

For additional information: Bill Winter, Director of Communications ♦ (202) 333-0008 Ext. 226

The 1996 'Modeerf Awards' hall of shame: Divorce classes, grabbing assets, & cigars

WASHINGTON, DC — And the losers are: Arizona, the Supreme Court, the Energy Department, San Francisco . . . and especially Bill Clinton and the 104th Congress.

Their booby prize: The Libertarian Party's first annual Modeerf Awards.

Their crime: Reducing freedom in 1996.

"Modeerf is freedom spelled backwards," explained Libertarian Party Director of Communications Bill Winter. "It's appropriate for these individuals and organizations, since they all moved freedom *backwards* in 1996. That's why we created this award: to expose and shame those who did the most to reduce liberty in America." The awards . . .

■ **The "Sorry About that Injection of Plutonium 239" Award:** To the Department of Energy for paying \$4.8 million in taxpayers' money to the families of human "guinea pigs" who had been subjected to secret government experiments. "It's the government's equivalent of the Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes — you may *already* be a lucky winner . . . if we conducted ghoulish experiments on your relatives without their knowledge," said Winter.

■ **The "Divorced from Reality" Award:** To Arizona, which passed a law requiring divorcing parents to take a course on the impact of divorce on children. "What next — a law requiring single women to read *The Rules?*" asked Winter. "Perhaps we need a law requiring politicians to take a course about the impact of their silly, meddling laws."

■ **The "Some of My Best Friends Are Married" Award:** To Congress and President Clinton, for passing the Defense of Marriage Act, which allows states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages. "Congress: Making the world safe for heterosexuality," said Winter.

■ **The "What's Yours Is Mine" Award:** To the Supreme Court, which ruled that the government can seize innocent people's property under asset forfeiture laws. "This ruling proved that the Supreme Court doesn't know their assets from a hole in the Bill of Rights," said Winter.

■ **The "Sometimes A Cigar Is Just A Cigar" Award:** To San Francisco, for spending taxpayers' money on an advertising campaign that compares cigars to dog droppings, launched after politicians decided that too many young women were smoking cigars. "Something stinks here, and it's not cigars — it's politicians who nag adults about our bad habits," said Winter.

■ **The "There's A Terrorist Under Your Bed" Award:** To President Clinton and Congressional Republicans, for using the tragic crash of TWA Flight 800 as an excuse to try to pass a "wish list" of unconstitutional anti-terrorist legislation. "Proving that Americans are right to be *more* afraid of politicians than terrorists — especially non-existent ones," said Winter.

#