

LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



Governor Davis Stumbles Into Chaos of Sacramento Paper Chase

Gray Davis was elected Governor of California on November 4, 1998. Taking office in January 1999, the new Governor found that his office had no stationary on which to draft his all-important letters. All the letterhead available in state offices still had the name "Pete Wilson—Governor" in the upper right-hand corner. Why?

Most state offices still order their letterhead stationary from the Office of State Printing (OSP), which promises to have new Gray Davis stationary delivered to most government offices by mid-February. They had two months to change the name on the letterhead template and print a supply of new stationary, but it just wasn't enough time. It takes a government bureaucracy four months to accomplish a task that any neighborhood Kinko's or Copymat could have completed in 24 to 48 hours.

In the interim, state offices have been advised to recycle all their old Pete Wilson letterhead and use the miracle of modern technology—desktop publishing software and laserprinters—to create their own ready-made stationary. But if offices can do that, why bother ordering pre-printed letterhead from OSP in the first place? Because ordering printed documents such as letterhead and official forms from OSP is *mandatory*.

Another example of typical bureaucratic blunder can be seen in the administrative memo distributed statewide that explained all of the new procedures. Rather than simply sending a single standardized letterhead template to state secretaries via email, or posting such a template on the state's computer network, the mental midgits in Sacramento sent out thousands of copies of a paper memo with detailed instructions on how to make your own letterhead, including margin specifications and what fonts to use! So every individual office was forced to assign a staff secretary to design a letterhead document and distribute it to their colleagues, either electronically over a

network, or on diskette or simply by photocopying. Some used WordPerfect, some used

Microsoft Word, some used Lotus

WordPro, and some simply used their existing Pete Wilson letterhead, and cut and pasted Gray Davis' name over that of the old governor and made photocopies. Consequently, none of the various letterheads in use look exactly like any of the others. Some of the differences are very slight, some are glaringly obvious, but the overall result is at best unprofessional and at worst incompetent.

To further complicate matters, as of January 1, 1999, one large state agency had to change its name to conform to the restrictions of political correctness. Thanks to President Clinton's declaration that "the era of Big Government is over" and his pledge to "end welfare as we know it," the word "welfare" has now been stricken from the lexicon of California's government.

The simplest way to end welfare is, of course, to simply *declare it ended*. Thus, the bureaucracy formerly known as the "California Health and Welfare Agency" has now been transformed overnight into the "California Health and Human Services Agency." How elegantly simple! No more welfare agency must mean no more welfare!

You probably haven't even read about this in the newspapers, because the Davis administration did not want to call attention to this action. It has all been done with very little fanfare, just procedural memos and, well, new instructions for re-designing letterhead.

While most of the mainstream media has focused its coverage on Davis' grand vision of a moderate, middle-of-the-road conservative Democratic agenda, journalists have paid precious little attention to the details of what goes on in the day-to-day operations of the government, and the incompetence demonstrated by the people in charge. In the space of six short months, we have seen Governor Wilson's celebrated \$1.2 billion state budget surplus evaporate into a projected \$2.3 billion budget deficit, further proof that the surplus was simply another example of creative accounting, a political fiction developed to make Wilson look better as he leaves office, perhaps to launch another futile presidential campaign.

Gray Davis is a veteran Sacramento politician, who should know his way around the capitol and the state bureaucracy, but he didn't have enough foresight to have revised letterhead stationary available by the time he took office. This does not bode well for California. □

The Heartbeat of Liberty in San Jose

Cypress Semiconductor CEO T.J. Rodgers and University of Chicago law professor John R. Lott, Jr., author of a groundbreaking gun control study, are the latest speakers added to the program of the Libertarian Party of California's upcoming convention. The convention will be held President's Day Weekend, February 12-15, 1999, at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose.

Rodgers, who invented and patented VMOS technology, founded Cypress Semiconductor Corp. in 1982. The company is now a \$600 million international semiconductor supplier. A committed believer in individual liberty and economic freedom, Rodgers will be the featured speaker at the convention's annual Sam Adams Awards Luncheon on Monday, February 15th.

Lott, whose widely praised book "More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun Control Laws" was published this year, has single-handedly redefined the gun control debate in this country. Lott meticulously researched data from every county in the U.S. over a 15-year period and conclusively discovered that concealed-handgun license laws reduce violent crime.

Rodgers and Lott are the newest of over two dozen speakers who will be appearing at the convention.

Other speakers include:

- Ron Unz, chairman, English for the Children
- Phil Zimmerman, creator of PGP encryption software
- Free market economist David Friedman
- Mary Avant of Families Against California's Three Strikes (FACTS)
- Brenda Grantland of Forfeiture Endangers American Rights (FEAR)
- Virginia Resner of Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)
- Bill Saracino, executive director, Gun Owners of California
- Richard Winger, publisher, Ballot Access News
- Ned Roscoe, President of Cheaper! markets and cigarette stores
- Mike Godwin, senior counsel, Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Michael Cloud, 1998 Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate in Nevada
- Marshall Fritz, President, Separation of School and State Alliance
- David Brin, scientist and author of "The Postman" and "Startide Rising"
- Dan Fylstra, founder, VisiCorp, associate founding editor, BYTE magazine

In addition to the speakers, official party business will be conducted at the convention, including platform and bylaws debates and the election of state party officers.

The East Bay Region is allowed to seat up to seven delegates to represent Alameda and Contra Costa Counties at the convention. We will also need alternates to serve in the event a delegate is unable to attend the business meeting. To be selected as a delegate, you must be a dues-paying member of the party *and* be a signer of the "non-initiation of force" pledge (see page 7). Delegates will be selected at the next General Meeting of the East Bay LP on January 19, at the Englander Brewpub and Restaurant, 101 Parrot Street in San Leandro. If you've never attended an LPC convention, you're in for a real treat this year, as the line-up of speakers is one of the most impressive we've ever had. And representing your region as a delegate may give you a greater appreciation for the party's bylaws, platform and operating procedures. Plus, you'll have an opportunity to meet and socialize with Libertarians from all over California. □

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<http://www.busthead.com/eastbaylp/>

News & Events deadline: 15th of the month. Send to Editor, 240 Sybil Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577 or call (510) 351-0973. Submit on paper, diskette, or internet e-mail to: **TLFLOYD@LMI.NET** For subscription info, see page 7.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

The month of January is named after the Roman God Janus, who looks both forward and back. In looking back, I have had the great privilege of serving this Region as Vice-Chair twice, Chair twice, and Representative of this Region to the State Executive Committee once. I ran for and became Vice-Chair for Alameda County the night I formally joined the Party. Now, as I said last month, I am running for Northern Vice-Chair for the State Party; win or lose, I get to have a role I've never had before, either NVC or plain Party Member. Naturally, I hope to win, but even if I don't, the next Chair can be sure of my continued support and activism.

Since the *Lifeline* and database will be run by other people (thanks to Monica and Del Wells and to Scott Wilson!!), this will free Terry Floyd. While he is entitled to a nice long vacation, I hope he will consider running as Rep for the ExCom. I feel he would be a superb choice. Just a thought... Again, Kudos to Walter Springer for his unfailing dedication and to James Cantwell and Mitch Roberts for their work on our new webpage. If we had medals to distribute, I'd give it to these guys. One good activist is worth his weight in gold (or her weight in emeralds, if you prefer!). Also, my friend and associate, Ms. Tammy Austin, is running for State Secretary. I strongly encourage all delegates who read this to vote for her. Talk about a nonstop activist! She is dynamic, unafraid to defy authority, level-headed, and a GREAT secretary. I have no end of respect for her.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who encouraged me lately; my heart surgery went off fine, and I feel better now than I have in years. With any luck, I will be able to serve the Party and its membership with redoubled energy in the future. Happy New Year!

Jeffrey Sommer, Chair

January Officer Elections

As reported in last month's *Lifeline*, the East Bay Region's January 19 meeting will see the election of new officers to lead the party into the next century. Marion McEwen has declared her candidacy for Chair and Scott Wilson has announced his intention to seek the office of Contra Costa County Vice-Chair (see his article on page 6). Nomination of other candidates for these offices and the remaining offices may be made at the meeting by any of the dues-paying members attending.

Other offices available include Regional Secretary, Regional Treasurer, Alameda County Vice-Chair, Executive Committee Representative, and delegates to the LPC Convention next month in San Jose (see related article on page 2). All five regional officers are considered de facto delegates to the convention, leaving two more delegate positions to be filled at the meeting. In addition, a number of alternate delegates will need to be available in San Jose to serve in the event one or more delegates are unable to attend the business sessions.

The region would also like to have representatives to sit on the Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee. These two committees meet from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 1999, and hammer out changes to the party's bylaws and platform to be submitted for final approval during the floor debates on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Changes to the bylaws and platform may be submitted in advance to the Committee Chairs, or may be made from the floor of the convention. Copies of the current bylaws and platform may be downloaded from the LPC's website at <http://www.ca.lp.org>.

We will be meeting at a new location this month. The Englander Brewpub is a popular restaurant in downtown San Leandro, near the Pelton Center shopping plaza. The Englander is located at 101 Parrot Street, between East 14th Street and Washington. If you are driving from 880, take the Davis Street exit East to East 14th Street, turn right and drive south five blocks to Parrot Street. Turn right again, and look for parking. From highway 580, take the Estudillo exit and drive west to East 14th Street, turn left and drive south four blocks to Parrot Street. The Englander has a spacious parking lot, but if it is full, there is still plenty of free parking at the Pelton Center or in the American Savings parking lot next door.

When you arrive, tell the host or hostess that you are with the Libertarian Party, and you will be escorted to the banquet room in the back of the restaurant. □

The Happy Immigrant

by Katherine McKay

We hear a great deal of criticism of America nowadays – some of it from Libertarians. America, we are told by liberals, is a bad country where the rich exploit the poor and the gap between the two is widening, where greedy corporations plunder the earth and the citizenry is helpless against their onslaughts. America, we are told by Libertarians, is a quasi-socialist state run by government bureaucrats for their own gain, where government intrusion is rampant and the citizenry loses more freedoms by the day. A different opinion of America is held by Alfred Regch, an immigrant who became an American citizen three years ago and who recently realized his dream of owning his own dwelling.

Born Alfredo Regacho to a poor family of sharecroppers in the Philippines, Alfred began to work on the family farm at the age of six. With no support from his family, he managed to finish high school and then college, believing that education and hard work would raise him out of the poverty into which he was born. Eventually he came to this country, found work as a secretary, and is now a valued member of the staff of a large San Francisco law firm. I interviewed Alfred at his new condo in San Francisco.

Q: When you were growing up, were all your neighbors and classmates as poor as you were?

A: There were some children who didn't have to work like I did. Most of the people in my community were sharecroppers. Half of their harvest of rice, corn and tobacco would be given to the landlord to pay for the rent, and the remaining amount was barely enough to cover living expenses. Children worked long hours on the family farm and never got paid anything. From my sixth year, I worked on the farm from sunrise to sunset, and when the moon was full we sometimes worked at night. No matter what the weather, we were out there working. Sometimes I cried because I felt I could no longer endure the heat of the sun or the rains, and there were times when after work there was no food. I feel like I never had a childhood, because I was always working. I never had toys or time to play with other children. In the Philippines when I was growing up, children had no legal rights. It was a form of slavery. The father could beat his children and no one would interfere.

It is a way of life that has no opportunities for change. My two brothers and my mother are dead now, but my sisters and their families still live on the farm with my father, who is 79, all working hard in the same way they did when I lived with them. If it weren't for the money I send them out of my paycheck, they would not have enough to survive. For farmers there is no pension plan, no retirement unless their children can take care of them.

Q: How did you manage to go to school in the midst of so much farm work?

A: It was very hard. Before school we worked on the farm, and after school we were expected to start working immediately upon arriving home, then we would work until night. The only time to study and do our homework was at night after the farm work was done. Many days I was very tired and sleepy because of having had to stay up late the night before studying. But I continued with school, even though my father didn't encourage me, because I thought that education was the only way I would escape from that way of life.

I first met Americans in a Peace Corps summer school course when I was ten, and that's when I fell in love with Americans. The teacher actually wanted to adopt me, but my father refused to let me go.

Q: Was there a high school in your community?

A: The high school was in a nearby town. All my schooling was conducted in English, so I learned it well. When I graduated from high school, I moved to Manila, where I was accepted into the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. This was the most prestigious university in Manila, and they screened applicants very thoroughly. I had a scholarship for the first two years of my college work, and I lived in the house of the landlord of my family's farm, who gave me a room in return for work I did around the house.

In college I studied shorthand, typing, book-keeping and other business subjects, and I worked half a day in an office in Manila as a sort of intern. Then for my last two years I was able to get a full-time office job while I continued to take classes.

Q: Did you want to stay and work in Manila?

A: The jobs that are available are few and they pay very little. Often you cannot make your expenses working in such jobs. People who want to better themselves go to other countries and work at unskilled jobs, even people who are highly educated, because the jobs do not pay enough. My sister-in-law took a job as a chambermaid

in Hong Kong to earn enough money to pay for her children's college, because her salary as a teacher in the Philippines was not enough to cover the expenses.

After college I landed a job with Westinghouse, which was building a nuclear power plant in the Philippines. I was there three years, but after the Three-Mile Island accident, the project was suspended. Then for a year I worked for a company in Saudi Arabia. They regularly recruited in the Philippines, because of a lack of skilled manpower in their own country and the fact that there are so many highly educated English-speaking people who have difficulty finding jobs in the Philippine economy.

In 1980 I came to the United States. I enrolled in a legal secretarial course at Hastings College of Law, and after finishing I began working as a legal secretary in San Francisco, first with a temporary agency and then as a permanent employee.

For many years since I came to California, I lived with relatives and paid a small amount of rent for a room, and so I was able to save up my money for a down payment on a condo. I moved here in April of 1997, and it is a dream come true for me. In the Philippines I would never have been able to afford to buy my own housing and nice furniture.

Q: Where does wealth come from in the Philippines?

A: Landowning. A few people own all the land and the majority of the population work on it. I would say maybe 70-80% of Filipinos are sharecroppers, and only about 10-20% actually own land.

Q: What about the middle class?

A: There is no middle class in the Philippines. The few jobs there are, in the offices or shops or factories, pay so little that people are unable to rise out of poverty. People are either rich or poor – they are not in between. This does not seem to have changed much since I left the Philippines.

Q: What was the political situation when you were growing up?

A: It was a dictatorship. Marcos was originally elected but there were term limits on his presidency, and when his last term ran out he imposed martial law on the country. There was no economic or political freedom. You could be shot for making negative remarks about the government. If someone reported you to the military, they could come out and shoot you, and they would not be prosecuted, because the courts were all controlled by Marcos's government. So you

learned to keep your head down and pretend you didn't see anything that was going on. If you were found outside after curfew you would be jailed.

Q: Were there elections?

A: Yes, there were elections, but they were a sham, to keep up the pretense to the outer world that the Philippines was a democracy. Many people went to the polls because they were paid money to vote for the National Party, the party of Marcos. There were other parties, but they were harassed by the government. My uncle was a member of the Liberal Party and was elected as councilman of our town. He was murdered by goons of the National Party.

Q: Since you moved to America, what is your opinion of our political and economic system?

A: Here I feel absolutely free. In America, if you work hard and persevere, there are many opportunities. There are plenty of jobs for people and there is a large middle class.

Q: Why did you change your name?

A: I wanted to make my first name American, and I always felt oppressed by my last name: in my local dialect it means "hardship." So I shortened it to "Regch" because it sounds like "rich." So now I feel I have moved from hardship to riches!

Q: I think you are a wonderful success story, Alfred. Thank you for talking to me about your journey to America.

Before we scorn our own country for not being absolutely perfect, let us reflect on other nations which have it much worse than we do. In spite of its intrusive government and other elements that Libertarians rightly criticize, America is still, as it was in the beginning, a beacon of hope for a new life to many oppressed people in the world. Our political system, though flawed, still promotes freedom, and our economy is the envy of the world due to our citizens' inventiveness and enterprise. We should realize that the basic political system is sound, and should continue striving to correct imbalances and abuses of power by working within the system. Especially as seen through the eyes of one escaped from oppression, it's a wonderful country!

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Scratchings of a Working Dog

by Scott Wilson

I was real itchy this month. I hope you hear me out. (Or read me out...whatever). I sent this to the Letters Editor of the *Contra Costa Times* after they published two of my letters; the first on capitol punishment (against) and second on self-determination (pro).

Anonymous Bullsh*t

A short time ago I had a letter published in the *Contra Costa Times* that was against capitol punishment, for religious freedom and self determination, and in defense of Dr. Kevorkian. Someone took the time to cut out my letter, scrawl that one word profane criticism across it, look my address up in the phone book and anonymously mail it to me. BULLSHIT.

Was the intent constructive criticism, or cowardly intimidation? To another this could have a chilling effect on the opinions expressed in our free press but not on this 6'1" 170 lb. defender of the Bill of Rights (especially the Second Amendment) who loves his big black Lab.

I will continue to provide an alternate view from the left-wing, right-wing big government Republicrats by articulating the Libertarian position of individual liberty, personal responsibility and freedom from government on all issues at all times, as often as the Letters Editor Mr. Hartfield will publish.

As Ben Franklin said; "If you give up your liberty for security you will have neither." I commend all who have the intestinal fortitude to stand up and be counted by signing a "Letter to the Editor".... even if I disagree with their opinion!!! A free and vibrant Press is essential to liberty, without which we may as well live in China.

If you wish to comment on my letters, pro or con, I'm in the book, give me a call but don't resort to cowardly, ignorant, vulgar intimidation. It isn't necessary and it won't be productive. To friend and foe alike I wish you all Happy Holidays and as always peace love and freedom. Scott A. Wilson Q:-> (925) 687-0460

Choice? Whose choice?

Many years ago I joined the LP because I rode a motorcycle and liked the wind in my hair! When I felt

unsafe--freeways or heavy traffic--I'd wear a brain bucket. Back roads on a putt? No way! It was my choice. Assemblyman Dick Floyd from La-la land thought it was his. I, as a member of a motorcycle association "The Sierra Road Riders," and many other bikers and freedom lovers fought 'Dick-heads' bill year after year.

One year, it passed the Assembly and sat on Governor Deukmejian's desk for signing. We wrote letters, we called his office, we sent telegrams, we held rallies. HE VETOED IT! We Won! He sent me a letter thanking me for my input! I framed it! I chose to make a difference and I did. You can too.

Choice! Whose choice?

Then a lot of us stopped writing letters. Two years later, when Floyd "retired," as a going away present they quietly passed the helmet law. Another freedom lost. I don't ride anymore. Q:->

"The cost of Freedom is eternal vigilance!" Harry Browne and his Exploratory Committee came to town last month. He might choose to run for President again. He might not. His choice. You can't fight an army without a War Chest. He chose to quit his job and raise money for the next two years for whomever is nominated. He has already raised close to a half a million dollars. Way to go Harry!!! Q:-D> I signed up for 30 bucks a month. I was already giving the National LP \$15.

Choice! Whose choice?...

Meathead from "All In The Family" fame thinks smoking cigarettes is bad and children are good. He is going to be Robbing Hood and take from the smokers to give to the children. He thinks the choice should be his. I quit smoking over a year ago because I chose to. Some of you are who still smoke will quit when this new 50 cent tax goes into effect January 1. What are you going to choose to do with the 2 bucks a day you save? How about a pledging it to the LP, LPC or Harry Browne 2000?

Choice! Whose choice?...

This "Libertarian Lifeline" is numbered Volume 21 No. 1. TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD! WOW!!! To Chair Jeffrey Sommer, Exec. Com. Rep. Doug Ohmen, Editor Terry Floyd, Asst. Editor Katherine McKay, Treas. John Taylor, and all the un-named activists I say; "Thank you for taking us this far! You have shown the commitment to keep The Torch alive in the East Bay Region and I'm sure you will continue to do so."

Following in their footsteps will not be easy. I ask everyone reading this to take a step forward on January 19, to stand up for Lady Liberty and run for office. At least show up and vote. To start the ball rolling I am throwing my hat in the ring and would like to be your new "Libertarian Lifeline" Editor and/or Vice-Chair of Contra Costa County. I can't brag a lot about my experience as an editor or organizer, I'm a just a "Working Dog", but I will bring a lot of passion for LIBERTY! You have my word that I will attend every LP function that I can afford, be pro-active and report to you. To encourage voter turn out I will throw \$1 in the hat for every vote *against* me... Just to be fair, I'll throw in \$1 for every vote *for* me too. Q;-)> One buck in the hat for everyone that shows up.

This is my mark: Q;-)> (Questioning mind, pony tail, look you in the eye, button nose, smiling face, beard) I ask for your support.

Choice! Whose Choice?

Is it time to make something happen or just watch it happen..... for you??? Choice! Whose choice?... **Yours is the only choice that matters!!!**

Wishing you peace love and freedom.

--Scott Wilson

The Smith Center Announces Topic for Annual Essay Contest for High School Students

The Smith Center for Economic Studies is a free market think tank based at California State University in Hayward. Each year, public and private high school juniors and seniors in Alameda and Contra Costa counties are invited to submit a 1,500 word essay on a topic chosen by the Center's director. The three finalists will receive cash awards: \$1,000 for first place; \$500 for second place; and \$250 for third place.

The 1998-1999 essay topic is "Bill Gates and Microsoft: Heroes or Villians?" Submissions must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 15, 1999. For more information, please contact the Smith Center at 510-885-2640, or visit the Smith Center Website at <http://www.sbe.csuhayward.edu/~sbesc/index.html> for details and examples of previous winning essays.

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.*

Libertarian Party

of California

20993 Foothill Blvd., #318
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Please make checks payable to:
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I would like to join: ☐ Marin County LP ☐ East Bay Region LP

☐ Recorded in database

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **JANUARY**

Tuesday, January 19, 1999, 7:30 p.m. East Bay Region General Meeting to be held this month at the Englander Brewpub and Restaurant, 101 Parrot Street in downtown San Leandro. We will be electing new officers for the year, so if you attend only one LP meeting this year, make sure it is this one! For more information, call the LP Party Line at (510) 531-0760.

Tuesday, January 26, 1999 7:00 p.m. Oakland/Berkeley Libertarians in the 16th Congressional District will meet to discuss regional issues at the Albatross Pub in Berkeley, located at 1822 San Pablo Avenue (near the corner of University and San Pablo). For more information, contact Jeffrey Sommer at (510) 537-3212.

Saturday January 30, 1999, 1:00 p.m.: Northern California Regions Pre-Convention Meeting at The Daily Grind on Flume Street in Chico.

The Cal Libertarians meet every first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in 225 Dwinelle Hall on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley. Club business begins at the same location at 6:30 P.M. For more information, visit the Cal Libertarians' website at <http://www.OCF.Berkeley.EDU/~callib/>

Friday, February 12 through Monday, February 15, 1999, the Heartbeat of Liberty, the Libertarian Party of California's State Convention, at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose. Speakers include David Friedman, Silicon Valley executives T.J. Rogers and Dan Fylstra, the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Mike Godwin and many others. For more information, go to <http://www.ca.lp.org> or call (510) 352-9469.

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