

# LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

## Jo Jorgensen meets LP and Moreau High School Seniors



The former Vice-Chair of the South Carolina Libertarian Party, Jo Jorgensen, swung through the East Bay last month on her way to the annual state convention of the LP of California. Jorgensen is seeking the Vice-Presidential nomination of the Libertarian Party and is encouraging delegates from all fifty states to support her efforts to represent the LP ticket to voters in the 1996 general election.

A fund raising dinner hosted by the East Bay region on February 15 raised more than \$500 for Jorgensen's campaign. The next day, she addressed a class of seniors at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward. Ron Rubio, who teaches Government classes at Moreau, invited representatives from the Libertarian Party to address his classes and explain libertarian philosophy to students who will be registering to vote in the General election in November.

Jorgensen's appearance was a rare opportunity for young people to meet a candidate for national office, question her policies, and evaluate her potential as a leader.

Jorgensen seemed to succeed, at least in the eyes of some students in the class.

She introduced the students to one aspect of libertarianism by adapting Marshall Fritz's well-known semantic exercise, "When Does Wrong Become Right?" into a Socratic dialogue. She first established a concept of right and wrong by suggesting that it is wrong for one person with a gun to rob another person of property, then expanded on the idea by further suggesting that it is equally wrong for two, three, four, or even a gang of five people to rob another of his or her property by means of lethal force. There was unanimous agreement among the class that yes, it is wrong for one or more people to use force to seize the property of others in such a manner.

Taking the analogy further, Jorgensen asked if the crime is any less severe if the robbers are wearing, not ski masks or gangster colors, but impeccably tailored three-piece suits? The students all felt that the attire of the robbers was irrelevant--robbery is wrong, regardless of how the robbers are dressed or how many thugs are in their gang.

"What if..." she then asked, "what if the robbers, after taking your car, your money, your furniture, your dishes, your books, your toothbrush...what if they had a change of heart and decided to give you back your stereo? Would that make the trauma of the robbery any easier to endure? Would that make the robbery any *less wrong*?" Of course not, the students laughed.

"Okay," she continued. "Now let's imagine that there are not one, two or five robbers, but hundreds, or perhaps a thousand or more. And let's say that they aren't carrying guns, but they have a piece of paper that they say gives them the authority to take your money and your property. Is it okay now for them to do this, or is it *still wrong*?"

At this point, most of the students realized where the dialogue was heading. One spoke up boldly and asked, "Are you trying to say that paying your taxes is like being robbed?"

Jo smiled and responded, "You can infer what you wish about that. What I'm asking is, how many people does it take to point the guns, to show the paper, to take the property... how many people does it take to make something that we all agree is just plain *wrong*, miraculously turn into something that everyone agrees is *right*?"



The debate following the dialogue was lively and entertaining. Some students felt that unless the law compelled people to pay for public services, no roads would be built, no bridges would be constructed, no public buildings would be maintained, and therefore the collection of taxes from citizens remains an unpleasant necessity.

Others scoffed at the notion that people wouldn't voluntarily help to pay for public projects from which they all benefit. Common sense, they argued, dictates that people will pool their resources to provide for the general welfare, and shouldn't need any additional coercion from lawmakers.

Jo asked one student how he would feel if the IRS agents took away his car and gave him a bicycle in exchange, justifying their action by assuring him that the car would be put to good use by a poor peasant in the third world who needed the vehicle far more than he did, and besides, riding a bicycle is not only good for the environment, it is also a healthy means of exercise. Who could argue with that logic?

"No way!" the boy exclaimed. "I paid for the car myself by working hard for the money. That peasant has done nothing to earn the car."

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*LP Chair Jeff Sommer proudly displays his Jo Jorgensen Campaign T-shirt at the February 15 fund raising dinner.*

As seniors, a number of these students hold part-time jobs, and are just learning the hard lessons of how the total earnings of their paychecks are significantly reduced by the automatic deduction of state, federal and social security taxes. Many seemed to feel that taxpayers should have a right to determine how their money is spent, but were frustrated to learn that this is almost never the case. In fact, the only time a taxpayer has any control over how his or her taxes are spent is when they have the option to check off a box on their federal 1040 tax form to donate \$3 to the Presidential Campaign Fund, or when they choose to contribute an amount of money to various worthy causes identified on Part II of California's 540 tax form ("worthy causes" such as the D.A.R.E. program, the California Military Museum Fund, the California Firefighters Memorial Fund, etc.). And even in this case, such contributions are *in addition to* the taxes already assessed.

Other issues of concern to the students were libertarian positions on gun control, the drug war, and immigration. Not surprisingly, most students felt that the government's War on Drugs is a ridiculous failure and support the LP's recommendation to legalize drugs. Many also felt immigration was a far less serious problem than mainstream politicians would have us believe, and that a free country should have free borders, not stone walls or barbed wire fences.

While gun control was a much more controversial topic among these students, and no clear consensus was achieved, we may be reassured that there are some very bright, inquisitive, and open-minded young people who will be shaping our society in the next century. If the Moreau students are any indication, the future looks good for the Libertarian Party. □

# Greg Lyon for Congress Lion for Liberty

For the first time in more than a decade, Contra Costa County will have a Libertarian candidate on the ballot for the 10th Congressional District in the November general election. Former Contra Costa County Vice-Chair Greg Lyon was nominated by the East Bay LP at its caucus last October to challenge incumbent Republican Congressman Bill Baker; however, since it was felt that the Secretary of State would very likely challenge the legality of the party caucus, Greg -- like all the other LP candidates who filed for office this year -- had to spend a great deal of time over the Christmas holidays collecting nominating signatures to ensure that he would qualify for the ballot.

And, like all the other LP candidates, Greg's nomination will be unopposed on the March 26 primary ballot. This was the basis behind the LPC's decision to use a caucus system for selecting our candidates this year, to directly challenge the State of California's mandate that all parties choose their candidates by means of a primary election, an enormously wasteful procedure which regularly costs the taxpayers more than \$1 million just to print and distribute ballot pamphlets and ballots for parties whose candidates almost always run without opposition.

Greg plans an active campaign in an effort to make the libertarian approach a significant force in this election. Although Greg is under no illusions about his chances of winning the race, Congressman Bill Baker is keenly aware that his margin of victory rests completely with the independent voters of the district, since Republicans can boast only a 2% advantage over Democrats in terms of the overall level of registered voters. Moreover, the apparent front-runner for the Democratic nomination has substantial resources at her disposal, and could give Baker his first serious challenge in many years.

Consequently, Baker has called on all the political favors he is owed (including an appearance by House Speaker Newt Gingrich at a \$1,000/plate fund raiser in Walnut Creek last month) to build a



reelection campaign war chest that now stands at more than half a million dollars. Since Libertarian candidates routinely receive anywhere from 3% to 7% of the vote (sometimes without actively campaigning at all), it is quite conceivable that support for Greg could be a deciding factor in the race, and compel the winner to pay attention to the libertarian and quasi-libertarian ideas that appear to have captured the imaginations of a growing number of Americans who have become disaffected with the two major parties.

Greg is seeking campaign staff and volunteers who will be needed to walk precincts to distribute door hangers, post signs of support on their lawns and help demonstrate that it is time for the politicians of both major parties to address the concerns of the millions of their constituents who feel government is already much too big and plays too great a role in our lives.

If you would like to help the Lion roar even louder, contact Greg Lyon for Congress at (510) 284-7910, send email to [GKLyon@gnn.com](mailto:GKLyon@gnn.com), or visit Greg's homepage on the World Wide Web at <http://members.gnn.com/gklyon/congress.htm>. Greg also hosts a live on-line chat room on America On-Line every Sunday evening from 8:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (LYON4CONGRESS).

The East Bay Region is planning a fund raising dinner for the Lion for Liberty campaign on Saturday, April 13, 1996. For information or to reserve your place, call LP Party Line at (510) 531-0760. □



## Political Predictions for 1996 and 1998

as prognosticated by political psychic Marion McEwen

### 1996

In Alameda County, the Democratic incumbents will win every race, maybe. Southern Alameda incumbents face a constituency which is steadily growing more conservative. Baby boomers and Generation X'ers don't like the government's repeated raids on their hard earned wages. 20th District Assemblywoman Liz Fig and Congressman Jurassic Pete will find their campaigns require a lot more work than they expect. Ms. Fig faces a very determined Republican and JP will have a Republican foe and Libertarian candidate Terry Savage to fight. Buy a big club Pete. Former supervisor Mary King is history.

In Contra Costa County and Eastern Alameda County we have another story. Republican and Democratic voter registration is close to being equal. Our candidate, Greg Lyon, in the 10th Congressional District will have a real impact on the race. Like all politicians, Bill Baker talks but takes no action to lower the tax burden or remove government regulations from the books. Republican registration in this District is 44%, only 2% more than the Democrats' 42%. The Democratic Party has targeted this race for obvious reasons. Greg's campaign will be a terrible wedge between the two other major Parties' vote totals.

### 1998

State Senator Bill Lockyer will run for the Democratic nomination for Governor. Watch out. Some gun rights groups think Bill is their friend, which only goes to prove that you can fool some of the people some of the time!

Assemblyman Michael Sweeney will want to move up to the State Senate to replace Lockyer. The question is who will be his hand-picked successor? Roberta Cooper, Bonnie Moss or "?". □

## From the Chair

"Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law."

by Jeffrey R. Sommer

My Webster's *New World Dictionary* defines libertarian as "...a person who believes in the doctrine of the freedom of the will," as well as "a person who believes in full individual freedom of thought, expression, and action." One can easily argue that one implies the other. It is the advantage of libertarian doctrine that will appeal to all free folk, the proclamation that being an American means the right of each individual to do his or her will, and accept the natural consequences. Or, in John Lennon's phrase, "instant karma."

I have a socialist friend (No! No! Not that!) Who is forever trying to convince me that Libertarians are just a bunch of selfish bourgeois snobs who want to see the homeless starve and so on because they don't want to pay taxes (and he does?). Fortunately, this is easily refuted. After all, it wasn't under a Libertarian administration that the economy went sour, and for all the billions of tax dollars that our sainted federal government has collected, and very likely precisely because of that taxation, jobs have dwindled and the inner cities have acquired economic gangrene. I don't think that, even under a Socialist regime, the homeless will be sailing Steve Forbes' yacht—but you can bet the "People's Deputies" will.

I myself am not an economist, but an historian. While I am weak on the Austrian school of economics, and am more conversant on Heinlein, Twin and Crowley than on Friedman, Hayek and Rand, I feel that I can still win allies for the Party through demonstrating that we sincerely want freedom for all.

We can point to local successes: I was part of the effort last year that overcame the obnoxious "Smoke a joint, lose your license" law when it came up before the California Assembly. At present, we are helping spearhead the Compassionate Use Initiative for 1996, and doing what we can to fight the "Drug War" Stalinists who are strangling the Bill of Rights. People who do not know nor particularly care about Laissez-faire economics can still see what the Libertarian Party stands for. To be effective, we must appeal to the hearts of the people, and worry about their minds later. We must remember that winning supporters among our rivals is what will strengthen us, not preaching to the choir. Every American who stands up for freedom is a victory; the political affiliation will then come as effortlessly as the sunrise in the morning.

## THE X-ON CONGRESS: INDECENT COMMENT ON AN INDECENT SUBJECT

by the Honorable Steve Russell

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — You motherfuckers in Congress have dropped over the edge of the earth this time. I understand that very few of the swarm of high dollar lobbyists around the Telecommunications Bill had any interest in content regulation — they were just trying to get their clients an opportunity to dip their buckets in the money stream that cyberspace may become — but the public interest sometimes needs a little attention. Keeping your eyes on what big money wants, you have sold out the First Amendment.

First, some basics. If your children walked by a public park and heard some angry sumbitches referring to Congress as "the sorriest bunch of cocksuckers ever to sell out the First Amendment" or suggesting that "the only reason to run for Congress these days is to suck the lobbyists' dicks and fuck the people who sent you there," no law would be violated (assuming no violation of noise ordinances or incitement to breach the peace). If your children did not wish to hear that language, they could only walk away. Thanks to your heads-up-your-ass dereliction of duty, if they read the same words in cyberspace, they could call the FBI!

## THIS MODERN WORLD

MANY AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT THE ANSWER TO SOCIETY'S PROBLEMS IS SIMPLE--WE'RE JUST GOT TO GET TOUGH ON CRIMINALS!



IN CALIFORNIA, THE PRISON GUARD'S UNION WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE "THREE STRIKES" INITIATIVE--WHICH HAS, OF COURSE, LED TO THE BUILDING OF MORE PRISONS (AND THE HIRING OF MORE GUARDS)... NOW THE HEAD OF THE UNION HAS THE CHUTZPAH TO COMPLAIN THAT PRISONS ARE FILLING UP WITH "HARDCORE CRIMINALS WHO HAVE NO HOPE AND NOTHING TO LOSE..."

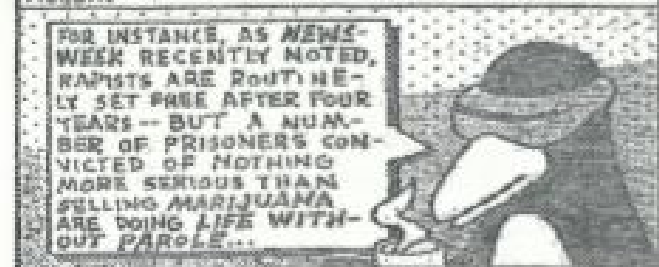


Cyberspace is the village green for the whole world. It is the same as the village green our Founders knew as the place to rouse the rabble who became Americans, but it is also different. Your blind acceptance of the dubious—make that dogass dumb—idea that children are harmed by hearing so-called dirty words has created some pretty stupid regulations without shutting down public debate, but those stupid regulations will not import to cyberspace without consequences that even the public relations whores in Congress should find unacceptable. In cyberspace, there is no time. A posted message stays posted until it is wiped. Therefore, there is no way to indulge the fiction that children do not stay up late or cannot program a VCR.

In cyberspace, there is no place. The "community standards" are those of the whole world. An upload from Amsterdam can become a download in Idaho. By trying to regulate obscenity and indecency on the Internet, you have reduced the level of expression allowed consenting adults to that of the most anal retentive blueballed fuckhead U.S. attorney in the country. The Internet is everywhere you can plug in a modem. Call Senator Exon an "ignorant motherfucker" in Lincoln, Nebraska and find yourself prosecuted in Bibleburg, Mississippi. In cyberspace, you cannot require the convenience store to sell *Hustler* in a white sleeve. The functional equivalent is gatekeeper software, to which no civil libertarian has voiced any objection.

by Tom Tomorrow (reprinted with permission)

UNFORTUNATELY LIFE TENDS TO BE A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT (AS THOSE OF YOU OVER THE AGE OF 15 MAY HAVE NOTICED BY NOW)... AND IN REALITY MANDATORY SENTENCING LAWS HAVE LED TO ASTONISHING INJUSTICES...



ANOTHER POINT TO CONSIDER IS THAT WHEN THE KEY HAS BEEN THROWN AWAY, THE PRISONERS STILL NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE OF... AND AT THIS RATE, OUR NATION'S PRISONS ARE GOING TO START TURNING INTO RETIREMENT HOMES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DECADES...



url: <http://www.well.com/user/tomorrow>

TM: 3/24/98 12:16 - email: tomorrow@well.com



Gatekeeper software cannot be made foolproof, but can you pandering pissants not see that any kid smart enough to hack into a Website is also smart enough to get his hands on a hard copy of *Hustler* if he really wants one? In cyberspace, there is the illusion of anonymity but no real privacy. It is theoretically possible for any Internet server to seine through all messages for key words (although it seems likely the resulting slowdown would be noticeable).

Perhaps some of you read about America OnLine's attempt to keep children from reading the word "breast?" An apparently unforeseen consequence was the shutdown of a discussion group of breast cancer survivors. Don't you think more kids are aware of "teat" (pronounced "tit") than of "breast?" Can skirts on piano legs, er, limbs be far behind? But silly shit like this is just a pimple on the ass of the long-term consequences for politics, art and education. You have passed a law that will get less respect than the 55 m.p.h. speed limit dead bang in the middle of the First Amendment.

Indecency is nothing but a matter of fashion; obscenity is the same but on a longer timeline. This generation freely reads James Joyce and Henry Miller and the Republic still stands. The home of the late alleged pornographer D. H. Lawrence is now a beautiful writers' retreat in the mountains above Taos, managed by the University of New Mexico. Universities all have Internet servers, and every English Department has at least one scholar who can read Chaucer's English—but not on the Internet anymore. Comparative literature classes might read Boccaccio—but not on the Internet anymore. What if some U.S. Attorney hears about Othello and Desdemona "making the beast with two backs"—is interracial sex no longer indecent anywhere in the country, or is Shakespeare off the net?

Did you know you can download video and sound from the Internet? Yes, that means you can watch other people having sex if that is interesting to you, live or on tape. Technology can make such things hard to retrieve, but probably not impossible. And since you have swept right past obscen-

ity and into indecency, the baby boomers had better keep their old rock 'n roll tapes off the Internet. When the Jefferson Airplane sang "her heels rise for me," they were not referring to a dance step. And if some Brit explains the line about "finger pie" in Penny Lane, the Beatles will be gone. All of those school boards that used to ban "The Catcher in the Rye" over cussing and spreading the foul lie that kids masturbate can now go to federal court and get that nasty book kept out of cyberspace. But enough about the past.

What about rap music? No, I do not care much for it either — any more than I care for the language you shitheads have forced me to use in this essay — but can you not see the immediate differential impact of this law by class and race? What is your defense — that there are no African-Americans on the Internet, since they are too busy pimping and dealing crack? If our educational establishment has any sense at all, they will be trying to see more teens of all colors on the Internet, because there is a lot to be learned in cyberspace that has nothing to do with sex.

There are plenty of young people in this country who have legitimate political complaints. When you dickheads get done with Social Security, they will be lucky if the retirement age is still in double digits. But thanks to the wonderful job the public schools have done keeping sex and violence out, we have a lot of intelligent kids who cannot express themselves without indecent language. I have watched lawyers in open court digging their young clients in the ribs every time the word "fuck" slipped out.

Let's talk about this fucking indecent language bullshit. Joe Shea, my editor, does not want it in his newspaper, and I respect that position. He might even be almost as upset about publishing this as I am about writing it. I do use salty language in my writing, but sparingly, only as a big hammer. Use the fucking shit too fucking much and it loses its fucking impact — see what I mean? Fiction follows different rules, and if you confine your fiction writing to how the swell people want to see themselves using language, you not only preclude literary

depiction of most people but you are probably false to the people you purport to depict. Do you remember how real language used by real people got on the air and in the newspapers? Richard Nixon, while he was president, speaking in the White House about official matters. A law professor and a nominee for Supreme Court Justice arguing about public hairs and porno movies during Senate hearings. Are these matters now too indecent for the Internet? How much cleansing will be required of the online news services? Answer: Enough cleansing to meet the standard of what is appropriate for a child in the most restrictive federal judicial district.

This is bullshit — unconstitutional bullshit and also bad policy bullshit. To violate your ban on indecency, I have been forced to use — and overuse — so-called indecent language. But if I called you a bunch of goddamn motherfucking cocksucking cunt-eating blue-balled bastards with the morals of muggers and the intelligence of pond scum, that would be nothing compared to this indictment, to wit: you have sold the First Amendment, your birthright and that of your children. The Founders turn in their graves. You have spit on the grave of

every warrior who fought under the Stars and Stripes. And what mess of pottage have you acquired in exchange for the rights of a free people? Have you cleansed the Internet of even the rawest pornography? No, because it is a worldwide system. You have, however, handed the government a powerful new tool to harass its critics: a prosecution for indecent commentary in any district in the country. Have you protected one child from reading dirty words? Probably not, if you understand what the economists call "substitution" — but you have leveled the standards of political debate to a point where a history buff would not dare to upload some of the *Federalist v. Anti-Federalist* election rhetoric to a Website. Since the lobby reporting requirements were not law when the censorship discussion was happening, I hope you got some substantial reward for what you gave up. Thirty pieces of silver doesn't go far these days. □

*Steve Russell, retired after 16 years as a trial judge in Texas, is Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Texas at San Antonio. This article originally appeared in The American Reporter, and may be reproduced free forever.*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*(For those joining the LP)*

*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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS **MARCH**

**Tuesday, March 19, 1996: Alameda County LP General Meeting.** Preparations for the March 26 Primary election, discuss LP positions on Statewide Propositions and local ballot measures, and coordinate plans for our annual April 15 Tax Day Protest actions. Ricky's Sports Lounge and Steakhouse at 15028 Hesperian Boulevard in San Leandro (near BayFair Mall). Formal business will begin between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. For more information, please call the LP Party Line at (510) 531-0760.

**Tuesday, March 26, 1996: California Primary Election Day.** Exercise your right to vote your conscience and go to the polls to cast your ballot not for the lesser among a choice of evils, but for the party of principle, Libertarian candidates for President (Browne, Ohmen, Schiff, or Tompkins), Congress (Terry Savage in the 13th Congressional District and Greg Lyon in the 10th), State Senate or Assembly or County Central Committee.

**Saturday, April 13, 1996: Greg Lyon for Congress Fund Raising Dinner.** For more information, call the LP Party line at (510) 531-0760.

**Sunday Afternoons, 5:30 p.m.:** The Libertarian News Hour is heard every week on Free Radio Berkeley, 104.1 FM, hosted by East Bay LP Chair Jeff Sommer. Tune in from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Sunday to hear the latest word from the frontiers of freedom. Free Radio Berkeley is the upstart broadcasting operation that last year challenged the FCC for its right to exist and *won!* To talk to Jeff on the air, call (510) 655-7146.

**Sunday Evenings, 8:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. On-Line Chat with Greg Lyon, Libertarian Candidate for Congress.** America On-Line subscribers are welcome to join a weekly chat room with LP Congressional candidate Greg Lyon every Sunday evening at 8:30.

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