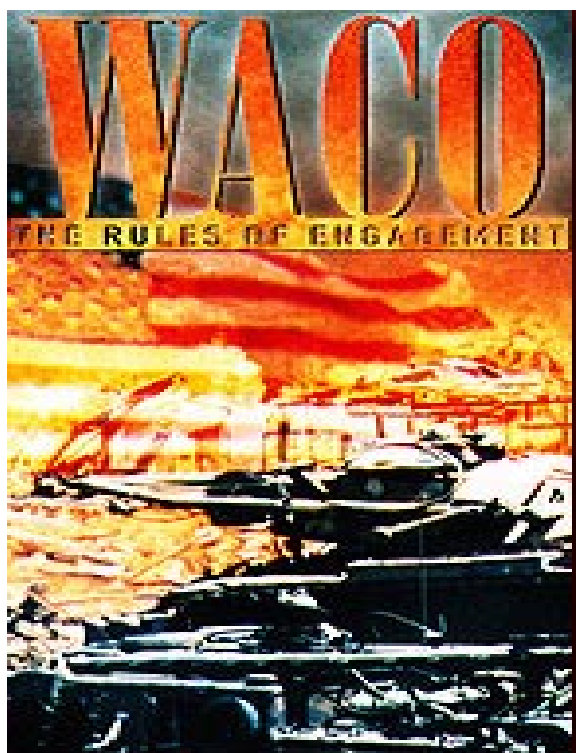


LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



The East Bay Region of the California Libertarian Party is hosting a free screening (donations accepted) of the award-winning documentary film ***Waco - The Rules of Engagement*** on Thursday, April 2, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grand Lake Theater, located at the corner of Grand Avenue and MacArthur in Oakland. This is a very engaging (pardon the pun) film that gives inside information about what *really* occurred at Waco. If you would like to attend, please call our party line at 531-0760 and reserve your seats (limit two per member) for what is surely to be a sold out performance.

Waco - The Rules of Engagement is a powerful investigative documentary examining the 1993 incident in which 79 men, women and children died in a mysterious fire after a 57 day stand-off at the Branch Davidian religious compound. The film, by William Gazecki and Dan Gifford, has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, and won the Documentary Prize at last year's Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Don't miss this opportunity to see this landmark film detailing the frightening consequences of a government out of control.

Empty Lanes at Rush Hour

After almost a decade of planning and construction, a new freeway lane finally opened on Interstate 80 this month to ease the congestion of the traffic-choked approach to the San Francisco Bay Bridge. So why wasn't the daily commute instantly improved? Because the new lane is for carpools only.

Back in the energy-conscious seventies and eighties, many of us welcomed the concept of carpooling as a responsible option for saving time, money and fuel. But those were the days when carpooling was a voluntary decision. Sometime in the 1980s, the government decided that carpooling was *such* a good idea that it should be forced upon us by legal mandate. That was when the car pool began to run out of gas.

Almost one in four commuters shared rides in the mid-1970s, when the Arab oil embargo caused fuel prices to jump dramatically within a three-month period. Even in 1980, when fuel prices stabilized, more than 20% of commuters got to work by driving with others. But by 1990, that number had dropped to only 13% and if current trends continue, only 7% of commuters will be carpooling by the turn of the century. Despite this trend, politicians have continued to pour billions of dollars of highway construction funds into building diamond lanes that are severely underutilized.

Statistical evidence suggests that many commuters would gladly go back to ridesharing, if it were a practical alternative. Unfortunately, for many of us, it is not. Much of the congestion seen on Bay Area freeways is not from commuters alone, but from courier transport and delivery vehicles, none of whom are legally allowed to use the diamond lanes to meet their objectives. Take for example the medical delivery trucks that transport supplies and specimens from hospitals and clinics to laboratories and the residences of homebound patients. These vehicles frequently travel on very tight schedules, but their productivity is dramatically reduced for up to six hours each day by their inability to zip through slow traffic by using the diamond lanes. And new legislation recently introduced in Sacramento proposes to expand carpool hours from morning and evening commute hours to all day long, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Once again, politicians seem to have difficulty doing simple math -- perhaps another tragic consequence of the public school system. □

Don't Let Freedom Go Up In Smoke

Last month, the California Assembly voted to repeal the ban on tobacco smoking in bars, less than four weeks after the law took effect. While this is a good sign, there is little evidence the law will *really* be changed, since it must also be repealed by the Democratically controlled State Senate and signed by Governor Pete Wilson, whose approval signature in 1995 authorized the original ban that outlawed separate smoking sections in restaurants and extended the ban to bars effective January 1 of this year.

It is unlikely that these other two bodies will follow the Assembly's lead unless a sizable portion of the public demands this small piece of its freedom be returned. Even now, an Auburn bar owner is facing thousands of dollars in fines and goes to trial next month for refusing to enforce this unenforceable law.

But smokers make up less than 20% of the population, and their rights are of little concern to the non-smoking 80%, so it is up to those of us who feel that the decision to smoke should be left to the individual and not to politicians, to work toward the repeal of this ridiculous law.

Due to almost unlimited taxpayer funding and free

television and radio airtime, anti-tobacco activists have produced at least a half-dozen Public Service Announcements promoting the ban on smoking in bars, claiming that they represent waitresses and bartenders who demand a smoke-free workplace environment. These commercials thank the politicians for making our lives better and our lungs cleaner by taking away more of our rights.

This constant barrage of propaganda leads the politicians to believe this ban has great popular support; however, a small coalition of tavern owners were instrumental in persuading the Assembly to repeal the law by traveling to Sacramento and raising hell about politicians telling them how to run their businesses. While their efforts demonstrate that politicians *can* be educated and will sometimes admit that they were wrong, it will take a much greater effort to finish the job they began.

To this end, the East Bay Region is preparing to produce a series of radio commercials promoting individual freedom and personal responsibility, specifically targeting the issue of smoking. Most of us in the Party do not smoke, but feel that the decision to do so is no one else's business unless a smoker interferes with the rights of non-smokers. Smoking in California has been restricted to such an extent that bars and taverns were just about the last refuge left for smokers to indulge in this practice. And anyone wishing to work in a smoke-free environment was usually smart enough to know that working in a bar was not a wise career decision. Obviously, some busybodies do not believe that waitresses and bartenders are smart enough to make such decisions on their own.

While we do not qualify for the free airtime given to the Department of Health Services for their advertisements, we have negotiated an agreement with KOME-FM radio in San Jose to run our commercial four times a day for a total of ten days at a cost of \$39 per placement. This means we need to raise almost \$1,600 for this project. 10% of this amount has already been committed by the owner of an East Bay cigar shop, and we will be approaching various tavern owners for additional donations, but every penny will help.

If you would like to help fund this effort, please send a \$39 donation to pay for a single commercial to the East Bay LP, 20993 Foothill Blvd, #314, Hayward, CA 94541-1511. Please indicate that the donation is to fund the radio commercial. If you can contribute *more* than the minimum, we would of course be even more grateful. □

LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

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FROM THE (EX-) CHAIR

I want to offer my congratulations to Jeffrey Sommer as the new Chairman of Region One (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.) He will do a great job. He has lots of ideas and the time and will to carry them out. Good luck and go get 'em!

Jeffrey is going to need all of us to continue to work to make the country a better place. There are elections coming up and a number of candidates who need our money and our shoe leather. We need to grow the party to the place where it is a major influence on local, state and national affairs. I am thoroughly convinced that the "Party of Freedom" is by far the best thing for every person in the U. S., except for those who thrive on power over others. The job is to convince 51% of the electorate that we are right. This requires all of us.

I would like to remind everyone of the goals we set to accomplish over the two years, last year and this year:

- Double the number of registered Libertarians in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Double the number of members in the Libertarian Party in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Double the number of active Libertarians in Region One.
- Run people in every election for every office.

Those are still our goals. We have not made much progress in accomplishing them. Would you come forward and offer ideas and help in trying to meet these goals? It is sometimes hard to realize that you personally can make a difference. It is hard to see in a country of hundreds of millions of people, but I am absolutely convinced that each of us can make a difference. When you think about a small party like ours, you definitely can make a difference. Here you are not just an unknown who will be told how to vote

by a party boss. In the Libertarian Party you are an individual and will spread individual rights to others. Think about it. Come to our meetings

I hope that everyone is coming to the Libertarian Party of California (LPC) Convention over the President's Day weekend. It is a great time to learn more of what our Party stands for and to take part in it.

I am going to be the LPC Executive Committee representative for Region One this year. If you have comments or ideas how the State Party could be run better, let me know. We always need to improve.

It has been a good year and I hope that this one will be even better. Start working for Libertarian Party candidates now. They need all of our help. □

Back in the Saddle Again

I am very happy to be once again the Regional Chair of the East Bay Libertarian Party. The work of the election year is cut out for me, and with your help, this region will gather an unprecedented support for the Libertarian Party.

I am calling for volunteers to hand out flyers, man booths, put up posters and attend public meetings in strong numbers. If you have been waiting for a formal request to aid the Party, this is it. Whatever you can do, we need it.

We are working on establishing a new level of cooperative effort throughout the entire Bay Area, not just Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, so that people throughout this section of Northern California will see a united effort of Libertarians to present our message in every available forum. This region is going to be the nerve center of the plan. We must be all that more committed because of it.

The Party is having its annual State Convention from February 13-16, and there are going to be some serious changes that will enable us to do this job more efficiently. I promise to keep you posted.

**Jeffrey R. Sommer
Chair, Region 01
Deputy Northern Vice Chair
Libertarian Party of California**

The Hong Kong Miracle

by Katherine McKay

When the Communists took over China, great numbers of people took refuge in Hong Kong, so as to live under British law. The refugees brought only what they could carry with them and swelled the population enormously, and no foreign aid was available to help the colony cope with the influx of so many people. The small territory had little in the way of natural resources. Elsewhere in the world, such as Bangladesh, this has proved to be a recipe for continuing disaster. Yet Hong Kong is one of the great success stories of the last 50 years.

In 1994 the Heritage Foundation in Washington published its first Index of Economic Freedom, which ranked 101 countries in order of economic freedom each country allows in areas such as taxation, trade, banking, capital flow, regulation and property rights. Hong Kong was ranked first in the world, while its mother country, Great Britain, ranked seventh. Not only that, but Hong Kong's per-capita GDP was one-third higher than that of Great Britain. In fact, Hong Kong's per-capita GDP ranked behind only Japan, Canada and the U.S. (the highest ranked in income), which it trailed by 5%.

After World War II, socialist Britain was exporting socialism to all its colonies and former colonies. India and Kenya, among others, accepted the economic teachings of the mother country as a matter of course, and socialism has helped them remain in poverty to this day. How did Hong Kong escape the fate of the other British territories?

In 1945 the British colonial office happened to assign Sir John Cowperthwaite to manage the financial affairs of the colony. Sir John was an advocate of Adam Smith's free-market ideas and a staunch opponent of socialism. For 26 years he kept the colony's budget balanced and practiced his "theory of positive nonintervention," resulting in economic freedom for Hong Kong unmatched anywhere else in the world except Singapore (which ranked second on the Index of Economic Freedom). Far from doing nothing in the pursuit of positive nonintervention, Sir

John had continually to resist critics and those in the government who endlessly suggested more schemes for spending the taxpayer's money without the taxpayer's permission. He fought proposals for the government to subsidize water rates, to build structures at lower cost than private builders could, to favor certain businesses and discourage others, and to regulate the movement of capital in Hong Kong. He resisted raising income taxes, claiming that private enterprise could put the money to better use than the government could, and criticized the concept of economic planning: "I believe government should not presume to tell any businessman or industrialist what he should or should not do, far less what he may or may not do - and no matter how it may be dressed up that is what planning is."

Sir John, acutely aware of how government's well-meaning attempts at dealing with problems often have unintended consequences, stated: "In the long run, the aggregate of decisions of individual businessmen, exercising individual judgment in a free economy, even if often mistaken, is less likely to do harm than the centralized decisions of a government, and certainly the harm is likely to be counteracted faster. . . . Over a wide field of our economy it is still the better course to rely on the 19th century's 'hidden hand' than to thrust clumsy bureaucratic figures into its sensitive mechanism. In particular, we cannot afford to damage its mainspring, freedom of competitive enterprise."

It becomes clearer now why Hong Kong's economic success was so great. Its trade and market policies were the freest in the world. It imposed no tariffs on imports and gave no subsidies to exports. There were few if any restrictions on entry into business and no fixing of prices or wages. Income taxes were low and government spending correspondingly so. As a result, the colony, which began the postwar period as an impoverished and overcrowded territory with hardly any natural resources, now ranks fourth in the world in GDP and, before the Communist takeover last July, first in the world in economic freedom.

A look at the Index of Economic Freedom uncovers almost complete correlation between economic freedom and prosperity. The first ten countries listed, in order of freedom, are Hong Kong, Singapore, Bahrain, U.S., Japan, Taiwan, U.K. Canada, Germany and Austria. Over half of these countries began the

postwar period with very low standards of living (some were devastated); they have been able to build up their GDP through the efforts of individuals relatively unobstructed by the heavy hand of government. The last ten countries listed are Ukraine, Sierra Leone, Moldova, Haiti, Sudan, Angola, Mozambique, Vietnam, Cuba and North Korea. Their repressed condition corresponds to very low standards of living for their people. The clear conclusion is that the more a government interferes in the economic life of a country, the more it impedes economic growth and the poorer the country becomes.

Foreign aid (i.e., transfers of wealth from rich to poor countries) has little effect on raising the standard of living of countries whose governments interfere with free enterprise and misuse the money. Most of the 58 countries the Index lists as unfree have received foreign aid from the U.S., to little avail as far as the condition of their people is concerned. Prosperity cannot be bought for the poorer countries by the richer ones; only liberalizing repressed economic systems will allow countries to flourish. A country which instigates economic reforms to free the energies and intelligence of its people toward pursuing their own economic good by hard work and ingenuity will soon find its standard of living rising. Hong Kong, poverty-stricken and overcrowded with refugees 50 years ago, proved this by rising to the position of first in the world in freedom and fourth in GDP, in spite of having no natural resources to speak of. It remains to be seen how much of this economic freedom will be allowed to remain by the Chinese Communist government which now controls the territory. If Hong Kong loses its economic freedoms and its standard of living, it will become a textbook example to the whole world of the effects, first, of economic freedom and, second, of economic repression. □

Resources: Nancy deWolf Smith, "The Wisdom That Built Hong Kong's Prosperity," *Wall Street Journal*, July 1, 1997 (quotes are from this source)

Milton Friedman, "Hong Kong vs. Buchanan," *Wall Street Journal*, no date, 1996

Kim R. Holmes, "In Search of Free Markets," *Wall Street Journal*, December 12, 1994

CHECK YOUR PHONE BILL

by Richard Rider

I bet you've been dying to know what wonderful new program the federal government has come up with to stick it to the taxpayer this year. Check this out:

Many thought the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was supposed to drive prices down through increased competition. What we've found tucked away within the Act are 3 ways the FCC has actually *raised* prices. Here's what you need to know about:

#1 - Commencing 1 February, an extra 4.9% tax on your usage for interstate & international calls has been levied. This new "Carrier Universal Service Charge" will help schools, libraries & health care facilities obtain leading edge telecommunications. And because the Telecomm Act put the taxing power in the hands of the FCC, Congress didn't even have to vote on this 5% tax increase!

#2 - An extra \$2.75 charge for each phone line you have. This pays for the new "Presubscribed Line Charge" or "PIC-C".

#3 - The "Pay Phone Tax" means that whenever someone calls your 800 number or uses their calling card from a pay phone, you have to pay an extra 29 cents per call. Some long distance carriers can't tell which calls originate from payphones so they've just added a 2.5% pay phone tax to your total usage (even if you don't have an 800 number or any calling cards!)

People will begin getting those bills in the next week, and those who notice will not be happy campers.

Had enough yet? Time to start voting Libertarian!

Presumed Guilty

by Marion McEwen

This past December, I was driving on El Camino Real, coming from a sing-along Messiah at the Stanford Memorial Church. My mother and 13 year old daughter were in the car with me when we came upon a sobriety check point.

I could not avoid entering the checkpoint because of the traffic on either side of me and so proceeded forward. Two lanes of this busy street were blocked off. Eight police officers lined the median strip. Police vans and cars were parked in the blocked-off section of the street. Several officers, including one with a jacket clearly marked PAROLE, milled about by the vehicles and on the sidewalk. A diamond shaped highway sign read "Sobriety Check Point." Another sign read "Have your driver's license ready." I felt a chill as I realized that we had relinquished our right to pass freely and unobstructed.

The police officers on the median strip checked cars and drivers in groups of eight. They signaled each group forward, then bent to hand out literature and talk to the driver. I saw no indication that anyone had been arrested nor was anyone standing outside of a car being questioned. They stopped each car. No one was waved through.

At my turn, I was the lead car. I almost pulled through out of annoyance but stopped when the officer held out his hand. I opened the window of the car and the officer said something to the effect that the police were out that night to educate the public about the dangers of driving while under the influence. I did not reply to his comments. He asked if I had been drinking. I replied, "No." He then asked if I had a driver's license he could see. I was upset at the prospect of being stopped without cause, but said nothing to the police officer and retrieved my license. I held it up for his inspection and he said, fine, I could go on my way.

Both the officer and I knew he was violating my civil rights and we both knew I would not do anything about it. Not only was I stopped for no reason, but I was asked for identification. I was not even suspected of having committed a crime and yet I was treated as if I were a criminal. Actually, I was suspected of being a criminal or why was that parole officer there? Is a parole officer always present at sobriety checkpoints or do the police set up sobriety check points when they are looking for a parole

6

violator?

We have become victims of our own police policies. Our courts do not protect us from unreasonable searches and seizures. We can no longer expect to go freely from one point to another.

Travel by car and plane are fettered with unreasonable restrictions on individuals. These last few years, I have not traveled by air without being questioned by an airline employee turned police officer of the moment. Identification is absolutely required for all airline passengers. No identification, no trip.

Do not make the mistake of purchasing plane tickets with cash. You will not be allowed to check your luggage at the curb, even on short domestic flights between cities within the same state.

As much as I would like to make a federal case against sobriety checkpoints or the questioning of airline passengers, I do not have the resources or the time to do it. Government knows that people do not have the time to fight all of the nonsense they throw at us. What they don't realize is the depth of the resentment that they are creating. □

Pleasanton Outlaws Self Defense

The Pleasanton city council recently voted to ban the sale of affordable guns and to zone home FFL's out of business, as well as the T&S gun show normally held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The vote was 3 to 2 and 4 to 1. Only two of the San Francisco imports came to speak for these measures, among whom was Andrea Soto. Andrea was most eloquent in speaking against the democratic process by asking that the council not vote to let the community vote on these issues. There were 8 to 10 locals to speak for the measures and about 50 people to speak against. The meeting ended about 11:30.

The locals expected this outcome. They have an organization ready to do a referendum on these measures after their second reading on the 17th. The procedure is to get 10% of the registered voters to sign petitions to put the measure on the next ballot. They have 30 days to get the signatures. Although only Pleasanton residents can gather signatures on the petition "outsiders can help by helping at a booth and voter registration. They plan to gather signatures at local retail outlets.

-- Dave Keegan

Marin Makes More Libertarians

by Tammy Austin

Marin County LP Secretary Matt Turley resigned last month due to pressing personal matters (i.e. his wife is about to give birth). Marin residents are clearly making more Libertarians all the time, whether by recruiting disgruntled Republicans and Democrats or just reproducing ourselves the old-fashioned way. Congratulations to Matt and his growing family!

Mrs. Janice Edelstein also resigned because she does not have time available to come to meetings. Don't worry -- I'm not about to close up shop. Although I am sad to see a couple of my supporters fall by the wayside, there is still a great interest in the Libertarian Party. All the previously planned events are still on and I have a new Secretary who has stepped forward, Matthew Demattei.

Upcoming events include our monthly general meeting on February 7th at 1:00 p.m. at San Rafael Joe's, 931 4th Street in San Rafael.

On February 21st, we will be having an All Day Fundraiser at the Petaluma Fleamarket.

Our March 7th General Meeting will also be held at San Rafael Joe's at 1:00 p.m..

Additionally, I am seeking election to the LPC State Executive Committee as an At-Large representative for Northern California at the 1998 Libertarian Party of California convention in Los Angeles this month. With an Executive Committee dominated by representatives from the largest regions in the state, I feel that Southern California holds an inordinate amount of power over the operation of the Party, and I pledge myself to be a powerful voice for the smaller regions of the state, particularly those in Northern California.

Current Marin LP Officers are Chair Tammy Austin, who may be reached at MarinLP@webtv.net; new Secretary Matthew Demattei, whose email address is Pagangas@sirius.com; and Treasurer Richard Lowry who may be contacted electronically at LVXINK@webtv.net.

Support Marin County Libertarians by donating used clothes and household goods to our fundraising drive. For information, call (415) 331-1500 ext. 139. □

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.*

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP+4 _____

(Optional)

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

email: _____

Libertarian Party of California

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☐ Basic LP Membership
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☐ Subscription only to
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☐ Donation (Thank you!)

Please make checks payable to:
Libertarian Party of California

I would like to join: ☐ Marin County LP ☐ East Bay Region LP

☐ Recorded in database

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **FEBRUARY**

Sunday, February 7, 1998, 1:00 p.m. Marin County LP General Meeting. Help strengthen the Marin LP by attending the monthly General Meeting at the San Rafael Joe's, 931 Fourth Street in San Rafael. For more information, call (415) 331-1500 extension 139.

Friday, February 13 - 16, 1998, Libertarian Party of California Annual Convention. The LPC holds its annual convention this year in Los Angeles at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Featured Speakers include former LP Presidential Candidates Harry Browne, David Bergland, Ed Clark, John Hospers and Congressman Ron Paul, as well as radio talk show hosts Gene Burns and Larry Elder. For more information, contact Convention Solutions at 562-428-8113.

Friday, February 20, 1998, 8:00 p.m. Free Radio Forum & Book Release Party at the Unitarian Fellowship. Meet the authors and celebrate the publication of *Seizing the Airwaves*, by Stephen Dunifer and Ron Sakolsky, the inspiring story of micropower broadcasters and the fight against the bureaucratic censorship of the FCC. The Unitarian Fellowship is located at Cedar and Bonita in Berkeley. For more information, call 510-464-3041.

Saturday, February 21, 1998. All Day Fundraiser for the Marin LP at the Petaluma Fleamarket. For more information, call the Marin LP at (415) 331-1500, extension 139.

Tuesday, February 24, 1998, 7:00 p.m. Oakland/Berkeley Libertarians in the 16th Congressional District will meet to discuss regional issues at the offices of Resources for Independent Thinking, 5236 Claremont Avenue, Oakland, CA. For more information, contact Jeffrey Sommer at (510) 537-3212.

Sundays, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Libertarian News Hour on Free Radio Berkeley. Tune in every week to Free Radio Berkeley, 104.1 FM to hear Jeffrey Sommer celebrate the First Amendment on the Bay Area's premiere pirate radio station. To talk to Jeff on the air, call (510) 594-8082. To learn more about the micropower broadcasting movement, check out <http://www.freeradio.org>.

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