

LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



The People vs. Microsoft

Recent actions by the Department of Justice should concern free market Libertarians, as it appears that the business success of the Redmond, Washington based Microsoft Corporation could be derailed by government antitrust regulators. The government argues that Microsoft has used its near-monopoly position as a computer operating systems vendor to absorb and dominate other software markets, chiefly that of the internet browser segment. Specifically, the DOJ claims that Microsoft violated a consent decree it signed some years ago that prevents it from forcing computer manufacturers to install add-on software that is not a part of the operating system. Microsoft claims that its Internet Explorer browser is no longer a stand-alone product, but now an integral part of the operating system and cannot be disabled without crippling the operating system itself. The operating system is the core software that controls how a computer runs all other applications. Individual applications, such as spreadsheets, word processors, games and financial management programs, all must be written to work under specific operating systems.

The Justice Department and Microsoft's competitors argue that Microsoft is using its position to eliminate competition in markets it doesn't already control, particularly Netscape Corporation's Navigator, which currently holds more than 60% of the internet browser market. Netscape almost single-handedly built the browser market to exploit the explosive growth in popularity of the internet and its graphical interface, the World Wide Web. There are several other web browsers available, but the market is dominated by Navigator and Microsoft's Internet Explorer. The primary difference in the two products is their price: Navigator costs anywhere from \$39 to \$79, depending on which features the customer wants included; Microsoft is giving away the full version of Explorer free to anyone who wants it. The crux of the government's case rests on the licensing agreements which computer manufacturers must sign in order to install the Microsoft Windows 95 Operating System. The agreement in question forbids manufacturers from installing the Windows 95 OS unless they also install

MS Explorer as a computer's default web browser.

More than 90% of all personal computers are sold with Microsoft's Windows 95 OS. The market share for the Macintosh OS, Windows' closest competitor, is now less than 6%. The remainder of the market consists of IBM's OS/2 Warp or various brands of UNIX. The success of any given OS depends largely upon how many other third-party applications are written to work with it. Since Windows is the dominant platform, almost all applications vendors write their software specifically to operate under Windows. They will sometimes compile versions that run on the Macintosh, OS/2 or UNIX, but as the market share for these systems dwindles, fewer software companies will support them.

If Microsoft were only an Operating Systems vendor, there would be no controversy, but the company also produces applications, and tends to dominate these other markets as well. Had they achieved this position through fair competition, no one would be concerned, but their business practices over the past decade have often raised eyebrows, even among Libertarians. In 1993, Intuit Corporation's Quicken was the market leader in financial management software, and Microsoft's own product, MSMoney, was so inferior that few consumers even considered it a viable choice. Rather than attempt to improve MSMoney to make it more competitive with Quicken, Microsoft tried to buy the entire Intuit Corpora-

Continued on page 2

January Meeting at Tito's

The next East Bay Region General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 1998 at Tito's Mexican Restaurant, 15508 East 14th Street in San Leandro, across the street from BayFair Mall (not at Ricky's as was reported last month). We will be electing new officers at this meeting, as well as recognizing the local Libertarians who have agreed to serve as our candidates in the November 1998 general election, so please join us and exercise your right to vote for a Libertarian. Enjoy a fine meal from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and then stay for the elections immediately following. All dues-paying members of the East Bay LP who have signed the "Non-Initiation of Force" declaration (see page 7) are eligible to vote. For more information, please call the LP at (510) 531-0760.

Continued from page 1

tion to make Quicken its own product. Software company mergers and acquisitions rarely raise objections from consumers or regulators, since the combined companies are usually better able to support their customers, but the Microsoft/Intuit merger was very quickly blocked by the FTC, with hardly any objections from free-market capitalists.

In this environment, does the consumer really have any choice? A truly free market should allow the best products to succeed and encourage less successful competitors to continually improve their products to gain market share. The irony of Microsoft's success is that it has achieved its dominance with products that are widely considered rather mediocre and frequently released with serious flaws. Many computer industry professionals feel that the Macintosh OS is vastly superior to Windows even in its current incarnation, but the internal problems of the Apple Computer Corporation (and the higher cost of hardware required to run it) have kept it from expanding its niche market. IBM's OS/2 was the first viable 32-bit operating system to run on the Intel CPU and still maintains a decided technological edge in performance over Windows, but while it is competitively priced, it has so few users that the lack of third-party developer support prevents it from growing in acceptance. Most kinds of UNIX that operate on PC's (e.g. Linux, FreeBSD, etc.) are available to the public *for free* (or for a nominal charge far less than Windows, the Mac or OS/2), but with no single company to market these systems to the consumer market, there is no compelling reason for computer

buyers to request it. Thanks to a multi-billion dollar marketing campaign, television advertising and a catchy Rolling Stones tune, Windows 95 is the OS most home consumers use. Most business computers also run Windows, even if it is not necessarily the best platform for their purpose. The *San Francisco Examiner* recently quoted a systems administrator for a South of Market internet company who said, "People use Microsoft products not because they are best, but because they are what is compatible with most other software they need."

Does this mean that free market principles have failed in the software industry? Not necessarily. Despite its command of the all-important OS market, Microsoft is not the biggest bully on the block. IBM is still the world's largest software company in terms of revenues and variety of products; Novell is still the market leader in the world of network operating systems; and even with the release of MS Internet Explorer, 60% of internet users are still willing to pay for Netscape Navigator, rather than download Microsoft's Explorer for free.

The consent decree that Microsoft is accused of violating was intended to allow the company to maintain its monopoly in the OS segment, but discourage it from developing a monopoly presence in other market segments. Consent decrees signed by corporations that limit their business activities are not unprecedented. In the 1980's IBM operated under similar restrictions, as it held such an overwhelming command of the mainframe world, the government feared it would hold a similarly dominant position in the emerging desktop computer market. One could argue that this compelled IBM to develop its own PC to be an open design, which allowed smaller competitors to build compatible systems. This fiercely competitive marketplace kept prices low and fueled the technological and information revolution we now enjoy.

Competition is always good for business, for consumers and for the economy as a whole. Any business that kills its competition to monopolize an industry betrays its customers and loses their loyalty. How many of us felt any loyalty to AT&T before the government forced that monopoly to divest its regional operations in 1984? Competition in the communications industry fostered lower prices, better service and finally gave consumers a choice. Privatization of California's energy suppliers and resellers will do the same for the utility business.

The future of computer technology will depend on how Microsoft responds to its competitors (and the Department of Justice), how those competitors improve their products to win consumer support, and how the public chooses to spend its money. If consumers refuse to pay for mediocrity, even from Microsoft, they can wield more power and influence over the entire industry than Bill Gates can over his software kingdom. □

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FROM THE CHAIR

by Douglass Ohmen

I recently received a call from Ted Brown of the California Libertarian Party. Ted is one of those really good guys. He had made literally hundreds of long distance phone calls to Libertarians throughout the state asking them to run for offices next fall. He has been extraordinarily successful and makes our local pleas pale by comparison. He has people running in almost every district for almost every open office. That is incredible.

What can we do? At a minimum we MUST get signatures on people's petitions for them to get on the ballot. Getting on the ballot is the hurdle. You must get signatures from people in your own party. In order to do this, we ask everyone who can to come to Tito's for the next meeting. We will have a signature party. After that, we will ask each of you to take a petition or two and start going to Libertarian's homes and asking them to sign. If you don't come to Tito's, at least sign when someone comes to your door. Maybe even take a petition around to get some more signatures.

My sister, who is a member of the Planning Commission of Bellevue, Washington, sent me a copy of an essay by Michael Kinsley in *Time Magazine*, February 17, 1997. Mr. Kinsley says "Many libertarians are awfully nice, but most of their ideas are just plain awful." Before you fly off the handle and bonk Mr. Kinsley in the snoot, you have to be able to intelligently answer his points. Most of his points are against extremist positions of libertarians who wish they lived by themselves on a lush tropical island, (but with all modern conveniences and medicines.) Under these conditions we can talk pretty radically. Mr. Kinsley bashes these extreme ideas pretty thoroughly.

Mr. Kinsley does not allow these ideas to be our distant wishes. He should ask what we would today if we were elected to office. He just quotes our distant hopes back to us as our policies. It is easy for some of us to make extreme statements if we have really no anticipation of being elected—and making extreme statements ensures that there is absolutely no way that we will be elected. In the real world, we may have long term goals that might be a hundred years ahead. The laws and regulations we would pass if we were in office would have to be incremental. Most voters believe in most of the current system and don't want it changed very much. We don't think the government is where it should be, but we could not make the radical changes we would like even if we were elected to total dictator.

I urge everyone to get a copy of the essay and ask how you would answer each of his points. A Libertarian politician must answer them convincingly to be elected to office. I will make copies of the essay for anyone who asks.

One of the big Libertarian issues that constantly wipes us out is the question of welfare. Libertarians have

not been able to come up with a convincing (convincing is the key word) policy for what we would do with the vast numbers of people currently supported by the welfare system. What would we do about totally paralyzed people in wheelchairs, about unwed mothers with multiple children and no marketable skills, about the child who has just been diagnosed with acute leukemia and needs a very expensive bone marrow transplant, about the mind-blown alcoholic on the street corner, about the blind person, about the sick old person with no relatives, about the truly crazy person in the mental hospital? Liberals have a catchy idea: "compassionate welfare" that covers each of these and many more situations. The Libertarian who says "cut 'em off" will be instantly relegated to the hard-hearted, nut-cake category. Even most liberals would be willing to cut off welfare for the unmarried, studly, twenty-something who is trying to "find himself" (unless he wants to attend the humanities department of a state university.) That is why the liberals always talk about the truly needy while giving welfare to everyone with a long face and a good story.

How do we answer these questions? We certainly don't just cut the people off welfare if they have absolutely no way they can support themselves. My answer is that we must step back one long step to provide incentives for people to plan for taking care of themselves and their families in the future. People should be encouraged financially to take out insurance against birth defects. People should be given incentives to save for their old age and for their old age infirmities. People should be required to care for their old relatives the same way people are required to care for their children. They should be given significant tax incentives to pay for the insurance or to pay for the care of their relatives since that saves the cost to the government. The price of Aid to Families of Dependent Children should be the absolute guarantee of no additional children while receiving aid.

Every time a person buys insurance or pays someone else's bills, this is something the government does not have to pay. The taxpayer should be able to take the whole amount off their taxes since the government was saved many times that amount in overhead.

Welfare should be controlled locally by the people involved. Washington cannot make enough detailed rules to cover every situation. That is why there are so many welfare cheats. There are a lot fewer people who cheat on the welfare they get from their parents or from the Salvation Army or Goodwill Industries. Parents and local organizations can spot a phony and tell the petitioner to "get off their hands."

There are answers to many of these problems. Where we don't have answers that are reasonable to most people, we should shut up and accept that we are going to have to pay that specific kind of welfare. All Libertarians should examine where they stand on these problems and try to put together some answers that will get Libertarians elected and truly make the world a better place. □

Memories of Moldova

by L. Jim Khennedy

Last June, San Francisco resident and entrepreneur L. Jim Khennedy began a two-year assignment as a Peace Corps volunteer in Moldova, one of the former Soviet Socialist Republics now struggling to adjust to independence and capitalism. A tiny agrarian region scarcely 100 miles across nestled between Romania and Ukraine, political control of Moldova has changed hands many times since the fourteenth century, when the Ottoman Turks controlled the area. Once a part of Transylvania, then part of the Russian empire from 1791 to 1812, then Romania assumed control for the next 130 years until World War II, when Josef Stalin took power over the entire Eastern European area.

When the Soviet Union dissolved in the early 1990's, Moldova found itself independent and on its own for the first time in five hundred years. To assist in the transition from socialism to capitalism, the United States' Peace Corp established a program to teach capitalist free market economic principles to Eastern Europeans. Mr. Khennedy, a graduate of the San Francisco State University School of Business, is one of the volunteers bringing free minds and free markets to Moldova. The following is his first detailed report.

It's still hard to believe I'm so far from home, or that I'm actually living in this tiny little place called "Moldova." It still sounds like a made-up country in a cold war thriller novel. We've all been living with local host families since we got booted out of the hotel. I've just moved in with a new one. Familie Gadza ("host family") Number One had a very nice, large apartment with, as seems to be the case in *all* Moldovan apartments, lots of built-in polished wood display cabinets (fine crystal and china behind glass doors), Persian rugs on the floors and walls, and bathrooms divided into two rooms, the "veceau" (W.C.) And "biaca" (bath). It was in a *hideous* Soviet megalith apartment building that looks like something that was hastily thrown together by little kids, then left uncleaned and unrepaired for a few decades. From the outside, all of these complexes look like the worst, most uninhabitable slums you've ever seen. They're all almost exactly the same. Mine was surrounded by several acres of vegetable gardens which the residents maintain, and in my case, what seems to be a little rural farming hamlet in the middle of a big city.

It was hot and humid as the Devil's crotch when we first got here, but not quite hot enough to make the icy shower water tolerable. Probably the one thing about Moldova that's hardest to accept is that the

government has shut down the hot water. To bathe, it's necessary to heat a bucket of water on the stove, then sit in the tub and ladle it on like you're preparing yourself for cannibal stew.

We've gone through a period of great, blasting thunderstorms with torrents of rain. The second time this happened, following a full week of blue skies and sweat, was the one time I wore my only good suit to visit a government minister. My wool pants are now muddy up to the knee (another thing Moldova doesn't have is dry-cleaning). Now the weather is rather cool and pleasant, which makes me nervous. It's *August*. What will October be like? January?

So what's it like here? Very, very different in every way. Some differences are big, some too subtle to adequately explain. The capital city of Chisinau (pronounced "Kish-New") is very beautiful, green and run-down in a way I associate with small towns in the deep south and mid-west, but also very "European"—one of those "subtle" things I can't describe, just different. Nothing seems to have been repaired or maintained in the past decade. Everywhere you see peeling paint, broken walls and big piles of stone. The sidewalks are all lumpy and irregular, gradually transforming themselves into hills and mountains. Here and there, the streets have a "patchwork" look that suggests they were once worked on, but you see enough cracks and holes to indicate it wasn't recently. There is, however, a lot of construction going on in the "rich" folk part of town. The trees form an unbroken canopy over the lesser streets and everywhere you look there are lawns, parks, vegetable gardens and little patches of wilderness. Particularly downtown, the streets are lined with vendors at card tables, booths or phone-booth sized kiosks. The kiosks particularly fascinate me—I've never seen anything like them in America. The smallest really *are* the size of phone booths; the largest might be a little bigger than a pick-up truck. They generally have one tiny window cluttered with samples of booze, soft drinks, and anything else they have for sale, all beneath a Coca-Cola logo and a tiny sign saying "Non-Stop" or "Mini-Mart."

You see lots and lots of booze and candy on sale, particularly strange varieties of bubble gum with postage-stamp sized stickers instead of "Bazooka Joe" cartoons. Dracula and the Hunchback of Notre Dame are very popular, as is "Sumo," with a picture of Hulk Hogan on the box. Also action stars and, less frequently, nudie-cutie chewing gum for Dad, with little pictures of scantily-clad teenage models. Sidewalk tables covered with Russian books and periodicals; tabloids that look a lot like the *Weekly World News*,

what looks like women's magazines and Russian editions of *Cosmopolitan*, *Playboy* and *Soldier of Fortune* "tough-guy" novels. Paperbacks are virtually unknown here—even cheesy romances and martial arts adventures are published like old Hardy Boys books, hardbound with the artwork printed right on the cover. Aside from a couple of tabloids with an occasional front-page nudie photo and the "adult" bubblegum, the only sign of commercial sleaze I've seen out here are the condoms, sold on the sidewalk in little packets with soft-porn photos on front and brand names or slogans—always in English, for some reason—ranging in respectability from "Happy Family" to "Wildcat." My personal favorite reads "Anti-Baby." There are American and European cigarettes and pseudo-American brands with names like "American Dream," "Hollywood," "Brooklyn," etc., and strange little wares like vodka, cigarettes, diapers and shampoo all on the same little table.

Almost every little block has its own tiny cafe selling soft drinks, booze, and a limited selection of greasy little snack foods, like doughnut-sized pizzas and the National Food of Moldova, "placinta." We call these "plastic chair places" because they all have the exact same mass-produced, form-molded one-piece plastic lawn chairs and round picnic tables with big "Lucky Strike" or "Coca-Cola" umbrellas overhead. I've eaten a *lot* of ice cream since I got here, always from street vendors. I have yet to see an ice-cream carton or scooper: there are a couple of machines dispensing soft ice cream into cones, but usually you buy it pre-coned out of a little freezer, with a slip of paper over the top. Of course, the cones are always soft and squishy and start falling apart and leaking before you can finish them. Coca Cola rules: their white-on-red trademark is omnipresent - on the aforementioned umbrellas, painted over walls like murals, wreathing windows - even of stores that have nothing to do with food and drink. It's eerie, as if Big Brother had been replaced by a soft drink. It's usually warm if you buy it on the street, and you have to drink it on the spot - the vendors won't give up the deposit on the bottle. Cans are rarely seen and much more expensive. Fanta is far more popular than in the States, whereas Pepsi is virtually unknown. Less conspicuous but more fun is a European knock-off called "American Cola," which has a painting of a blond dude surfing on an American flag on its label. I've also seen "Whiskey Cola," but haven't asked what it's supposed to be. McDonald's is not here! Several outlets are under construction even as I type, but for the time being, the only burger in town comes

from "Wam!," a German junk food outlet that looks pretty much like a cheap third-world imitation of American fast food dives, with an upside-down McDonald's "M" (i.e., the "golden arches") for the "W" in its name.

The cars are a little different than in the States: funny little squat Euro-thingies that would look right at home in a Robert Crumb cartoon; a lot of motorcycles with side-cars (think "Hogan's Heroes"), and a lot more military vehicles than I've ever seen before. Outside of Chishinau the bike-wit-side-car seems to be the vehicle of choice, along with cute (but incredibly uncomfortable) horse-drawn carts and immense Soviet farming machines that look as if Survival Research Laboratories had a hand in their design. People drive CRAZY here. Except on the very biggest of urban streets (or "strada"), there are no lines to mark traffic lanes, and apparently no rules governing where or how one may park. The car, not the pedestrian, has the right of way in Moldova. The one local I've actually driven complained extensively about how poorly his countrymen drive compared to the orderly Germans, all the while accelerating up and down from 20 to 60 kph on city streets, weaving and bobbing, and once shooting backwards halfway down a block.

There are no panhandlers as we know them although little boys are forever shoving their open palms at us, and cripples and old women sit along the streets with hands out for alms, and there is virtually no graffiti. I haven't seen any "tagging" whatsoever, and only a few subtle inscriptions in relatively out-of-the-way places. These usually consist of the word "Nirvana." The Moldovans seem to be tremendous martial arts buffs, and one of them inscribed the names of his heroes on the ceiling of a little gazebo in my complex: "Van Damme . . . Bruce Lee . . . Djecky Chan."

I find myself preoccupied with cataloging the multitude of sights that make this place Moldova, a hopeless task, but here's a little more: old women sweeping the sidewalks with crude brooms made by strapping leafy twigs to short poles; the abacus at the side of every cash register or calculator on a store's counter (the clerks use the abacus); crowds of people all carrying plastic shopping bags, like you'd get from a department store (they're called "pungas," and they seem to be the national luggage); Persian rugs on the walls of EVERY apartment; wild dogs roaming the streets, forming packs at night and in the less busy areas, getting on and off trolley buses as if they were commuting; tethered goats grazing by the side of the road or being led on leashes. You see strange mix-

Continued from page 5

tures of Romanian, Russian and English text on walls and signs. Almost everything in print (books, newspapers) seems to be in Cyrillic script, signs are usually in Romanian, with odd bits of English such as “Non-Stop” (meaning open 24 hours), “Popcorn” (one popcorn vendor’s sign proudly announced, “American Movie Popcorn”) and “Hot Dogs.” Lots of American candy and consumer goods appear on sale - frequently, when you look closely at the label, Russian versions with a familiar logo and trademark, then small print in Cyrillic.

Lots of soldiers can be seen on the streets, dressed in uniforms just like the space cadets in “Forbidden Planet.” There are actually several varieties, and I don’t know what the slightly different uniforms and hats mean, except that the embassy guards all wear red berets. Traffic cops, who’ve paid handsomely for their jobs, *receive no salary*, and yet live in the best houses in town, stand on the side of the road flagging down drivers with white batons and extorting bribes.

Corruption that would curl a Mexican sheriff’s moustachios is a way of life here. One of the volunteers has advanced the theory that Chisinau is “rich” from graft and bribery, and in Transnistria, the renegade Russian part of the country, from illegal sales of stockpiled Soviet hardware. Most businesses don’t pay their taxes because it would be impossible to be in business if they did (I’ve heard the rate could be as high as 90% of income for a company that paid *everything* it was supposed to). However, government officials apparently tell you very matter-of-factly how much of a bribe (“mita”) they require, and the “Mafia” routinely collects its own comparatively small tax. (At one point during the two-week internship I recently completed with a local trucking company, my boss asked me to wait in the car while he did something “a little bit illegal” to lower the hefty sum he was being charged for an import tax).

I have heard the word “Mafia” more often since I got here than at any time since “Godfather, Part II” came out. I gather that, after the government, they’re probably the biggest employer here. Students *routinely* slip a 20 liu note (buying power of \$20 here) into their exam books to buy good grades, and copying a fellow student’s exam - if you can’t afford the bribe - is considered perfectly acceptable “helping.”

The women here are gorgeous - tall and svelte, with pretty valentine-shaped faces, usually dressed either as if they’re on the way to the prom or *sexy*: bare midriffs, plunging necklines, micro skirts, black

vinyl hot pants, etc. The big fad in footwear is for those huge 70’s-style platform soles, and they must be very proud of their lingerie, because it shows clearly through the translucent/transparent fabrics half their outfits are made of. There have been moments when I’ve wondered whether I’ve fallen into the place good girl watchers go when they die, or simply the Planet of the Fashion Models. It’s a fleeting beauty, though, and somewhere in their 30’s they all seem to “blossom” into the image you probably have of Eastern European women.

Moldova is plagued by shortages, and the females suffer from a terrible one in the supply of names. There are only four girls’ names in all of Moldova: Tanya, Natasha, Anna and Vicka. I’ve been assured by a more qualified judge that the men don’t compare in desirability. They’re a little smaller than average for the U.S. (I’m about average here), and wear their hair short, generally in crew or buzz cuts. The young ones look like a bunch of Hitler Jüger, except for the Rock ‘n Roll crowd, who are perfect duplicates of American kids from the long hair to the “Nirvana” T-shirts and Nikes. They are all called Sasha, Tudor, Ion or oddly enough, “George.” No one smiles on the streets (although they do in private); in fact, we’ve been warned *not* to do so ourselves, because it marks us as foreigners.

The village is another quantum leap from The World As We Know It. One main road surrounded by a maze of muddy canyons that serve as streets; cute, but incredibly uncomfortable, horse carts clattering down the streets, even the dirt ones; chickens, cows and ducks wander around freely *everywhere*. All the small houses are surrounded by the family vegetable gardens. There are only two restaurants and a few more stores and, since this is Eastern Europe, a few towering apartment complexes and immense government buildings. Being Moldova, some of the latter have mighty stairways as you’d see leading up to any government building, that end in big plots of unmowed grass dozens of yards from the crumbling road, with several of those little teeny kiosks selling snacks and beverages, and women at tables with more of the same. There are wells on every other corner and shrines on the rest; strange little bars that look more like Wild West general stores (and have room for four or five people standing shoulder-to-stomach) and old women with scarves wrapped around their heads. Perhaps there is *too much* to say about Moldovan village life.

If you’re interested, next time I’ll tell you about the monster guard dogs, bathing in sulphur water, the terror of outdoor “Turkish Toilets” and all the rest later. ◻

Marin County LP News

This month at the Marin LP, we are focusing on February's State Convention in Los Angeles. If you are interested in parliamentary procedure or in the activities of the State Committee, come join us at our first Region 21 parliamentary debates in several years. We will be selecting delegates to represent our region in addition to our elected officers at the State Convention, which will be held over the long President's Day Weekend, February 13-16, 1998 at the Los Angeles Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Our fundraising drive is already under way. We are going to have a garage sale on January 31 to support our ongoing efforts at developing a political presence here in Marin. Any of you who may have donations of clothing or household goods please give us a call. Both the Chair and Vice Chair are willing to come pick up donations at your home. We are also accepting donations at all of our general meetings. Also if you have a project in mind that could use the support of the Marin LP, come to the general meeting and give us a try.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the fundraising effort and to attend the State Convention.

The convention offers you the opportunity to meet other Libertarians from around the state, as well as such figures as Steve Dasbach, the chair of the National LP, and our former presidential candidates, John Hospers, Ed Clark, David Bergland, Andre Marrou, Harry Browne and Congressman Ron Paul.

For mailing list changes or if you are interested in affiliating with the Marin LP, contact our Secretary, Matt Turley at Matt_turley@maxager.com.

We would like to mention that Jon Petersen, the Northern Vice Chair, has bestode upon Jeffrey Sommer The East Bay Region's Executive representative, the title of Northern Vice Chair Deputy of California. Congratulations Jeff! Let us all support Jon's efforts at becoming California State Treasurer in the November 1998 general election. Good Luck JP!

To reach the Marin LP by phone, you may call (415) 331-1500 extension 139. If you have email, you may send inquiries to Ms. Tammy Austin (Chair) at MarinLP@webtv.net, Vice Chair Janice Edelstein at Janiced@wellsfargo.com, Secretary Matt Turley at Matt_turley@maxager.com or Treasurer Richard Lowry LVXINK@webtv.net. Our mailing address is P.O.Box 10671, San Rafael, CA 94912. Hope to see you at the meeting on January 18! ▣

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For those joining the LP as a voting member)

*I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the **initiation** of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.*

Libertarian Party of California

20993 Foothill Blvd., #318
Hayward, CA 94541

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Phone: _____ FAX: _____

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Basic LP Membership
(includes *LPC Monthly*,
LP NEWS + *Lifeline*) \$25

Subscription only to
Libertarian Lifeline \$10

Donation (Thank you!)

Please make checks payable to:
Libertarian Party of California

I would like to join: Marin County LP East Bay Region LP

Recorded in database

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **JANUARY**

Thursday, January 8, 1998, 7:00 p.m. Free Sonoma Forum. "An Introduction to Libertarianism," featuring Adam Chacksfield, James Oglesby, Ken Voss and Jerry Wilhelm at Jerome's Mesquite BBQ Restaurant at 1390 N. McDowell Ave., Petaluma, CA. Please RSVP by phone to (707) 769-9351 or by email to john@johnhoward.com.

Sunday, January 18, 1998, 4:30 p.m. Marin County LP General Meeting. Help reinvigorate the Marin LP by attending the monthly General Meeting at the Marin Masonic Lodge, 23 Corte Madera Avenue in Mill Valley. The meeting will address the election of delegates to represent the Marin County region at the State LP Convention. For more information, call (415) 331-1500 x 139.

Thursday, January 29, 1998, Thomas Paine's Birthday. Celebrate the great man's memory on this day by re-reading his famous revolutionary essay *Common Sense*, available on-line at <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/paine/> and elsewhere, as well as at many fine libraries and bookstores everywhere.

Tuesday, January 20, 1998, 7:00 p.m. East Bay Region LP General Meeting. Join us in the banquet room at Tito's Mexican Restaurant, 15508 East 14th Street in San Leandro, across the street from BayFair Mall (*not* at Ricky's as was reported last month). Since we will be electing officers for 1998 as well as delegates to the State Convention, your attendance at this important meeting will be vital for the future of our region. For more information call the LP at (510) 531-0760.

Tuesday, January 27, 1998, 7:00 p.m. Oakland/Berkeley Libertarians in the 16th Congressional District will meet to discuss regional issues at the offices of Resources for Independent Thinking, 5236 Claremont Avenue, Oakland, CA. For more information, contact Jeffrey Sommer at (510) 537-3212.

Saturday, January 31, 1998, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fundraising Garage Sale for Marin County. 106 Bayview St. in San Rafael. Come to help sell or bring your own items to sell. For information or pick-up of merchandise, call (415) 331-1500 extension 139.

Libertarian Party of California
20993 Foothill Blvd., #318
Hayward, CA 94541-1511

Address Correction Requested

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