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BULLETIN ...

January, 1984 • Vol. 3, No. 1 • \$10 annually • Dan Rothenhoefer, Editor • (703) 931-3777

FRIDAY GAINS SEAT ON URBANNA COUNCIL, BECOMES VIRGINIA'S FIRST LIBERTARIAN OFFICEHOLDER!
October 4, 1983 is a day to remember for Virginia Libertarians. On that date, long-time LP activist Phil Friday became the first Libertarian Party member to hold public office in Virginia, gaining a seat on the Urbanna Town Council, the governing body of this small Chesapeake village of 600 people. Friday's victory is the culmination of over two years of hard work and deep involvement in local affairs in Urbanna. In May, 1982, Friday ran for a Town Council seat and finished eighth in a nine-man field, but persevered in his activities, attending Council meetings and voicing libertarian opinions. In a recent petitioning effort, Friday and fellow LP activist Ron Courtney were successful in forcing the Urbanna Council to rescind an earlier decision which the Council had made to provide public (taxpayers') money to build a water pumping station for a privately-contracted construction project. Friday's activities made him the most visible and qualified candidate to fill a Council vacancy created when a former Council member got a job transfer, and Friday was appointed to finish out the term. Now working as a Town Council member to further reduce government in Urbanna, Friday hopes to be elected to a full term in the Spring election this year. Our congratulations go to Phil Friday and his entire campaign organization, with best wishes for continued Libertarian success in Urbanna.

BABER LOSES BY NARROW MARGIN IN ARLINGTON SHERIFF'S RACE. In an uphill battle against incumbent Democrat Jim Gondles, Libertarian-endorsed independent John Baber almost pulled an upset, losing by a slim margin in a campaign which saw liberal Democrats sweep most offices. Polling 49.4% in a two-way race, Baber lost by about 200 votes of 34,000 cast, unable to overcome the efforts of Arlington's well-organized Democratic "machine." In his first bid for public office, Baber took the offensive immediately, attacking the incumbent's poor record. Gondles retaliated by condemning several procedural errors made by Baber's neophyte campaign staff and misstatements made in Baber's campaign literature. Thrown on the defensive, Baber never quite managed to regain the momentum he had begun with, and the race degenerated into a mudslinging contest that alienated many voters, although it did stimulate local news reporters. After winning the Libertarian endorsement early last May, Baber went on to also receive the Republican Party endorsement, and endorsements from several civic and church groups, including organizations of ethnic Hispanic-, Vietnamese-, and Arab-Americans who held promise of substantial support due to Arlington's large and diverse ethnic populations. The winning coalition which should have been created from such a broad support base was never to materialize, however. At the first meeting held following Baber's receipt of GOP endorsement, Arlington LP Chairman Marjie Rothenhoefer proposed that Baber's campaign committee should include representatives

from each of the various groups who had endorsed Baber, to encourage increased participation by members of those groups and to demonstrate Baber's widespread support. But Baber's campaign organization remained a small, close-knit group of close friends and family members, and in the following months the Baber Campaign was to shun the offers of help from many who had endorsed him, preferring to maintain a totally independent posture. Although several Libertarian Party local officers were asked to serve on Baber's campaign committee, they were told that they must do so as individuals, not as Libertarians. Since it has never been possible to be and not to be anything simultaneously, there was no way to accomplish this. (Or as Aristotle said, "A is A.") For the remainder of the campaign, the Baber organization was to proceed on its own way, with minimal input from the various endorsing groups, many of which spent more time attacking each other's positions on other issues than they did working to defeat Gondles. To several of the ultra-statist right-wing groups which had endorsed Baber, his Libertarian endorsement indicated he had "sold his soul to the Devil," and when these groups expressed concern over what they believed to be the Libertarian position concerning victimless crimes, Baber attempted to placate them by assuring them that he really wasn't tied that closely to the Libertarian Party, much as he attempted to placate the LP by assuring us that he wasn't tied that closely to the Republicans. The Arlington LP prepared a treatise which explained Baber's LP endorsement and commented that Baber and the LP were at odds on certain issues, especially victimless crimes, but that such was of no concern since the issues where disagreement occurred were not at all relevant to the office he sought, and further explained that if Baber were seeking a legislative office, his positions would make it impossible for the LP to endorse him. The treatise seemed to satisfy the LP's critics, many of whom then began to seek out LP members to discuss philosophical libertarianism and assure us that they did, in fact, agree with most of our positions. So the time was ripe again for restructuring of the coalition that could defeat Gondles. But the Baber organization, fearful of further controversy and evidently unable to deal with any potential internal conflict, remained a closely-knit circle of true believers, and the various endorsing groups proceeded to wage their own separate campaigns in support of Baber, or did nothing. The Arlington LP's effort was supported by many Libertarians throughout the Tenth and Eighth Districts, and included fund raising efforts, get-out-the-vote phone banks, and distribution of bumper stickers and flyers in support of Baber, all financed by the LP effort. The Arlington LP devoted its booth at the County Fair almost exclusively to the effort for Baber, since the Baber campaign organization had no fair booth of its own. On Election Day, 14 of the County's 39 precincts were staffed by LP members handing out Baber campaign literature instead of the Libertarian Sample Ballots which had been planned, since the faltering Baber campaign, many days late and many dollars short by that point, was unable to muster enough volunteers to cover the polls. Even with the LP assistance at the polls, there were still several precincts with no representative from the Baber organization on Election Day, but the overall effort was well-coordinated, at last, even if for only a brief moment. Participation in the campaign was quite beneficial to the Arlington LP's ongoing organizational efforts, and that County should be organized to the point where the LP can elect a Libertarian candidate by 1986, according to estimates of local LP officials. Speaking at the December meeting of the Arlington Libertarian Committee, Baber expressed surprise at the extent to which Arlington Libertarians are organized, and disclosed that the Arlington Republican Party is just now beginning to put its supporter lists on computer. Baber stated his appreciation for the LP effort on his behalf, and said that if he does run for Sheriff again in four years, he hopes to again seek LP support.

BERGLAND PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ON THE MOVE. By now, everyone has probably recovered from the shock of the '83 National Convention's biggest surprise -- the withdrawal from the Presidential race of radio announcer Gene Burns, who had been considered the likely LP nominee, and the subsequent nomination of attorney David Bergland as the Libertarian Presidential candidate for 1984. Bergland lost no time in getting started on the campaign trail following the National Convention, and addressed many State Conventions in late 1983, and will continue to do so this year. The main thrust of the campaign effort at this point is directed toward getting Bergland on the ballot around the Country by meeting the various more ...

access requirements in each State. In Virginia, 20,000 signatures of registered voters are required, and at least 2,000 must come from each Congressional District. The ballot access effort for Virginia is being organized by Henry Thrasher, and you should hear from him very soon. Plan to set aside a few hours during January and February for petitioning.

FIRST DISTRICT: Chairman Stew Engel announced in November that he will be out of the State for the next six months on job-related travel. Other First District activists will be continuing organizational efforts. An interim contact person will soon be designated.

SECOND DISTRICT: Doug Skelton, who had announced his intention to run for Congress from that District, may get a job transfer to Houston. If Skelton does not run, the race will probably be run by Al Anders, who is presently planning to run for Norfolk City Council, but will scrap that race to run for Congress if Skelton bows out.

THIRD DISTRICT: The Third District LP now meets the first Tuesday each month. At their November meeting, a slide show on Granada was presented by Jim Turney.

FOURTH DISTRICT: The Chair is vacant at present in the Fourth, since Buddy Mountjoy moved from that District. A new Chairman is expected to be chosen soon. Meanwhile, efforts in the Second and Fourth Districts are being coordinated from the Second District, where Mountjoy now lives.

FIFTH DISTRICT: Former District Chairman Will Clark, who recently resigned to devote more time to his writing and his business, informs us that he is unofficially pursuing a personal outreach program to educate people about libertarian ideas in areas of the State where LP activity has been almost nonexistent.

SEVENTH DISTRICT: Chairman John Kylie has embarked on an outreach program in this very widespread District to contact and organize LP members there. Kylie had planned to hold a Libertarian Holiday party. We have not heard whether the party was held, or how it turned out, but it seemed like a good idea.

TENTH DISTRICT: First Tuesday meetings each month are being scheduled for the Fairfax LP, now beginning to organize its Committee. The Arlington LP Committee continues to meet the third Wednesday each month.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: David Saum was appointed LPVA membership chair at the November meeting of the State Central Committee. Saum, who has unofficially been handling the membership duties for several months now, is working on a standard format for data transmission so that membership information can be exchanged rapidly among National, State, and District or local levels with minimal regard to hardware differences.

ELWOOD TO RUN FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES: LPVA Chairman Jim Elwood has announced his intent to enter the 1985 House of Delegates race in Richmond. Elwood stated that all LP members should be thinking now about the races in 1985 and 1986, and concentrate the efforts of this year's presidential campaign on targeting those precincts where local Libertarians can expect to receive maximum support in the two years following.

ARLINGTON TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE MUNICIPAL FINANCE: Arlington LP activist Suzanne Eisenberg was appointed to chair the recently created Task Force on Municipal Finance, which was established to monitor fiscal activities of the County government, and analyze and report likely cost and impact of municipal bond issues proposed by the Arlington County Board. Although many are aware of the LP's opposition to deficit spending by government, fewer seem to realize the overall scope of the deficit spending mania. Eisenberg's Task Force will present graphic evidence to Arlington's voters. Formerly from Petersburg, Virginia, Eisenberg is presently in charge of the accounting department of the NUS Corporation's Rosslyn, Virginia office.

FOUNDATION FOR FREE CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS has been set up by Richard Gardiner, Marguerite Wagner, and James Featherstone to wage legal battles around the Country against overly restrictive ballot access laws and other laws dealing with electoral procedures. The first two States targeted by the Foundation are Virginia and Kentucky. The LPVA has also asked the Foundation to represent us in fighting laws that restrict access to registered voter lists. Your tax-deductible contribution can be sent to: Foundation for Free Campaigns and Elections c/o Marguerite Wagner, Treasurer; 2830-A South Wakefield Street; Arlington, Virginia 22206.

LP TELEPHONE HOTLINE COMING SOON TO NORTHERN VIRGINIA. For several years, Libertarians in the Northern Virginia area have contemplated installing a telephone line to inform callers about local LP activities, but the idea had a relatively low priority while LP National Headquarters was just across the Potomac River and a local phone call away. With the recent move of NatHQ to Katy, Texas there was suddenly no official contact point for Libertarians in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, unless they already knew who to call. To encourage continued growth of the LP in the DC area, the Arlington LP voted at its December meeting to establish a phone line attached to an answering machine which will inform callers of local Libertarian activities. The line will be a local call from the entire DC metro calling area, which includes Virginia's entire Tenth and most of the Eighth Districts and a couple of counties in Maryland. Fund raising for the project has begun, and the line should be in sometime during March of this year.

OBJECTIVIST NEWSPAPER TO BEGIN PUBLICATION IN MARYLAND LATER THIS MONTH. Based at the University of Maryland Campus at College Park, COGITO will be a monthly newspaper with an objectivist philosophical slant, and will be distributed on college campuses around Maryland, DC, and Virginia, and be available by subscription. (For those unfamiliar with objectivism, it is an extensive philosophical doctrine founded by Ayn Rand and discussed in her writings which promotes man's "rational self-interest." Aspects of objectivism encompass metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, politics, and aesthetics. Although there are some distinctions between objectivism and libertarianism, the political expression of objectivist thought today is primarily the Libertarian Party.) Sample copies of COGITO are sent on request to COGITO c/o Paul O'Connell, Editor; 8606 22nd Place; Adelphi, MD 20783. The first issue is expected out around the end of January.

MANSLAUGHTER TRIAL DATE SET FOR JANUARY 12 for Hugh S. West, driver of the car which hit and killed libertarian activist Vincent A. Drosdik, III last August. The trial is expected to run two days and will be held in Arlington. A memorial publication is planned on Drosdik's public life, and a collection of Drosdik's published works, letters, and manuscripts is being assembled with intent to place same in the University of Virginia library. For further information, contact Scott Royce; 1236 S. Taylor St. #A; Arlington, VA 22204 or call (703) 920-3552. West was also charged with driving while intoxicated. A trial will be held later on that charge.

REGULAR PUBLICATION RESUMES OF VIRGINIA LIBERTARIAN BULLETIN effective this issue, after a hiatus of several months spent on the Baber campaign (see page 1). We will be publishing in similar format to what you hold here, each month, and have temporarily suspended plans for the tabloid newspaper format until low- or no-cost typesetting becomes available, and time and finances permit. Subscribers to this publication will also receive the tabloid and sufficient advance notice will be given for those wishing to order bulk copies. Eventually, we plan to produce a tabloid more or less quarterly and the bulletins monthly, with emphasis of the tabloid on longer articles, discussions, photos of events, and other items that can't be included in the bulletins. Your mailing fee of \$10/year gets it all!

FINAL COMMENT: If major-party politics have seemed more boring than usual lately, and you've gotten sick of hearing the same garbage from the various presidential candidates, contemplate how exciting politics could be if Jesse Jackson really did get the Democratic nomination and the GOP nominated HUSTLER publisher Larry Flynt. Not only would we see some quite interesting debates, but a Libertarian landslide would be almost inevitable. Happy new year.

JHR

DISTRIBUTION DELAY of this issue resulting from January's actions of the State Central Committee necessitate that we update our readers on several points. To that end, this page.

ROTHENHOEFER STEPS DOWN, TUBB TO TAKE OVER AS LPVA NEWSLETTER EDITOR. That's right, folks, after more than a year of frustration, this is my final issue for the LPVA. I will leave you in the capable hands of JAY TUBB, of Richmond, who expects to get his first issue out sometime during February. Best of luck to Jay, and to those of you around the State involved in local LP activities -- keep your newsletter editor informed, or there won't be any newsletter. I'm looking forward to Jay's first issue, and hope he gets more cooperation than I did.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA LIBERTY TO BEGIN PUBLICATION. In early March, the first issue of a new publication will roll off the presses. NORTHERN VIRGINIA LIBERTY, to be published by the Arlington LP with yours truly as Editor, will include news of local LP activities in the Northern Virginia area, but will focus more strongly on philosophical discussion, presenting the Libertarian perspective on contemporary issues of local, regional and national scope, and is designed to disseminate Libertarian viewpoints to non-libertarians as well as LP regulars. Although the emphasis is primarily on Northern Virginia, Libertarians anywhere should find the contents entertaining and informative. Cost will be \$8 yearly, and payment should be sent to Arlington Libertarian Party, P.O. Box 6403, Arlington VA 22206.

THE PURPOSE OF A NEWSLETTER. Mike Holmes, Editor of LP NEWS, recently told me that Libertarians around the country are constantly at odds over this. Some think Party newsletters should be strictly Party news for Party members. Others think Party newsletters should also include discussion of issues and ideas to help educate non-Libertarians and almost-Libertarians of the virtue of reasoned action in the political arena vis-a-vis the Libertarian Party. Frankly, I have always held the second viewpoint. If we want the LP to grow, we must spread libertarian ideas everywhere. And that's where I part company with the LPVA Central Committee.

THE PURPOSE OF A POLITICAL PARTY. Watching in horror the past few years as numerous promising activists have come and gone, and the LP has stagnated and grown only slowly, I have observed a pattern: When promising new activists come into the Party, fresh with enthusiasm, they are first overloaded with work, then abused and criticized (usually because they didn't do things quite the way the ruling clique liked) until finally they are driven out of the Party in frustration. For a while, it almost seemed as if there was a conspiracy to keep the LP small. At this point, having almost been driven out of the LP myself a few times, I've come to adopt the large frog/small pond theory -- that some people in the LP are afraid that their importance will lessen if the Party gets too large, and would rather criticize the establishment from the outside than expend the effort towards becoming the new establishment (or even the new dis-establishment). Make no mistake about it, folks, politics is a people business, the purpose of which is to realize your goals in the political arena by getting candidates elected to office who favor your political viewpoints, and by persuading the public-at-large of the correctness of your viewpoints so they will also vote for your candidates. To accomplish this, reach out to anyone who even remotely resembles a Libertarian. To shun those who aren't "ideologically pure" is political suicide. Accept those who agree with you partially, and if your reason is sound and your persuasive ability sufficient, they will come to agree otherwise.

DO YOU WANT A POLITICAL PARTY, OR JUST A PARTY? If you want to be part of this (or any other) political movement, then engage in political activities. Get out in the street and talk to people. Write letters to newspapers. Run for office, or support someone who is -- and run to WIN! Donate money to the Party. Stuff envelopes. Make phone calls. Distribute literature. Circulate petitions. Do I hear you moaning, oh, no, that sounds like a lot of work. You're damned right it is, and if you want to build a political party, roll up your sleeves and get to work. On the other hand, if all you want to do is sit around and talk about it, there are numerous discussion groups around where you can spend hours in intellectual masturbation with no political involvement at all. If such activity is more to your liking, feel free to do whatever turns you on. But stay the Hell out of the way of those of us who are trying to build a real political party. And what have you done today to further the cause of Liberty?

Hope to talk to many of you again in "Northern Virginia Liberty"
(This page printed at my personal expense, not LPVA.)

JJR