

Alaska Libertarian



MAY

FREEDOM IS THE ISSUE

Vol. 5 No. 4

SPRING IN FAIRBANKS

In the words of Marty Allen, Hello Der!
It's State Convention time in Fairbanks
and I hope I get to meet most of the reader
readers of this newsletter in Fairbanks.

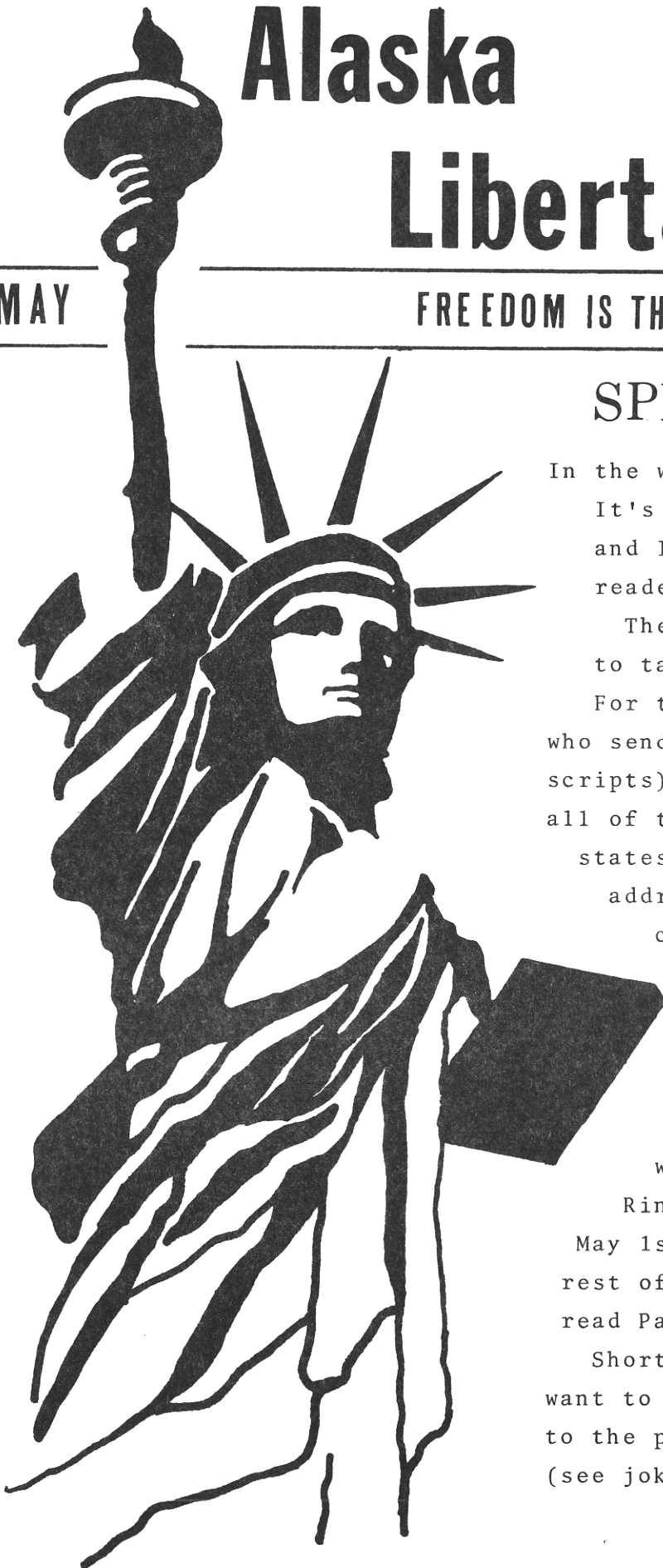
There are several things that I'd like
to talk to you about.

For those of you who correspond with me or
who send articles (should I call them manu-
scripts) to the newsletter, and especially
all of the Editors of newsletters in other
states, please note the NEW newsletter
address. It the same one that recently
came out in the National Libertarian
newspaper, but different from the one
that we had been using.

The other thing that I like to
talk about is addressed to all of
you people in and around Anchorage
who won't be in Fairbanks. Robert
Ringer will be in Anchorage on Friday,
May 1st. That's just a teaser, for all the
rest of the juicy details, you'll have to
read Page 4.

Short column this month, gang, cause I
want to get this newsletter to the printer,
to the post office and to you before May 1st.
(see joke on Page 5)

LOOK OUT FAIRBANKS,
HERE I COME!!



Continued from Page 11

a mistake in his wind-up of two stories. He felt terrible for the implication and what impact it could have on local Libertarians.

The next meeting we had wasn't a hot "news event", but that reporter made it over and we made the 11:00 news that night.

Another advantage of getting to know news people on a first name basis is that you can call them at home and tell them about an event called at the last minute. News people appreciate getting a story which is somewhat exclusive to their station or newspaper. Be careful, of course, not to alienate other reporters by favoring one too greatly or obviously.

The Clark television and radio ads helped us tremendously. People know who Libertarians are now. When I first contacted the media over a year ago, they had only vaguely heard about us. Now they call the Libertarian Party Headquarters in Columbus for information and ask us for interviews.

Being media coordinator requires a lot of work and long hours. It is also the most enjoyable work I have ever one.

Art Buchwald has a plan for the MX missile: put them on Amtrak, and give the Russians the timetable; they'll never be where there supposed to be.

A LETTER

February 19, 1981
Box 80-708
College, Alaska

To the Editor:

Recently I attended the local Republican Lincoln Day dinner and listened to such luminaries as C.R.Lewis, Tom Fink, and Frank Murkowski. I had a good time as expected. I ran in to someone who again asked me the question "When are you going to come back to the Republicans where you belong?" or words to that effect. Not the first time this question was asked. The first time, indirectly, this question was put to me by Wee Willie Wally late at nite on Nov. 4, 1980 - "Would you ever consider running for office as something other than a Libertarian (a Republican)?" and naturally I answered NO. Unfortunately, people who ask these things fail to understand how a true libertarian thinks. Bear with me and I'll give you a little insight into that.

The real live libertarian believes in a set of principles based on individual liberty and the absence of force, whether by individuals or entities called "governments", comprised of individual people. The real libertarian does not want the government to give him or her anything, nor does he or she want the government to take anything away by force. Examples of government force are: taxation-the theft of individual's earnings and conscription (the draft)-a form of slavery.

The real libertarian favors only laws which prohibit the use of force by certain individuals on other individuals. It is really very simple and straightforward. Laws against murder, robbery, rape are justifiable. Laws against sexual behavior, drug use, and gambling are not justifiable. It is absolutely morally wrong to pass laws that prohibit personal behavior that is not aggressive towards other people. The bad consequences of having such laws, like the ones against certain drugs, are in abundant evidence! About 75% of the burglaries in New York City are done by drug addicts who must steal to finance their habits, made expensive because the drugs are illegal. Legalize these drugs and you wipe out 75% of the burglaries in New York City. Why, be because the actual cost of heroin is

Continued on Page 11



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GETTING LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE

by SANDY BURNS

Many Libertarian groups complain about lack of media coverage. "the media is biased," they say. I was told this when I volunteered to work as media contact for the Central Region here in Ohio. However, I was delightfully surprised. Not only were the media cooperative, but they were very helpful to me during the following year.

The obvious first step in developing a cooperative media relationship is to create a local media list which includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the major local newspapers, radio stations and television stations. A telephone call to each media outlet will enable you to personalize your media list with names of assignment editors, political reporters and news directors. When a news release is issued or an event planned, the media coordinator can then follow-up with a personal phone call to an individual news person. In a very short time, the two will be on a first-name basis.

I found that the more media people I knew on a first-name basis, the more individual coverage we received.

Many Libertarians are on the defensive when interviewed by the media. We don't always know all the answers to their questions. Depending upon the specific political persuasion of a reporter, some of our principles and/or issues are very controversial. However, reporters are news people. If we approach them in a forthright and honest manner, we can (and do!) receive fair and unbiased coverage.

A reporter is responsible for his or her news piece. It carries a reporter's "signature". Therefore, the piece will be edited to reflect the reporter in the very best light--which means the

reporter will edit the interview to make it as good a news story as possible. We really have nothing to fear, especially when we know a reporter personally.

Creativity plays a large part in a media coordinator's job. We can use the most ambiguous news item to our benefit and project many libertarian ideas and principles. For example, on "Beggars' Night" this past Halloween, local Libertarians visited Children's Hospital and our local orphanage and gave "Clark bars" to the children. Simultaneously, other Libertarians were handing out Clark bars during their door-to-door distribution of Clark brochures in Columbus neighborhoods, offering voters a "treat, not a trick".

We called several reporters, individually, to let them know what we were doing. One radio announcer said, "Sandy, was this your idea? You libertarians are so creative. I hope they stop by our station because I love Clark bars."

We did stop by the station and gave the reporter a Clark bar. As a result, we were interviewed and had a full day of media coverage every hour on the hour.

People in the media can also be a big help. There were times when we didn't know where to hold a news conference when Clark was coming to Ohio. Because of the time he was scheduled to arrive, we didn't know whether to hold it at the airport or take the time to bring him downtown. I called the news director at a local television station to ask his advice. He told me we would probably get more coverage if we held the news conference downtown. He explained that the reporters would have to fight rush-hour traffic and would take longer to get their stories back to their stations.

We held the news conference at our
Continued on Page 11

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ROBERT RINGER

Robert Ringer is coming to town, (sung to the tune of "Santa Claus is coming to Town").

As most of you know by now, Robert Ringer will address the Saturday night banquet at the State Convention in Fairbanks on May 2nd. What you may not have known, but I'm going to tell you, is that Robert Ringer will be in Anchorage on Friday, May 1st.

For all you people who, for one reason or another, won't be able to be in Fairbanks, here's an opportunity for you to see and hear Robert Ringer. Mr. Ringer is the author of 3 best-selling books, "Winning Through Intimidation", "Looking Out for #1", and "Restoring the American Dream".

Also appearing with Mr. Ringer will be Art Hippler, Matt Hammer and a visit from the past by Patrick Henry.

A reception will be from 7 to 8pm with the program to start promptly at 8pm.

There will be a question and answer period following the program. Books and autographs will be available after the question and answer period.

All this will take place at the International Banquet House on Friday, May 1st. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance (\$15.00 at the door) and are available at Alaska Cleaners. If for some strange reason you need more information, you can call John Ulsher at 272-9122 or 428-2084.


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Convention Schedule

<u>DAY AND TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FEE</u>
<u>THURSDAY, APRIL 30</u>			
12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Buffet Luncheon (Optional) For working committee	Coffee Shop	
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Committee Meeting	E. Gold Room	
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Break for Dinner		
6:00 p.m. - Open	Committee Meetings	E. Gold Room	
<u>FRIDAY, MAY 1</u>			
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 NOON	Committee Meetings	E. Gold Room	
NOON - 1:30 p.m.	Buffet Luncheon/Panel Discussion (Thompson/Wammack/Davis)	W. Gold Room	\$12.00 A Sp. 4.00 B
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings	E. Gold Room	
NOON - 5:00 p.m.	REGISTRATION	Foyer	
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<u>GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</u>	M. Gold Room	
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Seminar/Stratton	Chena Room	\$ 4.00 #1
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Seminar/Etcheverry	Rampart Room	4.00 #2
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Seminar/Film	Chena Room	1.00 #3
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	FREE TIME		
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Cocktail Mixer	W. Gold Room	No Charge
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Progressive Dinner	Local Hosts	4.00 C
<u>SATURDAY, MAY 2</u>			
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Breakfast/Hippler	W. Gold Room	\$ 8.00 D
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 NOON	<u>GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</u>	E. Gold Room	Sp. 4.00 E
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Seminar/Miners Association	Rampart Room	\$ 4.00 #4
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 NOON	Seminar/Otto	Rampart Room	4.00 #5
NOON - 1:30 p.m.	Buffet Luncheon/DeLisio	W. Gold Room	\$12.00 F
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<u>GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</u>	M. Gold Room	Sp. 4.00 G
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Seminar/Film	Chena Room	No Charge
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	FREE TIME		
6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.	Cocktails/RINGER Autograph Party	W. Gold Room	No Charge
7:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.	HAWAIIAN BANQUET/Speakers Keynote address/Robert Ringer	West & Middle Gold Rooms	\$25.00 H Guest \$30.00 I
9:15 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.	Fashion Show - NO CHARGE Dancing - NO CHARGE		Sp. 7.00 J Guest Sp. 10.00 J
<u>SUNDAY, MAY 3</u>			
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	<u>GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</u>	Rampart Room	
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 NOON	Brunch/Speakers (Drawing)	M. Gold Room	\$12.00 K Sp. 4.00 L
NOON - 1:00 p.m.	Election of Officers	M. Gold Room	

KEY: SP. = Speaker Only



Dale Lowdermilk thinks that Ronald Reagan is going about things all backward.

How can the President-elect talk about deregulation when such an obvious hazard as the black widow spider is still on the loose? Why is Reagan talking about eliminating the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit when a 25-mph limit clearly is needed to make the highways safe? And when will Congress pass the desperately needed Federal Sunburn Law to protect "frenzied surfers and overexposed fishermen" from their cancer-inducing folly?

As executive director of NOT-SAFE, Lowdermilk is lobbying for laws and regulations to cover these and many other hazards of daily life. The world won't be livable, the Santa Barbara (Calif.) investment counselor says, until the federal government acts "to protect everyone from everything-at any cost".

Lowdermilk bills NOT-SAFE-- the National Organization Taunting Safety and Fairness Everywhere--as "the world's most sarcastic organization". Swinging a broad brush loaded with excess and overkill, he and 278 fellow members try to point out the follies of over-regulation by carrying those trends to their not-quite-logical extremes.

"It just seems that most federal regulators feel their job is to protect everyone from everything," Lowdermilk said in a telephone interview from his California home. "By using extreme examples to point that out, we're trying to wake people up and make them get involved in stopping the regulators."

The trend toward protection has extended beyond the federal government, Lowdermilk notes; even municipalities want to help people be safe these days. "Santa Barbara is fighting over whether to have a smoke detector requirements for all buildings," he said. "It sounds

fine, until you think about it. Then you realize that the politicians who pass these things assume that the electorate is incapable of deductive reasoning or of doing anything to protect itself."

So, to undermine the smoke detector regulation, Lowdermilk rails against bingo games ("many elderly people waste their money on this obnoxious habit"), aspirin (it "kills 900 people yearly") and kissing in public (which "transmits millions of dangerous germs and offends many pious onlookers"). He'd also like to lock up "criminal types"--like people who won't take their medicine or helmetless joggers.

Energy policy is an especially tough area for NOT-SAFE members, who realize that so-called "safe" solar power has its hazards ("too many people falling off rooftops while cleaning deadly cadmium solar cells"). Even the charms of nature have their flaws; people who live in areas with frequent thunderstorms "should carry individual lightning rods!"

"Overkill examples jar people and make them pay attention," Lowdermilk explained. "They see what they've overlooked."

"When you go in and present logical arguments against regulations, people build up an immunity to what you're saying. Only humor will break that down."

"People think I've gone off the deep end--until they look at some of the real regulations that have passed. Then they realize that they're living in a comedy!"

Lowdermilk's personal politics are about as far from NOT-SAFE's proposals as Ed Clark is from Barry Commoner. Like Clark, Lowdermilk is a Libertarian --and is opposed to any government intervention in any field.

"Government protection for any individual or any industry is morally wrong," Lowdermilk said. "I'm opposed to the protection that banks are given--did you know that it's a federal crime to spread a rumor that a bank is about to go under under? That's absurd."

"You're never going to eliminate all government intervention in people's lives, because there will always be special interests clamoring for protection or special favors. But we advocate a dramatic reduction in government's role."

An investment counselor-- he favors gold, silver, stored food and Howard Ruff's ideas on real estate--the 32 year-old Lowdermilk formed NOT-SAFE in

LIBERTARIAN NETWORK

The Libertarian Movement has grown from a handful of dreamers in the late 1960's to a dynamic, growing movement of thousands in the 1980's. Many prominent authors, economists, teachers and others are publicly identified with libertarian thinking; the Libertarian Party candidate for President in 1980 polled nearly a million votes; and judging from the attacks on it from both the right and the left, the libertarian political philosophy is being taken quite seriously by many political commentators.

Meanwhile, down here at the grass roots level, most of us are not functioning very effectively in defending our individual rights and promoting the growth of the libertarian ideal. Rules and regulations are constantly being imposed upon us by legislatures, city councils, school boards, bureaucrats, and other authoritarian figures while we stand there in bewilderment, watching our freedom slip away. One of the primary reasons for our lack of success in responding to threats to our liberty is that most of us haven't the foggiest idea how to begin fighting back. There is a serious lack of basic communication among grass roots libertarians which forces all of us to start from scratch in our local activities. If we don't know about the tactics, projects, successes and failures of other libertarians across the country, then each of us has to individually invent his or her own approach to these problems.

In order to improve this situation, the Libertarian Activist Network has been formed to increase communication and cooperation among libertarian activists everywhere. To make this network function effectively, we need to know who you are, where you are, and what your doing. If you belong to an activist group

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Continued from Page 7

July 1980 to promote his sarcastic counterattack on overregulation. To encourage membership, he allows applicants to send in "barter goods" in lieu of cash payments on goods.

In return, a member gets an ID card, a NOT-SAFE wooden nickle ("soon it'll be as good as a dollar") and a questionnaire on which to record his NOT-SAFE objections to everything that's not safe. Lowdermilk advocates sending the questionnaire to "elected representatives" who don't always seem to get the joke."

"Someone sent a copy to Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), who really liked it and said he'd pass it around on the floor of the Senate," Lowdermilk said. "Then I got a request for a membership to be sent to Sen. Proxmire (D-WIS.) as a gift from one of his colleagues. I sent him my questionnaire with every item checked off (as unsafe). I still haven't heard back from him."

So far, it's hard to say whether NOT-SAFE has had much of an impact on the federal regulators. The group's 279 members don't include the nation's best-known advocate of deregulation, Ronald Reagan, and Lowdermilk hasn't yet sent any material to his fellow Californian.

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Vincent A. Drosdik, III

Local LPs Key to Progress

The key unit of major political parties is not the national headquarters, the state central committee, or even the congressional district apparatus. Rather, it is the city or county organization.

The local group is the closest to the basic unit in our democratic republic, the citizen-voter. It is that person's mind we attempt to reach and influence.

Not only is this the practical reality, it is also a legal necessity. For it is the local party units which nominate or endorse candidates for county and city offices, and for General Assembly seats. These positions constitute the vast majority of all elective posts, far outnumbering statewide or federal offices.

At the same time, new candidates---or parties---have their best chance for success at the local level. There the individual candidate is best known by the voters, has the smallest territory to cover in the campaign, and can spend the least to get elected. If we can succeed anywhere, it is locally.

Although the lack of party designation on the ballot in Virginia (except for the presidential race) has its drawbacks, for new candidates and a new party it may actually work to our benefit---at least locally. There, personality and community credentials count as much as ideology in campaigns.

What this means is that if you win, not all your votes will have been for ideological reasons. No matter---perhaps the electorate at large and the news media won't notice this fact. Once in office it's then up to you to prove that the libertarian political philosophy works---and then get yourself re-elected.

Alaska has been an invaluable proving ground of the above theory. As large and successful as the ALP has been, it has yet to run a candidate for governor or for Congress. With several members elected to local office and the legislature, it is now strong and credible enough to seriously look at running a candidate for the governorship next year. Had it run statewide candidates from the start, abysmal early showings might well have impeded future growth.

It's time now for all congressional districts in Virginia to have open con-

ventions and elected representatives on the State Central Committee. But beyond that, we must work quickly to establish county and city units throughout the state (appropriately publicized by news releases both before and after the founding mass meetings)

The mere existence of many local units will add credibility to the party's efforts everywhere. For example, if our neighboring 8th District remains unorganized, no matter how well organized the 10th is, the electorate and news media will get the idea that the LP really isn't that serious or viable. Even good candidates in the 10th could thereby suffer.

Thus, all attention should shift to the localities after the June state convention. If we do that, the LPVA may be in a position to run an attractive candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1982.

(EDITOR'S NOTE)

The above article appeared in the 10th District Report, the libertarian newsletter of the 10th district of the state of Virginia. I have reprinted it because I feel that it applies to Alaska as much as to Virginia. Before you get worried that you'll be the only person in Fairbanks in May, let me say our state convention is the first weekend in May, their's is in June.

I mail this newsletter to a lot of places in the state that do not have an active local organization or any organization at all, for that matter. Why not start one, even if it's only a few friends who meet in someone's house. The party is going to need as many locally organized areas as possible for anyone who is nominated by the 1982 state convention to run for

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NETWORK

Continued from Page 8

or put out a publication, we want to know about it. If you have an occupation offer offering a product or service that other libertarians might need, such as a libertarian law practice, anti-tax advisory service, survival food business, etc., we'd like to have this information so we can make it available to other libertarians. If you're being victimized by government (who isn't), we want to know your situation so that we can get you some help.

Once a substantial network is established, anyone who needs this kind of information can write or call us and get an immediate reply. If you have a particular project or issue in mind but don't know how to approach it, we can put you in touch with others who have similar interests or experience in that area. Or if you want to find a source for a particular libertarian product or service, LAN may be able to help.

All of this depends on you. We can answer the phone, write letters and collect information, but unless you contact us, we will not be able to establish a fully functioning communications network. Please write to us at the Libertarian Activists Network, P.O. Box 25188, Richmond, Va. 23260 or call us at 804-358-0294. Help us to help each other.

Ron Courtney
Libertarian Activist Network



Continued from Page 8

"I'm afraid I'll get on some sort of blacklist as a crazy person," he said. "Actually, Reagan's about #15 on my list of people to contact--he already knows what I'm talking about."

It's a good bet that the rest of the government will get Lowdermilk's message, or some more serious version of it, under the new administration. Until then be sure to follow Lowdermilk's warning:

"Whatever you do," he says, "be careful".

(EDITOR'S NOTE)


The NOT-SAFE article you've just read first appeared in THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR on Tuesday, January 6, 1981. It was written by Mike McNamee, the STAR's Business Editor.

If you can think of any "useless" regulations for your particular area (they're all useless!), why not write me a letter about them. I can think of a half-a-dozen that come to mind real quick just for the Anchorage area.

"We have such a limited budget, such limited manpower to enforce the income tax laws and collect the revenue, that the only way we can keep people in line, the only way we can keep them honest and pay their taxes, is to keep them afraid." - former IRS Commissioner Donald Alexander.

Continued from Page 9
state-wide office. (One potential candidate is testing the waters, as they say.) This editor will help anyone start a local chapter by providing a list of names of those persons in the area who receive this newsletter.

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Continued from Page 2
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The third type of law, which the true libertarian abhors, is one that makes people help each other. Under this category are all business subsidies, such as the Chrysler Corporation bailout; all welfare laws, which rob from some to give to others; and property taxes, by which we rent the land we "own" from the government and are forced to buy libraries, swimming pools, and buses. Also included are protective tariffs on imports that restrict free trade and licensing laws that eliminate competition and restrict entry.

Republicans do not want to change the system, which most agree is a real mess. We do.

I think I'll remain a Libertarian, thank you.

Yours truly,
 Bill Waugaman Jr.

(from the Fairbanks Daily News Miner
 2-23-81)

The New Mexico Civil Liberties Union wants to sue for removal of Ten Commandments plaques from classrooms in Los Lunas, N.M., but no plaintiff is willing to step forward. The people of Los Lunas won't do it because they can see the handwriting on the wall.

Americans for Medical Freedom, 790 Hampshire Rd #H, Westlake Village, CA 91361 has a free booklet by the parents of Chad Green, who took him to Mexico to escape compulsory chemotherapy in Mass.

Continued from Page 3
 downtown headquarters. About 20 reporters attended. David Boaz, Clark's political advisor, said, "Columbus is one of very few cities where a news conference can be called at 4:00 p.m. and have every representative of the media attend." He then asked, "What is your secret?"

There is no "secret" in developing media relationships. A media coordinator can establish credibility by being open, honest, considerate and presenting him or herself with conviction. A reporter will be much more impressed with a Libertarian who says, "I don't know the answer, but I will find out for you," and who will follow through, than with a Libertarian who fakes an answer. The media respect an honest answer and appreciate a prompt follow-up.

News people are also regular people and appreciate common courtesies. I was told never to thank a reporter for covering a Libertarian event. News is news and covering a Libertarian function is a reporter's job. There is nothing wrong however, with complimenting a reporter for the way he or she covered an event.

News people also appreciate friendly corrections of information presented, if done in a positive, constructive manner. One reporter implied Libertarians do not file income tax returns when he covered our Tax Protest last year. I called him the next day and told him his piece was excellent, but I wanted him to know that although we were protesting paying taxes, most Libertarians do file income tax returns. The reporter was very apologetic and admitted he had made

Continued on Page 2



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Calendar

- May 6 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.
- May 6 - Libertarian Party of Fairbanks meets in the Arctic Room of the Polaris Hotel, Fairbanks.
- May 11 - Libertarian Party of Anchorage meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer School House on Third and Eagle.
- May 13 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.
- May 18 - Deadline for articles for the June newsletter.
- May 20 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.
- May 21 - Kenai area Libertarian Party meets at the Golden Nugget Bakery, Soldotna.
- May 27 - District 8 Libertarian Party meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Restaurant in Eagle River.



peace.
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