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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Page 4/ The Porcupine/ June 1989

"Chuck's" -- cont. from page 3

This proved to me a concrete example of what happens when philosophical foundations (or political coalitions) are built loosely... especially utilizing religious fervor to cement loose ends together. I watched almost 500 (supposed) community leaders progressively relinquish their facility of objective rational criticism in a celebration of praise to God and Country.

Without leveling criticism on anyone's chosen faith, (and more important: never intending to usurp one's right to practice it), I believe we must be very wary of the agenda those profess to push in the name of God and Almighty Truth. Not being able to rely on our elected officials to carry the axe, we tend to latch onto anything in the hope of success... making each of us that much more vulnerable. I witnessed many good Americans, who realize there is a very dangerous predator: communism, and are desperate for the fight within America to commence, become almost like silly-putty.

From the Libertarian vantage point the AFC is almost as guilty as their stated communist enemy. The insipid dogmatism along with ill-defined "freedom" paves the way for a new set of rulers who would still possess the intolerable privilege of coercion, with no qualms about using it to further "truth."

I was under the impression the political polarity of America was in the process of properly returning to: small government, restricted by our Constitution vs. big, omnipotent government. However, after being a part of AFC I've become aware of the serious danger of the fight retarding back to the level of the 1950's, 60's and 70's. That is, an ugly battle over who shall guide leviathan over submissive, enslaved America.

P.S. Don't you think it's a little strange that out of 500 or so people at an American FREEDOM Coalition convention I was the ONLY registered Libertarian?...

An open question to Libertarians: Why is it only Al Western and myself who write for, or letters to, the Porcupine?

You are personally invited to the Liberty BBQ! Make reservations now!

John Ketchum
LPCC Treasurer
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"Readers" -- cont. from page 3
political framework. It reflects vague assumptions about the nature of rights and builds a political philosophy around those positions.

In the 60's, a popular slogan of relative thinking emerged: "You do your own thing, and I'll do mine." It seems that the LP platform has adopted this type of pop-philosophy as its primary leg to stand on. Ironically, in this viewpoint there is a moral imperative that mandates each individual to be responsible for respecting the individual rights of others. First it states a hedonistic position of relative morality, then goes on to state that there is, in fact one moral absolute: no force. We can do anything we please just as long as we don't use "force" on others. What kind of force?... physical; intellectual; spiritual; emotional?

What precedent exists to proclaim this position as the universal absolute which society should adhere to while forsaking all others? How does one arrive at an absolute definition of force in a society that has adopted moral relativism as its fundamental cultural guideline? By whose authority?... The State?... The Individual?... A Majority?

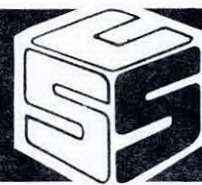
In a platform that makes an attempt to argue a position that allows for and/or justifies relative individual moral codes, this political blueprint has major structural flaws. The weakness in this philosophy is that no clear definition of the origin and character of individual rights is stated. It states, "We hold that..." In other words: We believe that... In other words, this is a platform based not on absolute principles, as many libertarians would have you believe, but rather on the collective opinions of its designers and adherents.

Editor's Note: Point well taken. OK you philosophers out there: take on Mr. Jorgenson's challenge. For those interested, this is precisely the reason Ayn Rand refused to be associated with the LP. She saw this problem, not only as a weakness, but as a serious danger! The Founders realized this in creating the Declaration... that which justifies the Constitution. The problem needs addressing in the Statement of Principles so as to universally justify our LP platforms.

Don't miss June LPCC Guest Speaker
Al Western, Sr. tackles the
Nuclear power & waste issue

Steve Jorgenson,
American Freedom Coalition

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LIBERTARIAN AGENDA

June 10	Silver & Gold Liberty BBQ 5043 Stormy Cir.	4:00pm
June 12	Home Schoolers United Flamingo Library - 1401 E. Flamingo	7:00pm
June 19	LPCC Business Meeting Denny's - 3658 Las Vegas Bl. S.	7:45pm



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The Porcupine

"MOTIVATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN THE BATTLE FOR LIBERTY!"

JUNE 1989

VOLUME III, NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

GESHLIDER TO HOST ANNUAL LIBERTY BBQ ON JUNE 10th

"AIDS & OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPER ROLE" -- HOT TOPIC & FIERCE DEBATERS SURE TO EXCITE CROWD

By Chuck Geshlider

Get your reservations in early! There is only room for 50 or so adults (+ kids) in the Geshlider household and backyard, and you do not want to miss this year's gala event. At \$5.00 per entry, (kids under 16 eat free), it is the deal of the year!

You will feast on some of the best fixin's imaginable, converse with enlightened people and watch two of the most fiery representatives of the freedom movement in Las Vegas square off in a debate that will rank up there with the Lincoln - Douglass event!

We convene at 4:00pm, June 10th, at 5043 Stormy Circle. Soft drinks (and beer and wine coolers, too) and hor's d'ouvres to start, and dinner will be around 6:00pm.

The Great Debate: "AIDS and communicable diseases: The Government's proper role" will begin at 7:30pm. Mr. Dave Papandrea, a boisterous "Constitutionalist" who directs the Nevada chapter of the National Center for Constitutional Studies (NCCS) and UNLV's Washington Institute, will present one view. Mr. Jack Levine, the

LPCC's Publicity Committee Chairman will take an opposing view. The actual battle lines will not be disclosed here, but you can be assured sparks will fly! I will be mediating the event to keep things somewhat civil. There will be much audience participation in the debate. In fact, we are accepting questions you want addressed (by both reps) now.

The serious intent behind this debate is to help libertarians (whether registered LP or not) come to an objective position with which to restrict, or utilize our government concerning the protection of our "life, liberty, and property," when we are back in the saddle. It's been a long time since our last libertarian: Thomas Jefferson, guided the nation. However, with the way the Republicrats are guiding this ship into collectivist hell, we must begin seriously boning-up for our eventual return to voters' favor.

This will be a family event and a great night out! So tune-out the TV's and shut-down the PC's and join the crowd for some real ol' fashion American opinion-expressing!

RSVP. & DIRECTIONS: 739-0339

NEVADA GETS NATIONAL HELP

By Al Western, Jr.

In an effort to regain ballot access for the Libertarian Party in Nevada, the LP Ballot Access Committee has announced that three professional petitioners will be sent to the Silver State.

According to LPCC Treasurer John Ketchum, who verbally received the information from libertarian activist Jim Burns, who might have gained the knowledge from 1984 LP presidential candidate

David Bergland or, Nevada State Chairman Dan Becan, who may have been contacted by the LPBAC itself, the petitioners will attempt to gain enough signatures to place Libertarian candidates back on the ballot prior to the 1990 state elections.

Michael Emerling, a member of the "51 in '92" PAC, an organization dedicated to ensuring the LP gains ballot status in all 50 states including Washington, D.C., reported that the National LP is getting more than a fair

Cont. on page 2 -- See: "Help"



LIBERTARIAN PARTY
CLARK COUNTY,
NEVADA

"PROCLAIM LIBERTY"

The organizers of the LP's 1989 National Convention have announced that prominent social scientist and author, Dr. Charles Murray will be featured on "Outreach Day," Saturday, Sept. 2. The Convention, themed "Proclaim Liberty," will run from August 30th to Sept. 3rd in Philadelphia. Joining Dr. Murray at the lecture will be Dr. Walter Williams, the syndicated columnist and popular libertarian economist. Outreach day is specifically designed to attract community leaders, the media, students, professors, and friends and spouses of those attending. It's also for attendees wishing to gain more knowledge about libertarianism. Marshall Fritz, and leaders of his Advocates for Self Government, will also be presenting workshops on the "tough issues."

Saturday night will feature a gala awards banquet, with colonial atmosphere. The guest of honor and principal speaker will be our distinguished 1988 presidential candidate Hon. Ron Paul.

The convention will also feature three breakfasts with top Libertarian personalities: On Thursday, Jim Lewis, our 1984 VP candidate is welcomed back from his tax protest incarceration; on Saturday, Andre Marrou, our 1988 VP candidate speaks; and on Sunday, Indian activist and candidate for our 1988 presidential nomination, Russell Means, will appear.

There will be the usual business sessions, beginning with presentations by the Platform and ByLaws committees on Thursday. Saturday will include a debate between the candidates for LP National Chair, and Sunday will see the election of new officers and NatCom reps.

This is the Convention to decide the LP's direction for the '90's. Panel discussions on the Party's future will examine competing strategies. Questions such as the prominence to be given

presidential campaigns, the acceptance of Federal matching funds, and the type of platform we should present to the public will be discussed. Major changes in the size and make-up of the NatCom are expected to be introduced and debated.

On the program will be the "nuts and bolts" sessions on political techniques and other speakers on issues and ideas. The schedule has been developed so that no more than 2 events compete at any one time, with major speakers and panels being the sole event in their time slots.

The Platform and ByLaws committees are expected to begin work on Tuesday and the NatCom will meet Wednesday afternoon. An event you may wish to attend will be the "20th Anniversary of the Movement" Banquet, sponsored by the Society for Individual Liberty on Wednesday night. This extra-charge event (\$40) features a "Roast" of LP News editor Karl Hess, and recognizes other libertarians instrumental in the 1969 walkout from the conservative movement.

Two other exciting Special Events are scheduled: a Thursday night excursion to Atlantic City (where you'll receive coins from a casino) and a Friday night "Olde City Philadelphia" excursion to Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the restaurants and shops of the historic area.

For information on the convention and registration forms, see the May/June issue of LP News or write to: Proclaim Liberty Convention Assoc., P.O. Box 338, Warminster, PA 18974. Prices for FULL PACKAGE (admission to all events except the 20th Anniversary banquet) are only \$239.95 until July 15th (\$40 higher thereafter). Other less expensive packages are available, too.

Remember, you don't have to be a delegate or LP member to attend.



From the Chair

By Al Western, Jr.

Positivism is the quality, or state of being positive and if there is one thing that I learned from Jim Burns before being elected LPCC Chairman, it was that there's more than one way to deal with people: positively or negatively. When 1988 LP Vice-presidential candidate Andre Marrou was interviewed by the Las Vegas R-J, I remember being outraged because the reporter chose to open his article by stating that Marrou, if elected, would support legislation allowing everyone to smoke pot and shoot-up cocaine.

Sure, it may be that Marrou believes that individuals should accept personal responsibility and have the right to live their own lives as they choose, but I thought there were more important things that could have been used as a lead for that article; items that may have portrayed Marrou differently.

Regardless, in my anger, I told Burns that I was going to send a nasty letter to the editor and tell him just exactly what I thought. Well, at that juncture, Burns asked me, "Why antagonize the guy?," suggesting that I wait until something positive was written about the LP and

then write to the editor, telling him how much I enjoyed the article.

The point is, we are beginning to attract some prominent and interesting people to speak at our monthly meetings and we can treat them in one of two ways: (1) We can act as if they are the enemy, as if they are the cause of our woes, as if they come to talk to us solely to cover up their own inadequacies, antagonize the hell out of 'em, and leave them with the impression that we're a bunch of losers; or (2) we can realize that these people have taken some time out of their personal schedule to meet with us and have indicated an interest in Libertarianism simply by showing up. We can treat them with the respect that they deserve, listen intently, question them intelligently, and leave them with the sense that we are a viable political party deserving of their time and consideration.

This latter is positivism and we more of it. We might ask ourselves, "How do we want others to remember us?" Then the real question becomes, "Why antagonize the guy?"

"Help" -- cont. from page 1

deal from the petitioners. "The normal rate of pay for professional petitioners is 60 cents per signatures gathered," said Emerling. The experts coming to Nevada are only charging 25 cents per signature.

Regardless, according to Mr. Ketchum, who heard it from..., the LPN has been asked to support the activity. There is no doubt that the LP needs to maintain access to the ballot at all costs. All those interested in contributing to the effort can do so by contacting the LPN at 1-825-3519.

R-J's RALSTON ADDRESSES LPCC

At the May monthly LPCC business meeting, our guest speaker, Mr. Jon Ralston, the political analyst of the R-J, addressed the members about press coverage. Actually the discussion centered on the lack of press coverage.

Ralston made the point of pinning the blame equally on Libertarians and the press. The press must be more responsible in presenting alternatives to voters, but he commented, "you've got to become more viable... that is defined loosely as having a chance of winning."

Like many other industries, the press is out to sell a product by appealing a large audience. Offering an unproportional amount of ink to something viewed by most as way out of mainstream may be construed as portraying a bias. However, Mr. Ralston granted that the lack of coverage also adds to the perception of remaining out on the fringe.

Jon Ralston gave us a few suggestions that would help our efforts in the future. They specifically include: (1) Get a candidate or two in a race that can really create a chance of victory. (2) Concentrate the limited amount of LP funds in those races in order to create the perception of seriousness. (3) Recruit only candidates that take their races seriously... "How are you to expect anyone, especially the press, to believe you are viable if a candidate does *nothing* while running for office!?" was his comment.

The attendees took most of Mr. Ralston's points to heart. He offered to try and include LP candidates in his reporting in the future, especially when the other two refuse to deal with issues.

He seemed to concur when it was suggested that it was a journalist's responsibility to at least let the people know of their choices... accurately.

Gordon Morris had a real axe to grind with Mr. Ralston and withheld nothing in his fierce questioning. Ralston answered most of the criticism by explaining his limited scope in the paper's policy-making.

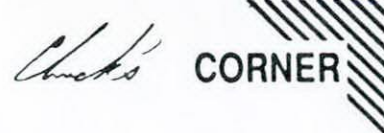
A few newcomers were in the crowd to hear the presentation. One was Mr. Jim Childress, now a consistent advertiser in the Porcupine. He was an ardent supporter of Ron Paul last election but until recently, skeptical of the LP. Mr. Childress expressed delight in the LPCC progress and increasing professionalism. He is one of many disgruntled Republicans... perhaps ready to come aboard a winning team.

The Porcupine

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OPINION --



CORNER

By Chuck Geshliger

On the weekend of May 27th I had the honor of being invited to attend an American Leadership Conference and a gathering of the American Freedom Coalition in San Diego. The organization took care of the whole list of expenses for me, leaving it an irresistible invitation. I also had no idea what was to come although I had previously been introduced to the AFC by Mr. Steve Jorgenson.

The AFC has a stated purpose to openly undermine, and prevent the spread of communism and its basic underlying philosophy of Marxism-Leninism, (which is fundamentally evil because of its roots in atheism... AFC's brand of atheism solely defined as Godless relativism, i.e. there being no absolute truth(s) nor a definable good or evil. Ayn Rand turns in her grave as she contemplates AFC's ridiculous dichotomy!).

The purpose of the weekend event was to bring community "leaders" (defined by Steve as those who are, or may become the opinion makers of their community) together and unite them in the active role of perpetuating the above agenda.

To paint a background of the scene, it must be explained that the weekend included an overwhelming amount of political theology. For the most part it seemed like pure indoctrination as we

were expected to digest and accept many points as fact, and/or moral truth! Granted, their seemed to be alot of material to "learn" in a short time but I became frustrated nevertheless at this expectation...to the point of walking out of a session. I was not alone in holding this sentiment.

The parent group is The Unification Church of Rev. Sun Myung Moon. From the seminars, I came to realize it is not the monster organization that many believe is out to steal and brainwash our children, aiming to take over the world with their army of rose peddlars on street corners. The man representing Moon, Col. Bo Hi Pak, presented himself and the religion as a seriously moral and very pro-American entity... very much in favor of *freedom*. Others who spoke on behalf of the Coalition were equally sincere. And when it comes to professionally setting up a function and getting others into the fold, these people are first class all the way!

I came out of the event with mixed emotions about the organization... yet not to be dismissed as frivolous. This parent group that finances the AFC seemingly possesses an endless well of resources, thus the potential to wield much influence. A big yellow caution flag must be waved.

One good point a speaker made in exposing the cunning methods of deceit communists tend to use, is their picking attractive words in naming movements (i.e. The so and so Peoples' Liberation Movement, The so and so Democratic Front, etc.). They intentionally utilize

these words to berate some targeted government setup as oppressive. At the same time this serves to obfuscate their own, never-stated goals. Throughout this century it has proven quite effective.

I find the AFC guilty of the same tactics... albeit not laced with evil intent. The word "freedom" was tossed around like a wiffle ball; equally difficult to catch! (And may I point out here: Democracy does not equal Freedom! Democracy is out and out Mob Rule! Majority Rule is only proper in selecting officers to avoid a concentration of internal governmental power... not to usurp individual property or personal rights!) At this convention, these two words: Freedom and Democracy were interchanged and used synonymously umpteen times!

With my hatred of all types of collectivism already pretty solid and no longer needing philosophical re-assurance, I anxiously awaited the "workshops" to see what this organization actually *does*. The AFC has 12 points of influence they focus on, four of which are actively taken to grass roots America.

Our preposterous education problem is high enough on their list to warrant activity. Yet, what I witnessed in this workshop appeared no better than what AFC was aiming to halt. It was the usual attack on today's "liberal" agenda; not the system of coercive public school itself. With a little investigation into their extremely attractive brochure, one may read: "...We believe education should be a primary parental responsibility, yet a spirit of *cooperation* between parents and government must also exist to insure our children the best possible education." (emphasis mine). Cont. on page 4 -- See: "Chuck's"

READERS WRITE

RIGHTS

What is the source of individual rights? Are they created by man, with arbitrary definitions depending on a particular cultural perspective? Are they absolute? What absolute basis exists for the absolute individual rights of man? ...the Constitution? What about other countries? Are the Soviets then justified in their definition of rights, (or lack of)? Is God the author of individual rights? If so, are we responsible to abide by His laws governing social behavior, or are we free to irresponsibly indulge in our own arbitrary definitions to fit our own convenience?

The Libertarian Party's statement of principles proclaims that, "all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of others to live in whatever manner they choose."

Critique: This is a moral assumption, which assumes that the individual has the fundamental right to determine his own relative standards of moral conduct. If this is so, then what grounds exist for any moral authority to set absolute guidelines to determine limits on where my rights end, and yours begin? Does each individual have the "right" to decide what these limits are? Which individual will have the correct viewpoint on this?... Or perhaps consensus view of libertarians will decide. What absolute authority defines and regulates this relative definition of rights? ...The State? Again, from where do these rights originate to warrant adherence? If my definition of rights is different from yours, then who determines the true definition of rights in a social context?... The State?

If individuals are entitled to certain rights, then a tangible explanation for this entitlement is required. One cannot base an entire worldview on the defense of rights without an honest and penetrating inquiry into the source, content, and scope of absolutes that pertain to any definition of rights.

The Libertarian platform, although idealistic in its intent, lacks clarity in defining the foundations of its own. Cont. on page 4 -- See: "Readers"

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