

Sandhills Libertarian Gazette

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBERTARIANS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS

What Does the Libertarian Party Stand For?

The principles of the Libertarian Party are the same principles that guide honest people in their everyday lives. Libertarians want the government to follow those same guidelines. For example:

If I force you to give me money to pay for schemes that you do not approve of, then I can be prosecuted for theft and thrown into jail. However, the government does the same thing right now when it collects taxes by threat of force. Libertarians would cut taxes and let individuals keep more of their hard-earned money. Important services such as roads, utilities, and education, could be improved by encouraging free-market competition and private financing.

If I run out of money, and decide to print some myself, I get into big trouble for counterfeiting. Right now the government does the same thing, calls it expanding the money supply, and claims that it's O.K. In fact, this causes inflation, recession, and unemployment. Libertarians would bring order to financial markets by returning to a sound money standard backed by gold or silver.

If I threaten to close your business unless you give me money, I can be accused of extortion. The government does the same thing, calls it licensing, and says that citizens are better off as a result. In fact, small minority businesses are hurt the most by licensing laws. Libertarians realize that independent consumer groups could do a better job than the government of certifying competence and quality.

If I come into your home and tell you what to eat, drink, smoke, or read, or what to do in your own bedroom, then you will rightly respond, "Leave me alone. This is none of your business." You can say the same thing if I try to force you to wear a seat belt. However, the government regulates personal behavior every day; there are many laws which do this. Libertarians believe that individuals and their families know best how to run their own lives and how best to look out for their own safety. The government should not interfere as long as nobody violates the rights of anyone else.

If I tell you how to educate your children and claim that your ideas are irrelevant, then you will properly respond, "You don't know enough about us to make that kind of decision. You don't know what is important for us." Right now the government forces you to pay for its schools, and requires you to go through a lot of red tape if you choose to educate your children at home. Libertarians believe in the separation of school and state. We welcome the diversity of different educational philosophies, and acknowledge that each family has the responsibility of choosing the education they deem most appropriate.

Libertarians are confident in the wisdom of letting individuals think and act for themselves. Governments must stop assuming that they know what's right for everyone. The only role of government should be to protect each person's right to life, liberty, and honestly-acquired property.

Teaching safe gun use is answer

Gun ownership by honest citizens has never been much of a problem. Sure there have been accidents and misuse, but we can say the same about autos, knives, firecrackers, and most other tools. Guns are dangerous; they'd be useless if they weren't. Accidents and misuse are arguments for teaching safe use and owner liability, not a ban.

The gun control lobby wants to ban guns, not to protect us from accidents, but as a first step in fighting crime. New York and Washington, D.C., has probably the strictest gun control laws in the nation, yet crime flourishes in both cities.

Studies by Profs. James D. Wright and Peter H. Rossi conclude, "There is little evidence to show that gun ownership among the population as a whole is an important cause of criminal violence."

What's more, according to criminologist Gary Fleck, about 2,500 felons were legally killed and 16,000 wounded by gun owners in 1980.

Women are major victims of violent crime. Law enforcement authorities often tell women not to resist a rapist, to cooperate in the hopes of avoiding greater physical harm. Women are actually being trained to be victims. Nonsense! More women should arm themselves; an estimated 12 to 14 million have done so already. As women arm themselves, rapists face a chancier situation.

In the words of a poster by Nikki Craft, who works with anti-rape groups in Dallas, Texas, "Men and Women Were Created Equal. And Smith & Wesson Makes Damn Sure It Stays That Way."

Gun control lobbyists are often the same people who've engineered a judicial system that has little or no regard for the rights — and safety — of law-abiding people. Criminals are

often back on the streets before the reports are even filed by the police who arrested them.

Early paroles and lenient furloughs are given to ruthless criminals so they can prey on us. Just last month, Indiana's "enlightened" penologists furloughed a man who used the time off to beat his wife to death with the butt of a shotgun.

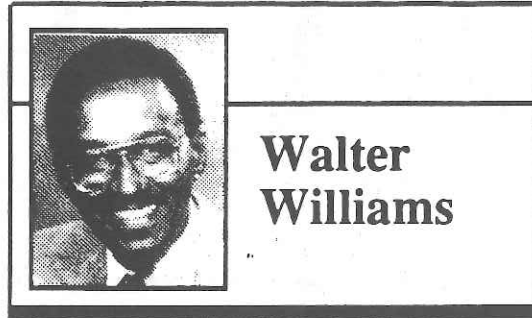
Quite often these gun control lobbyists live in safe neighborhoods, like columnist Carl Rowan, the "Jacuzzi Vigilante," yet they own guns.

In last November's Maryland elections, the gun control lobby, with an assist from Gov. William Schaefer, pulled out all the stops to wage a successful campaign for a ban on certain weapons and to increase the waiting period for purchasing a gun.

On the other hand, Nebraska's citizens passed an amendment that declares it an "inalienable right to keep and bear arms for the security or defense of self, family, home, and others, and for lawful common defense ... such rights shall not be denied or infringed by the state or any subdivision thereof."

The propaganda employed by the gun control lobby is slick. They call for "reasonable" things like longer waiting periods for background checks, and for the outlawing of automatic weapons. They don't publicly demand arms confiscation; they know they'd encounter too much resistance. Their agenda calls for disarming us a little bit at a time. This, you'll recall, is how many of our freedoms have been taken. Our job is not to let the camel get even his nose in the tent.

My attitude about gun laws is the following: I will feel better explaining to a judge why I have an illegal weapon than I'll feel in a casket.



Walter Williams

Walter Williams is the John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. This article is reprinted with the permission of Heritage Features Syndicate, 214 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.



"Liberty means responsibility. That is why so many men dread it."

- George Bernard Shaw

News from the National Convention

The Libertarian Party holds its National Convention in odd-numbered years. This year's convention was held in Philadelphia a few weeks ago. Here is some news from Philly:

Acting Chairman Dave Walter was elected to a two-year term as National Chairman. Other officers chosen were Mary Gingell (Vice-Chairman), Steve Fielder (Treasurer), and Joe Dehn (Secretary).

The size of the National Committee was whittled down from 31 to 19 members in order to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. It now consists of the four officers listed above, five at-large members, and ten regional representatives. South Carolina is now in region 6 with several other southeastern states, and our regional representative is Ron Crickenberger of Atlanta. Ron is well known to S.C. Libertarians, since he spoke at our state convention last year. Paula Zimmer of Florida is our alternate rep. Toni Black of Clemson was elected as an at-large member, giving us two persons to call upon for input into the national party.

Much of the convention was carried live on C-SPAN. Two of the most interesting speakers were Walter Williams and Charles Murray, who spoke on libertarian approaches to poverty. Another fascinating speaker was Frances Kendall, a libertarian from South Africa, whose trailblazing book After Apartheid: The Solution for South Africa is selling well and will hopefully shape the future of her troubled land.

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Editorial

Don't Forget the Chinese Students

Although the June 4 massacre in Tiananmen Square is receding into the past, it is important to remember that the students and other Chinese protestors need our support. After all, they are not asking for much - just a little bit of freedom and a loosening of the government's control over the people and the Chinese economy.

The students were the first group in China to realize that economic reform would not succeed unless there was freedom in the marketplace. However, the government of Deng Xiaoping was unwilling to relinquish control of the economy. The students also knew that the authoritarian structure of the government would have to change, but that was one thing Deng was totally unwilling to consider.

On June 4, the Chinese government declared war against its own people. Tanks rolled into Beijing and crushed anyone in their way, and machine guns shot unarmed civilians. Understandably, the Chinese people became reluctant to say anything to the news media and pleaded ignorance about the massacre.

The crackdown on the dissidents continues even today. Every neighborhood has its snoops to poke into each household and find out who has been doing what. The government is determined to silence all voices for freedom. However, this silence will probably be temporary, since many people who used to be friends of the Chinese government had a change of heart. The president of a leftist Hong Kong newspaper said, "I have been a friend of the Chinese Communist Party. I was so even during the Cultural Revolution. But today, I feel shame to be a friend of theirs."

In July, two Chinese students at U.S.C., Jenny Kaye and Ci-Long Li, were invited to speak at a S.C. Libertarian Party meeting. They explained the plight of Chinese students in the U.S., who are obviously afraid of what will happen to them if they return to China. They urged us to keep the pressure on politicians and remind them not to aid or support the Chinese Communist government.

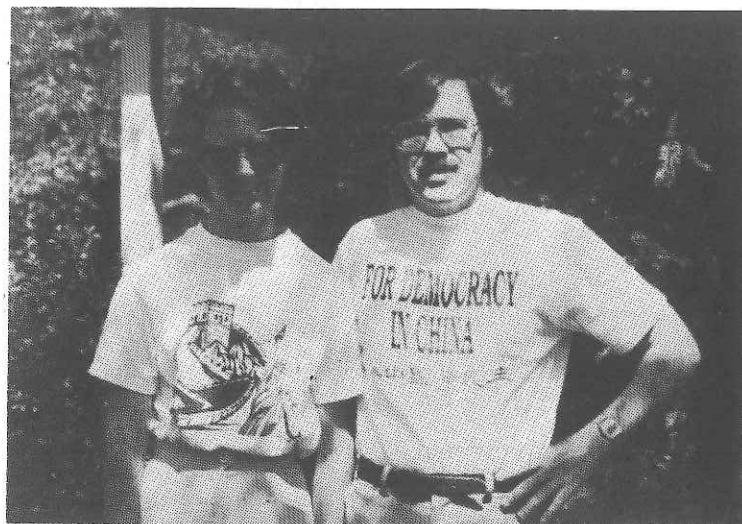
These students have formed an organization called The Committee in Solidarity with Student Protestors in Beijing (C.S.S.P.B.). They are raising money which will be used to help the protestors in China. I urge you to help by sending a contribution or buying a tee-shirt (see caption under the picture).

President Bush seems to want to be friendly with the Chinese government and doesn't like sanctions imposed by Congress. Perhaps he has been paying too much attention to Henry Kissinger, who said that the massacre in Beijing was entirely "a domestic matter." In an article in the *Los Angeles Times*, Kissinger said that some criticisms of Deng were "unfair." He also wrote that "China remains too important for America's national security to risk the relationship on the emotions of the moment."

Of course, Kissinger has always cared more about Soviet and Chinese leaders than about the rights of individual citizens. Fortunately, many Americans disagree with him. It is important for Libertarians to lead the way on this issue and to remind everyone that principles are important.

"Society in every state is a blessing, but government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one."

Thomas Paine, 1776



Jan and David Morris are wearing tee-shirts to show their support for Chinese freedom-fighters. These shirts can be purchased from Jenny Kaye, C.S.S.P.B., P.O. Box 210514, Columbia, S.C. 29221 (731-8421).

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The Modern Little Red Hen

Once upon a time, there was a Little Red Hen who scratched about the barnyard until she uncovered some grains of wheat. She called her neighbors and said, "If we plant this wheat, we shall have bread to eat. Who will help me plant it?"

"Not I," said the cow. "Not I," said the duck.

"Not I," said the pig. "Not I," said the goose.

"Then I will," said Little Red. And she did. The wheat grew tall and ripened into golden grain. "Who will help me reap my wheat?" asked Little Red.

"Not I," said the duck. "Out of my classification," said the pig. "I'd lose my seniority," said the cow. "I'd lose my unemployment compensation," said the cow.

"Then I will," said Little Red, and she did.

At last it came time to bake the bread. "Who will help me bake the bread?" asked Little Red.

"That would be overtime for me."
"I'd lose my welfare benefits."
"I'm a dropout and never learned how."
"If I'm only a helper, that's discrimination."

"Then I will," said Little Red. She baked five loaves and held them up for her neighbors to see. They all wanted some and, in fact, demanded a share. But Little Red said, "No, I can eat the five loaves myself."

"Excess profits!" cried the cow. "Capitalist leech!" screamed the duck. "I demand equal rights!" yelled the goose. The pig just grunted. And they painted "UNFAIR" signs and picketed Little Red, shouting obscenities.

When the Government Agent came, he said to Little Red, "Don't be so greedy."
"But I earned the bread," said Little Red. "Exactly," said the Agent. "That's what the free enterprise system is all about. Anyone in the barnyard can earn as much as he wants. But under our modern government regulations, the productive workers must divide their product with the idle."

And they lived happily ever after, including Little Red, who smiled and clucked, "I am grateful — I am grateful."

Her neighbors wondered why she never baked any more bread.



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EDITOR: David Morris

LEXINGTON COUNTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY
Post Office Box 2297
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