "Freedom" is George Bush's favorite word. The Nazis and Bolsheviks and Big Brother all advocated "freedom"—as defined by them. "Freedom is Slavery."

A detailed LP platform tells the world, and our candidates, what we mean by freedom. It prevents us from drifting into Demopublicanism. We can still nominate candidates who drift from our platform, but the platform is the compass that keeps us (roughly) on course.

The LRC advocates a "big tent." I suspect they plan to expand it by expelling, or at least shunting aside, radicals, purists, and weirdos who presumably "scare off" normal folk. LRC supporter Eric Dondoro admits as much: "The Radicals have controlled things for too long. Both the RLC [Republican Liberty Caucus] and the LRC need to take the reigns of the entire libertarian political movement, and tell the Rads to sit down in the back of the bus, and shut the hell up. If they want to come along for the ride, fine. If not, they need to exit out the Exit Door; preferably at a high speed during peak traffic. (sic. see: <http://www.smallgov.org/?p=331>).

Every LRC activist I've met wants the LP to ignore the Iraq War, because the issue is "divisive" and dissuades "pro-security" people from joining. (More are needed to push the "Rads" out the Exit Door). I told one LRC activist in Portland that the LP should educate voters into supporting us, rather than us diluting our principles to attract them. The activist said I belonged in a think tank rather than in a political party, which was "about getting votes." He was friendly, but I'm sure he preferred I exit his "big tent."

Apart from the war, the LRC regards "sexual rights" as controversial

Meeting Notice

You're Invited to ExCom!

All members may attend and observe the next LPC Executive Committee meeting.

Saturday, September 15, 2007.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Clarion Hotel San Francisco Airport
401 E. Millbrae Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030
Hotel website: www.ClarionSFO.com

For details and last-minute changes, check our web site at: www.CA.LP.org



and divisive, hence, another issue the LP should avoid. See the discussion between Crowley and Outright Libertarians Rob Power and Brian Miller at: <http://outrightlibertarians.blogspot.com/2007/05/lrc-says-equal-rights-is-narrow-and.html>.

Power correctly writes: "The LP can soldier on without electoral success as long as we provide a political home for the politically homeless. But as soon as we have a platform indistinguishable from the major parties, we'll lose our core support and go the way of other parties who abandoned their ideological base, like the Reform Party. But I have a strong suspicion that this is the exact intent of at least some of the LRC's supporters who are really just Republicans seeking to eliminate the Libertarian threat as they did to the Reform Party via Pat Buchanan."

From where does the LRC get its money? I also agree with Miller, who writes: "The LRC's definition of 'pragmatism' is truly bizarre. They demand that every issue where any Libertarian disagrees (including new Libertarians who are former Republicans and carry GOP 'baggage') be dropped from our platform. I have to wonder—what's the allure of the Libertarian Party to a 'libertarian' who thinks that government discrimination against gays, Middle Easterners, immigrants, etc. is A-OK? ...

"Coming to the Libertarian Party and demanding that we stop fighting for the rights of ALL people because it makes him uncomfortable is just infantile and selfish. Not to mention uncompromising. There's plenty of room for legitimate disagreement within the LP...What there isn't room for is the undermining or selling out of the rights of a group of people in exchange for some ephemeral political power. We'd rather continue our pattern of steady electoral growth (see our great results in 2006) rather than win 'instant' power by co-opting a Republican agenda."

Yet the LRC has reason to brag. It gutted much of the LP's platform in the "Portland purge" (as some call it). The LRC website explains why: "(1) It required a mere majority to eliminate an old plank. It requires a 2/3 vote to replace it. [Most planks were dropped or kept by a 49 to 51% margin, give or take a fraction of a percentage point—Editor.], (2) Many non-reformers also believed that a platform rewrite was in order. The reformatting in Atlanta (2004) resulted in a platform that read badly. (3) The purists were caught off

guard. (4) Portland was expensive to get to. Many povertarian radicals stayed home."

Very true. Radicals, purists, and "weirdoes" were blindsided in Portland. They should be better prepared, and arrive in greater numbers, in Denver come 2008.

Proportional Voting in the LPC

Thanks for all of your work. It's a pleasure to read such interesting articles, and an inspiration to send a letter to the editor.

I guess ya'll are aware I ran for LPC Chairman. I've been promoting parliamentary elections based on pure proportional representation for 12 years (started online August 5th, 1995).

I have several suggestions to expand the LPC's membership, and the numbers of people working together. This requires that roadblocks be taken down.

The current LPC system is not free (\$100 to attend and vote in the convention this year), and not parliamentary. Two huge roadblocks.

What I want to change within the LPC are two things:

(1) All voters should have the liberty to self-categorize as they wish without penalty. (For example, I'm a registered Libertarian, but I proclaim to be with the Free Parliamentary Party. Another person may be a Republican, but prefer to vote Libertarian.), and

(2) All elections should be based on pure proportional representation.

For an example, see how the U.S. parliamentary system works: www.usparliament.org

—James Ogle
Butte County, CA

Holding a Libertarian Event?

Tell us about your plans or how it went
Editor@CA.LP.Org

