For example, in one of the counties, Volusia County, the Libertarian candidate, Harry Browne, had many more votes in that particular county than he had in any other county in the state. He had, I think, 10,000 votes, an obvious anomaly that called for checking those votes by a hand count.
— Warren Christopher on Meet the Press

The Birmingham Libertarian

ABCNEWS Stossel in the classroom
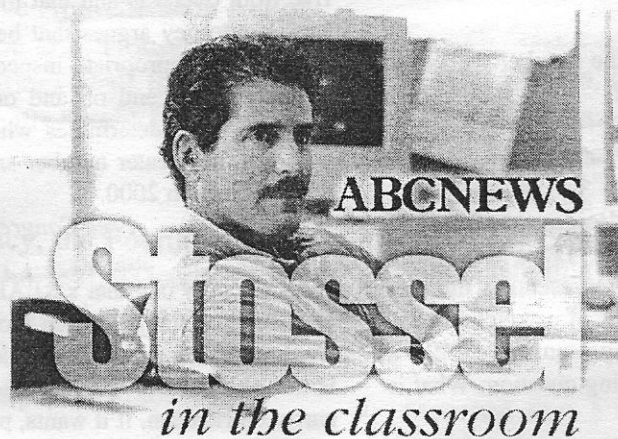
John Stossel's "FREELOADERS" will be shown at the next supper club. This is a special classroom edition of the ABC News Special. Distributed by the Palmer R. Chitester Foundation, this program is a part of their "Stossel In The Classroom" series. Like the "GREED" video we saw in April, your evaluation and criticism of this program and its accessory materials would be much appreciated. We will be reviewing it for possible inclusion into our campus outreach program. There will also be discussion on where to concentrate our forces to shape political issues over the next few months. Should it be the "War on Drugs?" The Water Works issue? An expanded concealed-carry permit? Something else? Hope to see you there!

The Greater Birmingham Libertarians

David Mitchell, Coordinator
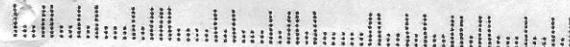2330 Highland Avenue
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New Math, Old Math and the Loss of Innocence

The old joke takes a new twist:

Math education in the 1950s:

Johnny has 150 apples. Susie has 75. How many fewer apples does Susie have than Johnny. Answer in ratio form.

Math education in the 1960s:

Johnny has 150 apples. He has twice the number that Susie has. How many apples does Susie have?

Math education in the 1970s:

Johnny has a bushel "A" of apples and decides to sell it for a Set "D" of dollars. The cardinality of Set "D" is 100. Each element is worth one. Make 100 dots representing the elements of Set "D". Then, Set "C", the cost of production contains 30 fewer points than Set "D". Represent Set "C" as a subset of Set "D" and answer the following question: What is the cardinality of the Set "P" of profits?

Math education in the 1980s:

Johnny sells a bushel of apples for $50.00. His cost of production is $40.00 and his profit is $10.00. Your assignment for Friday: put a box around the number 10.

Math education in the 1990s:

By depriving the apple trees of its beautiful fruit, Johnny makes a profit of $10.00 per bushel. How do you feel about the way he makes his living? After answering this question, the class should sit in a circle holding hands to discuss the following question: How did the trees feel as Johnny picked all of their apples at their expense for his own profit? There are no wrong answers.

Math education in the aftermath of Election 2000:

Johnny has 150 apples. Susie has 75 apples. Who has more apples? The obvious answer is "Johnny does" but, there are other factors to consider such as, should bruised apples be counted? If not, then 85 of Johnny's apples cannot be counted. Susie has only 4 apples that are not bruised so the answer would be revised and Susie would have more apples than Johnny. But then Johnny would argue that apples are apples and the bruised apples should be counted. He hires a lawyer who argues the same and the counting of bruised apples are reinstated. Then Susie appeals her case saying that she found apples that belong to her and that they should be counted as well. Johnny's attorney argues that these newfound apples of Susie's have worms and that apples with worms should not be counted. A panel of judges weighs in and determines that Susie's wormy apples should be counted. Then Johnny discovers that 1000 more apples are expected to arrive from overseas and that they should be included as well. Susie's attorney argues that because these apples did not go through the appropriate inspection process, that they should be disqualified and on and on it goes until public opinion weighs in and determines who has more apples, DESPITE who has the greater number and THAT'S mathematics courtesy of Election 2000.

Free Congress Foundation's Lisa Dean

Am I the only one that's REALLY tired of the election? One easy solution to the Florida problem...overlooked by so many wanting to do away with the electoral college...is that the sate is not obligated to cast an all-or-nothing vote for a political party. Florida can, if it wants, proportionally award its slate to each candidate. In fact, this was the way it was a hundred years ago in most states. Ten percent of the vote entitled you to 10% of the electors. So how would the election have shaped up with proportional representation in the electoral college? Check out this link:

http://www.ballot-access.org/2000/apportion.html

LP Lobbying Effort Helps Kill Warrantless Search Bill

A last-minute lobbying effort by the Libertarian Party has apparently helped kill a bill that would have allowed police to seize electronic evidence without a search warrant.

The bill, S. 2516, the Fugitive Apprehension Act of 2000, was voted down by the U.S. House on October 25 after "Capitol Hill offices were flooded with thousands of angry phone calls," said LP National Director Steve Dasbach.

"This is a big win for privacy, the Fourth Amendment, and cyberadvocacy," he said. "Thanks to the quick action of Libertarians and the people on our Defend Your Privacy e-mail list, we've managed to stop another unconstitutional power grab."

S. 2516 had been attached to another bill, the Presidential Threat Protection Act (HR 3048), as an amendment. HR 3048 passed, but the amendment was stripped out.

The Libertarian Party sent out an e-mail warning to party members about the bill on October 12, and an "Action Item" to its 100,000-name Defend Your privacy e-mail list just before the bill came up for a vote on October 25.

The Fugitive Apprehension Act — supposedly designed to help police "locate and apprehend fugitives" — would have given law enforcement broad new powers to demand information with an "administrative subpoena," bypassing the usual court order or search warrant.

The bill also defined a fugitive as someone who had been "accused" — but not necessarily convicted — of any crime.

"This bill was a flagrant attack on your privacy rights and a massive expansion of government power," said Dasbach. "It would have given the government the power to conduct unconstitutional searches, without even a court order or search warrant."

Specifically, the bill would have allowed police to:

- Search "electronic data," such as bank records, school records, medical data, phone bills, and e-mail accounts. The bill said the government "may subpoena witnesses for the purpose of the production of any tangible records (including books, papers, documents, electronic data, and other tangible and intangible items) that are relevant to determining the whereabouts of the fugitive."

- Demand that a third party, such as a bank or Internet Service Provider, turn over personal records of "fugitives."

- Order individuals and businesses to refrain from revealing that a suspect's records have been searched or seized by the government. Under a "delayed notice" provision in Section 1075 (g), the bill said the government may apply for an order "commanding the provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service not to notify any other person of the existence of the subpoena."
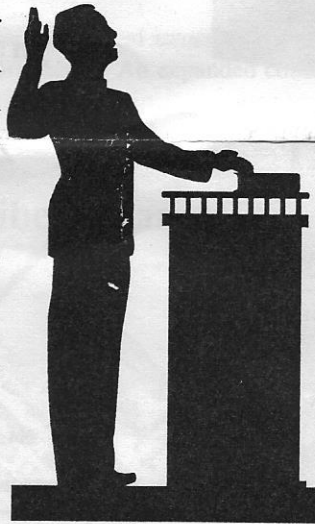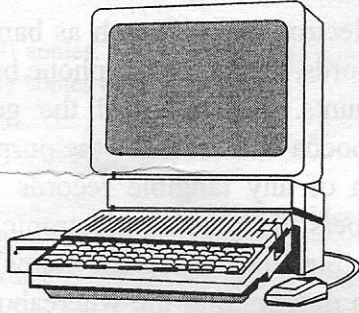
The bill also would have granted immunity from civil liability to anyone who provided such information to the government, so they couldn't be sued for violating a suspect's privacy.

S. 2516 was sponsored by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

"This bill was a stark reminder about how little regard politicians have for civil liberties — and why it is so crucial that an organization like the Libertarian Party keep a constant eye on what they do," said Dasbach.

The Greater Birmingham Libertarian Supper Club is open to everyone. We discuss issues of the day, politics, taxes, and personal freedom. Meetings are held the second Monday of the month unless there is a holiday, when meetings are moved to the third Monday. We begin at 6:30 (dinner 6:45) unless otherwise noted. There is no charge to attend and contributions are gladly accepted. And of course, bring a friend. This month's meeting is being held at::
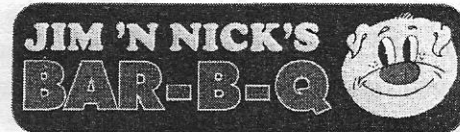
JIM 'N NICK'S BAR-B-Q

Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q

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Just off I-65

942-3336

January's meeting on the 8th!

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