

Libertarian Penn

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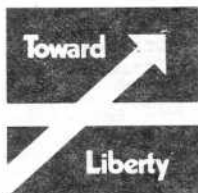
NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA

"Reason and virtue alone can bestow liberty."

—Anthony A.C. Shaftesbury

THE LIBERSIGN, AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME AND GONE, OR, HOWCUM A PLUMBER IS A PROFESSIONAL BUT ANY JOKER WITH A PENCIL IS AN ARTIST?

Last May, the National Execom, in its wisdom, declared that the party should adopt a logo incorporating the libersign and the words 'Toward Liberty', then, instead of hiring someone to do the job (i.e., a professional graphic designer/ad agency/etc.) and forgetting that you get what you pay for, they asked for suggestions from members. At the September Execom meeting, one logo was submitted which exemplifies good design but does not look like a libersign: an alternative was sent later which looks like a libersign but is not a good design, and it was proposed to have it printed in red, white, and blue.



It is inconceivable to me that in a group of libertarians there are still some people who think that: 1. there are no objective criteria for good design (i.e., if you can't make an intellectual judgment, a gut reaction will do) and 2. chairpeople and Execom members are endowed by their positions with artistic ability.



I am presenting this issue because it will be brought to a vote at the Execom meeting in New Orleans this month, and your region 7 representative (Kathy McAdams—see address elsewhere in this issue) would like to know your opinion on this subject. To be fair, we are reproducing both designs—to be even more fair, I won't tell you which is the good one. I would encourage you, however, to vote to scrap the whole thing and adopt some symbol (designed by professionals) to replace the libersign. To be fair again, I am listing reasons (some of my own, some of others) for and against the libersign.

PRO: 1. It's phallic.
2. It's nice to have a symbol with esoteric significance.

CON: 1. It's phallic.
2. It's very difficult to use effectively as a graphic element.
3. Very few people know what it really means.
4. It's militaristic.
5. It has right-wing directional emphasis.
6. 'Toward Liberty' (a prepositional phrase) lacks impact—'Declare your Independence' would be much stronger (an imperative sentence with an emphatic verb).
7. This year will see a glut of red, white and blue everywhere—let's not get ourselves confused with the people who are celebrating for the wrong reasons.

—JoAnne Chernow

TRUTH, JUSTICE, these are its immutable laws. Far from us be the dangerous maxim that it is sometimes useful to mislead, to deceive, and enslave men, to insure their happiness. Cruel experience has at all times proved that with impunity these sacred laws can never be infringed.

—Pierre Simon
Marquis de Laplace



Declare your independence

It is better to light one wee
candle than to curse the darkness.

—A SCOTISH EPITAPH

If you are wondering why I chose to open an article on the Pennsylvania ballot drive with an epitaph, it's because I have some bad news. As the epitaph would indicate, the ballot drive is dead. The reasons are quite simple. We simply do not have the people or the resources to buck what are quite possibly the most restrictive ballot status requirements this side of a banana republic. Add to this the fact Stew Engel, Mildred Freeward, and Roy Eurvard have all recently moved out of the state and you'll begin to appreciate the magnitude of the problem that confronts us. Now Jo Chernow and her hardy band of freedom-mongers would probably be willing to beat their respective heads against the proverbial wall (though they probably couldn't manage to do it in unison!) if there existed some remote chance of breaking through to the other side, right? But the wall of red tape between us and ballot status, while figurative, unfortunately is more real than proverbial. In any event, it is impenetrable at this stage of our operation. To change the ground rules would take too long. To sign up enough dedicated new members to operate under the present ones seems a bit far-fetched too. So....

BUT, don't despair! It isn't as hopeless as it sounds! Roger and David will be needing help in several adjacent states. We will be publishing from time to time information on ballot drives in which members of the LPP can (hopefully) help out. If you're interested, I'm sure we can keep you posted. Let us hear from you!

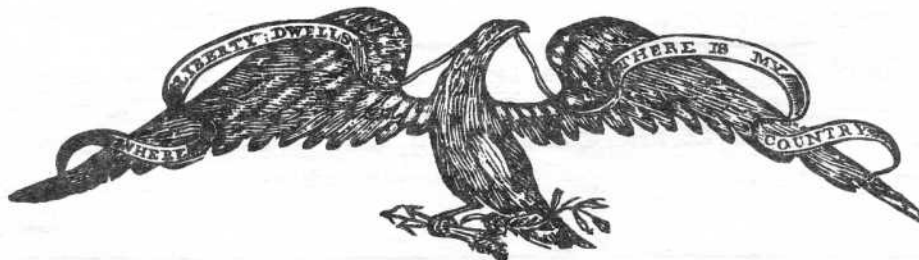
If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; there is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.

—Herny David Thoreau

Which brings us to the subject of alternate political activity. In addition to helping out in ballot drives in other states, there are a few other things that can be done. One possibility is to form front groups along the "Libertarian Alternative" line. In that way, you can be a "responsible opposing viewpoint" when the local TV station airs one of its outrageous editorials. Another possibility is to call radio talk shows, presenting the libertarian position on a given issue. The third possibility that comes to mind is the old standby—a letter to the editor. If you can think of any other fun activities, kindly drop us a line. If it's a good idea, we'll pass it on to our readers.

EXECOM MEETING

A National Execom Meeting will be held January 31-February 1 at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans. Anyone wanting more information or to drive home a point with Region 7 Representative Kathy McAdam can write: 339 Grafton Avenue, Newark, N.J. 07104; or call, (201) 482-3471.



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL...

Having only photostats of undated newspaper articles to glean for information, I'm very much afraid that I'm not in a position to give you a thorough overview of MacBride-Bergland: A Libertarian Odyssey. In a UPI release, MacBride blasted the Democrats and Republicans, called for a reversal on drug laws, cuts in defense spending, and the abolition of the FED. An AP release called him a "Farmer-Lawyer" and presented his policies on victimless crime laws, defense, and American neutrality.

In Denver, David Bergland outlined the LP platform for the AP, stressing that we have a lot to offer to liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans. He also said, "The GOP is on its last legs and is thrashing around not knowing what to do." (How true, how true!) Bergland has also campaigned in his home state of California and Hawaii.

I have heard rumors to the effect that MacBride is shooting for the Democratic Primary in New Hampshire! More next month!

"The number of men sitting at Atlanta and Leavenworth for revolting against the ex-tortions of the government is always ten times as great as the number of government officials condemned for oppressing the taxpayers to their own gain."

—H.L. Mencken

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the Libertarian Penn and your letter. It's especially pleasant for me, on this first day of the New Year, to review the newsletters and notes I've gotten and to appreciate the competence and ambition of my libertarian friends. I'm more optimistic this year than I have been in years; and with good reason: our ideological gains have been solid, steady, and permanent. And the libertarian base is now broad enough to insure our eventual success—given that we sustain our growth rate and integrity. Politically it is likely to get worse for several more years, but philosophically it is all ready turning in our direction. And individually we will have many a "Happy New Year" because we're the only persons who have earned the right to that mental state.

As to my situation, I have only 70 days to go and I'm working to get my reading schedule completed. I hope to see you soon and exchange some stories.

Live free,
Karl J. Bruny

Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force. Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master; never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action.

—George Washington

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Now if thou dost believe the sum of things,
Can lag inert, and by its lagging breed,
In things new movements, so thou strayest far,
From reason's path.

—LUCRETIVS

LIBERTAS 76!

We finally have some preliminary information on the LPP Convention. Mark the date of May 8th in your appointment book or where ever. There will be a pre-convention reception the evening of Friday, May 7th for people straggling in, and the business meeting will get under way Saturday morning. The agenda will also include workshops and several interesting speakers (to be announced when we get some firm commitments). The Western PA. Chapter is hard at work to make this the best state convention yet. We hope you will plan to attend!

Allegheny Chapter Vice-chair Fred Hoffstadt requests readers to send in news articles and other information concerning the coercive monopolists of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board. (See address elsewhere.) Does anyone wish to volunteer his/her services to compile such information. If so, please contact Fred.

Allegheny Chapter Business Meeting

An informal business meeting was held at the home of Bob and Bertha Murphy on Wednesday, January 14. In addition to the Murphies, Fred Hoffstadt, Charlie Rakowski, Dan Arico, and your humble editor were in attendance. In addition to Libertas 76, plans to get Roger MacBride on Pittsburgh radio station WEEP were discussed. Plans for a February Supper Club Meeting were also discussed. (With one prospective speaker in Denmark and the other sick in Florida, the January Supper Club get-together had to be postponed.)