

Building the Party

San Bernardino LP Unified and Vibrant

by Matthew Barnes

The San Bernardino County LP held its 2007 convention on December 8th in Upland, California. Party business and speakers filled the all-day event — which culminated in a blues music festival!

Michael McMahon presided over the convention, wielding the gavel as Chair Pro Tem. He'd been appointed to the office after Janita Ramirez moved to Reno, Nevada. While Juanita's presence was greatly missed by all, the attendees were confident in McMahon's abilities, voting for him to continue as Chair. Vice Chair Matthew Barnes, Treasurer Rick Nichol, Secretary Crystal Updegraff, and At-Large Officer Paul Darr were also re-elected.

Elections were followed by a string of stirring and informative speakers. Southern Vice Chair Zander Collier explained the state party's focus on county activism. He stressed the importance of outreach and follow-up. A handshake or phone call is more effective in building membership than an impersonal mailing.

Norm Westwell discussed his campaign for Ocean View School District, using humor and style to captivate his audience. He set an impressive example for other activists.

David Kocot discussed his outreach effort with allies in the highly independent Ron Paul Meetup groups. Lanny Swerdlow, a Compassionate Care activist, spoke about medical marijuana, and how San Bernardino is one of the few counties that has not adopted a patient ID card. Dave Hollist discussed his bid for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination, and explained his platform.

The San Bernardino County LP is known for its festive culture, which was reflected in the convention's atmosphere. Libertarian-owned Biacci's in Upland provided the venue and entertainment. The Winterfest Blues Festival featured six bands, including The Forty Fours, Lil A and the Allnighters, and The Phil Gates Band.

Outreach Chair Eric Bresson brought in many new faces from local colleges and other groups. Visitors came from surrounding counties. New and old libertarians rotated from the spirited music inside the restaurant to the patio outside, where spirited discussions about economy and liberty continued well into the evening.

A great time was had by all.

Matthew Barnes is Vice Chair of San Bernardino County LP and an At-Large Member of the LPC's Exective Committee. His email: mbarnes@sbclip.org.

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Ron Paul beloved at Mission Viejo High

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"Communism is not love. It is a hammer which we use to crush the enemy."

—Mao Tse-tung

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Building the Party

Ron Paul Fans Meet-Up

by Lawrence K. Samuels



Eric Rosano speaks to the Monterey Ron Paul Group Prof. David R. Henderson, center

Ron Paul's presidential campaign is catching fire. His supporters have established a tremendous grassroots presence on the Internet, outpacing all rivals. He's become a powerhouse, boasting over 1,100 Meetup groups.

Wanting to see history firsthand, I attended a Ron Paul Meetup group at a Monterey coffee shop, Café Noir. As espresso machines steamed and blenders whirled, the 15 or so members introduced themselves. Most were under 25

-- and many were currently employed in Uncle Sam's military! One member had just arrived at his new base at the Presidio; he'd already been active at his last post.

The discussion soon centered on ways to spread the word about Ron Paul's campaign and his freedom philosophy. Someone suggested putting up signs. Money flew onto the table -- almost \$100 -- to buy signs and literature before the next meeting in two weeks.

The leader, John Jones, a

young financial expert, had come all the way from San Francisco. He plans to live in Monterey and wanted to make sure there's an organized Ron Paul group in his new home town. He encouraged everyone to conceive innovative projects.

The most popular idea was to distribute literature at the upcoming, three-day "Quit Torture Teach-In & Vigil" planned by the local Peace Coalition. One Ron Paul Meetup member, Dr. David R. Henderson, had already arranged to be a keynote speaker at the event.

Someone suggested renting a theater to show Aaron Russo's *America: Freedom of Fascism*. The Ron Paul Meetup Group in Santa Cruz had rented a large movie theater to show the documentary as a fundraiser. Amazingly, the small community of Santa Cruz has over 200 Ron Paul Meetup members.

Most of Paul's supporters know that he was the 1988 Libertarian Party presidential candidate, but this only adds to his mystique. If Dr. Paul fails

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Building the Party



Ron Paul fans at Mission Viejo High School

Libertarians Impress Mission Viejo Youth

by Art Oliver

Marketing experts know you have to reach them young, so I was thrilled to accept an invite from Mission Viejo High School senior Kristina Simonsen to participate in the October 30th mock election in her Humanities class. "Candidates" in the mock election were Democratic Hillary Clinton, Republican Rudy Giuliani, and Ron Paul running as the Libertarian candidate!

My role was to explain Libertarian policy at the local, state, and federal levels to this class of future voters.

I used my experience as Bellflower mayor to show how Libertarians make positive changes. I explained how I'd privatized city services -- such as tree trimming, crossing guards, street sweeping, the building department -- and that competitive bidding led to improved services (by providing incentives) at lower cost (enabling me to cut taxes).

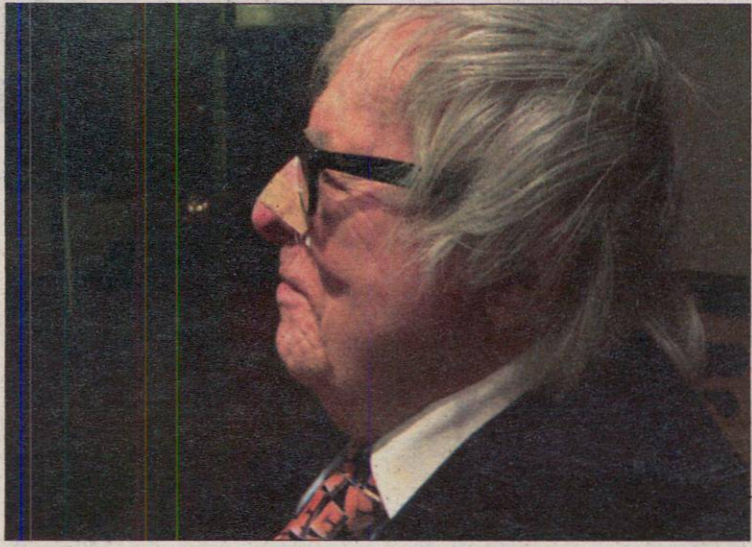
I explained that the students will have to repay the billions of dollars in state bonds when they enter the work force -- despite getting little or no benefit from the spent bond money. I explained that state mandates increase the cost of health insurance and leave many people uninsured.

To illustrate the failure of the War on Drugs, I asked

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Hollywood Scene

State Official Silences Ray Bradbury



Ray Bradbury at the Fremont Theatre

by J. Neil Schulman

California "undercover investigator," identifying himself to this reporter as "Agent Egan," entered the Fremont Center Theatre at curtain time, 8 p.m., on October 20, 2007, and halted the performance of Pulitzer Prize and National Medal of Arts author Ray Bradbury's play, *Dandelion Wine*.

Bradbury was awaiting the start of the performance with a theater full of celebrity guests, including *Empire Strikes Back* director Irvin Kershner.

The play, one of Bradbury's most autobiographical works, includes performances by several young actors. The cancellation was announced from the stage, thirty minutes after the scheduled start time, citing an obscure California law that requires a State of California licensed teacher to be present at all performances with young actors.

The company spokesman said they'd never been advised about such a requirement, and certainly not at show time. The play's director, Alan Neal Hubbs, later suggested to this

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Liberty Needs Your Time and Money

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

by Kevin Takenaga

At our recent meeting, the Executive Committee projected a budget for 2008, to be ratified at our next meeting, following the state convention. This lean and mean budget contains the following items:

1. Centralized membership processing and database management.
2. Production of *California Freedom*.
3. Distribution of the "Libertarian Perspective" op-ed pieces.
4. Holding an annual convention of delegates.

This budget assumes that the LPC will grow membership

and monthly pledge revenue by 25% year over year (YoY).

It's not a fancy budget, nor completely minimalist. But if we want to see the LPC do more to support its candidates and promote freedom in California, we must ask you for increased support this coming year.

I'm already donating as a Coffee Club member. I finance all my party-related travels up and down the state. I'm investing much of my time and money to build our party, but for me to continue contributing at this rate, I need all of you to donate as well.

Our bylaws forbid spending



the state convention in San Diego in February.

By paying dues and signing the pledge, you've earned the right to help govern the Party, at both county and state levels. It's a travesty not to take advantage of your status this coming election year. If you're not already involved, I urge you to start with your county party, then build up to the next level.

Finally, if you're interested in being a delegate to the LP National Convention in Denver in May 2008, so you can help determine our Presidential nominee, then you should attend our state convention in San Diego this February. It's where California's credentialed delegates will be chosen. One of them could be you.

membership dues on candidate support. We must raise that money separately. And we've met that challenge, through our separate Candidate Support Committee.

If you're receiving this newsletter, it's likely that you're a State Central Committee member and are eligible to attend

FROM THE EDITOR

Ron Paul Drank Our Coffee

by Thomas M. Sipos

At last Friday's Sundowner's club, I saw a LPC member in a Ron Paul baseball cap. In this issue, Lawrence K. Samuels reports on a Northern California Ron Paul Meetup group. Coincidentally, Sandra Kallander wrote in about a Ron Paul Meetup in Southern California. We have a photo of Starchild at the JSA convention in a Ron Paul t-shirt. And Art Olivier writes of his visit to Mission Viejo High, where students greeted him with Ron Paul signs.

None of the LP's declared presidential candidates excite Libertarians -- much less "ordinary Americans" -- as does Paul. I know one LPC stalwart who kinda likes Kubby, but reserves his enthusiasm for Paul. I prefer Phillies to Kubby, but I want Paul. My second choice is Karen Kwiatkowski, who's not even running (yet).

Why are the declared LP presidential candidates failing to excite the membership? How did we attract such a weak field?

If you think I've spoken heresy, consider this: On December 9, Stephen Gordon

reported on ThirdPartyWatch.com that "In a move most unusual for this body, the Libertarian National Committee just adopted a resolution encouraging Ron Paul to seek the Libertarian Party presidential nomination ... The resolution recognized Paul's standing and history with the Libertarian Party. It also recognized a renewed passion that Paul has ignited across America ... The motion was raised by former Congressman Bob Barr and approved unanimously by the body."

That's right, the LP's leadership has practically endorsed another party's candidate. Unanimously.

Gordon quotes from the resolution: "In the event that Republican primary voters select a candidate other than Congressman Paul in February of 2008, the Libertarian National Committee invites Congressman Ron Paul to seek the presidential nomination of the Libertarian Party..."

So the LNC recognizes that our current candidates are, well, they're not exactly Ron Paul, are they?

Many Libertarians are thrilled with America's excitement over Paul, particularly the enthusiasm he inspires among youth. I've heard LP members speculate that once Paul loses the GOP nomination, his supporters will join the LP, regardless of whether Paul runs on it. (Although more will join us if he does.)

I agree. But others have postulated a "dark side" to the Paul phenomenon. They think that Paul is competing for "our" money. One party pundit wrote that 70% of all LP member donations are going to the Paul campaign, the remaining 30% to all LP parties and candidates (national, state, and local). I suspect this pundit pulled that 70% out of his a--, but I agree that some of the money that went to Paul would have gone to us.

Not everyone thinks so. A longtime L.A. party officer (and Paul contributor) opined to me, "Yeah, right. As if all that money would have gone to the party."

Nevertheless, the LPC is hurting financially. We got some bad news last November. Our printer hit us with a price increase due to the rising cost of newsprint. To meet this additional cost, *California Freedom's* layout budget was slashed by 56%.

But *CF* will survive. We have a new layout editor, Brad Reynolds (a California resident and "none card-carrying" libertarian), who's developing a simpler template so it'll be cheaper and faster to produce *CF*. I'll

be more "hands on," making direct changes and corrections to the layout, which should further decrease costs and increase speed. I expect *CF* to become less "pretty," but still professional-looking.

But the LPC still needs your help. Our Treasurer, Don Cowles, wants you to join the Coffee Club, whereby members pledge to "buy a cup of coffee" for the LPC every day. (The inexpensive kind, not Starbucks.) You needn't even drive it over to our Panorama City office. Just use the Coffee Club pledge coupon in this issue.

You'll also find the first of what I hope will be a regular column by Beau Cain. Alas, no more of John Briscoe's excellent "how to" pieces; I've used up all he'd given me last May. I hope he sends more. Special thanks to Lawrence K. Samuels, Matthew Barnes, J. Neil Schulman, Starchild, Aarde V. Atheian, and Elizabeth C. Brierly (who sends another Ivan Eland piece from the Independent Institute) for being repeat contributors, critics, or fellow travelers, as the case may be.

Don't forget. Many of you have contributed generously to Ron Paul, whose antiwar message has outraged the establishment, yet inspired America's youth. But his campaign will end. If the LPC is to be here, to reap what Paul hath sown, we need your support.

Won't you at least buy us a cup of Joe?

From the Office

Growing Activity for a Growing Party

by Beau Cain

Much future-oriented activity enlivened the LPC's Panorama City office during the last quarter of 2007: two major membership renewal mailings, redesigning enrollment and donation forms, expanding our database capabilities, the impending deployment of the LPC's online point-of-sale feature, and plans for inviting more people to join the Party in January.

* Membership Renewal Mailings

The October membership renewal mailing drew a surprisingly robust 15% renewal rate from memberships that had lapsed or would soon lapse in 2007. This raises hope that the January mailing will produce a big return too, perhaps 65% or more.

The November membership renewal mailing predictably returned more undeliverable mail than the October mailing, because it was sent to those whose memberships expired in 2006. Despite the slow return for November renewals -- the mailing went out the week before Thanksgiving -- the LPC

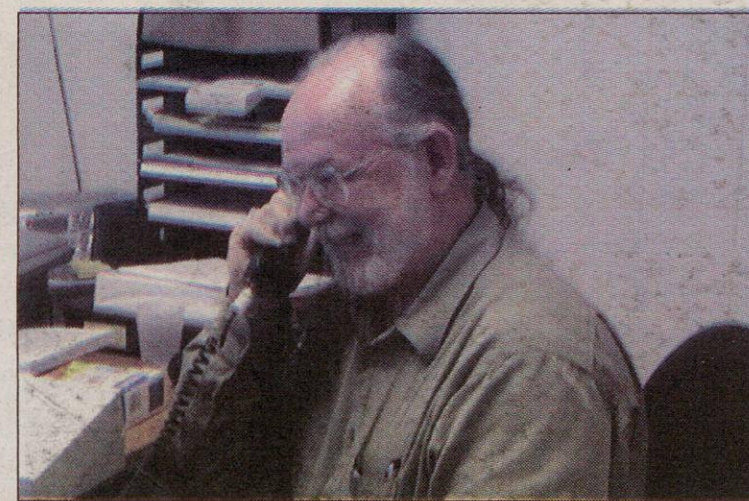


Photo: Thomas M. Sipos

collected over \$4,800 in new and renewing memberships before mid-December.

* Redesigned Enrollment Forms

We have new membership and donation forms. Membership forms clearly state that basic membership is \$25 annually, and subscriptions to the Party's engaging newsletter are \$30. Of course, these forms suggest higher donation amounts, and there have been several donations of more than \$100, and even \$250.

The redesigned donation form has been simplified, enabling donors to contribute with a check or money order, or by using their credit card, or by arranging automatic bank drafts. Easier forms encourage more donations, which in turn helps Treasurer Don Cowles in his escalating fundraising efforts. Please be generous!

* Expanded Database Capabilities

I changed some of the fields in the LPC's membership database to improve income and

membership reporting. The database now does more book-keeping than previously, and it produces more thorough membership roster reports for county officers.

* Online Point-of-Sale Pages

More exciting, though, is the Party's coming online point-of-sale pages. Libertarians will be able to join, members will be able to renew memberships, donors can contribute, and anyone will be able to pay to attend our February 22 -- 24 convention in San Diego.

Test drive the new features by visiting the LPC website: www.ca.lp.org. Renew your membership, donate, or sign up for the convention!

* Growing Membership

All 2008 members will soon get their membership cards, Coffee Club donors will get their premium coffee mugs, and the office will produce a mailing to invite national LP members to join the state Party. After the Republican Party convention, the office will generate a mailing to registered Libertarians to join or rejoin the state Party, too.

These expanded capabilities, plus more that are in the planning phases, will ensure the continued growth of the LPC -- with your continued involvement!

Beau Cain is Secretary of the LPC and acting Office Manager. His email: secretary@ca.lp.org

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."

— Jimi Hendrix

LPC Shares the Wealth With Counties

by Don Cowles

LPC membership dues are routinely split between the state and county parties. This sharing of the wealth occurred again last November, when the LPC forwarded a portion of member dues to all active county affiliates. These payments were for memberships through the end of 2007, and were through receipt of same to September 30th.

Per the LPC bylaws, dues money cannot be used to finance individual campaigns. Contact your county party to inquire how your dues are used at the local level.

The below table lists the county dues distribution for active county affiliates for the first 3 quarters of Fiscal Year 2007.

Don Cowles is LPC Treasurer. His email: doncowles2@sbcglobal.net.

COUNTY	SAMOUNT	COUNTY	SAMOUNT
ALAMEDA	240.00	SACRAMENTO	375.00
BUTTE	60.00	SAN BERNARDINO	385.00
CONTRA COSTA	210.00	SAN DIEGO	1,215.00
FRESNO	217.50	SAN FRANCISCO	375.00
LOS ANGELES	1,630.00	SAN LUIS OBISPO	105.00
MARIN	120.00	SAN MATEO	345.00
MONTEREY	75.00	SONOMA	120.00
ORANGE	895.00	SANTA BARBARA	75.00
PLACER	45.00	SANTA CLARA	670.00
RIVERSIDE	180.00	VENTURA	300.00

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With so many Libertarians in California, this could yield several hundred Network transactions each year.

Albert J. Segalla, Realtor
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Libertarians Impress

students to raise their hands if they did not know how to obtain illegal drugs. Over half of the class raised their hands. I told them that, unfortunately, all they had to do was ask a person who had not raised his or her hand.

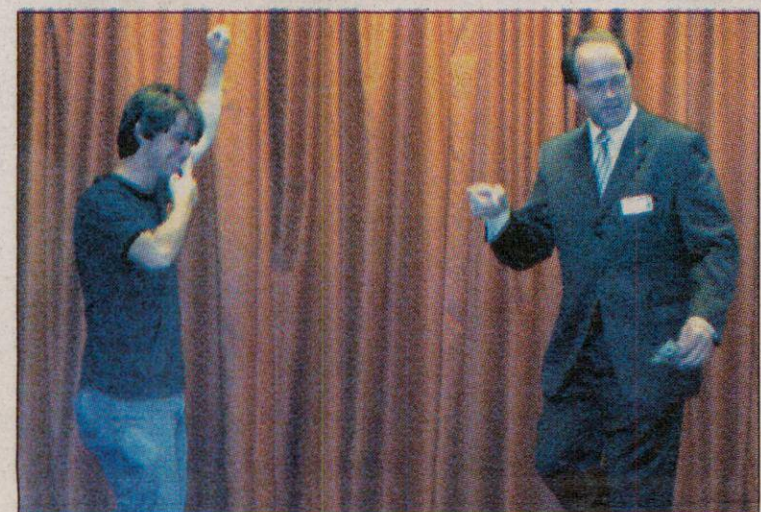
One student, Rick, helped me demonstrate how federal departments waste money. Rick played the part of California and I was Department of Education. Rick gave me two twenty dollar bills. I had Rick stand on one foot and touch his nose with his finger. After Rick completed this silly task, I returned one of his twenties and told him to sit down. I kept the other twenty for administration cost.

year, as in most recent years, the majority of his students will leave his class with libertarian leanings.

Art Olivier may be contacted at: info@flashhome.com.

Ron Paul Fans Meet-Up

to win the primary, his young followers will find little solace in the Republican Party. Hopefully, they'll take a serious look at the Libertarian Party. We should be ready to welcome them with open arms.



Art Olivier demonstrates federal education policy

I asked the class, "Wouldn't it be better if California decided how to spend its money on education, rather than give it to Washington DC and only get back half after enacting silly programs like 'no child left behind'?"

I gave Rick his \$20 back, adding, "Libertarians want you to keep the money you earn."

I said that the United States is borrowing money from Japan and China to fund the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and that if foreigners lose confidence in the dollar, which appears to be happening, the Fed will have to print more money, devaluing the dollar further.

I'd spoken previously at MVHS, the first time in 2000 as the LP's Vice Presidential candidate. Last year, when I was the LPC's candidate for governor, a student pretended to be me for the mock election.

After a Q&A session, every student received the LPC's booklet, *A New Vision for America*, courtesy of LPC Secretary Beau Cain.

On my way out, I shook hands with the 17-year-old faux Ron Paul. The teacher said that this Paul would likely win the mock election, and that this

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Libertarian Party members are also welcome to join the list and receive our media e-mail missives!

Holding a Libertarian Event?

Contact us with your information!
Editor@CA.LP.Org

Ray Bradbury

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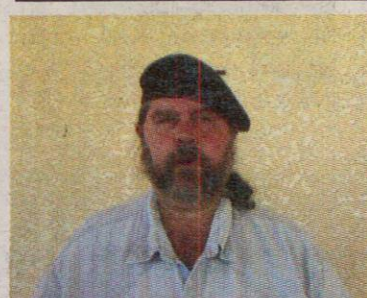
reporter that the play's cancellation might have more to do with Egan's finding an excuse to shut down the performance due to his previously having been denied free tickets to the play.

After the cancellation, Bradbury, perhaps best known as the author of *Fahrenheit 451*, a science fiction novel in which a government has outlawed all books and firemen burn them, addressed the audience from his wheelchair, recounting his love for plays and movies. He invited everyone into the lobby, where he spent an hour commiserating with guests and signing autographs.

When this reporter approached Egan for a photo-interview, so he might explain why he'd closed the performance, Egan threatened to confiscate this reporter's camera on the claim that Egan worked as an undercover police officer. When asked to produce a badge or other official identification, Egan refused.

Dandelion Wine began performances at South Pasadena's Fremont Centre Theatre on September 29th, ending its run on November 11th.

Addendum: On December 4, Lissa Reynolds of the Fremont Centre Theater updated *California Freedom* editor Thomas M. Sipos on the incident, writing via email: "I think it's in the appeal phase, after they dropped the majority of false claims."



J. Neil Schulman

J. Neil Schulman won the Libertarian Futurist Society's Prometheus Award for his 1984 sci-fi novel, *The Rainbow Cadenza*. He can be reached through Pulpless.com.

Please Join our Coffee Club

Top 10 Reasons Ron Paul R3VOLutionaries Should Attend a Libertarian Party Convention

by Sandra Kallander

10: You needn't be eligible to vote, or registered to vote as a Libertarian, or even be over 18 in order to become a party member.

9: Becoming a delegate with voting privileges is relatively easy. Even if your views on religion, foreign policy, pets, or food supplements are in a minority, you'll probably be accepted.

8: Activists with good ideas will be heard.

7: Activists with bad ideas will be heard.

6: Someone new to argue with is always welcome.

5: It's relatively easy to be nominated to party office. If that's your goal, befriend Mark Selzer and ask him to make one of his fabulous nominating speeches.

4: It's a great opportunity to brush up on Robert's Rules of Order. If you don't know them, sit next to the guy in the Hawaiian shirt.

3: Acceptable dress code ranges from pajamas to evening gowns (though no women have ever attended in pajamas).

2: If you suggest closing the IRS, no one will look at you like you're crazy. They may call you "crazy," but among libertarians, this is an affectionate invitation to engage in discussion, and not a call for ejection by the sergeant at arms or forcible institutional commitment.

And finally, the Number One reason for Ron Paul supporters to attend a Libertarian Party convention...

1: You will meet many past, present, and future candidates for public office who sound just like Ron Paul!

Ron Paul Builds the LP

This weekend I met a Ron Paul Meetup volunteer who responded to my request for help walking precincts for Paul. We had a great time getting to know each other. Turns out she's a Libertarian, too. She's already made 100 calls to Iowa for Ron Paul. She's 87 and I don't think she's ever been active in party activities. I'm going to give her copies of *California Freedom* and encourage her to join.

That same day, I was wearing my Ron Paul T-shirt in Starbucks. A middle-aged guy in scruffy army green and a knit hat said, "Who's Ron Paul?" When I asked his major issue and he said "global warming," I thought I might be in trouble. But turns out he's a Republican dropout with a deep concern over our loss of liberty. When he heard Paul voted against the Patriot Act and supports the 2nd Amendment (in addition to not subsidizing oil companies or burning fuel in Iraq), he was enthused. I told him I was a Libertarian and he should check us out.

I expect the continual description of Ron Paul as a libertarian can only help us.

— Sandra Kallander
Culver City, CA

Raise your Cup to New Coffee Club Members!

We want to thank the following members who have stepped right up and joined the LPC Coffee Club since its March kick-off. A Coffee Club member donates a minimum of \$42 per month or \$500 or more each year.

Suzanne Bell
Ted Brown
Audrey Carlan
Alicia Clark
Edward Clark
Zander Collier
Dan Cowles
Michael Denny
Bruce Dovner
Terry Floyd
Brian Miller
Chuck Moulton
Alan Pyleatt
Aron Starr
Kevin Takenaga
Chuck Tolman
Bob Weber

LP Is Not a Teaching Tool

What is your proof that the statement ["political campaigns can educate people in ways that think tanks cannot. We should not ignore using elections as teaching tools," from "It's Not Just About Getting Votes," October 2007] is correct?

The Socialist Party got some of their objectives voted into law because those laws made it easier for power-hungry politicians to keep themselves in office, since it gave them more goodies to auction off to the highest bidder.

Libertarian proposals will only become law if Libertarians are elected to office.

If you think us Pragmatarians need to switch to the major parties, why wasn't Tom McClintock elected to State Controller or Lt. Gov? Why wasn't Ron Paul given key committee assignments, or able to get any of his bills passed?

It is because giving the people "more liberty" makes it harder for Republicans and Democrats to stay in office. So, the party leadership goes out of its way to marginalize (quasi or actual) libertarians like McClintock, Paul, and Mark Sanford of SC.

The LP can, and should be, a support group for politicians who, while in office, vote to move public policy in a libertarian direction. LP elected officials will need emotional encouragement that they are doing the right thing, because they sure as heck won't get any of that support from Republicans or Democrats.

Campaigns are only a tool for getting elected to office. On very rare occasions major party pols will "adopt" their rival LP candidate's rhetoric, only to dismiss that rhetoric about 5 days after the election.

Need proof? Read *Buck Wild*, by Stephen Slivinski. That book is required reading for any LP member who wants to increase the amount of liberty for Americans through the political process.

— Scott Lieberman
San Jose, CA

Editor replies: I'd already given several examples of "proof" whereby third parties -- the various socialist parties, Prohibition, and Reform -- helped sway public thinking, and thus influenced Democratic policy.

You say: "The Socialist Party got some of their objectives voted into law because those laws made it easier for power-hungry politicians to keep themselves in office, since it gave them more goodies to auction off to the highest bidder." So you admit that politicians were giving voters what they wanted. Thus, the problem is not politicians, or whether they have a D, R, S, or L before their names. The problem is that voters want government goodies.

You cannot win votes without first educating voters.

You say: "Libertarian proposals will only become law if Libertarians are elected to office." But "power-hungry politicians" (as opposed to bureaucrats) would gladly decrease government -- or rebuild it tenfold -- if that's what voters wanted, because winning elections is the power that politicians hunger for. Which is why the LP must educate voters about our ideas, our philosophy, our principles. So that their "highest bid" will go to politicians who promote liberty.

Please Join our Coffee Club

Letters to the Editor

Naked Cuties Strawberry Party

Just like in ice cream, some think that there are only two flavors, chocolate and vanilla. When there's not, there's...strawberry. And now, live from 30 miles down the road, from a brothel he's never been to, the chairman of the Strawberry Party, Mr. William Redpath! (See http://www.salon.com/ent/video_dog/comedy/2007/12/03/rabbitbites/index.html)

Seriously, I'm proud of our national chair for having the courage to talk with a couple of naked cuties, "Buns" and "Chou Chou". Some Libertarians, like a certain former state chair and former state newsletter editor, no doubt would have been too concerned about keeping a "grownup" image, and missed out on the fun.

Redpath could have loosened up his tie a bit though...

— Starchild
San Francisco, CA

No Susan, We're Not Pro-War Enough

My reaction was one of disdain when I read that the LPC has, under pressure from Lawrence K. Samuels, endorsed some Oct. 27 antiwar protests and that a Susan Hogarth, from as far away as North Carolina, has complained that our party is not antiwar enough [October 2007].

"Duh people" like these have been attacking our Middle Eastern policy since our President decided not to take it laying down anymore. Listening to them, we should be experiencing far more terrorist attacks now than we would if we were to continue taking those terrorist attacks laying down the way we had done in the last forty years.

They keep parroting conspicuously senseless lies even as they enjoy the first six years in their lives free of terrorist attacks.

Those people live in a dream-land called America where anyone, member of the media or not, can spew any kind of nonsense into the public airwaves and not be accountable for its veracity.

They live in a world where they never had to struggle to be secure from others who would attack them the moment they felt they couldn't defend themselves.

The United States has a conscience that would not permit it to stand by while a whole nation is being massacred the way those haters want to annihilate Israel.

Should we stand by and let them wipe out a whole nation that thinks and acts just like us, or should we hold onto our conscience when every other self-serving weakling in the world is abandoning theirs?

It is NOT advisable for our party to take a stand on the war when there are substantial currents within our party that both support and oppose this war.

In the absence of a consensus as to whether a necessary and sufficient number of Libertarians support or oppose this war, in-

continued on page 4...

I Want to Join the California Coffee Club!

☐ **Yes!** I want to buy the Libertarian Party of California working day, and pay for it on a monthly basis.

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The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. Your pledge can include membership in the Libertarian Party of California. To publicly affirm what we believe -- and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles -- we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

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LPC-2007-02-28

Because Ideas Matter

U.S. Double Standard on "Democracy"

by Ivan Eland

Letters to Editor

continued from page 3

dividual members like Samuels or Hogarth [should] decide for themselves. It would be grossly unfair to most of us who fervently support this war to forcibly be included in a party that opposed it. Any effort to drag the party to take a position on this would create more alienation and divisiveness than accommodating both blocks of sentiments without giving in to either one or the other.

We need not worry about the merits of this war from a libertarian perspective as we have an abundance of causes wherein our voices are unanimous. Let's stick to issues that unite us [rather] than divide us, such as this war whose popularity has risen or fallen according to the fickle political winds of public opinion leaders or its purveyors.

Only time will tell whether the actions our President took conducting this war were the right ones. Speaking for myself and others, I feel certain that history will vindicate President Bush on this.

For those who still feel they want to debate the question, I'll welcome them at (323) 465-2695 or Athein@ca.rr.com.

— Aarde V. Atheian
Los Angeles, CA

Editor's note: The title of this letter was penned by Mr. Atheian himself.

The Bush administration is attempting to soothe the Turkish government's apoplectic reaction to the House Foreign Affairs Committee's label of "genocide" on Turkey's slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians, which occurred almost a century ago. The administration fears that an enraged Turkish ally, already threatening to invade northern Iraq in order to suppress armed Turkish Kurd rebels seeking refuge there, will also cut off U.S. access to Turkish air bases and roads used to re-supply U.S. forces in Iraq. The administration essentially wants to allow the Turks to continue to deny a historical fact that preceded even the existence of the current Turkish system of government.

Similarly, the United States has never been too enthusiastic about criticizing Japan's denial of having used Chinese and South Korean women as sex slaves (so-called "comfort women") during World War II. More generally, the United States never really says too much when the current Japanese government regularly tries to whitewash in school textbooks the atrocious conduct of the Imperial Japanese regime before and during World War II. Again, a principal ally who does not face up to important historical facts is not reproved.

Yet the administration is

still repeatedly bringing up Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's December 2005 denial of the historical fact of the Jewish holocaust at the hands of the Nazis. That's because the U.S. government chooses to get along a lot less with the Iranian government (than it does with the governments of Turkey and Japan); because Israel, Iran's nemesis, is a U.S. ally; and because the administration can win points with its domestic Israeli lobby.

In the same vein, the administration is supposed to be supporting the expansion of democracy overseas—that's why the United States invaded Iraq, right?—but does so only in less friendly countries, not close allies. The United States has pressured weaker Arab countries near Israel to hold elections and make democratic reforms, for example, among the Palestinians and Lebanese, but it has not pressured Israel to remove the second-class citizenship of the Arab population living within its borders. The administration has aided opposition forces in Iran, even though the groups don't want the support, while making only half-hearted attempts to democratize its autocratic allies in Pakistan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Of course, the United States doesn't really need to coddle despotic regimes just to win their lukewarm support for

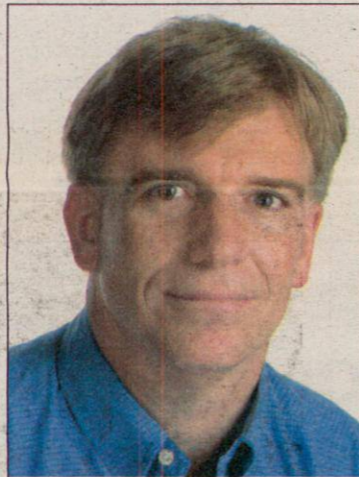
the "war on terror," their promise not to attack Israel, or their agreement to pump oil which their own economic interest would cause them to sell on the world market anyway. But neither does it need to meddle in the internal affairs of adversaries, such as Syria and Iran.

But if the United States were to have the same standard for all countries—both friend and foe—and join the international community in identifying and strongly condemning all documented cases of genocide, other war crimes, and repressive behavior by all countries, then perhaps there would be a chance that history might not be repeated.

First though, the United States needs to clean up its own act. Other countries may have acted terribly in the past, but U.S. citizens should not be blinded to the sins of their own government. Since World War II, in terms of numbers of military adventures, the United States has been the most aggressive country in the world. And many such interventions cannot be blamed on the need to combat international communism. Even after the United States' major foe—the Soviet Union—collapsed, the U.S. expanded its informal empire and stepped up military activities across the globe. The United States bombed Serbia and Kosovo; invaded Panama,

Afghanistan, and Iraq (twice); and intervened in Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia. Furthermore, the United States has kidnapped people and illegally rendered them to secret prisons in countries where torture is perpetrated, or simply had the CIA or U.S. military do the honors. These prisoners have been denied both the rights of prisoners of war and the rights of the accused that the U.S. Constitution guarantees—for example, their right to challenge detention using a writ of Habeas Corpus. It's likely that a substantial portion of these inmates are innocent.

If the United States is going to criticize other countries' behavior, both historical and current, it should eliminate the double standard at home and abroad, and clean up its own act first.



Ivan Eland is a Senior Fellow at the Independent Institute, and author of the books *The Empire Has No Clothes: U.S. Foreign Policy Exposed* and *Putting 'Defense' Back into U.S. Defense Policy*.

I want to become a proud, dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party of California. I'll receive a year of *California Freedom*, a membership card, and opportunities to vote at meetings of my County Party and to be a delegate to the State Party convention.

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— Unknown

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*Special offer, available if you have never been an LPC member.

☐ Check or money order enclosed. Monthly pledgers please include a voided check to authorize automatic monthly payments.

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"Impeach for Peace," Say Monterey Libertarians

by Lawrence K. Samuels

Monterey Libertarians, Monterey CodePink, and student peace activists of every political stripe rallied at Monterey's Window-on-the-Bay on December 8th to demand the impeachment of the entire Bush administration.

Organizers — which included local Libertarian leaders —

dubbed the event an "Impeach for Peace" rally. Participants plastered the park with four-foot-high Impeach signs and pink Peace symbols. The rally culminated with a faux Vice President Dick Cheney, who was handcuffed and donned in prison uniform.

Support from motorists was

incredible; very different from just a few years ago. This author witnessed many drivers honking their horns, smiling and displaying thumbs up.

"If soldiers were to begin to think, not one of them would remain in the army."

— Frederick the Great

Building the Party

JSA Youth Outreach

by Lawrence K. Samuels

Libertarians were a strong presence at the biannual Junior States of America (JSA) convention at the Santa Clara Marriott on November 17, 2007. The event is geared to attract high school students with an interest in political science.

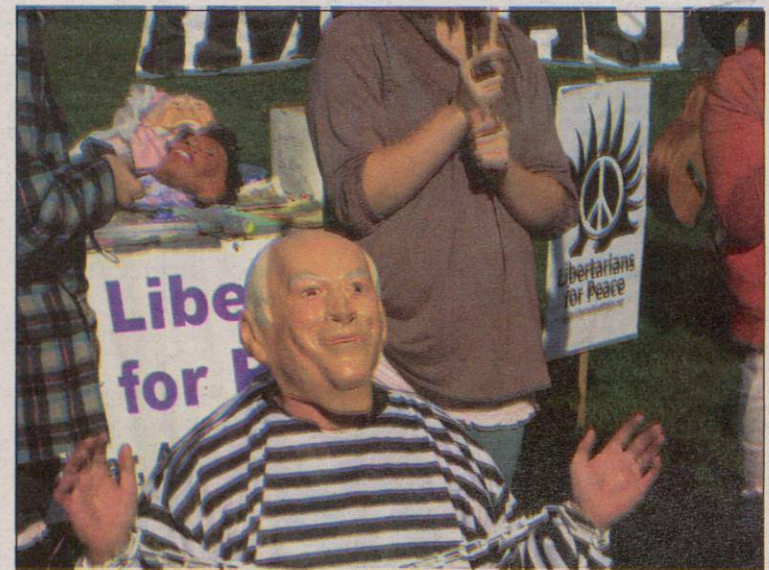
The broad spectrum of political activists participating over the years, trying to sell their

brand of politics to youth, have included animal rights activists, the Christian Coalition, the Green Party, and the John Birch Society. Yet the LPC has one advantage — it has historically benefited from preferential treatment at the JSA (more tables than the other groups), because it helped revive the JSA political fair some six years

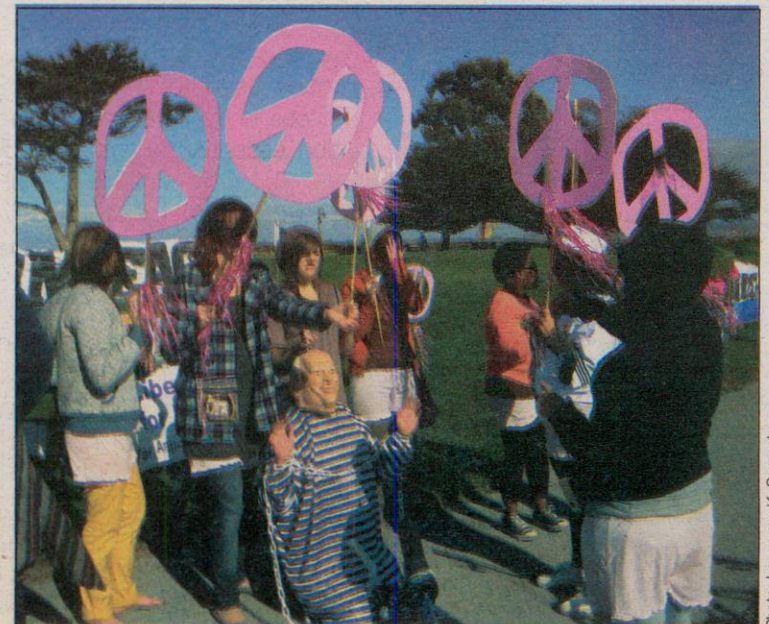
ago.

Ted Brown currently heads the LPC's outreach at JSA conventions. Seven or more libertarians volunteered to service the LPC booth at this most recent convention.

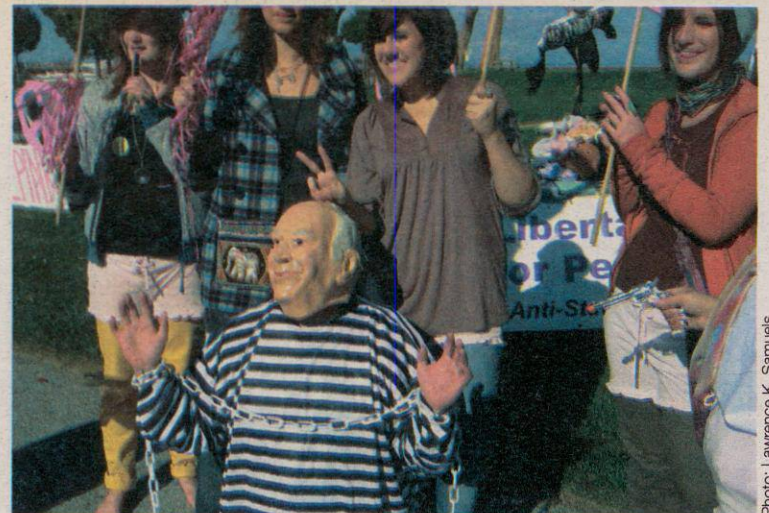
For more information see: JSA.org.



Libertarians for Peace help chain Cheney



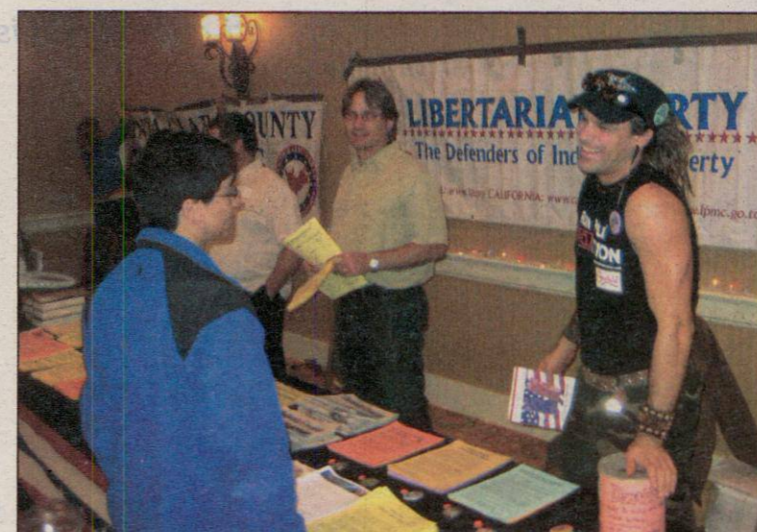
Libertarians for Peace and CodePink rally to 'Impeach for Peace'



Monterey ladies dig peace, not war



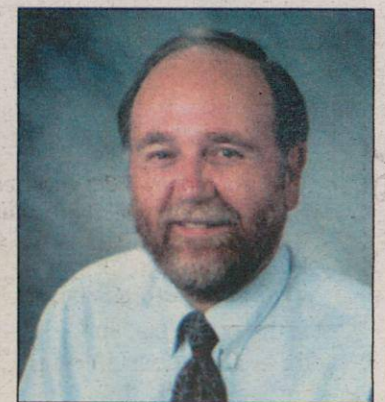
Alameda County LP Secretary Jim Eyer administers the Nolan quiz



Starchild in his Ron Paul t-shirt at the JSA convention



Young people crowd the Libertarian table



Lawrence K. Samuels is vice-chair of the Libertarian Party of Monterey County. He also co-chairs Monterey County Libertarians for Peace with Prof. David R. Henderson, an economist with the Hoover Institute. Samuels email: lawsamz@hotmail.com.

Libertarian Party!