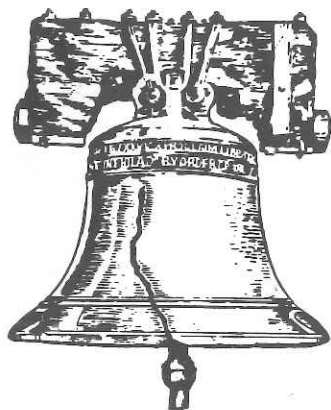


July 1990



Sandhills Libertarian Gazette

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBERTARIANS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS

Five Candidates Nominated at State Convention

At the May 5 Convention, the S.C.L.P. selected five candidates to appear on the ballot in November. These will join nine other Libertarian candidates nominated at county conventions in March.

William H. (Bill) Griffin, a computer analyst from South Congaree, was nominated to be the Libertarian candidate for the U.S. Senate and will face incumbent Republican Strom Thurmond and Democrat (erstwhile Republican) Robert Cunningham. Griffin was the Libertarian candidate for Governor in 1986 and ran for the State House in 1984 and 1988.

At a news conference on April 28 announcing his candidacy, Griffin emphasized the importance of the Second Amendment's protection of individuals' rights to own firearms. He also called for reductions in taxes and government spending, the elimination of the federal income tax, the abolition of the Internal Revenue Service, and the protection of civil liberties. According to Griffin, "Freedom is breaking out all around the world, while here in the U.S. taxes are rising and socialism is creeping in like old age. I want to give people a chance to vote for freedom."

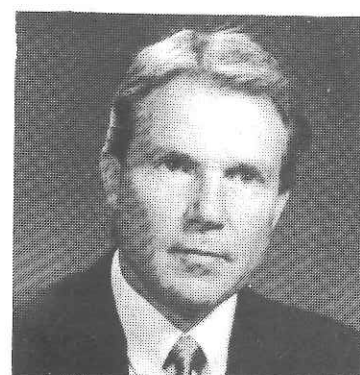
Gebhard (Geb) Sommer, an engineer from Lexington, will face incumbent Republican Floyd Spence in the Second Congressional District. There is no Democratic opponent. Sommer also ran against Spence and Democrat Phil Leventis in 1988. He served as the S.C.L.P. Executive Director in 1989. Sommer favors the same policies as Griffin, but will not be able to run as vigorous a campaign as he did in 1988. One interesting note is that Sommer spent part of last year in Australia, where he shared ideas and information with freedom fighters there.

John Harllee, a certified public accountant from Florence, will take on incumbent Democrat Charlie Williams in the race for Superintendent of Education. Republican Barbara Neilsen is also running. Harllee was one of the founding members of the S.C.L.P., edits the Southern Libertarian Messenger, and has served in a variety of positions in the party. He has a Master's Degree in Education from U.S.C. and has had 15 years of teaching experience in schools and colleges, teaching a variety of subjects, including math, physics, economics, history, English, and accounting.

Harllee has long been a critic of public education in S.C. and claims that the worst things wrong are "the anti-phonetic program to promote illiteracy by look-say" and "the lack of effective peace and safety in schools." In addition to reforming public schools,



Bill Griffin



Geb Sommer

Harllee has long been a critic of public education in S.C. and claims that the worst things wrong are "the anti-phonetic program to promote illiteracy by look-say" and "the lack of effective peace and safety in schools." In addition to reforming public schools, Harllee says that "Those parents willing to pay for their children's education in private schools should receive a tax rebate."

David Morris, a family physician who practices in West Columbia, will face Democratic incumbent Earle Morris in the race for Comptroller General. There is no Republican opposition. The two Morrises are not related, and John Harllee has suggested the following slogan: "Vote for David, not Goliath." Morris was the libertarian candidate for Secretary of State in 1986. He feels that there is substantial waste in the state budget and says that "If elected, I will withhold funds from programs not authorized by the state constitution or the U.S. Constitution."

Also nominated at the State Convention was Richard T. "Doc" Quillian of Murrels Inlet, who will run for U.S. Solicitor, 15th District, and Michael Shaffer of Oconee County, who will run for State House Seat 2. Quillian has already received a lot of publicity in Myrtle Beach with his proposal to ease marijuana laws and clean up corruption in the Solicitor's office.

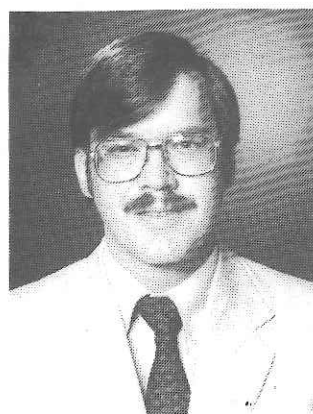
Vote
Libertarian

FREEDOM:
An American
Tradition





Anne Reaves, Richard "Doc" Quillian, and Denise Jackson



David Morris



John Harlee

S.C.L.P Celebrates Tax Freedom Day

May 5, 1990 was Tax Freedom Day. On that day, the typical American worker had satisfied federal, state, and local tax obligations and started pocketing some hard-earned money.

May 5 was also the date of the S.C. Libertarian Party State Convention in Columbia, where dozens of Freedom Fighters gathered to fight the Local Option Sales Tax and many other government schemes. Mary Lou Seymour, with help from Tom King and Mark Johnson, led a workshop giving valuable tips on communicating and reaching out to the many victims of government policies.

During the morning business session, several candidates were nominated (see article on page 1). In addition, S.C.L.P. officers were elected, including Steve Vandervelde as Chairman and Bill Griffin as Vice-Chairman. Vandervelde, who lives in Columbia, is a long-time S.C.L.P. member. He served as Vice-Chairman from 1982 until 1984 and has run for public office several times. Griffin lives in South Congaree (near West Columbia), has served as Vice-Chairman since 1986, and has also run for public office several times.

Other S.C.L.P. officers were elected at the Executive Committee meeting that afternoon. Richard T. "Doc" Quillian of Murrels Inlet is the new Secretary. Mary Lou Seymour of Bath (Aiken County) is the Recording Secretary. Tim Moultrie of North Augusta, who founded the student group Libertarians for a Better America, will serve as Media Co-ordinator. David Morris of Lexington, who has been Treasurer since 1982, will continue in that position, and Mark Johnson of Little Mountain will remain as Membership Chairman.

The guest speakers at the convention were excellent this year and included advocates of home-schooling (E. Ray Moore) and midwifery (Tavish Brinton). Herbert Lanford of the N.R.A. gave an eloquent defense of the Second Amendment rights of individuals to obtain and possess firearms. Ci-Long Li reminded us of the oppression of freedom fighters in his native China, and Don Weaver, President of the S.C. Association of Taxpayers, described S.C.A.T.'s efforts to defeat the Local Option Sales Tax.

Ron Holland, one of the original S.C.L.P. members, discussed Swiss annuities as a safe investment for those who want to avoid government intervention. Tim Moultrie gave some tips on organizing libertarian groups and communicating the advantages of libertarianism.

John Harlee gave his annual Crackpot Awards to honor the foibles of various government officials.

These outrageously funny awards were laced with an abundance of historical trivia. Toni Black of Clemson, who is a member of the Libertarian National Committee, brought the delegates up to date on the Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA), a nationwide project organized by libertarians (see editorial on page 4).

John Wrisley gave an excellent luncheon speech entitled "Surviving in the U.S.S.A." He pointed out that in 1776, Sir Alexander Tytler, a Scottish professor, predicted that the United States would sink deep into socialism soon after "the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury." Tytler predicted that this would occur within 200 years, which is exactly what has happened. Wrisley also expressed some optimism and quoted from Albert J. Nock's great essay "Isaiah's Job." In this essay, Nock described "the remnant" - those persons who will rebuild a free society after socialism falls in shambles. Wrisley said that it is important for Libertarians to encourage this remnant to persist in the face of adversity so that "the following generation will know the clean, sweet taste of freedom."

All in all, the 1990 Convention was quite successful, and interest levels were high. The advent of an active group in Horry County, and continued activity in several other counties, bodes well for the future of freedom in South Carolina.

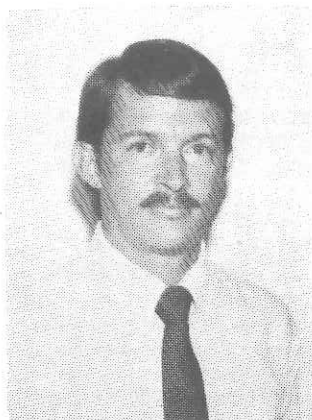
Local Candidates Selected

Many Libertarian candidates were nominated at county conventions in March. Aiken County fielded the greatest number of local candidates. Tim Moultrie, James Cochran, Johnnie Parker, and Blair Watkins are running for County Council seats. All plan to oppose the Local Option Sales Tax, wasteful government spending, forced annexation, county zoning, and forced sewers. "We are proud to announce a full slate of candidates for County Council," stated Tom King, A.C.L.P. Chairman. "This gives Aiken County residents a real choice."

The A.C.L.P. also nominated Bill Hamilton of Belvedere to run for State House Seat 83. He plans to "reduce government interference in the free market, thereby reducing auto insurance rates, spurring small businesses, and creating more jobs."

Horry County nominated two candidates in addition to "Doc" Quillian, who was nominated at the State Convention to run for U.S. Solicitor. Anne Reeves of Garden City is running for State House Seat 106, and Denise Jackson of Surfside Beach is seeking Horry

(continued on page 3)



Steve Vandervelde



Bill Hamilton



Blair Watkins



Tim Moultrie



James Cochran



Johnnie Parker

LOCAL CANDIDATES (continued from page 2)

County Council Seat 5. Reeves favors repealing the mandatory seat belt law and easing restrictions on peaceful marijuana use. She says that, "I, as a Libertarian, am the only sound alternative to the over-regulating, high-taxing, arrogant government of the Republicans and Democrats." Jackson agrees with Reeves and also opposes the Local Option Sales Tax.

The Orangeburg County L.P. nominated Andrew L. Amendola of Neeses to run for State House seat 96, and Erin Kersting of Summerville was nominated by the Dorchester County L.P. to run for State House Seat 98.

This is the largest slate of Libertarian candidates ever nominated in South Carolina at the local level.

Fair Booth Project Needs Co-ordinator

Columbia-area Libertarians are hunting for a co-ordinator for their booth at the S.C. State Fair in October. Every year, hundreds of persons learn about the Libertarian Party at the fair booth, including many who are now actively participating in Libertarian Party projects and politics. This is our most important yearly project in the midlands, and it is important for it to continue.

We need a co-ordinator to be in charge of scheduling volunteers to staff the booth. We already have persons who can help set up the booth, and fundraising will be done by the Lexington County Libertarian Party.

At present, nobody has volunteered to be the Fair Booth Co-ordinator. This position must be filled immediately, or else we may lose our access to this effective way to reach the public. Anyone who can help should contact the Lexington County Libertarian Party at P.O. Box 2297, West Columbia, S.C. 29171.

Platform of the S.C. Libertarian Party

We hold that every person has a natural right to life, liberty, and justly-acquired property; that liberty is essential to human happiness, progress, survival, and creativity; that force may only be used in defense of life, liberty, and property; and that the organization of the defensive force should be voluntary and limited to the protection of life, liberty, and property.

Freedom requires responsibility. Each individual has the obligation to respect the rights of others, to accept the consequences of his or her own actions, and to accept the ultimate responsibility for maintaining his or her own life.

We hold that no person or institution, public or private, has the right to initiate the use of physical force or fraud against others.

We hold that individuals are entitled to choose their own lifestyles, as long as they do not forcibly impose their values on others.

We hold that the voluntary exchange of goods and services - the free market system - is essential to socioeconomic success.

We hold that the only moral or practical purpose of government is to preserve and protect individual rights.

"Government is not reason,
it is not eloquence —
it is force.
Like fire, it is a
dangerous servant and
a fearful master."

George Washington



Come to the S.C.L.P. Meeting on July 29 (see page 6).

EDITORIAL

Support Jury Rights

True or False? When you are asked to sit on a jury, you have a right to vote according to your conscience. This is true, but it's very unlikely that the judge will tell you this, because he doesn't have to. Instead, the judge is likely to say that you may consider "only the facts" of the case and may not let your opinion of the law or the motives of the defendant affect your decision.

When citizens serve on a jury, they have the power to decide the law as well as the facts. If they think the law is unjust, if they think the law is being used incorrectly, or if they think the judge isn't giving the defendant a fair trial, each juror has the power to vote "not guilty" regardless of the judge's instructions. This power is referred to as JURY NULLIFICATION. It exists in civil as well as criminal cases.

When serving on a jury, citizens have more power than the President, Congress, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Why aren't people aware of their sovereign power as jurors? It's because nobody has told them, and most government officials don't want them to know. Most judges don't want ordinary citizens making decisions about the law, so they deliberately avoid telling jurors about their full range of rights and powers.

The Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) is an effort to tell everybody about jurors' rights and to be sure that jurors are told this where it counts - in the courtroom. Larry Dodge, a Libertarian activist from Montana, is leading this endeavor to enlighten the nation on jury nullification.

The FIJA movement is a no-lose proposition. Jurors already have the right to nullify unjust laws, but judges tell jurors the opposite. This amendment would force judges to instruct jurors on the right of jury nullification. But even if the amendment loses, freedom fighters will still have won. The education process of proposing the amendment will inform many prospective jurors of their right. If this initiative becomes national in prominence, judges will no longer be able to run roughshod on freedom fighters.

The idea of FIJA is to revitalize the plan for American developed by its founders. They saw jurors as the key to our continuing freedom, because the jury was to have the final say on any law American citizens were expected to obey.

Our third president, Thomas Jefferson, put it this way: "I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution."

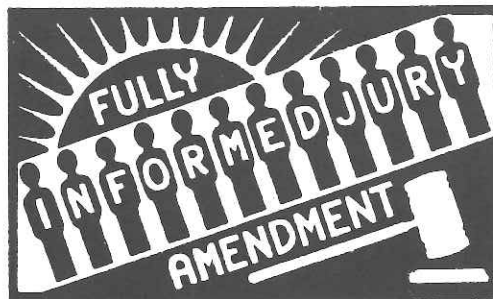
John Adams, our second president, had this to say about the juror: "It is not only his right, but his duty to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgement, and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court."

As an organization, FIJA will sponsor educational media campaigns, encourage lobbying efforts aimed at persuading state lawmakers to reform court procedures, and assist grass roots efforts to inform jurors of their rights.

We want every potential juror in America to know the truth! You can help by contacting Fully Informed Jury Amendment, P.O. Box 59, Helmsville, Montana 59843, phone: 406-793-5550.

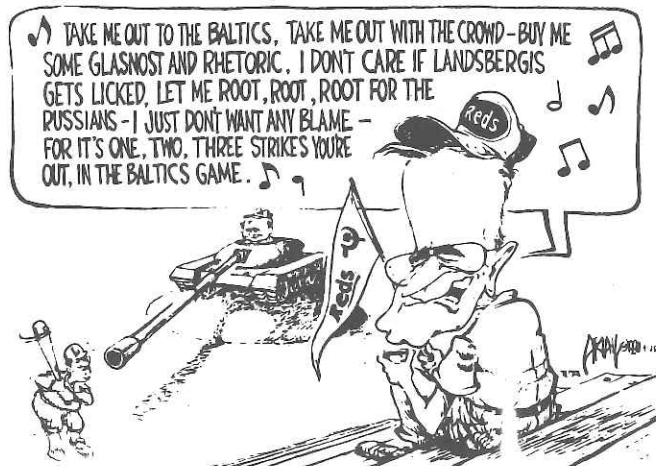
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The editor acknowledges Larry Dodge of the Montana L.P., Kenneth Phazak of the Illinois L.P., and Jan Morris of Virginia (formerly of the S.C.L.P.), whose words and ideas helped formulate the above editorial.



Cartoon Kudos

The SANDHILLS LIBERTARIAN GAZETTE salutes Mr. Robert Ariail of THE STATE for producing excellent political cartoons week after week. Two of his best recent productions are presented here. They are reprinted with permission from Robert Ariail, THE STATE, P.O. Box 1333, Columbia, S.C. 29202.



*In modern America***Founding Fathers would be outlaws***By George Mason*

Before the brief public enthusiasm for the U.S. Constitution's bicentennial disappears down the national media memory hole, it might be instructive to consider some of the ironies that surround it, together with the venerated Founding Fathers, and those who today invoke their names and the Constitution with ritualistic platitudes.

I'm not talking about Thomas Paine, the great popular patriot of the American Revolution, who declared: "Taxation is theft!"

Nor Daniel Webster, inveighing against the draft: "Where is it written in the Constitution that you may take children from their parents . . . and compel them to fight the battles of any war in which the folly or the wickedness of government may engage it?"

And I don't mean Thomas Jefferson, who advised Americans to engage in "friendly trade with all nations; entangling alliances with none."

These gentlemen would today be in hiding from the IRS or Selective Service.

But their problems pale when compared to the kind of trouble George Washington would find himself in.

That's because the Father of Our Country was also the Johnny Appleseed of marijuana for North America. This fact has been clearly established by Washington's own letters and journals.

In a letter to Alexander Hamilton in 1791, Washington asked: "How far . . . would there be propriety, do you conceive, in suggesting the policy of encouraging the growth of cotton and hemp in such parts of the United States as are adapted to the culture of these articles?"

The hemp referred to, is, of course *cannibis sativa*, otherwise known as marijuana or *pakalolo*.

Some conservative scholars, in trying to deal with the agonizing dilemma that these disclosures pose, have tried to suggest that Washington was really only interested in the use of hemp for rope, and not for recreational purposes. But in his diary for Aug. 7, 1765, the future commander-in-chief wrote: "Began to separate the Male from the Female hemp . . . rather too late."

Sexual separation of marijuana plants is irrelevant for rope making; it is, however, a vital and traditional part of marijuana cultivation, when the purpose is pharmacological.

In an enthusiastic letter to an unidentified doctor, Washington wrote: "I thank you as well for the seeds as for the Pamphlets which you had the goodness to send me. The artificial preparation of the Hemp from Silesia is really a curiosity. . . ."

Writers faced with the evidence, but still unwilling to admit that the Father of Our Country might have been a pothead, have fallen back on the argument that Washington was probably using the drug as a pain killer for his frequent toothaches.

But as Robert Anton Wilson has pointed out, "Considering the passion shown in these records, the toothaches must have been very frequent." Further, according to Wilson, "There seems to have been no marijuana on this continent before the 18th century, and the chief cause of its wide dissemination was the enthusiasm of George Washington."

Well, where do these shocking revelations leave us?

I, for one, like to ponder what would happen if the Founding Fathers were alive today and observing the bicentennial of the constitution.

In my mind's eye, I can see old John Hancock filling out his W-4 form with a flourish.

I can see Thomas Jefferson applying for his Social Security card and then running down to the post office on his 18th birthday to register for the draft.

I like to imagine Ronald Reagan dispatching the Coast Guard down the Potomac to raid the pakalolo fields at Mount Vernon.

But most of all, I like to think of Congresswoman Pat Saiki forcing George Washington to submit to a urine test.

George Mason is a meteorologist and freelance writer for Honolulu Magazine. This article is reprinted from the SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER, Rt. 10, Box 52-A, Florence, S.C. 29501.

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TRIOLET

by JOHN HARLLEE

*We only ask a little thing:
To spend our wages as we please
And not pay tax to thief nor king.
We only ask a little thing:
To splurge or save, to strive or sing.
To plant our fig tree for our ease.
We only ask a little thing:
To spend our wages as we please.*

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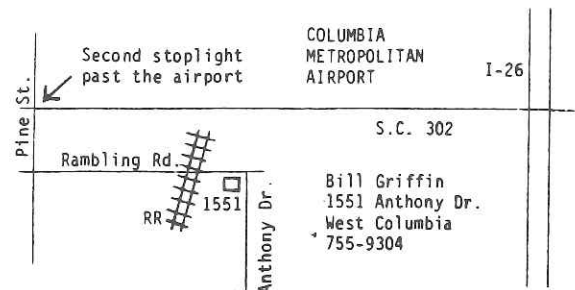
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Clemson: Toni Black (653-7514)
Columbia: Bill Griffin (755-9304)
Darlington: Mitch Olinger (383-4241)
Greenville: Tahirih Gelardi (370-1329)
Hilton Head: Steve Heyl (842-3962)
Myrtle Beach: Richard Quillian (651-4526)
York: Joe Versen (684-6380)
S.C.L.P. Phone: (755-2405)

Come to the S.C.L.P. Meeting on July 29

TIME: 1:30 - 4 P.M.

PLACE: Bill Griffin's house
in South Congaree (near
the Columbia Airport).

All interested persons are
welcome. Please come and
bring your friends.



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