

California Freedom

March 2009 ————— The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

Celebrating Equality

The Milk Man Rings True

by **Laura G. Brown**

A few words about *Milk*, the movie: See it. It's wonderful.

Milk just garnered a 2008 Best Picture nomination for its portrayal of Harvey Milk, a campaigner for gay rights who was elected San Francisco City Supervisor in 1977. Fellow supervisor Dan White killed him in 1978 in an act of homophobic rage.

The film documents Milk's story as an outsider who comes to California seeking personal freedom (a story many libertarians can identify with). He turns outrage against the status quo into political action, seeing public office as a way to improve conditions for gays in San Francisco.

Note to libertarian candidates: Milk loses the first three elections, and finally wins the supervisor seat by focusing on

neighborhood ties and building coalitions.

Milk's progress from leading street marches to drafting laws is fascinating to watch, and the homophobia which finally brings him down is a sad commentary on prejudice. That said, the Libertarian Party should "milk" some of this film's themes (neighborhood activism, and standing up to bigotry, injustice, and segregation) for all they're worth.

I couldn't watch *Milk* without thinking of the Libertarian bookstore in San Francisco's Market Street in the early 1980s. This eclectic storefront attracted a diverse crowd, including such celebrities in the fledgling movement as Jeff Rigenbach and Wendy McElroy, who would stop in to chat or to organize events. Castro Street, prominently featured in the movie, was a five minute bus hop from

the store, and looked much as depicted in the movie. The LP was barely 10 years old at the time, and was in a very activist mode in San Francisco. Gay rights were noticeably on the agenda.

Yet in 2008—when *Milk* was released—the LP National Committee's spokesperson, Andrew Davis, couldn't even make a coherent case against Prop 8 in the party's blog.

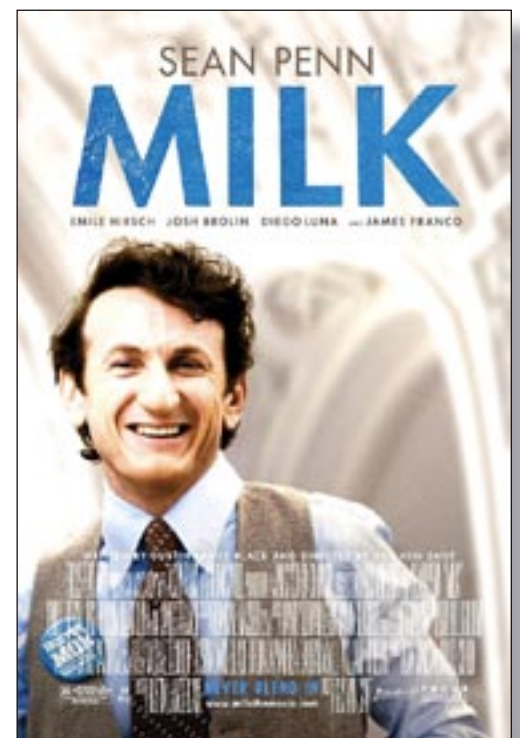
Another posting last August on the LPC's website argued that government has no place in marriage—a Utopian view that ignores the way things are and leaves gays in the lurch.

Our 2008 presidential candidate, Bob Barr (a former Republican), authored the Defense of Marriage Act, which says gay marriage is illegitimate.

With the LP and other civil libertarians so weak on this

issue, is it any wonder that church groups mobilized to close the apathy gap and pass the initiative?

Prop 8 can't be tolerated under the concept of equal protection under the law. But the initiative, at least 50 years behind its time, will create lots of enmity as gays get moved to the back of the wedding limo. Boycotts against "pro" donors will hurt in a tight economy. Lawyers are the only ones who stand to benefit from the legal morass before Prop 8 is inevitably overturned. Twenty-five years past



the time I was active in the San Francisco LP, some of us are growing disillusioned.

continued on page 5...

Medical Marijuana Update

Obama's First DEA Raid in CA: Change?

by **Steve Kubby**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) raided a medical marijuana dispensary in South Lake Tahoe, California, during the first days of the new Obama Administration.

Although President Barack Obama had made repeated promises during his election campaign to end federal raids in medical marijuana states, a California medical cannabis dispensary, complying with state law, was robbed at gunpoint by DEA officers.

Medical marijuana and an unknown amount of cash were seized during the raid, from Holistic Solutions, but no arrests were made.

This first DEA raid under the new Obama Administration is

another example of more than 100 raids on medical marijuana providers that have occurred in California over the past two years.

While the greatest federal enforcement has occurred in California, the DEA has been active in other states as well. Federal agents raided the Washington State offices of a medical marijuana advocacy group that was supplying starter plants to hundreds of authorized patients. In Oregon, a federal grand jury was used by the DEA to obtain the medical records of several patients, an effort that was later rejected by a federal court. The DEA also threatened New Mexico officials for planning to implement that state's medical mari-



Steve Kubby helped draft and pass California Prop 215, which legalized medical marijuana in 1996. He is the author of *The Politics of Consciousness and Why Marijuana Should Be Legal*. He can be contacted via his website: www.Kubby.com.

juana distribution program.

"I would not have the Justice Department prosecuting and raiding medical marijuana users," Senator Obama said in an August 2007 statement. "It's not a good use of our resources." This statement was followed up by Obama in other public events in the run up to the election.

I call for President Obama to do the right thing for medical marijuana patients and their providers. Just as Gitmo prisoners have been held without charge, and then "tried" in courts where they're not allowed full rights of the accused, in medical marijuana cases well-intentioned people are charged with activities that aren't crimes in California, and denied the chance to present a defense.

President Obama did the right thing with closing Guantanamo Bay. Let's hope he will provide similar protection to medical marijuana patients and their providers.

Hopeful Sign

As we go to press, Americans for Safe Access reports: "Speaking at a press conference on Feb. 25 with DEA Administrator Michele Leonhart, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder told reporters that ending federal medical marijuana raids 'is now American policy.' The Attorney General's comments are the latest sign of a sea change in federal policy prompted by a groundswell of grassroots pressure by ASA and our allies. They came as a response to DEA raids carried out by Bush Administration holdovers in California in January and February." Their site: SafeAccessNow.org

California Freedom

Vol. 7 • Issue 3 • March 2009

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

EDITOR

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

STATE CHAIRMAN

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

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Brad Reynolds
E-Mail: BradleyYes@aol.com

WEB SITE

E-Mail: WebTeam@CA.LP.org

ADVERTISING SALES

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

CONTRIBUTORS

Laura G. Brown, Steve Kubby,
Jason Gonella, Loyd E. Eskildson,
Robert Carlberg, Dan Fernandes,
Lawrence K. Samuels,
Christina Tobin

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
E-Mail: Editor@CA.LP.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

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 2009 by their author(s) and/or Libertarian Party of California. All rights reserved.

From the Editor

Is California Freedom Too Antiwar?

by Thomas M. Sipos

California Freedom's future editorial direction will be among the issues decided by the upcoming LPC state convention in April, so you should read this.

Paulie Cannoli posted my January editorial at IndependentPoliticalReport.com. ExCom member Brian Holtz posted an email he'd sent me. (See the LTE section.) The thread soon became dominated by whether *CF* is too antiwar, and how my tenure compares to that of Bruce Cohen and Brian Holtz before me. See: www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/01/thomas-sipos-on-angela-keaton-and-ron-paul/.

This led to another thread, same issue: www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/02/6618/

Too much to summarize—331 posts, so far! Read those links to make sure I don't take things out of context. But I'll address some points here.

Brian Holtz complains that I'm "obsessed" with antiwar, which he calls an "internally divisive" issue. Bruce Cohen adds: "When I ran *California Freedom*, we never had ANY articles about the war at all."

Bruce is right about that. He did (does?) support the Iraq War. I debated him on that issue at Los Angeles's Fountain Theater in 2005. Granted, he says he's "pro-defense," not "pro-war." Either way, under his tenure, *CF* was silent on the war.

But is that something to brag about?

Prior to our economic crisis, war dominated this nation's political consciousness. The Democrats were swept into Congress in 2006 largely because voters misperceived them as being antiwar. In 2008, voter misperception that Obama was antiwar helped him beat Clinton, then McCain.

I said as early as 2002, the LP should own the antiwar issue. Had the LP then taken a loud and visible antiwar stance, some of that voter support would have been ours.

Brian Holtz criticizes me for using "filler articles with no specific LPCA angle."

Brian is right. I've reprinted articles of libertarian interest (though no party connection)



from many non-libertarian sources: the neocon American Enterprise Institute, the paleocon *American Conservative* magazine, the progressive-left Alternet.org, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, *2600: The Hacker Quarterly*, and NORML, to name some.

Apart from bringing interesting articles to readers, there's an outreach benefit. When I request a reprint, these groups discover, or are reminded, that they have libertarian allies on certain issues. They're thrilled that we're promoting their issues, and develop a more positive view of libertarians.

This requires additional effort. Finding relevant articles, securing reprint rights, then getting author's approval if I edit significantly for word count. But I think the quality of the articles, and the outreach benefits, are worth that effort.

Bruce Cohen accuses me of turning *CF* "into a carbon copy of the Daily Kos, where any Libertarians that aren't anarcho-extremists are unwelcome."

Did Bruce notice the diversity of sources for those reprints?

I'm no anarcho-extremist. I'm a minarchist who admires the U.S. Constitution and *Federalist Papers*. I favor a limited Constitutional republic. Perhaps the confusion arises because I am a *true* minarchist. I put the *min* in my minarchy.

That said, some of the brightest, hardest-working, and most principled libertarians are our anarchists. Ironically, despite Bruce's complaint, many anarchists think the LP is making *them* unwelcome. They've been told that anarchists are not libertarians.

Let's be clear: Some anarchists are libertarians. Some are not. Some minarchists, Constitutionals, and Objectivists are libertarians.

Some are not.

I'm a Big Tent libertarian. I voted for Mike Gravel on the first three ballots, though I disagree with his progressive-left national voter initiative. Then I voted for Mary Ruwart, despite her anarchistic views. I voted for Ron Paul, despite his GOP ties. I voted for Steve Kubby in the 2008 California primary. I voted for George Phillies when he ran for national LP chair. A pretty big tent, I think.

The only common thread is that all are strongly antiwar.

I select articles based not solely on content, but image. How do we present ourselves to voters? Our image has long been that of a party of mostly middle-aged, white men, who are *sincere* Republicans. We want tax cuts, and we mean it. Unlike those *insincere* Republicans in the GOP.

As a middle-aged, white man, who was once a registered Republican, I've tried to fight that stereotype through *CF*'s editorial content. Tax cuts are good, but freedom from having a liberventionist bunker buster dropped on your children is perhaps even better.

During my tenure, I've made mistakes. I'll make more. But I think I got the Big Issues right. Antiwar and open debate. I've never rejected a critical or dissenting LTE, though I've requested that some be trimmed for word count.

ExCom hired me, and they can fire me. Most current ExCom members have been very supportive. But dissatisfied libertarians hope to change things at the April state convention. When Paulie Cannoli suggested that Brian Holtz offer his services to *LP News*, Brian replied: "I need to fix the California newsletter before I can worry about *LP News*."

I assume he's gathering supporters for the state convention. That's his right.

You, the delegates, will decide the future issues and image that the LPC presents to voters. Whether the next ExCom retains or removes me will not change my life. If I am removed, I leave proud of my work. Of having repeatedly reminded libertarians (and how sad that some need reminding) that "War is the health of the state."

...continued from page 3

Sacramento. If I am able to attend, I hope we accomplish enough to write an article for the paper.

My support on Facebook for the Ride for Liberty has grown to 117 people across the nation. Not limited to just LP members, but crossing the political boundaries through Faith alone. I may have also gained a campaign manger; trying to figure how to work with the distance between us. Has managed a Senate, Congress, and other campaigns, life member of ISIL, etc.

As soon as Angela [Keaton] has the time, she and I are going to meet in Berkeley so we can discuss what's ahead. I will also give her a tour of where "People's Park" was, and other spots where the fight for Freedom first began in the 1960s. She has also given me her support for the horse ride.

— Barbara "Joy" Waymire,
Calaveras County, CA

LPC Undemocratic

What does the ACLU have which the LP needs? Democracy!

California Freedom suggests flying to the LPC convention to have a voice; the *ACLU News* includes the ACLU ballot.

Unlike the rank and file of the ACLU who choose their leaders, the Reg Libs and Libertarians who pay dues get no vote at all. Whoever shows up at the LPC convention will control the party. The self-selected group of so-called "delegates" decides everything.

A libertarian party needs democracy as much as the ACLU. Democracy matters, but we provide none. The state of California gives us a presidential primary, but we do not use it. The state offers elections to choose our Central Committees, but we ignore that too. At one time, we voted on the convention delegates, but now we do not elect them, either.

We could improve our results just by offering more democracy. We could start by electing convention delegates and honoring our primary.

When there are high barriers to participation, only people with a lot to gain will participate. People getting special privileges from government can afford to participate in every political party, and do so. People who just want smaller government, like Libertarians, have much less material gain to offset their expenses.

continued on page 7...



Letters to the Editor

Barr's PAC

Editor Tom Sipos writes in the Jan 2009 *California Freedom*: "Bob Barr only contributed millions of PAC dollars to GOP candidates running against LP candidates, while he sat on the LNC." This is a recklessly extravagant falsehood.

Barr joined the LNC in Dec 2006. OpenSecrets.org tells us that the Bob Barr Leadership Fund donated a total of \$41,300 to 25 non-LP federal candidates in the 2008 campaign cycle. Even if by some miracle all 25 had Libertarian opponents, Sipos's reckless charge against our party's recent presidential nominee would still be wrong by two orders of magnitude.

Meanwhile, during the 2008 cycle Barr's PAC relied on its presumably conservative/Republican donors to finance contributions of \$4,300 to federal LP candidates, \$21,000 to the LNC, and \$5,000 to the South Carolina LP. I seriously doubt that any other source donated more to LP causes during that cycle. Barr has also personally donated thousands of dollars to the LP and its candidates, including several hundred dollars to the LPC.

Meanwhile, Sipos is paid by the LPC about \$4000/year—surely much more than any other state LP editor—for stuffing *California Freedom* with multi-page editorials and multiple antiwar articles per issue. I find no record of any donations by Sipos to the LP or its candidates. (Full disclosure: I've donated over \$10,000 to the LP and its candidates in the last 5 years. Details at <http://libertarianmajority.net/bh-lp-activism>.)

If by chance this letter to the editor is printed in full in *CF*, take note whether Sipos will once again allocate himself more space to answering a critical letter than he allocates for the letter itself. For my response to the most recent time I got that treatment, see <http://knowinghumans.net/2007/08/cfs-new-antiwar-ob-session-still-wont.html>.

— Brian Holtz
Los Altos Hills, CA

Editor replies: I'd read that Bob Barr's PAC had raised millions, and that most of his PAC donations went to Republicans. I believe I was right about that. My error was in assuming that since his PAC raised millions, it must have donated millions.

Apparently, while he'd raised \$4.3 million according to the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* (May 18, 2008): "Bob Barr's PAC is unusual for paying him from funds raised and using donations to raise more funds, a nonpartisan analyst said." See: www.ajc.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/05/19/barrpac_0518.html.

So it seems that most of the millions he's raised has not gone to any candidates. Mea culpa on that score.

But Brian ignores my essential point. I wasn't complaining about Barr's support of GOP candidates—I proudly voted for Ron Paul—but about the LNC's double standard in dealing with Barr and Angela Keaton. Angela was charged with, among other things, supporting a competing political party by joining a Boston Tea Party Facebook account. Yet the LNC ignored Barr's greater support of the GOP.

My numbers were off, but my point remains true. Angela Keaton was persecuted for doing what Barr also did, and to a greater degree.

I'm paid \$350 per issue. I'm told this is what Elizabeth Brierly, a previous editor, was paid several years ago.

It's true that I've published many antiwar pieces. I plan more. Should I publish only one economics article per year? Peace and civil liberties are as important as tax cuts.

A Case for War

I do not believe that the duty of a liberty-loving polity to defend human liberty vanishes completely at lines drawn on maps by statisticians. It was reasonable (but not necessary) for American liberty-lovers to decide to liberate Iraq based on the conjunction of Saddam's apparent threat to America, consisting of his: admitted nuclear ambitions, hatred for America (regardless of whether some think it justified), and support for terrorists who have targeted American civilians; Saddam's record of aggression, in which he killed over a million people, invaded one sovereign neighbor, annexed another by force, fired ballistic missiles at two more, defied UN nuclear disarmament mandates that Iraq was bound to obey as a 1945 UN Charter signatory, used chemical WMDs in a war of aggression, and used

chemical WMDs in genocidal attacks on his own citizens; and the existence proofs we had in Kurdistan and Afghanistan that the U.S. military could depose tyranny in even less-modernized Islamic societies and replace it with reasonably stable self-determination.

There are two predictions that could have changed my mind about liberating Iraq if before the invasion we had been given reasonable grounds for believing them. The most important is the prediction that, despite the stability in Kurdish Iraq under U.S. military protection, and despite the surprising success America had in deposing the Taliban, a sectarian civil war would be more likely than not to eventually undermine our effort to liberate the rest of Iraq—a region much more secular, prosperous, and literate than Afghanistan. This prediction would have needed to be accompanied by evidence that this sectarian civil war was likely to be permanently avoidable under some alternative U.S. course of action that had acceptable costs in terms of what evils Saddam and his sons committed or abetted (both in the region and against the West) during the rest of their tenure.

The other crucial prediction would have been that Saddam in fact had neither a nuclear WMD program nor the capability and intention of reconstituting the pre-1991 program that we found out in 1995 he had so successfully hidden from the West. On my blog I document an intensive but fruitless search for any Iraq Cassandra who credibly registered either of these two predictions. Indeed, the Iraqi people themselves were still failing to make the first prediction a year after the invasion. In an April 2004 CNN/Gallup nationwide poll of Iraqis, 42% "said Iraq was better off because of the war", and 61% "said Saddam Hussein's ouster made it worth any hardships." In a nationwide poll of Iraqis completed in March 2004 for BBC by Oxford Research International, "56% said that things were better now than they were before the war".

Was the invasion unconstitutional? Art I Sec 8 grants Congress the power "to declare war" and "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying [that power] into execution". Public Law 107-243 (the Iraq War Resolution of Oct 2002) said "the President is authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to [...] enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq." In the text of the resolution, Congress

explicitly mentions its "war power" when discussing its authority to enact this law. Whether Congress believed it was exercising its Constitutional war power is not even a close question.

Was the invasion not justifiable under international law? Iraq is a signatory of the UN Charter and owes America and all other signatories a duty to obey UN Security Council resolutions. From the end of the 1991 war until U.S. troops started massing on his border in 2002, Saddam had consistently and repeatedly violated his obligations under the terms of the UN Security Council resolutions governing the 1991 cease-fire. The UN Security Council itself said in resolution 1441 that "Iraq has been and remains in material breach of its obligations under relevant resolutions, including resolution 687"—i.e. the 1991 cease-fire terms. Thus a reasonable case can be made that the 2003 invasion was simply a resumption of the 1991 war, which was indisputably justified under international law.

We have now achieved our two most important war aims: 1) elimination of any WMD capability or international terrorist infrastructure, and 2) deposing Saddam's regime in favor of a federal democratic constitutional framework designed to protect minorities and fundamental human rights. We would have liked to also successfully transition security responsibility to the new Iraqi government, but Iraq's thirst for civil war has effectively exhausted the reconstruction and stabilization efforts we owed the Iraqis for having liberated them. It is now time to accept our partial victory and let the Iraqi people take responsibility for their own future.

Liberty has blessed America with the prosperity required to defend its freedom, and with the worldwide respect that has made such defense so rarely needed. However, modern weapons technology and our high expectations for near-perfect security have combined to make Americans feel vulnerable to those who oppose America's influence on the rest of the world. America has done more to advance the cause of human liberty than any other society in human history, and yet America's foreign policy has fallen tragically short of the standard of conduct on which any libertarian would insist. We are appalled at the loss of life and compromises against liberty that some American leaders have considered an acceptable price for advancing liberty and opposing tyranny. Reasonable and principled Libertarians hold good-faith views on both sides of the question of liberating Iraq, but we all can agree that our candidates

when elected will hold America to the highest standards of conduct.

— Brian Holtz
Los Altos Hills, CA

Kruschev Quote

[In the February 2009 issue] You published this quote: "We cannot expect the Americans to jump from capitalism to Communism, but we can assist their elected leaders in giving Americans small doses of socialism, until they suddenly awake to find they have Communism", attributed to Nikita Khrushchev.

I don't doubt that Khrushchev, and his ilk, think that way. The problem is, I could not find any convincing documentation that Khrushchev actually said that. I did find evidence that Khrushchev did not say it: www.library.arizona.edu/exhibits/udall/khrushch.rf.

It gives me no comfort that I must depend on Morris Udall to debunk what I read in *California Freedom*, but I find nothing in my Internet search to convincingly contradict him. You guys need a better fact checker and proof-reader. I volunteer my services.

— Matthew Fluke, M.D.
Eureka, CA

Editor replies: That quote continues to float around on libertarian and conservative sites, but congratulations on digging deeper. As for your offer, thank you. But let's wait till we know who the editor is after the LPC state convention.

Happy Readers

I just wanted to give a quick note of thanks to Thomas Sipos, for doing a terrific job writing and selecting content as editor of *California Freedom*.

In the period before he came on board, the publication had taken on the insipid and hackneyed tone of a public relations circular, and was no longer interesting to read. I'm happy to say this problem is now a thing of the past, and I once again look forward to receiving my copy in the mail each month.

— Starchild
San Francisco, CA

Just wanted to say this [February 2009] was the best issue yet since I have been receiving them. I read it from cover to cover for the first time.

I have been invited to a RLC meeting on the 25th in

continued on page 2...

Party of Economic Liberty

Employee No Choice Act

by Jason Gonella

Organized labor leaders supported Obama. They did not do so selflessly, but from a desire to pass a law that would greatly increase organized labor's strength and wealth. They anticipate the passage of the Orwellian named "Employee Free Choice Act."

That EFCA does not give employees free choice; it gives union organizers free choice over employees.

Currently, if there is a drive to form a union, it's a two step process. First, employee signature cards are collected to show sufficient interest. Then a secret ballot election is held to determine whether a majority of employees want a union.

Union organizers' biggest complaint is that employees who sign the check cards for an election then vote against

forming a union on their secret ballots.

The EFCA will eliminate the requirement for secret ballot elections. The employee check cards will be considered sufficient to form a union.

Allegedly, this is done to prevent employer intimidation. The theory is that, during the time interval between the signature card collection and the balloting, enough pro-union employees are fired to ensure the election goes the employer's way -- presumably anti-union. This flies in the face of currently existing employment laws, which protect union organizers from being treated this way.

Also allegedly, employers somehow know how employees vote on their secret ballots, and punish those who vote union.

The truth is, union organiz-

ers are disgruntled that they don't know how employees vote, and can't punish those who oppose the union. Some organizers even make the Orwellian suggestion that, in the interest of fairness, the ballot should not be secret.

Instead of protecting employees, this EFCA empowers unions to abuse employees. Signing the union card is a public act, analogous to registering to vote. Peer pressure can move people to act in ways they wouldn't act in privacy. The EFCA allows union thugs to walk up to an employee and say, "Youze gonna sign the union card? You don't want no 'accidents' to happen so youze gonna sign it."

For the sake of employees, the EFCA should not pass.

Because Ideas Matter

Pragmatists Are Ideologues

by Jason Gonella

Many people resist labeling their political beliefs by insisting that they are merely pragmatic while everyone else is idealistic. They suppose this gives them an edge in political debates because, unlike ideologues, they are simply being practical when they expound their own ideology.

It is a rhetorical tool used to sway emotions. An attempt to make opponents appear ungrounded in reality. In most cases, it amounts to little more than trickery. But sometimes, those saying that their politics are simply pragmatism believe their claim—and that is when discussion gets difficult.

Someone without an ideology has nothing to say about politics. Someone without ideology is not only not liberal, conservative, or libertarian, that person is not moderate or middle of the road. Someone without an ideology doesn't care one way or the other about the outcome of any political contest.

Confronted with that, most such "pragmatists" will say that's a mischaracterization of their views. That they care about "what works."

The problem is how to define "what works." What do they want to accomplish? That will define "what works." If the goal is to ensure inflation, increasing the money supply works. If the goal is to ensure greater unemployment, supporting the Employee Free Choice Act

works.

What works depends on what goal. As Ayn Rand wrote, "practical" depends on what you want to practice.

Goal determines ideology. Nobody who is pragmatic and practical lacks an ideology; everyone who claims to be pragmatic and practical is pragmatic and practical towards some particular goal. Someone without an ideology doesn't participate at all.

When others offer solutions for the recession that involve bailouts, and decry opposition to those solutions as "partisanship" or "ideology," throw the accusation back in their faces. Their own ideology inspires pro-government solutions, not the lack of an ideology.



Jason Gonella is Chair of the Antelope Valley LP, one of the Los Angeles LP's eight internal regions. His email: AynRKey@aol.com.

Raise your Cup to Coffee Club Members!

We want to thank the following members who have stepped right up and joined the LPC Coffee Club since its kick-off. A Coffee Club member donates a minimum of \$42 per month or \$500 or more each year.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Suzanne Bell | Curt Cornell | Chris Rufer |
| Mike Binkley | Don Cowles | Lawrence Samuels |
| Ted Brown, Jr. | Bruce Dovner | Paul Sisoian |
| Beau Cain | Terry Floyd | Paul Studier |
| T.J. Campbell | John Inks | Kevin Takenaga |
| Audrey Carlan | Sebastian Knowlton | Charles Tolman |
| Ed Clark | Carolyn Marbry | Robert Weber, Jr. |
| Alicia Clark | Berkeley Martinez | |
| Zander Collier, III | Alan Pyeatt | |

Here's My Pledge to the California Coffee Club!

Yes! I'll donate the price of a cup of coffee every working day and pay for it with a monthly pledge.

- One cup a day = \$ 42 monthly
- Two cups a day = \$ 84 monthly
- Three cups a day = \$ 126 monthly
- Five cups a day = \$ 210 monthly

Political contributions are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of each donor who contributes more than \$200 per calendar year.



ENCLOSED: Check or money order Voided check for Auto Bank Draft
OR: Credit card number and expiration date

ACCOUNT # WE ACCEPT AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER MASTERCARD VISA EXPIRATION DATE

NAME ON CREDIT CARD _____ HOME PHONE _____

SIGNATURE FOR CREDIT CARD _____ WORK PHONE _____

DONOR'S NAME _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

COMPANY _____ OCCUPATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Make checks payable and mail to
THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA
 14547 Titus Street, Suite 214 - Panorama City, California 91402-4935
 Toll-free 877-884-1776 Local 818-782-8400 www.ca.lp.org 08Q1

The Libertarian Perspective's op-ed columns are sent via e-mail weekly to over 2,000 news media professionals in California.

If you know of any reporters, editors, publishers, or other parties who might be interested in receiving The Libertarian Perspective and Libertarian Party of California press releases, please have them subscribe to our media list by entering this URL in a web browser and following the instructions provided: TinyURL.com/df3uy.

Libertarian Party members are also welcome to join the list and receive our media e-mail missives!

Please Join our Coffee Club

Book Reviews

Pork Barrel Mercenaries

Review by Loyd E. Eskildson

(Halliburton's Army: How a Well-Connected Texas Oil Company Revolutionized the Way America Makes War, by Pratap Chatterjee. Nation Books. 2009. 304 pp.)

Halliburton's Army provides detailed stories of corporate theft, bribery, and malfeasance that cry out for prosecutorial attention.

The author begins by relating the rapid growth of military privatization, from about 1% of those serving in the 1991 operation Desert Storm to today's operation Enduring Freedom, where the number of contractors are about equal to the number of military personnel.

The program was supposed to cut about 15% of military administrative staff and about \$3 billion a year, as first proposed by Don Rumsfeld. The rationale made sense. A huge organization cannot be excellent in everything, and some military tasks such as feeding the troops, washing their clothes, providing messenger and mail service, and general logistics could likely be better provided by experts in those areas.

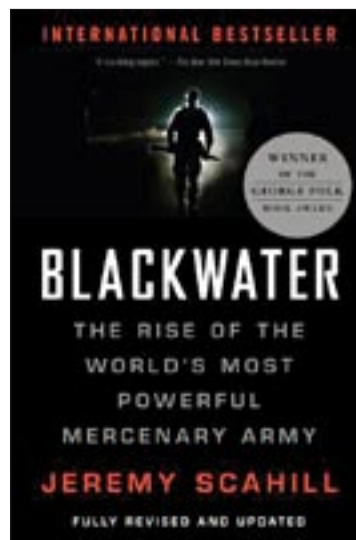
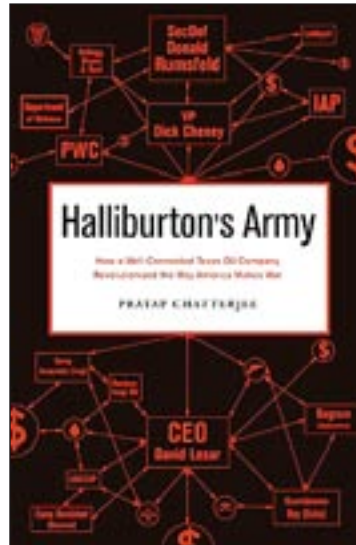
However, the program immediately fell victim to the same problem it was supposed to avoid. How can a single company, Halliburton, be expert in not only oil drilling, but also large-scale logistics, feeding, etc.? Additionally, the profit incentive and war time pressures led to no-bid contracts and every form of skulduggery, penny-pinching and pressure known to keep the contracts and profits flowing.

Halliburton's Army begins by citing how \$5,000-a-day oil well firefighters were brought in—despite the Kuwaitis' offering to do the job for free, out of gratitude for Gulf War I and concern for their own environment.

The situation rapidly deteriorated. Potential whistleblowers demoted or otherwise threatened, overheads running 43-55%, overcharges for fuel (\$2.64 a gallon vs. a local Iraqi source at 96 cents gallon—or even an internal Defense Dept. source at \$1.32 a gallon), splitting contracts to avoid bidding requirements associated with large dollar amounts, billing for hours not worked, ordering multiple items when just one was needed (cost-plus!), serving overpriced and sometimes outdated food to non-existent troops, failure to treat water with chlorine, using very high-priced suppliers, electrocuting troops via improper electrical work, failing to pay required disability benefits to those injured on the job, etc.

Key Question: Were these just incidental occurrences, or pervasive? The multitude of sources clearly lean towards it having been pervasive.

Loyd E. Eskildson resides in Phoenix, AZ. His email: eskildsonloyd@hotmail.com.



Review by Robert Carlberg

(Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army [Revised and Updated], by Jeremy Scahill. Nation Books. 2008. 452 pp.)

Scahill documents the rise of private mercenary armies, paid for by U.S. taxpayers under "Black Ops" budgets which are hidden from public scrutiny. We know from previous experience how efficient those contracts tend to be...

Add that these paramilitary contractors tend to be big Republican donors, and ex-Administration officials get hired pretty regularly to run their operations, and you have a darned scary "military-industrial complex" scenario.

The U.S. military operates under strict Rules of Engagement, and Congressional oversight keeps them (theoretically anyway, if Congress is doing its job) from being used for wars of adventurism. Geneva Conventions are supposed to prevent abuses of human rights, and soldiers are ultimately accountable to the public for their battlefield conduct.

These new Soldiers of Fortune have none of those controls. Their only allegiance is to the firms that hire them, and their profits. They have even been indemnified from legal repercussions for their actions!

Now add that these private armies are mostly assembled by right-wing Christians; ideologues who see the so-called "War on Terrorism" as the final showdown between Christianity and Islam -- a fight to the death to see whose god is bigger.

It's The Crusades all over again.

Overseas is bad enough. After Hurricane Katrina, these private soldiers (some not even U.S. citizens) were deployed to guard high-value targets in Louisiana, costing taxpayers many times more than was spent on search and recovery, and repair and rebuilding of New Orleans. Most of the work was paid through sealed, no-bid contracts whose terms have never been disclosed.

Do U.S. citizens really want private, black-shirted armies with "shoot-to-kill" orders patrolling our streets? Isn't that the first step to fascism?

Scahill refers to these private militaries as "new Praetorian Guards" which, looking at the history of the Praetorians, should give pause to the politicians who have authorized them.

Scahill does not write dispassionately. He never misses an opportunity to describe his villains as "skulking" or "sneaking" or "purportedly." His bias is clear from the first page. But that does not detract from the facts he recounts, all verifiable online (and extensively sourced with 56 pages of references). His writing is clear, fast-moving, and far-ranging, with only occasional repeating of quotes.

An incredible amount of research has gone into this book. Everything from tracing Administration ties to private militias, to describing the machine-gun handles on Blackwater's corporate headquarters doors.

In the final analysis, the reader is left to ponder the new realities of the post-9/11 world. Is it naive to think that The War on Terror isn't primarily a military campaign?

Congress seems to be finally awakening to the dangers private mercenary armies pose, having last Fall restricted those "indemnification from legal repercussions." Author Scahill has done a great service to his country by raising the alarm, but we must remain ever vigilant.

Robert Carlberg is a Seattle-based phonographer, having "produced recordings for artists, created soundscapes for film, theatre and musical composition, documented rare environments, provided audio backdrops for trade shows and conventions, and amassed a large library of audio-vérité recordings." His email: rcarlberg@aol.com.

Milk Man

continued from page 1...

We haven't gotten Libertarians elected, except to local office. Membership is at record low levels. The idea that once people become aware of what Libertarians stand for, they will surely join us, is passé. People know what we stand for, and they overwhelmingly reject our candidates at the polls.

Our coalition building has been with the wrong groups—conservatives instead of civil libertarians. Who'd a thunk that, in the past five years, you could run into "libertarians" who believe it's okay to invade Iraq, and who want immigrants to go back to Mexico?

I don't mean rank-and-file

Libertarians; I mean party leaders.

This article is less about Milk, the movie, than Milk the political idealist and leader of a movement. Ideals such as: "All men are created equal, and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights..." are inspiring. If you stick to your ideals, you gain followers and can set about accomplishing your vision.

I'll happily return to being an LP activist if party leaders focus on defending the Bill of Rights.



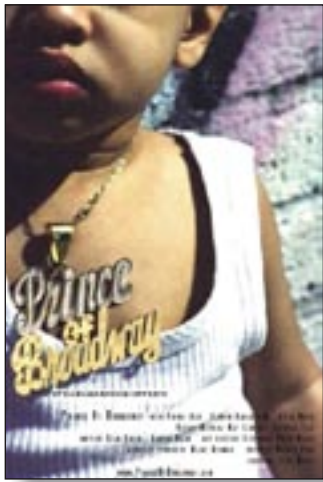
Laura G. Brown is a teacher and writer living in San Gabriel. She is a veteran candidate for State Assembly. Her email: lauragbrown@sbcglobal.net.

"The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions that I wish it to be always kept alive"

~ Thomas Jefferson

...cont'd from previous page

chandise. Handbags, clothing, sneakers, all of it bearing false trademarks.



Libertarians disagree about intellectual property rights. The late anarchist, Samuel E. Konkin III, believed that intellectual property did not exist. Other libertarians think IP should be absolute and never expire. Current law is somewhere in between.

Lucky doesn't think about it. As with Ming's delivery tips, hustling counterfeit merchandise is a cash operation. When you're here illegally, you stay under the radar.

His boss, Levon (Karren Karagulian), is a Lebanese-Armenian who got his green card by marrying an American. Levon loves his younger wife, but she leaves him midway into the film, insisting that theirs was always a marriage of convenience.

One day, Lucky's ex-girlfriend, Linda (Kat Sanchez), drops off an 18-month-old boy with Lucky, insisting he's the father. Lucky disputes this, but Linda drives off and disappears. Lucky is stuck with the boy. He'd like to give the kid to a social worker, but again, he's "illegal." He can't go to the government for help.

Lucky names the boy "Prince," after his childhood dog. Having no daycare options, Lucky takes Prince on his hustlings, making for some comic moments. During a dispute with an unhappy customer who returns an item, the customer says, "You know how I know I bought this here? This is the only store on Broadway with a baby working with you guys."

Cops raid the store. They release customers with a warning. "Don't do this again. It's illegal." Every hustler in the back room claims to also be a customer. Lucky is released. Since he has a kid, the cops assume Lucky really is a customer. Levon is arrested.

Prince of Broadway ends on a poignant note. Still pining

Letters to Editor
continued from page 2...

LP members often complain about dilution of principles, or of extremism, and fear being taken over. They truly should worry because their current system invites special interest, ulterior motive, and big government advocacy to jump in. Lowering the barriers for participation will keep true libertarians in control of party decisions.

Acting on principle, I asked the annual meeting of the Central Committee of San Mateo County to elect me as a delegate, even though the By-Laws no longer require election. I said that if not elected, I would not go. How can I represent, or be delegated by, people who have not chosen me?

We should not expect the freedom-loving Reg Libs to continue

for his child-free, single days, Lucky gets a DNA test to see if he really is Prince's father. Too nervous to read the results, he asks Levon to read it. We see the letter, full of technical terms and numbers, but can't discern the answer. Spoiler alert...

Levon announces that Lucky is a father. Lucky beams, unexpectedly happy with the result. "Now I feel it," he says. "For real. That's the reason I didn't want to throw him away. My father, he was always there for me. I put him through hell. He was always there for me."

Seeing Lucky's joy, Levon pockets the letter. It's an ambiguous act. Is Lucky the father? Or did Levon lie? His wife having left him, does Levon more fully appreciate human connections? Did he tell Lucky what he thinks was in Lucky's best interest?

The final shot is of Lucky

to support the LP if even the ACLU offers more democracy.

— Harland Harrison
San Mateo County, CA

Open Primaries Threat

The California open primary is much worse a problem than Libertarians yet realize. With no Libertarians in the November runoffs of partisan elections, we will quickly lose ballot status, and

our small party will become *far* smaller—just a shell, actually.

If we do not run partisan candidates, I predict that will be the effective end of the party in California. You don't need a party to run nonpartisan candidates.

You think we're small now? Wait until we are no longer ballot qualified.

Nor will the Greens, AIPs, and other third parties be on the ballot.

The LP will soon no longer be ballot qualified, either by the minimum number of voter registrations, or by vote results

in statewide elections (remember, only the top two on the November ballot, and we'll never find a two man race in the primary of a statewide office election) where we must get at least 2% in one of the statewide races to retain ballot status.

I think the open primary prop will pass in the upcoming election.

Hopefully we can overturn this measure in court. It's been done before -- in Arizona, and indeed in California.

— Richard Rider
San Diego, CA

Plan now to attend the

2009 Libertarian Party of California

Convention!

**Friday through Sunday,
April 24th through 26th 2009**

Holiday Inn Convention Center – Visalia*

Details at www.ca.lp.org/events.shtml
Contact Beau at 818-782-8400 or office@ca.lp.org for info and registration!

*That's right – Visalia, California!

walking down Manhattan, carrying Prince, with his new American girlfriend beside him.

Prince of Broadway won the Grand Jury Award at the Los Angeles Film Festival, and additional film festival awards at Woodstock, Locarno, Torino, and Belfort.

More details at: TakeOutTheMovie.com and PrinceofBroadway.com.

Let Economy Telcom handle your Telecommunications needs

- Land line top quality long distance for under 3 cents a minute.
- 800 numbers at same rates, including 800 numbers for cell phones.
- Astonishing international calling rates.
- Business local phone service, and high speed Internet access.
- Cell phone international calling at 90% off cell phone rates.
- Finest quality, fixed monthly cost conference calling.

Under 3¢
a minute

We are independent brokers, representing over 30 companies.

Call us for a quote: 1-800-914-8466.
Or e-mail owner Richard Rider: RRider@san.rr.com

Shopping for a home?

Tap into the
Libertarian Network of Realtors
and help boost income to the LPC!

Longtime Libertarian and Chair of Calaveras County Libertarians, Al Segalla, with his 25 years of experience as a Realtor, has created a way for you to work with Libertarian Realtors while benefiting the LPC. It's a Libertarian Realty Network! As directed by you, their Libertarian customer, Network Realtors will donate 20% of their Network commissions to the LPC or any other Libertarian cause you endorse.

Tap in! Visit
www.BambiLand.com/NetWork.html

With so many Libertarians in California, this could yield several hundred Network transactions each year.

Albert J. Segalla, Realtor
Chair, LP of Calaveras County

SEGALLA & ASSOCIATES

3224 Skunk Ranch Road • Murphys, CA 95247
(209) 728-2887 • alsegalla@jps.net
www.bambiland.com

Winning Elections

Third Party Assist Planned for 2010

from Christina Tobin

In a press conference last January from the Illinois State Capital, the Free and Equal Elections Foundation announced an ambitious campaign to place an Independent and/or Third Party candidate on the ballot in every single Congressional District for the 2010 mid-term elections.

"While engaging in lobbying and litigation for improved ballot access laws as this year goes forward, Free & Equal will be fundraising to issue grants to prospective 2010 candidates to pay for the petitioning necessary to achieve a ballot line," said Founder and Chairman of the Board Christina Tobin. "We must make sure that people all across America are able to have their voices heard, and that they are able to cast their vote for a candidate of principle, not a just candidate of the two party duopoly."

Free & Equal has re-launched their website at FreeAndEqual.

org, and begun a capital drive to fund their efforts.

"The goal of placing an Independent and/or Third Party candidate on the ballot in every single one of the 435 congressional districts is a daunting task, and we have no illusions that it will take extraordinary effort and extraordinary fundraising to make this a reality," said Executive Director Christopher Thrasher.

Due to 501c4 constraints, Free & Equal will pay for the petitioning to place candidates on the ballot directly, in lieu of donating to a candidate. Free & Equal will not endorse candidates, nor will any money be directed to candidates.

Richard Winger, the leading advocate for reforming restrictive ballot access laws, recently joined Free & Equal's Board of Directors. Winger is editor and publisher of *Ballot Access News*, a newsletter covering Independent and Third Parties,

and developments in election law reform. *Ballot Access News* is published monthly and is available online at ballot-access.org.

Free & Equal has identified several potential lawsuits against restrictive ballot access laws, and is seeking sponsors for bills to ease signature requirements in many states. Free & Equal is also reaching out to activists across the ideological spectrum to complete the foundation's Board of Directors.

The Free and Equal Elections Foundation is a non-partisan, nonprofit 501c(4) organization dedicated to eliminating restrictive ballot access laws that target Independent and Third-Party Candidates. Their contact info: media@freeandequal.org or (336)-407-3968.

Riverside LP Meeting

Democrats and Republicans agree: Tax and borrow to bail out banks and big business, reward special interests who pay to play, spend the money earned by working people -- who have a right to spend it however they want.

Libertarians know that America's strength and security lies in limiting government's power.

Riverside County Libertarian Party Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

7 pm - 9 pm

Hot Rod Pizza

4750 La Sierra Ave, Riverside

More info:

www.rclp.org or call 951-369-8843

Libertarian Party of California
14547 Titus St., Suite 214
Panorama City, CA 91402

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
INDUSTRY, CA
PERMIT NO. 4386



Two Sean Baker films sympathize with "illegal" immigrants • Page 6

INSIDE

A Case for War **3**

Ideological Pragmatists **4**

Pork Barrel Mercenaries **5**

Sympathy for "Illegal" Immigrants **6**

Recall Maldonado **6**