



# the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN

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## Libertarianism in One Lesson

Perhaps the most common question put to Libertarian Party (LP) candidates is: "What is libertarianism?" or, "What does the Libertarian Party stand for?" Because the LP bases all of its platform positions on the political philosophy called "libertarianism," there is no more important question for the American voting public.

First, let's avoid some common errors and confusion by stating what libertarianism is not. It is NOT some variant of liberalism or conservatism. It is NOT a combination of left and right positions. It does not fit on the traditional political spectrum. That spectrum does not admit the idea that all people have the right to control their own lives, in all respects, and the obligation to take responsibility for themselves and their own actions. Liberals and conservatives agree that the rest of us are evil and/or incompetent and must therefore be controlled by government. They differ only on which aspects of our lives should be controlled most.

By contrast, Libertarians hold that each person has the absolute right of self ownership over his/her life, body, speech, action, and honestly acquired property. Each has the obligation to respect those same rights in each other person. The proper way for people to deal with each other is by mutual respect for each other's right of self-ownership. Anything that is peaceful, voluntary, and honest violates no rights and thus is not a proper subject for

governmental intervention.

Government's only proper function is to assist us in defending our rights. The only proper laws are those which penalize such conduct as murder, rape, kidnapping, robbery, burglary, arson, trespass, and fraud because such conduct necessarily violates someone's rights. On a national scale, the government's proper function is to provide security within America against the risk of foreign attack--and no more.

Libertarianism is the philosophy of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution. Most people, most of the time, deal with each other on the libertarian basis of mutual respect. Two groups don't: criminals and government. Libertarians challenge the notion that government can legitimately coerce the rest of us through taxation, regulation, conscription, and criminal penalties imposed upon peaceful, voluntary conduct. We demand that government be limited to its proper functions and that government personnel be held to the same standard of respect for our rights that the rest of us follow.

The LP is for all people who do not want to be controlled and who do not want to control others. On all issues we will support increased personal liberty and reduced government control. We know that a free society is possible and that it is practical. We are committed to work for as long as it may take to achieve it.



### *Bergland only real peace candidate*

Libertarian Party presidential candidate David Bergland pledges to reform American foreign policy to promote peace and defend Americans. He promises to seek:

"The establishment of peaceful international relationships and the defense of the United States as the principle goals of American foreign policy by:

1) Immediate and permanent withdrawal of the United States from all entangling military alliances to eliminate the risk of involving us in new wars.

2) Returning all United States military personnel to this country to protect Americans and their property here, with total numbers

(continued on p. 2)

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## WHY NOT LEGALIZE HEROIN?

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by Frank Bubb

Cliche: You Libertarians talk about the right to act as long as you don't hurt others. And you also preach that people can adopt non-conformist lifestyles, which include the use of drugs. Surely you can't be serious about legalizing heroin? Heroin addiction causes crime, a growing problem, that certainly isn't victimless. Society has to crack down hard on drug smugglers and dealers, to end this scourge once and for all.

A Libertarian response:

"Our research findings indicate that it is (heroin) use itself which is the principle cause of high crime among addicts." So states the most detailed study yet on the relationship between heroin addiction and crime.

The study was published in 1981 by three Temple University professors, John C. Ball, Lawrence Rosen, and John A. Flueck, and the University of Maryland's David N. Nurco. It now appears as a chapter in The Drugs-Crime Connection, edited by James A. Inciardi.

Ball et al found that heroin addicts commit six times more crimes (other than possession and use of drugs) when they are addicted than when they are not. The overwhelming majority of crimes committed by addicts are theft and selling drugs.

From this correlation, the authors conclude that heroin addiction causes crime and that, "if we can control addiction, it is evident that we will reduce criminality appreciably."

Judging from the popularity of efforts to crack down on heroin addiction, it appears that the vast majority of Americans agree with this analysis.

It is crucially important that we understand

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(continued from p. 1)  
reduced as appropriate for that mission.

- 3) Development of adequate defensive weapons to protect the United States against nuclear attack.
- 4) Establishment of a "no first strike" nuclear policy.
- 5) Incremental reductions in United States nuclear arsenal as part of arms reduction negotiations with the Soviets.
- 6) Establishment of a firm policy of free trade with all nations and the elimination of protectionist trade barriers."

the exact connection between heroin and crime, because it is variously estimated that our half-million or so heroin addicts commit between 20 and 70 percent of America's property crimes. These crimes are concentrated in the areas that can least afford them: black areas of large cities.

I fear that Ball et al - and most Americans - have greivously misunderstood the connection between heroin and crime. Heroin itself does not cause crime. Indeed, nowhere in the Ball study is it argued that the pharmacological properties of heroin cause addicts to commit crimes. Rather, it is governmental prohibition of heroin that has forged the heroin-crime link.

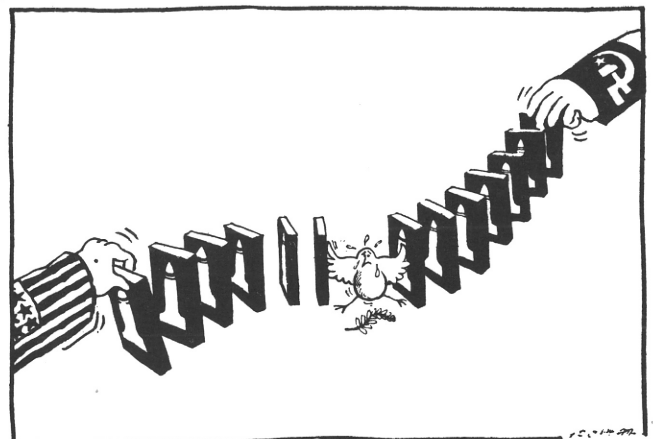
By prohibiting heroin, government has reduced its supply and increased the risk involved in selling it. Government has thus driven up the cost of a "normal" habit to about \$100 per day. Absent such prohibition, the same habit would cost less than \$2 per day. The only way for most addicts to afford a habit at current prices is to do exactly what the Ball study confirms they do: steal or push drugs.

A 1976 Detroit study found that when police cracked down on heroin, its price rose and so did thefts. When enforcement was relaxed, heroin prices and thefts both fell.

The rather startling conclusion from all this is that the best way to reduce heroin-related crime would be to legalize heroin. Just as no one steals or "pushes" to pay for a \$5 per day alcohol habit, no one would have to steal or push drugs to afford a heroin habit.

If heroin were available at local drugstores at low prices, wouldn't the number of addicts multiply? Wouldn't we be inundated with reports of overdoses and other side effects of heroin use?

It is true that, everything else equal, a drop in price increases demand. But with heroin



everything else is not equal. Currently, heroin users who push to support their own habits have every incentive to "hook" as many new addicts as possible, even to the point of selling heroin in school yards.

Since legalizing heroin would take the profit out of pushing, this mechanism for creating new addicts would largely disappear. With these two factors - lower prices and less pushing - working in opposite directions, I'm not sure anyone could predict whether heroin use would increase or decrease.

If heroin were legalized, many of the medical problems currently associated with its use would diminish. For example, "overdoses" are often the result of impure and widely varying mixtures sold illegally on the street. If heroin were legal, it would be subject to the same quality control constraints as other products. According to Edward Brecher in Licit and Illicit Drugs: "Almost all of the deleterious effects ordinarily attributed to the opiates, indeed, appeared to be the effects of the narcotics laws instead."

In addition to reducing theft and virtually eliminating pushers from the scene, legalizing heroin would have several advantages.

It would strike a body-blow to organized crime, which reaps fantastic monopoly profits from the drug trade because the law keeps legitimate businesses out of the market.

(Frank Bubb, Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, is a lawyer. He lives in Swarthmore, PA.)

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from the SOUTH SIDE

by Joe Bast

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Libertarians on Chicago's southside are on the move! Hyde Park Libertarians are meeting once a month for brief business meetings and discussions to which the public is invited. On November 22, the group discussed "Poverty and the Free Market;" on January 10, they discussed "Heroin: A Call for Legalization."

The January 10th meeting was attended by nearly twenty people who either heard about it through a phone-around (conducted by group President Tim Griffin and Secretary/Treasurer Joe Bast) or saw announcements posted everywhere on the University of Chicago campus.

David Ramsay Steele started the discussion with introductory remarks concerning the libertarian principles involved in the problem of drug laws. Libertarians are convinced that each person has the right to decide for himself what substances to ingest, whether or not the majority finds a particular substance to be distasteful or have

peculiar effects. Each individual's life is his own, to put to good use or waste as he sees fit.

At different points in the discussion the history of drug laws was discussed. The earliest restrictions on drug use were those placed against opium use by Chinese immigrants in California. Their purpose was clearly racist, aimed at discouraging further immigration and ending the imagined "advantage" that opium users held over other workers. The campaign against marijuana began in 1933 when the bureaucrat in charge of administering the Volstead Act, Harry Anslinger, was left without a job when Prohibition was repealed that year. He vigorously campaigned against marijuana despite medical evidence that the substance was relatively harmless, and in 1937 succeeded in getting the Harrison Act passed. Today the racist and irrational origins of drug laws are still apparent in their use as weapons against minority members and political activists.

Much of the discussion concerned the possible danger of increasing the incidence of addiction among children. The fear expressed was that heroin use could become, like smoking and drinking are today, symbols of coming of age. Would it be possible for custodians to protect their wards from the hazardous and addicting substance if it were available at corner drug stores?

This question was answered in several ways. First, the typical drug pusher is himself an addict trying to pay the blackmarket price for his drug (about \$65/day in the late 1970s). Decriminalizing heroin would reduce that price to as little as \$1 a day, eliminating the need for addicts to push their drug, and also ending the large mark-up which encourages nonaddicts to become pushers.

Second, heroin is not a miracle drug which instantly produces pleasure and dependency. "A person has to work at it to become addicted," said Steele, "and most little children don't like needles." While addiction is in fact irreversible, there are many barriers which work to keep all but the truly willing from "getting hooked."

Third, the legalization of heroin will not take place in a social vacuum. Concerned individuals will (should) engage in educational campaigns, parents will inform their children of the drug's effects, and neighbors will band together to exert pressure on local businesses which offer the drug to minors.

Finally, the consequences of addiction would be far less dangerous if the drug were legalized. Quality control and medical care, impossible or illegal under the current system, would reduce the threat of overdoses, contamination, and infection. The life of crime that today goes hand in hand with addiction would be avoided, and addicts would become almost indistinguishable from (drinking and smoking) co-workers.

# IN THE MEDIA

WBBM-TV Editorial Reply  
Reform Traffic Court

Hope springs eternal, especially in the editorial board of WBBM-TV. They want a review of the traffic court because fines paid by violators seem to benefit government instead of training citizens to obey traffic laws.

And why not? Pragmatic politicians know their speeding laws do not stop accidents; why shouldn't they use this money to run their bureaucracy? Of course, they're careful to keep idealists busy reforming old laws or passing new ones--all meant to prevent accidents.

In reality, all preventative laws are a grotesque distortion of the legitimate function of government. Police must hide behind billboards waiting to arrest speeders who MIGHT cause an accident, while muggers, rapists, and murderers hide in dark corners of the city waiting for their next victims.

## Tax Cops—And Robbers

Jane Bryant Quinn wants to stop the tax "crime wave"? This country's unconstitutional income tax breeds "criminals" who two centuries ago would have joined the Sons of Liberty in Boston. The framers of our Constitution created a republic dedicated to protecting the individual rights of each citizen, but the republic has evolved into a democracy dedicated to collectivism and to transferring wealth from producers to nonproducers. An oppressive government shouldn't have to be across the ocean for citizens to realize that it is immoral.

DAVID JAHNTZ  
Illinois Libertarian Party  
Forest Park, Ill.

NEWSWEEK

## Is your rose a weed?

The Palatine Township Board recently voted to expand the powers of the township weed ordinance. Added to the list of noxious weeds was this simple definition: any plant not growing where it belongs.

Who is to decide whether your prize roses are now weeds? Why, the weed commissioner, of course. He asked for this all-encompassing power after seeing some untidy private property (read: not kept to his standards).

During the township meeting at which these grandiose powers were sought, he even mentioned that tall grass and harmless plants sometimes get tall enough, or bushy enough, to act as home and habitat for birds and small rodents. Gasp!

Anyone living in Palatine Township with any kind of landscaping, please be advised that you are now beholden to your neighbors (who may call the weed commission-

er) and the weed commissioner (who may dislike your arrangements). The township has the ability to trespass on your property, remove the offending plant (regardless of type or size) and bill you for the work done.

WBBM-TV should ask themselves these few questions:

- 1) Whose rights have been violated when a motorist speeds through a 25-mile speed zone at 29 miles per hour?
- 2) Should anyone be arrested for this crime if there is no victim?
- 3) Can you have a crime without a victim?
- 4) Is it a proper function of government to prevent accidents, or is it to provide justice when the life, liberty, or property of the individual is violated?

WBBM-TV may conclude we don't need reform, we need to abolish laws that expand into areas where there is no evidence of a crime.

--Anne McCracken

er) and the weed commissioner (who may dislike your arrangements). The township has the ability to trespass on your property, remove the offending plant (regardless of type or size) and bill you for the work done.

As Justice Louis D. Brandeis once said, "The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding."

Tom Heidenfelder  
Palatine

And finally...

• Richard Suter, a Chicagoan who wrote the book "How Not to Get Ripped Off in the Coin Business" was sentenced Tuesday to one year in prison for ripping off coin customers in a \$67,800 fraud scheme.

THE DAILY HERALD

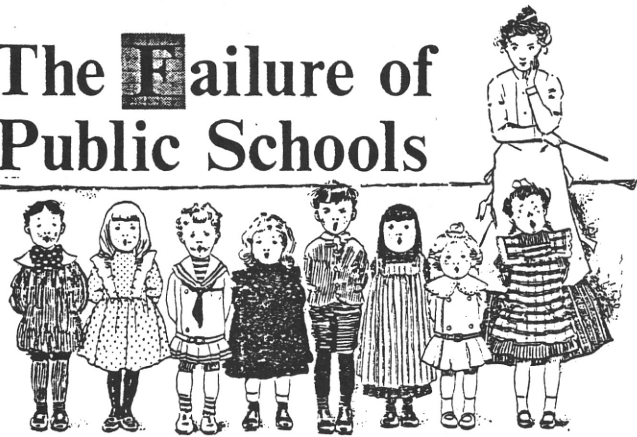




# Nomos

## Studies in Spontaneous Order

### The Failure of Public Schools



...and a proposal for freeing up the system.

By Joe Maxwell

#### Authors to date include:

Richard Gosse, President, Citizens Against Crime  
Kenneth Prazak, Director, United Sovereigns of America  
Jon F. Rice, Jr., author, To Preserve a Culture, etc.  
Marian Neudel, attorney-at-law, freelance writer  
Joe Maxwell, Ph.D. candidate, anthropology, U. of Chicago  
Doris Gordon, National Coordinator, Libertarians for Life  
James Alan Winter, Editor, The Correspondent  
Michael McHugh, Administrator, Christian Liberty Academy  
William F. Wendt, Jr., legal researcher, freelance writer  
George Dear, staff person, MCMC  
Frank Brown, Chairman, NAPRE  
Joe Cobb, Executive Director, US Choice in Currency Comm.  
Robert S. Jackson, President, Robert Jackson & Assoc.  
Jim Peron, Director, The Connecticut Institute

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from the EDITOR'S DESK

VALENTINE'S DAY--South Cook meets at 7:30 at International House. David Ramsay Steele will give a talk on "Is Socialism Impossible?" followed by a discussion.

NORTH SIDE STUDY GROUP--will not meet in February. Their next meeting will be March 4, at Alan Spitz's house, 70 W. Burton Place, Apt. 2307. The topic will be THE INCREDIBLE BREAD MACHINE, by Richard Grant. The topic for the April meeting will be Thomas Sowell's ETHNIC AMERICA. Alan's work number: 332-3148.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Because there seems to be considerable interest in possible changes, the complete Constitution and Bylaws of the LPI will be published in the February issue of the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN, which will be mailed first class on or before February 27.

If you wish to propose an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws, you must submit it in writing at least 30 days before the annual business meeting on April 29 to the Recording Secretary, Bert Stunkard. Bert's address is 4315 Azalia #321, Lisle, IL 60532.

In the interest of giving all members the opportunity to study proposed amendments before the annual meeting, the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN will publish all amendment proposals received in time for processing for publication in the March issue.

Assistant Editor Steve Reed will be doing the word-processing of amendment proposals. Please send a copy of any amendment(s) you plan to propose at the annual meeting directly to Steve. His address is 1241 W. Lunt Ave., Chicago, IL 60626. Steve must have your amendment proposals by March 7. Please include your telephone number with your proposal, so Steve can call you if he has any questions.

The above supercedes and corrects the information and request for sending amendment proposals to the Editor which appeared in the last issue of the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN.

PRIVATE CHARITY RESEARCH

Tom Tacker, a Ph. D. candidate at the University of North Carolina, is preparing his doctoral dissertation on The Economics of Charity. He plans to explore the extent to which government entry into the welfare sector "crowds out" private charity. He suspects his research may show that "the needy may very well receive more and better aid in a free charity market" than in a "mixed" charity market such as we now have in the U.S.

Tacker would appreciate receiving information about any work which has already been done in this area as well as data readers might be able to supply. Contact him at: Economics Department, Gardner Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N C 27514.

ECONOMICS IN ONE LESSON--Thanks to the Bergland for President campaign for the article featured on the front page of this issue.

CALENDAR

BOLINGBROOK STUDY GROUP--7pm alternate Sundays--Anne McCracken 312/739-6240.

COOK COUNTY SOUTH--7:30pm one Tuesday a month, International House, 1414 E.59th St., Chicago --Jim Kipp 753-0040 or Joe/Diane Bast 947-9064.

ILLINOIS VALLEY LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION--3pm second Sunday, 725 E. Kansas, Peoria--Scott Tillman 382-2892.

KANE COUNTY LIBERTARIAN CLUB--7:30pm first Wednesday, St. Charles Savings and Loan, St. Charles--Pat Schultz 426-9187.

LAKE COUNTY LIBERTARIANS--fourth Sunday, 6pm pot luck supper, 7:30pm discussion--Bill King 312/662-3959.

LIBERTARIAN CLUB OF DU PAGE--8pm first and second Mondays, College of DuPage, followed by Cafe Discussion at Alfie's Restaurant; 8pm last Wednesday, Don Parrish's house--Pat Peterson H.830-8468, O.832-3130.

MCHENRY COUNTY LIBERTARIAN CLUB--7pm third Thursday, Branded Steak House, Crystal Lake--Joan Jarosz 658-6335 or Steve Garcia 639-8112

NORTH COOK COUNTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY--7pm second Sunday; STUDY GROUP--7pm fourth Sunday--Ray 472-1536 or Alan 951-0349.

NORTHWEST COOK COUNTY LIBERTARIAN ORGANIZATION--meeting dates vary; meetings and parties are combined with political activity--Steve Johnson 366-5623.

PRAIRIELANDS LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION--4pm first Sunday, 1501 N. School, Normal--Bob Johnston 452-1219.

ROCKFORD AREA LIBERTARIANS--7:30pm first Wednesday--Kathy Kelley 815/877-9605.

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(for members only): "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

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# Directory

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7887 Katy Freeway, #385  
Houston, TX 77024.....713/686-1776

## LPI OFFICERS

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Vice Chair, S/C: Scott Hodge.....217/384-6030  
Recording Secretary:  
Bert Stunkard.....312/969-5426  
Corresponding Secretary:  
Andy Seipos.....312/871-0837  
Treasurer: Dan Hansen.....312/639-1468

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Champaign/Urbana: Scott Hodge....217/384-6030  
Quad Cities (Rock Island):  
Pennie Tebockhorst.....309/764-0034

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Alan Spitz.....312/951-0349  
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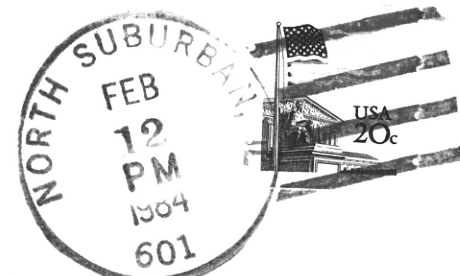
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## NEXT SCC MEETING FEBRUARY 26

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The next State Central Committee meeting will be at lpm, Sunday, February 26, at the home of Scott Hodge in Champaign. Call Scott for directions or Tim Griffin for directions or car-pooling from the Chicago area. All LPI members are welcome to attend SCC meetings.

the ILLINOIS LIBERTARIAN  
822 Thacker Street  
Des Plaines, IL 60016



DAVID F. NOLAN  
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