

MY ARREST AT THE L.P. NATIONAL CONVENTION

News and Opinion by Adam Reed

The following article is a brief description of certain events that transpired at the Libertarian National Convention which was held in Washington, D.C., September 23 - 26, 1976. Though I have no first-hand knowledge of what happened before or after Dr. Reed left the convention hall, I was present in the convention hall and witnessed the events that took place there that Dr. Reed speaks of. My sense of what happened in the hall is essentially as he reports it.

-- Editor

Some time after the events, rumors began to spread: allegations that I tried to hit Ed Crane; that I was a trespasser who invaded the hall; that I commandeered the podium and seized the microphone; that I disrupted a session of the Convention; that I was arrested by the Secret Service, who feared for the safety of Mrs. Carter, (continued in next column)

MacBride Loses; Libertarians Win!

News and Commentary by David E. Long

Well, you won't read about the really interesting results of the Presidential election of 1976 on the front page of your local paper. As this is being written, late vote totals are still coming in from some of the larger states. Perhaps you will find something about the Libertarian Party results buried on page 43 of a mid-December New York Times, — you won't find them *anywhere* in the Boston Globe — but Roger MacBride and the Libertarian Party have pulled off the surprise of the decade, if not the century. Here we are, a five-year old party with no major financial backers, no "name" candidates, no single-issue simplicity. And we came in fourth nationally. Eugene McCarthy, well-known for his toppling of LBJ in the 1968 primaries, won about one percent of the national vote, about 880,000. Roger MacBride and Lester Maddox appear to be about equal in the tally so far, with 168,000 votes for Maddox and 165,000 votes (and still counting) for MacBride.

Rather than use a great deal of space in this issue of *Liberty*, we will cover only the highlights of the national election, and spend more time analyzing the Massachusetts results. Full results on a state by state basis will appear shortly in the *LP News*, published by the national office of the Libertarian Party. If you are not now receiving *LP News*, you may subscribe by writing to: *LP News*, 1516 P Street NW, Washington DC 20005.

Among the more interesting results, Roger took 6% of the vote in Alaska. This is probably due partially to the fact that the MacBride for Prez Committee sponsored the Presidential Debates in that state in lieu of the League (continued on page 4, column 1)

(continued from last column)

a guest at the hotel. All those rumors are false: I had registered and paid for attendance at the Convention, I did not use, attempt, or threaten force against anyone, I spoke from the floor - during a break between organized sessions - and I was arrested, not by the Secret Service, but by hotel security guards acting on request of convention official Linda Webb. I have communicated privately with several Libertarians about these events, without planning to write about them for publication. But now that rumors are being spread, I will try to counteract lies with truth. That, after all, was what got me arrested in the first place.

I arrived in the morning and paid a five dollar registration fee for attendance at the day's events. Among these, scheduled for 11 AM, was a panel on the Middle East. I encountered Murray Rothbard, that panel's moderator, in the corridor, and asked him whether (continued on page 5, column 1)

liberdates

Liberdates is a regular column appearing in each issue of LIBERTY. If you know of any events of interest to libertarians, contact David E. Long, 95 Centre Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, 02146 (232-0050) to have them included in our calendar. Please try to give as much lead time as possible.

- January 9 - time unknown. Suffolk Chapter meeting. Contact Lee Webber for details at 267-4606.
- January 10 - at 7:30 PM. State Committee meeting at Steve Trinward's home, 19 Caltha Road, Brighton. All welcome. Call Steve Trinward for details at 787-3475.
- January 15 - at 9:30 AM. Leadership Training Conference sponsored by Citizens for Limited Taxation. "How to organize and run local Taxpayers' Groups". At the Holiday Inn of Newton. \$9 includes luncheon. Contact C.L.T. 73 Tremont Street, Room 848, Boston, Ma. 02108. 742-0170.
- January 23 - at 2:00 PM. Speakers' Workshop at David Long's home. 95 Centre St., Brookline. For details contact David Long at 232-0050 or Nate Curland at 332-3184, work: 861-0820.
- February 6 - time unknown. Suffolk Chapter meeting. Contact Lee Webber for details at 267-4606.
- February 14 - at 7:30PM. State Committee meeting. Location to be announced. All welcome. Call Nate Curland for details at 332-3184 or 861-0820.

from the chair

by *Nathan Curland*

1976 is the year that the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts became a political organization. It is the year that we fielded our first local candidates. It is the year that the label "Libertarian" first appeared on the Massachusetts ballot. How did we do?

Our candidates received between 3 - 4% of the vote in their districts. Decisive? Hardly! Significant? Definitely! We discovered what to do and what not to do. We learned how high to shoot and how much to expect. We generated interest among people who never heard about us or Libertarianism before.

What now? What happens next year? That is up to you. What an organization, any organization, does or becomes depends on its *active* members. If you want something to happen, *you* have to make it happen. To date, the major activists have been politically inclined. This will probably continue. 1977 is a year of grass roots elections: selectmen, city councillors, aldermen. Consider running for something. Start thinking and planning now!

There has also been much discussion of sponsoring various initiative petitions: reducing ballot requirements for minor parties, introducing "None of the Above" on ballots, income tax repeal, state spending limitations. Interested? Then write a position paper on one of these issues. Consider testifying before a State House committee. Organize a letter writing campaign.

There was much discussion at the last State Convention about educational activities. Where are those people interested in doing something about this? Do you want to address high school classes on Libertarianism? We are forming a Speakers Workshop (see *Liberdates*) and eventually a Speakers Bureau. Join. Don't just tell us what we should be doing, come and do it!

The LPM is approaching 125 members. We are large enough to support a wide range of activities. Chapters are being formed throughout the state. These are the perfect vehicles for various projects. All that we need are motivated people. Go to your local chapter meeting. Listen. Discuss. Do.

A number of openings exist for empire builders. Research Committee. Publications. Publicity. Fund raising.

Makes your mouth water, doesn't it?

Middlesex Residents

Do you live in Middlesex county, west of route 128 and east of route 495? Would you like to meet other local Libertarians? I'm currently in the process of organizing a get-together of area Libertarians. If you're interested in attending, and especially if you'd like to help make the get-together happen, please contact me, Ann Kotell, at 263-0341.

cryptoquote

Solution to last issue's cryptoquote: Many people aim to do right, but are just poor shots.

publisher's notes

The deadline for the next issue of LIBERTY is January 31.

Staff for this issue are Nathan Curland, Peter Hadley, Don Hunt, David Long, Lee Nason, and your editor, Ann Kotell.

letters at the editor

To *Mass. Liberty*:

As one who has been criticized in these pages by one of your more parochial columnists for having the temerity to decide that the Republican Party is a more viable vehicle for the promotion of libertarian ideals than the L.P., I would like to defend my choice of parties by making reference to your own "First Annual Libertarian Ratings of the Mass. Legislature".

It would have been quite enlightening if party designations had been added for the benefit of those unfamiliar with the august personages of the Great and General Court. With respect to the 40 members of the Senate, it would have been discovered had party labels been included that the top six Senators are all Republicans and the "worst" Republican comes in eighth (there are only 7 Senate Republicans) with a respectable rating of 60%. Overall Senate Republicans averaged 73% as compared to 39% for their Democratic counterparts.

In the case of the House it will be found that of the top 20 members 18 are Republicans - the other two are Independents. In fact, the five top ranked State Reps. are all Republicans with ratings of 75% or higher - quite respectable by any standard. By the way, the reason for the low ranking of Republican Sid Conway would be the fact that he only recently joined the House because of a special election.

Although the Republican Party is far from perfect, your own rating system - which includes civil liberty as well as economic issues - proves that a libertarian can work within the GOP with ease. Like it or not, our political process distinctly favors a two party system and the sooner libertarians realize that they can be far more effective working within the established parties the sooner we will be on the road to libertarian victories.

Yours for Liberty,
Anthony R. Conte

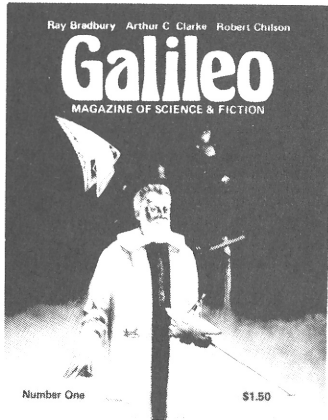
Hooker's Hide Faces

News and Commentary by Sharona Nelson

The first annual happening of its kind in Massachusetts, The Hooker's Halloween Masquerade Ball, was held, of course, on Halloween at The Club, 823 Main Street in Cambridge. The Ball was a fundraising benefit for Prostitutes Union of Massachusetts (PUMA), besides being a damn good excuse for a party!

My husband and I went, with him disguised as a businessman, (for any of you who know Bill Hurst that's (continued on page 6, column 2)

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First issue première
September 2, 1976

LIBERTARIANS WIN!

(continued from page 1, column 1)

of Women Vultures which does not exist in Alaska. Roger, of course, got in some well-chosen words following the debates by exposing the Farter/Cord me-tooism's. The Alaskan vote could also be partially due to the fact that there are a lot of soreheads in that state who don't feel that the other 49 states of Union have any right to tell them what to do with their oil. Selfish of them, what?

MacBride won about 55,000 votes in California and the LP there has strong expectations of gaining permanent ballot status before the next election. Libertarians also did well in Arizona, New Jersey, Idaho and in Washington State, where our former state chairman Richard Kenney received about 19,000 votes in his run for the U.S. Senate. In Hawaii, MacBride took just under 2% of the vote. Apparently when you are living on an island in the middle of the Pacific, you are not terribly thrilled by a currently highly interventionist foreign policy. Particularly when history indicates that you are likely to be among the first to be pounded upon in any outbreak of hostilities!

A few libertarians with whom I have discussed the election have expressed disappointment that MacBride didn't do better nationally. Probably the primary reason for the relatively low vote count was the extreme tightness of the Ford/Carter race. This closeness developed only in the final days of the campaign, and many people probably followed logic similar to that offered in a *Reason Magazine* editorial; i.e., it might not be such a bad thing to vote for Ford if you feel that the race in your state is truly close. It is unfortunate that *Reason* chose to endorse, even if reluctantly, the "lesser of two evils" theory. Had all of *Reason's* readership (about 35,000) voted Libertarian, and had encouraged others to do the same, MacBride's vote total would almost certainly have been upwards of a quarter of a million — clearly ahead of the racist American Independents. Another problem whose full extent is not yet known was the screwup in the listing of MacBride on several state ballots. Owing to the "confusion" of the last minute ruling barring McCarthy from New York's ballot, the Libertarian Party *wasn't even listed* on many voting machines in that state. A similar foul-up in New Jersey had Lester Maddox listed correctly as the American Party candidate, but on the same line as the other Libertarian candidates, except for MacBride who was on another line. This cost us about 4,000 votes in New Jersey alone.

For those of you who are discouraged: don't be. Nobody ever promised us a rose-garden. In fact, they have promised us lots worse. But look at what McCarthy did, with only one percent of the national vote. If you assume that he took primarily Carter votes, then he "won" three states for Ford. That is, in those states the totals were so close that if McCarthy's votes had been added to Carter's count, Carter would have won. In fact, had McCarthy not been ruled off the ballot in New York State by a last-minute judicial decision, McCarthy would very likely have thrown the state, and thus the whole election, to Ford. And we Libertarians are not so far from being able to command similar vote totals. What does this mean for us? Let's look at the results locally before attempting to answer this question.

In Massachusetts, MacBride was not on the ballot, but *(continued in next column)*

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two candidates for local office were. First, there was Peter Hadley, running in the North Shore for the seat of incumbent State Representative Robert Buell (R). Also running was a liberal independent, Thomas Sinkiewicz. In Brookline, I opposed incumbent State Senator Jack Backman (D) and Republican Aaron Spencer. We were both listed on the ballot as Libertarian. Also, out in western Massachusetts, in the Holyoke area, one of our newer members, Charles Gilmet, ran a very energetic write-in campaign for the Statehouse.

In all three races, running totally different kinds of campaigns, in totally different districts, and against candidates ranging from conservative to ultra-liberal, Libertarians achieved over three percent of the vote, with Peter Hadley's 4.4 percent taking the prize. As many of you know, the requirements for permanent ballot listing in Massachusetts is 3% of the vote for Governor (and no one else!). If we could project our local-office totals to a statewide race, the Libertarian Party would have an excellent chance of attaining major-party status in 1978, the next gubernatorial election year. It may be, however, that we will not yet be strong enough to attempt such a campaign in 1978 and would do better to run in as many local races as possible in order to build our name recognition and our grass-roots organization.

And what happens when we do attain major-party status? What then? Well, that is when the fun really begins. Because from that point on, we will be able to threaten both Republicans and Democrats alike with our presence. Even being pessimistic and saying that we might never get over 10% of the vote anywhere, that would certainly be enough to decide a great many elections. Many candidates of all parties would make their decisions whether to run and how to focus their campaigns based at least partially upon the realization that there might be a Libertarian lurking who might steal some of his vote. Would such candidates try to steal the potential Libertarian vote? You bet they would! And how? By pragmatically deciding that if the public is foolish enough to want liberty, they (the candidates) might as well offer it to them.

The elections of 1976 are over. In a little over a year we will be getting our petitions ready for 1978. If you are thinking about running, think harder. If you think a political campaign is not for you, think again. If you think the Libertarian Party has no future, you are not thinking at all.

Local Election Results

12th Essex

Buell	(R)	6841	
Sinkiewicz	(D)	3973	
Hadley	(L)	496	4.4%

3rd Middlesex

Backman	(D)	41832	
Spencer	(R)	23595	
Long	(L)	2035	3.3%

LIBERTY!

Guest editor for this issue: Ann Kotell

Editorial Policy:

LIBERTY is a bimonthly newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts. Subscription rates are \$5.00 for L.P.M. members and \$7.50 for non-members.

The opinions expressed in LIBERTY do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Libertarian Party or any of its individual members. Furthermore, the editor, being a very non-authoritarian lady, will usually forgo the pleasure of blue-pencilling submittals. Therefore, individual authors should be held responsible for their own ideas.

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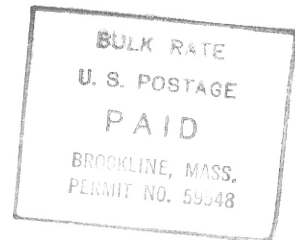
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Vice-Chairperson	Steve Trinward	787-3475
Secretary	Craig Franklin	366-2058
Treasurer	Lee Webber	267-4606
Middlesex-Essex	Jackie Eis	388-4207
Suffolk	Lee Webber	267-4606
Barnstable-Bristol (pro tem)	Walter Ziobro	672-5437
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HOOKER'S BALL

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was declared the winner by default. A woman who was arrested for prostitution there turned out to be a minister's wife! She and her husband won \$1,500 when they sued for false arrest.

The Pig of the Year had several nominations. Briefly, they were: Garrett Bryne, Suffolk County DA; two BPD cops known as "Bobby and Ralph" in the Combat Zone; Supt. Doyle, Boston Vice Squad head; Dan Ahern, head of the Back Bay Association; and Judge George Hurd, of Brockton. Another surprise: Pig of the Year honors were garnered by the Cambridge Police Department! For those of you who live in Cantabrigia, no explanation is necessary!

Lawrence Shubow, an attorney who has given much time and energy to PUMA, was named Sugar-Person of the Year.

The Hooker of the Year had three nominations: Sara Kennedy, a non-worker who was paid by the City of Boston for *three* years before discovery (and you wonder where our taxes go??); Fred Doane, a Brockton male "prostitute"; and Sally Stanford, an ex-madam who is now the mayor of Sausalito, Cal.! But the winner was yet another surprise: Barbara Walters!

Other activities of the Ball included the Helium Mime Show, starring Laura Sheppard, the bellydancers Tamarind and Layla (whom some people considered the *true* "climax" of the evening!), and the boogie music provided for free by the band Juice.

All in all, it was a successful fundraising and fun-raising event. PUMA's got, I hear, another secret in the works for Valentine's day. All of you libertarians who would like to support PUMA: one of the long-range goals is decriminalization, which is consistent with the "victimless crime" stance of libertarianism. Anyone can join and support it for \$5 mailed to: PO Box 211, Boston, 02101. You'll also receive a membership card and the newsletter for a year. PUMA needs support from "straight" people, especially people of principle like libertarians. If you'd like more information, call Sharona Nelson at 661-3945. Remember that in this Bicentennial year, a woman is still not allowed to put a price on her body if she so chooses; but she's still allowed to sell herself in "respectable" ways, such as corporate ass-kissing. Let's help end this hypocrisy now!

State Comm Opening

An At-large seat on the nine-member State Executive Committee of the LPM was made available by the resignation of John Carlsen last November. John has also served the LPM ably since last May as Membership Secretary.

The seat will be filled in accordance with the LPM Constitution by vote of the remaining members of the State Committee at the next Committee meeting (January 10, see Liberdates). All nominees for the At-large seat and/or Membership Secretary should submit their names to the chairman, Nathan Curland, by January 5. P.O. Box 2610, Boston, Ma. 02208.

STATE CAUCUS

(continued from page 5, column 2)

remnants of the free market in Massachusetts and each was soundly defeated by the electorate.

Mr. Alessi of GOAL (Gun Owners' Action League) spoke against the proposed gun control measure. In his questions period, this writer mentioned the (stronger, more principled) libertarian stand on gun control. Mr. Alessi seemed dumbfounded, "I've never thought of that! That's like doing away with big brother!" Gun control was, of course, resoundingly defeated by the electorate.

A note on the results of the referenda is in order: there is hope for Taxachusetts yet. Our voters are tired of taxes and controls and interventions and they voiced their dissatisfaction at the polls. They voted "libertarian" on every single issue. This is better than many of the so-called "individualist-oriented" western states. Perhaps we have a fertile ground for spreading our philosophy here where forced egalitarianism has been dominant for so long. Perhaps our voters are in a better position than their western counterparts for understanding the consequences of unprincipled government - we've been living with it long enough.

After the referenda were discussed, rules changes covering the endorsement of candidates were passed and the State Party gave official endorsements to David Long for State Senate, Charles Gilmet for State Senate, and Peter Hadley for State Representative.

This caucus marked the birth of our "political career." Thanks and praise are due to Nathan Curland, our state chair-authoritarian, for coordinating this very successful baptism.



Long Winded

News by David E. Long

Every time you turn your radio on anymore, it seems that you are listening to a libertarian sympathizer ("lib-sympy") if not to the real things. Right here in the capital of the People's Republic of Massachusetts, we have David Brudnoy every evening on WHDH radio, Avi Nelson every morning on WMEX radio (and Sundays on WNAC-TV7), Dan Rea on WBZ-TV, and now Doug Cooper on a Saturday morning WMEX-AM show.

Doug recently left the "What's Right" show on WBUR-FM (90.9 on your dial) after two and a half years, during which time he occasionally utilized the abilities of Tony Conte and Dick Adair as his co-hosts. In the last few months, he has been ably assisted by a young, articulate, conservative law student named Greg Hyatt. Greg and I will be on the air every Monday night at 8:00 PM. We hope you will listen and call in with your comments. And don't hesitate to let us know when you *don't* like a show, or when you have suggestions for interesting interviews or topics. After all, if we don't make *you* happy, who else is there?

LOOK! Up in the sky....

It's a bird!

It's a plane!

It's SARCASTIC

Commentary by Steve Trinward

Hi there! Having spent the last three weeks digging out my apartment from the bomb-crater rubble (apparently, Tony Conte didn't take kindly to his Libby award), I haven't had much time for the important tasks — like keeping this one-horse party jumping. There have been a few news-worthy development since our last visit, though:

I have it from a high (-placed?) local LP source that the Governor's race is already shaping up; the only problem is, the "revitalized", pseudo-libertarian leadership of the state Republican Party can't seem to put its principles where its mouth is. Case in point: Libertarian prodigal son Don Feder, who has returned to these climes and labors for Citizens for Limited Taxation, is pushing his boss, Ed King, to run for the GOP nomination in '78. Unfortunately, those pragmatic-but-principled(?) opportunists, Gordon Nelson and Tony Conte (Yes, again I risk the wrath of the Pachyderms!), instead of embracing King's candidacy as a small step in the right direction (at least King is *aware* of the real ills of Taxachusetts!), are busy forming a campaign ticket headed by that scourge of anti-inflationists, that darling of Galbraithian double talk, the man who has won more bureaucratic appointments than he has sought, our generated and veneered leader, Elliott Richardson!?? (Meanwhile, Frank Sargent waits in the wings to regain his throne, a la HHH!)On a slightly more positive note, libertarians seem to be gaining power on the local airwaves. No longer must we suffer the slings and arrows of outraged conservatism or Mr. Nelson's inability to find liberty's message on the dial; now there are two distinct pairs of sympathetic talk-show ears: David Brudnoy, on WHDH, after a shaky start has been generally preaching the gospel according to Murray, Robert, and John quite effectively; the newcomer is someone we all know and love, and replaces Doug Cooper on "What's Right?" (Gad, I hope he changes the title!), over WBUR's "public radio" station. He is our own Fearless Leader and erstwhile public lackey, Hizzoner hisself, David E. Long! (NOTE: Cooper, who might qualify as a third pro-liberty voice if he could just stop fighting the Commies long enough to realize their opponents are mostly Fascists, has moved to an afternoon slot on WMEX in the AM jungle. WMEX, with Nelson, Cooper and Fredricks (see below) in its programming, threatens to corner the market on fuzzy thinking talkmasters, both left and right!).....Before I run out of space, a few congratulatory remarks...To mayor Reinstein of Revere, who replied to critics of the huge tax-increase in the city by suggesting that the tax-bill be separated into school and municipal-service categories, "...so the people can see where the money's going..."To Eugene McCarthy, who applauded Carter's victory, only because "...Now the people can see first-hand that there is no difference between the major parties..." (He is also now challenging the ballot
(continued in next column)

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requirements in all fifty states!)...To the management of WCVB-TV, Channel 5, who demonstrated a complete reversal in policy in an editorial on election eve which opposed Questions 2, 4, 6 and 7; each of these issues, they said, despite potential short-range benefits, are "inflationary and counterproductive in the long run, and should be strongly opposed..." (Recall that WCVB was among the grad tax's staunchest supporters in 1974!)FLASH!! Just before deadline, WCVB took a giant step backward again, with an abominable stand on prostitution (related street-mugging to hooking *per se*; advocated strong enforcement or legalization, instead of decriminalizing it; etc.). I hope to have a hand in writing a rebuttal in the near future.....And now some more brickbats.....For the national media outlets, the local election boards (in this state and others) and the wire services: a rousing "thumbs-down", Roger MacBride was not mentioned once throughout the election-night coverage; this despite a 6% showing in Alaska (higher than any other "third-party" or independent candidate, in *any* state!), and a 55,000 vote total in California (greater than Lester Maddox's tally, and Mr. Ax-Handle was listed on the California tote-board!) Furthermore, Steve Trotter's LP candidacy was never even *mentioned* on the news, and he totaled better than 3% in that race! Perhaps these Western results were too late for the national networks, but what about UPI and AP? They had no obligation to submit half-assed results; why then did they do so?.....As for the local election boards, it appears that a large number of polling places in New York state omitted MacBride's name from their ballots and voting booths! Explanations are sketchy, but investigations are under way.....In our own fair state, the official figures for Roger's write-in campaign show a ZERO VOTE COUNT in BOSTON, BROOKLINE, NEWTON, and several other cities and towns where voting machines were used. So far only the paper-ballot polls give MacBride *any* results at all. This despite the fact that I, along with at least a couple dozen others in *Boston alone* that I know of, voted for Roger!! Furthermore, one of DEL's poll-watchers in Brookline declares that a MacBride vote was *counted* in his precinct by the election officials! It get curiouser and curiouser; clearly something is rotten in the Hub — and it ain't the Charles, for a change.....

HOOKER'S BALL

(continued from page 2, column 2)

quite a disguise), and with myself disguised as - guess what - a hooker. In attendance, besides a few libertarians (I was disappointed there weren't more), a few more prostitutes, and other assorted people of the night, there was a rather large crowd of young and old "straight" people. Cambridge's own resident society gossip, Martin Slobodkin, was also in attendance. High Society goes to PUMA Ball!

The climax of the evening, so to speak (!) was the First Annual Awards for Pig, Pimp, Hooker, Trick, and Sugar-Person of the Year. The Pimp of the Year nominations were: Joe Conforte, owner of the Mustang Ranch in Nevada, and an ex-pimp, "Silkie", who wrote his memoirs and got five-to-ten from our favorite police-state force, the IRS! The winner was a surprise: Charlie Brown, a Boston attorney who defends many prostitutes in the regular course of his practice.

The Trick of the Year was the City of Miami, which
(continued to page 7, column 1)

ARREST AT CONVENTION*(continued from page 1, column 2)*

the panel was a balanced one. He told me that I would have an opportunity to express any concern about the panel's balance during the question-and-answer period following the panelists' statements. The panel's "discussion" turned out to be as one-sided as I feared; it included an endorsement of the PLO, by one Steve Halbrook, as aiming to establish a non-racist society. I was ready for something like this (I even had with me a copy of the Palestine National Covenant, the PLO's constitution, and was ready to confront Halbrook with its racist provisions) but I did not expect what happened next. Rothbard, a skilled and experienced moderator, managed the "discussion" in a way that left extremely little time for questions from the floor. Even that little, however, must have been too much, for as soon as a single question challenging the endorsement of the PLO had been asked, Rothbard cut off debate and ended the session, even though the next session was not yet ready to begin. Noticing that Sharon Presley, who had organized the next session, was not yet in the room, I decided to make use of the break between sessions and spoke out.

I pointed out Rothbard's intellectual cowardice, and read from the PLO covenant a particularly racist provision - the one limiting Palestinian citizenship to Arabs whose ancestors had lived in Palestine before 1947, and Jews whose ancestors lived there "before the beginning of the Zionist invasion", which other PLO documents place in the 1880's. I then asked whether Halbrook's statement about the PLO's non-racist society was a result of ignorance or a deliberate lie; and, seeing that Sharon had reached the podium and the next session was about to begin, I left the hall.

In the corridor a group of several delegates gathered around me. I started to speak to them, quietly and personally now, but I was soon stopped. A person from the convention committee (identified by several witnesses as Linda Webb) approached me and, before I realized what was happening, removed my name tag and disappeared. A group of hotel security guards then pushed their way through and told me to leave. When I insisted on staying until I got my five dollars back, they arrested me for "disorderly conduct" (I tried to evade their grip), kicked me in the balls (I screamed), kicked me in the solar plexus (I went limp) and carried me out of the hotel. They stopped by the door, read an order never to enter the Statler Hilton, and handed me over to the D.C. police.

The latter took me to a suburban detention center where, threatened with their hospitality for the rest of the weekend, I paid the judge a ten-dollar fine. After they let me go I arranged, through a friend, to meet with a member of the convention committee. This person not only refused to discuss the possibility of letting me back into the convention, but threatened to "take legal action" if I "made trouble"; and asked me, in a sarcastic tone, why I was not in Shul (it was the day of the Jewish New Year). I left Washington that afternoon.

I do not believe that anything I did that day could provide even the most tenuous justification for the actions of Linda Webb and the convention committee. I did not disrupt the Middle East session: I did not begin to speak until after Rothbard announced that

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the session was over. I did not delay the next session, having left as soon as it was ready to start. And I violated no right by insisting on a refund of registration fee before leaving (by the way, that fee was never refunded to me). I had paid for attendance, and as long as the committee was keeping my money, I had a perfect right to be there. I was ready to leave as soon as my money was returned. I was ready to respect their rights: they decided to have me arrested rather than respect mine. And as for the issues, I am ready to debate any member of this year's Middle East panel at next year's convention. Or to discuss the issues with all of them, together with Robert Nozick and Bill Barzel, both of whom have indicated their readiness to join me on the "Zionist" side. Given the lengths to which authoritarian bigots like Ms. Webb have gone to prevent an informed discussion from taking place in the corridor outside the LP convention hall, I suspect the result of such a discussion is predictable. A resort to force is, after all, the surest possible admission of intellectual defeat.

State Caucus*News by Lee Nason*

On Sunday, October 24, the party faithful and a number of curious non-libertarians convened at the Marriott Inn in Newton for our pre-election caucus.

The afternoon got off to a lively start with a debate on Question number 1, the Equal Rights Amendment. Mrs. Agnes Smith, co-director of STOP ERA argued against further government interference in private family relations - a compelling argument for most libertarians. Unfortunately for Mrs. Smith, her opponent was Joan Kennedy Taylor, L.P.M. member, and a libertarian with impeccable credentials and a persuasive (pun intended) debating ability. Ms. Taylor pointed to the libertarian thrust of the Massachusetts amendment and said that libertarians should not be deterred from voting in favor simply because many of its supporters are socialists: if a law is just, libertarians should support it. Ms. Taylor also cited several of the hundreds of discriminatory laws that men and women of the Commonwealth have been obliged to obey. Happily (in this writer's opinion) the electorate agreed with Ms. Taylor - an amazing victory considering the other referenda.

Next on the agenda was Mr. Lawrence Tuck from Boston Edison who argued against establishment of a Mass. Power Authority. Libertarians' understanding of the economic issues involved in this and the other "anti-capitalist" questions made our group a friendly audience. Mr. Don Feder, fellow libertarian, president of the Association of Libertarian Lawyers and Citizens for Limited Taxation activist, spoke against the graduated income tax. The owner of the family-operated Coke bottlers in Methuen spoke against the bottle bill. And Mr. Leon Charkoudian from the Council for Employment and Economic Use of Energy spoke against the mandatory institution of flat rates for utilities. His excellent presentation likened the socialistic "fair-share" solutions for our economic problems, "to shuffling with the deck chairs of the Titanic before it goes down," and he pointed out that "fair-share" isn't "fair", fairness consists of paying for what one gets. Each of these referenda clearly attacked the atrophied

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