

*** FREE NEW YORK ***
The monthly publication of the New York libertarian movement
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ably assisted by members of the Society for Individual Liberty
and the Libertarian Party of New York
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Hello!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the reborn Free New York, the monthly newsletter of the New York freedom movement. For those who remember earlier incarnations of this journal, welcome back, and we hope you haven't missed us too badly.

Many changes have occurred since Free New York was last published. The most important of these is probably the powerful resurgence of the Society for Individual Liberty (SIL) in New York State. This advocacy organization has gained considerable recognition in the communities wherein it has operated. One of its most prominent members, E. Kevan Rowlee, has received the State's ultimate expression of recognition of his effectiveness: imprisonment.

Free New York is produced and distributed by the Suffolk County chapter of SIL, with assistance from the Libertarian Party of New York. It subsumes the earlier SIL/Suffolk publication, Suffolk Liberty, which will cease to appear as an independent entity. Former Suffolk Liberty subscribers will receive Free New York henceforward.

What Will Appear In Free New York?

We will attempt to address a broad range of topics: national, state and local developments; opinion; personal achievements of prominent freedom activists; interesting quotes; book, music, cinema and broadcast media commentary; and humor and entertainment of all kinds. If we are to be successful at this, we will need contributions of material for publication from an equally wide variety of sources. NOTE: THIS MEANS YOU. Clip your local and regional newspapers for relevant material and send it in. Take note of other media events that are of interest; let us know about them. In particular, keep us informed, well in advance, of scheduled local meetings and events; we will give the New York libertarian community the widest possible advance notice of them, and your attendance and effectiveness will increase.

And Just Who Are You?

I am the former editor and publisher of Suffolk Liberty. I am also active in the Suffolk County Libertarian Organization and in the Libertarian Party of New York.

I intend to exercise a wholly arbitrary editorial discretion over the material which appears in these pages. Inaccurate grammar and spelling will be corrected. Epithets and unfounded personal accusations are right out. Any other lapses of taste will be handled as I find appropriate. However, once I decide that an article will appear, the opinions in it will be substantively preserved.

How Should I Send Material?

Simply post it to the above address, in the most legible form you can manage. Unless you ask to be notified, you'll learn whether your piece has been selected for publication by seeing it appear in a subsequent issue.

Unless you ask for copyright protection, your article will appear without a copyright notice, although it will, of course, bear your name.

At the end of each issue there will be an "About the Contributors" column, in which any details about yourself that you see fit to release will be printed.

Who Will Receive Free New York?

Anyone who joins the Libertarian Party of New York, or SIL/Suffolk, will receive a year's subscription as a membership benefit. The first two issues will also be sent, free of charge, to former members of those organizations whose memberships in them lapsed no less recently than 1/1/88. Finally, subscriptions may be purchased for \$12/year.

Other libertarian organizations which would like Free New York to be made available to their memberships should contact me at the above address or phone number for details.

Enjoy!

-- Fran Porretto --

Scheduled Events

SUFFOLK: SIL/Suffolk will be holding its regular monthly meeting on Saturday, November 25, at 7:30 PM in Mount Sinai, at Fran Porretto's home. All interested parties are invited; refreshments will be provided. For further information, call (516) 928-9419.

LP National Convention 1989

The 1989 Libertarian Party National Convention was this reluctant conventioneer's first, but all reluctance to attend such events was dispelled by this weekend spent with 500 kindred spirits from the Libertarian movement.

My arrival Saturday morning was in time to attend Marshall Fritz's lecture "Introduction to Libertarianism." Saturday was called Outreach Day, but without Marshall Fritz, it wouldn't have had much credibility. Marshall seemed to be the only one willing to roll up his sleeves and confront the listener with the difference between Liberty and Statism. He illustrated the nature of taxation as theft by depicting a series of armed robbery scenarios, starting from blatant robbery and changing one ingredient at a time until he arrived at the activities of the IRS. Unfortunately, there were precious few nonlibertarians in the audience. Despite the considerable volume of talk about the importance of outreach, throughout the Convention, Marshall seemed to be the only one willing to slug it out in the trenches.

At midday a speech was given by Walter Williams on the inadequacies of public education and its effect on the urban poor. The 500 attendees in the large conference hall roared with approval at the repeated thrusts, dripping with sarcasm, Dr. Williams made at the educational system.

C-SPAN cameras covered the whole event. It was said that as a result of the C-SPAN coverage, 200 inquiry calls per day were placed to LP national headquarters in Wash-

ington, in contrast to the usual 2 or 3.

Later that afternoon, speeches were made by the three candidates for National Chair: David Walter, Robert Murphy, and Matt Monroe. In an off-election year when the LP is not nominating a Presidential candidate, the race for the Chair becomes the focal point for all attention. All three candidates presented themselves as competent and desirous of the job. It was encouraging to see that the LP had its choice among such high-caliber candidates. Later that night (between 11 PM and 3 AM), each candidate opened a hospitality suite, where the real conventioning took place. There were numerous lively discussions and many new libertarians to meet as one roamed the floors of the hotel, looking for open doors with people spilling out. The most interesting comment I heard that night came from a surgeon from Oregon, who said during a discussion of the health care cost crisis that half of all health care costs are incurred during the last week of life.

But all of that happened after the awards banquet, at which many individuals were honored for their contributions to the party and its goals. Many awards went to ballot access petitioners, lawsuit and lobbying organizers, persons who had contributed to outstanding membership growth, and other hardworking activists. After the awards, Ron Paul gave a rousing speech covering many topics, which the 500 banquet attendees interrupted several times with thunderous ovations. Had the general public been given the opportunity to hear such a speech during the 1988 Presidential campaign, Dr. Paul's election tallies would have been much greater.

Sunday's business was the election of party officers and members of the National Executive Committee. The election of Dave Walter to the Chair was an orderly and well-conducted affair. However, Matt Monroe may have made a tactical mistake by having Murray Rothbard as one of his nominating speakers. Dr. Rothbard treated the convention to his predilection for conflict when he made the statement that he had not been asked to speak -- a charge which convention organizer Don Ernsberger flatly refuted. The delegates laughed at Rothbard's antics, diffusing the theoretician's appetite for destruction. One attendee remarked: "I became a libertarian from reading his book. The man is a disgrace to his own intellect."

The LP '89 Convention was a success by any standard: productive for the party, and rewarding for the attendees. I recommend the next such to anyone interested in the success of our movement.

-- Peter Guida --

[Editor's Note: Mr. Guida is a New York activist specially concerned with outreach, fund-raising and membership growth. He has proposed an arrangement whereby successful outreach activists would be compensated monetarily for their success, from the contributions of those they bring into the fold, for the life of the new contributor. If you are interested in this approach to remunerated Libertarian activism, please call Mr. Guida at (718) 436-6462.]

The Exodus From The East

Earlier this year it was China. Now the hopeful eyes of the free world are focused upon East Germany, where mass emigration has

given way to mass rioting. Many Westerners are optimistic that these events are the beginning of the end of the Communist nightmare. Others are fearful that they are beginning to end the Marxist vision.

A case in point is that Fifth Column rag, The Nation (which, for the as-yet-unaware, is English for "Pravda"). An editorial in the 10/2/89 issue warns that the flight from the DDR "cannot be interpreted, as some Western commentators would have it, as an abandonment [by the refugees] of the teachings of Karl Marx." Yes, of course they are seeking "a better life" than the Communist government could provide, but note which nation they are fleeing to. It "is not Thatcher's Britain nor apres-Reagan America." No, it is West Germany.

Well, what of it? Isn't West Germany where you find yourself when you cross the Austro-Hungarian border? The editorial, written at a time when most of the refugees hadn't been outside the Iron Curtain for a week, acknowledges that they were traveling light. What, then, were they supposed to do? Immediately jet across the Atlantic to settle in Kennebunkport? For heaven's sake, why? Should anyone be surprised at a German's decision to live in a German country? Why is this even an issue?

Because The Nation has made it one. The reason the refugees have "chosen" West Germany, we are told, is that, although West Germany is still "a capital society," it is nonetheless one with a high degree of socialization, courtesy of its Marxists, "the unions and the Social Democrats." In fact, this Marxist element is "the key to the success of German capitalism...it has given West Germany 'capitalism with a human face,' that face being its socialist features. And it is the warmth of that face, the editorial reveals, that has tens of thousands of refugees pouring into West Germany.

The Nation's implication is inescapable: if it were not for West German socialism, the flood of migrants might not even be a trickle. In no way having rejected Marxism, indeed "the newcomers have gone from Stalin back to Marx." In no way being Reaganstein's monsters, the ebullient refugees are, in fact, "Borderline Marxists," the title of the editorial. Thus, the intelligent reader cannot help but conclude that the fleeing of "thousands of youthful East Germans" -- and presumably those in the past who were murdered trying -- is a tribute to the efficacy and humanitarianism of Marxism, and a shining beacon of hope to the oppressed still trapped under the heavy (though invisible) hand of the market capitalist regimes.

One doesn't know which fish in the barrel to shoot first. There's the claim that the refugees are essentially fellow travelers who reject only the Stalinist leadership of Erich Honecker. This is on the same level as rewriting history to mutate Harriet Tubman into an ardent defender of slavery who was merely disenchanted with the Presidency of Jefferson Davis. Then one might point out that, while the refugees haven't (yet) made their ways to England or the U.S., neither have they settled in socialist Scandinavia, much less Castro's Cuba or Ortega's Nicaragua, Communist slave pens much beloved by many of The Nation's writers. And one must observe that East Germans, among others, were already risking life and limb to find refuge in the West in the early post-War period, when West German capitalism -- with no help

from indigenous Marxists -- was prospering at a remarkable rate, in stark contrast to the poverty and tyranny of East Germany. It remains only to ask why the current refugees, if they're truly seeking the socialist good life, are leaving the full-menu Marxism of East Germany for a piecemeal West German welfarism. The answer, of course, is that the refugees want freedom, and would be pouring into West Germany even if it were a bastion of Manchester laissez-faire.

It should be noted that The Nation's inversion of reality is shared by, among others on the Left, Noam Chomsky, the Big Lie propagandist who proclaimed the Communist genocide in Cambodia to be a fiction authored by the U.S. government. (To credit him with consistency, he has also championed the academic rights of those "historians" who deny the reality of Hitler's death camps.) What the Reaganites really fear in Nicaragua, Chomsky informs us, is not the presence of a Soviet military base, intent on spreading Marxist-Leninist revolution to its neighboring democracies. Rather, it is the threat of socialism's "good example." What would happen, we are asked to imagine, if the down-trodden of the bourgeoisie democracies looked across their borders and saw a socialist wonderland that provided everything equally to everyone? Wouldn't the capitalist exploiters soon find themselves without serfs as the people fled en masse to the workers' paradise?

What is the etiology of this lunacy-on-steroids? Quite simply, it is a conflict between one's vision and one's sight. The Marxian image of a capitalist hell redeemed by socialism is not the world before our eyes. On the contrary, we live on a globe where people flee socialist hells to live under capitalism. Faced with this contradiction, the dialectical materialists of the Left have remained true to Marx -- by abandoning reality.

Most incredible (though not unexpected) is The Nation's assertion that the person of Stalin, and not the logic of Marxism, is responsible for the nature of Soviet and East German Communism, and thus for the flight of the East Germans. Who, or what, then, is responsible for the nature of Chinese Communism, from mass murderer Mao to mass murderer Deng, its most successful industry the production of multitudes seeking refuge in such citadels of capitalism as Hong Kong and Taiwan? What ideology gave us Pol Pot's Cambodia? Haile Mengistu's Ethiopia? Castro's Cuba? Ortega's Nicaragua? Is it The Nation's contention that the only place where Marxism exists -- and works -- is under capitalism?

The overriding concern of The Nation appears to be to construe the situation with the two Germanies as indicating a bright future for the favorite animal of the American Left, that three-legged oxymoron "democratic socialism:" the fanciful notion that people like ourselves could "take a parliamentary road to socialism" and yet remain democrats at the destination. It's a unicorn of an idea in an essay otherwise filled with dodos. If anything, the events in Europe should be taken as a triumph of plebiscitary democracy over Marxian socialism. A Time magazine letter to the editor from Helsinki hit the bull's-eye:

"It's East Germany's first free election, and the people are voting with their feet."

-- Barry Loberfeld --

"Politicata"

GO PLACIDLY AMONG THE LAWS AND RED TAPE AND recover what deniability there may be in silence. As far as possible be in compliance with all zoning ordinances. Speak softly but firmly, even to the editors of local weeklies; they too have their readers. Avoid local environmental activists; they are vexations to the spirit.

If you logroll with others, you may become enmeshed, for always there will be both longer and shorter memories than yours. Annotate your memoranda as well as your dossiers. Keep interested in your legislative aides, however humble; they are a real asset in the shifting alliances of time.

Exercise prudence in securing your file cabinets and desk drawers, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what opportunity there is; many good leaks are possible, and everywhere life is full of "usually reliable sources."

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign liberalism. Neither be cynical about conservatism, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Fade gently over the years, gracefully surrendering the porkier subsidies.

Nurture savings to shield you from sudden electoral reversal, but do not overload yourself with "unallocated contingency funds." Many scandals are born of accelerating bank balances. Beyond a healthy nest egg, partake not from the lobbyists.

You are a child of the Founding Fathers of Our Country, no less than the Proxmires and the Kennedys; you have privileges to be here. And whether or not your security clearance allows you to check for yourself, no doubt the Engine of State is chugging along as it should. Therefore be at peace with the FBI, the CIA, the DIS, the DEA and especially the IRS, whatever you conceive Them to be, and in the noisy confusion of Special Investigating Committees keep faith with your lawyer and your accountant. With all its Ruhollah Khomeinis, its Muammar Qaddafi and its Adnan Khashoggi, it is still a beautiful political system. Get elected. Get reelected. Don't get mad, get even.

(Found among a Congressman's papers, late Twentieth Century.)

In Our Next Issue...

Tired of being called a member of the lunatic fringe, just because you believe in freedom and the Democrats and the Republicans don't? Well, we'll be printing something you can wave under the noses of scoffing acquaintances: an interview with Dr. Gordon Thrushbotham, founder, Chairman and guiding spirit of the New York Totalitarian Party. After they've read this, you'll look almost gray-flannel to them.

About Our Contributors

Peter Guida is a New York activist noted for his advocacy of "Amway Libertarianism," a proposal for remunerated libertarian activism similar to the multi-level-marketing scheme

used by Amway corporation among others.

Barry Loberfeld is a Suffolk activist, the current Secretary of the Suffolk County Libertarian Organization, and has been a frequent contributor to Suffolk Liberty.

Fran Porretto is former Chairman and current Vice-Chairman of the Suffolk County

Libertarian Organization, Chairman of SIL in Suffolk County, former Vice-Chairman of the Libertarian Party of New York, former editor-in-chief and publisher of Suffolk Liberty, and current editor-in-chief and publisher of Free New York.

("Politicata" was composed by Fran Porretto.)

The Society for Individual Liberty (SIL) and the Libertarian Party (LP) are the two principal "legs" of the liberty movement in the United States. Further information about SIL may be acquired from National Headquarters in Warminster, Pennsylvania, by calling: (215) 672-4133. Further information about the LP may be acquired by calling the State Headquarters in New York, New York: (212) 966-5772.

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