

Sandhills Libertarian Gazette

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBERTARIANS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS

Seven Libertarians are Running for Statewide Offices

On August 17, the S.C. Libertarian Party reconvened its state convention in Columbia and nominated four additional candidates to run in this year's election. This brings to seven the total number of Libertarian candidates that will be on the ballot in November.

BILL GRIFFIN, a computer technician from South Congaree, was nominated to run for Governor. He is the Vice-Chairman of the S.C.L.P. and ran for the State House in 1984. According to Griffin, "My campaign will focus on three topics - property taxes, the Education Improvement Act, and pornography.

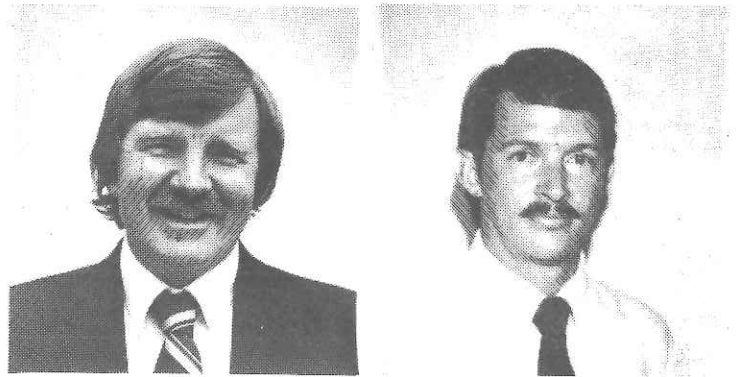
"I strongly advocate the repeal of all property taxes. Thousands of people, living on fixed incomes, have had their homes stolen because they could not continue to pay property taxes. These taxes are immoral because they take your home and car and give them to the state. Property taxes are the rent you pay to use your own home or car. Stop paying this rent, and you will see who really owns your property."

Concerning education, Griffin states that "The Education Improvement Act is supposed to improve public education through a 25% sales tax increase, but in reality it wastes millions of dollars. It attempts to take parental responsibility for child raising and give it to the state. Our children are our future. If we allow the state to mold them into clones of "Happy Days" television characters, we will lose the creative individual spirit which made America great. The Education Improvement Act must be repealed before it destroys any more South Carolina families."

Griffin opposes any form of government censorship or regulation of private behavior. "I am against all laws which attempt to criminalize sexually-explicit material about adults. I am also for the repeal of all laws regulating private sexual behavior between consenting adults.

"Starting this campaign late may be a disadvantage, but even with my late start, many people have called to volunteer contributions of time and money. Predicting the vote count in November is impossible, but I am sure my stands on the issues will affect legislative action in South Carolina."

STEVE VANDERVELDE, a surveyor from Columbia who is Chairman of the Richland County L.P., is the party's nominee to run for the U.S. Senate against Fritz Hollings and Henry McMaster. He ran for the State Senate in 1984.



GRIFFIN

VANDERVELDE

In his campaign, Vandervelde plans to stress issues which give the voters a clear idea of the fundamental differences between libertarianism and the statism of the other candidates. He supports deep cuts in taxes and spending, and he opposes foreign intervention, the draft, and the misguided defense policy of M.A.D. (Mutually Assured Destruction). Vandervelde also supports free trade and freedom of expression.

According to Vandervelde, "I decided to accept the nomination out of a desire to give the voters a real alternative between freedom and statism. Both of my opponents support all kinds of special interests at the expense of liberty, thus creating injustice and big government. By contrast, I support liberty and justice, the only *general* interests."

JOHN HEATON is S.C.L.P. Chairman and manages a family-owned machine business in Aiken. He is the Libertarian nominee to run for Superintendent of Education (see article on page 2).

MARK JOHNSON, a computer technician at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Plant, is the Libertarian candidate for Lieutenant Governor. He and the other candidates join **DREW AMENDOLA**, **JAN CHAPMAN**, and **DAVID MORRIS**, who were nominated in April to run for Comptroller General, State Treasurer, and Secretary of State, respectively. All will be on the ballot in November to give the voters a clear alternative to the Demopublicans.



S.C.L.P. Chairman John Heaton is the Libertarian candidate for S.C. Superintendent of Education.



Back to Basics in Education

by John B. Heaton

Education in South Carolina has been controlled by the Democratic Party for almost 100 years. Republicans obviously see little need for change - they are not questioning the current leadership. I am.

I believe that it is a sin to put people through twelve years of education only to have them graduate functionally illiterate. It is a fact that over 50% of S.C. college students have to take remedial courses in reading, writing, and arithmetic. We need to return to basics in education. We need to let the Department of Education know that its purpose is not as its motto says: to create good citizens. Rather, its purpose is to help create educated individuals who have the intelligence to know right from wrong and the ambition to better themselves for their own good.

Libertarians believe that our educational system should be richly diversified, voluntary, and creatively experimental. Consider the following positions:

Decentralize Education - Through the introduction of a voucher system, we can move toward a truly unique educational system where parents can decide where their children will be educated and what kind of education they will receive.

Freedom in Education - Education in South Carolina should be voluntary and not forced on those who do not wish to participate. Real learning and growth cannot flourish in an environment where the alternative is to go to jail. After all, the ultimate responsibility for educating children resides in their parents - not the state.

Funding for Education - All funds collected for education should be spent on education. There are many ways to trim fat out of the educational system. For instance, I do not believe that guidance counselors should be required for every student from kindergarten through high school. By letting some of these people go, along with about half of the administrative staff, we could cut expenses and have more money to spend on teaching students.

Education Improvement Act (EIA) - The EIA should be repealed. It is a response to past failures that presumes to cure old ills by merely throwing money at the problem. The type of merit pay system contained in the EIA is flawed in that it encourages teachers to concentrate on testing rather than education. We need to get back to the basics in education: reading, writing, and arithmetic!

GRIFFIN for GOVERNOR

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In Memory of
RONALD H. HEATON
1953 - 1986

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Ron Heaton on July 21. Ron had served as S.C.L.P. Chairman from July 1985 through April 1986 and had served as S.C.L.P. Vice-Chairman the previous year. He was the Libertarian candidate for State Senate District 25 in 1984, and he spearheaded successful anti-zoning and anti-tax petition drives during the past year.

Ron's activism and his devotion to Liberty were an inspiration to us all. He was a kind, caring, hard-working person who always had a helpful word for those of us who were working for the Libertarian Party's goals. His life was suddenly taken from him by a drunk driver on a highway near Aiken, S.C. Our hearts go out to his family and his many friends.

We'll miss you, Ron, and may you rest in peace. We vow to continue the fight for our freedom, for that is what you want us to do.

'Libs' score a hit

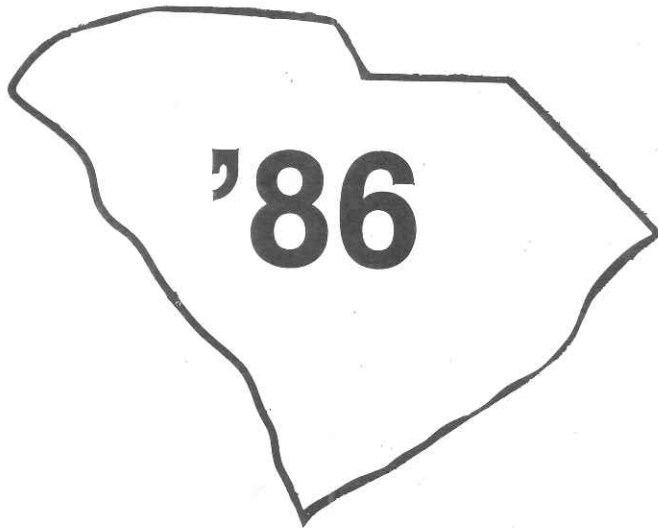
The above headline was the title of an editorial in the August 19 edition of *The Augusta Chronicle*. The editorial applauded an award presented by John Harllee at the August 17 S.C.L.P. Convention in Columbia.

Harllee, who is editor of the *Southern Libertarian Messenger*, presented his annual Randy van Setter awards at that meeting. Among them was the "J.K. Jillson Award for Cruel Mistreatment of School Students", which was given to State Superintendent of Education Charlie Williams "for running the worst mismanaged government office that runs as much as 90 days behind in handling its mail." Williams was also cited for overseeing the "building of windowless classrooms dangerous to the sight and health of students." J.K. Jillson was a 19th century school superintendent publicly embarrassed for lying.

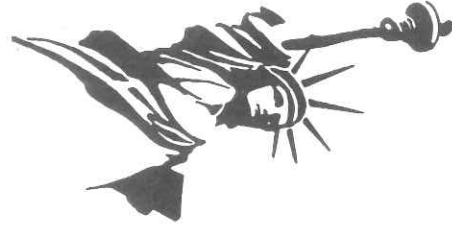
According to the *Chronicle* editorial, "South Carolina's Libertarian Party has been known to shoot from the hip with some of its wacky awards to state officials, but we have to applaud its scoring of a direct hit on State School Superintendent Charlie Williams....Just look at some of Aiken County's newest schools - North Augusta Elementary and Aiken Elementary come to mind - and you see an occasional, narrow window in classrooms. Aside from the fact that windowless rooms make for a sterile environment, we worry about Johnny and Susie not being able to get out of such a classroom in case of fire."

The *Chronicle* also noted that teachers complain of the difficulty in getting information by telephone from Williams' office, and it takes weeks to receive information from that office by mail.

SOUTH CAROLINA
LIBERTARIAN
CANDIDATES
for
OFFICE



The South Carolina Libertarian Party is offering several candidates for statewide public office in 1986. Enclosed you will find the names of our candidates and a glimpse at what they would like to achieve upon election. As the third largest and fastest growing political party in South Carolina the Libertarians have, in the past year, initiated the repeal of the Blue Laws, stopped zoning in Aiken County, and through a statewide petition and education campaign helped defeat the Local City County Tax Bill (H.R. 3252). Libertarians are practical; we know we can't make the world perfect. But, it can be better. Libertarians intend to keep working, for as long as it may take, to create a better, freer society for South Carolina and the nation.



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The Libertarian Party

- OR CURRENT RESIDENT -

BALLOT '86
State of South Carolina

- U.S. SENATE—
Steve Vandervelde
- GOVERNOR—
William Griffin
- LT. GOVERNOR—
Mark D. Johnson
- SECRETARY OF STATE—
David C. Morris
- STATE TREASURER—
Jan Chapman
- COMPTROLLER GENERAL—
Andrew Amandola
- SUPERINTENDENT
OF EDUCATION—
John B. Heaton

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SECRETARY OF STATE



David C. Morris, 34, raised in Durham, N.C. Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Duke University. Has resided in Columbia since 1978. Is a family physician and current Treasurer of SCLP.

"When elected, I will do my best to promote free-market principles and to scale the state government bureaucracy down to a more reasonable size."

COMPTROLLER GENERAL



Andrew Amandola, a resident of Cayce and a local pharmacist.

"As Comptroller General I will do my best to see that all state funds are spent as they are suppose to be spent and that the people of this state will be kept informed as to the whereabouts of their tax monies."

GOVERNOR



William 'Bill' Griffin, 39, reared in Florence resides in West Columbia. An electronics Supervisor with Carolina Eastman, he is currently Vice-chair of SCLP. He has a son and a daughter.

"I would eliminate property taxes, favor a voucher system for education, and support freedom for adults."

SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



John B. Heaton, 33, born in Anderson and reared in Aiken. Graduate of Oklahoma State University. He has been in private business since college graduation. Currently resides in city of Aiken and is Chairman of SCLP.

"We need to get back to basics in education in South Carolina. We need to be teaching our children how to read, write, and do arithmetic: not how to pass tests."

LT. GOVERNOR



Mark D. Johnson, 30, born in Great Lakes, Illinois, son of a career Navy man. Enlisted in the Navy (1974-1980). Resides in Columbia and is employed as an Auxilliary Equipment Operator at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Plant. Karen, his wife, is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

"The people need a watchdog in the Senate. I will be that watchdog. I will oppose any new tax legislation."

STATE TREASURER



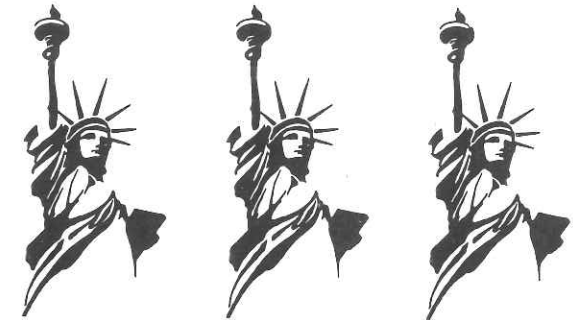
Jan L. Chapman, 39, was born in Lyme, Conn., and has lived in South Carolina since 1979. She is a housewife and current Secretary of SCLP.

"If elected, I will do my best to protect the economic rights of all South Carolinians, withhold funds from programs not authorized by the state constitution, and uphold the United States Constitution."

UNITED STATES SENATE

Steve Vandervelde, 33, born and reared in Aiken. Currently resides in Columbia. BA degree in History from USC, graduated Cum Lauda.

"Free trade, non-intervention, freedom of expression, and cuts in spending, taxes, and regulation are my goals."



Help us, help you. On November 4, cast a vote for liberty, cast a vote for the Libertarian Party. By doing so you will join thousands of South Carolinians who will voice their dissatisfaction with the two older parties and strike a blow for personal freedom at the same time. For more information on how you can help call 1-800-682-1776.

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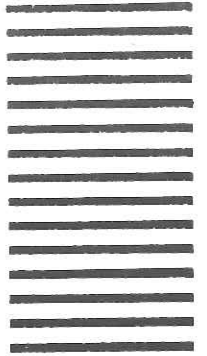


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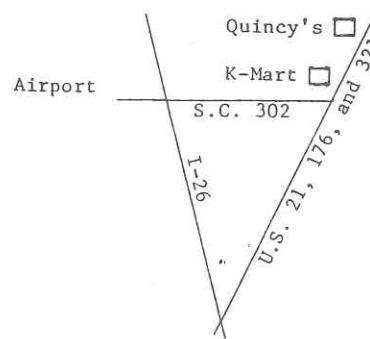




You are invited to a special meeting.



DATE: Monday, October 6
 PLACE: Quincy's Family Steak House
 Charleston Hwy. - near K-Mart
 West Columbia
 TIME: Supper at 6:45 P.M.
 Please go through the line.
 Meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.



COME MEET THE CANDIDATES, AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Bill Griffin and Steve Vandervelde, the Libertarian candidates for Governor and the U.S. Senate, will be at the meeting, along with other candidates. They will be available to answer any and all questions. The meeting will be informal. If you have never been to a Libertarian Party meeting, please come to this one!

One purpose of this meeting is to finalize plans for the Libertarian booth at the State Fair (October 17-26). We need money and volunteers to make this year's booth more exciting than ever. Working at the booth is a lot of fun, and it isn't difficult at all. Please send a contribution to help with the fair booth expenses (literature, buttons, bumper stickers) and to help with campaign expenses. If you can't come to the meeting but are able to spend a little time at the booth, please call Drew Amendola (794-5123) as soon as possible.

We hope to see you on October 6. You are encouraged to eat supper, since Quincy's is letting us use the room free, but that isn't mandatory. Even if you can't come for supper, please come to the meeting!



YES! I would like to support the efforts of the South Carolina Libertarians.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$50 \$25 \$10 Other _____
 For Fair Booth For Campaign Expenses Both

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*Note: You are encouraged to join the S.C.L.P.
 by filling out the membership form on page 5.*

Send to: S.C.L.P.
 P.O. Box 50643
 Columbia, S.C. 29250

Protecting us from ourselves?

by Walter E. Williams

There are always people calling for more government to "protect" us. Several states have enacted mandatory seat belt laws in response to U.S. Department of Transportation blackmail. R.J. Reynolds gets sued for selling cigarettes. The American Medical Association demands a ban on chewing tobacco advertisements.

Government should be in the business of protecting us from criminals (which it hasn't done so well). But should it be in the business of protecting us from ourselves? In a free society, the answer is an unambiguous no! Free people should be free to choose - even those activities that might bring harm, sickness, or death.

Some people might say people shouldn't be free to risk life and limb. Let's look at a partial list of risky activities (space won't permit a complete listing). Salt consumption can lead to hypertension; people can get hurt swimming, playing basketball, racing cars, riding horses, and performing stunts. Thousands are injured by lawnmowers and hedge trimmers. Sedentary lifestyles and fat-rich diets can lead to coronary disease; excessive alcohol consumption leads to kidney and liver disease, not to mention loss of job and family problems. Obviously, the list can be extended *ad infinitum*. But the question is: what role would you assign government in protecting us from these self-imposed risks? If you say there should be laws mandating the wearing of seat belts, then why not also a law regulating salt and cholesterol intake?

The right to take risks with your life is an essential part of being free. If you couldn't take risks with your own life, you'd be like a caged canary - safe, but not free. On the other hand, in a free society, people don't have the right to risk someone else's life.

If you agree with this reasoning, laws mandating that cars have brakes make sense; those mandating seat belts don't. If I don't buckle up, I risk my life. If I don't have brakes on my car, I risk my life, but more importantly, I threaten yours.

Now, you might say, "Williams, it's not that simple; if you injure yourself while driving without a seat belt, society has to take care of you." Yes, that is a problem; but it's not caused by freedom. That is a problem of socialism. You should not be forcibly required to take care of me for any reason - whether it's because I've lost my job or did something stupid like not buckling a seat belt.

However, if we consider ourselves owned by the state, then the state has a compelling interest in our safety. It's like slavery in the U.S. Many slaveowners would not allow slaves to be used in dangerous jobs, like mining and canal building; it was too risky. The slaveowner didn't care about the slave; he cared about the money he stood to lose if the slave were killed or injured. This leads to speculation as to why Congress cares so much about our safety: if one of us is killed or disabled, government will receive fewer tax dollars.

We should reject government regulations to protect us. Most of us reject government efforts to regulate what we read or see in the interest of protecting us from our choices. Similarly, we should reject government efforts to protect us from our choices of actions that put us in risk of injury.

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Dr. Walter Williams is the John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

1986 Platform

of the

S.C. Libertarian Party

We hold that every person has a natural right to life, liberty, and justly-acquired property; that liberty is essential to human happiness, progress, survival, and creativity; that force may only be used in defense of life, liberty, and property; and that the organization of the defensive force should be voluntary and limited to the protection of life, liberty, and property.

Freedom requires responsibility. Each individual has the obligation to respect the rights of others, to accept the consequences of his or her own actions, and to accept the ultimate responsibility for maintaining his or her own life.

We hold that no person or institution, public or private, has the right to initiate the use of physical force or fraud against others.

We hold that individuals are entitled to choose their own lifestyles, as long as they do not forcibly impose their values on others.

We hold that the voluntary exchange of goods and services - the free market system - is essential to socioeconomic success.

We hold that the only moral or practical purpose of government is to preserve and protect individual rights.

“It’s Not Our Money”

Is government a charitable institution?

by James L. Payne

Dr. Payne is on leave as Professor of Political Economy at Texas A&M University.

From time to time the United States House of Representatives lays aside its usual duties to memorialize certain of its members. The tribute is in the form of legislation. A bill is introduced placing the fallen congressman’s name on a Federal structure such as a post office or a courthouse, then congressmen rise to speak, extolling the virtues of the deceased and praising his accomplishments.

A harmless ceremony, I thought, as I came across it the other day in the *Congressional Record*. But then something attracted my notice. The representative was praising a former colleague, telling how he had served in Congress with distinction for more than twenty years. The eulogist continued: “As [the congressman’s city] grew, he was cognizant of the associated Federal presence which would be required. He continually fought for Federal dollars and was responsible for the construction of the Federal Office Building and Courthouse, the Post Office Terminal Annex, the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, . . .”

Do you wonder why Federal spending is out of control and deficits drain the economic vitality of the country? You have just seen an important part of the explanation in the words our speaker chose to eulogize his colleague. They betray a distinctive approach to the job of congressman, a view rooted in what may be called the “philanthropic fallacy.”

This fallacy makes the assumption that government is a philanthropic institution not fundamentally different from such private benevolent organizations as foundations, churches, or the Salvation Army. Under this view, the representatives are charged with the mission of doing good by spending government funds. The congressman who “continually fought for Federal dollars” is a hero.

Our speaker, eulogizing a different colleague, gave a fuller statement of this misconception, stating that his fellow legislator “always served the people, and his long record in this body indicates clearly the contribution he made for people in the fields of social welfare, housing, and urban development. He worked hard and successfully to use the vast resources of the Federal Government to serve the most in need and to correct injustice.”

The congressman is seen as a philanthropist, using the “vast resources of the Federal Government” for charitable purposes.

It is easy to see that once this view becomes prevalent, holding back government spending becomes next to impossible. For the philanthropist, the only reason to stop spending is to be out of cash, and to have no way of raising more. To have money and yet to refuse to give it to worthy causes marks one as “insensitive” and “hard-hearted.” For those in the grip of the philanthropic fallacy, the operative principle for government spending is “more”—no matter how high the level of spending already is.

A Popular View

Congressmen are not alone in holding this view of government as a charitable institution. To a considerable degree, they absorb it from the culture that surrounds them. In our media, we refer to politicians who favor greater public spending on good causes as “compassionate,” while those who urge cutbacks are called “heartless.” Even our fiction encourages the philanthropic fallacy. Almost by definition, the “good” kings and queens of fairy tales gave large sums to the poor. No mention is made of how they acquired these sums.

In dealing with the philanthropic fallacy, the problem lies not in understanding why it is believed—for it surrounds us practically as the air we breathe—but in reminding ourselves that it is a fallacy. The

government is *not* a philanthropic institution. It is not even an ordinary agency of production or distribution like a business or a store. It does not create goods and services that citizens voluntarily exchange for their wealth. A government, by definition, is an organization that deploys public force. It deals with pushing and shoving, with coercion.

The dollars a government commands are obtained through the use of force, direct or indirect.

When the government taxes, the use of force is direct: If you refuse to part with the funds the government official demands, he will have you thrown in jail. When the government borrows money, it is still relying on its taxing power. Lenders are reassured by the government’s promise to use force to collect the repayment. When the government prints money—thus devaluing the dollars citizens hold—it relies on its ability to outlaw other currencies and force everyone to accept its paper as “legal tender.”

Many people find this view unfamiliar, because they fail to inquire where public funds come from. Where, for example, did good kings of old get the resources they were so generous with? Kings didn’t *earn* their money. They didn’t shoe horses or tend pigs for a living. They sat in castles while their soldiers collected taxes. It was these taxes, taken by force from others, that rulers “gave” away.

Once the proper connections are made, the role of the congressman ceases to appear so philanthropic. Instead it takes on the character of a difficult balancing act. In this light, a congressman’s fully translated epitaph might be far from flattering.

“He continually fought to have money taken from his fellow citizens by force for the construction of a Federal Office Building in his district.”

This is not to say that appropriations of public funds are necessarily wrong. Some may be of sufficient benefit to outweigh their coercive aspect. A congressman would be entitled to say in good conscience, “I support this appropriation because I feel that the value of these funds for X service outweighs the harm of taking these monies by force from our fellow citizens.” If X were “national defense,” for example, most of us would agree, albeit hesitantly, with the statement.

The philanthropic fallacy is further encouraged by the beneficiaries of public spending. None of these recipients mentions the coercion and injury involved in *raising* public money. Instead, they stress the good that the congressman can do by *spending* it on them. They present their case exactly as they would if appealing to a private individual, inviting the congressman to play the role of a voluntary donor generously giving of his own wealth.

“We thank you for your support in the past,” the supplicants say, in closing their testimony, “and look forward to it in the future.” What the congressmen should answer is, “Don’t thank us; it’s not our money.” □

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the
Freeman

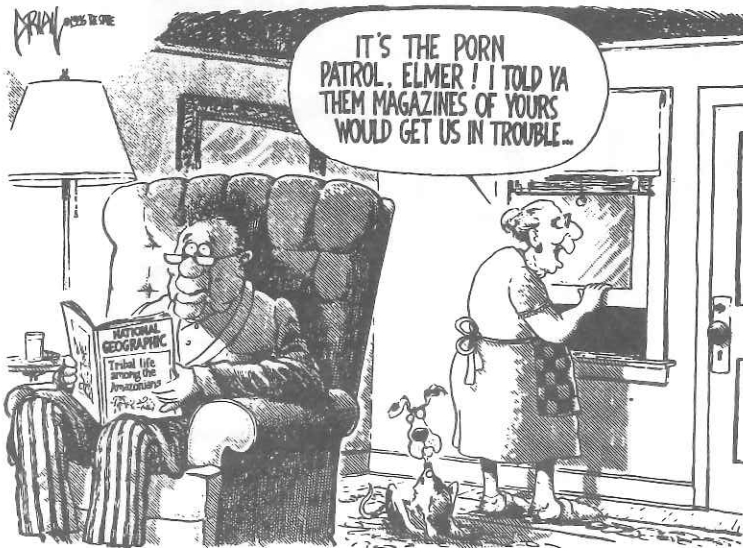
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★ **SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR LIBERTY** ★
VOTE LIBERTARIAN!

MEMBERSHIP FORM



The South Carolina Libertarian Party was certified as an official political party by the South Carolina State Election Commission in January, 1979. South Carolina law requires that all members of a political party in South Carolina hold valid South Carolina voter registration certificates.

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force or fraud as a means of achieving political or social goals. I support the principles of the Libertarian Party.

Signed: _____

I am registered to vote in _____ County.

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In order to further the growth of liberty in South Carolina, the following are suggested membership contributions:

Patron \$100, Sustaining Member \$50, Regular \$15, Student \$5 _____

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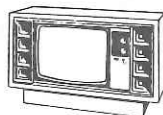
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