



# LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

Volume 21 Issue 3

March 1999

## Special points of interest:

- State Convention in San Jose big success
- Kubby's get busted
- Lights of Liberty recognize activists
- Bastiat's Sophisms conclusion
- Independent Institute review

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## Wow! What A "PARTY"!!!

For those of you who where unable to come to the State LP Convention in San Jose last month, I can only say that I can't possibly tell you exactly how awesome it was in eight short pages, but I'm going to try. I was a virgin, this was my first Convention. I thought it was great when I was in a room with 20 Freedom Fighters, imagine my delight when I entered a room with 200.

Steve Alexander was the Convention Manager and managed to get 50 lbs. of information in a 5 lb. bag. My only complaint is that he didn't leave enough time between events to take a leak. The mornings where taken up with the business side of running a growing organization. I don't know what Parliament Robert was from but his Rules of Order even keep this group of individuals on track even when we suspended the rules with a 2/3 majority vote a couple of dozen times to consider various proposals. We got through the By-Laws Committee report and through most of the Platform Committee Report. Many changes were semantic others substantive.

The sign says:

↑Clinton↑

↓East Bay LP↓



This airhead floated above our delegates.

The decorum shown by "The Body Politic" was commendable. On Monday we even got through the election of our State officers for the next two years. Mark Hinkle was re-elected as Chair for Ca.. Rodney Austin and Ted Brown are North and South-Vice Chairs respectively. (Interestingly without any government coercion we have a very "politically correct" district in that our Local Chair, Marion McEwen is a woman, (Continued on page 2)

## BRAVEHEART

I'm a chickenheart. You see I love my country but I fear my government. I smoked pot for over twenty years. I didn't become an LP activist because I was afraid that if I made enough noise they would come breaking down my door with a search warrant. I don't own property because they could take it under their draconian forfeiture laws. I smoked pot for recreation. I quit smoking it 6

months ago so I could get involved. Steve and Michele Kubby smoke pot to stay alive. He has cancer, she another condition but both have a prescription from their Doctor. As you know Steve ran for Governor on the LP ticket last year. They were arrested a few weeks ago for growing Marijuana in their basement for personal use. They

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# State LP Convention

(Continued from page 1)

Alameda Vice-Chair James Cantwell is a gun owner, Co. Co. Vice-Chair Q:-> an old hippie, the State Northern Vice-Chair Rodney Austin is black and the State Chair Mark Hinkle is a yuppie. The LP appeals to everybody! Q:-D>) The State Treasurer is Eric Lund and Secretary is Sandi Webb.

The afternoons were split into "two tracks" of presentations by various groups. I wish I had a clone or two so that I could have attended all of them. Some of the more memorable presentations included David Freedman on Crypto-Politics, Sandi Webb on "The Second Amendment is my Gun Permit", Michael Cloud on "Personal Responsibility", Ned Roscoe (President of Cheaper Cigarettes) on "Where there's Smoke, There's Taxes", Joseph McNamara (former San Jose Police Chief) debunks "The War on Drugs", Mary Avanti & Virginia Resner on "Imprisoning America" and Brenda Grantland & Garry Webb on forfeiture. I'll try and go into more detail on many of these talks in future issues. Unquestionably the best scheduled presentation was by Steve & Michele Kubby on their recent arrest. (See related article

Braveheart in this issue.)

True to libertarian spirit we even had a minor coup. Jacob Hornberger, president of The Future of Freedom Foundation and a possible 2000 LP Presidential candidate was not permitted to speak at this convention because

Harry Browne was unable to attend. The organizers thought it would be unfair to have one without the other. Napa County LP didn't agree and asked Jacob (Bumper) if he would like to speak off schedule. He did and many of us went instead of attending a cocktail party before dinner on Saturday. While this is not an endorsement of his candidacy, if you have never heard Jacob speak I highly recommend it. ISIL (International Society for Individual Liberty) taped the speech and copies are available for \$7 by writing ISIL at 836-B

Southampton Rd #299, Benicia, CA 94510 or call (707) 746-8797. You can even hear your Chair Marion and myself speak to Jacob at the end of the tape. Q:->

We even had  
a minor  
coup!

## Bastiat's Sophisms Part 2

### Efficiency

All people in pursuing their occupations make it their business to increase the ratio of result to effort, namely to work more efficiently, to produce more with less effort and resources.

Protectionist government policies reverse this trend by increasing the ratio of effort to result. They do this by erecting obstacles to labor or resources, be they in the form of tariffs, taxes, duties, licenses, restrictions on labor, etc. The economy must expend more labor and resources to achieve the same effect it would have if it were not for the obstacles. Bastiat calls this *Sisyphism* after Sisyphus, who was condemned to roll a burden continually uphill, whereupon it fell downhill again.

The justification put forward by all advocates for protectionism is that the artificially erected obstacles provide jobs for people. Indeed they do - witness the enormous number of civil servants in this country - but only at the cost of diverting labor from productive to unproductive uses. Labor, like energy, is not de-

stroyed but is merely displaced into different areas. Unfortunately, these new forms of labor do not increase the supply of goods and services of a nation but diminish it. Government jobs are based on obstacles (overseeing regulations, collecting taxes, etc.) created by the government to provide *jobs* to those who would otherwise have to seek productive employment. If reformers point out the obstacles which government policies have unnecessarily set up, the defense is always made that those obstacles provide many people with jobs.

Bastiat points out that it is not labor itself, but consumption that is the goal; unproductive labor is a dead loss. In failing to make this distinction, protectionists confuse the means with the end and believe that because more people are working, the economy is improved. Today we see many women working who would rather stay home with their children full time, but their families' tax burden is so great they must work to pay it. It is true that this makes for high employment and an elevated GDP. However, massive social costs - less supervision and family contact for children - have resulted from the increased presence of women in the work force.

(Continued from page 2)

To illustrate the absurdity of protectionist measures restricting abundance in the interests of providing artificial jobs, Bastiat has conceived a delightful spoof: a petition to the government from the candlemakers for special relief against the unfair competition of the sun. It seems its bounty is flooding the country and undercutting their prices. The candlemakers require that all windows and other openings in buildings be shut against the intruder so as to protect their trade, and people not be allowed to go out of doors during the day.

In Ayn Rand's Anthem, a similar situation occurs. The hero has discovered lighting by electricity and presents it to the elders, confident that they will eagerly accept the labor-saving device. But he finds that their goal is not to have abundance of lighting but to give candlemaking employment to people who might *otherwise* have too much free time in which to think.

### **Growth of the State**

Bastiat characterized the state as being like an individual, tending to expand in proportion to its means of existence and habitually living beyond its means. Thus the people must continue to support it and its excesses. If the populace cannot limit the state's growth by clearly perceiving its dangers, they will lose both freedom and wealth. But those who make their living by state employment are cunning and offer many inducements.

If a nation is open-handed, the government offers to cure all the ills of mankind. It promises to restore commerce, make agriculture prosperous, expand industry, encourage arts and letters, wipe out poverty, etc., etc. All that is needed is to create some new government agencies and to pay a few more bureaucrats. In a word, the tactic consists in initiating, in the guise of actual services, what are nothing but restrictions; thereafter the nation pays ... for being disserved. Governments, assuming gigantic proportions, end by absorbing half of the national income.

### **Command Economies**

Bastiat was strikingly prescient in foreseeing the problems that command economies would face, although they were not in existence in his day. He did this by analyzing the concepts inherent in theories of socialism and taking them to their logical conclusions. The influence of Adam Smith, one of the three great economists whom Bastiat studied (the others being Jean-Baptiste Say and David Ricardo) can be seen in his characterization of the economy of the city of Paris and his forecasting of the disaster of central planning:

How does each succeeding day manage to bring to this gigantic market just what is necessary - neither too much nor too little? What, then, is the resourceful and secret power that governs the amazing regularity of such complicated movements? That power is an *absolute principle*, the principle of free exchange. Where would you be, inhabitants of Paris, if some cabinet minister decided to substitute for that power contrivances of his own invention, however superior we might suppose them to be; if he proposed to subject this prodigious mechanism to his supreme direction, to

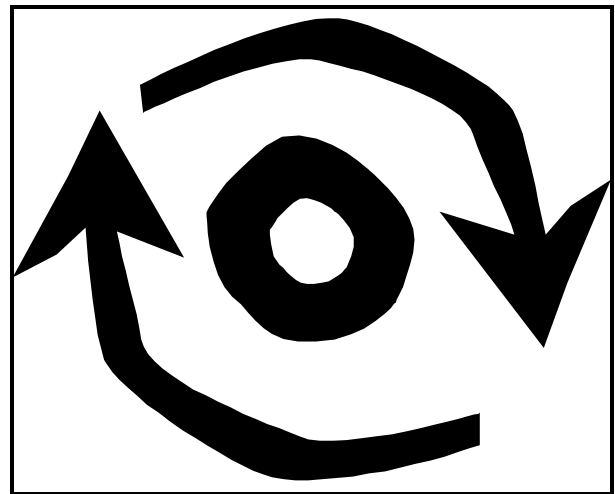
take control of all of it into his own hands, to determine by whom, where, how, and under what conditions everything should be produced, transported, exchanged, and consumed? ... The arbitrary *intervention* of the government would infinitely multiply suffering and spread among all of you the ills that now affect only a small number of your fellow citizens.

To the assumption, implicit in socialism, that the government can know everything and plan for everything in an individual's life better than he can himself, Bastiat retorts that there is no government apart from the people themselves. "Nothing is more senseless than to base so many expectations on the state, that is, to assume the existence of collective wisdom and foresight after taking for granted the existence of individual imbecility and improvidence."

Bastiat's writings have influenced many and will deserve to be read as long as the siren call of socialism is heeded by those who have not examined its consequences in detail.

### **Source:**

Economic Sophisms, First and Second Series, Frederick Bastiat, trans, by Arthur Goddard, D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., Princeton, NJ, 1964; introduction by Henry Hazlitt.  
© Katherine McKay 1998



Why does the State  
kill people  
who kill people  
to teach people  
not to kill people?

# The Independent Institute on S(I)S

The Independent Institute at 100 Swan Way in Oakland sponsored a Policy Forum titled "Private Solutions for the Social Security Crisis?". Speakers included Professor Alan J. Auerbach (UC Berkeley), Preston Martin (Former Vice-Chair Federal Reserve Board), and Michael Tanner (CATO Institute & Co-author "A New Deal for Social Security"). Michael Tanner spoke first explaining that there is no Trust Fund (just government IOU's) and that without massive reform our children could be paying up to 40% SSI taxes. His book outlines a concrete method to privatize Social (In)Security. While his proposals may not appeal to the more radical libertarians it is doable and infinitely better than what we currently have. He calls it, "Radical change, conservative implementation." Major point; "Everyday we wait, the problem gets worse and the solution will be more painful." Prof. Auerbach, in classic leftist tradition, minimized the problem and feels moving S(I)S into the general revenue, raising the retirement age and increasing taxes would suffice. He said, "If we privatize and the market fails we (read gov-

ernment) won't let people starve on the street." I pointed out that prior to S(I)S families, Fraternal Orders and Mutual Aid Societies did the job for less illustrating Harry Browne's position that; "Government cripples you then hands you a crutch and says 'See, you couldn't walk without me'." It was obvious that Mr. Martin spent 40 years in government service because after listening to him for 20 minutes I couldn't figure out what the hell he said except "pester your Congressman for incremental change." I don't think you can cross a chasm in two small leaps. The Independent Institute is a non-political (they aren't Republicans or Democrats), professional (next time I'll wear a suit), and scholarly (there were more degrees in that room than on a thermometer) organization that promotes Free-Market solutions to the problems facing America. Their programs are VERY affordable (seminar & autographed book for less than book list alone) and educational (beats TV). Any institution that has P.J. O'Rourke and Charles Murray on its Board of Advisors is OK by me. Check 'em out. Q:->

**On his recent visit the Pope told Clinton the eleventh commandment is "Thou shalt not comfort thy rod in thy staff."**

## To err is human, but to really screw up takes a computer.

I would like to thank the dozens of people that responded to my "I DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY" article in last months Liberty Lifeline. Each has or will receive a personalized Certificate stating "There's not a dimes worth of difference between the Democrats and Republicans; That's why I'm a Libertarian!" featuring a real silver Liberty Dime. Encouragingly, all of the editorial comments were positive. Although my computer has MS grammar and spell check I was taken to task by several of you for "the tremendous number" of errors. I owe a special apology to one Frances Grotfend for miss-spelling her name. Sorry. She along with several others has offered to proofread for me and I will be taking them up on their offers. Unfortunately I was unable to have them proofread this issue due to the Convention and time restraints. I always appreciate constructive *but specific* criticism so that I can learn from my mistakes. I hope that you can see past the errors to the spirit of this publication and will please be patient as I clime this learning curve. Iz dowin da bes dat I kan! Q;-D>

## LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

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94541-1511

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**News and Events Deadline: 15th of the month!** Send to

Scott A. Wilson Q:->

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Submit on paper, diskette or E-Mail: FixitMgr@Flash.Net

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## Did you know that...

**B**atman is a pedophile. How else do you explain his ward Robin? Sesame Streets Burt and Ernie, they're fags. No my friends, I have not lost my mind. I just wanted to remind you what it is like to be a Republican. You see Reverend Jerry Falwells' "Moral Majority" (Like "Rush hour," they aren't either) has in the past attacked these cartoon characters. Now the Rev. Falwell has a new target. The Tella Tubbies. They are a British children's program aimed at 1 and 2 year olds. In a recent issue of his newspaper, Rev. Falwell has decided Tinky Winky is gay. Isn't it obvious, Tinky carries a purse (It's a magic bag), has a triangle on his head (silence=death) and he is purple (a gay color, although it used to be a royal color). Either this guy has too much time on his hands or perhaps he doth protest too much indicating his own latent homosexuality.

Forfeiture isn't just for druggies anymore. Late in February, New York started seizing the automobiles of accused (not convicted) drunk drivers. Imagine being pulled over after a party and hearing; "You better get out of my car, boy!" Drunk driving is wrong and a crime. A "taking", without due process, is unconstitutional!

Some of the money Florida received in their tobacco settlement goes to pay for cops to work, in plain clothes and on overtime, busting underage smokers. 60 Minutes filmed 4 big burly officers surrounding a little 17 year old girl and searching her before issuing a Citation to Appear in Court with at least one parent. The fine is 52 bucks or 6 hours community service. The tobacco industry supports this approach knowing those rebellious teenagers will rebel even more at the Jack-booted approach. The cops like the easy extra money.

**Gore-Techs is a new fabric made by combining silicon and money and is used to wrap up politicians.**

## Steve & Michele Kubby

(Continued from page 1)

thought they were protected by Prop. 215, the Medical Marijuana Law. Michele told us their harrowing story at the State LP Convention.

Michele is a drop-dead knockout blond with brains. She gave Steve a beautiful little girl, Brooke, for a daughter three years ago. She loves her husband and family. You would be happy to have them as neighbors.

She told how three different Police agencies, Placer County, The DEA, and Nevada (different State even) spent 6 months "investigating" them. How the cops' secretly used a telephoto lens to take pictures through their bedroom window from less than 4 feet away. What kind of bush were these peeping cops looking for? The grow room was in the basement. Uncle Ernie, from the rock opera "Tommy", meet Uncle Sam!

The cops served their warrant in the morning while the family was getting ready for work. Steve told them he knew what they were there for and that no one would resist. Luckily their baby sitter, a grandmotherly type, arrived and Michele asked her to take the baby to keep her safe. They searched the house for 4 hours, handcuffed Steve and Michele and paraded them from their home. After a lengthy processing at the local jail they were arraigned and given \$100,000 bail. EACH!!! Not being able to raise that kind of money, they were taken to the County Jail in Auburn. Another humiliating processing procedure and they were placed in adjacent

*Uncle Ernie from the  
rock opera "Tommy",  
meet Uncle Sam!*

cells with a wall between. Having been deprived of all his medicine for over 9 hours now, Michele listened helplessly to Steve retching in the cold concrete holding cell with only a thin blanket for comfort. Eventually, after much crying, screaming and pleading, Steve was taken to the infirmary. No one would tell Michele of his condition for days.

Four days in jail and they were taken before another Judge. They had completed a questionnaire to rate their flight risk. The scale runs from a low of 1 to 12. Michele's cell-mate told her a 5 was pretty good. They scored 11. The Judge had never seen an 11 and asked the stammering "Persecutor" why he thought they deserved \$100,000 bails. The judge released them on their own recognition.

The cops have taken their plants, their computer, their business and their dignity. But they can't take their courage. Steve and Michele face a long legal road and they need our help. They intend to fight not only for their own freedom but also for full implementation of Prop 215. There are at least 4 other families in Placer County and countless others throughout the State whose lives are being destroyed by police that refuse to uphold the law that Californian voters passed. The Compassionate Medical Marijuana Law.

Steve and Michele need our help. I sent them \$50 and I wish it were more. Send what you can to:

Kubby Legal Defense Fund c/o Dale Wood Attorney at Law  
10833 Donner Pass Rd. Truckee, CA 96161

Steve and Michele are Braveheart!

**!!!CRY FREEDOM!!!**

# Lights of Liberty

**S**upporting grassroots libertarian volunteers has always been a major focus of the Advocates for Self-Government. They've developed tools, techniques, and resources to help libertarians become ever more effective in communicating the ideas of freedom.

Now I'm proud to announce a new Advocates' program designed to recognize and reward outstanding libertarian volunteer work -- and to stimulate much more valuable work. The program is called "Lights of Liberty."

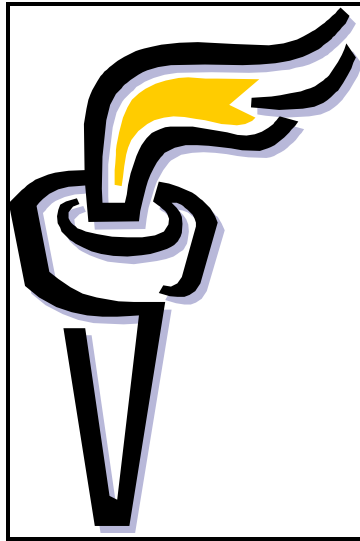
"Lights of Liberty" will give awards and special gifts to libertarians who achieve \*any one\* of the following three libertarian outreach activities in 1999:

**1. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.** Have three letters that use the words "libertarian" or "libertarianism" published in magazines or newspapers. Letters to the editor are a GREAT way to greatly increase the public's positive encounters with the words "libertarian" and "libertarianism" and with our ideas.

**2. OPERATION POLITICALLY HOMELESS (OPH).** Work at three OPH booths during 1999 and you qualify for the "Lights of Liberty" awards. OPH is a fantastic way to discover dozens or even hundreds of libertarian-leaning folks in your community. We hope to encourage many more OPH's -- and thus rapidly increase the size of the libertarian movement.

**3. PUBLIC SPEAKING.** Deliver three speeches to non-libertarian groups such as service clubs, high schools, colleges, political rallies, Toastmasters, and so on. Your speech, to qualify, should be on a libertarian-related topic and must use the words "libertarian" or "libertarianism" in a positive way. (You don't even have to write a speech, incidentally. If you prefer, you can use one of their audience-tested speech kits. See their online catalog --

<http://www.reliablehost.com/self-gov/tapesets.html>



**Light the Torch!**

## The Awards:

Upon accomplishing any of the three outreach activities above, contact Libertarian Lifeline. I will list you in an upcoming issue and forward your accomplishment to The Advocates. In recognition of your outstanding work for liberty, the Advocates will do the following:

Mail you a handsome "Lights of Liberty" certificate suitable for framing. Print your name with those of other award winners in their magazine The Liberator. Place your name in a place of honor at their Web page. Place

your name in their "Lights of Liberty Lottery." At the end of the year they'll draw several names and give some great gifts to the winners. Give you a coupon worth 20% off your next order -- of any size -- from their catalog of books, tapes, and other libertarian items. Give you a free year's subscription to The Liberator. Announce your name -- to thunderous applause -- at the upcoming 15th Anniversary Advocates Summit, scheduled for Fall 1999. Give you a discount coupon to the Summit, should you wish to attend. Place your name in their "Lights of Liberty Lottery." At the end of the year they'll draw several names and give some great gifts to the winners.

The actions "Lights of Liberty" recognizes are not beyond anyone's abilities, but they are important, valuable achievements.











Libertarians who write letters, do public speaking, spend time with an OPH booth, and do similar activities really are "Lights of Liberty." They are the backbone of our movement, and they deserve our thanks and our recognition.

# What's the Buzz, tell me what's a happening.

"The Democrats worst fear is that somebody's making money and the Republicans worst fear is that somebody's having fun. Maybe that is why they don't like us because we like to do both!" Q:->

Bumper Hornberger 1996

## March 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
				Cal LP		
7	8	9  Independent Institute 5:30	10	11 	12	13 
14 	15	16  Regional Meeting 7:30	17	18 	19	20
21	22 Oak/ Berk LP 7:30	23	24	25  Cal Anarchist	26	27
28  Folding Party 2:00	29	30	31  Independent Institute 5:30			

## Schedule of Events

- All Cal meetings in Dwinelle Hall at 7:00PM Info: (510)549-0917  
www.OCF.Berkeley.EDU/-callib/ or liberty@ocf.berkeley.edu
- All Independent Institute programs at 5:30 located at 100 Swan Way, Oakland info: (510) 568-6047
- 9-Justice & Natural Rights w/ Randy Barnett
- 18-Free Markets & Economics of Life w/ Nobel laureate Gary Becker
- 31- Why Freedom? Tibor Machan & Jan Narueson
- **3/13 & 14**-Thomas Jefferson put to music by The Valley Choral Society in Pleasanton. Info: Doug Ohmen (925) 749-4253 
- **3/16**- The EB Regional meeting will be held at the Englander Brewpub and Restaurant 101 Parrot St., San Leandro at 7:30 info (510) 889-9216
- **3/28**- Pot Luck Folding Party Have some fun while we get something done! 2:00 The McEwen/Nygren household is at 24828 Canyon View Court, Hayward Info (510) 889-9216 
- **3/30** The Oakland/Berkeley LP meet at The Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley 7:30 Info: Jim Cantwell at (510) 655-9019
- **April 15**- Help handing out Million Dollar Bills at the Fremont Post Office. Details next month

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For those joining the LP as a voting member)

I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Basic LP Membership

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Please make checks payable to:

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I would like to join:

☐ Marin County LP or

☐ East Bay Region LP

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

FEBRUARY 1999

VOLUME 21 NO 3

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LIFELINE

# WANTED

## REWARD!

### Dreamers:

Have you got an idea to promote Liberty that might be fun, educational or get media attention that needs a few people or a little bit of money. Come to the Meeting or Folding Party and tell us about it.

### Geeks:

Are computers your life. Speed up my learning curve with this cool new computer running MS Publisher w/ Presto Scanner. I'll cook you a heck of a dinner. Q;-)>

### Good Joke Tellers:

Our **PARTY** has fun while were getting things done!

### Women:

Where else are you going you meet men that believe in personal responsibility and care about their community?

### YOU:

You work two days a week for the government. Will you work two hours a week for YOUR FREEDOM?

***Come to the PARTY!!!***